Students Choose Soph. Standing

Eligible 2010s Gain Exploratory Option, Lose ABC-No Record

By Swetha Kambhampati

The spring, 111 of the 187 students eligible for attaining sophomore standing chose to do so, a two percent increase from last year. Electrical Engineering and Computer Science was the most declared course by students in this group.

Among these 111 students, 88 declared their major while 23 remained undeclared. The three top departments represented among students who declared their major were EECS (Course VI) with 22 students, Mathematics (Course XVIII) with 18 students, and Chemical Engineering (Course X) with 11 students.

“These numbers have been consistent with past years,” said Julie B. Norman, director of Undergraduate Advising and Academic Programming.

Sophomore Standing Statistics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Graduation Year</th>
<th>Number Eligible</th>
<th>Declared Sophomore Standing</th>
<th>Top Majors Chosen</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>187</td>
<td>111</td>
<td>VI, XVIII, X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>165</td>
<td>95</td>
<td>VI, VIII, XVIII</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>149</td>
<td>114</td>
<td>VI, VIII, X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2007</td>
<td>145</td>
<td>93</td>
<td>VI, VIII, XVIII</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2006</td>
<td>207</td>
<td>121</td>
<td>VI, VIII, X, XVIII</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The increase from last year, Electrical Engineering and Computer Science was 11 percent.

Electrical Engineering was 12 percent higher from last year. It was the most chosen major by sophomores.

“Many students come to MIT well-prepared and as a position to move forward,” Norman said. “From our perspective, we continue to emphasize that if students have a good idea of what they want to major in, it is a good idea to declare early sophomore standing.”

Declaring early sophomore standing allows students to immediately engage with faculty within their major of interest, interact with upperclassmen earlier, start an Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program, and reaffirm that their major is the right choice for them, according to Norman.

Andrea E. Robles ’10 was offered sophomore standing but declined, saying she was unsure of a major and was in no hurry to go ahead as a sophomore.

“I enjoy being a freshman,” said Robles, who praised the ABC-No Record system. “Some people in my seminar [advising group] took sophomore standing... but my first term didn’t go so great.

For those who accept sophomore standing, the freshman credit limit does not apply. “I wanted to do a UBOP,” said Robles, “but could only apply for three units due to the freshman credit limit even though I do about thirteen hours of work a week.”

“We always push that the take sophomore standing should not be to exceed the freshman credit limit,” Norman said.

She explained that there is nothing wrong for a student to not declare his or her major until sophomore year, as this allows more time to engage and explore. “These students can use the flexibility they have in their schedule to explore more.”

Sophomore, Page 13

UA Voting Site Records Inaccurate

Turnout Possibly Affected by Disenfranchisement of FSILG Members

By Nick Semenkovich

The Undergraduate Association voting Web site (http://vote.mit.edu/) has experienced problems over the last few days as some users have been unable to vote without contacting the Election Commission. Michelle Jong ’08, chair of the UA Election Commission, attributed the problem to lists provided by MIT that describe class affiliation and housing. She said that inaccuracies in those lists have commonly led to voting troubles.

Joseph W. Presbrey ’08, who runs the voting Web site, said that voter disenfranchisement is “a regular occurrence in every election” and does not encompass a substantial portion of the population. Others, however, claim that the problem is more widespread, possibly affecting the majority of sophomores who have moved into Greek houses. Akash A. Chandawarkar ’09, president of the Class of 2009, was concerned that many students were unable to vote. “It’s going to play a big role if this is as widespread as it seems,” said Chandawarkar.
Bush Pleads For Patience in Israel On War's Anniversary
By Jim Rutenberg
and David E. Sanger
THE NEW YORK TIMES
WASHINGTON

President Bush marked the fourth anniversary of the invasion of Iraq on Monday with a stark warning against the temptation “to pack up and go home.”

Bush’s brief speech came in the midst of an increasingly tense showdown with the Democratic Congress over the constitutional balance of power during the war. The House is scheduled to vote Thursday on a Democratic proposal to attach conditions to the presi- dent’s $100 billion war-funding package that would require American combat troops to be withdrawn from Iraq next year, a timetable Bush has said would violate the troops and aid the insurgents.

Bush’s.commemoration of the anniversary, delivered beneath a portrait of Theodore Roosevelt as a Rough Rider, was notable for the sharp change in tone from his speeches in the heady, early days of the war — when it still appeared possible that a quick victory in Baghdad could be followed by a relatively swift withdrawal. In those first few months, Bush argued that he was on the way to spreading democracy throughout the entire Middle East through the contiguous euphoria that would surely follow the unseating Saddam Hussein.

Climate Papers Watered Down
By Andrew C. Revkin and Matthew L. Wald
THE NEW YORK TIMES
WASHIN GTON

A House committee released Monday that during a three-decades instant decisions in which a White House official who was previously an oil-industry lobbyist edited government climate reports to play up uncertainties or play down evidence of a human role in global warm- ing.

In a hearing the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, the official, Philip A. Cooney, who left government in 2005, defended the changes he made in government reports over several years, until he was a member of the official White House review process and reflected findings in a climate report written for President Bush by the National Academy of Sciences in 2001.

They were the first public statements on the issue by Cooney, the former chief of staff of the White House Council on Environmental Quality. Before joining the White House, Cooney was the “climate team leader” for the American Petroleum Institute, the main industry lobby in Washington.

Detainee Says He Was Abused While in U.S. Custody
By Raymond Bonner
THE NEW YORK TIMES
LONDON

Detainee, Hicks was the first detainee to be formally charged under the new military tribunal rules at Guantánamo Bay, has alleged in a court document filed here that during nearly five years in U.S. custody he was beaten several times during interrogations and witnessed the abuse of other prisoners.

In attempting to support his request for British citizenship, Hicks contends that before he arrived at Guantánamo, his American captors there “handed down” to detainees on the ground, walked on them, stripped him naked, shaved all his body hair and inserted a plastic object in his rectum.

The House, Hicks asserts, began interrogations in Afghan- stan, where he was captured in late 2001. It then continued while he was shuttled among American military ships, aircraft, unknown build- ings and Kandahar before he was taken to the military detention center at Guantánamo Bay, Cuba, in early 2002, according to the affidavit.

Weather

Spring Snow?
By Cegroon Chan
THE NEW YORK TIMES

Today: Mostly sunny and windy. West winds 20 to 25 mph with gusts to 40 mph. Cold. High 40°F (4°C).

Tuesday: Mostly clear and remaining blustery. Cold. West winds 15 to 25 mph. Low 13°F (-10°C).

Wednesday: Mostly sunny and cool. High 40°F (4°C).

Thursday: Mostly cloudy. High 60°F (15°C).

Friday: Mostly cloudy. High 70°F (23°C).

Forecasts

Forecasts for Boston

Wednesday:
Mostly sunny and windy. High 35°F (1°C).

Thursday:
Mostly sunny and windy. High 45°F (7°C).

Friday:
Mostly sunny and windy. High 50°F (10°C).

Saturday:
Mostly sunny and windy. High 60°F (15°C).

BAck Taxes Unchecked By Gov't As Doctors Accumulate Wealth
By RobertPear
THE NEW YORK TIMES
WASH IN GTON
Thousands of doctors and other health professionals who participate in Medicare are delinquent in pay- ing federal income and payroll taxes, owing more than $13 billion, but they continue to receive Medicare payments because the government does little to check their background, federal investigators said Monday.

“Many of these individuals ac- cumulated substantial wealth and as- sets, including millions-dollar houses and luxury vehicles, while failing to pay their federal taxes,” the investi- gators said. “One physician gambled millions of dollars each year. He engaged in strategies to avoid paying taxes.”

About half the amount owed was individual income taxes and 41 per- cent was payroll taxes. Other taxes, including willful failure to pay taxes, accounted for the remainder.

Some doctors withheld payroll taxes from their employees and then failed to pay those taxes, including willful failure to pay taxes. The government has no mechanism to prevent doctors who are delinquent on their taxes from receiving the pay- ments.

Dr. Gregory D. Kutz, director of forensic audits and special inves- tigations at the GAO, said more than $21,000 health care providers, mostly doctors, had debts totaling $1.3 billion as of last Sept. 30. That amount reflects tax liabilities that have been acknowledged by taxpayers or certified by a court. The report also almost certainly under- states the amount owed because it does not include the obligations of people who failed to file tax returns or understated their incomes, Kutz said.

XDR-TB is defined as tuberculo- sis that is resistant to the two most important anti-tuberculosis drugs (isoniazid and rifampin), along with two other drugs. A member of the flu- quinolone class and at least one of three others (capreomycin, kama- mycin and amikacin) is required.

A step lower on the resistance scale is a form of the disease called MDR-TB, for multidrug-resistant tuber- culosis. An outbreak of that form was recently declared in New York City in the early 1990s, and cost at least $1 billion in emergency measures to control and manage tuberculosis patients.

Experts say the tuberculosis out- break in South Africa is the deadliest one that they can recall.

Although South African officials, who have known of the outbreak for a year, promised a prompt and full investigation, even experts there ac- knowledge that efforts are lagging.

“Unfortunately, we do not know much more than a year ago,” mainly because “a systematic survey in each of the provinces has not yet started.” Dr. Katrin Weyer of the South African Medical Research Council told the Conference on Tuberculosis and Oppor- tumistic Infections here recently.
State Farm Insurance Costs Off Judge in New Hurricane Plans

**By Joseph B. Treaster**

A fresh effort eight weeks of stalemate over a federal court agreement to reopen thousands of insurance claims in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina has failed, according to court officials and sources familiar with the talks. The White House and state authorities have repeatedly said that the provision was used to force the law onto the country.

One of the primary goals of the Bush administration last year was to overturn the 2002 law, which allowed the attorney general to take over a federal court agreement to reopen thousands of insurance claims in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. The White House and state authorities have repeatedly said that the provision was used to force the law onto the country.

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Letters To The Editor

Kelch and Oldja Offer Concrete and Realistic Goals

I applaud The Tech’s shrewd analysis and environment in the upcoming election. An in-depth, volved and effective Undergraduate Association runs on more than just Class Council part- hces, slick slogans and enthusiasm.

This year, I am voting for Lauren Oldja and Steve Kelch for UA President and Vice Presi- dent. Ms. Oldja has a consistent record of compe- tence and dedication. I have had the pleasure of serving with her on the ASA Executive Board. Her knowledge of student group finances and procedures is encyclopedic, and her work with the Housing Office and Dormcon resulted in concrete improvements to REX.

Mr. Kelch is a personable, effective and rigorous candidate. As the Chairman of the ASA, he brought administrators in as guest speakers and enforced order in the Senate. As Senator, he fought for transparency within the Institute. His ability to get to the heart of an issue always impressed me; he is the antithesis of superficial.

Ms. Oldja and Mr. Kelch’s platform is a pragmatic list of specific, substantial improve- ments. Their proposed small-events alcohol policy, support for student group startup funds and focus on affordable textbooks are all excel- lent. You can find it online at vote-oldja.com

Too many candidates pay lip service to the hacking community and REX without any direct involvement of the needs or input of others. Ms. Oldja’s ticket does not have this problem; it is genuine, relevant, and practical in a way that the others are not.

Dennis V. Perpessila ‘08

Opinion Policy

Editorials are the official opinion of The Tech. They are written by the editorial board, which consists of Chairman Michael McGraw-Herzig, Editor in Chief Marie Y. Thibault, Managing Editor Austin Chu, Executive Editor Rosa Cao, and Opinion Editors Barun Singh and Aditya Kohli.

Dissents are the opinions of signed members of the editorial board choosing to publish their disagreement with the editorial.

Letters to the editor, columns, and editorial cartoons are writ- ten by individuals and represent the opinion of the author, not necessarily the editorial board, which reserves the right to edit or condense letters; shorter let- ters will be given higher priority. Once submitted, all letters become property of The Tech, and will not be returned. The Tech makes no commitment to publish all the letters received.

Guest columns are opinion articles submitted by members of the MIT or local community and have the author’s name in italics. Col- umns without italics are written by The Tech staff.

Letters to The Tech

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Due to a egregious editing error, the March 16 piece written about Ronald H. Stowell’s death mistakenly reported that he was charged with sexual assault and battery. He was actu- ally charged with sexual and battery.

To clarify the March 16 editorial “Mediocre at Best,” it should be noted that the Student Committee on Administrative Transparency and Relations does not currently have any mem- bers and has not met since the beginning of the 2006-2007 school year. However, the bill providing for the committee’s existence has not been eliminated.

Corrections

“Social Justice” at MIT

Over the past month, two events concerning Israel’s role in the Middle East have occurred at MIT. While the forum sponsored by MIT’s School of Humanities Arts and Social Sciences and the Social Justice Cooperative [sic] featuring Rabbi Weiss and Imam al-Ax has received most of the attention, an enlightening talk was held last Thursday. Without much fanfare or support by the MIT administration, women’s rights activist Yael Dayan spoke about sexual equality in Israel and the Middle East.

After hearing about both events, I was sur- prised that the SJC would sponsor the former event and not the latter. Weiss and al-Ax support religious views that conflict with modern views of equality for women and homosexuals; Dayan has fought tirelessly for sexual equal- ity. Weiss and al-Ax regularly denigrate Israel — the sole country in the region that provides equal rights to men and women, irregardless of sexual orientation; Dayan has worked with Israei leadership to help extend protection to all people in Israel. While all of Israel’s neighbors oppress women and routinely execute hom- sexuals, Israel grants asylum to the persecuted within her small borders.

As a result, I am left to wonder what the SJC is actually fighting for: Israel is a world leader with respect to her independent judiciary, her respect of individual and group rights, feminist causes, protection and support of racial and re- ligious minorities and the LGBT community. While not perfect, Israel has done a better job than any other country facing similar external challenges in the history of humanity. As a lib- eratarian and a supporter of human rights, I am left with no choice but to affirm my support for the State of Israel. If the SJC really is as progressive and supportive of social jus- tice as they claim to be, I challenge their mem- bers to support speakers like Dayan and oppose Weiss and al-Ax in the future.

Matya Y. Gilber-Schachter ’05

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For Year Later

Josh Levering

Four years after entering the Second World War, the United States and her allies had responded to an existential threat by defeating the Axis powers on opposite sides of the globe. After preemptively declaring war on Iraq, we are still in the midst of a war that has taken 3,211 American lives and cost at least 60,000 innocent Iraqi civilians. While the initial military defeat was relatively well-executed, there was a total lack of post-war planning and reconstruction. The American Enterprise Institute put the troop strength needed to fully pacify Baghdad at 300,000 troops at a cost of $34 billion. While the recently completed General David Petraeus has claimed the surge Program is working, there has been a chlorine bomb attack in Fallujah that injured 356 and killed eight, a suicide bombing at a college that killed 118 students and staff, and at least 113 bodies found tortured and mutilated in the desert outside the city. I do not list these statistics to shock, merely to demonstrate the magnitude of the violence and the immorality of our actions.

Until recently I argued against withdrawal, feeling that the Bush administration was unleashing this violence, to do our best to contain it. But the continued slaughter, compounded by the extent of our presence, leads me to believe that the best course of action is to bring our troops home. The forces at work in the region: the ancient religious hatred, the military armies with no other purpose than to secure a national authority and expand their area of operations, are so vast that it makes no sense to press on with this war. The lack of progress, the constant flow of reports and photographs from the front, the political bickering and the talking points, the soldiers and civilians who have little to show for their efforts, the policy decisions that are made without regard for the impact on our troops and our enemies, and the constant need to send more troops to fight a war that is not in our best interest, all combine to make it clear that this war is lost.

I have heard and read a great deal about the Bush administration’s ‘war on terrorism’ and ‘war on terrorism’. I have heard and read a great deal about the Bush administration’s ‘war on terrorism’ and ‘war on terrorism’. I have heard and read a great deal about the Bush administration’s ‘war on terrorism’ and ‘war on terrorism’. I have heard and read a great deal about the Bush administration’s ‘war on terrorism’ and ‘war on terrorism’. I have heard and read a great deal about the Bush administration’s ‘war on terrorism’ and ‘war on terrorism’. I have heard and read a great deal about the Bush administration’s ‘war on terrorism’ and ‘war on terrorism’. I have heard and read a great deal about the Bush administration’s ‘war on terrorism’ and ‘war on terrorism’. I have heard and read a great deal about the Bush administration’s ‘war on terrorism’ and ‘war on terrorism’. I have heard and read a great deal about the Bush administration’s ‘war on terrorism’ and ‘war on terrorism’. I have heard and read a great deal about the Bush administration’s ‘war on terrorism’ and ‘war on terrorism’. I have heard and read a great deal about the Bush administration’s ‘war on terrorism’ and ‘war on terrorism’. I have heard and read a great deal about the Bush administration’s ‘war on terrorism’ and ‘war on terrorism’. I have heard and read a great deal about the Bush administration’s ‘war on terrorism’ and ‘war on terrorism’. I have heard and read a great deal about the Bush administration’s ‘war on terrorism’ and ‘war on terrorism’. I have heard and read a great deal about the Bush administration’s ‘war on terrorism’ and ‘war on terrorism’. I have heard and read a great deal about the Bush administration’s ‘war on terrorism’ and ‘war on terrorism’. I have heard and read a great deal about the Bush administration’s ‘war on terrorism’ and ‘war on terrorism'.
On the way to Delhi.

I managed to get tickets for the Trans-Siberian Railway to Irkutsk in Siberia, and after some last-minute must-sees like Leningrad's eighty-one-year-old preserved corpse, I was off. Four days by train … four days that quickly turned into an eternity after the first stop, when every mother on board bought her child a multitude of loud, flashy singing teddy bears. It didn't help that the door at the end of our carriage was still stiff, leading me to think that it was locked, leading me to spend three of the four days in the same spot.

Despite this, it was kind of peaceful knowing that I didn't need to be anywhere or do anything besides watch five time zones lazily drift by. The scenery was serene; rural Russia is punctuated by picturesque little villages of old wooden houses with well-tended gardens, blue trimmed windows and narrow, unpaved paths separating the houses. The sun rose and set each day, as the sun is wont to do, producing some spectacular skies along the way. With the last sunrise came the noise of the train's whistle. Irkutsk at last.

Now, I won't say too much about the rest of my travels in Russia. This pains me, as Olkhon Island in Lake Baikal was amongst my favorite places on the entire trip, but I didn't have any really monumental adventures there, save for an ill-fated attempt to set out cross-country with just some bread and a large block of cheese, and save for getting slapped in the face with a herring after losing a high stakes game of poker. As such, I feel I should skip ahead to more interesting times.

Mongolia. After nearly a month in Russia, it was a drastic change. The landscape of rolling steppe was spotted here and there with little white gers, the tents in which the country's nomadic population make their homes. In Ulaanbaatar, the capital city, chaos reigned. Children hung out the windows of public buses, shouting their destinations, while old men sat on the sidewalks with bathroom weight scales, encouraging passersby to weigh themselves for a small fee. Amongst the madness, I ran into a like-minded traveler, and we decided to buy horses and try our luck crossing the country for a small fee. Amongst the madness, I ran into a like-minded traveler, and we decided to buy horses and try our luck crossing the country for a small fee.

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Run Bug

Professor, I'm worried about my qualification exams.

I hear all the other students fear them.

I'm confused now. You say I should worry or not worry?

You should be. They're crucial.

Don't worry. You'll do just fine, as long as you work hard.

Exactly. Well I'll see you later then...

---

Piled higher and deeper

DADDY, WE'RE BORED!

I brought them into this world, I have to order them too?

OK kids, take these big red ink markers and scribble all over these papers that Daddy's grad students made.

WHAT?

IT'S NOT EXPLOITATION IF THEY'RE LEARNING SOMETHING...

Piled higher and deeper

THE CONFERENCE CALL:

CAN YOU HEAR ME NOW?

YES PROF. SMITH.

I SAID I PROCESSED THE DATA PRO.

Hold on, I got-www Vaughn junior won't let me on the phone!

HONEY, DO YOU HAVE TO WORK WAAAAAAH!

Piled higher and deeper

CECILIA, HAVE YOU?

Wait wait, I'm almost done with this book!

THE RESULTS WERE INCONCLUSIVE, WHAT A GYP!

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ATTENTION NSCS MEMBERS!
We are looking for excited and capable students to take on leadership roles in NSCS! This is a great experience to work with MIT administrators to try to make a difference at MIT.

Deadline: Monday, 4/2
Download the application from our website http://web.mit.edu/nscs/www/events.html and submit your application to nscs-exec@mit.edu

Instructions: Fill in the grid so that each column, row, and 3 by 3 grid contains exactly one of each of the digits 1 through 9.
Solution, tips, and computer program at http://www.sudoku.com; see also solutions, page 15.
Spring 2007 Wulff Lecture

Tuesday, March 20, 2007
4:00–5:00 pm
Room 10-250
Reception to follow

Electrochemical Pathways
Towards Sustainability

Prof. Donald R. Sadoway
John F. Elliott Professor of Materials Chemistry
Department of Materials Science and Engineering

Donald R. Sadoway obtained the B.A.Sc. in Engineering Science, the M.A.Sc. in Chemical Metallurgy, and the Ph.D. in Chemical Metallurgy, all from the University of Toronto. After a year of postdoctoral study at MIT as a NATO Fellow, Dr. Sadoway joined the MIT faculty in 1978. He has authored more than 125 scientific papers and holds 14 U.S. patents. His basic research centers on electrochemical processes in molten salts, liquefied gases, and polymers. With a markedly environmental focus, his applied research is directed towards the development of high-performance, solid-state, rechargeable lithium batteries as well as environmentally sound technologies for the extraction, refining, and recycling of metals. From 1995 to 2005 he held a MacVicar Faculty Fellowship, MIT’s highest award for excellence in undergraduate education. In 1999 he became the John F. Elliott Professor of Materials Chemistry. In 2001 he was elected Member of the Norwegian Academy of Technological Sciences.
Not ULYSSES Grant

Not Hugh Grant

It’s Council for the Arts grant!

Application deadline: April 6, 2007
Contact: Susan Cohen at cohen@media.mit.edu

Application: http://web.mit.edu/arts/do/funding/grantguide.html
Scheib’s Video ‘Twisted’ With Savvy Sense of Humor

By Geoff Edgers

Even as a student, Jay R. Scheib, associate professor of music and theater at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, wasn’t afraid to take chances.

In the early ’90s, while an undergraduate at the University of Minnesota, he made his directing debut with a piece that called for a car to enter a stage littered with trash and a huge mound of earth, stop, and remain quiet and still for 72 minutes. “The Service Machine,” presented at a theater festival in Minnesota, garnered no applause.

“The place was roaring with laughter for the first 12 minutes,” says Scheib. “Then there was heckling.”

In comparison, Scheib’s latest piece, “This Place Is A Desert,” which runs at Boston’s Institute of Contemporary Art Thursday, March 22 through Sunday, March 25, could be considered a crowd pleaser. Inspired by the films of Michelangelo Antonioni (“Blowup, L’Avventura”), it presents a tale of relationships gone bad, framed by Scheib’s mixed pop culture savvy sense of humor. Six hand-held video cameras track the actors from different angles through a set shaped like a house, projecting their images on four panels above.

There’s also break-dancing, dodge ball, nuclear disaster, and a romantic scene done partially in Italian.

For Scheib, who believes in using cinematic tools to make theater more powerful, “This Place Is A Desert” is nothing revolutionary. It’s just the latest of his hybrid creations. For the ICA, the production is something else—a tough sell.

“There is probably the riskiest thing I’m doing this spring,” Scheib says.

The script was developed largely out of a series of rehearsals and workshops that culminated two years ago in a short version performed at the Perelman Theater in New York.

The main characters—four couples in various states of dysfunction—are essentially demolishing each other,” says Scheib. “In dealing with their loneliness, some of them embrace the impulse to make things worse.”

Though Scheib’s work is emotionally charged, the earthy-talented director, 37, is soft-spoken in person. He’s tall, with about 6 foot 4, and 190 pounds, only a bit heavier than he was in high school, where he was a standout high jumper.

There’s nothing new about using video in theater. But Leah Gelpe, the New York artist who handles the video in this production, describes Scheib’s approach to the medium as unique.

Gelpe, who recently worked on the American Repertory Theatre’s production of “Britannicus,” says that Scheib doesn’t merely use video as a compliment to his plays. He makes it a central focus of the work. The cameras are brought in as early as the first rehearsal. “This is the only way to develop the media hand in hand with the performance,” says Gelpe.

Scheib describes the play as an examination of human loves and emotions in the face of industrial development. He draws on Antonioni, he says, because the director explored these themes. But the play also incorporates testimonies from the Chernobyl and Three Mile Island disasters.

“I think anyone who expects a staging of one of Antonioni’s films will be disappointed,” says Scheib. “Sweney is about doing a job as opposed to doing a piece of theater.”

Confronting reality

“Desert” opens with a camera man who has two names (Haskell Wexler, after the real-life cinematographer, and Glen Chik, after the real-life operator of the Three Mile Island control room) shooting away. Cut to a woman crying, a man working out, and another woman reading a Raymond Carver book with her cancer-stricken friend, named William Faulkner, in the room. Another character, called Richard Harris, is the son of the man who designed the reactor at Chernobyl.

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What does it all mean?...
The following student Coop members are candidates for the Coop Board of Directors for the 2007-08 academic year.

MIT UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS:
Alexander St. Claire 2008
Rebecca Oman 2008
Kerlen Ruleman 2008
Kevin Castelo MIT Sloan 2008

HARVARD UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS:
Jonny Tao 2008
Ronald Anspa 2008
Pimpale Babbarun 2009

HARVARD GRADUATE STUDENTS:
Lulu Wang GSAS 2011
Josh Beggs HBS 2008
Dan Bachner HLS 2008
Minaa Kaur HSPH 2008

VOTE NOW!
www.thecoop.com

Vote Denials ‘Fairly Evenly’ Spread

Presbrey did not know if there were widespread voting problems and was under the impression that vote denials were “fairly evenly distributed.” Presbrey said he updated the site on Sunday to allow users to vote by comparing unrecognized MIT certificates to the MIT directory. Students who have removed their information from the directory will still need to contact the committee to vote. He also said that students who opted for sophomore standing might be affiliated with the incorrect class year. Affected users can e-mail the Election Commission at ua-elect@mit.edu if they wish to correct their class year or have other voting problems.

These solutions are not acceptable for everyone. Chandawarkar said that making students “go an extra mile to vote is a little ridiculous … considering voter turnout is very low itself.”

Further compounding these problems, the voting server was unavailable for a few hours Monday, March 19 due to a power failure in the UA office.

Online voting ends tonight and paper voting begins tomorrow, Wednesday, March 21 in Lobby 10.

We’re here to listen.
Nightline
3-8800
By Kenneth Chang  

It is one of the most symmetrical mathematical structures in the universe.

It may underlie the Theory of Everything that physicists seek to describe the universe.

Eighteen mathematicians spent four years and 77 hours of supercomputer computation to describe this structure, with the results unveiled Monday during a talk at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

But it still is not easy to describe the description, at least not in words.

“It’s pretty abstract,” conceded Jeffrey D. Adams, a professor of mathematics at the University of Maryland who led the project.

For mathematicians and physicists, symmetry can provide crucial insights into a problem. A 19th-century Norwegian mathematician, Sophus Lie (rhymes with tree), wrote down what are now known as Lie groups, sets of continuous transformations — meaning the changes could be a little or a lot — that leave an object unchanged in appearance.

For example, rotate a sphere any distance around any axis, and the sphere looks exactly the same.

Later mathematicians found five exceptions to the four classes of Lie groups that Lie knew about. The most complicated of the “exceptional simple Lie groups” is E8. It describes the symmetries of a 57-dimensional object that can in essence be rotated in 248 ways without changing its appearance.

Why are there five exceptional Lie groups? “It’s just one of the beautiful magical things that happen in mathematics,” Adams said.

“You can’t really picture it,” Brian Conrey, executive director of the American Institute of Mathematics, said of E8. The institute sponsored the project with financing from the National Science Foundation.

“It’s some sort of curvy, torus type of thing,” Conrey said. “Now you start to move it around in different ways. It’s an amazingly symmetric group.”

To understand using E8 in all its possibilities requires calculation of 200 billion numbers. That is what Adams’ team did, a rare collaboration for mathematicians who usually work alone or in small groups and rarely turn to supercomputers.

Robert L. Bryant, a mathematician at Duke who was not involved in the project, gave a biological analogy. Scientists can learn a lot about an animal from its DNA, but to understand it fully “you have to grow the organism and then study it,” Bryant said. “In a certain sense, that is what the E8 team did. They used massive computation to fully develop the group E8 and its representations so that they could list its important features.”

One eventual use could be understanding the universe, another example of physics taking advantage of abstract math. Isaac Newton invented calculus to study the motion of objects. Fourier analysis, the mathematics of periodic patterns, proved essential in studying phenomena like light waves, and physicists have employed Lie groups in quantum mechanics and relativity.

“All of the physics of the 20th century is tied up with this language,” Conrey said.

E8 is the Lie group underlying some superstring theories that physicists are pursuing in an effort to tie gravity and the other fundamental forces of the universe into one theory.

“It could well be E8 that determines the deep inner structure of the universe,” Adams said.
The MIT Arab Students’ Organization Presents:

Movie screening and Discussion with Director:

JUST YOUR
AVERAGE ARAB

Tuesday March 20, 2007
7:00pm 4-231
Free Admission!

“This film is laugh-out-loud funny but the message is dead serious”
— Denise Taylor, The Boston Globe

“...the most interesting, varied multicultural ensemble I’ve seen in a Boston-area film.”
— Gerald Peary, The Boston Phoenix

Film Synopsis: “Just Your Average Arab” is a comedy in which Arab-American characters meet in the storage room of a convenience store where they take an "Arab American Survival Guide post 9/11" class. The characters learn how to change their names, appearance, and accents to look more "American" and to avoid scrutiny from a terrorist-fearing American public. What follows is a hilarious ride that combines political anxiety, comedy, satire, and a script that will cause you to laugh and think.

Questions? arab-comm@mit.edu
http://web.mit.edu/arab/www
http://www.filmondigital.com/jyaa

WHAT IS LEADERSHIP?
Spend a weekend this Summer exploring these questions and more. The McKinsey Summer Leadership Summit is an interactive and skill-building forum for student leaders* at several top universities. It will include discussions with current leaders in the public and private sectors, team building activities, and individual sessions on maximizing personal leadership styles.

WHAT MAKES A GOOD LEADER?
Application Deadline
Thursday, March 22, 2007
Midnight

More information and online application available at:
www.mckinsey.com/leadershipsummit

* Current Juniors and 1-year Masters candidates graduating December 2007 – June 2008

McKinsey & Company

Tech reporters hunt down the news; photographers get exclusive shots; and production staff see the entire issue—even the parts that don’t make it to press—long before we print.

Want in? Join The Tech!

What’s Going On?

MIT can be a bewildering place if you don’t know what's going on.

Don’t be a confused panda! Instead, be a smart panda. A happy panda.

join@the-tech.mit.edu
‘Bringing Down’
Movie Filmed in
Front of Killian

Shooting for the film adaptation of Bringing Down the House took place yesterday on Memorial Drive in front of Killian Court.

Above: (left to right) Dolly Grip Tony Campenni, Camera Operator David E. Diano, and First Assistant Camera Erik L. Brown shoot footage of the MIT campus.

Left: Filming lasted several hours on Monday, with the cast and crew confined to the Memorial Drive sidewalk because MIT would not give permission to film on campus.

Call for Nominations
2007 Student Art Awards

LAYA and JEROME B. WIESNER
STUDENT ART AWARDS

The Laya and Jerome B. Wiesner Student Art Awards are presented annually to up to three students (undergraduate or graduate), living groups, organizations or activities for outstanding achievement in and contributions to the arts at MIT. Established in 1979, these awards honor President Emeritus Wiesner and Mrs. Wiesner for their commitment to the arts at MIT. An endowment fund provides a $1,250 honorarium to each recipient.

http://web.mit.edu/arts/about/awards/wiesner.html

LOUIS SUDLER
PRIZE IN THE ARTS

The Louis Sudler Prize in the Arts is presented annually to a graduating senior who has demonstrated excellence or the highest standards of proficiency in music, theater, painting, sculpture, design, architecture or film. The Prize was established in 1982 by Mr. Sudler, a performer in the arts and an arts patron from Chicago. An endowment fund provides a $1,250 award to the honoree.

http://web.mit.edu/arts/about/awards/sudler.html

Please send nominating letters (by email or campus mail) by Friday March 23, 2007 to:
Susan Cohen, Director, Council for the Arts at MIT- E15-205
cohen@media.mit.edu
SPORTS

MIT Swimming Grabs Eleventh In NCAAs With 4 All-Americans

By Jeff Lemieux

MIT’s men’s swimming and diving contingent conquered All-America performances from Craig M. Edwards ’07 and Raisilay Racez ’10 on the final day of competition at the NCAA Championships on Saturday, as the Engineers powered to an 11th-place national finish.

Edwards grabbed a fourth-place finish in the 200-yard backstroke, while Racez placed sixth in the 200-yard breaststroke.

Kenyon College won an unprecedented 28th consecutive national title, easily ousting the other 54 scoring schools by amassing an incredible 570 points. Runner-up Denison University totalled 351 points, while Emory University rounded out the top three with 318.

The Cardinal and Guy captured 108 points over the three-day competition only to be edged out of the top 10 by the University of California at Santa Cruz in the final event. UC-Santa Cruz needed to win its consolation heat in the 400-yard freestyle relay to keep the Engineers into 10th place, and it did just that, taking the top spot by a mere .04 seconds. The 18 points earned by the victory gave the Banana Slaps 110 — just enough to bump Tech out of the top 10.

It was another successful day of swimming for MIT, however, as both Edwards and Racez broke records in events on route to All-America status.

Edwards, who entered the 200-yard backstroke with a seed time of 1:52.20 and a national rank of ninth, broke his own MIT mark in prelims, touching the wall at 1:50.34 to finish fourth. He then matched that finish in the finals, clocking in at 1:50.75 to earn 15 points and nab All-America recognition for the fourth time in three days.

Not to be outdone, Racez also earned his fourth All-America honor of the weekend in the 200-yard breaststroke. The first-year competitor entered the event with a season-best time of 2:05.17, placing him eighth in the national rankings, but boosted himself by shattering the Institute record with a time of 2:03.04 to place him seventh in prelims.

They then Racez one-upped himself, touching the wall at 2:02.73 in the finals to notch a sixth-place finish and 13 points. Before Racez, the school record in the 200-breast was 2:04.87, set by Matthew G. Angle ’07 last year.

Jeffrey Y. Zhou ’10 and Luke R. Cummings ’10 also secured All-America recognition in two relay events earlier in the competition, meaning that every Tech swimmer at the championships earned the prestigious honor.

Head coach Dawn B. Gerken couldn’t have been more proud of the way that her team swam over the course of the weekend, as well as the season as a whole.

“It was really a great way to end the season and the competition,” she said of MIT’s 11th-place finish.

“For the three freshmen, it was a wonderful experience and a great start to their careers, while for Craig [Edwards], it was a terrific end to a magnificent four years of swimming for our program.”

Second Half Run Downs Lacrosse

In 19-10 Loss to Visiting Endicott

By Mindy Bauer

Eight consecutive goals to start the second half helped power Endicott College to a 19-10 victory over MIT in non-conference women’s lacrosse action last Thursday night.

Shiori Tachiwana paced the Gulls (2-0) with four goals as Cassy M. Flynn ’10 posted a hat-trick in her first game for the Engineers (0-1).

Emily Judd opened the scoring for Endicott after 2:27 had elapsed. Exactly one minute later, MIT evened the contest with a free position shot by Julie F. Roberts ’10. The Gulls responded with four unanswered goals during the next nine minutes, with Valerie Feldman recording the first and last goals.

Flynn ended the spurt with an unassisted tally and was followed by a five-position strike from Samantha F. O’Keefe ’09, narrowing MIT’s deficit to 5-3. Endicott then extended its advantage to 8-3 on tallies by Tachiwana, Alice Pearce, and Rebecca Bushnell. The Engineers closed the half with free position goals by Lily He ’09 and O’Keefe in a span of 44 seconds.

Less than two minutes into the second half, Feldman set up Sara Gunter for a goal that would spark the provisional run for the Gulls. Tachiwana registered three goals, while Rebecca Bushnell, Gunter, Feldman, and Samantha Morin each scored once during the nine-minute spurt.

MIT’s Roberts ended a 15-minute scoring drought with a free position goal at the 18:36 mark. Judd raised the Gulls’ margin to 17-6 exactly six minutes later before Lynne D. Tye ’10 posted an assisted tally for Tech. Back-to-back goals by Kristin Mico and Bushnell with less than eight minutes to play extended Endicott’s lead to 19-7.

The Engineers continued to attack as Flynn registered their sixth free position goal of the night and added an unassisted goal. Amanda P. Hunter ’07 capped the scoring with 17 seconds left to set up the final score.

Hunter picked up five ground balls as Flynn totaled five draw controls. Defensively, O’Keefe led the way with two caused turnovers while HeeJay Kang ’07 made six saves for MIT.

Christianity: One Religion or Many Faiths?

By Professor Mark Burrows

Professor of the History of Christianity at Andover Newton Theological School and a member of the joint doctoral faculty of Boston College

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MIT Interfaith Dialogue Program

Is there something we can confidently speak of as “Christian” amid the crises, diversities, and challenges facing Christian communities in our day? Christians affirm that they are worshipping one God, but (as with many other religions) the variety of conceptions, theological styles, and forms of piety vary dramatically across the spectrum of churches. Dr. Burrows will address such questions in historical and theological context.

Questions: ara@mit.edu

Website: mit.edu/dsl/addir/

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