Yield For Class of ’11 Reaches 69 Percent
Percentage of Adults Enrolling Sets Record

By Byangline Wang

As of yesterday, a total of 1,053 students of the 1,523 who were admitted to the Class of 2011 had chosen to enroll, giving MIT a record 69 percent yield. Interim Director of Admissions Stuart Schmill said in an e-mail. According to Schmill, a more final yield number will be available next week. “There are still some outstanding offers out there,” Schmill said.

With a target class size of 1,070 students, Schmill said it is likely that Admissions will be able to admit a small number of applicants off the waitlist. According to Schmill, just under 500 students were placed on the waitlist, with most of them choosing to remain on the list.

Yield, or the percentage of admitted students who choose to enroll, has steadily increased in the past few years up to 67 percent for the Class of 2010 and 69 percent for the Class of 2011. Yield for the Class of 2007 was approximately 59 percent.

“The increase in yield is likely attributable to our doing a better job getting our applicants to see what MIT is all about,” Schmill said in the e-mail. “Through the Web site, through campus visits, and through personal connections, more students are seeing the excitement of the campus and the opportunity that they’ll have here.”

Schmill also pointed to the record number of students that attended this year’s Campus Preview Weekend. Approximately 80 percent of those who attended CPW chose to enroll, he wrote.

Schmill said he does not believe that the resignation of former Dean of Admissions Marielle Jones affected the yield this year. Jones was forced to resign in late April after it was discovered that she misrepresented her academic credentials.

“For the most part, parents and students were respectful of Marielle and our process, recognizing that the whole affair was unfortunate,” Schmill said in the e-mail. “On the whole, people we heard from retained confidence in our process and knew and appreciate that we are moving forward.”

Last year, MIT accepted 40 students off the waitlist for the Class of 2010, marking the first time MIT has gone to the waitlist since 2002. Higher-than-expected yields and MIT’s pledge to eliminate crowding have steadily increased in the past few years.

According to a copy of an ISD report provided by Berlin, although the health inspector recorded some cockroach activity, a full inspection of the restaurant revealed zero critical errors and three minor infractions. ISC could not be reached after multiple calls for clarification.

Ultrasoft Pest Control exterminated Shinkansen on March 22, Berlin said.

Three subsequent visits by the health inspector found no evidence of cockroach activity, according to copies of ISC reports provided by Berlin. On March 28, the health inspector found “no evidence of roach activity in rice or bubble tea,” addressing the initial complaint mentioned in the Chronicle.

The Campus Energy Task Force of the MIT Energy Initiative is calling for student project proposal submissions. The deadline for summer proposals is May 15. See http://sustainability.mit.edu/CampusEnergyTaskForce/ for more information.


A March 21 complaint against Lobdell’s Shinkansen Japanese restaurant prompted an inspection on the same day that found minor cockroach activity in the restaurant, according to health reports from the Cambridge Inspectional Services Department. The restaurant was exterminated the following day and three follow-up reports, including one from May 9, found no evidence of roaches, said Richard D. Berlin III, director of Campus Dining.

A Cambridge Chronicle article, published May 7, stated that a parent of an MIT student complained about “cockroaches in the sushi and Japanese bugs in other foods and the bubble tea,” as well as roaches in the basement kitchen.

According to Berlin, these complaints are “unaccurate” and “exaggerated.” Berlin said that Shinkansen does not have a kitchen in the basement.

The article did not “represent the situation correctly,” Berlin said, stating that the situation was “non-critical,” contrary to what the complaint suggested. Additionally, Berlin said the Chronicle article had many inaccuracies. Erin Smith, the Cambridge Chronicle reporter, could not be immediately reached for comment.

According to a copy of an ISC report provided by Berlin, although

Team From Baker House Walked For Hunger, Raised $5K For Project Bread

By Kristina M. Molton

Would you walk 500 miles to fight hunger? How about 20 miles?

Baker House did just that on May 4. As a part of the Walk for Hunger, the Baker House team blew their goal of $1,023.21. “It was really inspiring to see these students work so hard,” said Richard D. Berlin III, director of Campus Dining.

Walk for Hunger, Page 14

Newspaper

Charles D. Paton

MIT Obituary

Paton arrived at MIT in 1968 and taught graduate and undergradu- ate classes until his retirement in 1993. He also founded Paton En- gineering Research, where he conducted innovative research that ad- vanced battery technology.

Before coming to MIT, Paton designed and built electronics for RCA, Sylvanix, LFE, and other corporations. He held a bachelor’s degree from Tufts University.

He enjoyed skiing, playing tennis, sailing, and working on his home.

The husband of the late Constance (Conaxis) Paton, he is survived by two daughters, Mena C. Paton of Beverly, Mass., and Dawna L. Paton of Carlisle, Mass.

A memorial service will be held today at 1 p.m. at Douglis Funer- al Home, 51 Worthen Road, Lexington. Burial in Westview Cemetery, Lexington, was private.

Charles D. Paton, retired director of the Electrical Engineering Laboratories, died April 29. He was 78.

The husband of the late Constance (Conaxis) Paton, he is survived by two daughters, Mena C. Paton of Beverly, Mass., and Dawna L. Paton of Carlisle, Mass.

A memorial service will be held at 1 p.m. at Douglis Funeral Home, 51 Worthen Road, Lexington. Burial in Westview Cemetery, Lexington, was private.

A suspension bridge will be constructed between the State Capitol and Bldgs. 16 and 56. According to Professor Heather N. Lechtman, the bridge will be con- structed by students in her class this weekend and will be ready next week.

Michelle D. Christy, currently of Princeton University, will be the new director of MIT’s Office of Spon- sored Programs starting July 16. Lori Gross, the director of the Mu- seum of Science, will remain in the position of Provost for the next three years.

Peter Guliday of Guliday Glass looks over his display of suncatchers in Lobby 10 last Friday, May 4.

The Weather

Today: Mostly cloudy, chance of precip., 79°F (26°C)

Tonight: Mostly cloudy, clearing late, 59°F (15°C)

Tomorrow: Partly sunny, 62°F (17°C)

Details, Page 2
Under Pressure, Bush Concedes on Benchmarks

By Carl Hulse and Jim Rutenberg

Washington

As the House approved a plan on Thursday to finance the Iraq war only through midsummer, President Bush offered his first public concession to resolve the impasse, acknowledging rising pressure from his own party and the public.

After a briefing at the Pentagon, Bush said he had instructed Joshua Bolten, his chief of staff, to reach “Vladimir Putin and other lawmak- ers of both parties over setting firm goals, or benchmarks, to measure progress in Iraq.” Bush had previously insisted he wanted about $55 billion for the military with no strings attached.

It makes sense to have benchmarks as a part of our discussion on how to go forward,” Putin said in a statement. “It is essential that Putin be threatened to vote the House plan, approved on a 221-205 vote Thursday night, to require him to seek approval in two months for the balance of the war money.

The bill approved by the House would provide $42.8 billion total, with about $30 billion directed to the war effort for the next two months. It requires the president to report by July 13 on how the Iraqi government is performing in building its military and moving toward achieving political stability in the battered country. Congress would then vote a second time on whether to give the administration the remainder of the money — about $50 billion — to maintain operations in Iraq through Sept. 30 or to restrict that money to deployment.

Makers of Painkiller OxyContin Plead Guilty to Charges

By Barry Meier

New York

The company that makes the narcotic painkiller OxyContin and three current and former executives pleaded guilty Thursday in federal court here to criminal charges of misbranding the drug, which they admitted misled doctors and patients about the drug’s risk of addiction and its potential to be abused.

To resolve criminal and civil charges related to the drug’s misbranding, the parent of Purdue Pharma, the company that markets OxyContin, agreed to pay more than $600 million in fines. That is the third-highest amount ever paid by a drug company in such a case.

Also, in a rare move, three executives of Purdue Pharma, including its president and top lawyer, pleaded guilty Thursday as individuals to misbranding charges, a criminal violation. They agreed to pay a total of $34.5 million in fines.

U.N. Security Council to Review Draft on Kosovo Independence

By Warren Hoge

United Nations

The United States and its European allies will circulate a draft U.N. Security Council resolution calling for an international tribunal to prosecute Kosovo Serbs accused of war crimes.

The resolution, which would also schedule trips to France, Africa and the United States and will seek to press laws through parlia- ment, is described by some of its proponents as the most important event in Kosovo’s history. Its proponents say it will signal the end of the Kosovo Serbs and its opponents say it is a sign of the United States’ willingness to use force to achieve its goals.

Over the past two years, the United Nations had rejected a series of resolutions on Kosovo, which has been under U.N. administration since 1999.

Blair Announces Plans to Leave Post as Prime Minister in June

By Alan Cowell

London

After months of coy hints and fevered speculation, Prime Min- ister Tony Blair announced Thursday that he would leave office on June 27 after a decade in power in which he conquered Iraq and helped to rebuild the war and struggled at home to improve schools, policing and hos- pitals.

With stirring oratory cast as a personal testament, he declared: “I ask you to accept one thing. Hand on heart, I did what I thought was right. I may have been wrong. That’s your call. But believe one thing: I did what I thought was right. I viewed this as a country’s duty. I said what I thought was right. I viewed this as a country’s duty. ... Today I announce my decision to stand down from the leadership of the Labor Party. The party will now select a new leader.”

Blair has put off a decision on how to make this speech, Blair said.
Secretary of State Rice Supports Embattled World Bank President
By Steven R. Weisman
WASHINGTON

Bowling pressure from the Bush administration, the World Bank board agreed Wednesday to give Paul D. Wolfowitz, the bank’s president, slightly more time to defend himself against charges of misconduct before the board decides his future.

In a development that might help Wolfowitz’s fight to remain as bank president, Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice has lobbed European foreign ministers in the last two weeks, expressing support for him.

“She has spoken with several European foreign ministers about her positive impressions of Paul and the job he’s doing at the World Bank,” Sean McCormack, the State Department spokesman, said Wednesday when asked whether Rice had become involved in supporting Wolfowitz.

Despite Rice’s efforts and the board’s decision to give Wolfowitz more time, bank officials, speaking on the condition of anonymity because the deliberations are confidential, said they saw no indication that the board was any less determined to oust him from the presidency.

Wolfowitz was given until Friday evening — two additional days — to make his case to the board, and it was expected that he would appear before the board as early as Monday.

The board is to vote on whether he deserves a reprimand, a vote of no confidence or outright removal.

Last week, a special committee of the board concluded that Wolfowitz violated bank rules and the terms of his contract by directing that Shaia Al Rita, his companion, be awarded $189,000 as a “special allowance” in 2005, calling the Classification and Ratings Administration, and overseen by a panel of about a dozen parents through an apparatus designed to consider the appropriateness of movies for young viewers.

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Managing Editor
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O P I N I O N

Letters To The Editor

‘On Broadway’ Review Inaccurate

It was unfortunate to read such a miscellaneous review of “On Broadway” in the May 1 edition of The Tech. It is clear that Alice Mac- Donald ’07 must have departed the film early and did not realize that the voiceover narration and flashback were only within the first two minutes of the film. Moreover, she states the film looked crummy due to it being shot on digi- tal — clearly mistaken, as it was shot on film. Lastly, Alice states that the writing was rigid. Fair enough. But I find Dave MaCaulaughen’s writ- ing to come from a place of honesty which isn’t seen in these wannabe hipster films that are so often hyped or seen at festivals. Stories are what seem to be missing, not some clown in hipster clothes and haircuts speaking nonsense. Go rent a John Cassavetes film!

Lance Greene
Products, ‘On Broadway’

Please Do Not Water Down An MIT Education

Several years ago MIT halved its core physics and math requirement from two to one year. Now a faculty task force has proposed to further reduce the physics requirement to one semester. The task force has levied the moral and philosophical principle of emphasis on fundamental concepts. If the faculty continues to water down the under- graduate curriculum, MIT graduates will be less valuable in competing for jobs and admission to graduate school than engineering graduates of other schools which offer a more comprehen- sive foundation in engineering science.

The faculty task force should seek input from MIT alumni and from people outside MIT in- cluding students, faculty and at other universities. The faculty task force should examine the list of topics included on the national standards for undergraduate Engi- neering (FE) exam administered by the National Society of Professional Engineers (NSPE). All MIT engineering students and graduate students should be encouraged to take the FE exam, the first step toward license as a Professional Engi- neer (P.E.).

Theodore J Sheshik 06

Cohen Suggests Far-fetched Changes

Jeffrey S. Cohen ’07, responding to my opinion article [Friday, April 27, 2007] calling for our government to shut down the U.S. mili- tary prison at Guantnamo Bay, writes at length about all the various ways that the threat terror- ists pose to society are different than those our country has faced before, and so the critically important change we must make is not closing Guantnamo but changing our laws to address this new threat. There are two problems with this argument, one practical and the other more philosophical.

Practically speaking, someone who wants to see laws reformed in response to the threat posed by terrorists should be even more dedi- cated to closing Guantnamo than she stands, the legal black hole that Guantnamo has become is obstructing the process of genuine reform be- cause it gives the executive a carte blanche to do whatever he wants to do. The executive is then left with no incentive to go to Congress and push to bring the process of trying ter- rorists to a firm constitutional footing that at least respects traditional notions of hu- manity. It is a far cry from what our president and the Mili- tary Commissions Act of 2006). As it stands, Congress is likely to first go back and undo the damage inflicted by the administration and their colleagues in the 109th Congress and only after- take up the issue of reasonable reform in response to terrorism. Closing Guantnamo will force Congress to speed up its deliberations on how to reform our laws.

The second problem I have with the argu- ment Cohen makes is the scale of the changes he is defending. While it is obvious that the threat posed by terrorists is different from those once posed by the Soviet nuclear arsenal, it is unclear to me that the terrorist threat is at all as significant as the nuclear threat. In fact I cannot understand how terrorism can possibly pose the kind of existential threat once posed by nuclear warfare between our country and the Soviets. So how is it that the terrorist threat is forcing us to change our laws so that barbaric corpse can be suspended by a single individual with no over- sight when the existential threat of nuclear war- fare did not? I can understand some changes to the law in response to a heightened risk from terrorism, but I will never understand the gross violations to the spirit of our laws that Cohen is defending by siding with the administration’s view that the fight it is currently engaged in ne- cessitates a complete restructuring of 800 years of common law practice.

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Guest columns are opinion articles submitted by members of the MIT or local community and will not be returned. The Tech makes no commitment to publish all the letters received.

Opinion Policy

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

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

Letters to the editor, color cartoons and written caricatures are writ- ten by individuals and represent the opinion of the author, not neces- sarily that of the newspaper. Election endorsements are encouraged and should be sent to letters@the-tech.mit.edu. Hard copy submissions should be addressed to The Tech, PO Box 397029, Cambridge, MA 02139-7029. All submissions are due by 4:30 pm two days before the date of publication.

Letters, columns, and cartoons must bear the authors’ signatures, addresses, and phone numbers. Unsigned letters will not be accepted.

The Tech reserves the right to edit or condense letters; shorter let- ters will be given higher priority. On occasion, all letters will be returned.

Letters to the editor should be sent to letters@the-tech.mit.edu. The Tech can be found on the World Wide Web at http://www.the-tech.mit.edu.
TRIO
Emzie Okorai
alum.mit.edu/www/emzie
myspace.com/emezie

I HAVE TO
COUNTERATTACK QUICKLY!
WHAT THE?! A HIDDEN BLADE?

SLASH!!!
I HAVE YOU!

PROOF OF FALSE
by Andrew Spann

Enter a sequence, word, or sequence number:
0, 1, 3, 6, 7, 13, 20, 21, 22, 23
What unholy social networking websites are you looking at? Did Facebook just add more annoying useless features?

NOPE, ITS SLANGS ONLINE ENCYCLOPEDIA OF INTEGER SEQUENCES. 0, 1, 3, 6, 7, ...
SEEM HOW I'M FRIENDS WITH RECaman.

Proof of False Archive: http://web.mit.edu/spann/Public/ProofOfFalseComic/

Run Bug
by Roberto Perez-Franco

MIT dorm. 3:00 AM.

"Your attention, please..."

Uh. Honey, wake up... it's the fire alarm.

Again? Jeez! Third time this week. I have a brutal final tomorrow...

Let's go downstairs. Put something on!

... ZZZ...

Honey? Honey! I swear, I'll piggy back you again if I have to... Gosh!

www.runbug.com

PILED HIGHER AND DEEPER

WWW.PHDCOMICS.COM
Think you’re funny? Make the entire campus laugh!

Draw comics for The Tech! — join@the-tech.mit.edu
Crossword Puzzle

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 on page 11.

Solution, tips, and computer program at http://www.sudokus.com

Listen up, join up!

Offering eclectic programming including rock, jazz, world, talk, noise, electronic, hip-hop, reggae, and more. Want your own show? Join in! You will broadcast across Boston and around the world, learn about radio and media, and have access to a record library with tens of thousands of records and CDs. We’re located in the basement of the Walker Memorial Building (building 50). Stop down sometime and see how easy it is to get on the air. Submit a proposal by May 18 and you can be on the air this summer. Or email membership@wmbr.org for more info.
L
ots of things have recently turned 30: Shakira, Orlando Bloom, Pamela Anderson's boobs, and, of course, the MIT Chorallaries. Throughout their two-hour set last Friday, the MIT Chorallaries dropped-kicked an eclectic mix of old and new pop music into the waiting ears of a packed crowd in 10-250. They were joined by two groups of alumni, including members of the original group as well as more recent members. All in all, the Chorallaries delivered a series of very impressive performances to usher in their next 30 years as an a cappella group. The Chorallaries started off their 30th birthday concert with “Rainbow Connection,” which despite its title is neither the jingle for a Mattel commercial nor the theme song for a PBS special on diversity, but a catchy “Sesame Street” song. Yelena S. Bagdasarova ’10 belted out an excellent performance, doing justice to Kermit the Frog’s musical oeuvre while expanding on the muppet’s somewhat limited vocal range. The rest of the Chorallaries set ventured through a series of entertaining pop songs, such as “Mambo No. 5,” “Candyman,” and that Journey song that was in every 80’s teen movie (“Don’t Stop Believing”). While the current Chorallaries did a solid job with the first few songs that they sang, some of their performances in the middle of the set felt a bit short and failed to truly stand out from one another and demand individual attention. Given the smaller selection of songs that they performed, the alumni were able to make their individual performances a bit more memorable. As I was unable to listen to the radio as a child, I’m not quite sure which songs they sang — aside from my personal theme song, “It’s Raining Men” — but they delivered a strong showing of good, fun tunes. Towards the end of the set, the group took a few moments to say goodbye to their graduating seniors. Zachary J. Watts ’07, Benjamin M. Schwartz ’06, and Holly R. Johnson ’07 all received gifts from the current members, and delivered solid performances of their first solos with the group. Immediately following, the former Chorallaries launched straight into performances of “Africa” (Toto) and the unofficial MIT theme song, “Engineers’ Drinking Song.” The much-requested “Africa,” aside from being a great song in its own right, was made even better by the group’s excellent harmonies and faux bird calls. While a room full of people imitating wild animal calls is usually a clear sign to run like hell and head for shelter, the Chorallaries alumni did a great job with the song and the synthesized savannah noises. It was the “Engineers’ Drinking Song,” however, that was the highlight of the night. Performed by all of the current and former Chorallaries, including the founder of the group, this tour-de-force transformed MIT’s simple theme/drinking song into a massive ode to the school, encompassing all of the pride and bitterness that the Institute inspires. “Engineers’” meandered through a number of styles and verses, brilliantly incorporating elements of fugal counterpoint, classical hymns, and specially written verses to create a veritable masterpiece. With such an additional lyrics as “and they shall live forever and ever” (sung in multi-part harmony to the tune of the Hallelujah chorus) and verses comparing MIT to hell, “Engineers” was funny, musically stunning, and wholly entertaining. And of course, following the concert the Chorallaries provided a massive orgy of cake, in the form of a 5-by-5 foot dessert item that could have fed a small village for a week. And nothing that ends with free cake is ever anything but awesome.

The Chorallaries perform “The Candyman” (originally by Christina Aguilera) during their 30th anniversary concert last Friday.

Zachary J. Watts ’07 performs Coldplay’s “In My Place” during the Chorallaries’ 30th anniversary performance last Friday.

Restaurant Review

Not Just Any Lunch — Brookline Lunch!

By Alice Macdonald

Brookline Lunch
19 Brookline Street
Cambridge, Mass.
(617) 545-2053

Brookline Lunch serves breakfast all day. That’s right — you can get omelettes, French toast, pancakes served with orange juice or coffee anytime you want.

Besides, the restaurant has character. Once you climb the steps and enter the open door, you are greeted by a kooky and crazy interior. There are mismatched booths on both sides of the restaurant with a few small tables with fancy fake flowers between them. You can see the kitchen in the back behind a retro cash register on a cluttered counter-top. On the brick walls, there is usually funky artwork from a local gallery that I suppose one could purchase if so inclined. My recent favorites are the portraits of cats in bowties, adorned with glitter. And take a gander at the ceiling decorations if you go. Also, you can’t go wrong with these prices: for just a little more than Delicious Lunch Box, you get a meal that doesn’t come in a red and white Styrofoam box and that you don’t have to eat with a plastic fork in the Student Center.

Prices are low and represent what I believe to be an excellent value. You will get lunch with tax and tip for around $5-7.

One thing that turns some eaters off Brookline Lunch is the service — but this isn’t Newbury Street. You are getting food for under four bucks, and when you do get a server’s attention, she is friendly and happy to take your requests.

As far as logistics, even the most campus-bound of students should be able to locate and get to Brookline Lunch without a problem; it’s even close enough that you can get there and back during lunchtime. Weekdays, I have never had a problem securing a table or getting my report in on a timely fashion, but weekends are another story when folks line up outside to get a table.

So next time you are feeling hungry but can’t stomach another burrito, Boston cream donut, or LaVida’s sandwich, check out Brookline Lunch. It may not be for everyone, but those of you who enjoy no-fills food in a quicky environment will not be disappointed.

CONCERT REVIEW

30th Anniversary Bash

Chorallaries Crank Out a Fun Evening of Music

By Kevin Wang

Chorallaries 30th Anniversary Concert
Fridays, May 4, 2007
10:25 PM

Staff Writer

Frame of the Week - The Week

Not Just Any Lunch — Brookline Lunch!
MIT Dance Troupe holds its spring show through Sunday, May 13 in Kresge Little Theater. Clockwise from top left:

(left to right) Kapil A. Dilwali ’10, Tarikh C. Campbell ’09, Emanuel P. Borja ’09, Kamo Jurn ’10, and Neal D. Miller ’10 jump and dance in “DT Bhangra.”

(left to right) Sebastian Castro ’09, Alejandro P. Ojeda ’10, and Silverio Garcia ’07 toss off a drink before joining their women in a quick salsa number called “Hasta Que Se Rompa el Cuero.”

Thaddeus R. Cybulski ’10 (left) and Bettina H. Tso ’08 dance together in a piece called “A Cob Web Sky.”

Members of MIT Imobilare dance in the dark outlined in red and green neon in a piece entitled “A Troupe of Dancers.”

Fernando Funakoshi ’09 and Mary Hong ’10 dance together in “The Name’s Bond, James Bond.”

Daphne D. Hao ’07 (front, left) and Qian Qian S. Tang ’10 (front, right) dance in a piece called “Strategery.”
MIT VIETNAMESE STUDENT ASSOCIATION

presents

TASTE OF VIETNAM

VIETNAM LIBRARY FUNDRAISER

May 11, 7:30 pm – 10:30 pm
Walker Memorial – Morss Hall

Cost: Free, $20 Suggested Student Donation

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We were packed facing each other, knee-to-knee, so when his knee slid between mine, I experienced no small degree of alarm. The two beds avalanched down behind me, wedging into the seat and propping me forward. That was it. Hunching out from the bottom of a Mongolian dog pile, and with an "old man's knee firmly planted in my crotch, I passed the rest of the ride in silence. Sometime in the wee hours we reached Tsetserleg, the destination of the van and a town in which we were hoping to buy a couple of horses. We spent the next day exploring the grassy little town, talking philosophy and doing whatever else it is travelers do all day long, before we finally stopped in at what looked to be a makeshift nightclub of some sort for a bite to eat. Sheep kebabs. They were delicious, and I quickly cleaned my plate. Will did not. "Aren't you going to eat your cucumbers?" I asked. "No," he said, "meat's usually alright, but you shouldn't eat raw vegetables at a place like this." Huh. "You'll probably be fine though." I spent a great deal of that night curled up on the cold floor of the run down hotel bathroom between episodes of violent expulsion from the various ends of my digestive system. At last I was able to return to my bed, sleep felt good. Will woke me up some time later. It was light. "Here," he said, offering me a bottle of water. Luckily for me, Will had had some experience with this sort of thing before. "Do you want some food?" I nearly puked again at the mere thought of it. "All right, well then have this." A Pepsi! "Drink the water too though." With shaky hands I accepted the drinks and forced down a few sips. While I munched my beverages, Will filled me in on the developments in our pursuit to buy horses. He had asked around the town, a difficult task as he didn't speak a word of Mongolian, but he hadn't found too many available horses. Those that were available ran for a similar amount in Ulaan Baatar. The word now was to look in the countryside, where nomadic breeder families raised small troops of them. Will had, however, met a lady who spoke some English, and she had offered to provide us with a pair of horses for $3 per horse per day and offered the services of her brother as a guide for the same price. If we found horses out in the country, we could send the rentals back with our guide. With my consent, things were all set for us to head out the next morning. We even had food and a cooking pot. I was incredulous. "Oh, that looks really good." Outside it looked in the middle-afternoon. "How'd you get all that done so quickly?" Will looked confused. "Quickly? Uh... And then it hit him. "Dude, you've been asleep for almost two days."
OLIVER WYMAN

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Government Probes College Ties to Loan Companies in Boston

By Tracy Jan
and Marcela Bombardieri
THE BOSTON GLOBE

Walking into a roaring national controversy, Attorney General Mar¬
tha Coakley is investigating whether Massachusetts colleges have im¬
proper relationships with loan com¬
panies, her office said yesterday.

“Every prospective student de¬
serves a fair chance of financing a college education,” she said in a
statement.

Several other attorneys general, most notably Andrew M. Cuomo of NewYork, as well as Senator Edward M. Kennedy and other politicians,
have been hammering colleges for alleged conflicts of interest. Those conflicts include taking payments in exchange for recommending a lender or allowing loan company employees to answer students’ financial aid ques¬
tions by telephone without disclosing that they don’t work for the college.

Wednesday, the U.S. House of Representatives passed a bill aimed at curbing conflicts of interest and corrupt practices in college lending. In March, Cuomo’s office sin¬
gled out six Massachusetts public and private colleges for making revenue-sharing arrangements with one lender, Education Finance Part¬
ants. Boston University, Bridgewa¬
ter State College, Emerson College, and Berklee College of Music ac¬cepted amounts ranging from $1,500 to $23,000. Mount Holyoke said its loan volume was never large enough to receive any payment, and Becker College would not say how much it accepted.

Bridge water officials said they would return the money to students, and BU said it would give it back to the company. Education Finance Partners settled with Cuomo’s office for $2.5 million and agreed to stop the payments, which Cuomo called kickbacks.

Coakley said that Coakley’s office be¬gan the investigation several weeks ago “to determine whether there had been any inappropriate or illegal be¬
havior in the student loan industry.”

Coakley’s office will be looking for evidence of various questionable practices, including lenders making payments to colleges in exchange for preferential treatment, lenders mak¬ing payments to university financial aid staff, and colleges allowing lender¬es to use financial aid exit interviews to promote their products.

Because the investigation is in its early stages, Breton said she could not name the institutions the attor¬ney general is investigating or say how many there are.

Patricia F. Plummer, chancellor of the Massachusetts Board of High¬er Education, said yesterday that the board plans to issue a code of ethics at its next meeting in June. The board did not find questionable practices among the state’s four-year colleges when it checked in March, other than Bridgewater State’s revenue sharing.

Plummer said she hopes that Coakley’s investigation will help set standards in the Commonwealth. She said that the state’s attorney general in¬
formed presidents of private colleges in Massachusetts of the investigation at a meeting last week.

“She said it was a concern but not to the extent of New York,” Plum¬mer said. “She was looking into it to make sure we have good policies in Massachusetts.”

Several college officials said they were not surprised about Coakley’s inquiry, because the issue has gained so much public attention.

Emerson officials answered questions in a telephone interview with Coakley’s staff last week, said spokesman David Rosen. Emerson received several thousand dollars from Education Finance Partners, 6

Rosen said: “We look forward to working with the attorney general’s office to remove any questions that might exist and come up with agreed-upon practices that protect students and maintain the public’s trust in our insti¬tutions,” he said. Bridge water, a target of Cuomo’s investigation, put the $18,000 it re¬ceived from Education Finance Partners into financial aid, said spokes¬man Bryan Baldwin. But since Cuomo’s investigation, the school decided to end its relationship with Education Finance Partners and re¬turn the money to the Bridge water State students who borrowed a total of about $5 million from the lender.

“The college doesn’t want the stu¬dents to have any doubts about the relationship the college has with any outside vendor,” Baldwin said.

Kennedy has been investigating the student loan industry since Janu¬ary. In a letter sent last week to higher education associations, he highlight¬ed a number of “disturbing practices,” and urged colleges to establish guide¬lines to avoid conflicts of interest.

Benjamin E. Kistler

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Experience brand new music in a back room setting, headlined by BMOP musicians! At the Club Café in Boston, at 209 Columbus Avenue

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PROGRAM

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Lisa Bielawa
Robert Moran
Peter Askim
Lisa Bielawa
Sarah Kirkland Snider

Anvil Chorus, for percussion (1991)
Synopsis #4: I’m Not That Kind of Lawyer (2007)
The Reserved, the Reticent (2003-04)

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$10 for MIT graduate students and guests
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Ticket prices include buffet dinner

For tickets and more information, please contact:
MIT Council for the Arts (617) 253-4005 cohen@media.mit.edu

ARTISTS

Anthony D’Amico, bass
Craig McNutt, percussion
Rafael Popper-Keizer, cello


Artistic Director Gil Rose brings together BMOP’s award-winning orchestra, renowned solo¬ists, and influential composers to perform and record new works and re-discovered “classics” of the 20th and 21st centuries, infusing them with the emotion, humor, and urgency that have been hallmarks of the modern era and its music.

BMOP: Celebrating 10 years as Boston’s only or¬chestra dedicated exclusively to new music. Since 1996, the Boston Modern Orchestra Project has championed composers whose careers span eight decades of modern orchestral music. Each sea¬son, Artistic Director Gil Rose brings together BMOP’s award-winning orchestra, renowned solo¬ists, and influential composers to perform and record new works and re-discovered “classics” of the 20th and 21st centuries, infusing them with the emotion, humor, and urgency that have been hallmarks of the modern era and its music.
Teaching Lacking at Harvard, Say Undergraduates

By Sara Rimer

CAMBRIDGE, Mass. — Joshuah Billings, 22, says he didn’t come to Harvard for the teaching. “You’ll be stupid if you came to Harvard for the teaching,” said Mr. Billings, who will graduate this spring and then go to Oxford as a Rhodes scholar. “You go to a liberal arts college for the teaching. You come to Harvard to be around some of the greatest minds on earth.”

But that is pretty much how the thinking has gone here at Harvard for several decades. As one of the world’s most renowned research universities, Harvard is where academic superstars are continually expected to revolutionize their fields of knowledge. Cutting-edge research is emphasized, and recognized with tangible rewards: tenure, money, prestige, prizes, fame, distinction. But now, with strong support from the university’s interim president, Derek Bok, nine prominent professors are leading an effort to rethink the culture of undergraduate teaching and learning. Headed by Theda Skocpol, a social scientist, the group has issued a report calling for sweeping institutional change, including continuing evaluation and assessment of teaching and learning, and a proposal that teaching be weighed equally with contributions to research in annual salary adjustments.

“The world is the obvious answer to that,” said Professor Skocpol, the dean of the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences. “We need to have a money where our mouth is. We can’t just mention excellent teachers occasionally. We have to find ways to reward their efforts consistently.”

The report, at http://www.fas.harvard.edu/home/news_and_events/releases/teachforce_02142007.pdf, is among the initiatives that Drew Gilpin Faust has expected to address when she takes over as president in July.

“It’s well known that there are many other colleges where students are much more satisfied with their academic experience,” said Paul Buttenwieser, a psychiatrist and author who is a member of the Harvard Board of Overseers, and who favors the report. “Amherst is always pointed to. Harvard should be as great at teaching as Amherst.”

“People at Harvard are concerned when they hear that some of our undergraduates are graduating through four years here and not knowing a faculty member well enough to get a good reference,” said the Admissions Office’s Mr. Fiala, those interviewing years.

According to Schmill, there is a very high matriculation rate for students admitted off the waitlist. “The third floor is being downed from Professor Steven R. Lerman last Wednesday evening,” said Mr. Fiala, in his e-mail that planning to admit students off the waitlist is important, because it is the only way to control class size if enrollment. The report is due by Friday, and there are 42 waiting for their decision to admit.

There were a total of 12,443 applicants who were admitted to the Class of 2011, approximately 67 percent. Jones said in March that the target size for the freshman class was 1,533. The number of students who have chosen to enroll so far is already higher than that number.

“We set out to position six students to un- dergraduate curriculum, including evaluating the teaching,” said Robert Connor, president of the Teagle Foundation, which gives colleges and universities money to encourage innovation in teaching.

In 2007, the Boston Globe reported the average rank for Harvard was 3,33, below the median of 3,73, which admitted the rate. The admittance rate has steadily decreased from 16.4 percent for the Class of 2007 to 13.3 percent for the Class of 2010. This year’s admit- tions spanned 50 states and 66 countries, with 48 percent women and 21 percent underrepresented mi- norities. Demographic information for the matriculating students will be available at a later date.

According to Schmill, of the accepted students who chose not to enroll, one was downed to the top of Harvard University than any other school. Exact numbers will also be available at a later date, said Mr. Schmill.

Admissions Office Hopes to Take Students From Waitlist This Year

Walk For Hunger, from Page 1

ticipating a yield similar to that of the Class of 2010, approximately 67 percent. Jones said in March that the target size for the freshman class was 1,533. The number of students who have chosen to enroll so far is already higher than that number.

“We have been looking at ways to better balance research and teaching for the past decade. Some institutions, like Yale and Princeton, are known for their commitment to both. Columbia is reviewing its under- graduate curriculum, including evaluating the teaching.”

But because of Harvard’s standing in the world, it is being closely watched around the country.

“They’ve staked out a position that other people have to pay at- tention to,” said Robert Connor, president of the Teagle Foundation, which gives colleges and universities money to encourage innovation in teaching.

Columbia is taking the Harvard report into account as is moves through an internal review, said Alan Brinkley, Columbia’s provost. “If we’re going to ask some undergraduates to pay as much as $47,000 a year to come to these elite universities, he said, “then we have an obligation to make sure they get a great education.”

One of the most significant as- pects of the report, Dr. Connor said, is the stature of the professors who worked on it. In addition to Profes- sor Skocpol, the group includes Laurel Thatcher Ulrich, a Pulitzer Prize-winning historian; Xian-Li Meng, the chairman of the statistics department; and Eric Mazur, a physi- cist who is known for his innovative teaching as well as his research.

The aim of the report is not to de- emphasis research in any way, but to bring about a greater institutional fo- cusing on teaching, Professor Ulrich said. “This is not a report that says we’re going to hire teachers who are not also scholars. It is not a call to de-value teaching.”

Still, despite the perception that some of the greatest minds at Har- vard have not at all been attentive to teaching, Professor Skocpol said the report was more complete and serious.

“In all our meetings, faculty told us, ‘We enjoy teaching, I find a lot of satisfaction in contact with students, in improving my courses, but I don’t feel the institution values it or rewards it or cares about it,’” she said. “It’s about institutional cul- ture and reward.”

Class of 2011, from Page 1

If you loved the movie “Hitch” then you’ll love David Coleman, “The Dating Doctor”!

America’s Real-Life Hitch!

David Coleman

10-Time National Speaker of the Year, David has been featured in: The USA Today, People, Us and ESPN The Magazine as well as having appeared on CNN, Fox and Access Hollywood.

Date: Saturday, May 12th
Time: 1:30 PM
Location: Lobdell (2nd floor Student Center)
Students at Harvard on Hunger Strike For Security Guard Wages

By April Simpson

A Harvard University sophomore was hospitalized early Tuesday after going on a hunger strike to lobby for fairer wages and working conditions for campus security guards.

Javier Castro, a member of the Harvard Stand for Security Coalition, was admitted to Mount Auburn Hospital in Cambridge after lab tests showed low levels of sodium in his bloodstream. In a telephone interview from the hospital, the 19-year-old said he will continue fasting despite a doctor’s recommendation that he stop. “We still have, in my view, a good chance of winning this, and I’m more confident now than ever,” said Castro, who began the fast on May 11, 2007.

Shinkansen’s Decline in Business May Have Resulted From Roaches

Shinkansen, from Page 1

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SPORTS

Witzberger Smacks Seven RBI in MIT's 16-2 Victory Over Fitchburg

By James Kramer

MIT ensured its fourth consecutive winning campaign with a 16-2 victory over Fitchburg State on Tuesday at Briggs Field. Playing in the final game of his collegiate career, Jason T. Witzberger '07 enjoyed a monster day at the plate, stealing three bases while driving in a career-high seven runs as the Engineers ran away with a 16-2 win over the Falcons to finish out the season with an 18-16 record.

Witzberger followed with an RBI single to left before stealing his 200th base in 2007. Matthew D. Leoper '09 also delivered a two-run single just past the third baseman. Witzberger added another run-scoring single in the second to give MIT a 5-0 lead after two innings.

Fitchburg's (17-18) Jason Rashid hit a sacrifice fly as part of a two-run third that cut the Engineers' advantage to 5-2, but the MIT offense exploded during the middle innings to earn its fifth win in the last six games. Park sparked the bats with a triple to left center to lead off the fourth. Witzberger plated Park for the third time of the game in the next at-bat, while Thomas M. Phillips '09 followed with a two-run homer to left field. Witzberger orchestrated more damage in the fifth with a bases-clearing double. He then knocked in a run in the third consecutive inning in the sixth.

Turner (6-3) started on the mound for MIT, surrendering two runs and three hits in five and two-thirds innings. D'Annunzio was even sharper in relief, giving up only two hits on route to the multi-inning save. Making his first start of the year, Corey Dunovan suffered the loss and dropped to 2-4 on the season.

Witzberger, who holds Institute career records for hits and stolen bases, finished 3-for-6 with three runs scored. Park crossed the plate four times after going 2-for-4 with the bat. Despite the offensive outburst, Kevin R. Wheeler '08 was the only other Engineer to finish with multiple hits after serving up a 2-3, 3 performance in addition to three walks. Jim Abreau finished 2-for-5 to pace Fitchburg.

Witzberger retires from the collegiate ranks as the first MIT player to ever be a part of four winning teams. Head coach Andy Barlow has led the Engineers to their best four-year record and finishing perfect in conference play for the first time in program history. MIT also finished the season a perfect 8-0 in home games.

Stephen C. Toth '09 gets a hit during the third inning of the MIT baseball game against Fitchburg State. The Engineers ran away with a 16-2 win over the Falcons to finish out the season with an 18-16 record.

Diving, Gymnastics, Pistol, Rifle Should Not Be Called Sports

By Travis Johnson

I have a much more restrictive definition of “sport” than most people. So restrictive, in fact, that four MIT varsity teams and six summer Olympic events don’t qualify. Diving, gymnastics, pistol, and rifle should not be labeled as sports because they fail to meet one of the following four requirements.

1) A sport must require cardiovascular fitness, which is a generally accepted principle. For example, chess and poker are not sports because they only require the fitness of a chain smoker who can lift a bishop or a few chips. Pistol and rifle fail here as well. Since aiming a rifle doesn’t exactly strain your heart or lungs, it fails to meet this requirement.

2) A sport must not require participants to use an internal combustion engine. Boat racing, dirt-bike jumping, and NASCAR are out. This is a bit more controversial, particularly since NASCAR is America’s fastest growing “sport” but this is basically a special case of Rule 1. I realize that NASCAR drivers a) sweat in the car and b) need some strength to turn the wheel, so I’m clarifying this point with a separate rule.

3) A sport must be competitive, and there must be an outcome that ranks the participants. If a group of joggers go for a run, that’s not a sport. Only during a race does running become a sport. This seems intuitive, but many martial arts groups will meet with other clubs, practice together, and call it a sport. Competition is the essence of sport, and there must be an outcome that can become sports in my eyes. The fourth rule resulted from this requirement.

4) The outcome must be determined by the participants instead of an observer. Referees, officials, and judges must enforce the rules, but they can’t decide the outcome. This is where gymnastics and diving drop out, and it’s also where most people stop agreeing with me. Think about this, though: without Rule Four, the TV show “So You Think You Can Dance” is a sport. Dancing is hard work, doesn’t use any motors, and there’s a defined clear winner.

Even with Rule Four, some people may think “So You Think You Can Dance” is a sport. If that’s the case, what about “American Idol”? They sweat on that show too.

Why not “America’s Got Talent” or “America’s Next Top Model”? A line must be drawn, and I draw it where judges tell me who wins.

Furthermore, Rule Four explains why everyone gets upset when a football referee or baseball umpire’s blown call decides the outcome of the game (see: Reggie Bush illegally reversing Matt Leinart’s touchdown). Hitting a walk-off home run, someone hits a walk-off home run, or pulls away in the last 10 meters. That dramatic conclusion instantaneously tells me which team claimed victory. I didn’t wait 15 minutes to hear a judge tell me who won.

That feeling, the excitement and agony, is the best thing about sports. It doesn’t have to happen every game for something to be a sport. God knows April baseball doesn’t make my skin crawl, but the potential has to be there. With judges, it is not.

Games like diving, which can’t balance judges’ rankings if they only require the fitness of a chain smoker at the end of the stretch, cannot become sports in my eyes (luckily, this is every game’s dream) by adopting a publicly known scoring system. Dive X is worth Y points with a clean vertical entry and Z points with a slanted entry. Spectators should be able to say: “That was a 9.1” before the score flashes on the screen.

I know gymnastics, diving, and figure skating are moving in this direction. However, there are still judging scandals and major disagreements about scores, so Rule Four is still violated.

Further improvement will make these games, already more enjoyable to watch than sports like long-distance running, certifiable and entertaining sports.

The Tech does many things to get a story.

It’s flown its staff to Chicago to see March Madness in person.

It’s flown its staff to Los Angeles for E3.

It’s covered its staff’s dinners, concerts, and movies.

Got your interest?

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