BU Dental No Longer Available For MIT Students

By Rosa Cao and Kimberly McManus

The Boston University Student Dental Plan will not be available to members of the MIT community this academic year. The plan had been the least expensive of the options available to students in the area and remains open to those enrolled in a number of other local colleges and universities. The Housing and Community Affairs subcommittee of the Graduate Student Council is exploring replacement options.

Paula K. Friedman, the dean responsible for enrollment and administration at the BU DSP, said that the Graduate Student Council President Leeland B. Ekstrom G that administrators chose not to enroll MIT students this year because they believed it was not “meeting the needs of MIT students,” Ekstrom said.

According to information provided by Ekstrom, Friedman said that BU had received a number of complaints and cancellations from MIT students over the past year. Asked if the decision might be reversed, Friedman said that it was not “meeting the needs of MIT students.”

The BU student insurance plan cost $240 last year and covered care including two cleanings, basic inspections, X-rays, and some fillings. Root canals and more complex procedures were not covered at additional cost. MIT Medical offers its own full-care dental service; however, treatment is not covered by any of the Mit Student Health plans.

Deborah A. Boyd, patient access assistant at MIT Medical, said that the MIT Dental service provides about 12,000 visits a year, of which about 30 percent are graduate and undergraduate students.

In response to concern about the dental service’s ability to handle an increase in volume this year, Boyd said, “We’re not short-staffed. I don’t anticipate it being difficult for anyone to get an appointment, especially if it’s an emergency.”

The GSC has been looking into solutions for student dental care for some years, but “now that the BU plan has been cancelled… it’s a top priority,” said Tangy M. Chau G, GSC Housing and Community Affairs Committee co-chair. Among the options under consideration are negotiating access for MIT students to the Tufts or Harvard Student dental plans, or finding a way to insure students affordably at the MIT Dental Service. However, Chau stressed that all proposals are in preliminary negotiations access for MIT students the options under consideration are GSC Housing and Community Affairs subcommittee of the Graduate Student Council is exploring replacement options.

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Situation for Noon Eastern Daylight Time, Tuesday, September 11, 2007

**WEATHER**

**Situation for Noon Eastern Daylight Time, Tuesday, September 11, 2007**

**Extended Forecast**

**Top U.S. Commander Warns Against Hurried Iraq Pullout**

**By Marc Santora and Dalia Sussman**

WASHINGTON

Republican leaders say Rudolph W. Giuliani has strong leadership qualities and they associate him closely with his handling of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, but those impressions have not translated into a substantial advantage over his party's other presidential candidates when it comes to who can best fight terrorism, according to the latest New York Times/CBS News poll.

Nearly half of Republican primary voters in the poll did not know his position on abortion — he supports abortion rights — suggesting that he could generate enthusiasm among those who care strongly about the issue, as well as among those who care little or not at all about social issues. And many voters said that Giuliani’s experience as mayor of New York City, which he constantly trumpets, limited his ability to understand their needs and concerns and was not as good a background for the presidency as having been a governor or a senator.

While the poll found that Giuliani faces some big challenges in winning his party’s nomination, with 31 percent of self-identified Republican primary voters saying he does not share the values of most members of his party, it also suggested that he might be able to win over wary or unconvinced Republicans if he could make the case that he would be the candidate with the best chance of winning the general election.

**Ex-Premier of Pakistan Arrested Upon His Return**

**By Carlotta Gall and Salman Masood**

KARACHI, PAKISTAN

President Pervez Musharraf faced the prospect of fresh clashes with a newly independent Supreme Court after deporting Pakistan’s former prime minister, Nawaz Sharif, as he tried to return from exile on Monday.

Pakistan’s military government moved hastily against Sharif, deporting him and briefly detaining him in the midst of his presidential campaign, as a sign of the ruling party’s anxiety about his return. Sharif’s alliance with the former leader of his party that they tried to travel to the airport to greet him.

The government is facing the face of a recent Supreme Court ruling ordering that Sharif, 57, be allowed to return to Pakistan unhindered, and it immediately ignored secret protests against Sharif’s support.

Sharif, 57, a bitter rival of Musharraf, who ousted him in a coup in 1999 that left much of his last seven years as a exile in Saudi Arabia under an agreement to leave Pakistan for 10 years in return for having his jail sentences for corruption and hijacking commuted.

**Suicide Bomber in Afghanistan Kills Afghan Civilians, Policemen**

**By David Rohde**

KABUL, AFGHANISTAN

In one of the deadliest suicide attacks in Afghanistan this year, at least one suicide bomber killed at least 26 Afghans, half of them civilians, in a crowded market in southern Afghanistan on Monday, Afghan officials said.

One bomber walked up to a truck full of policemen in one of the main markets in the town of Girkhan, Helmand Province, and detonated his explosive, said Abdul Manaf, the Girkhan district chief. The bomb or bombs killed 13 policeman and 13 pedestrians. At least two dozen other people were wounded. “The bodies were burned beyond recognition,” Manaf said.

The attack came two days after the United Nations said 103 suicide bombings had been carried out in Afghansistan in the first eight months of 2007, a 69 percent increase over the same period last year. The report said suicide attack are on a pace to exceed the record 123 bombings carried out in 2006.

Monday’s death toll appeared to be higher than an attack in Kabul in July in which a suicide attacker boarded a bus carrying Afghan police trainees and detonated a bomb, killing 24 people and wounding 35 others. More than 225 people have died in bombings in the first eight months of this year, according to Afghan and U.N. officials. Last year, 305 died.

In Girkhan, investigators were trying to determine whether more than one bomber had been involved. “The body count was about the number of people killed,” Manaf said. Officials found a suicide vest but the bomber’s partial remains at the scene, but no evidence of a car bomb. “We don’t really understand.”

Manaf said: “We just have a vest and a pair of legs.”

Afghanistan experienced the second highest number of suicide bombings in the world in 2006 and so far in 2007, according to Mohammed Halil, a political science professor at the University of Missouri who tracks such attacks. In 2006, a suicide attack in July in an Afghan market killed 32 suicide bombers this year through the end of August, and 179 in all of 2006.

A former Taliban commander told U.N. investigators that half of suicide bombers had been foreigners and that “almost all undergo some form of training and preparation in madrasas based in Pakistan,” the report said.

“Over 80 percent of suicide attackers pass through recruitment, training facilities or safe houses in North or South Waziristan en route to their targets inside Afghanistan,” it added.

**So Long Summer**

**By Garrett P. Marino**

Although technically not yet autumn, temperatures over the foreseeable future are apparently going to make it feel like the fall season. Contrast this to just a few days ago when Logan took a record high of 95°F, previously set way back in 1872. A cold front moved through early Sunday morning, bringing substantially cooler and somewhat drier air with its passage. The weekend also saw a weak Tropical Storm Gabrielle brush the North Carolina coast with mainly light and rousty winds. Cape Hatteras recorded a top wind speed of 53 mph. Now a tropical depression, Gabrielle is currently racing off to the east 1024 miles south of Nantucket last night.

**Extended Forecast**

**Situation for Noon Eastern Daylight Time, Tuesday, September 11, 2007**

**Top U.S. Commander Warns Against Hurried Iraq Pullout**

**By David E. Sanger and David S. Cloud**

WASHINGTON

Gen. David H. Petraeus, the se- nior U.S. commander in Iraq, warned in stark terms against the kind of rapid pullback favored by the Demo- cratic majorities in the House and Senate, in a day of testimony that drove home the continuing inability of the Democrats to force a change in strategy in Iraq.

The general’s appearance on Monday in the cavernous Cannon Caucus room, the scene of past con- frontations between Congress and the White House, cranked up a variety of points with partisan tension, and his testimony was interrupted repeated- ly by shouting protesters who were quickly escorted from the room.

“The situation in Iraq remains complex, difficult and sometimes downright frustrating,” Petraeus said, as he began two days of highly antic- ipated appearances before Congress. “I also believe that it is possible to achieve our objectives in Iraq over time, although doing so will be nei- ther quick nor easy.”

The hearings had been expected to provoke an epic confrontation be- tween opponents of the war and its front-line leaders. But that conflict did not materialize on Monday, in part because only a few Democrats on two House committees seemed inclined to dispute with much vigor the assessments provided by a com- mander with medals on his chest and four stars on his shoulders.

Still, the proceedings put Pe- teraeus and Ryan C. Crocker, the U.S. ambassador to Iraq, in the unusual position of appealing directly to law- makers for more time to allow their efforts to work, even as Democrats have made clear that they have little remaining faith in that strategy.

Petraeus said he believed that the United States was meeting most of its military objectives in Iraq. He said he had recommended to President Bush a timetable that would include with- drawal by next July, slightly ahead of schedule, of the nearly 30,000 ad- ditional troops that Bush has sent to Iraq since January.

But the general also warned that the situation in Iraq remained too fragile to undertake the major shift in mission and more rapid troop reductions that Democrats in the House and Senate have sought. The plan he outlined would still leave a raw body of at least 130,000 U.S. troops in Iraq next summer, and he said it would be premature to discuss a timetable for further withdrawals beyond those he outlined.

Though many lawmakers praised Petraeus’ service, several Democrats among a joint panel composed of the House Foreign Affairs and Armed Services committees dismissed his testimony as a White House public- ity stunt.

In his testimony, Petraeus de- clared that his statements were his own, and had not been drafted or approved by the White House or the Pentagon. He will appear before two Senate committees on Tuesday, and Bush is expected to say in a speech later this week that he is accepting his top commander’s recommendations.

But Democratic leaders made clear that they intended to continue their fight. They pointed out that the recommendations from Petraeus em- braced only modest adjustments in troop levels and no immediate strategy shift, even though the White House had built up the September review as a major re-evaluation of its Iraq policy.
Petraeus in Support of Proposal Reducing No. of U.S. Troops in Iraq

Petraeus is not the only one who has been making such arguments. The National Intelligence Estimate, which was issued last month, made a similar point — and Petraeus made a point of quoting from it in his testimony Monday.

“We assess that changing the mission of coalition forces from a primarily counterterrorism role to a primary combat support role for Iraqi forces and counterterrorist operations to prevent A.Q.I. from establishing a safe haven for Islamic extremism would be a point of quoting from it in his testimony Monday.

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The father and son, residents of London, a farming town with a large Muslim population, were arrested in June 2005.

Federal authorities were in the middle of a lengthy undercover investigation of Aamer. Hamid-Hayat was arrested on returning from Pakistan, where FBI agents, said he planned to travel to Pakistan sometime between October 2003 and November 2004, to meet with the trial lawyer in the bureau that was asked about it.

Umer Hayat was arrested and extradited to the United States on the son’s trip and lying to agents. He kept several weapons and other charges and was eventually released for time served.

Through the timing of the sentencing on Monday was coincidental, the U.S. District Court of District of Columbia, McGregor W. Scott, sentenced the 11 terror attacks.

We now stand on the eve of the sixth anniversary of that terrible day, and here is the truth.

He added that there had been no terrorism attacks in the United States since then.

Road Accident in Mexico Kills 37 in Huge Explosion

By James C. McKinley, Jr.

A 100,000-kilogram gas container exploded Monday at a power plant in Mexico, killing at least 37 people and injuring 40 others, according to the state police.

At least 37 people were killed and scores injured late Sunday night when a truck carrying explosives blew up after crashing into a pickup truck in a fast-food restaurant.

The victims included three local reporters, four paramedics, three police officers and more than a score of residents of the nearby village of Coahuila.

The driver was trucking the explosive from the town of Cuatro Cienegas to the border town to a company identified as Takata, the federal police said.

Later in the day, Takata put out a statement denying the shipment was theirs.

"The truck-driver turned over and started to burn," Jesus Torres Charles, the Coahuila State attorney general, explained in a radio interview that the truck had been carrying more than 50,000 pounds of ammonium nitrate, an explosive used in the mining industry.

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Opinion

A photo of LaVerde’s Market on page 1 of the Sept. 7, 2007 issue of The Tech was credited to the wrong photographer. The photo was taken by Sherry Yan ’11, not Alex Chan G.

An Aug. 27, 2007 review of “The Bourne Ultimatum” misspelled the name of the CIA agent played by Joan Allen. Allen’s character is Pamela Landy, not Pam Landry.
God, Are You Out There?

(On the Intertubes?)

By Charles Lin

I was having an existential crisis the other day, so I decided to seek help. Naturally, I knew where to turn.

To: God@gmail.com

Subject: Me

Hi God,

What, who, why, when, and where are you? Also, do you have a pony? —Charles

I immediately received a delivery failure message. Figuring that I wasn’t being broad enough, I tried another handle. To my surprise, Clara Bennett ’10 replied:

Dear God,

No, we pretty much run our lives on crutches or injured or disabled in any visible manner. She was visiting someone—me, I mean, she piggybacked behind me on the way in. I know she was visiting someone who lived on the first floor, why would you head to the elevator? So the only possible person that this girl is, in fact, the laziest person in the history of the universe. I don’t know who she was visiting, but whatever.

In summation, seriously, stairs won’t kill you. Take them whenever you’re only going up a floor. I should go without saying that going down stairs takes very little effort at all … and if you are going to decide to be ridiculously lazy and end up sharing the elevator with other, less lazy people, fake a limp or something for your benefit! I didn’t say anything, although I very much wish I had. I didn’t receive from the shock quickly enough to get any words out before she stopped off the elevator. I don’t think she had any friends in the building, but I’m not sure. That’s probably just a coincidence.

God, Are You Out There?

Readers

I realize that there are some instances when people need to use the elevator to go up a couple floors … like, if they are in wheelchairs or have some sort of foot/ankle/knee injury. Taking the elevator is also acceptable if there are no nearby stairs. However.

Ahura Mazda didn’t use the sixth floor of Baker getting some papers I printed off on Bricks, so for a nominal fee, the driver wedged us in, we were. There still seemed to be a few cubic feet of unoccupied space in the vehicle, and so for a nominal fee, the driver wedged us in, cranking me in next to the window with my bag on my lap and me on the lap of a com- plete stranger. Will was not so lucky; his bag was thrown overtop of an old man while he was awkwardly positioned over the scorching metal of the engine cover.

The van pushed off again, bumping vio- lently along the road at speeds that seemed incredible after nearly a week of travel on Mongolian two-alarm horses. Before long, the grassy hills of the passing countryside gave way to the near-simultaneous grassy hills of the Central Mongolia, stained blood red with the moons of fall.

As we crearmed around corners and I glanced uneasily down into a deep gorge at the road’s edge, Will raised awkwardly to glance uneasily at his bag. Mongolia isn’t the worst country out there in terms of petty theft, but people are people, and so it’s always unerving to be separated so helplessly from your live- lihood. The old man answered Will’s glance with a blank stare, then, without breaking eye contact, he casually propped his finger up his nose, listened to a few moments, and withdrew a giant visible from across the van. As it was the closest surface available, the old man proceeded to wipe said giant across Will’s backpack, nonchalantly smacking his lips and breaking eye contact as though nothing out of the ordinary had transpired.

We emerged that afternoon in a little town called Tariat, a picturesque brocage of small wooden houses and dusty alleys nestled amongst the backbreak of the nation’s largest volcanic peaks. It was September now; back home my friends were starting classes again, but for the first time in 15 years, I wouldn’t be joining them. Such a shame, I thought to myself, over the next few days, as I relaxed by the stilt waters of a volcanic lake, playing my travel guitar and admiring the falling colors. Even the famous Nunu Mountains, Central Mongolia, stained blood red with the moons of fall.

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When it occurred to me. The reason I have a heart-to-heart with the big man upstairs. No offense Xipe, but I really wanted to powers of my choosing greatly disheartened me. I was having an existential crisis the other day, so I decided to seek help. Naturally, I knew where to turn.

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**Sudoku**

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Solution, tips, and computer program at [http://www.sudoku.com](http://www.sudoku.com)

**Crossword Puzzle**

Solution, page 19

The untimely death of Mr. Christian Doppler

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**Grid Solutions:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Across</th>
<th>Down</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 Suppositions</td>
<td>1 Hosp. section</td>
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<td>4 Open ...</td>
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**PhD**

*Piled Higher and Deeper*

WHERE ARE THE REFERENCES I ASKED FOR?

COURAGING WISDOM...

LONG WAVE I TOLED TO CREATE A CREATURE WORTHY OF MY NAME... OF CARRYING MY RECOMMENDATION FOR FACULTY POSITIONS...

AND NOW AT LAST...

BEHOLD... MY LEGACY!!

**PhD**

*Piled Higher and Deeper*

THROUGH MY GENIUS, I WILL TRANSFORM THIS LIFELESS MASS INTO A BEING OF PURE ACADEMIC RIGOR!

I SAID, Duh! I'M A PROFESSOR OF COURSE! I THINK I'M A GOD!

ARROGANT THEY CALLED ME!

DRUNK ON ILLUSIONS OF GRANDUR AND GODHOOD!

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**Police Log**

The following incidents were reported to the MIT Police between Aug. 13 and Sept. 5, 2007. This summary does not include incidents such as false alarms, general service calls, larcenies, or medical shortages.

Aug. 13:  E2 (70 Amherst St.), 4:09 p.m., Burglary; reporting person states laptop was stolen.


Aug. 16:  M18 (21 Rem. Ames St.), 7:40 a.m., Facilities reports malicious destruction of property.

Aug. 17:  Kendall Square (0 Main St.), 10:16 p.m., Female approached officer about alleged sexual assault that occurred off campus, by person known to female.

Aug. 20:  M12 (60 Rear Vassar St.), 2:03 p.m., Suspect in building reported thefts arrested. Stefano Fazio, 288 Charles St., Mal- don, Mass, arrested for larceny from building and related charges.

Aug. 21:  NW21 (190 Albany St.), 9:24 a.m., Malicious destruction; report of broken car window.


Aug. 26:  N4 (32 Albany St.), 5:45 p.m., Assist of police; Report of male seen with firearms – Cambridge Police make arrest.

Aug. 27:  NW2 (20 Albany St.), 5:51 p.m., Party reports vehicle struck in Albany parking lot. E52 (50 Memorial Dr.), 9:38 p.m., Reporting person states her vehicle was broken into in Herman Garage; no items taken from vehicle.

Aug. 30:  M35 (127 Mass. Ave.), 7:19 a.m., Burglary; reporting person states her vehicle was broken into and Homer Simpson doll stolen.

Aug. 31:  NW1 (190 Albany St.), 10:10 p.m., Arrest made; witness officer about alleged sexual assault that occurred off campus.

Sept. 4:  W15 (350 Brookline St.), 7:54 a.m., Malicious destruction; tires of several vans slashed over weekend.

Sept. 5:  Mass. Ave. Bridge, 1:15 a.m., Report of juveniles pushing bikes while riding others, two juveniles arrested for receiv- ing stolen property and possession of burglary tools.

Compiled by Nick Kourides

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MIT Writing Prof. Publishes New Book 11 Years Later

By Johnny Diaz

Junot Diaz is relieved.

It has taken him 11 years to produce the book he feels is his mature voice, a collection of short stories about growing up Dominican-American that he has been working on since 1996. His new novel, “The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao,” follows the lives and loves of (mostly losses) of a Dominican-American family back on the island and in New Jersey.

Throughout the book, Diaz points out that the family may be living under a curse, “a high-level fuku” that has doomed them to unhappiness. But that curse may describe Diaz’s temporary loss for words, the writer’s “block” that paralyzed him sporadically over the years.

He managed to unlock his writer’s block, and he seems at ease during an interview, although his leg jumps up and down like a car piston as he talks about his new novel and life after “Drown.”

“I am, like, really relieved, you know,” says Diaz, sitting at one of his hangouts, Central Kitchen in Cambridge. He wears black-frame glasses, a buzz cut, and white guayabera. He takes a deep breath as he talks about his new novel and life after “Drown.”

“I just kept throwing myself out into the wilderness of the word.” —MIT Professor Junot Diaz

“I wanted to stay with Oscar the whole time, but that’s not what the book required of me. It refused,” says Diaz, who named the title character after the Spanish pronunciation of Oscar Wilde. “It’s impossible to understand Oscar without understanding his whole family.”

Although Oscar and his family live in the same house, none of the characters seem to know what goes on in one another’s lives. That code of silence propels the novel, and it’s something that Diaz himself experienced growing up in two cultures.

“My mother had absolutely no concept of what my world had of [being] a young kid in mostly Puerto Rican and Black Central New Jersey. I had no concept of what my life was like growing up in Santo Domingo and living up in the revolution,” says Diaz, his eyes animated as he chats breathlessly. “For me, it was important to have the book riddled with silences, holes, and gaps. The fundamental hyperboim of trauma is silence. Immigration put a gag on so many families.”

Diaz is a child of immigration. He was born in Santo Domingo and emigrated to working-class New Jersey at age 6 during what has been called the Dominican diaspora, the wave of Dominicans who came to America after the Spanish dictator Rafael Trujillo died in 1961. As Diaz settled into his new country, alienation enveloped him. Teachers pronounced the name “You Not” and classmates hurled racial slurs and taunted him for his accent, geeksiness, and love of books. He found an escape by reading science fiction and horror books, including those of Stephen King.

By the time he entered Rutgers University, Diaz turned his love of reading into a passion for writing. One important influence was the novel “Dharmapala” by Toni Morrison. “I had never met a writer who wrote so perfectly and deeply so deeply,” Diaz says. “She reaches into the core of those silences.”

Diaz used his voice to unmask his own silences about being biculural, drawing from his own experiences but told through different characters. The main character in his stories, Yunior, happens to be Diaz’s family nickname. He admits that Yunior is a cooler and smarter version of him. He would write when he came home from running a copy machine in New York.

In 1996, Riverhead Books signed Diaz to a six-figure contract for two books, the first of which was “Drown.” Diaz exploded as a literary wonder. He had short stories published in The New Yorker and The Paris Review. Newsweek named him one of its 20 writers to watch in 1998. As his publisher and fans awaited his follow-up, Diaz was struck with writer’s block. The dreaded “fuku”?

“I wouldn’t say that I’m excited,” says Diaz, 38, sitting at one of his hangouts, Central Kitchen in Cambridge. He wears black-frame glasses, a buzz cut, and white guayabera. He takes a deep breath as he talks about his new novel and life after “Drown.”

“I would write 200 pages, get [expletive] depressed and crazy, sit around and write another 200 pages. It was endless. Sometimes they don’t come easy.”

Diaz mines familiar themes in the new book: Dominican-American history. New Jersey upbringing, infidelity, science fiction, strong-willed women, the “ghetto nerd” Diaz for lasting love. “He found his own island. He has. He’s engaged to be married.”

Now that “Oscar Wao” is in bookstores, Diaz is trying his hand again at the apocalyptic science fiction novel that he has yet to finish.

“I learned so much by [expletive] up so thoroughly in writing of the [‘Oscar Wao’] book,” Diaz says. “I would have never learned any of this. I feel this book has turned me into the strongest writer I have ever been. It was my 11 years in the des- ert. Whether I can do anything with that, that’s for the future to decide.”
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MIT Community Picnic Held in Killian Court

(clockwise from top left)

Lines for the free Community Picnic lunch stretched along both sides of Killian Court Monday. The tables remained well-stocked with food throughout most of the picnic.

Anh D. Nguyen ’10 (left) and Thananat Jitapunkul ’10 (right) bite into their sandwiches.

President Susan Hockfield discusses student life with (from left) Julie Laure K. Maison ’09, Neeharika Bhartiya ’10, and Timan E. Goshit ’09.

Tables and chairs were set up for a few who got there early enough to find a seat.

MIT Police officers look on as the picnic held on Killian Court wraps up.
Congress Passes Overhaul Of Loan Programs
By Diana Jean Schemo

WASHINGTON

Congress gave final approval to a broad overhaul of federal student loan programs Friday, sharply cutting subsidies to lenders and increasing grants to needy students.

In quick succession, the Senate and the House approved the changes, allowing Democrats to say they had made good on one of their campaign promises last year, to ease the strain of rising college costs. In the Senate, the bill passed 79 to 12, reflecting broad bipartisan support, while the House approved it 292 to 97.

The federal education secretary, Margaret Spellings, said she was recommending that President Bush sign the bill because it “answered the president’s call to significantly increase funding” for Pell grants for low-income students. The administration had issued a veto threat against an earlier House version of the legislation.

Republicans in the House expressed disappointment at the administration’s change of course, arguing that the cuts in lender subsidies went too far.

The final bill, hammered out this week in a House-Senate conference committee, alters many of the ground rules for financing higher education, offering forgiveness on student loans to graduates who work for 10 years or more in public service professions like teaching, firefighting and the police, and limiting monthly payments on federally backed loans to 15 percent of the borrower’s discretionary income.

It also raises the maximum Pell grant, the basic federal grant for middle- and low-income students, to $5,400 from the current $4,310 over the next five years. To pay for the changes, the bill reduces federal subsidies to lenders by roughly $20 billion over the same period.

Democrats likened the legislation to the G.I. Bill that sent millions of veterans to vocational training and college after World War II. “Today we’ll need a similar bold new commitment to enable the current generation of Americans to rise to the global challenges we face,” said Senator Edward M. Kennedy, Democrat of Massachusetts and chairman of the education committee. “Today we’ll help millions of students achieve the American dream.”

Representative George Miller, Democrat of California and chairman of the House education committee, said that last year, Republicans took nearly $12 billion from federal student aid programs. “We took $11.39 billion and put it back into Pell grants,” Mr. Miller said. “That’s the difference that an election makes.”

Campaign promises aside, the changes reflect the steep and sudden decline in the fortunes of the $85 billion student loan industry after years of generous subsidies and support in Congress.

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Leeland B. Ekstrom G, president of the Graduate Student Council, talks to The Tech about graduate student life and his plans for the GSC.

Leeland B. Ekstrom G, president of the Graduate Student Council, talks to The Tech about graduate student life and his plans for the GSC.

Challenges to the Scholars of This Age:
1) Find the “Platonist forms” for solution to the problems of “structural development of personality”, the “unified field theory”, and the question(s) of “reality”?
2) Recognize that those “Platonist forms”, or truths, are language related in expression but have real “forms” that determine description, once language is fixed.
3) Make those true “forms” the generally accepted descriptions of “reality” for all educated persons, regardless of their language.

Duplicities Currently Accepted:
1) “Personality” is the result of the adaption of the “super-ego” or “world view” of parents and is “identification with an aggressor” parent in the “Oedipal complex” or “personality” is indistinguishable from the “genetic” person.
2) The “particle” of energy is the “photon” and equals a unit quantity of energy times its’ frequency (hf). Energy and mass are interchangeable and not different “forms”.
3) “Free will” is the ability to choose good from evil, without making the self, evil with the wrong choice.

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Leeland B. Ekstrom
Education Background: BS in Engineering Physics and BS in Life Sciences from Queen’s University in 2002 and 2003, respectively.
Previous Occupations: research assistant in neuroimaging, physiology, physics
Home Town: Oakville, Ontario, Canada
Years at MIT: four years
GSC Office: 50-220
lekstrom@mit.edu

The Northwest Corridor [the area near the Student Center] is quite relaxing and is really exciting. With the new dorm [NW35] coming up there, there will be 1,700 students living in that corridor. It’s quite a concentration of graduate students, so places like the Thirty Ear Pub can really become a hub of graduate student activity and life on campus.

I’m a big advocate of encouraging people not to spend all their time focused in their laboratories. If you let it, it is possible that all your time will get sucked up. I think that the new dean for graduate students, Steven B. Lerman [’72], is a big fan of this as well. He is forcing people to round out other sides of their education.

Go down to the sailing pavilion and learn how to sail. Go enter the glass lottery and do the glass lab if you actually get a chance to get in there. Take advantage of the Hobby Shop and the athletic facilities that we have here. Go play underwater hockey. So many oddball activities exist. I think that there is a lot more to the campus that people realize.

TT: What are some of the needs that the Institute isn’t meeting at the moment?
LE: I can give you a couple of specific examples that I can talk about in broad terms. We’re going to try to work with MIT Medical to get some sort of dental care package for graduate students. A lot of graduate students don’t have any comprehensive dental care so either they don’t go to the dentist or it costs a lot of money when they go to the dentist.

The big thing that the GSC is debating about is the funding for student activities: where does the money go, such as the Student Life Fee? … Do you actually get a chance to get in there? What happens to the campus housing system concerning rent.

The graduate population is about 35 percent of the MA population; there just aren’t as many graduate courses to give everything a graduate student needs. [There’s a teaching assistantship]. Other schools where you have a 10:1 ratio, it’s easy to get a TA. Maybe that’s one thing that is unfortunate about the graduate education here at MIT, especially if you want to go onto academia. [Students] may not have a chance to develop those teaching skills.

A full TA paid by a department could work for the full nation and hire. It’s on the order of almost $30,000 a semester.

About 30 percent of the graduate population is married, maybe 700 or so. One can imagine a graduate student trying to support this many people just by teaching. I think the final building that’s going up is much more desirable for the students and for the people who are going to use that space than when it was initially planned. There’s much more community and common space in there than was going to exist previously.

There are some lower priced rooms that was one concern with losing Ashdown [W1] W[1] has all the rent on the low end of the spectrum. The [NW35] building as it was initially proposed was supposed to have rents at the higher end of the spectrum, so where do the [W1] students go? Partially, it has been addressed. There are some lower cost options, but there are going to be students who aren’t going to want to move into that new building because they don’t want to or they might want to pay more than they want to pay.

TT: What do you do like doing in your free time?
LE: During the winter, I’m a big skier. The GSC has a snowboarding, skiing trip — I really like taking advantage of the outdoors. Less exotic pursuits. I love reading the newspaper in the morning, whether it’s The Tech or The Boston Globe, just taking half an hour to eat breakfast or taking the shuttle to lab.

I enjoy intramural sports as well. I don’t actually play hockey in Canada. I started playing IM hockey when I came down here. It is sort of breaks the stereotype; we don’t all play hockey in Canada.

I like going out on the town in Boston. There are a lot of different performances that come into Boston. My girlfriend is a big fan of ballet, so I enjoy going with her, seeing dance performances. Not much theater necessarily, but we’ve been to see [Boston] Pops a couple times. Usually students can get in for $20. All you ask for student price. That is one piece of advice for new students.
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Sodium, from Page 1

unclear at this point whether the sodium is connected to MIT.

“State Police and fire officials are aware of sodium drops into the Charles River,” Wark said, “but how this substance got to the Boston side of the river remains under investigation.”

David Kaplar, managing editor of WBZ-TV News, said the station made the connection between Thursday’s explosion and MIT after a fire marshal at the scene informed WBZ-TV that “blocks of sodium” were responsible. “[We did a] Web search and put two-and-two together,” Kaplar said.

An Internet search for sodium and the Charles River returns numerous references to sodium drops, including photos of the events and references in official MIT Admissions blogs.

According to an article on the WBZ-TV Web site, television news producers “informed the fire marshal’s office about the ritual.”

The Globe reported Saturday that MIT students steal the sodium used in the drops from the school’s chemistry laboratories. MIT Police Chief John DiFava, however, said Friday that he has “never seen a report of stolen sodium.”

Pamela Dumas Serfes, spokesperson for the MIT News Office, said that “MIT is cooperating fully with appropriate authorities to establish the facts.”

Larry G. Benedict, dean for student life, said that “the state police are investigating,” but declined to elaborate. “I am quite disturbed that innocent bystanders got seriously injured,” said Benedict. Benedict would not comment on the future of the sodium drop tradition.

McNichol, however, said he hopes the sodium drop tradition will end.

“[The students] never realized that if a child had picked that up [they would have been severely hurt] … good thing, actually, that it was picked up by a pole with a net and not by hand,” McNichol said.

In addition to injuries suffered by his volunteer crew, McNichol’s boat was damaged in the ensuing fire. McNichol said that the crew is facing a substantial bill that they are unable to pay. “For the last four years, we’ve cleaned the river,” McNichol said. “This is a good thing that might get sunk.”

“My impression is that there is certainly a culpability for MIT,” McNichol said. “It’s up to the police and administration at MIT to address that.”

A video of the 2007 sodium drop, which took place a week before the boat fire incident, was posted by an MIT freshman on YouTube and later removed. For a mirror of the original, see: http://www-tech.mit.edu/127/356/136u.html.

Michael McGraw-Herdeg contributed to the reporting of this article.
Dartmouth Expands Board; Alumni Role Reduced by Change

By Tamar Lewin

Dartmouth College announced late on Saturday night that its board of trustees would expand to 24 members, two-thirds chosen by the college and one-third elected by the alumni.

Since 1891, Dartmouth alumni have elected eight trustees and the administration has appointed an additional eight, giving the college an unusually small board and an unusual level of alumni power.

The changes come largely in reaction to divisive trustee campaigns over the past three years, in which alumni rejected the candidates officially nominated by the alumni association and instead elected four libertarian or conservative alumni who got onto the ballot through a petition process.

The four petition trustees have said they are unhappy with the direction of the college. Among the issues they have raised are what they consider unacceptable limits on free speech, academic blight, and an overall sense that Dartmouth, which has 4,000 undergraduates in Hanover, N.H., has been pushing to become a small-scale research university at the expense of the undergraduate experience.

Supporters of the petition trustees have campaigned furiously in recent months to stop the proposed dilution of alumni power. The governor and the college president also serve on the board.

In his announcement of the changes, decided at the board’s annual retreat at Squam Lake, N.H., Charles E. Haldeman Jr., the chairman of the board, acknowledged the difficulties of the past few elections.

“Dartmouth’s trustee elections have become increasingly politicized, costly and divisive,” he said. “It’s not the results of these elections that are the problem, but the process itself.”

“I know some will ask why we didn’t simply expand the board through an equal number of charter and alumni trustee seats,” he said. “Given the divisiveness of recent elections we did not believe that having more elections would be good for Dartmouth.”

Stephen F. Smith, the most recently elected petition candidate, did not return a telephone call seeking comment.

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Tuesday, September 11, 2007

EVENT: MARKETS & BANKING PRESENTATION
TIME: 5:30 - 7:30 pm
VENUE: Building 4, Room 270

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Undergraduate Practice Opportunities Program

UPop is a unique program open to all engineering sophomores that will allow you to develop your engineering and business skills while providing you a taste of real-life work experience. Your summer could be spent working at a national lab, a leading investment bank, a cutting edge software development firm, a robotics design firm, or many other fantastic companies.

Want to know more? Come to an info session (food will be served!):

Wednesday, September 12th at 5:00pm in 3-270
Tuesday, September 25th at 6:00pm in 32-141
Wednesday, September 26th at 7:00pm in 32-141

Contra Dance for PE credit

Live folk music!

Group theory + banjos + twirling your partner = fun

No partner or experience necessary.

Tuesdays, 8:00 – 10:30 pm
Sep 11: Night Watch Acoustic, Lobdell
Sep 18: Victor Troll & Friends, W20-491

FREE for MIT students.
Beginners are always welcome.

Israeli Dancing: 9/5 8-11 pm, in Lobby 13
Beginner’s night 9/19 7:30-9 pm, in W20-491
International Folk Dancing: Sundays 8-11 pm
In Lobdell or the Sala (9/2 in Kresge RRB)

GSC Considers Other Dental Alternatives

Dental, from Page 1

stages and that the GSC is trying to “better assess the current cost of dental services for grad students and quantify the extent to which dental insurance would benefit the graduate student population.”

Ekstrom explained that there had been problems with MIT offering a dental plan in the past. “To be affordable, an insurance plan would require a large subscriber base, which would mostly likely require mandatory participation. Boyd said it was standard for dental care to be excluded from insurance plans, including such behemoths as Blue Cross Blue Shield. “There has always been a fee for this kind of service … even though you would think dentistry was just another specialty like ‘internal medicine,’” Boyd said.

Students also receive a 10 percent discount at MIT Medical. Boyd suggested that it would not be more expensive to pay for dental care at MIT on a fee basis than to pay for the BU insurance plan. “I think people went there thinking that they’d get a real bargain, [and then] found it wasn’t as convenient and cost-effective,” Boyd said.

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total

REGATTA

Sept. 22–23/07
MIT Sailing Pavilion
all levels are welcome

Participate in an exciting race for sailors at different levels
and learn about the oil and energy initiative of TOTAL
Sailing Races: Saturday and Sunday
Reception: Saturday Night at Muddy Charles 6pm
Food provided both days
Limited participation so sign in early online at http://total-sailing.mit.edu
Water Polo, from Page 20

produced 20.0 saves for the Engineers.

Smith-Bronsteen and St. Julien each added a goal, giving Tech an 8-5 lead. The Lasers added a second score in the 60th minute after bringing in an- other long service. Taking advantage of a thunderous kick by Brenman, other long service. Taking advantage of a thunderous kick by Brenman, the Engineers countered with a goal apiece. Rosemond (3), Artz (2), Preis '11 all found the back of the net for the second win of the day.

The Engineers continued play in an exhibition match against San- ta Rosa Junior College on Sunday morning, which ended in a 6-4 tie. The water polo team resumes play in an away match against Queens, New York on Saturday, Sept. 15 at noon.

Solution to Crossword

from page 6

Katelyn Bonetti. The Lasers added a second score in the 60th minute after bringing in an- other long service. Taking advantage of a thunderous kick by Brenman, other long service. Taking advantage of a thunderous kick by Brenman, the Engineers countered with a goal apiece. Rosemond (3), Artz (2), Preis '11 all found the back of the net for the second win of the day.

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Gavin Ludhume scored the first goal of the game with 11:03 remaining in the first half, his third goal of the season. It was Ludhume’s first goal of the season. It was Ludhume’s first goal of the season. His second goal came in the 73rd minute to secure the 3-2 win.

The Engineers finished the opening weekend with six goals and four assists. The Lasers added a second score in the 60th minute after bringing in an- other long service. Taking advantage of a thunderous kick by Brenman, other long service. Taking advantage of a thunderous kick by Brenman, the Engineers countered with a goal apiece. Rosemond (3), Artz (2), Preis '11 all found the back of the net for the second win of the day.

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**SPORTS**

**Water Polo Wins 13-9 Against National Champ UC Santa Cruz**

By Jeff Lemieux

The men’s water polo team competed against five other teams in last weekend’s MIT Invitational, notching victories in four matches and a tie in an exhibition. The Engineers were particularly impressive in posting a strong 13-9 win over the Division III defending national champion, the University of California Santa Cruz, in their opening match on Friday night.

**Victory over defending champion**

MIT’s water polo squad opened its 2007 home campaign in fine fashion on Friday night, downing defending Division III National Champion University of California Santa Cruz, 13-9. The Engineers used a gritty defensive effort to limit the fourth-ranked Banana Slugs to just one goal in the fourth quarter.

The game was the opener for both sides in the MIT Invitational, which saw nine teams from across the country compete in the Zesiger Center Pool from Friday to Sunday. John V. Press ’11 led the Cardinal and Gray offensive attack with three goals, pushing his team-best total to 12 on the season. Michael R. Smith-Broston ’09 notched two goals, while Mark E. Arzt ’10 and Brian C. Gardiner ’11 also bagged two goals each.

**Grant D. Tomasson ’11 scores a goal late in the fourth quarter as the Engineers hosted the University of California Santa Cruz, the defending NCAA Division III national champions, 13-9 Friday evening at the Zesiger Center Pool.**

**The contest was a back-and-forth affair throughout the first three quarters, with neither team distinguishing itself. UC Santa Cruz (1-1) held a 4-3 advantage after the first quarter, but a tight second saw the Engineers (2-1) knot the score at 6-6 heading into the half. The third quarter saw much of the same, as the squads traded goals, with Tech securing a slim 9-8 lead entering the final eight-minute period. A brave defensive effort from MIT stymied the Banana Slugs in the fourth quarter, limiting them to just one more shot to get past goalkeeper Nicholas A. Souza ’10. Michael Smith-Broston goals from the Engineers helped bury the game and give MIT its second consecutive victory.**

Ludium ’08 also tallied four points to give MIT its second consecutive win after posting an impressive 13-9 win over defending champion UC Santa Cruz (0-1) in the first quarter, limiting their looks at the goal and allowing just one shot to get past goalkeeper Nicholas A. Souza ’10. Michael Smith-Broston goals from the Engineers helped bury the game and give MIT its second consecutive victory.

**Tech Beats Worcester State 5-2; Theurer and Pesce Each Score Two**

By James Kraemer

**T**he MIT men’s water polo team opened the 2007 home opener at Steinbrenner Stadium on Saturday afternoon. The Engineers exacted revenge on the Lasers’ goalkeeper Erin Doherty. Pesce stepped up to the loose ball and calmly planted it into the back of the net.

**Freshman sensation Christian W. Therkelsen ’11 emerged as MIT’s offensive hero for the second consecutive game, as the striker completed a hat trick in the Engineers’ 3-2 victory over Rhode Island College on Saturday afternoon at Steinbrenner Stadium.**

The Engineers (2-1) lit the board first as Pesce knocked home his second goal of the season to give MIT its second consecutive victory, which saw nine teams from across the country compete in the Zesiger Center Pool from Friday to Sunday. John V. Press ’11 led the Cardinal and Gray offensive attack with three goals, pushing his team-best total to 12 on the season. Michael R. Smith-Broston ’09 notched two goals, while Mark E. Arzt ’10 and Brian C. Gardiner ’11 also bagged two goals each.

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