Class of '09 Brass Rat Revealed, Hidden "08" Seen in Ring Design

By Swntha Kambhatl i

The Brass Rat 2009 Ring Premiere held last Friday evening marked the release of the design of the Class of 2009 Ring, which features several unique aspects, such as female and male signs on the beaver's pocket watch and an inscription of "pun," which can be read as "tool" upside down. In addition, the presence of an accidental "08" behind the beaver in the ring's bezel has posed a controversy.

The budget for this year's ring was $70,000, marking an increase of $20,000 from last year's. Amy Gilpin '09, the Ring Committee treasurer, said that this is partially because of an increase in the cost of gold. The additional money will also go toward planning the Ring Delivery, the event where students receive their rings.

Arjun Naskar '09, the historian of the Ring Committee, said, "The Class of 2007 ring had some controversy. So to balance that out, the Class of 2008 made a very traditional ring. We took a middle path that included a lot of the traditional features that have been used for the last four or five years such as bucking, the motto (IIHPF), and 'pun,' and 'tool,' and gave it our own twist."

Regarding the controversy over the "08" on the bezel, Colleen P. Mosley '09, the Vice Chair of the Ring Committee, said, "We didn't even notice it. It was just the way that Walker and Building 2 were drawn. It was completely unintentional."

In addition to the controversy over the hidden "08," the 2009 ring committee also accidentally leaked the ring's design.

Sherley Calls Hunger Strike Off After Day Twelve of Protesting

By Joyce Kwan

In the e-mail, Sherley compared actions of President Susan Hockfield and Provost L. Rafael Reif to "the water hoses, dogs, and billy-clubs of the civil rights struggles."

Sherley also stated in the e-mail that he "will not eat again until MIT's upper administration either admits that racism and obstruction of justice was a problem in my case and others, or works with my advocates to develop a fair and open process to decide the issue."

The chemistry Professor Keith A. Nelson sent an e-mail in response to Sherley's e-mail. Nelson wrote that his own acquaintance with some of the people whom Sherley criticized "does not suggest to me that they are so uniformly, blatantly, and relentlessly dishonest or outright evil as you indicate." Also, Nelson wrote, "however racist the motivations of our colleagues, any comparison between you and the victims of water hoses, dogs, and billy-clubs is sickening."

According to Sherley in his e-mail calling for boycott of the MLK breakfast, "some of the faculty are considering offering tenured homes for me at MIT besides BE."

At the end of his public statement on Friday, Sherley urged MIT to "respond to the lines of communication and negotiation that have been in place for two weeks," referring to the span of his hunger strike. MIT stated that it "acknowledges that the actions of President Susan Hockfield...may have been unfair and unresponsive to the concerns of the MIT community and that MIT was wrong in its handling of Sherley's case and its failure to develop a fair and open process to resolve our differences with Professor Sherley."

Graph: The ring design.

Sherley's calls for the boycott of the MLK breakfast and the hiring of his own forensics expert and inquest have posed a controversy.

Fat al Levels of Sedative Found in Zhou's Autopsy

By Nick Semenkovich

Toxicology studies for Mingyao "May" Zhou '04 found toxic levels of diphenhydramine, a sedative and antihistamine, in her system. Zhou, a Stanford University graduate student, was found dead in the trunk of her car on Jan. 25 of an apparent suicide.

Zhou's toxicology tests detected diphenhydramine at 6.15 mg/L, exceeding the "toxic range" of 1-5 mg/L, according to a Sonoma County Coroner's Office press release. Diphenhydramine is an ingredient in over-the-counter drugs such as Benadryl and sleep aids.

"No other common acidic, neutral or basic drugs [were] detected," the press release stated. "No blood or urine ethyl alcohol [was] detected."

Despite the completion of an autopsy, the Santa Rosa police have notyet ruled on the cause of death or commented on the role of diphenhydramine in Zhou's death. Yitong Zhou, May Zhou's father, is convinced his daughter did not commit suicide.

"No body believes she killed herself...just the police," he said to The Mercury News. Yitong Zhou also told the paper he was considering hiring his own forensic expert and examining his daughter's body.

Zhou's father has also questioned the source of the diphenhydramine, saying there are no receipts showing its purchase. "The tests don't mean anything (if you can't find out where the drugs came from)," he told The Palo Alto Daily News.

Yitong Zhou is also suspicious of the transfer of "a large sum of money" on the morning of Jan. 21, the day his daughter died, he told The Palo Alto Daily News. "This means she didn't think she would die. Otherwise, why would she move the money?"

The investigation into Zhou's death still remains open.

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The investigation into Zhou's death still remains open.
By Abdul Wahed Wafa

The New York Times

KABUL, AFGHANISTAN

Taliban insurgents seized control of a district in southwestern Afgha- nistan on Monday as the Afghan police abandoned their post and fled, officials said. The district is the second to fall into Taliban hands this week, and the capture comes after the precarious hold of the gov- ernment and NATO troops in the remote districts of southern Afghan- stan.

The midmorning attack occurred in the Baqwa district of Farah province, where few NATO or Afghan troops are deployed. A small number of U.S. soldiers ran a recon mission there and found the Taliban had struggled to establish a foothold that has revolved between paramilitary cocaine-trafficking squads and some of Urbe’s most prominent political opponents.

The resignation of Foreign Minister Maria Consuelo Araujo came just days after Urbe expressed support for her. But fossil from the air- ral was a choice of politicians including her brother, Sen. Alvaro Arau- jo, on charges of working with paramilitary squads in a kidnapping case related to a bombing in the Cabimas area.

Hours after the resignation, the president named Fernando Araujo, who recently escaped after six years in rebel captivity, to replace Maria Araujo. The two are not related.

President Bush, who is scheduled to visit Colombia in March, has stood by Urbe, in part to counter the enhanced regional influence of President Hugo Chavez of Venezuela.

The police in Baqwa town warned their provincial headquarters that the Taliban were advancing in such large numbers they could not hold the district office, according to Bayralyn Khan, the secretary to the provincial police chief.

Foreign Minister of Colombia Quits in Scandal

By Simon Romero

The foreign minister of Colombia resigned Monday as the govern- ment of President Alvaro Urbe, the Bush administration’s closest ally in South America, continued to struggle with the scandal that has revolved between paramilitary cocaine-trafficking squads and some of Urbe’s most prominent political opponents.

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By Lydia Polgreen

The New York Times

For most Guineans, the last straw came two months ago.

On Dec. 16, Guinea’s president, Lansana Conte, went to a city jail to liberate two of his close associates: Guinea’s wealthiest businessman and a former top official of the central bank.

That the two had been locked up in the first place, on charges of em- barrassing $2.6 million of public mon- ey, had come very much as a surprise to the long-suffering Guinean people, who have labored in abysmal poverty under the yoke of authoritarian rule for their entire post-colonial history.

Typically such high-level theft were unpunished, if not unnoticed by civil servants, farmers, laborers and students, who get by on less than a dollar a day.

But locking them up, then per- sonally letting them go, was going too far.

“ ‘He sent us a message,’” said An- toine Baro, a secretary strugg- gling to live on his $38-a-month government salary. “ ‘The government doesn’t care about us.’ So we sent a message back. We want change. Conte must go.”

Since that December day, Guinea has been racked by rising unrest. Strikes, riots and a brutal military crackdown have killed scores of people in the past month and crippled the country’s already fragile economy.

The president declared martial law on Feb. 12, and the situation has reached a smoldering stalemate, with grow- ing calls for Conte to step down.

Across Africa, unusually one-party rule have slowly yielded to open, multiparty democracy. Guinea, one of the last bastions of one-man-rule, now seems on the verge of insurrection. No one knows what kind of change will come — a military coup, a people’s uprising, a brutal civil war or some grim com- bination.

“We all want change,” said Jean- Marie Dore, leader of the Union for the Progress of Guinea, an opposition political party. “The question is how this change will come.”

On Sunday, the government eased a 6 p.m. to 9 a.m. curfew to 6 a.m., and the tension on the streets eased slightly after a week of martial law that had kept most people indoors.

But little progress has been made on talks between the government and the labor unions. The government in- sisted that the strike must be ended before martial law is lifted, while the unions say martial law must end be- fore negotiations can resume.

At one of Conucky’s two main hospitals, thefried wards are full of people shot and beaten by security forces during the brutal crackdown. Siaka Konneh lay on a stretcher on a cell floor, his eyes covered with band- ages. He had been trying to deliver oxygen tanks a week before when he got caught in a volley of gunfire.

“I hear the gunshots — pop, pop,” he said. “But I don’t know where my soul is. My children, who will feed them? I am just praying God the man move.”

By Craig S. Smith

The New York Times

CONAKRY, GUINEA

A week ago, people in Conaky, the Bush administration’s closest ally in Africa, were just days after a week of martial law that had kept most people indoors.

But the most disturbing aspect of the violence in this normally placid, tourist-friendly nation is that it came from across the border in Algeria, where an Islamic terrorist organiza- tion has vowed to unite radical Islam- ic groups across North Africa.

Counterterrorism officials on three continents say trouble in Tu- nisia is the latest evidence yet that a brutal Algerian group known as the Ansar al-Qaeda has been forging an international network. That network is now a real threat to the U.S. cities for most Euro- pean passport holders.

The violent Algerian group the Salafist Group for Preaching and Combat, known by its French initials GSPC, is forging links with terrorist groups in Morocco, Nigeria, Mauritania and elsewhere.

Experts say North Africa, with its vast, thinly governed stretches of mountain and desert, could become an Afghanistan-like terrorist hinder- land within easy striking distance of Europe. That is all the more alarming because of the deep roots that North African communities have in Europe and the ease of travel between the regions. For the United States, the threat is also real because of visa-free travel to U.S. cities for most Euro- pean passport holders.

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India, Pakistan Vow That Train Blast Will Not Affect Relations

By Somini Sengupta

THE NEW YORK TIMES

February 20, 2007

A day after a homemade bombs killed at least 66 people on a train traveling from New Delhi to Quetta in Pakistan, the governments of both countries on Monday called the attack and pledged that it would not deter their aim of reducing longstanding hostile ties.

The office of Manmohan Singh, the Indian prime minister, who was in Bangladesh on Monday, swiftly denounced the attack, which occurred at the border town of Wagah, near Lahore, in Pakistan.

"This is an act of terror," said Mohamed Kamal, the Pakistani foreign minister, to the Indian, and, and...
The Feb. 16 editorial authored by members of The Tech’s editorial board referred to Prof. James L. Sherley as “Sherley” while referring to Prof. Douglas A. Lauffenburger as Prof. Lauffenburger. Unfortunately, this may have given the impression that the editorial was biased against Sherley. This inconsistency was not intentional and resulted largely from Lauffenburger being referred to as “Prof. Lauffenburger” in the Feb. 10 editorial style to use Mr., Ms., or Ms. as a title. Future editorials will adhere to Tech style.

Mary T. Thibault
Editor in Chief

Due to an editing error, the charges for the three students who tripped an alarm in E52 were unclear. The Feb. 16 editorial stated that “Three Students Face Criminal Charges” and should have listed all three students as being charged with two counts. 1) trespassing and 2) breaking and entering with the intent to commit a felony. Additionally, Matthew W. Pettersen ’09, one of the three students, was also charged with a burglary violation.

The Feb. 16 sports headline “Men’s Track Underfunded, Earns Ninth NJWMC Team Title” incorrectly stated that the men’s indoor track team won the NJWMC championship. There is no such championship for indoor track.

Letters To The Editor

The Tech reserves the right to edit or condense letters; shorter letters are more likely to be published. Letters should be SHORT and DIRECT. Signatures must be printed clearly and must be typed or handwritten. All submissions are subject to the discretion of the editors. Letters should be sent to letters@the-tech.mit.edu.

The Tech’s telephone number is (617) 253-1500. E-mail is the easiest way to reach us. Please send press releases, requests for coverage, and information about errors that call for correction to news@the-tech.mit.edu. 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.

The Feb. 16 editorial by盈 the editorial board, which consists of Chairman Michael McGraw-Herdeg ’08, Managing Editor Austin Chu, Executive Editor Rosa Cao, and Opinion Editors Barun Singh and Aditya Kohli.

Dissemination in Academia: Yes It Really Exists

MIT Professor James Sherley’s hunger strike to end discrimination against minority faculty has left many wondering whether such protest was warranted. His reportedly difficult personality, his opposition to embryonic stem cell research, and his charges against African-American faculty members have long been discredited. His claims of racism lack evidence. Thirty years ago, when I was an MIT undergraduate, I might well have held a similar opinion. You young people looking for Sherley’s case, go look for evidence. Seek transcriptions. Browse his site, or prove him wrong. Start the argument yourselves. If there is a lack of evidence for Sherley’s case, look for evidence. Seek transcriptions. Browse his site, or prove him wrong. Start the argument yourselves. If there is a lack of evidence for Sherley’s case, look for evidence. Seek transcriptions. Browse his site, or prove him wrong. Start the argument yourselves. If there is a lack of evidence for Sherley’s case, look for evidence. Seek transcriptions. Browse his site, or prove him wrong. Start the argument yourselves. If there is a lack of evidence for Sherley’s case, look for evidence. Seek transcriptions. Browse his site, or prove him wrong. Start the argument yourselves. If there is a lack of evidence for Sherley’s case, look for evidence. Seek transcriptions. Browse his site, or prove him wrong. Start the argument yourselves.
Letters, from Page 4

SHERLEY’S WELCOME BACK FEAST
By Marshy Lockfield G

Shelley’s Back from the future

SHERLEY’S WELCOME BACK FEAST
By Marshy Lockfield G

The power of eminent domain permits gov-
ernment to seize your house, land or business
for “public use;” the term used in the consti-
tutional clause which limits this authority. Lo-
cal governments are increasingly abusing this
prerogative, transferring seized land to other
private parties rather than putting it to a truly
public use like roads and other infrastructure.
The recipients are usually corporations repre-
sented by powerful lobbies. In 2005, the Su-
preme Court ruled in Kelo v. New London that
this power was not limited to essential public
uses. And while the Court’s decision was a
victory for seamen who perished in the event,
the utility of the proposed development to the
individual and to argue that it is less than
the utility of the proposed development to the
community. After all, the total utility to a
community is merely the sum of the utilities
to the individuals.

Further, it is self-
defeating to generate
economic wealth by sub-
tracting from it — the
individual right to proper-
ly use, not just those along roads which need to
be widened.

What local politician doesn’t want eco-
omic revitalization on his resume? Under the
Kelo decision, land seizures will proliferate, ruin-
ing the lives of people who cannot afford to pur-
chase a new home if dispossessed of their cur-
rent ones. The so-called “just compensation”
offered by the government is usually insuffi-
cient — if market value was offered to begin
with, eminent domain would probably not need
to be invoked. Even if the forced pay-
ment is fair, there is no guarantee that the
homeowner can find a comparable house at the
same price, or even in the vicinity of his former
home, affecting his life in areas like his job or
where his kids can go to school. The very exis-
tence of a strengthened eminent domain power
would lower the value of the home due to the
increased risk of potential seizure. If the dis-
placed homeowner must buy a more expensive
house, eminent domain would force him to spend
money he would not otherwise spend. If he
must buy a house at a cheaper price, equal in
every respect to the one taken from him, com-
panies would have been able to persuade him
to move there without resorting to taking his
land. If he cannot buy a house at all, eminent
domain would force him to squander money
on rent instead of using it for other needs. It
may also be difficult for renters evicted from
buildings demolished under eminent domain to
find comparable apartments elsewhere.

Small-business owners with no other mar-
table skills may not be able to make a liv-
ing if their stores are rated to make way for
other merchants. These small stores thrive due
to market demand for the services or products
they provide. There is no guarantee that the
consumers can find these goods elsewhere, or
whether their needs can find vendors in
other places, especially if they sell to niche
markets.

Thus, a man loses not just his house or
shop, but his whole life and livelihood. It is of-	en asked, though, why one person should im-
pose on another the need to move to a place
where his kids can go to school. The very exis-
tence of eminent domain power passed in 10 of the 12 states
that have such measures on the books. For
the sum of the utilities

What can we do? It is well established that
Fidelity Investments continues its holdings in
Sudan’s oil industry: PetroChina and Sinopec.
Glaringly, Fidelity has not used the power in
Sudan to mend its behavior.

First Amendment – a right-wing administration
subverting its enabling principle — the individ-
ual right to properly use, not just those along roads which need to
be widened.

What local politician doesn’t want eco-
omic revitalization on his resume? Under the
Kelo decision, land seizures will proliferate, ruin-
ing the lives of people who cannot afford to pur-
chase a new home if dispossessed of their cur-
rent ones. The so-called “just compensation”
offered by the government is usually insuffi-
cient — if market value was offered to begin
with, eminent domain would probably not need

Fidelity has stated, in an Oct.

TheMIT/TFay@tfay.com
Science, Faith and Technology

The Language of God
A Believer Looks at the Human Genome

Thursday, March 1
7:30 PM, Stata Center 32-123

Francis Collins
Author—The Language of God
A Scientist Presents Evidence for Belief
Head—National Human
Genome Research Institute

Belligerents or Brothers?
Are Science and Christian Faith at Odds?

Friday, March 2
7:30 PM, Kresge Auditorium

Ian Hutchinson
Head—Department of Nuclear Science
and Engineering, MIT

Living Machines
Can Robots Become Human?

Saturday, March 3
7:00 PM, Kresge Auditorium

Rodney Brooks
Director—Computer Science and Artificial
Intelligence Laboratory, MIT

Rosalind Picard
Founder and Director—Affective
Computing Research Group, MIT

Afternoon Events

Telling the Truth
In the Business World

Thursday, March 1
12:00, E51-345

John Brandon
Long-term Silicon Valley Executive

Faith, Academia, and the Developing World:
Finding Linkages

Saturday, March 3
12:00, 3-270

Annette Kim
Assistant Professor—Department
of Urban Studies and Planning, MIT

Troy Van Voorhis
Assistant Professor—Department
of Chemistry, MIT

Sponsored by: MIT Large Event Fund, MIT United Christian Organization,
The Templeton Foundation and the Cecil B. Day Foundation.

www.veritas.org/MIT
By James Scott Berdahl

"I'll be starting in Moscow," I explained to the girl from Maine in the seat beside mine, "and then I'll take the Trans-Siberian Railway east across Russia to Lake Baikal." The girl from Maine in the seat beside mine was headed for Israel for a year abroad, though she was just barely twenty-one years old. That's pretty neat, you know? Pretty goal-directed, humble-dory, spit-in-your-eye, kill me now neat. But at the same time, while I'd never dream of comparing her life to mine, since we are such different people after all, I can't help but notice that she's currently earning more than I'll probably make for at least 5, 6, 15 years. And, the happiest little fact of all is, she never went to college! Wow, isn't that great news?

Now, I know what you're thinking, if only because I agree: I'm just jealous. Not only did she not have to endure the unique brand of misery that we all know and love (i.e., student, but she didn't go to college at all. I scoffed at her choice at first, but now it looks like she's got the last laugh, in her brand new convertible. Boy, there's nothing like a juicy jealousy to make you re-examine your life goals and whatnot.

It's a problem that, perhaps, many of you won't even face, too. Odds are you're just the type of person (i.e., course VI) that will do a very similar thing: land an incredibly well-paid job right out of school. I can't tell you how many times I've found out a former classmate is earning more than my entire net worth (and that's just their monthly salary). But, since there must be a few others like me, destined to work in the not-so-lucrative fields (or, like my fiancé, to toil in grad school for decades while all around you are losing their student loans) I offer this advice: get used to it.

Just look at Jawed Karim, the third founder of legendary procrastination tool YouTube. After helping other co-founders Chad Hurley and Steven Chen develop ideas about the site, he decided to go back to grad school for his Ph.D Hurley and Chen, meanwhile, got bought out by Google and are now incredibly rich and famous. Sure, Karim got some money and not nearly as much, and he got none of the fame; that's prime nouveau riche fame he's missing out on, studying programming till he's dizzy, instead of partying hard and getting busy. Clearly, sometimes it's just not worth it to go to school. It sure wasn't for my cousin.

But, in the midst of such jealousies, I also stumbled upon the good things. Many of these people (though not all, heaven knows actually hate their jobs, whether it's coding mindlessly to having to share research with fifteen other post-docs. My cousin, for instance, does work everyday, and it's only the paycheck (and now the cars and boats and whatever else she buys) that gets her through the day. I, on the other hand, will (hopefully) be doing something that I truly enjoy, and for which the years of school have made me a uniquely qualified candidate.

Plus, there's all the other random things you learn about in college. Not just the academic stuff either, but the whole 'being on your own, testing your limits, discovering yourself' BS that isn't all BS. My cousin'll never know the unusually awesome feeling of taking a vacation and going home at the same time that I felt every Thanksgiving or Spring Break, or just how many all-nighters in a row she can pull. Maybe that's worth some of the difference in paychecks. Probably not enough of it, of course.

Ultimately, though, I'm okay with that. In these days, when my fellow seniors (and even recent grads) are evaluating different futures, deciding between the okay job or the risky dream, the question of jealousy might well come up. Like my field and my profession and I'm excited to get into it; if I can't be as rich as my cousin, or most of my friends, well so what? I think it's worth it, and I bet at least some of my peers would agree. And, hey, on the bright side, at least I'll be getting some nice birthday presents from now on.

**Scott's Travels**

**An one-way ticket to Moscow**

Outside, it was raining. "Delve deep into the heart of the city," read the promotional text on my Moscow guidebook. As far as I could tell, I had delved deep into somewhere near the pasar. After wasting a good deal of time discovering why each street had the same name, (it turned out all the streets were called "stop") I arrived at my destination, a dilapidated Soviet-era apartment block constructed of crumbling cement and sugary cardboard. Supposedly there was a hostel inside. A blast of pigeon wings greeted me as I peaked into the dark entryway, but there were no other signs of life. Desperate, I returned to the streets. The locals who didn't avoid me were of little help. The sun was setting and I was soaked. My budget didn't allow for a hotel. I began looking for a big tree, an overhang, or even some cardboard, anything that would give me shelter and my backpack for the night.

As I searched, a wave of helplessness the likes of which I've never felt before washed over me. I was alone, halfway around the world and regretting I'd ever left the comfort of the life I knew at home. I could only wonder how the girl from Maine was doing.
Figure 1. The data for five students is summarized in this graph. Standard deviations are not shown for clarity, but the trend was always observed. The arrow indicates the occurrence of a peaking event, which usually takes place one or two burritos after saturation is reached. Although not clearly seen from this incomplete data set, an oscillatory pattern arises in which pleasure increases, saturates, and decreases sharply.
MIT hackers installed cranks on Athena machines, office doors, and numerous other objects on campus “in recognition of MIT’s Energy Initiative and the $100 Laptop Project,” according to a statement released by the hackers. Some of the cranks were accompanied by an explanatory poster describing the hack as “destined to forever change the way MIT views energy conservation and policy” and as having “already [increased] the campus’s energy efficiency by 0.0005%.”

(left) The admissions office was “upgraded” to the new energy standard alongside doors, bathroom signs, and otherwise undistinguished walls.

(bottom left) Matthew N. Faulkner ’08 plays with one of the many yellow cranks that appeared around campus as part of Sunday’s hack.

(bottom right) The hackers installed cranks on the QuickStations in Building 16.
the ring design.

Information about the ring, including a draft with details of the design, was accidently published on Athena and was available for over a month before the design was unveiled last Friday.

The brass rat traditionally consists of several parts, including the bezel, the class shank, the seal shank, the campus map, the Boston skyline and the Cambridge skyline.

The Ring Committee described some of the distinctive features on this year's bezel, which includes a second beaver swimming in the Charles River to symbolize friendship, the cannon behind the large beaver, and a three-headed dog, Kerberos, which guards the school.

Gwenn M. Miller '09 said, “I thought the 2009 letters were too big. But overall the design is very good.”

According to the Class of 2009 Ring Web site, the class shank is marked by a dollar bill which sits behind the columns of building 10 in memory of the old cashier's office mural and the controversy over its removal. The former planet Pluto is sketched to the left of the Great Dome.

The inscription “punt” under the icon of the Great Dome, can be read as “tool” when turned upside down. Under the inscription “punt” is a picture of the fire hose, depicting the saying that “getting an education from MIT is like taking a drink from a fire hose.”

Christopher G. Whitfield '09, Chair of the Ring Committee, described that there were a certain number of free rings that the committee received from the company they were working with, Balfour, and after distributing those to the twelve members in the committee, they had three left over. So they decided to raffle one off at the Ring Premiere and use the Mystery Hunt to give away the other two.

Ellen T. Wong '09 (left) and Lihua Bai '09 (right) marvel at the unique features of the 2009 Ring design.

We thought it was a fun and cool way to get people involved with the ring and a way to give back to our class. After all, our goal is to design something that will last ages and we want to have fun while doing this and have the rest of our class be a part of this fun,” said Whitfield.

Christopher G. Whitfield '09, Class of 2009 Ring Committee chair, and Vice Chair Colleen P. Mosley '09, explain the tradition of MIT's class ring, dubbed the “Brass Rat.”

**Undergraduate Association Goals Checklist**

*For Spring 2007 Semester*

This list outlines the goals and objectives set by the UA for the current semester. The tasks are divided and listed by committee.

**UA Executive Branch**
- Advanced notification of textbooks on course listing Web site
- Facilitate access to course syllabi over Stellar for entire undergraduate community, regardless of registration settings
- Comprehensive audit of Association of Student Activities, Class Councils, and Baker Foundation funding boards to ensure efficient and equitable allocation of funds and minimize bureaucratic waste
- Increase funds available to Finance Board for funding of student activities
- Organize weekly UA visits at dormitories and Fraternities, Sororities, and Independent Living Groups to increase communication and visibility

**UA Athletics Committee**
- Evaluate student satisfaction with current DAPER policies and facility management arrangement

**UA Student Space Planning Committee**
- Discussion sessions with student groups
- Work with ASA to prioritize W20 student space upgrades
- Publish report on on-campus student space

**UA Student Committee on Educational Policy**
- Evaluate student opinions on term regulations
- Inform students of regulations through Know Your Rights Week (early March)
- Evaluate gender and racial equality in terms of academic performance and retention
- Produce an advisory report compiling undergraduate feedback regarding Educational Task Force recommendations

**UA Nominations Committee**
- Improve the questions in the pre-interview process to be more committee specific
- Employ the new NomComm Institute/Faculty Committee blog
- Document committee selection criteria and policies

**UA Committee on Student Life**
- Publish an evaluative report on MIT Medical
- Conduct Wellness Week to raise awareness of mental and physical health issues on campus
- Institutionalize Mentorship Program to ensure its autonomous continuance
- Screen on the Green

**UA Finance Board**
- Improve the FinBoard web site and increase its visibility
- Increase advertising for the Start-up Fund

**UA Committee on Orientation**
- Work with the SLOPE Committee in helping to plan Orientation 2007
- Assist the Virtual Campus Preview Weekend project for students who cannot make CPW
- Work with the administration to implement changes as recommended by UA Report on Orientation

**UA Committee on Housing**
- Publish an undergraduate response to the 2006 Culture House report
- Investigate differed maintenance, including Next House hot water
- Work with Housing and Dormitory Council to increase the number of early returns given to dormitory residents during Residential Exploration

**UA Dining Committee**
- Evaluate breakfast/late night dining options
- Investigate exemption from preferred dining for affiliated undergraduates
UA Committee Chair Talks About Student Space Planning Role

This is the seventh of a series of weekly interviews with members of different Undergraduate Association committees. These interviews will be conducted by The Tech’s news editors and members of the editorial board. A UA representative will be present during these interviews as well. Questions for the UA committee members should be sent to uaqa@the-tech.mit.edu the same week they are featured. Responses to these questions will be printed alongside the following week’s interview.

This week’s featured committee is the newly-formed Committee on Student Space Planning. The Tech talked to Committee Chair David Lee G.

The Tech: Describe the committee and the major issues your committee is dealing with.

David Lee: Our committee is new. The big project this year is putting together an official report for administrators or anyone involved in student space planning to articulate student needs. We’re hoping to release the report by the end of the spring. To do the report, we’re planning a series of discussions with students. The first one was last Thursday [Feb. 15] with performing arts groups. This Thursday, Feb. 22, we’re going to talk about the state of Walker Memorial. There is planning taking place in the administration about what’s going to happen to Walker in the next five years. We want to make sure students have a say.

TT: How often will you be having these meetings?

DL: We’re hoping to have a meeting every week until spring break. They will be in the UA office on the fourth floor of the Student Center.

TT: Can you describe what was talked about at the last meeting?

DL: The theatre and dance groups were at the last meeting. They’re pretty cooperative with each other, and there was a lot of agreement on what the issues are. We talked about performance spaces and rehearsal spaces in Kresge, Little Kresge, and La Sala. In terms of scheduling spaces, it’s even more difficult now, because all the groups are growing.

TT: Besides the meetings, what other work will the committee be doing for the report?

DL: We’re also going to research other schools, and put that in context to where MIT stands. Compared to universities of comparable size, people at other schools can name much better space. We don’t have enough and what we have is not well-suited. More information is available at http://scripts.mit.edu/~ua/drupal/node/20.

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Student Center Third Floor

For more information, or for information about MIT resources, contact Zan Barry at the MIT Center for Health Promotion & Wellness at bars@med.mit.edu or 617.253.3646.

UA Q&A

Solution to Sudoku

Solution to Crossword

Grad Student Bible Study

-message
-music
-meal & fellowship

Fri 7pm 4–261
Graduate Asian Baptist Student Koinonia
http://web.mit.edu/abskgrad
Software Could Protect Against Online Media Piracy

By Brad Stone and Miguel Holst

As media companies struggle to reclaim control over their mov- ies, television shows and music in a world of online file-sharing software, they have found an ally in software of another kind. The new technological weapon is content-recognition software, which makes it possible to identify copyrighted material, even, for example, from blurry video clips.

The technology could address what the entertainment industry sees as one of its biggest problems — songs and videos being posted on the Web without permission. Last week, Vance Ikezoye, the chief executive of Audible Magic in Los Gatos, Calif., demonstrated the technology by downloading a two- minute clip from YouTube and feed- ing it into his company's new video-recognition system.

The clip — drained of color, with dialogue dubbed in Chinese — ap- peared to have been recorded with a camcorder in a dark movie theater before it was uploaded to the Web, so the image quality was poor. Still, Mr. Ikezoye's filtering software quickly identified it as the wuxian scene from the 1999 film "Kill Bill: Vol. 2." It was 31 minutes and 37 seconds into the Mi- kele movie that the technology quickly identified it as the work of the copyright owner.

Then and there were also more ways to fool the technology — for example, by cropping the image. Screening for video is also more difficult because of the sheer volume of new material broadcast on television each day, all of which must be captured in the database.

And deploying any type of fing- erprinting technology can carry a price. Users tend to leave filtered Web sites and migrate to more any- thing goes online destinations.

Nevertheless, some file-sharing networks and smaller video sites like Guba.com and Grooper.com are already using more basic fil- ters that monitor video soundtracks and music files, hoping to appease copyright holders and stay out of the courtroom.

Last week, they got some com- panies: MySpace announced that it would expand an early filtering ef- forts and license Audible Magic's audio and video fingerprinting technology. It will use the system to identify and obtain authorization for material from Universal Mu- sic, NBC Universal and Fox, three media companies that have wanted more control over their content on the site. The more ratchets up the pressure on YouTube, the larger video site on the Web.

Hollywood, long tormented by digital piracy, is growing excited about the possibilities of digital finger- printing and filtering — in part because it is tired of having to ask YouTube and other sites to remove individual clips, only to find them posted again by other users.

To the extent you can ready and easily identify a film or TV show from the next, it enables dif- ferent licensed companies to offer the opportunity to protect your content," said Dean Garfield, executive vice president of the Motion Picture As- sociation of America.

For now, audio finger- printing is all that is widely avail- able, and it can fall short in some situations, like when someone pairs a song with an unrelated piece of video.

For example, last December, one YouTube user uploaded scenes from Warner Brothers' movie "Superman Re- turns," matched to the song "Falling in the Bottle." For now, knowing the song and a clip of the advert can help YouTube operators take down the video.

As media companies struggle to reclaim control over their mov- ies, television shows and music in a world of online file-sharing software, they have found an ally in software of another kind. The new technological weapon is content-recognition software, which makes it possible to identify copyrighted material, even, for example, from blurry video clips. The technology could address what the entertainment industry sees as one of its biggest problems — songs and videos being posted on the Web without permission.

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The following student Coop members have been nominated by the Coop Stockholders as candidates for the Board of Directors for the 2007-08 academic year.

HARVARD UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS:
Margaret (Maggie) Hsu 2008
Pierpaolo Barbieri 2009
Jenny Tea 2008
Ronald Anguas 2008
Timothy Smith 2008

HARVARD GRADUATE STUDENTS:
Dan Bachner HLS 2008
Manas Kaushik SPH 2008
Lulu Wang GSAS/DMS 2011

M.I.T. UNDERGRADUATE AND GRADUATE STUDENTS:
Rebecca Oman 2008
Karlen Ruleman 2008
Kevin Castelo Sloan School 2008

Any student Coop member may still petition to be on the ballot. Petition papers are available at the customer service desks at all Coop locations or at the Members Services Office, 4th floor, Harvard Square Bookstore. Petitions must be returned by 5:00 p.m., Tuesday, February 27, 2007.

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No Experience Necessary

The Tech
February 20, 2007
Media Lab Making Light, Cheap, Foldable Electric Car

By Robert Weisman

Will the car of the future be foldable? That’s the vision of a team of researchers at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology’s Media Lab. With backing from General Motors Corp., they’re building a prototype of a lightweight electric vehicle that can be cheaply mass-produced, rented by commuters under a shared-use business model, and folded and stacked like grocery carts at subway stations or other central sites.

It’s called the City Car, and the key to the concept lies in the design of its wheels. Dreamers have been re-inventing the wheel since the days of cave dwellers. But the work underway in “the Cube,” the Media Lab’s basement studio, may be the most ambitious remake yet. The MIT team has transformed the lowly wheel into a sophisticated robotic drive system that will power the City Car. Embedded in each of its four wheels will be an electric motor, steering and braking mechanisms, suspension, and digital controls, all integrated into sealed units that can be snapped on and off.

And under the hood … well, there won’t be a hood on the City Car. Just an eggshell-shaped glass plate — part roof, part windshield — framing the modular cabin and stretching almost to the chassis.

“We’re eliminating the internal combustion engine,” said Media Lab research assistant Ryan C. Chin G, studio coordinator for City Cars. He said the four electric motors will enable the car to drive it around a parking area placed by an O-turn, ideal for fitting into tight spaces. The concept of the City Car was hatched by the Media Lab’s Smart Cities group, as part of a strategy for reducing carbon emissions. The team is being led by William J. Mitchell, professor of architecture and media arts and sciences.

Some of the etsynasque design of the City Car was inspired by the researchers’ work with pioneering architect Frank Gehry, a friend of Mitchell, and associates at Gehry’s architectural firm in Los Angeles. Gehry’s firm was initially a partner, but has since scaled back its involvement to an advisory role.

Media Lab researchers are planning to have their prototype completed by the end of the year. “I think we’ll be driving it around the interior of this building,” Chin said, “and hopefully ask the MIT police to let us drive it around a parking lot.”

The three-year-old project is moving forward under the watchful eyes of liaisons from General Motors, a Media Lab sponsor, and MIT researchers hope the automaker will build a City Car concept vehicle in 2008 to demonstrate at auto shows.

GM devotes a portion of its $6 billion-plus annual research-and-development budget on university projects such as City Car to help its own researchers think out of the box, said Roy J. Mathieu, a GM staff researcher in Warren, Mich., who visits the Media Lab twice a semester and keeps in close contact with Chin’s team.

“They’re a rich cauldron of ideas we can use to develop concepts for our future cars,” Mathieu said. “They’re trying to imagine how the car will fit into the city in the future. Their ideas are interesting and intriguing, and we want to see if any of them filter into our technology road map.”

Rebecca Lindland, director of automotive research at Global Insight in Lexington, said City Car is one of a number of futuristic designs being developed by automakers and independent labs to demonstrate new technologies and concepts at a time of growing concern about global warming, traffic, and energy efficiency.

“The existing infrastructures can’t support the population growth that we’re seeing, so we’re going to have to find viable alternative vehicles like the one MIT is designing,” Lindland said. Unless the cars can prove crashworthy and meet government speed and emissions standards, however, their applications may be limited to fleets of cities, such as in gated communities and entertainment parks, she said.

Chin said the design remains a work in progress, and if necessary the team will reinforce the car to make it crashworthy.

As the MIT researchers envision it, the City Car won’t replace private cars or mass transit systems but ease congestion by enabling shared transportation in cities.
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http://web.mit.edu/studyabroad
Professor Sherley, and will continue to work toward resolution of our differences with MIT. MIT is fully committed to addressing these issues. Carefully modified from the original, my demands are still on the table. I urge the administration to act in good faith, to openly acknowledge and respond to the lines of communication and negotiation that have been in place for two weeks and to find its way to meet these demands. Sincerely yours, James L. Sherley

MIT deeply regrets that Professor Sherley’s experiences at the Institute have resulted in his fast to express his concerns about racism. MIT is fully committed to addressing these issues, and on ensuring that our grievance processes are comprehensive, fair and timely. MIT is fully committed to addressing these issues. Carefully modified from the original, my demands are still on the table. I urge the administration to act in good faith, to openly acknowledge and respond to the lines of communication and negotiation that have been in place for two weeks and to find its way to meet these demands. Sincerely yours, James L. Sherley

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Randy Woolf QuickSilver (1992)
Annie Godfroid Lost Signals and Drifting Satellites (2003)
Lisa Bielawa “Synopsis #3: I think We Should Tell Her” for solo flute (2006)
Yolam Haber Purty Guaranteed (2002)
Jacob Cooper Not Just Another Place for Solo Bass Drum (2005)
Lisa Bielawa “Synopsis #5: No Figurers Out What Clouds Mean” (2007)
Alien Vazutti Cascades
Peter Gilbert Epigrams

ARTISTS Sarah Brady, flute
Charles Dimmich, violins
Robert Schulz, percussion
Terry Everson, trumpet

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Tech Falls to Clark, Fails to Make Field Goals Down Stretch

By James Zorich

Women's hockey finishes season with tough overtime loss to RIT

By Kristina M. Holton

Strong Freshman Performances Buoy Track to Fifth Place at Regional Meet

By Alisha Schor

Women's hockey finishes season with tough overtime loss to RIT

By Kristina M. Holton