By Elijah Jordan Turner

Hundreds of middle and high school students arrived at MIT last weekend to participate in the Edu-
cational Studies Program’s annual Splash weekend event.

These participants had the op-
portunity to take a series of short classes taught by college students, most of whom currently study at MIT. Organizers estimate that over 250 volunteers helped make the weekend a success for the nearly 2,000 young students who attended Splash.

Helen LaPlant, a parent from Milford, Conn., brought three of her children and two other teenagers from her neighborhood to Cam-
bridge for this year’s event.

LaPlant was pleased with how the program ran. “I like how the courses are either meaty or crony,” LaPlant said.

Her 13-year-old daughter Man-
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itive class of the weekend (she liked them all), but she said that she looks forward to coming to Splash again next year. On the other hand, LaPlant’s 16-year-old son Jake seemed to favor “The Delivery and Use of Pick-up Lines,” which was taught by Kevin Huang ’10. Jake had one complaint, though. “I tried using them, but they didn’t work.”

All but LaPlant’s youngest daughter participated in Splash; she was too young to take a course this year. LaPlant hopes to enroll her in the weekend program in the future.

ESP, the organizers of Splash, has been in operation for 50 years now, according to Daniel Zaharopol ’04, who served as an adviser and teacher during the two-day Splash event. Zaharopol said that Splash was created in 1988 to revitalize interest in ESP.

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**Guard, 20 Others Arrested After Baghdad Shooting**

By Cara Buckley

A security guard along with 20 other people who had been riding in a truck last weekend was arrested Monday after the guard shot a teenager near central Baghdad, witnesses and an Iraqi army sergeant said. The guard, whose name was not known, wounded the girl, who is 15, in the leg as she crossed the street in the bustling, mixed-neighborhood of Karada around noon, according to witnesses.

The guard and conflicting accounts over what exactly took place. Initial reports suggested that two American security contractors, one of whom is a civilian U.S. official in Baghdad, said it was not known whether American guards, or indeed any guards, had been detained. The official also said it was unclear whether the girl had been struck by a bullet or merely by an opening vehicle door. But a witness who ferried the girl to the hospital insisted that she had been shot.

The U.S. official also said it was not believed that any contractors with the State Department in Baghdad were involved.

Security companies hired by or affiliated with the State Department here have been under intense scrutiny since mid-September, when 17 Iraqi civilians were shot and killed by guards with one of those firms, Blackwater Worldwide. That shooting was under investigation by the FBI.

**Halting Steps Taken To Frame Peace Talks**

By Isabel Kershner

Israel and Palestinian leaders made new efforts on Monday toward preparing a joint statement before an international peace conference planned for next week, but some issues have yet to be resolved. Israeli and Palestinian negotiators met here Monday.

The Israeli prime minister, Ehud Olmert, and the Palestinian presiden, Mahmoud Abbas, met at the prime minister’s residence here to try to salvage efforts to agree on a short written text.

The statement would be presented at the American-sponsored gath- ering tentatively scheduled for Nov. 26 and 27 in Annapolis, Md.

Miri Eisin, a spokeswoman for Olmert, said after the meeting that there appeared to be progress and “enough agreement on enough is- sues” to aver any sense of crisis.

Saeb Erekat, a Palestinian negotiator, said the leaders had exchanged new proposals. Are there differences remaining? “Yes,” he said.

Aides from both sides said the negotiating teams planned to continue working.

**Suicide Attack Kills Seven But Spares Afghan Governor**

By Abdul Waheed Wafa

A provincial governor in southeastern Afghanistan narrowly es- caped a suicide attack on Monday, but his 25-year-old son and five of his bodyguards were killed in the blast. A civilian bystander was also killed, and 14 others were injured, police officials said.

The bomber approached the governor’s compound on foot on Mon- day morning, two minutes after the governor, Ghanem Nazarig Azad, had entered his office in the town of Zaraj, in Nimruz province. He detonated his charge in the street at the entrance to the compound, when the governor and his security personnel killed 17 Iraqi civilians, lawyers in the case and government officials briefed on the matter said Monday.

The opening of the grand jury inquiry is a significant step in the case because it indicates that pros- ecutors believe that there is enough evidence of wrongdoing to warrant a formal criminal investigation.

Officials cautioned that the deci- sion to begin a grand jury inquiry did not mean that prosecutors had decided to charge anyone with a crime in what they said was a legal-

**Thousands Killed in Cyclone, Millions More Left Homeless**

By Graham Bowley

The number of people left after the powerful cyclone that swept through Bangladesh on Thursday rose to more than 1,300 Monday, the government said. The United Nations estimated that a million people had been left homeless, many of them in remote areas without protective food supplies.

The Bangladesh Red Crescent Society warned Sunday that the number of dead could conceivably be 5,000 to 10,000, and the U.N. World Food Program said Monday that it would not be surprised by such a tally. But on Monday, the Interna- tional Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies said reports from its officials who had been to the hardest-hit areas led the organization to expect a final toll in line with the government’s official assessment.

“We are seeing on the ground is not as horrifying,” said Devendra Tak, a senior regional spokesman for the federation, who spoke from Kishon, a town in south- ern Bangladesh, after visiting some of the districts that took the worst pounding from the cyclone, which had winds of more than 100 miles an hour. “We don’t see the level of de- struction that we feared earlier.”

Tak said thousands of fisher- men who had been missing along the coastal areas and presumed dead had begun to turn up in their villages. “We are very optimistic that the over- all disaster will not be on a very high level,” Tak said by telephone.

Tak said the United Nations said it was waiting for a fuller picture to emerge and that the final death toll could still be significantly higher. Unha Mishra, a senior adviser at the U.N. World Food Program, said food supplies had been severely disrupted, creating risk of famine.

She said the program had begun to distribute some food, including high- energy biscuits. She also said more serious emergency operations were being considered, including broader food distribution and rebuilding of homes. “Shelter is the big need right now,” she said. “One million people have been turned homeless.”

She said the cyclone had devas- tered farmland that had already been washed out roads and knocked down homes. “We do face a prospect of some remote areas not getting some” sup- plies, she said. “We might see starva- tion in some areas.” The govern- ment’s officially confirmed death toll from the cyclone reached 3,113, said Lt. Col. Manh Ulah Choudhury, a spokesman for the army, according to The Associated Press.

He said reports were finally reach- ing the capital, Dhaka, from the areas that had been isolated when the storm washed our roads and knocked down power lines, the AP reported.

Even if the death toll rises, it will probably still be relatively low by the historical standards of Bangladesh, a poor country that has suffered from natural calamities in the past.

In 1991, a tropical storm led to roughly 140,000 deaths. Bangladesh relief agencies have since built early- warning systems and thousands of stem shelters to help people evacu- ate before disasters strike.

Tak said much of the fury of the cyclone had been dissipated over the region’s extensive forests before it struck more inhabited areas. He said the systematic distribution of aid be- gan Sunday and continued Monday, and that many lives had been saved by the cyclone preparedness program.

**Federal Prosecutors Subpoena Blackwater Employees in Iraq**

By David Johnston and John M. Broder

Federal prosecutors have issued grand jury subpoenas to some of the Blackwater employees present at a Sept. 16 shooting in Baghdad in which American security personnel killed 17 Iraqi civilians, lawyers in the case and government officials briefed on the matter said Monday.

The shooting spawned numerous and conflicting accounts over what exactly took place. Initial reports suggested that two American security contractors that would apply to the actions of Blackwater employees are accused of committing.

The officials, who spoke on the condition of anonymity because they were discussing grand jury matters, would not say exactly how many subpoenas had been issued, but they said the subpoenas were mainly to Blackwater employees who were at the scene of the shoot- ing but did not fire their weapons. The prosecutors are also seeking company records compiled at the time of the shooting as well as em- ployee personnel files and other company service files.

The grand jury inquiry in Wash- ington was first reported Monday by ABC News on the network’s Web site.

**Weather**

By Jon Matsiklitis

Although not exactly ideal, weather conditions today and tomorrow should not cause major problems for those departing Cambridge for the holiday. A warm front moving in from the west will make for a dreary day today, bring- ing cloudy skies and light rain as well (0-accumulating snow). Tonight will be chilly and damp, but the temperature will rise all the way through Thanksgiving afternoon, in response to southerly flow induced by a low present in the central Gulf Coast through Missouri and Illinois to the eastern Great Lakes. It is possible that the rain could turn to snow in the Chi- cago area late Wednesday, causing a small travel air hub.

**Thanksgiving Travel Forecast**

By Graham Bowley

Extended Forecast

**WEATHER**

**Situation for Noon Eastern Standard Time, Monday, November 20, 2007**
Auto Insurance Rates in MA Drop 7.7 Percent After Switching to New System

By Bruce Mohl

Massachusetts auto insurance premiums will drop an average of just 7.7 percent in January, the first year of the state's new competitive insurance market, state officials announced Monday.

The state's competitive insurance system, which has been in the works for several years, went into effect Dec. 6. Consumers will be able to shop around for the best rates among insurers, and choose among a variety of coverages.

$2,700 for a standard policy

The rate cut is expected to be $2,700 for a standard policy. In 2007, the average annual premium for collision and liability insurance in Massachusetts was $2,931.

The new rates were filed Monday for policies renewable April 1, 2008, and the first year's premium will be based on the average of the first year's statewide average premium of approximately 7.7 percent. Massachusetts has one of the lowest average auto insurance rates in the nation. As a result, many state lawmakers have been seeking ways to reduce costs for consumers.

The state's competitive insurance system is expected to save consumers $1.2 billion over the first three years.

The state's new competitive insurance system has been in the works for several years, but will be implemented in January. The system has been designed to give consumers more options and competition in the insurance market.

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By James H. Gay

Tending an Ailing Elder

Ends in Deadly Gunfire

The untimely end of a stagehands union strike over pay and health care for older family members or friends and builds on a 2004 study.

By James H. Gay

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In Defense of Free Speech

In his response to my letter (“Watson’s Remarks Uncacceptable,” Nov. 9, 2007), Jin- m Cannon ’09 suggests that I defended James Watson’s comments on race. I did not, although, in using them to frame my argument, I may have conveyed that impression.

I would find Watson’s comments alarm ing if he intended to run for public office. Seeing, however, that he is a biologist, I am far more interested in the seminal contributions that he has made to the field of biology than in his political judgments. Similarly, I would only make note of the arguments of a flat earth theorist if he or she sought a position within NASA.

Were Watson’s fate to inaugurate a precedent—that is, if we reevaluated every individ ual’s intellectual contributions through the prism of his or her political judgments—I suspect that the unemploy ment rate would soar. All of us harbor beliefs that others would consider to be beyond the pale of acceptable discourse; where the vast majority of us maintain our si nce, Watson was foolish enough to break his. However, racism (or, for that matter, any other such belief) that is addressed is no more deserv ing of scorn than that which is suppressed. Having addressed his first point, albeit with no explicit feeling, I feel compelled to address his larger argument about free speech—more pres ently, how he regards the boundaries that he believes should circumscribe it. Cannon argues that “some topics rightfully deserve to be cast aside if not handled responsibly.” What are those topics? Who decides what they are? Most importantly, by what standards are they cast aside? The an swers to these questions are intrinsically fluid. The topics that could never have been discussed in centuries past are staples of modern discourse, and vice versa.

Topics that could never have been discussed in centuries past are staples of modern discourse, and vice versa. They are the intellectual what air is to humans. It reasserts the boundaries that he believes should circumscribe it. Cannon argues that “some topics rightfully deserve to be cast aside if not handled responsibly.” What are those topics? Who decides what they are? Most importantly, by what standards are they cast aside? The answers to these questions are intrinsically fluid. The topics that could never have been discussed in centuries past are staples of modern discourse, and vice versa. Topics that could never have been discussed in centuries past are staples of modern discourse, and vice versa. They are the intellectual what air is to humans. It reasserts the boundaries that he believes should circumscribe it. Cannon argues that “some topics rightfully deserve to be cast aside if not handled responsibly.” What are those topics? Who decides what they are? Most importantly, by what standards are they cast aside? The answers to these questions are intrinsically fluid. The topics that could never have been discussed in centuries past are staples of modern discourse, and vice versa.

Lastly, Cannon’s use of the phrase “taboo against questioning” is curious. Questioning is to the intellectual what air is to humans. It reasserts the boundaries that he believes should circumscribe it. Cannon argues that “some topics rightfully deserve to be cast aside if not handled responsibly.” What are those topics? Who decides what they are? Most importantly, by what standards are they cast aside? The answers to these questions are intrinsically fluid. The topics that could never have been discussed in centuries past are staples of modern discourse, and vice versa.

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There are, broadly, two manners of resolving the aforementioned questions. The first, full freedom, permits individuals to challenge all received truths and dissemination any messages. It entails the risk that falsehoods will be circu lated and the comparatively trivial possibility that devil’s advocates will obstruct society’s move towards enlightenment in their desire to be intrigue. However, such prospects should be of little concern to individuals who maintain faith in their own intelligence and resourceful ness. The second route, political correctness, ensures that no one’s sensibilities are offended. It entails the far greater risk, however, of diluting discussion until such a point as it is bereft of any meaning or interest. I submit that this latter prospect is far more alarming.
Theater Review

Three Nights of One-Act Plays Delight Audience

By Caroline Huang

One Acts 2007
Keene Little Theatre
Nov. 8-10, 8 p.m.

Square One
Written by Cristina Spangler (Emergent)
Directed by Uman O. Akebaf
Starring: Gabrielle Abousleman (Wellesley), Kelly A. Thomas ’08, and Rachel N. Ladd
Incendiar (or Much Direction at all, really). Despite
available

A skilled clinician gave way to youthful
passion, followed by acknowledged
vices and finishing with exciting and
rousing, in Dramashop’s annual stu-
dent-written, student-directed One Acts. Even
with a minimalist approach to scenery and cos-
tumes, the actors and directors created a memo-
able atmosphere that was at times ethereal, at
others bizarre, and always mysterious.

The hit of the night was “Vice Play,” written
by Sally E. Peach ’09 and directed by Danbee
Kim ’09 (also a Cartoonist), which per-
sonified nicotine, caffeine, alcohol, and mari-
juana. The plot alternated between cracking
intensity and casual conversation, throwing
out declarations about human nature: “I tend
to put together a rocket. The script, written by
Rony D. Kubat G. – maneuvered around the
director Emilie Slaby’s watch.

The second play, “Incendiary Evidence,”
was the shortest play of the night. Written and
directed by Yuri A. Podpaly G., this_pickup
returned to put together a rocket. The script, written by
Rony D. Kubat G., was heavily improved un-
der director Emilie Slaby’s watch.

The first part was amusing, as the actors
– John Lee ’08, Amelia R. Browning ’11, and
Paul D. Welle ’11 – were all trying to con-
tinue the magic of the audience because it lacked a
plot (or much direction at all, really). Despite
that flaw, the actors acquitted themselves well.
The ironically-titled “Happily Ever After”
featured Erika L. Bake ’08 as a feminist Ra-
panuel who fears famous locks were wrapped into
a tight bun. Rapunzel spent the bulk of the play
trying to convince an aucescent Cinderella, played
by Yeletaria Radul’ 11, that living “happily ever after” was just a delusion. This
one-act was written by Shelly Mamber ’08 and
directed by Vill A. Podpaly-G.

The premise of a fragmented fairy tale is a
true and tried one, to be sure, but “Happily Ever After” had several places where it looked
like Rapunzel and Cinderella would end their conversation and thus the play. Instead, the
discussion resumed after somewhat awkward,
continuing conflicts.

As a result, the many clever lines — in re-
sponse to Cinderella’s awkward small talk about
Rapunzel’s hair, Rapunzel said, “Oh, it grew to
its full length again last year, but I donated it to
Locks of Love. I’m waiting for a couple more
yards before I donate again.” — lost much of
their impact, which was a shame.

At the conclusion of the four plays, the actors,
playwrights, and directors assembled onstage to
answer questions about acting, writing,
directing, and occasionally life in general. Playwright
Peach was the recipient of the latter category:
she was asked to identify her personal voice.

In response, Peach said, “Vices don’t matter
that much. It’s just a matter of what you do.
People all end up in the same place; it’s just
a matter of how fast you get there,” and only
declined to name hers.

Later, Hourgan fielded a question about how
she portrayed Alcohol so well, to which she
d dryly replied, “Method acting.”

Movie Review

‘Cholera’ Falls Flat

No Chemistry in ‘Love in the Time of Cholera’ Film Adaptation

By Mei-Hsin Cheng

Love in the Time of Cholera
Directed by Mike Newell
Written by Ronald Harwood based on the novel by Gabriel García Márquez
Starring: Javier Bardem, Giovanni Mezzogiorno, and Benjamin Britton
Release Date: Now Playing

None of the performances were
particularly memorable. Many of the
characters’ motivations, beliefs,
and actions were unbelievable
as portrayed in the movie.

None of them is falling in love with Fermina at first
sight, and the two young lovers proceed to ex-
change letters that we see in the movie are hackneyed
and ignored.

Additionally, the chemistry between Fer-
mina and Florentino is virtually non-existent,
perhaps because their relationship is primarily
based on their letters to each other. And the
only letters that we see in the movie are hackneyed
and generic. The chemistry between Fer-
mina and Jeannel fares slightly better, though at
the end of the movie, the nature of their love
and relationship is unclear. Fermina frequently
complains that their relationship is full of
difficulties. Though the obstacles, they are ei-
ther quickly resolved or completely abandoned
and ignored.

In terms of continuity, Mezzogiorno’s Fermi-
a ages to a Star Wars’ Padme Amidala. Fer-
mina looks around 20 or 30 years old through
most of the film, while Bardem’s Florentino ages exponentially and does an unpaid mus-
cake for over half of the movie.

Fermina describes Florentino as a shadow, and
“Love in the Time of Cholera” is just that —
shadow of a potentially great film.
By Charles Lin  
Staff Columnist

Thanksgiving day is a very dangerous day. With so many distractions, it would be easy to get distracted and make a bad decision.

Problem: As a token of your parent’s respect (or lack thereof), you’ve been put in charge of cooking the turkey.

Solution: Even a four-year-old can pronounce “p-t-s.”

Problem: The boastful relative. An extra big turkey.

Solution: Hey sunshine, they have to spend a whole day cooking for your benefit and you’re going to complain about the size? I think not. I have spent too long a wait.

Moments before the coffee is passed to me, I stop it there in the bud.

When making the hard cider, first pour the tea in as the last thing to go in. This will remove the alcohol but not the taste of brandy. If your undoing relative can stiff out a weak drink, well then, I wish you all luck in the world.

Problem: The Unhinged Relative: This one is great for brandy and will create the greatest knock for disruption, ridicule, and general embarrassment.

Solution: The NuLOOQ. Best to sip this one in the bud.

The NuLOOQ was a welcome change. In my testing, I found the NuLOOQ greatly exceeded my expectations. For example, scrolling in Word work much better than in a standard keyboard, with three multifunction (programmable) buttons.

The lowdown

The Logitech NuLOOQ is an innovative product from one of my favorite computer accessory companies. It has a compact user interface (a “ring” and multifunction buttons) that lets you simplify some of the movements and inputs that the mouse and keyboard were never really meant to handle. It greatly simplifies the additional degrees of freedom that many applications today require and use on a regular basis.

No longer your mother’s Web

Well, in fact, your mom probably didn’t have a World Wide Web growing up. But, really, it’s more than that. There has been a steady divergence between the amount of information we have and the ways we have to browser it. As our world has gone from paper and carbon to content and exceed the number of dimensions we can comfortably handle, we still try to apply a keyboard that was designed to keep typewriters from jamming, and interpret multidimensional information projected onto a two-dimensional plane.

The bump, delivered

The Logitech NuLOOQ is a fresh breath of the unconventional, providing a unique interface for every person from the casual pecker to the power user. It is composed of a couple interesting degrees of freedom that greatly reduces the “move left or right” “move up or down” “move in or out” that seems to be inherent in all aspects of computing these days. The device is a compact but solid lump that has a sensitive ring around it. By turning the ring in various directions while turning clock wise and counter clockwise, you can access different degrees of functionality that can be customized programmed by the driver. In addition to the multifunction ring, an iolo-style click wheel is provided on top, with three multifunction (programmable) buttons.

So... what?

In my testing, I found the Logitech NuLOOQ greatly simplified and accelerated all sorts of document related tasks and Web page based activities. In the process of looking at docs and Web sites, I generally find that it makes my life much easier. While not that bad, after a few hours, the excess. While not that bad, after a few hours, the “Full Man” is starting to get a bit on top, with three multifunction (programmable) buttons.

You can find more information by checking out http://www.logitech.com/
Culture Shock

By Christina Kang

Being dropped in an economically, socially, politically, developmentally, and linguistically foreign country can be a major culture shock. It seems almost essential that all individuals visiting a new country for the first time should study the language, culture, history, and current events of the country prior to their visit. Students traveling should take the initiative or even be required to take courses pertaining to the country.

Of course, you’ll still be able to survive and work in an environment, even if you are completely ignorant of the culture and language, but your experiences and your contributions will be significantly compromised.

Consider the reverse situation when foreigners come to work in the United States. If they can’t speak English and are ignorant of national issues, they are often scorned and looked down upon. Now imagine that they say they are trying to help you. Would you really believe that they could understand your life, your problems, and your point of view? Would you trust them and confide in them to help you find the best way to improve your living conditions? Who are they, what do they know, and how can they ever understand what you need?

Translators can be of immense help, but there is always translator’s bias and a loss of intimacy. Using a translator can be very awkward, and it took me a while to get used to looking at the person I was speaking to instead of the translator. I never felt fully connected to the community members through speech. Body language and eye contact can cross many language barriers, helping two strangers connect on an emotional level, but it is frustrating when opinions and potential solutions cannot be discussed directly.

I’m certainly guilty of ignorance. This summer, I went to many countries without knowing the language or being very knowledgeable about the countries’ current issues. Even as a journalist, this resulted in greater culture shock and frustration, and when I was discussing potential solutions with bilingual community members, I had a lot to take in and learn.

The culture shock from America to India was big for me, but the culture shock from India to Kenya was of no small voltage, either. India made a profound impact on me because it was my first experience in a developing country. The combination of the poverty, underdevelopment, and unbearable heat was not what I had expected from a rising country. Moving on to Nairobi, Kenya, on the other hand, was a relatively pleasant surprise.

Granted I was not permitted to enter the worst slums in Nairobi by my peers and other community members, due to the danger of a foreign girl walking around in the most desperate parts of a city with an unemployment rate of 50 percent (often not by choice). The Kenyan communities I worked in were one economic class above those in extreme poverty. However, these slums seemed to be in better shape than comparable Indian sections. Further descriptions of the extreme differences between India and Kenya will be presented next week.

You can see some of my photographs from this summer in print starting Monday, Nov. 26 in the Weisner Gallery, located on the second floor of the Student Center.
The user has navigated to the Tuesday, November 20, 2007, edition of the Tech Comics Fun Pages. The page features a crossword puzzle titled “OVNI,” created by Roxana Safipour, and a Sudoku puzzle titled “Sudoku,” created by Pappocom. Both puzzles are accompanied by illustrations and text hints that contribute to the overall theme of the page.
Dilbert® by Scott Adams

Piled Higher and Deeper

How’s it going? Great!

Everything is fine, Mom...

I should be done any day now.

How’s it really going?

Just... don’t ask.

End of day, see you tomorrow.

3 hours later...

Hi, come on in.

Thanks, Prof. Smith.

Ready?

Ruff.

Fwoosh!

Hi, Sir.

I03, 3% on, 3% on.

Yes...
Students Learn How To Make Duct Tape Art at ESP’s Splash

Brown University, was one of the people who volunteered to work at the help desk in Lobby 10. He took his first Splash class in 2001 and has continued to take them ever since. “I liked Splash so much, I couldn’t help but come back,” Sailor said. In addition to helping at the information desk, he was one of the members of the security staff which also consists of college student volunteers. This was the first year ESP enlisted the help of a security staff for Splash, according to Sailor.

“The duties of the security staff are not officially spelled out, but they are basically there to make sure everyone’s okay,” Sailor said. The staff patrols the hallways, assisting those who have questions or need directions.

David N. Farhi ’01, who served as co-director of this year’s event along with Yalu Wu ’09, said that one of the duties of the security staff is to ensure teachers are in their classrooms on time. In a few cases, when teachers did not arrive, classes had to be cancelled. When that occurred, students in the cancelled class were given the option of selecting an alternative class.

Nevertheless, Farhi is happy with how Splash ran. “Everything went smoothly,” Farhi said. “There were no major complaints.”

Since ESP’s inception in 1957, it has organized and run the High School Studies Program, which brings high school students to MIT for classes held over 10 consecutive Saturdays during the semester. Aside from Splash, ESP also organizes programs for SAT preparation and Advanced Placement courses.

Undergraduate Economics Association

Fall Speaker Event

Free event. Open to public.

FEDERAL RESERVE

BOARD OF GOVERNORS

Governor Frederic Mishkin
(B.S. ’73, Ph.D. ‘76)

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Page 10 THE TECH

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The MIT Festival Jazz Ensemble performed a concert on Saturday, Nov. 17, titled “Celebrating Boston Jazz & the Music of Charlie Kohlhase.” The performance featured Kohlhase as both a saxophonist and a conductor.

(clockwise from above)
Director Frederick E. Harris Jr. hops during a crescendo near the end of “Somethin’ Sassy,” by Hal Crook.
Arlin S. Rogers ’11 glances up during Duke Ellington’s “In a Sentimental Mood,” as arranged by Herb Pomeroy. The song was the first of a two-part medley in memory of Pomeroy, who passed away this year.
Harris (center, rear) looks on as the Ensemble performs Kohlhase’s “Jasper Jaguar/Deceptor.”
Geoffrey Sheil ’09 (left) plays the guitar alongside Kohlhase (right) in “Buhaina Checked Out,” a song that Kohlhase composed in memory of jazz drummer Art Blakey (also known as Abdullah Ibn Buhaina).
Matthew J. Rosario ’10 plays the electric piano during “In a Sentimental Mood.”
(Left to right) Sinan Keten G, Matthew J. Rosario ’10, Jack Murphy ’10, and Jason Rich G play the closing piece of the concert, Eero Koivistoinen’s “Kukonpesä.”

Photography by Omari Stephens
Decline of University Tenure Track Raises Concerns

By Alan Finder

The Tech

November 20, 2007

Donors regarding

Or do you have egg

The shift from a tenured faculty results from financial pressures, administrative desire for more flexibility in hiring, firing and changing course offerings, and the growth of community colleges and regional public universities focused on teaching basics and preparing students for jobs.

But it has become so extreme that some universities are pulling back, concerned about the effect on educational quality. Rutgers University in New Jersey agreed in a labor settlement in August to add 100 tenure or tenure-track positions. Across the country, faculty unions are organizing part-timers. And the American Federation of Teachers is pushing legislation in 11 states to require that 75 percent of classes be taught by tenured or tenure-track teachers.

Three decades ago, adjuncts — both part-timers and full-timers not on a tenure track — represented only 43 percent of professors, according to the professors association, which has studied data reported to the federal Education Department. Currently, the association says, they account for nearly 70 percent of professors at colleges and universities, both public and private.

John W. Curtis, the union’s director of research and public policy, said that while the number of tenured and tenure-track professors has increased by about 25 percent over the past 30 years, they have been swamped by the growth in adjunct faculty. Overall, the number of people teaching at colleges and universities has doubled since 1975.

University officials agree that the use of nontraditional faculty is soaring. But some contest the professors association’s calculation, saying definitions of part-time and full-time professors vary, and that it is not possible to determine from many courses, on average, each category of professor actually teaches.

Many state university presidents say tight budgets have made it inevitable that they turn to adjuncts to save money.

“We have to contend with increasing public demands for accountability, increased financial scrutiny and declining state support,” said Charles F. Harrington, provost of the University of North Carolina, Pembroke. “One of the easiest, most convenient ways of dealing with these pressures is using part-time faculty,” he said, though he cautioned that colleges that rely too heavily on such faculty “are playing a really dangerous game.”

Mark B. Rosenberg, chancellor of the State University System of Florida, said art-timers can provide real-world experience to students and fill gaps in building math, accounting and other disciplines with a shortage of qualified faculty, though he, too, said the shift could come with costs.

Adjuncts are less likely to have doctoral degrees, educators say. They also have less time to meet with students, and research suggests that students who take many courses with part-time faculty “aren’t learning the same amount,” said James E. Crowley, Amster’s administrative assistant.

“We are offering less educational quality to the students who need it most,” said Ronald G. Ehrenberg, director of the Cornell Higher Education Research Institute, noting that the growing number of adjunct faculty is most pronounced in community colleges and the less select public universities. The elite universities, both public and private, have the fewest adjuncts.

“It’s not that some of these adjuncts aren’t great teachers,” Ehrenberg said. “Many don’t have the support that the tenure-track faculty have, in terms of offices, secretarial help and time. Their teaching loads are higher, and they have less time to focus on students.”

Ehrenberg and a colleague analyzed 15 years of national data and found that graduation rates declined when public universities hired large numbers of contingent faculty.
Gov. Patrick Has Enough Votes To Remove UMass Chair Tocco

By Frank Phillips

The Boston Globe

Governor Deval Patrick has rounded up enough votes on the University of Massachusetts board of trustees to replace Stephen P. Tocco and probably replace him with Robert J. Manning, an investment executive who is the board's vice chairman, UMass officials said.

Faced with his probable removal as chairman, Tocco, who had initially rebuffed Patrick's request that he step down before his current expiresonext summer, is meeting Tuesday with the governor's senior staff. He has been trying to persuade the governor to give him several more months as chairman.

Tocco’s term expires in June, but Patrick and his allies are confident they have a slim majority to oust him at the trustees' Dec. 14 meeting, according to UMass officials who have been briefed on the situation.

Tocco, an appointee of Governor Mitt Romney who took over as trustee chairman in 2006, declined to comment. Tocco has said in the past that he hoped to work out any differences with the governor and thought that he shared Patrick’s vision for the university system.

The governor’s office declined to comment.

Tocco beat back an attempt by Patrick’s allies to vote him out of the chairmanship in September, handing the governor an embarrassing political defeat.

At the time, Patrick had just placed five new members, his first UMass trustee appointments, on the 19-member board.

Manning did not return a call to his office.

The university sources said it is not clear whether Manning has accepted Patrick’s request to take over the post.

Patrick’s got involved personally over the last month in seeking the shake-up.

He called several Republican-appointed board members into his office to persuade them to back his move to oust Tocco, while surveying their feelings over how they thought would be best to succeed him.

Over the last few days, Patrick, confident he had gained the backing of a majority to replace Tocco, set- tion on Manning, the board’s current vice chairman and chief executive of MFS Investment Management, a mutual fund and financial services company in Boston that had $1.87 billion under management in 2006.

The motivations behind the change are not clear. Manning, like Tocco, is a Romney appointee, raising questions why Patrick chose to wage an internal power struggle, which has produced considerable tension at the top of the state’s public university system, to replace one Romney appointee with another.

Officials in Patrick’s administration said the governor wants to have his own person running the board when it undertakes some high-profile and far-reaching decisions for the university system. That includes choosing new chancellors for the Amherst campus and the medical school and implementing the governor’s $1 billion capital building plan.

With strong ties to Beacon Hill political figures, Tocco has played major roles in Republican administrations while having close ties to the Democratic leaders on Beacon Hill.

Since the early 1990s, he has been a Cabinet secretary, executive director of the Massachusetts Port Authority, and chairman of the Board of Higher Education.

Because of his years in politics and government, Tocco has a host of strong allies and a long line of ene mies. His relationship with Patrick seems to be good.

At a university event last week, Patrick greeted Tocco with a warm embrace. But a planned retreat for the board earlier this month was canceled because of the power struggle.

Patrick is the first Democrat to appoint UMass trustees since Michael S. Dukakis left office in 1991, and his power play is emblematic of other attempts he is making to get control of boards and commissions.

Since his election last year, Pat- ric has said he needs to control the state’s independent agencies to govern effec- tively.

Because of a system of staggered terms designed to insulate the agencies from politics, governors traditionally have to wait until well into their first term to gain control of the powerful public authorities that set far-reaching policies in such areas as transportation, education, and economic development.

Novartis Partnership To Begin Research on Small Molecule Drugs

Novartis, from Page 1

approaches to developing continu- ous units, but like Novartis, had not hitherto taken this broad, integrated approach,” Bisson said.

The partnership between Novartis and MIT stands apart from most other companies in pharmaceutical manufactur- ing “due to the size of the program, investment level, length of time and expected impact,” Bisson said. Trout said that the planning for this part of the program began over a year ago.

According to Trout, the biggest chal- lenge for the partnership is doing something different in an industry that is conservative in its use of manufacturing techniques because of strict regulations.

Although the current focus is on small molecules, the partnership will move toward biomolecules in the future after the transition from batch to continuous manufacturing has been achieved, Trout said.

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Burchard Scholars Program

All MIT Juniors and Sophomores

The 2008 Burchard Scholars Program is now accepting applications


The Burchard Scholars Program brings together members of the MIT faculty with juniors and sophomores who have demonstrated excellence in some aspect of the humanities, arts, and social sciences. 30 Burchard Scholars are invited to a series of dinner-seminars throughout the year to discuss topics of current research or interest by faculty members, visiting scholars, and Burchard Scholars. The 2008 program begins in February.

For information or an application, contact:
Dean’s Office, SHASS, E51-255 (x3-8962)

APPLICATION DEADLINE: MONDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2007

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A librarian could be your best friend, too

Solution to Sudoku

from page 8

Some say dogs are man’s best friend, but can Fido fetch that crucial piece of information for your paper from thousands of Google hits?
Men’s Ice Hockey Downs University of New England, 4-1

Justin D. Myers ’11 scored his first intercollegiate goal and fellow rookie Stephen L. Yablonski ’11 notched his first intercollegiate win at goalie. The Engineers defeated the University of New England, 4-1, in Northeast Collegiate Hockey Association Conference East Division action on Friday night. MIT’s record remained unblemished at 4-0-0 (3-0-0 NECHA) courtesy of the victory, while the Nor’easters fell to 0-5-1 (0-3-1 NECHA).

Yablonski opened the scoring on a power-play at 12:41 of the first period, finding the net courtesy of feeds from Nicholas R. Labonte ’09 and Michael C. Krzokowski ’08. Just over one minute later, it was Krzokowski’s turn to score, as he netted the ultimate game-winner with help from Myers and Dustin P. Kendrick ’10.

Exactly halfway through the second period, Kendrick and Ian M. Rousseau ’09 fed Myers for his first-ever tally, while Labonte rounded out the scoring for the Engineers at 4:08 of the period with assists credited to Ballentine and Kevin M. Farino ’10.

The University of New England, which is maintaining a men’s ice hockey program for the first time since the early 1980s, spoiled Yablonski’s shutout bid with 8:16 remaining in the final period. The Engineers’ most impressive performance of the afternoon occurred in the 200-yard freestyle, in which they occupied spots one through five. Dobson picked up his second victory of the afternoon by clocking in at 4:54.54, and was followed by Hill (4:59.35), Udit Garg ’09 (5:09.15), Zachary C. Cordero ’10 (5:11.32), and Eric J. Roselli ’11 (5:15.12).

Zhou won the 100-yard backstroke with a time of 54.30. Cummings took top honors in the 50-yard butterfly by touching the wall at 22.24, and Hill (22.02.21) and Sepp (23.05.37) finished 1-2 in the 200-yard butterfly.

MIT also grabbed the top four spots in the 200-yard individual medley and had the fastest relay team in the 200-yard freestyle relay, but the events counted as exhibitions, as the Engineers had already wrapped up the victories.

The Engineers will return to action in two weeks time at the MIT Invitational on Friday, Nov. 30 and Saturday, Dec. 1.

—Jeff Lemieux, DAPER Staff

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Don’t forget to turn in your drop forms!

Mahjub’s Strong Performance Earns All-Tourney Recognition

Basketball, from Page 16

2, to establish a 42-22 led. However, a basket and a three-pointer from Simpson narrowed the margin to 42-27.

This was as close as it would get as the Rams maintained the momentum throughout the rest of the game. Mahjub finished the day with 12 points, nine rebounds, and a block while Yuan paced the Engineers with 14 points. See Hoo dished out a game-high seven assists as Kwinn and Kristen E. Whaley ’11 each grabbed five boards.

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SPORTS
THE TECH
Page 15

November 20, 2007

Sports Shorts, Continued

Sports Shorts, from Page 16

ished with times of 1:37.00 and 1:41.68, respectively.

Tech then grabbed the top four spots in the 1,000-yard freestyle: Michael J. Dobson ’11 (10:03.27), Jack Hill ’11 (10:19.04), Harrison K. Hall ’08 (10:31.22) and Colin L. Hom ’11 (10:48.01), before Charpentier and Wellings finished 1-2 in the 200-yard freestyle by clocking in at 1:46.06 and 1:50.56, respectively.

The Cardinal and Gray once again occupied the 1-2-3 positions in the 100-yard breaststroke, as Racz (1:00.04), Kalvin D. Kao ’08 (1:03.44) and John R. Walk ’10 (1:04.42) all touched the wall ahead of their opponents. Other events in which MIT copped the top three finishes included the 100-yard freestyle (Charpentier, Cummings, and Wellings), the 200-yard breaststroke (Racz, Kaou, and Walk) and the 100-yard butterfly (Sepp, Hu, and George J. Rossick ’11).

The Engineers’ most impressive performance of the afternoon occurred in the 50-yard freestyle, in which they occupied spots one through five. Dobson picked up his second victory of the afternoon by clocking in at 4:54.54, and was followed by Hill (4:59.35), Udit Garg ’09 (5:09.15), Zachary C. Cordero ’10 (5:11.32), and Eric J. Roselli ’11 (5:15.12).

Zhou won the 100-yard backstroke with a time of 54.30. Cummings took top honors in the 50-yard butterfly by touching the wall at 22.24, and Hill (22.02.21) and Sepp (23.05.37) finished 1-2 in the 200-yard butterfly.

MIT also grabbed the top four spots in the 200-yard individual medley and had the fastest relay team in the 200-yard freestyle relay, but the events counted as exhibitions, as the Engineers had already wrapped up the victories.

The Engineers will return to action in two weeks time at the MIT Invitational on Friday, Nov. 30 and Saturday, Dec. 1.

—Jeff Lemieux, DAPER Staff

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MIT Falls to Suffolk in Tip Off Championship Game

By Mindy Brauer

MIT fell to Suffolk University, 61-42, in the championship game of the MIT Women’s Basketball Tip Off Tournament on Saturday, Nov. 24. In the opening game of the 12th annual Tournament, the Engineers outscored Framingham State, 71-59, in the first game of the Tip Off Tournament on Friday, to advance to the championship.

Suffolk University picked up a 67-57 win over Westfield State College to advance to the championship game. In the consolation game, Westfield State defeated Framingham, 71-49.

MIT defeats Framingham State, advances to Tip Off championship

MIT (1-0) went on a 9-2 run during the first seven minutes of Friday’s game. Framingham State slowly chipped away at the deficit and evened it at 17-17 with 11:09 on the clock. SAMIA A. MAHJUB G put the Engineers ahead, 21-20, at the 2:18 mark.

Baskets by Simpson 1:32 apart resulted in the fourth tie of the half. The Rams regained the lead on Jemma Haselhurst’s tray as they extended their margin to five on two occasions, the last being at 47-42 with 4:24 remaining. MIT countered with a 2:26 run to go up, 49-47. Bordini’s basket was followed by a lay-up from Kimberly Soo Hoo ’08 on the Engineers’ ensuing possession. Taryn DiFilippo’s jumper registered the seventh tie of the night at 51-51, but a free throw by Soo Hoo returned the edge to MIT with 15.9 seconds left to play. DiFilippo sent the game into overtime by converting her second free throw attempt with 6.0 seconds on the clock.

Framingham State posted four of the first six points of the extra session, but a three-pointer by Simpson sparked an 8-0 run for the Engineers during the next 2:39. A put-back by Kate Simonelli coupled with a free throw from Haselhurst narrowed the gap to six (63-59) with 47 seconds remaining.

MIT closed out the contest by shooting 6-for-9 from the free throw line.

Mahjub led all scorers with 23 points and 20 rebounds, collecting 10 caroms on each side of the floor. Soo Hoo totaled 14 points and three assists while Simpson registered 11 points and three assists in her intercollegiate debut. Clara J. Yuan ’09 posted 12 points and three steals for the Engineers.

Engineers fall to Suffolk in tournament title game

MIT fell to Suffolk University, 61-42, in the championship game of the MIT Women’s Basketball Tip Off Tournament on Saturday. Earn ing All-Tournament Team honors was Bordini (Framingham), Andrea Wasuk (Westfield), Stephanie Mor rison (Shelby), and Mahjub (MIT). Megan Traney of Suffolk was selected as the Tournament MVP.

The early stages of the championship game were closely played as it resulted in the fourth tie of the half.

With the Engineers attempting to even the score and time running out in the second half, Western Connecticut guard Dashaun Jenkins connected on three consecutive baskets from beyond the arc to keep the MIT offense at bay.

Basketball, Page 15

Fencing Competes At BU Tourney

The men’s and women’s fencing teams travelled to Boston University this past Saturday, Nov. 17, to compete in a Northeast Fencing Conference tournament.

(left) Javier J. Ordonez ’10 (left) begins an attack against his Boston University opponent during an épée bout.

(below) Lindley C. Graham ’10 (right) jumps back as her opponent changes during a foil fencing bout.

Photography by Omari Stephens

Wrestling Loses to Rhode Island College, 33-12

Grant M. Kadoura ’11, Joseph B. Silverman ’10, and Glenn J. Gregson ’09 all earned convincing wins over Rhode Island College, but MIT lost the overall battle, 33-12, in a non-conference match-up.

At 125 pounds, Kadoura gave the Engineers a quick lead, taking a 6-1 decision over Greg Martell. Tech dropped the next two matches, though Kenzan Tanabe ’11 put up a good fight in a 17-10 loss to Mike Bonora at 141 pounds.

After the three giveaways, Silverman won a 6-1 decision over Nick Logan at 184 pounds. Tech suffered another setback, before Gregson, at 285, prevailed by pin in 1:11.

Women’s Swimming Topples Babson, Falls to Bowdoin

Nicole M. O’Keefe ’09 paced MIT’s women’s swimming and diving team to three victories on Saturday afternoon, helping the Engineers earn a split with host Bowdoin College and New England Women’s and Men’s Athletic Conference opponent Babson College. MIT downed Babson, 208-48, but were edged by the Polar Bears, 139-130.

Bowdoin defeated the Beavers, 195-59, in the afternoon’s other match-up.

Women’s Swimming Defeats Bowdoin and Babson

MIT’s men’s swimming and diving team opened its dual meet season in stunning fashion on Saturday afternoon, winning 15 out of 14 swimming events on route to a 208-48 victory over Bowdoin College (170-82) and New England Women’s and Men’s Athletic Conference for the Babson College (175-75). Bowdoin defeated Babson, 173-46, in the afternoon’s other match-up.

The Engineers, who boasted the top three finishers in seven different events, improved to 2-0 overall and 1-0 in the NEWMAC with the pair of wins. Meanwhile, the Polar Bears moved to 1-1 with the split and the Bears fell to 1-4-0, 0-2 in the NEWMAC.

Jeffery V. Zhou ’10, Rastislav Racz ’10, Laurent Charpentier ’10, and Luke R. Cummins ’10 got the afternoon started for MIT with a victory in the 200-yard medley relay, touching the wall just four seconds ahead of teammates Rozem Tore K. Sepp ’11, Deke Hu ’09, Ben don D. Sullivan ’11 and Peter J. Willings ’09. The two swimming finis...