Beginning next fall, freshmen placed in Next House during the summer will be able to participate in Residence Education and Experience. Instead, Hall II was not included in the change.

In past years, freshmen placed in Norman Hall and McCormick Hall were not able to switch into a different dormitory during their first year because of Residence-Based Advising. In order to have time to process the advisor changes of students who move in or out of Next House next fall, the timetable for REX will be moved up, with freshmen arriving earlier and the Readjustment Lottery closing a couple of hours earlier as well.

Next House President Franckies F. Lau '08 said that while the change is primarily for those students who go through REX and wish to switch to a different community, it also helps the rest of Next House and the student body.

Dormitory Council President Sarah Farnsworth '08 said the change was “really good news” for Next House residents. “They can focus on getting a community that wants you to live in Next House without worrying about the logistics of moving in,” Farnsworth said.

According to that during this year’s REX, Next House housemaster Mi- riel Medard observed that there were several seniors who wanted to move into Next and several who wanted to move out, but none were allowed to make the change. As a result, Me- dard entered the negotiation process this fall to push for the change, Lau said.

Negotiations began during the spring between the Next House govern- ment, the Office of Undergraduate Advising and Academic Planning, and the Housing Office.

By that time, housing information had already been mailed out to incoming freshmen and it was too late in the change. The change was announced on the MIT website in February of 2011, said Senator Associate Dean Julie B. Norman of the UAAP.

Instead, the talks continued into the fall and culminated last Thurs- day, said Lau, who actively pushed for the change because many stu- dents at Next House “wanted this flexibility.”

McCormick Hall, which also has REX, is part of the REX change. Norman said McCormick was in- volved in the negotiations in the spring, but was not as committed as is in Residence-Based advising.

“What he was concerned with was the smoothness trade," he continued. "Six years before the young Mas- sachusetts Institute of Technology professor founded the company that now synonomous with high-end stereo speakers, he bought a 1958 Citroen 2CV, which featured something called Eever-Level air suspension in which air bags replaced steel springs to absorb bumps. It wasn’t good enough. he tes- ted with the car for two decades, and then he bought a Citroen DS-19, a French old school Renault for its radically streamlined shape and a pressurized fluid suspension with nitrogen shock absorbers. It once broke down on him at the Tan- giewood music center, and he had to have it towed back to Boston.

Long after those cars were gone, the problem still gnawed at Bose: ‘How can you design a suspension system that combines a smooth ride with superior handling?’

Bose began working on the proj- ect In secret in 1980, and didn’t un- veil the results until three years ago. His innovative system uses elec- tromagnetic motors — powered by unique Bose electric power ampli- fiers and switches — to control the handling of the vehicle.

‘In cars today, there’s always a compromise between softness over Bump and roll and pitch during ma- neuvering,” Bose, 79, said in a recent interview. ‘This system provides absolutely better handling than any sport car, and the most comfortable ride imaginable.’

The suspension system will not be appearing in a show room sometime soon. Having spent 27 years on the project, Bose isn’t about to start rushing the technology to market. But after years of refine- ments, and an investment of more than $100 million, Bose is ready to take the next step, and he plans to partner with a car manufacturer in the next year.

‘There’s no question in my mind that it’s marketable,” said Bose. “But it requires a company that’s inter- ested in more than styling and horse- power.”

There is surprising overlap be- tween the physics of auto suspension and sound systems. Both deal with waves and energy. The Bose suspen- sion system is ‘the smoothest ride possible.‘

Bose, Page 9

Wikipedia will Pay Illustrators for Work

By Noam Cohen

The foundation that runs Wik- ipedia has finally agreed to pay contributors to the online encyclopedia modest fees for their work. But it won’t pay the thousands of people who participate in creating the wiki pages just artists who create ‘key ill- ustrations’ for the site.

The more payments are pos- sible by a $20,000 donation from RBB Affiliates, Philip C. Greenawalt ‘82, a woman who said he was moved to give the money because of his experience seeing technical books he had published originally online appear in print.

‘In comparing the Web versions to the print versions, I noticed that the publishers’ non contribution to the quality of the books was in add- ing professionally drawn illustra- tions,’ he wrote in an e-mail mes- sage. ‘It occurred to me that when the dust settled on the Wikipedia versus Britannica question, the like- liest conclusion would be Wikipedia is superior to Britannica has better illustrations.”

The woman running the project for Wikipedia, Braima Laugher, says the plan is to create a list of articles that need illustrations and then solicit the work. The first list is expected to have 50 illustrations and be completed this month. Con- tributors will be able to sign up for an illustration and have two weeks to submit it; if it is accepted, the il- lustrator will be paid $40.

The standard payment will be $40, and depending on how it is received it could change in the fu- ture,” she wrote in an e-mail mes- sage. ‘I really don’t know if we will be flooded by illustrators clamoring to join, or if the general response will be one of caution”.

While the German chapter of Wikipedia has received a grant from the government article has sustainable

Wikipedia, Page 16

The Weather

Today: Mostly cloudy, 35°F (2°C)

Tonight: Mostly cloudy, 25°F (-4°C)

Tomorrow: Not as windy, 35°F (2°C)

Details, Page 2

Safe Stolen From Student Life Programs Office

A safe was stolen from the Student Life Programs Office sometime over the weekend, prompt- ing the cancellation of checks and a re- imbursement of funds.

The safe, which was lo- cated behind two locked doors, was discovered missing yesterday morning, said Jed Wartman, assistant dean for student activities. The safe held check only checks and a small amount of cash, so there should not be much loss from the theft.

Wartman said he was sur- prised to find the safe missing given its unwieldy size: the safe was approximately 3 feet tall, 2 feet wide, and 2 feet deep.

The theft, combined with other thefts in the Student Center, may give more prior- ity to ongoing discussions re- garding building security.

‘There have been some conversations about pros- unity readers as opposed to keys,” said Wartman, though he emphasized that the leads might not be the best so- lution.

Reimbursements for stu- dent groups will be delayed until this Friday, Dec. 7.

—Nich Sentenovich

In Short

† Muhammad Yunus, winner of the 2006 Nobel Peace Prize, will deliver MIT’s 2008 Commence- ment address. Yunus won the Nobel Prize for developing micro-lending, a system that offers small amounts of credit to the poor in developing nations.

† The dismissal hearing for Star A. Simpson ‘10 was postponed yes- terday. Simpson was charged with possession of a hoax device after she appeared at Logan Airport wearing a circuit board that was mistaken for a bomb. The hearing has been moved to Thursday, Jan. 3 at 9 a.m.

† Anna L. Tang, the Wellesley sopho- more accused of stabbing Wells B. SYKE ‘10, did not appear in court yesterday for a pretrial conference. The hearing has been postponed un- til Friday, Dec. 28 at 9 a.m.

News

Alum develops advanced spasm filtering. —13

The life of a male student attending Wellesley. —14

OLPC sees surge in orders. —15

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The Tech

Volume 127, Number 59

Cambridge, Massachusetts 02139

Tuesday, December 4, 2007

Freshmen In Next House Can Take Part In REX

By Arkajit Dey

NEWS BRIEF

By Jeffrey Guo

A sensor was inspired by a falling tree limb at Baker House Saturday, according to Campus Police Capt. David Carlson.

Weis-Hussey “Jessie” Ho ’08, was struck by a large branch from the Class of 1950 Willow Tree in front of Baker House, Director of Op- erations and Security John DiFara said. The willow has since been re- moved, according to DiFara, due to concerns about the stability of the tree in Saturday’s high winds. An emergency call was made to campus police at 11:17 a.m. on Sat- urday, Carlson said. Police officers arriving on the scene administered first aid and called an ambulance that arrived about nine minutes later.

Ho is currently in “good condi- tion” at Massachusetts General Hospital according to the hospital’s media affairs officer Valerie Wen- cin.

The willow was a gift dedicated by the MIT Class of 1930 that was recently rededicated in 2000. On the afternoon following the acci- dent, major branches were trimmed, and by the end of Monday the entire tree — including the stump — was removed by the Department of Facilities for safety and the Baker willow was no exception. “I know on Saturday the winds were vicious,” DiFara said.

“A tree may look hard and sturdy, but it might have hidden problems.”

MIT’s Oldest and Largest Newspaper

The dismissal hearing for Star A. Simpson ‘10 was postponed yes- terday. Simpson was charged with possession of a hoax device after she appeared at Logan Airport wearing a circuit board that was mistaken for a bomb. The hearing has been moved to Thursday, Jan. 3 at 9 a.m.

Send news information and tips to news@tech.mit.edu.
Giuliani’s Firm Lobbied for Bill That Administration Considers a Threat
By Eric Lipton and Russ Buettner

The Bush administration’s effort to help borrowers in danger of defaulting on their subprime mortgages could help only a small number of those who took out such loans, industry analysts said Monday.

The new program remains under review in the administration, which is also trying to gain the support of mortgage lenders and the securities industry, a similar effort in California is likely to help about 12 percent of borrowers in the state with adjustable-rate mortgage loans, according to estimates by Barclaycard and others.

About 2 million people have subprime mortgages with monthly payments they cannot afford to pay, sharply in the next year or so as their introductory teaser rates expire.

On Monday, Treasury Secretary Henry M. Paulson Jr. said he hoped to reach agreement with his lenders and financial institutions on a plan to temporarily freeze the teaser rates for certain qualified borrowers.

Speaking at a housing conference here organized by the Office of Thrift Supervision, Paulson said he wanted to “develop a set of standards” for modifying subprime loans that the industry could use to speed up decision on the hundreds of thousands of borrowers at risk of losing their homes.

Clinton Starts to Attack in Content, If Not Tone
By Patrick Healy

Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton doesn’t sound angry, look angry or act angry. But if you transcribe her recent speeches in Iowa and reread them, they do seem angry — or, at least, more negative toward other Democrats than she has been since the 1992 presidential primary campaign of her husband.

Now, for herself, she is in a tight-three-way race to win the Jan. 3 caucuses, attack-style campaigning is tricky political territory for the candidate native to this hallowed band, most recently, for Howard Dean and Richard Gephardt in 2004. Iowans have to put up with so many candidates for so long, they grow even wearier when the politicians try to stir things up.

And such a strategy risks raising Clinton’s unfavourable ratings, her past bickering over her e-mails and on political blogs for her campaign’s opposition research published Sunday that Sen. Barack Obama had wanted to be president since kindergarten.

The First Winter’s Snow
By Brian H. Tang

A bitter cold weekend, conditions were primed for our first ac- cumulating snowfall of the season. Although only a couple inches fell on campus early Monday morning, it was enough to change the landscape from fall’s bright colors to a layer of white.

Determining the precipitation type in New England is trickier than simply forecasting rain or snow. Often, the weather forecasters might call it a snow squall by day, then MIXED SHOWERS (2 cm) an icy pellets by evening. You almost can’t blame them. Due to the nature of the cold air and the warming temperatures, we have a secondary layer of air forming between the surface and the cloud base. This can create conditions for a snow squall to develop. We are tracking a strong cold air mass moving in from the north, bringing with it a strong high pressure system. As we move into the evening hours, the strong high pressure system will shift south, bringing a strong cold front into the region.

The result is a strong cold front moving in from the north, bringing with it a strong high pressure system. As we move into the evening hours, the strong high pressure system will shift south, bringing a strong cold front into the region.

Extended Forecast
Today: Mostly cloudy with a few flurries possible. Blustery and cold. High 25°F (−3°C). Wind gusts as high as 30 mph.
Tuesday: Mostly cloudy and breezy. Low 25°F (−4°C.)
Wednesday: Mostly cloudy and not as windy. High 35°F (2°C).
Thursday: Cloudy early, then clearing toward dawn. Low 23°F (-5°C).

At play now is a large portion of the electorate. Chavez won re-election last year with about 63 percent of the vote, compared with the 49 percent that supported his proposed constitutional amendments. The opposition, which never won more than 41 percent in four national elections while Chavez’s presidency, got 51 percent over the weekend, illustrating its ability to win over voters who were loyal to Chavez in previous races. The real test now for the opposition will be to fashion viable alter-
atives to keep those defectors. That is the most urgent challenge facing Chavez and his supporters as the National Assembly, the Supreme Court, the Constitutional Court and the State will be the focus of the upcoming legislative session. The opposition, meanwhile, is recovering from years of tactical errors and marginalization from the country’s political life.

Followi ng Loss of Referendum, Chavez’s Support Is Dwindling
By Simon Romero

The surprising defeat of a referendum this weekend to accelerate Chavez’s socialist-inspired revolution has given new energy to his long-suffering opposition.

But just how long that momentum lasts will depend on whether his opponents can keep within their ranks the Venezuelans who defected from Chavez to vote no on the proposals.

For nine years, a combination of popular politics and rising oil prices have propelled Chavez’s socialist program for Venezuela with an almost inexhaustible momentum. On Sunday, Chavez put his country on the brakes.

Those results have at once given the opposition a sudden boost and demonstrated the resilience of Venezuela’s institutions. They also showed that many of Chavez’s once-stalwart backers have grown frustrated with the rising prices and food shortages that have become symptomatic of his revolution, despite his promises to the poor.

Interviews in the barrios where Chavez’s support has run strong indicated that many of those who voted no were as much an expression of frustration with his revolution, despite his promises to the poor.

The rejection of his proposals amounted to a sharp rebuke to those Venezuelans who let Chavez know they were hesitant to follow him much further up the path to a socialist future if their current needs were not being met.

Analysis Finds Iran Stopped Nuclear Arms Effort in 2003
By Mark Mazzetti

A new assessment by American intelligence agencies released Monday concludes that Iran halted its sub- clear weapons program in 2003 and that the program remains frozen, con- tradicting a judgment two years ago that Tehran was working relentlessly toward building a nuclear bomb.

The conclusions of the new as- sessment are likely to reshape the final year of the Bush administration, which has made halting Iran’s nuclear program a cornerstone of its foreign policy.

The assessment, a National Intel- ligence Estimate that represents the consensus view of all 16 American spy agencies, states that Tehran is likely to keep its options open with respect to building a weapon, but that intelligence agencies “do not know whether it currently intends to de-velop nuclear weapons.”

Iran is continuing to produce enriched uranium, a program that the Tehran government has said is intended for civilian purposes. The new estimate says that the enrich- ment program could still provide Iran with enough raw material to produce a nuclear weapon sometime by the middle of next decade, a timetable essentially unchanged from previous estimates.

But the new report essentially disallows a judgment that the intelli- gence agencies issued in 2005, which concluded that Iran had an active se- cret arms program intended to transform nuclear material into an explosive nuclear weapon. The new estimate declares Iran’s nuclear program “high confidence” that military-run program has been shut down since 2003, and it con- cludes that the halt was imposed by Iran “primarily in response to in- creasing international scrutiny and pressure.”

It was not clear what prompted the reversal. Administration officials said the new estimate reflected con- clusions that the intelligence agencies had agreed on only in the past sev- eral weeks. The report’s agonistic about Iran’s nuclear intentions repre- sents a very different tone than had been struck by President Bush, and by Vice President Dick Cheney, who warned in a speech in October that if Iran “stays on its present course, the international community is prepared to impose serious consequences.”

The estimate does not say when intelligence agencies learned that the arms program had been halted, but officials said new information ob- tained from covert sources over the summer had led to a reassessment of the state of Iran’s nuclear program and a decision to delay preparation of the estimate, which had been sched- uled to be delivered to Congress in the spring.

The new report came out just over five years after a 2002 intelligence estimate on Iran quoted the administration that the enriched chemical and biological weapons programs and was deter- mined to restart its nuclear program. That estimate was instrumental in winning the congressional authoriza- tion for a military invasion of Iraq, but it proved to be deeply flawed, and most of its conclusions turned out to be wrong.

Intelligence officials said the spec- tro of the 2002 estimate on Iraq hung over their deliberations on Iran even more than it had in 2005, when the reasons from the intelligence failure on Iraq were just beginning to prompt ap- plications to adapt a more rigorous approach to their findings.

No more big storms are on the horizon the next few days, but the tem- perature will be remaining below average, so watch for areas of as wet spots freeze up nightly.
Gas mileage would go up under the compromise reached by congressional leaders last week, but not as high as the trumpeted numbers. And aside from the 15-mpg standard, a growing population of drivers would push up total fuel use, as well as greenhouse gas emissions — but not as rapidly as it would without the legislation. Those are all of the conclusions to policy experts, who were still struggling Monday to determine exactly what the proposal would do, even though it was still under negotiation, that includes these provisions.

The fleet average for vehicles in the 2010 model year would be set at 35 mpg for large trucks, versus about 20 mpg for small trucks today. Both numbers, though, come with a familiar caveat: Actual fuel consumption of the vehicles on the road will likely be lower than the standards because manufacturers are allowed to buy the compromise out the phrase for building "flex fuel" cars more slowly than current law does.

The compromise includes a standard for large trucks and light trucks, as opposed to the current system, while also shifting the structure of the rule from an average of about all cars or all light trucks to models with "attribute-based" system.

The New York Times
December 4, 2007

State-Financed Christian Program
Barred by Federal Appeals Court
By Neola Banejee

A federal appeals panel ruled Monday that a state-financed Christian program that pays prisoners to write letters to children and to form a government favored religion. Without a proper change, a boycott would be largely ineffective. But she said on Monday that party
reserved the right to boycott the elec-

tions if conditions did not improve. And despite that, the party said it was already preparing to fix the elections on its terms and the opposition needed to combine forces to oppose him.

"If elections are rigged we are go-
ing to be in a position," he said, "and there are issues, were not going to protest those elections; she said, adding skeptically. "We are flanked by other opposition leaders at a news conference at her Islamabad home.

She demanded that an unbiased tribunal should be appointed, and accused the government of "downright robbery," saying that it planned to rig the results by trans-

ferring thousands of pre-stamped ballots to stuffing ballot boxes in the provinces.

"I don’t get a fair election, public pressure must be mounted," she said. "The ball is in the court of the régime."
Letters To The Editor

UA Striving Toward Transparency

We are grateful to David Sheets ’09 for conveying his thoughts on the Undergradu- ate Association ("UA Needs Transparency," Nov. 30, 2007). However, that he would take time to criticize a body that he believes is "continually" and "consistently" irrelevant suggests something is amiss.

We begin by issuing two concessions: First, we acknowledge that the UA’s Web site has not been updated as expeditiously as it should have been. However, we have been moving swiftly to redress this state of affairs. On Nov. 5, the UA Senate held a discussion session on the topic of visibility and representation; one of the major topics that was addressed was our Web site. On Nov. 26, Sen- ate convened an information session with our chief of information technology, Mason Tang ’10, and conveyed to him the importance of restoring its functionality and accuracy in a timely manner. We expect these updates—which will include sections for agendas, minutes, pending legislation, and past legis- lation—to be completed by the beginning of next term.

Second, we recognize that the UA needs to do a better job of publicizing its efforts. Again, however, we have been taking proactive mea- sures to improve that situation.

Anyone can join us-discuss@mit.edu to re- ceive Senate meeting agendas and minutes. The UA holds office hours every Friday on the first floor of the Student Center. The UA Executive Council holds "traveling exec meetings" in a new living group every week. We have visited Simmons Hall, MacGregor House, and Senior House thus far. All undergraduates are invited to attend.

We have started to publish monthly news letters that summarize our progress and offer ways for students to become involved with the UA’s work (the first one was released on Nov. 13).

The UA Public Relations Committee recently hosted DormStorm at locations across campus, including Baker House, East Campus, Room W20-Hall, the Student Center, and the SafeRide turnaround. The UA Nominations Committee has es- tablished a precedent by convening town hall meetings where student representatives to In- titute committees discuss the work that those committees are completing.

Furthermore, the UA has e-mailed under- graduates several times with surveys, requests for feedback on student life issues, and initi- atives to become involved in our work. Sena- tors also offer a direct way for students to voice their concerns and opinions.

After critiquing the UA’s visibility, Mr. Sheets seems to think that the UA should "spend its time doing what it was chartered to do—represent students." The convenience of this claim is that it can be issued regardless of the work that we complete or initiatives that we undertake. Ultimately, however, it is vacu- ous—it is noteworthy that he does not specify a single specific issue that we are neglecting to address. There is much that remains to be done, and there are, as always, many ways in which we can better serve students. We invite Mr. Sheets and any others who aim to enhance undergraduate student life at MIT to join us as we undertake this work.

Martin F. Holmes ’08 and Ali S. Wyne ’08 Undergraduate Association President and Vice President

Opinion Policy

Editorials are the official opinion of The Tech. They are written by the editorial board, which consists of Chairman Michael McGran- Herd ing, Editor in Chief Angeline Wang, Managing Editor Austin Chu, Opinion Editor Aditya Kohli, and Contributing Editor Rosa Cao.

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

Letters to the editor, columns, and editorial cartoons are writ- ten by individuals and represent the opinion of the author, not necessarily that of the newspaper. Electronic submissions are encouraged and should be sent to letters@the-tech.mit.edu. Hard copy submis- sions should be addressed to The Tech, 387925 Cambridge, Massachusetts 02139-7029.

Communication between the editor and columns without italics are written by the Tech staff.
By Charley Lin

I was browsing through The New York Times at lunch last week when I ran into this article: “Effort to Limit Junk Food in Schools Faces Hurdles.” Apparently with kids getting fatter, our government felt forced to ask the question, “Are our children eating too much junk food?”

One of the answers Mr. Freezie that red, orange, purple, and green colors (citrus fruits are the opposite colors of those in the United States — limes are yellow and lemons are green) into the samosa filling. This way the samosas were filled with goat meat. We squeezed a green lemon on the samosas for flavor and sold them fresh just for us. I was expecting aloo (potato) samosas, but the restaurant was out, so they made them for us instead.

Chapati, a type of Indian bread enjoyed in South Asia and East Africa, is served with a hard-boiled egg — Kenyan style. I had never had chapati before, and while it does not taste like fruit roll-up, which is massaged like Play-Doh and used to pick up a grape, yes, with a machete. It was cooked on the bone and the meat was taken off the bone by a local woman.

The boys asked for goat meat in kilos, and the butcher hacked off the meat. It took a while to cook, and while we waited hungrily, my friends remembered the amazing samosas at the restaurant and ordered a few to go. The waiter was out, so they made them fresh just for us. I was expecting also potato) samosas, like those I had in India, and so was surprised to find that these samosas were filled with goat meat. We squeezed a green lemon over the samosas for flavor and sold them fresh just for us.

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Solution to Nov. 27 Cipher: William Barton Rogers, founder of MIT; BEAVER PRIDE

Nietzsche once told me that Zarathustra had three names.
In this child's play, there are no repeats or hesitations ... I anagramed a blue drink.
If you find an acronym in the second word, they might give you a prize.
All I wanted to do was work in a laboratory, but I realized I had to change the channel.
What channel do I need?

Solution in next Tuesday's issue.
Instructions: Fill in the grid so that each column, row, and 3 by 3 grid contains exactly one of each of the digits 1 through 9.

Solution on page 13.

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Big Image Car Ideal Debut for New System, Bose Says

Engineers Still Working Toward Making Bose's Newest Suspension System Smaller and Less Expensive

December 4, 2007

The electromagnetic motors use switching amplifiers similar to ones Bose first developed at MIT in 1960. The trick was to make them fast — so they could respond in the nanoseconds as a car hits a bump at high speed — and to make them powerful, to counteract the tremendous forces at play within a car's wheels.

Bose Corp. hasn't yet let a journalist drive the 1995 Lexus LS400 fitted with its suspension system. Instead, it puts on a demonstration in the employee parking lot that is half solemn engineering display and half carnival side show.

First, a company driver puts an unmodulated black Lexus through a course of bumps, a short slalom and a course of bumps, a short slalom. If anything, the car's body moves serenely through the course, and an emergency stop. The car approaches the obstacle at about 40 miles per hour, but it doesn't slow down. Instead, the wheels jump nimbly over the obstacle. The Bose system has made a car fly.

It's a crowd-pleaser, and it underscores the remarkable capabilities of the suspension system, even if it leaves an observer feeling manipulated. The well-oiled padder of the engineering staff makes clear they've performed this exercise hundreds of times before similar audiences.

"This is a fascinating technology," said John Wolkonowicz, automotive analyst with Global Insight Inc., a forecasting and market research firm.

"This would work on a car that's expensive enough, with a company that's looking for ways to distinguish itself!"

Bose said that as he pondered the suspension problem, he thought the dynamics of vehicle behavior could be represented mathematically. He built a set of custom calculations to model the problem, and discovered that a solution would dramatically improve vehicle behavior. So he set up a secret internal team, dubbed it "Project Sound" to throw off external speculation, and started building prototypes in the garage of one of his vice presidents who lived one town over from the company headquarters.

Engineers are still working to make the system smaller and less expensive. One obstacle is the price of neodymium, an iron ore mined largely in China that produces extraordinarily powerful magnets. "We need a lot of it," said Bose. There's also a powerful computer processor, but Bose is convinced the price for that unit will come down over time, as is typical with electronics.

Where will it debut? The Bose suspension system faces unique challenges. It's a key component of a vehicle in an industry that is extremely suspicious of anything not developed internally. Moreover, the first car company to use it will be risking the success of a model — and possibly its reputation — on the performance of technology unproven in the marketplace.

Industry analysts speculate the system could work well on a big image car. In 2001, a top-of-the-line model that projects a "halo" effect on the rest of the model line. Wolkonowicz suggested a range-topping, $100,000 Cadillac sedan expected to debut in about four years.

Bose said a high-end Cadillac would be an ideal platform for his system, and acknowledges that General Motors gave Bose Corp. a big boost when it became the first car company to install its sound system in a Cadillac (in a Cadillac) in 1981. But though the suspension system was a success when it was demonstrated to General Motors, he said, talks haven't progressed.

"When we get ready, we'll give them an opportunity," he said. Another possibility, according to analysts, is Audi, the luxury arm of Volkswagen AG. Europe's largest automaker Audi offers Bose sound systems on its models, and its large Audi luxury sedan has a reputation for employing advanced technology — it has an aluminum frame, unique among large cars.

"We've shown the system to all of the major manufacturers and Audi has not expressed much interest at this point," said Bose.

And what about Citroen? The French carmaker is now a division of Peugeot SA, but it still produces cars with the remarkable hydropneumatic suspension and enjoys a reputation for suspension wizardry.

Bose admits he hadn't even thought of Citroen until a group of French reporters came to Framingham, Mass. for a demonstration last year, and he doubts the company would take a risk with the new system. Some of the strongest interest to date, Bose said, has come from automakers with more interest in sport utility vehicles than passenger cars.

What about letting a reporter drive the white Lexus?

Bose said that will have to wait, but he said it will be worth it.

"Boy, do you feel a difference," he said. "There is a wow factor like you can't believe."
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RBA Program Change Will Push Up REX Timetable

December 4, 2007

THE TECH

Page 11

RBA, from Page 1

seems to work for McCormick. 
“We’d want to see what happens with Next House and go one step at a time. McCormick Housemaster Charles H. Stewart III said, “The way we’re doing RBA in McCormick has worked for seven years. We’ve trusted our experience. Next House has trusted their experience.”

Few students want to leave McCormick, said Robin Smedick, assistant director of undergraduate housing. “There’s usually the opposite problem,” Smedick said. “More people want to live in McCormick than there are spaces.”

Grace Yao ’11, Undergraduate Association Senator for McCormick, said the interest in having the lottery option at McCormick “was mostly because residents felt in principle it’s only fair that they be allowed the same options as everyone else, not because they were unhappy about living here.”

Norman said the UAAP worked with Housing to do a complete analysis of the freshman housing with Housing to do a complete analysis of the last few years’ data, Norman said. The Readjustment Lottery will close two-and-a-half hours earlier, at 4 p.m. on Tuesday, because students moving in and out of Next House will need to be assigned new advisors. In anticipation of these last minute advising changes, there will be an excess of traditional advising spots in both Next RBA and traditional advising to accommodate the students who move, Norman said. “Any student who is in a seminar will have to transfer into traditional advising,” Norman said, so students will have to weigh whether housing or an advising seminar is more important to them.

Students will know the results of the lottery on Wednesday of the week of orientation at approximately 6:30 p.m. and can meet with their new advisors the next day to register for classes.

According to Smedick’s assessment of the last few years’ data, Norman said, very few freshmen entered the Readjustment Lottery in the last few years because most students were at Orientation programs during that time. Thus, the change is “not a time lost for students,” Norman said. Students will probably be less opposed to ranking Next House in their top choices “knowing they’ll have the option to move out if they choose to,” Smedick said. This change should result in a larger percentage of students receiving one of their top three dormitory choices in the Summer Housing Lottery, she added.

In the past, approximately 15–23 percent of eligible students have entered the Readjustment Lottery. While it is difficult to estimate how many Next House students will enter the lottery, Smedick said, “we don’t anticipate a huge impact on the overall system.” The logistical difficulties are “more on the advising side than in the physical running of the lottery,” Smedick said.

Smedick said there are usually 10–13 students moving in or out of each dormitory after the Readjustment Lottery.

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Twenty-five years ago Steven T. Kirsch, a Silicon Valley entrepreneur, believed he has found a way to create a better mousetrap — if he has enough time to finish his project.

As a MIT-trained engineer and former Tech news editor, Kirsch was frustrated with the failure of the first computer mice in 1982, so he set out to improve them by incorporating an optical sensor.

Since then he has started four companies, all based on his frustrations with existing products or services. He has made forays into word processing document design, accelerating the Web, and in 1997 Infoseek, his search engine company was the third ranking company in Web search. In many ways Kirsch, who is 50 years old, has come to exemplify what distinguishes Silicon Valley — a blend of engineer- ing skills with persistent entrepreneur ship.

Along the way he has amassed a personal fortune of about $230 mil- lion, a success that has permitted him and his wife to become significant philanthropists in Silicon Valley by contributing more than $75 million to the United Way campaign and other organizations.

His perspective on his disease is “This is harder on my wife than it is on me,” said Kirsch during a recent interview. “Just look at it as a problem. Here’s a problem and you have four years to solve it or you don’t get to solve any more problems.”

Kirsch is not the first prominent entrepreneur in Silicon Valley to battle cancer. Andrew S. Grove, the chief executive of Intel, has survived prostate cancer. In May 1996 Grove wrote about his battle with the disease in DETAILS.

The approach underlying the Ab-aca system is the recognition that the ratio of spam to legitimate email is individually unique. It is also a si- ngle measure that can manipulate easily. By assessing the combined reciprocities of the impressions of any individual message, the Abaca system determines the “spaminess” of a particular message. Kirsch asserts this provides a high degree of accu- racy in deciding whether the message is spam.

Unlike most of its competitors, he said, Abaca’s technology does not require a training period, is language independent and is faster than many because it does not scan the entire contents of a message to de termine whether it is spam.

Kirsch has invested about $55 mil- lion in developing his idea, and he said he expects Abaca to reach profitability by the middle of next year.

“The advantage of Abaca is its ability to admit it sounds innova- tive and novel,” said Stanislav Paul, the founder of Brightmail, one of the leading providers of anti-spam technology, which was sold to Symantec in 1997 for $730 million.

At the same time, Paul said Abaca was “dubious about the ability of a stand- alone anti-spam system company in today’s computer marketplace.”

Remember Bill Gates’s promise to rid the Internet of spam in a few years? Paul said “That was over seven years ago. Once any of these solutions scale up, though, thousands of smart people start to work on how to defeat the system.”

Kirsch insists that Abaca is unlike- ly to be caught soon. “Most people like to get 99.8 percent or so with the current volume of users,” he said, refer- ring to his monitoring of good email he now sees using his system. “Our performance gets better as we add more users, our competitors already have scale, and we are way ahead even with what we get to scale, our performance should be nearly 100 times better than our close- est competitor.”

In February, Opus One tested six anti-spam products on a stream of 10,000 messages during a 19-day pe- riod. Spam filtering rates ranged from a high of 97.36 percent to a low of 74.10 percent.

“At 99.8 percent you miss two out of 1000,” said Kirsch. “At 95 percent you miss 50 out of 1,000. So other systems give you 25 times as much spam. Who wants that? Nobody we know.”

Opus One has not yet tested the Abaca system. However, the testing group has been briefed by a represen- tative of Abaca.

“Generally, I am very skeptical of anti-spam techniques that get along with the pseudo-math that you hear from Abaca,” said Joel M. Sny- der, a senior partner with Opus One. “In their case, however, the math has a face validity that’s unusual in this business. The only obvious issue with their system is that it really requires a list of participants in order to work.”

The Tech
Page 13
Life Is Interesting for Only Male Student at Wellesley

By Keith O'Brien

WELLESLEY

To many women, he is simply “the boy.” They know who he is, even if they do not know his name. They know his story, even if they have never spoken to him.

In the small, all-female world of Wellesley College, Mohamad Usman is famous in this way: He is literally a man among women — about 2,300 women. Usman, 19, is the only man attending Wellesley College this fall.

“A lot of people don’t know his name, really,” said Johanna Peace, a Wellesley junior and the editor-in-chief of the student newspaper, the Wellesley News. “They’re aware that there’s a boy on campus. And if they see him, they’ll say: ‘Oh — there’s the boy.’”

The boy in question has been living in a dormitory on campus since September, showering in his private bathroom, and, perhaps predictably, becoming something of a folk hero among his male friends.

But do not get the wrong idea here: Wellesley College, known for educating such top female minds as presidential hopeful Hillary Clinton, is not allowing men to become full-time students like many other local women’s colleges. Usman, who grew up in Bronx, N.Y., has come to Wellesley on a semester-long exchange program, and he maintains his motives for wanting to be here are pure.

He wanted to come for the educational experience. (And the women.) He was looking forward to living near Boston. (And lots of women.) To him, this was a chance of a lifetime.

“I thought it would be really fascinating to be the only male at an all-women’s college,” said Usman, a government and geography double major at Dartmouth, who has been taking two classes at Wellesley this fall and two at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology due to a partnership that Wellesley has with the Cambridge school. “I like to believe I’m curious.”

“I want to try new things, and the greatest part of a liberal-arts education is experiencing a wide variety of things. It’s important to me to get the most of my 50 Gs.”

Under an agreement among 11 New England institutions, students can apply to spend a semester at another school. A classmate of Usman’s mentioned this about a year ago, and the pair decided to apply to spend a term at Wellesley — a decision that surprised one Dartmouth staff member so much that she informed Usman that it was not possible.

As it turns out, though, it is. Men have attended Wellesley via the exchange program in the past, although not recently, said Jennifer Thomas-Starck, who oversees the program at Wellesley. Usman and his friend were accepted. But then Usman’s friend backed out, leaving Usman to go it alone.

“I was committed,” he said. Usman, the fourth child of Pakistani immigrants who own a variety store in the Bronx, enrolled at Wellesley for the fall semester like everyone else. His parents, who dropped him off on campus, were surprised to see so many women, mostly because Usman had failed to tell them that Wellesley was a women’s college.

The classmates sitting at his table were appalled and tried to convince Usman of the importance of these matters. But in the end, it was no use. What did he know, anyway, about being a Wellesley girl? He’s just a boy.

Female students have wondered about Usman’s motives. But some say Usman has blended in among them.

“Most guys who are on campus are somebody’s boyfriend,” said Amy Goodman, a sophomore in Usman’s world politics class. “So when there’s a guy who doesn’t have anybody and who’s going to an all-girls school, it’s going to make people go, ‘Oh, who is this person?’”

The classmates sitting at his table were appalled and tried to convince Usman of the importance of these matters. But in the end, it was no use. What did he know, anyway, about being a Wellesley girl?

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One Laptop Per Child Sees Surge in National Orders

By Hiawatha Bray

Despite slower-than-expected sales and tough competition from commercial rivals, the One Laptop Per Child Foundation of Cambridge is enjoying a surge of new orders.

Nicholas Negroponte ’66, the MIT professor who set up the foundation to provide low-cost laptops to poor schoolchildren around the globe, said in an interview Friday that the government of Peru has signed a contract to purchase 260,000 of the $188 machines. “It was notification five minutes ago,” he said, adding that the Peruvian order will make it easier for the foundation to sign up more countries to the program. “It’s momentum.”

Negroponte also said Mexican billionaire Carlos Slim has purchased 50,000 of the machines for distribution in his country. “He’s an old friend, and he’s been involved in this from the beginning,” Negroponte said.

The nonprofit has designed its laptop to eventually cost less than $100 each. It hopes to persuade governments in developing countries to buy millions of the machines and hand them out free of charge as educational tools.

But foreign governments haven’t placed as many orders as Negroponte expected when he launched the foundation in 2005. So OLPC has focused on reaching affluent American individuals and charitable groups to buy machines and donate them to children in poor countries. Participants in the Give One Get One program pay $40 for two of the machines—one for their own use and the other to be donated. Participants also receive a year of free wireless Internet access at hundreds of public hotspots operated by T-Mobile. A separate program, called Give Many, encourages charitable giving if they view OLPC as a business rival rather than a charity.

The surge in sales of the nonprofit’s laptops comes as OLPC faces growing competition from commercial vendors of cheap laptops. Intel Corp. is pushing a rival computer called the Classmate, while Asus Computer International of Taiwan offers the Eee PC, designed for use in affluent nations such as the United States as well as in poor countries.

OLPC also has been hit by a patent-infringement lawsuit in Nigeria filed by Lagos Analysis Corp. of Natick. The suit claims the foundation stole the company’s keyboard design. Negroponte said the lawsuit is without merit, because OLPC uses a keyboard programming technique developed in 1996, long before the Nigerian patent was filed.

The founder of Lagos Analysis Corp., Ade Oyegbola, was convicted of bank fraud in Boston in 1999 and served a year in prison. Oyegbola insists his Nigerian patent is legitimate and says he plans to file a copyright-infringement lawsuit against OLPC in an American court.

Computer industry analyst Roger Kay of Endpoint Technologies Associates Inc. in Wayland, a longtime skeptic of the OLPC plan, was impressed by the foundation’s early sales. “I remain generally skeptical, but that’s some good news,” said Kay. “If you were a budding computer company, you’d be happy to sell 300,000 or so units in your first season.”

But Kay still predicted trouble ahead for the foundation, unless it stops acting like a charity and more like a traditional computer business. “They have to survive on selling products, having satisfied customers, and having people come back for more,” he said.

However, Negroponte said OLPC’s nonprofit status is essential, as it enables the foundation to collaborate with leading technology companies in designing and building the laptop. He said many of the foundation’s partners would not offer assistance if they viewed OLPC as a business rival rather than a charity.

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McKinsey&Company
Forward Ballentine Racks Up Two Goals, Three Assists in Win

Hockey, from Page 20

Kozlowski notched his first goal of the night courtesy of a Jeremy D. Myers 08 pass 10.37 into the second period while Cory F. Phinney '11 scored his first intercollegiate goal on a power-play with 57 seconds left to extend MIT's lead to 5-2. Ballen-
tine and LaBounty each picked up assists on the rookie's strike. The Cardinal and Gray secured another goal on the man-advantage less than 30 seconds into the third period, as Kozlowski scored thanks to feeds from Ballentine and Myers. WPI cut the lead to 6-3 one minute later, with Stalnaski and Mike Pagos- nia providing the assists for Mike Parzych's goal, but it was as close as the hosts would get. Kozlowski (unassisted) and Ballentine (from LaBounty and Rousseau) each hit it 8-3 before defensman Stephen T. Parson '08 recorded his first goal of the year, with the lone assist credited to Vlad- mir Soves '11. Stephen L. Vablinski '11 stopped 18 shots in net en route to earning another goal on the man-advantage with 57 seconds left in the period, while Cory F. Phinney '11 of the night courtesy of a Jeremy D. G scored unassisted.

Sports Shorts, from Page 20

SPORTS SHORTS, Continued

Women's Basketball

Loses to Emerson, 54-43,
In Non-Conference Game

In its first game after a 12-day hiatus, Emerson Col-
lege emerged with a 54-43 victory over MIT in a non-
conference women's basketball game on Thursday. With the win, the Lions improved to 2-1 on the year while the Engineers fell to 1-3.

The early stages of the game were a back-and-forth affair as Emerson cut to a 9-6 advantage after five minutes elapsed. Back-to-back three-pointers by Clara J. Yuan '09 and Alice S. Yeh '08 put MIT ahead, 1-2, at the 12.93 mark. The Lions countered with 10 straight points during the next three minutes to reclaim the lead for good. A three-point play by Yeh ended the run and narrowed the gap to four (9-13) and Emerson responded by tallying 12 out of the next 15 points to establish its largest lead of the half (33-18) with 4:49 on the clock. The Engineers closed out the half with an 8-2 run that resulted in a 33-26 deficit at the break.

Yeh continued to power MIT's offense in the second half as she posted five points during the first 41 sec-
conds. Baskets by Lauren Vassallo, Lindsay DeStefano, and Maude Okah helped maintain Emerson's edge as it led, 39-31, at 18:21. The next 12 minutes became a defensive battle as both sides combined for 10 points. A jumper by Alleigh Marin sparked a 9-0 run by the Lions as they extended their lead to 17 (54-37) with 4:13 on the clock. MIT held Emerson scoreless for the rest of the game as a lay-up from Sally W. Simpson '10 and a pair of baskets by Kelsey K. Cappelle '11 closed out the scoring for the Cardinal and Gray.

Cheryl M. Kwinn '09 notched a career-high 11 points and seven rebounds, while Yeh contributed 11 points coming off the bench. Cappelle totaled eight points and two blocks, and Suma A. Mahjub G grabbed a team-high 12 boards. Kimberly E. Soo Hoo '08 dished out nine assists, as Kristen E. Whaley '11 picked up two steals for the Engineers.

MIT continues play against Emmanuel College to-
day in a 6 p.m. home game in Rockwell Cage.

Men's Basketball

Falls to Tufts, Scores Season-Low 67 Points

Tufts University snapped the MIT men's basketball team's five-game winning streak with an 83-67 victory, overcoming a 12-point first-half deficit thanks to bal-
canced scoring in a Saturday afternoon game at Tufts. Each Tufts starter managed a double-digit point total en route to the victory.

MIT was unable to capitalize on a 14-4 run in the first half, highlighted by two Willard J. "Billy" Johnson '09 three-pointers, that gave the Engineers a 32-20 lead. However, Tufts rallied to a halftime tie at 39 apiece on the strength of a Tufts 14-4 run. When play resumed, the game was a sesssion affair until there were only eight minutes remaining. Tufts broke away from MIT with another strong scoring stretch (17 points to MIT's two), and from that lead theats was no less than nine points. The team resmes competition against Western New England in an 8 p.m. home game in Rockwell Cage.

Women's Fencing Falls to Brandeis, Harvard, and BC
In Beantop Tourney

The MIT women's fencing team fell to host Harvard University (25-4), Brandeis University (15-12), and Boston College (15-12) this past Wednesday at the first Beantop Tournament. With the losses, the Engineers' ledger moved to 5-4 on the year.

The epee team had the best outing of the day as it compiled a record of 12-11, including a 5-4 victory over Boston College. Matt L. Greens '09 paced the trio with a 7-2 showing, followed by Jeremy S. Huwitz '08 (3-6) and Gabriel A. Chan '09 (2-7).

The saber squad had its best outing against Brandeis as it posted a 4-5 mark en route to a 16-17 overall re-
cord. Igor Kopylov '09 led the way by winning eight of his nine bouts while Rangarpall R. Nadanur '10 went 2-6. Maximilian L. Brand '11 and Nizaras Makhashvili '09 finished the day with marks of 0-8 and 0-2, respecti-
vely.

The foil team struggled against its local foes as it fin-
ished with an overall tally of 4-23. Spencer R. Sugimoto '08 powered the Engineers with a total of 4-5, while Richard C. LaFrandiere '11 (0-7), Sebastian Castro '04 (6-9), and Benjamnin T. Svita '09 (0-2) rounded out MIT's contingent.

Men's Fencing Team Finishes Fourth at First Beantop Tournament

Competing in the inaugural Beantop Tournament, the MIT men's fencing team fell to host Harvard Uni-
versity (20-7), Brandeis University (19-8), and Boston College (16-11) on Wednesday. With the losses, the Engi-
neers' ledger moved to 4-4 on the year.

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The epee team had the best outing of the day, as it compiled a record of 12-11, including a 5-4 victory over Brandeis. Stephanie H. Shin '10 led the way with a 6-3 mark, while Joanna W. Yong '08 and Nicole J. Koulisis '08 both went 3-6.

Like MIT's epee contingent, the saber squad earned two 5-4 wins as it outdistanced Brandeis and Boston Col-
lege while totaling an 11-16 record. Yusun Chen '08 paced the trio with a 5-4 showing, followed by Laura A. Evans '10 (4-5) and Elena A. Tatarchenko '11 (2-7).

The foil team edged out Boston College, 5-4, en route to a 7-20 overall record. Cordelia S. Link '10 powered the Engineers with a total of 4-5 while Chun Xi '09 contributed a ledger of 3-6. Lindsey C. Graham '10 (0-8) and Jomna G. Caldwell '11 (0-8) rounded out MIT's contingent.

Sports Shorts, Continued

Triumph in the 1,650-yard freestyle (18.56.70).

Diver Dona M. Holbrook '08, the 2005 and 2007 three-meter diving NCAA National Champion, was pit-
ted against the 2006 title-winner and her close friend, Tufts' Kendal Swett, in both the one-meter and three-
mer competitors. Holbrook (47.05) beat Swett (43.06) on the one-meter board, but Swett (31.2) edged out Holbrook (30.89) on the three-meter. Both divers reached NCAA "B" cut qualifying standards on both boards for 11 dives.

MIT will race against Smith College and Wheaton College on Saturday, Dec. 8, in an away meet at 1 p.m.

Jeff Lemieux, DAPER Staff

Women's Swimming

Season-Low 67 Points

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Men’s Swimming Wins 17 of 18 Events at Weekend Invitational

By Jeff Lemieux

The MIT men’s 15th-ranked swimming and diving team won 17 of 18 swimming events en route to a first-place finish at this weekend’s MIT Invitational, held over the course of Friday and Saturday in the Zesiger Pool. The Engineers won the event with a final team score of 1,082.5, beating out Tufts University, which finished with 1,046.5.

Brandeis University (554.5), Bowdoin College (539.5), and Wheaton College (216) rounded out the competing schools.

Laurent Charpentier ’10 was record-breaking for the Cardinal and Gray, winning three individual events and helping five relay teams to decisive victories. Two of Charpentier’s individual times were fast enough to earn NCAA “B” cuts, in the 100-yard (46.37) and 200-yard (1:42.93) freestyle events. He also earned a “B” cut in the 200-yard medley relay along with Jeffrey Y. Zhou ’10, Rosalind Racz ’10 and Luke R. Cummings ’10, as the quartet touched the wall first at 1:34.61.

Charpentier’s other individual win came in the 50-yard freestyle, as he led a 1-2 finish for MIT. This sophomore won the event by clocking in at 21.90 seconds and was followed closely behind by Cummings (21.90) and Zhou (22.02).

Peter J. Wellings ’09 (2:00.81) placed 19th out of more than 30 competitors.}

Eric J. Roselli ’11 swims the men’s 500-yard freestyle event at last weekend’s MIT invitational swim and dive meet. Roselli placed 19th out of more than 30 competitors.

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Tech Defeats WPI 9-3

In NECHA Play, Runs Season Record to 5-0

By Jeff Lemieux

Forward Ryan W. Ballentine ’09 scored two goals and added three assists to help MIT ease past Worcester Polytechnic Institute, 9-3, in Northeastern Collegiate Hockey Association action on Friday night at the NorthStar Youth Forum. With the victory, the Engineers moved to 5-0, marking the second consecutive year in which the Cardinal and Gray has won its first five games of the season.

Tech’s leading scorer, Nicholas R. LaBounty ’09, contributed a goal and three assists to push his season total to 15 points on seven goals and eight assists. Through five. Sepp then garnered top honors in the butterfly, while Hu, George J. Rossick ’11, and Trace U. Sauter ’11 earned third-, fourth-, and fifth-place finishes.

MIT also received first-place finishes from Dobson in the 500-yard (4:42.53) and 1,650-yard (16:32.47) freestyle events, Kao in the 400-yard individual medley (4:17.67), Zhou in the 100-yard backstroke (54.21), and Hu in the 200-yard butterfly (2:00.81).

Head Coach Dawn B. Gerken could not have been more pleased with the result, but she was perhaps even more satisfied with the effort and determination of her team.

“This was an absolutely phenomenal meet for this group of athletes, and the win in this competition is huge for this program,” she said. “Every single team member stepped up and contributed, and they all deserve to be recognized for this victory.”

MIT will take to the water one last time before the winter break, as it will travel to Norton, Mass., on Saturday, Dec. 8, to take on New England Women’s and Men’s Athletic Conference for Wheaton at 1 p.m.