Beloved neighborhood ice cream store Toscanini's is back in business as of Friday, Jan. 25 after paying off part of its $167,000 tax debt and making a schedule to repay the rest. Much of the money came from donations made by loyal customers—a situation one tax official called "unusual to the point of unprecedented."

Toscanini's was seized on Thurs-
day, Jan. 17 by the Massachusetts Department of Revenue because of outstanding tax debt that had accumulated since 2000. A few days after the seizure, a Toscanini's em-
ployee created a Web site at www.
ieves.com asking for donations to help pay the tax bill, the fund-
raiser met its goal of $25,000 for a "down payment" by Friday, Jan. 25. On Jan. 26, the site reported that it had raised $31,406.85.

Toscanini's made the $25,000 down payment and negotiated a re-
payment plan with the Department of Revenue, owner Gus Rancatore said on the Web site, and the store reopened on the afternoon of Fri-
day, Jan. 25.

Rancatore said he was surprised by the overwhelming support he had received. "It was dumbfounding," he said. "It was one of those freaky Internet things." Although he said that he's still thinking about ways to thank the contributors, his blog post announcing the fundraising success said that "we plan to post the first names of over 300 people." Although January is traditionally a slow month for ice cream sales, business has been brisker than nor-
mal, Rancatore said. "Our folks in collections really..." Toscanini's, Page 13

With Supporters’ Help, Tosci’s Reopens
By Michael McGrew-Herdog

The Senate Finance Committee, increasingly concerned about the rising cost of higher education, demand-
ed detailed information last Thursday from the nation's 136 wealthiest col-
eges and universities on how they raised tuition over the last decade, gave out financial aid, and managed and spent their endowments.

The committee also asked about the substantial and increasing amounts paid to college presidents and endowment managers.

The move came as a record 76 colleges and universities achieved endowment size of $1 billion or more in the last fiscal year, according to a report released this week. Harvard's endowment, the largest, grew 20 per-
cent, to $34.6 billion, while Yale's, the second largest, grew 25 percent, to $22.5 billion.

"Tuition has gone up, college presidents' salaries have gone up, and endowments continue to go up and up," said Senator Charles E. Grassley of Iowa, the ranking Republican on the committee. "We need to start

As Federal Research Funds Decrease, More Scientists Leave U.S. to Work Overseas
By Madhusmita Bora and Becky Bowers

Increased competition and dis-
mantled federal funding have made it tougher for scientists to rely on the grants that once generously sup-
ported labs, research and training of future scientists. The shortage comes at a time when corporate research
facilities, such as Bell Labs, have largely disappeared. The stagnant, and in some cases, dwindling money
pool has forced many scientists to bid the profession goodbye. Growing
numbers are joining the flight overseas to more "research-friendly" countries such as China, South Ko-
rea, Singapore, and India.

One-quarter of the 700,000 stu-
dents who left China between 1978 and 2003 in many cases to study
in the United States have returned
home. In India, about 60,000 high

A Novel
LAP Goal:
Facial
Hair
By Jeff Gun

It's hard to think of anything that has twisted in the winds of pop-culture quite like the great American musta-
tache. Commen-
ted by pruning and parodied, what was once the crown jewel of the '70s and the favored scion of Tom Selleck and Burt Reynolds is today a kitschy-
creepy accessory that may or may not be making a comeback.

To Brian J. Pepper '98, it seemed to be an ideal Independent Activities
Period project.

Pepper, who is sponsoring a month-long mustache-growing com-
petition that culminates in a public judging this Sunday, said he was es-
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Campus Life

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Web site: men with terry-cloth sideburns and tapes-
ty-beards. "People spend years growing these outrageous beards," he
said. "But it's slightly more ambitious than what we're aiming for."

What, exactly, the participants in MITstache are aiming for is hard to say, partly because there are several different judging categories including one for women and partly because nobody takes facial hair seriously.

On a recent Sunday afternoon, an appropriately sacrilegious gang of about 13
men and women drawn mostly from the East Campus undergraduate dor-

features

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The Tech's Oldest and Largest Newspaper

Registration Day Next Monday

A Novel

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The Weather

Today: Rain in the morning, 1°F (−17°C)
Toughest: Brrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrr...
Fed Is Poised to Deepen Its Rate Cut
By Edmund L. Andrews

WASHINGTON

Chairman Ben S. Bernanke of the Federal Reserve is expected to cut short-term interest rates by 1/4 percentage point at its meeting on Wednesday. The Associated Press

White House revenues from the sale of political stock by John McCain have exceeded those of Barack Obama. The New York Times

White House Discusses Iran
By Helene Cooper

WASHINGTON

The White House said Thursday that it has not asked the CIA to make a recommendation on whether to move a senior Iranian diplomat to the International Court of Justice. The Associated Press

White House Criticizes Envoy Over Iran
By Helene Cooper

WASHINGTON

The White House on Thursday questioned whether a senior U.S. diplomat is doing enough to ensure that Iran complies with U.N. demands on its nuclear program. The Associated Press

White House Received Offer to Sell Oil
By Helene Cooper

WASHINGTON

The White House declined to comment on reports that the Obama campaign was considering an offer to sell crude oil to the United States. The Associated Press

White House Releases Minutes of Meeting with Mottaki
By Michael Cooper

WASHINGTON

The White House released the minutes of a meeting between President Bush and Manouchehr Mottaki, the Iranian foreign minister. The Associated Press

White House Seeks to Change Tone of Immigration Debate
By Michael Cooper

WASHINGTON

The White House is seeking to change the tone of the immigration debate after the Senate approved a 1-year extension of federal funding for immigration enforcement. The Associated Press

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Mc Cain Beats Out Romney in Florida, Giuliani Distant Third

By Michael Cooper and Megan Thorne

Tampa, Fla.

Sen. John McCain edged out Mitt Romney to win the delegate-rich Flori- da primary on Tuesday night, solidifying his transformation from left-fur- nace candidate to a front-runner and dealing a devastating blow to the pres- idential ambitions of Rudolph W. Giuliani, whose distant front he threatened to douse by handing him a defeat.

McCain’s narrow victory showed he could win in a state where only Republi- cans were allowed to vote — not just in states like New Hampshire and South Carolina, where his earlier victories were fueled in part by inde- pendent voters. And in Florida, even a slim victory is sweet. The state awards its 57 delegates, the most of any con- test yet, on winner-take-all basis.

With 73 percent of the precincts reporting, McCain had 36 percent of the vote, Romney 35 percent, Giuliani 15 percent, and Mike Huckabee 14 percent.

In a concession speech, Giuliani sounded very much like a defeated candidate, saying the fight for his ide- als would continue despite the election result.

“Elections are about a lot more than candidates,” he said. “Elections are about fighting for a cause larger than ourselves. They are about identi- fying the great challenges of our times and proposing new solutions.”

McCain now seems headed into a two-person race with Romney. The two have shown little affection for each other, and they signal a willingness in Florida to attack intensely as they struggle to appeal to the con- servative and evangelical voters who form the backbone of the Republican Party.

Romney, in St. Petersburg, sounded like a candidate who intended to battle on. He continued to call for change in Washington, and got in what sounded like another swipe at McCain when he said America needed a president “who has actually had a job in the real economy.”

As he tries to stop McCain, Rom- ney is trying to harness the weakening economy to his advantage by empha- sizing his background in business and saying he has the ability to lead the na- tion back to prosperity. McCain has built his campaign around national se- curity themes, playing off his military background and support for the war in Iraq.

Romney has sought to portray McCain as a Democrat in disguise, pointing to his stances on immigra- tion, climate change and campaign finance regulation, all of which depart from Republican orthodoxy. McCain’s campaign has sought to label Romney as unprincipled and willing to adjust his views on issues like abortion for political gain.

Both of them now face the chal- lenge of rallying the party establish- ment and grass-roots conservatives behind them — or at least not around the other.

While most of the attention in Florida was on the Republicans, Democratic voters gave Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton a victory in a virtu- ally uncontested race. The Democratic Party had stripped the state of its dele- gates as a punishment for moving its primary earlier in the year, and the leading candidates refused from campaigning there.

McCain, of Arizona, emerges from Florida with an opportunity to get back to where he was at the beginning of this roller-coaster of an election sea- son: the anointed front-runner.
China Cracks Down on Dissidents As 2008 Olympic Games Approach

By Jim Yardley

WASHINGTON

When state security agents burst into his apartment on Dec. 27, Hu Jia was charting on Skype, the Internet-based telephone system. He’s computer was his most potent tool.

He disseminated information about human rights cases, peasant protests, and other politically touchy topics even though he often lived under de facto house arrest.

Hu, 34, and his wife, Zeng Jinyan, are human rights advocates who spent much of 2006 restricted to their apartment in a complex with the unlikely name of Bo Bo Freedom City. She blogged about life under detention, while he videotaped a documentary titled “Prisoner in Freedom City.” Their surreal existence seemed to reflect an official uncertainty about how, and whether, to shut them up.

That ended on Dec. 27. Hu was dragged away on charges of subverting state power while Zeng was bathing their newborn daughter, Quan. Telephone and Internet connections to the apartment were severed. Mother and daughter are now under house arrest. Quan, barely two months old, is probably the youngest political prisoner in China.

For human rights advocates and Chinese dissidents, Hu’s detention is the most telling example of what they describe as a broadening crackdown on dissent as Beijing prepares to stage the Olympic Games in August.

In recent months, several dissidents have been jailed, including a former factory worker in northeastern China who collected 10,000 signatures after posting an online petition titled “We Want Human Rights, Not the Olympics.”

“This is a coordinated cleansing campaign,” said Teng Biao, a legal expert who has known Hu since 2006. “All the troublemakers — including potential troublemakers — are being silenced before the Olympic Games.”

With fewer than 200 days before the Aug. 8 opening ceremonies, Beijing is in the full throes of preparations on dissent as Beijing prepares to stage the Olympic Games in August. In recent months, several dissidents have been jailed, including a former factory worker in northeastern China who collected 10,000 signatures after posting an online petition titled “We Want Human Rights, Not the Olympics.”

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**Letters To The Editor**

**Opinion Policy**

Editorials are the official opinion of The Tech. They are written by the editorial board, which consists of Chair Michael McGraw-Herdeg, Editor in Chief Angeline Wong, Managing Editor Austin Chu. Opinion Editor Adriya Kohli, and Contributing Editor Rosa Cao.

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

Letters to the editor, columns, and editorial cartoons are written by individuals and represent the opinion of the author, not necessarily the editorial board. Letters are opinion articles submitted by members of the MIT or local community and have the author's name in italics. Columns without italics are written by Tech staff.

To Reach Us

The Tech's telephone number is (617) 253-1541. E-mail is the easiest way to reach any member of our staff. If you are unsure whom to contact, send mail to eic@the-tech.mit.edu, and it will be directed to the appropriate person. You can reach the editor in chief by e-mailing eic@the-tech.mit.edu. Please send press releases, requests for coverage, and information about errors that call for correction to news@the-tech.mit.edu. Letters to the editor should be sent to letters@the-tech.mit.edu.

**MIT Serves Students, Not RIAA**

Natasha Plotkin’s article ("RIAA Sends Institute 19 Settlement Letters Allowing Re-fringement," Jan. 23, 2008) mentions that one of the 23 letters sent by the RIAA in May 2007 was unable to be tied to an individual student. This could be improved to 23 of 23 if Infor...
And You Thought Your Bridesmaid Dress Was Bad?

By Jillian A. Berry

MOVIE REVIEW ★★★

Heigl a Perfect Fit in ‘27 Dresses’

By Sarah Dupuis

CONCERT LISTINGS

Twenty-Nine Days Means Fewer Days for Concerts

By Sarah Dupuis

MOVIE REVIEW

Heigl a Perfect Fit in ‘27 Dresses’

By Jillian A. Berry

Arts Editor

By Jillian A. Berry

27 Dresses

Directed by Anne Fletcher
Written by Abi Stone McKenna
Starring: Katherine Heigl, James Marsden, and Emily VanCamp
Rated PG-13

Now Playing

R

omantic comedies may be formulaic, and they may not bring anything new to the art of cinema. The plots may be contrived, and the people in them may be so good-looking that even if the plot were realistic, you would know it is still a fantasy world. Much of the film’s major moments may be compressed into a two-minute montage set to pop music. But at the end of the day, romantic comedies can be entertaining. Sure, I like it when a film makes me think and contributes to my understanding of the world, but I’m also perfectly happy when a film entertains. Just like people watching sports want to see other people fulfill their dreams in an amusing manner, romantic comedies are a girl’s (and sometimes a guy’s) dream romance played out on the big screen. “27 Dresses” is certainly entertaining.

The plot is pretty simple. Jane (played by Katherine Heigl) is a compulsive planner who thinks it is her duty to take care of everyone around her, including her boss (Edward Burns) who she also happens to love. Unfortunately, he only sees her as his assistant, and when Jane’s beautiful little sister (Malin Akerman) comes to town, he falls for her. Now, Jane, who is a bridesmaid 27 times (hence the title) has to plan her sister’s wedding to the man she also happens to love. All the while, Kevin (James Marsden), a man who hates weddings, yet writes about them for a newspaper, is questioning Jane’s infatuations with weddings while writing pieces on Jane and her sister. Needless to say, romance and humor pervade you can probably guess the ending now.

One of the best features of “27 Dresses” is that it involves so many weddings, and not from the bridal perspective but from the wedding party’s— in particular, the maid of honor’s. These wedding days are not the happiest days of Jane’s life, though she does love weddings and doesn’t mind wearing some of the most ridiculous dresses known to man. Exceptionally funny is the montage where all of the brides tell Jane that if she just shortens her dress she can wear it again, when we all know that no matter how nice the bridesmaid dress, no one ever wears them again.

However, perhaps what is most amazing about this film is Heigl’s ability to take on the persona of someone who could be overlooked by her boss, father, and spoiled sister: I mean, let’s be honest, Katherine Heigl is gorgeous, but in the movie, you actually accept her as some-one who fades into the background. Some of this is due to her darker hair, but mostly it is her acting. You see her struggle to be supportive of her sister while her own heart is breaking. And you squirm at how awkward she can be when near her boss. While in reality Heigl certainly doesn’t mind speaking in front of a crowd, her character would shrink away from such a responsibility (unlike, of course, she had to make a toast at a wedding).

In addition to Heigl’s performance, Marsden gives an understated yet entertaining performance as a man who doesn’t like weddings but must go to them for work. He never makes the huge and unrealistically romantic gesture, but the audience falls in love with him gradually so that by the end the people in the theater were clapping. Sure, the movie is no masterpiece, but it’s a nice break from reality, and at the very least, will make you realize that your bridesmaid dress could have been so much worse.

Jane (played by Katherine Heigl) tries on her 27 bridesmaid dresses for news writer Kevin (James Marsden).
### Pseudoscience by Daniel Klein-Marcuschamer

**Figure 25.** The graph shows the awkwardness index (AI) for a Bostonian traveler to different cities. The index measures the relative discomfort a traveler experiences because of differences in factors such as food, weather, etc. compared to that of Boston. While the language barrier is significant in Tokyo due to lack of English speakers, that in Paris is equally large due to residents who choose to speak exclusively in French. Surprisingly, the language barrier is notable in Waco, with the Texan accent being mainly to blame. The marked increase in food-Al between the neighboring cities San Diego and Tijuana has been explained by Moetazuma’s Revenge. Although not evident from the graph, the effects of jet-lag are pervasive, and exacerbate all other AI factors.

### Sudoku

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 16.

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

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### Dilbert® by Scott Adams

Doonesbury by Garry Trudeau
ACROSS
1. Diplomat’s asset
5. Lake in northern Italy
9. Skater’s edge
14. Woody Guthrie’s boy
15. D.C. office of note
16. Desert refuges
17. Enjoy a book
18. Reign
19. Portents
20. Day/MacRae musical
23. Blackjack
24. Two-finger sign
25. DDE’s opponent
26. Heart rhythm
29. Harmless cyst
32. Blackjack
35. Organic compound
42. Expression of derision
43. Assistants
44. Weekday abbr.
45. Canine rest stop?
46. Catch some rays
49. Operated

DOWAN
1. Edible tubers
2. Sports place
3. Part of a vise
4. Fuss
5. Eye membrane
6. Prefertilization seeds
7. Mauritania neighbor
8. Cassini of fashion
9. Knitted shoe
10. Ewe’s offspring
11. On the briny
12. Declare untrue
13. Last letter of words?
21. Of sheep
22. More fit
26. Actress Arlene
27. Ten-percent donation
28. Mine find
29. Lumber
30. Sea eagle
31. Snares
32. Verse
33. Part of A.D.
34. Cellar choice
35. Anger
36. Drill
37. 1954 Oscar winner
38. Vertical post
39. Bern’s river
40. Animals of a region
41. Tyrannical leader
42. Drill
43. Portents
44. Weekday abbr.
45. Toot?
46.心愿
47. Series of ranked stages
48. Vertical post
49. Operated
50. Middle Eastern gn.
53. Willie Nelson classic
58. Close in poetry
59. Surrounded by
60. Sisters
61. Snow unit
62. __ en scene
63. Toward shelter
64. President before Polk
65. Hip ending?
66. Lemony

*** New Class, Spring 2008 ***

20.020
Introduction to Biological Engineering Design

Learn how to design and build living organisms that solve real world problems.

9 units, T/R 11:30a - 1p and W 2-5p

No prerequisites.

Instructors: Drew Endy & Natalie Kuldell
**By Charles Lin**

*So it turns out MIT gives you four weeks in January to “improve yourself.” Well, ain’t that nice. This year, I wanted to do something really special with my Independent Activities Period (other than go skiing). I wasn’t about to learn Java or take a house course; instead, I wanted to do something really memorable. I wanted to tackle my fears head on and put myself out on a limb. Mainly, I wanted to do something outrageous enough that I’ll never get taken seriously again in my life. At first I was thinking ice SCUBA diving. This is how my Joke IAP project started. But then three little words sneaked into my mind and turned my IAP into a Mon- ster: Three innocently devastating words: Open Mic Night.

Next to slam poetry, Open Mic Night is quite possibly the world’s most awkward so- cial setting. Random strangers get together and pour their hearts out over the subtle strum- ming of simple chords and sips of lattes and brews. Earnest ladies get on stage and whisper quietly about social injustices, men belt Ryan Adams covers out of tune. It’s as quaintish as you could ever dream. Like the existentialist Sartre said, Hell is Open Mic Night.

Put it this way, if I could make it through an Open Mic Night, impossible was nothing. But I wanted to make it harder than that. I couldn’t just do it once; that would be over in a nervous flash. I had to make it a sustained chal- lenge. I hashed out the terms with some friends and came up with an arrangement: I had to at- tend a week’s worth of Open Mic Nights. My mission: to perform on stage. I learned mainly by error. The trials were even harder. The first time I got on stage to sing my novelty songs, I stomped out my intro and flew through my songs be- fore I even knew it. My performance was good enough to garner a few hoots and one back- handed compliment. By the second night, time began to slow down. I was able to bathe with the crowd in a non-toward fashion, and be- lieve it or not, for a moment I really enjoyed being on stage. By the third night, I had it down to an art. I learned how to turn sound checking into a comedic monologue. I learned the art of giving short and sweet introductions to songs. I was a rocker and I rocked out. Like George Costanza, I always left them wanting more.

And so it hit me: I kinda liked being an Open Mic artist.

I wondered, when does a joke become more

than a joke? More importantly, when do you give in and realize that you’re the punch line? At what point does my buddy Sam running the Charlottesville marathon in short shorts to raise money for Dick Cheney’s retirement fund become something more than a horror-fy- ing spectacle? I really don’t know. But what I do know is that I kind of really liked doing Open Mic Night as a joke, and even scariest, I think part of me may have liked it genuinely. It was exhausting pretending to be an Open Mic artist, but it had its moments. About three out of 10 musicians were either some profes- sionals or way too thought they thought they and I found myself really digging their work. It made me wonder: What brings some- one to do this seriously? There’s no denying that being on stage is a rush, but having been on stages before, Open Mic was something different. Maybe it was the egotistical aspect of it all. It wasn’t that people were here to see you, it was more that each person who got on stage was there to test their own courage and creativity. It’s probably why “American Idol” is so popular. Everyone thinks deep down ins- ide that they have “it.” Very few people actually get on stage and find out for sure, for in never trying, one can perpetuate the dream a little longer and always wonder. What if?

In going through with my Joke Open Mic IAP Tour 2008, I undoubtedly found out that I didn’t have “it.” But that was probably the best part. Finding out you’ll never be a rock star can be a real relief. Because after all that is nothing going wrong in your life or not realizing that there’s a middle ground, a strange gray place in bars and coffee shops inhabited by ordinary people more talented than you ever imagined. It’s a place where for a few minutes every night, anyone can get on stage and give their best shot. A place where once you get on stage and swallow down all the butterflies, you too can rock out.

See you at Open Mic Night.

---

**Joke Open Mic IAP Tour 2008 Statistics**

- Novelty songs played: 13
- Drinks consumed: 12 (2 received, 2 bought for others)
- Compliments received: 6 (3 backhanded)
- MySpaced pages received: 3
- Gigs offered: 1 (offered through)
- Best part of doing this story: When Gmail hears you talking about open mic, it sends you an ad asking “Are you emo? Take the emo

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**Impossible is nothing when you’re surrounded by pictures of bunnies.**

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**By Michael Lin**

*If fashionability were measured in terms of slope or heart rate, I would be a flat-liner all around. (Evidently, the same holds true for my ability to form metaphors.) I track it back to my kindergarten graduation, when all of the other boys were wearing mini-suits complete with the tie that I could only afford to do so many loads of laundry, and I can only hang so many clothes in my cabinet — I mean, my dorm room. Yes, I hang dry my clothes, and unless you have frequent company that might be pass for "cute" rather than "ridicu- lously inclined." Frankly, I miss those days.

*Serious inquiries need not inquire.*

*Ask a TA!* A new advice column in The Tech

Real TA’s tackling life problems they’re unqualified to handle.

Email Inquiries to: Ask a TA!@tech.mit.edu

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**STAFF COLUMNIST**

By Michael Lin

*As you might imagine, I am not the fashionably inclined. If fashionability was measured in terms of slope or heart rate, I would be a flat-liner all around. (Evidently, the same holds true for my ability to form metaphors.) I track it back to my kindergarten graduation, when all of the other boys were wearing mini-suits complete with the tie that I could only afford to do so many loads of laundry, and I can only hang so many clothes in my cabinet — I mean, my dorm room. Yes, I hang dry my clothes, and unless you have frequent company that might be pass for "cute" rather than "ridicu- lously inclined." Frankly, I miss those days. Never hear "College Students Say the Darnedest Things" accompany-

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**Ask a TA!**

A new advice column in The Tech

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**Romantic Conundrums, Financial Maladies, Moral Dilemmas, Social Morasses, Ethical Quandaries? Got pressing life questions that you want inadequately answered?**

Ask a TA! email: Ask a TA!@tech.mit.edu

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**Brouhaha Rhythm**

Pistol Whipped by the Fashion Police

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**By Charles Lin**

*So it turns out MIT gives you four weeks in January to “improve yourself.” Well, ain’t that nice. This year, I wanted to do something really special with my Independent Activities Period (other than go skiing). I wasn’t about to learn Java or take a house course; instead, I wanted to do something really memorable. I wanted to tackle my fears head on and put myself out on a limb. Mainly, I wanted to do something outrageous enough that I’ll never get taken seriously again in my life. At first I was thinking ice SCUBA diving. This is how my Joke IAP project started. But then three little words sneaked into my mind and turned my IAP into a Mon- ster: Three innocently devastating words: Open Mic Night.

Next to slam poetry, Open Mic Night is quite possibly the world’s most awkward so- cial setting. Random strangers get together and pour their hearts out over the subtle strum- ming of simple chords and sips of lattes and brews. Earnest ladies get on stage and whisper quietly about social injustices, men belt Ryan Adams covers out of tune. It’s as quaintish as you could ever dream. Like the existentialist Sartre said, Hell is Open Mic Night.

Put it this way, if I could make it through an Open Mic Night, impossible was nothing. But I wanted to make it harder than that. I couldn’t just do it once; that would be over in a nervous flash. I had to make it a sustained chal- lenge. I hashed out the terms with some friends and came up with an arrangement: I had to at- tend a week’s worth of Open Mic Nights. My mission: to perform on stage. I learned mainly by error. The trials were even harder. The first time I got on stage to sing my novelty songs, I stomped out my intro and flew through my songs be- fore I even knew it. My performance was good enough to garner a few hoots and one back- handed compliment. By the second night, time began to slow down. I was able to bathe with the crowd in a non-toward fashion, and be- lieve it or not, for a moment I really enjoyed being on stage. By the third night, I had it down to an art. I learned how to turn sound checking into a comedic monologue. I learned the art of giving short and sweet introductions to songs. I was a rocker and I rocked out. Like George Costanza, I always left them wanting more.

And so it hit me: I kinda liked being an Open Mic artist.

I wondered, when does a joke become more

than a joke? More importantly, when do you give in and realize that you’re the punch line? At what point does my buddy Sam running the Charlottesville marathon in short shorts to raise money for Dick Cheney’s retirement fund become something more than a horror-fy- ing spectacle? I really don’t know. But what I do know is that I kind of really liked doing Open Mic Night as a joke, and even scariest, I think part of me may have liked it genuinely. It was exhausting pretending to be an Open Mic artist, but it had its moments. About three out of 10 musicians were either some profes- sionals or way too thought they thought they and I found myself really digging their work. It made me wonder: What brings some- one to do this seriously? There’s no denying that being on stage is a rush, but having been on stages before, Open Mic was something different. Maybe it was the egotistical aspect of it all. It wasn’t that people were here to see you, it was more that each person who got on

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I believe that Senator Baucus's and Grassley's intentions may be admirable," said Robert J. Birgeneau, chancellor of the University of California, Berkeley. "But understanding university finances is an extremely complex matter, especially in public colleges and universities." Berkeley's endowment is roughly $3 billion.

Henry S. Bienen, president of Northwestern University, in Evanston, Ill., said that while he believed that putting more information into the open "will help eliminate many myths and misunderstandings," he rejected the proposal that universities be required to spend 5 percent of their endowment assets each year.

"Universities are not like foundations," Dr. Bienen said. "They have operating budgets which they cannot easily adjust with the ups and downs of markets. They cannot easily turn off spigots." Northwesterns, thanks to a recent cash infusion, now has a nearly $7 billion endowment.

University officials noted that an economic downturn would reduce the returns on endowments while creating more demand for financial aid. "People have got used to the last few years of wonderful endowment growth," Dr. Bienen added. "It does not always happen."

Lyunn Munson, an adjunct re- search fellow at the Center for College Affordability and Productivity and a vocal critic of college spending practices, said the committee's request was "unprecedented but important, because colleges and universities have kept endowment spending secret for so long.

"Parents, donors and all taxpayers deserve to know how tax-free endowment funds are being spent," Ms. Munson said.

Although the Senate letter is not a subpoena, a spokeswoman for the committee said that it was rare for a nonprofit entity not to cooperate with a request for information.

College tuition has been rising faster than inflation and colleges have adopted complicated aid programs and discounts that have made the pricing of an undergraduate education at an elite college as complicated and varied as the pricing of airline seats. Most colleges have far lower endowments and charge less than the ones the committee is addressing.

Did you know that the Museum of Science hosts rehearsal dinners, weddings, post-wedding brunches, and more? With endless entertainment options, spectacular views of the Boston skyline, and the unparalleled cuisine and impeccable service of Wolfgang Puck Catering, the Museum of Science is a delightfully unique setting able to accommodate the fresh and the unusual.

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STOP BY OUR BOOTH FOR A CHANCE TO WIN AN IPOD NANO!

DATE: February 4, 2008
TIME: 10:00am - 3:30pm
PLACE: Rockwell Cage, MIT Campus
Eta Kappa Nu, the honor society for Electrical Engineering and Computer Science students, held its annual Student Project Expo yesterday afternoon in the Vannevar Bush Room.

(clockwise from right)

Patrick R. Barragan ’08 explains the navigation methods of “Tour Bot” to an Expo attendee. The project aims to build a robot capable of providing autonomous tours of the MIT campus.

Kevin Y. Wang ’08 plays with the “Conductor Hero” project. The game plays a pre-recorded song, following the conductor’s direction much like an orchestra would.

Joshua A. Horowitz ’10 (right) tries out “SNGH Is Not Guitar Hero.” The game, created by Rhys A. Hiltner ’09 (center) and Ruth A. Shewmon ’08 (not pictured), allows players to use a standard electric guitar.

Praveen Subramani ’09 (top) and Xiao Xiao ’09 (center) explain the operation of their project, “Pittura Viva,” to EECS Professor Seth Teller (not pictured) as his daughter Sophia (bottom) plays with the program’s interface.

Photography by Omari Stephens
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News Briefs, Continued

University’s Faculty of Arts and Sciences offers a 100 megabyte quota which applies towards both stored files and e-mail messages. Zacheiss said that the quota increase would probably not, in the short term, require MIT to buy any additional storage space. The athena.mit.edu AFS cell has 12 terabytes of available space, and about 8 terabytes are currently in use, Zacheiss said.

The disk quota was last increased in 2004, when it was doubled from 500 megabytes to 1 gigabyte. The quota for e-mail messages stored on MIT’s IMAP servers will remain at 1 gigabyte; and the quota for the win.mit.edu WinAthena distributed file system will remain at 2 gigabytes, Zacheiss said. The Athena network infrastructure has evolved substantially since the last quota increase, and Zacheiss said that the four-year delay between this increase and the last was in part caused by a desire to wait for several infrastructure changes to settle.

In 1989, Athena users were allotted only 1.2 megabytes, or slightly less than could be fit on a high-density floppy disk. This limit has since increased — see the table to the right for a history.

—Michael McGraw-Hering

Athena Quotas Over Time

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date quota took effect</th>
<th>Quota size</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sept. 1, 1989</td>
<td>1.2 MB</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 1, 1992</td>
<td>2.2 MB</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug. 20, 1993</td>
<td>5 MB</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug. 4, 1994</td>
<td>10 MB</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 4, 1996</td>
<td>15 MB</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug. 13, 1997</td>
<td>15 MB</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov 17, 1998</td>
<td>30 MB</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug. 13, 1999</td>
<td>50 MB</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 17, 2000</td>
<td>50 MB</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug. 15, 2001</td>
<td>100 MB</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug. 15, 2002</td>
<td>200 MB</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 27, 2003</td>
<td>500 MB</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 30, 2004</td>
<td>1 GB</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb. 5, 2008</td>
<td>1.5 GB</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Garry P. Zacheiss ’00, Information Services & Technology

The Athena disk quota is set to increase by 50 percent from 1 gigabyte to 1.5 gigabytes on Feb. 5, 2008. After the increase takes effect next Tuesday, the quota will be 1,250 times its size 19 years ago.
Toscanini’s, from Page 1

said that this was a first, in terms of a community fundraising drive to pay off a proportion of a tax debt,” said Robert R. Bliss, a spokesman for the Department of Revenue.

Toscanini’s failed to pay some of its taxes between 2000 and 2005 because the business was poorly organized, Rancatore told The Tech last week. In 2002, the shop was closed for one day because of approximately $76,000 of debt; at the time, Rancatore negotiated an agreement to repay the back taxes and reopen the store. But over the next six years, the debt grew, until the business was closed again. Bliss said that the Department of Revenue seizes about 80 businesses a year. Seizure is typically the last step the department takes to recover debt, he said. After a business is seized, its possessions are auctioned off, generally raising only “pennies on the dollar” and rarely covering the business’s tax debt, he said. The Department of Revenue prefers to negotiate re-payment agreements, as it did with Toscanini’s, because a running business is more likely to be able to earn income that can be used to pay off those debts. Bliss said that he could not disclose details of the agreement under which Toscanini’s is repaying its taxes and has been allowed to reopen.

Bliss said that the Department of Revenue would be closely monitoring how Toscanini’s followed its repayment plan.

“They need to make this one work,” Bliss said.

Toscanini’s Reopens, Starts to Pay $167,000 Tax Bill

Jen Zink is back at work on Monday, Jan. 28 after Toscanini’s was closed for several days due to nonpayment of taxes.

makeKillerApp() {
    for(x =0; x <= kapp; ++x) {
        if(x.use(PICUP)) {
            nextKApp=true;
            break;
        }
    }
}

if(nextKApp) {
    y = 1;
    y += Up to $50,000 in Cash and Prizes
    y += godmode;
}
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February 4, Rockwell Cage

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  Monday February 4, 2008, 6:30-9:00pm
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- **Intel Tech Talk**
  Tuesday February 5, 2008, 11:30am-1:00pm
  Location: 36-426

- **Start-Up Panel**
  Tuesday February 5, 2008, 6:00-8:00pm
  Location: U-270
  Interested in entrepreneurship? Come and hear company representatives from high-tech start-ups who have successfully launched their careers in biotech, energy, and other industries!

- **IT Business Panel**
  Thursday February 7, 2008, 7:00-9:00pm
  Location: 6-120
  Come hear from IT employees at top financial firms! Learn about how you can apply your technical skills to a rewarding career that exposes you to the latest technology and market environment. A panel session will be followed by networking. Food and a raffle [iPod Touch and other prizes!] will be provided.

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- Sensata Technologies
- Shell Oil Company
- 4S Life Sciences
- DRW Trading Group
- Sun Microsystems
- International Gaming Technology
Falling Research Dollars Mean Declining U.S. Competitiveness

Research, from Page 1

skilled workers have returned home since 2003. The brain-drain trend threatens not only America’s dominace as the research and innovation mecca, academics say. It also jeopardizes U.S. businesses seeking cutting-edge products to sell. Less innovation in universities means fewer startups and less commercialization of products.

“Manifest trends such as the Internet, Doppler radar, and laser technology have been built on government investment,” said Matthew Kazmierczak, vice president of research and industry analysts at AEA, a trade group for the high-tech industry. “Other countries are trying to unseat us as the technology leader and we need to work hard and compete.”

Between 1999 and 2003, research and development performed by U.S. companies abroad jumped 72 percent, according to Josh James, senior research analyst at AEA.

“Main reason is companies are following the talent,” James said. “There’s also the incentives from foreign governments luring these companies.”

Last year, Microsoft chairman Bill Gates addressed a congressional hearing and stressed the need for incentives in the United States, considered the most attractive scientific research environment in the 1980s, is now the 17th most competitive country for innovation among the 40 industrialized nations.

Meanwhile, countries such as Japan, China, and Korea increased their spending in that same period. “It never has been this bad and people are getting fed up here,” said Rudolf Jaenisch, a biology professor at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. “The present administration has been the best recruiting tool for other countries.”

While the United States continues to lead the world in total dollars spent on research, the current funder is over the flattening of federal support that began in 2004. From 1999 to 2005, for example, funds for the National Institutes of Health doubled each year. “Which means if you factor inflation, the buying power of NIH is below what it used to be in 2003,” said Norka Ruiz Bravo, NIH deputy director for extramural research.

While the dollars available remain stagnant, the number of applicants has increased. “More and more people are out for a slice of the same pie and it’s much more competitive and researchers are feeling the pain,” Bravo said.

The dip came at a time when countries such as Israel were devoting 4.9 percent of its GDP to research and development, far ahead of the United States’ 0.8 percent contribution in 2004. Last year, China announced a 15-year plan to bolster its universities and boost science, technology, and innovation. The United States, considered the most attractive location in the 1980s, is now the 17th most competitive country for research and development tax incentives, according to AEA.

“Since the early 1990s, the tax credit for R&D faced a series of annual renewals and budgetary problems,” said AEA’s Kazmierczak.

Meanwhile, other countries copied the incentives and offered better deals, he said. China today has a permanent 150 percent tax deduction for R&D expenditures. The tax incentives in the United States expired in December.

The ripple effect of diminished funding is felt across all scientific disciplines.

Already, the United States’ dominance in high-energy physics was compromised when projects such as the superconducting super collider were scrapped in the 1990s. A machine similar to the super collider is now being built by the European Organization for Nuclear Research near Geneva.

In the biomedical field, estimates of real funding rates are below 10 percent. This is less than half what it was five years ago, said Jinyoung Kim, co-director of the Genomics Institute at the University of Pennsylvania. Funding agencies are concentrating on larger grants for teams and groups, he said.

“But that does come at the cost of individual research projects,” Kim said. “For the more senior scientists, Europe, and more recently, Asia, have more stable funding environments.”

Declining U.S. Competitiveness
Falling Research Dollars Mean Declining U.S. Competitiveness

Join The Tech!
MIT Arab Students Speak in Jerusalem, Promote Education

By Matthew Kalman

JERUSALEM

The two MIT students stood in the eastern surroundings of a 150-year-old high school in the historic Old City of Jerusalem, pitching a high-tech future that reached across cultural and national boundaries.

In the first gathering of its kind here Wednesday, Jan. 23, Ibrahim K. Kanan ’08 and Rameez A. Qudsi G urged more than 200 Palestinian students, segregated by gender in keeping with Muslim tradition, to dream big and apply to elite Western colleges like the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Not only will education transform their lives, they told the students, but their presence on campus will enrich the schools and their communities.

“We don’t see enough students like us on campuses,” Kanan, a 21-year-old mechanical engineering senior who was born in New Jersey to Palestinian parents, said as he and Qudsi guided the enthusiastic audience from 10 high schools through MIT’s admissions process in English and Arabic.

“You have the chance to take your career to the leaders of tomorrow,” he said. “You have the chance to change the image of Palestine in America. You can help your country by going to those colleges, meeting the future leaders, and taking from the resources they have in the United States. Then you can come back here and help our people.”

The two are among seven members of MIT’s Arab Students’ Organization on a weeklong trip through eight Middle Eastern countries in a hunt for untapped potential.

The students believe it is the only organized project of its kind, although MIT encourages foreign alumni to introduce high school students back home to the possibility of studying in the United States.

For this trip, students raised most of the money themselves, and MIT is covering the balance and helping to provide contacts and other support.

MIT says that over the past four years, it has accepted, on average, about 10 undergraduate students a year from Arab countries, and that students from those countries account for about 10 percent of MIT’s international undergraduate population. The school does not have precise figures for the number of Arab-Americans in the domestic student population.

MIT officials applaud the Arab students’ Middle East initiative.

“I think it’s a great idea,” said Stuart Schnell ’96, interim director of admissions, who said his office had helped the students prepare for the trip and connected them with MIT alumni in several countries. “There’s a lot of talent across that region we’d like to develop.”

In little over a week, Kanan and Qudsi visited Bahrain, Egypt, Morocco, Tunisia, and Libya. It hasn’t been all smooth sailing. A third MIT student did not come to Jerusalem because she is a Syrian national who probably would have been barred from entry by the Israelis. Kanan and Qudsi were detained for much of Tuesday, Jan. 22, by Israeli security officials as they crossed the Allenby Bridge from Jordan to the West Bank.

“It was a bit frustrating,” Kanan said, though they anticipated delays because they had traveled to Syria and Lebanon.

Kanan and Qudsi said their motivation in starting the traveling program is their desire to see more students from the Middle East in top American universities as relations between the West and much of the Arab world have suffered.

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The Boston skyline at dawn on Tuesday, Jan. 29. Ice covered the surface of the Charles River for much of January.
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- Neutralized [Neutrodyne] RF Amps
- Superheterodyne receivers; oscillators, mixers and IF amps
- The "All American Five" AM receiver
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The Tech’s Athlete of the Week: Kimberly E. Soo Hoo ’08

Women’s basketball senior captain Kimberly E. Soo Hoo ’08 set the Institute record for assists in a career after dishing out seven assists in MIT’s 59-49 victory over Mount Holyoke College on Saturday. The record, which was set in the previous career record was 349.

In addition to her record-breaking performance, Soo Hoo scored eight points, going six for six from the free-throw line and grabbing five rebounds.

After being down 30-20 at the half, the Engineers went on a 15-4 run to take the lead. Samia A. Mahjub G led the Engineers with 18 points and five rebounds.

Soo Hoo has led the team in assists in each of her first three years at MIT and is due to do so again this year. She looks to add to the record tonight as MIT hosts conference rival Wheaton College.

—Shreyes V. Bhardwaj, Sports Editor

Giants Must Do More Than Restrict Moss

Pats Already Greater Than 1972 Dolphins

NFL, from Page 20

what he’s capable of doing. Going back to weeks 12 and 13, Randy Moss was shut down by the Eagles’ and Ryan’s defenses, which was one reason they were about to keep the game close for so long. If you were a head coach watching this, it’s clear what you would focus on stopping Moss. The Jaguars and Chargers both did just that, holding Moss to only two catches and 32 yards over those two games. But just like the 16 teams before them, they couldn’t come out on top in the end.

Assuming the Giants follow a similar path, it’ll open up the field for the true difference maker on the Patriots offense, Wes Welker. The talented slot receiver has stepped up big when the Patriots have needed him, finding room in the middle of Moss’s defensive.

A Patriots victory would inflame a debate over who is the greatest team in NFL history, a debate that actually began months ago. While people are sure to argue both ways on this, I’ll reiterate what Bob Costas pointed out earlier this week. In going 14-0 in the 1972 regular season, can you guess the best record that a Dolphins opponent had? 8-6. Seriously. Sure they went on to win three tough games in the playoffs, but the 1972 Dolphins just don’t compare.

This year’s Patriots have already beaten playoff teams eight times, including the defending Super Bowl champions on the road.

I’m sure they won’t be treating Sunday’s game as a formality, but let’s be honest, the Patriots are the best team in football... ever.

Our pick: Patriots over Giants

Men’s Team Dominates Relays

Swimming, from Page 20

teammate Cummings (48.74 seconds).

A pair of narrow victories that went the Engineers’ way also had a great effect on the final outcome. Racers secured crucial 16-place points in the 100-yard breaststroke by beating Tufts’ James Longhurst by just 0.18 seconds, while Cummings was fastest in the 50-yard freestyle by a slim 0.04 seconds over the Jumbos’ Andrew Shields.

MIT once again dominated in the relay events, as it has all sea

son. Jeffrey Y. Zhou ’10 led off the 400-yard medley relay, followed by Racz, Sepp, and Cummings, and the crew touched the wall first with a time of 3:34.12. Cummings, Zhou, and Peter J. Wellings ’10 were then anchored by Charpentier in the 200-yard freestyle relay, which the Engineers won with a time of 1:26.55.

Freshman Michael J. Dobson ’11, who set the Institute record in the 1,000-yard freestyle less than one week ago with a time of 9.47.07, was yet again a force in the distance freestyle events. The nat

tive of Houston, Texas won both the 500-yard (4:48.67) and 1,000-yard (9.56.22) freestyle to continue his phenomenal rookie campaign.

MIT’s other victories included Racz in the 200-yard breaststroke (2:12.16) and Charpentier in the 200-yard freestyle (1:46.04).

Why is this Game of the Week?

Despite their youth, MIT was able to hold on for a close victory against a solid Tufts team, as sophomores Racz and Cummings came through in the clutch with very nar

row victories.

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Patriots Face Final Challenge
In Giants on Road to Perfection

By Shreyes Seshasai
SPORTS EDITOR

Whether you’re interested in football or not, you’ll be watching Sunday night as the New England Patriots face off against the New York Giants in Super Bowl XLII. Not because you think it’ll be a close football game (which it will be), and not because of the commercials (which always disappoint). You’ll tune in because it’ll be a chance to witness history, a chance to see the coronation of the greatest football team in history.

The Patriots are on the brink of sports immortality, led by arguably the best coach of his generation and certainly the most polished quarterback since Montana (yes, Tom, you know you’ve made it big when a camera is more interested in your supermodel girlfriend). If you’re a Giants fan, the one thing you can hold on to is the fact that expectations have never been lower going into a Super Bowl. You can’t lose (unless of course you’re foolish enough to bet for the Giants to make the spread).

If the Giants somehow manage to win this game, then you’ve just witnessed the greatest upset in sports history. If they don’t, well, at least they “kept it close.”

I could try to compare numbers for you, but to save some time, I’ll summarize: Patriots win, no-contest. New England is better in every facet of the game, and no matter what teams throw at them, they still find a way to win.

The advantage extends beyond just the field too, up to the front offices. Just consider the additions the Patriots made before the season began. Randy Moss has been an important factor in these playoffs not for what he’s physically done, but for what he’s physically done, but for...