From the Editor

As spring semester begins and we return to the daily grind of life at MIT, take this opportunity to look back on the previous year. The Tech provides this special Year in Review issue to highlight some of the major news events of 2007 and share a selection of campus viewpoints. In these pages, you can also rediscover the best of the year’s movies and music and learn more about our community’s excellent student-athletes.

In particular, I would like to recommend the Year in Review to MIT’s administrators. A reflection of their decisions and policies can be seen in the news and opinions articles presented in this issue. How better to evaluate how the year has gone — what worked and what didn’t — than to step back and look at the major events of the year and their consequences in the eyes of those they affected the most?

Among the issues that came to prominence this year: Is racism a problem at MIT, and if so, what can we do about it? How do we protect members of the community and preserve the unique culture of MIT? How do we behave appropriately in the face of legal concerns? And what image do we present to the outside world in the face of aggressive scrutiny? We hope that these articles will help our readers continue to think about these questions, because they promise to remain relevant in the coming year.

Angeline Wang
Editor in Chief
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About the Cover:
A new LED lighting system for the Great Dome debuted on June 9. Using energy efficient technologies, the lighting uses only as much energy as two hair dryers. (Photo Credit: Brian Hemond)
Campus residents who said that dining halls do not gel with East campus culture. Pritchett Dining (pictured here in April 2007) was closed during the summer in response to discontent from East campus students showed that the current increase from $300 to $325. But after fees were not increased for membership in MIT’s meal plan, and the unpopular Pritchett Dining was closed. Additionally, MIT has said that student input within a new committee will help shape the way the Institute thinks about eating on campus.

House Dining prices frozen at $300

In April, the Office of Campus Dining announced that the House Dining membership (previously frozen at $300) would match the increasing costs of wages and food. Students with House Dining membership, which is mandatory and requires $125 per semester because of membership in the House Dining program. Only about 13 percent of residents break even.

According to the committee’s presentation to Campus Dining, Baker Dining loses $100,000 every term, an amount that is almost covered by the money students lose from participation in House Dining. Even though most residents the committee surveyed said they were satisfied with the food, three-quarters did not think the dining membership was worth it. “We hope that MIT acknowledges that there are serious problems with the current [dining] system,” David Dryjaniski ’07, a member of the Baker House Dining committee, said in an e-mail in May. “We understand that drastic changes cannot be made overnight, but would like to see [the Office of Campus Dining] increase transparency, engage the [Undergraduate Association] Dining Committee in its changes, and present a timeline for system-wide changes.”

Baker House residents asked for the fee to be set to $300, and decreased by $25 each year until it reached the original price of the program. Soon thereafter, MIT announced that the fee would be frozen at $325 for up to three years. By JJHy Kim

In the MIT administration’s eyes, eating together builds community, and dormitory dining halls and mandatory meal plans are the best way to get at the kind of community the Institute wants. This analysis explains why when Ashdown House is renovated into the W1 undergraduate dormitory, its kitchens will be replaced with a dining hall. But sometimes students have a say, too. Students’ influence on dining was seen in at least two events of 2007: fees were not increased for membership in MIT’s meal plan, and the unpopular Pritchett Dining was closed. Additionally, MIT has said that student input within a new committee will help shape the way the Institute thinks about eating on campus.

Recording Industry Sends Demand Letters

The Recording Industry Association of America tried a new legal tactic in the past year: the association sent 63 letters to MIT in 2007 and 19 more in January 2008, asking for money and threatening to file copyright infringement lawsuits against MIT community members. The letter addressed to MIT directly and contains the IP address of a person the RIAA says shared copyrighted music on the Internet. MIT can usually identify the person who is using a particular IP address on its network, and at the RIAA’s request, MIT has forwarded the demand letters to each IP address’s user. In the letters, the RIAA threatens to file a “John Doe” copyright infringement lawsuit and to file a subpoena which will identify a target; the association threatens that if it wins such a lawsuit, the target is responsible for at least $750 per song in statutory minimum damages. Even so, many students have signed a petition against the RIAA and have paid money, usually $3,000 to $5,000, to avoid the potential for not being sued. One student told The Tech in 2008 that he planned not to settle and will challenge the RIAA’s lawsuit. By Michael McGraw-Herdge

The Year in Review

Feb. 6: At the Cambridge Planning Board’s annual town gown meeting, MIT reveals plans to construct the long-awaited Media Lab expansion; a Sloan School of Management expansion; a new cancer research facility on the corner of Main St. and Ames St.; and a new graduate dormitory, NW35, to be called Ashdown House.

Feb. 8: Executive Vice President Theresa M. Stone SM ’76 says that NW35 will have a fourth floor after all. Facing a budget overrun, audiovisual has now decided to start in early January to eliminate the fourth floor of what was originally designed to be a five-story building; this decision provoked an outcry from students who felt they were not included in the decision-making process.

Feb. 13: Harvard University approves the appointment of Drew Gilpin Faust, Civil War historian and Harvard dean, as its 28th president. Faust, who was inaugurated on Oct. 12, is Harvard’s first woman president.

Feb. 14: Marc A. Kastner, head of the Department of Physics, will be the new dean of science, MIT announces. Kastner took over for Robert J. Silbey on July 1.

Feb. 16: After 12 days of ingesting only water, vitamin supplements, and electrolytes, Sherley ends his hunger strike and issues a statement that his “demands are still on the table.” MIT also issues a statement, saying that Sherley’s protest has focused attention on “the effects that race may play” and electrolytes, Sherley ends his hunger strike and issues a statement that his “demands are still on the table.” MIT also issues a statement, saying that Sherley’s protest has focused attention on “the effects that race may play” experience” of minority faculty. At the mid of the night, a Kastner {

Feb. 19: A record 154 bids were given out to women who completed the sorority recruitment process, The Tech reports. Alpha Phi had the most new members, according to the Panhellenic Association.

Feb. 20: Toxicology studies of Mengyao “May” Zhou ’04 found toxic levels of diphenhydramine, a sedative and antihistamine, in her system. Mengyao Zhou, a Stanford University graduate student, was found dead in the trunk of her car on Jan. 26 in what the Santa Rosa police believe was a suicide.
Hacking Tradition Under Fire?

By Angeline Wang

After students were found exploring the MIT Faculty Club by the Campus Police late on a Saturday night and found themselves facing felony charges, MIT found itself struggling to define exactly how it valued the hacking community. The result of MIT’s soul-searching, a statement and a set of guidelines to be included in the student handbook, was drafted throughout 2007 with input from students.

In a recent draft of the revised guidelines, MIT endorses hacking as a tradition to be preserved and outlines rules that hackers should follow — rules based on the well-known Hacker’s Code of Ethics. Additionally, all future cases involving unauthorized access will be brought to the faculty-student Committee on Discipline. The statement and guidelines await one further round of review before they will be made public.

The Faculty Club incident

In October 2006, three MIT students set off a burglar alarm in the E52 Faculty Club in the middle of the night and were found by the MIT Police. The case was taken to the Middlesex County Cambridge District Court.

The incident — Kristina K. Brown ’09, David Nawi, and Matthew W. Petersen ’09 — was charged with breaking and entering in the nighttime with intent to commit a felony and trespassing. Additionally, Petersen was charged with possession of burglary tools for intent to commit a felony.

The narrative, written by Munnelly, states that the elevator used to reach the sixth floor Faculty Club would only take the officers to the fifth floor. The elevators are supposed to be locked so that they will not travel to the sixth floor when the Faculty Club is closed.

The narrative also states that there was a visible “no trespassing” sign on the door that opened onto the sixth floor from the stairwell.

Nawi’s motion moved to dismiss conflicts with the police’s story, stating that the elevator functioned without restriction that night, taking the three students to the sixth floor, and that there were no signs indicating that access to the sixth floor was not permitted after hours. “Mr. Nawi and his friends did not access the 6th floor by a stairwell,” the motion states.

After the arrest became widely known in February 2007, some students and community members became concerned that this case was indicative of a change in internal policy regarding how students caught hacking would be treated.

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Hacking guidelines drafted

Discussions between administrators, student leaders, and four or five members of the hacking community began in the spring and have resulted in a hacking statement and guidelines that are pending one more round of approval, according to UA Senator Steven M. Kelch ’08.

“Hacking is a tradition among MIT students of affronting the machine in a legal and ethical manner,” Kelch said in October 2007.

One recommendation was that senior administration should endorse hacking as an MIT tradition and sign on to the MIT hacking statement.

The statement on hacking is the biggest change, Kelch said. “MIT is finally taking a stance on hacking,” he said, and is recognizing that hacking is a tradition
Housing Sees Ashdown, Next House Changes in 2007

By Elijah Jordan Turner

As construction on new graduate dormitory NW35 continued throughout the year, MIT Housing decided on the fate of Building W1, opened a new cultural house, and extended Residence Exploration to freshmen placed in Next House.

A new Ashdown, a new W1

For many students, the biggest news in housing in 2007 was the construction of new graduate residence NW35 (to be called Ashdown) and the renovation of the existing Ashdown (Building W1) into an undergraduate residence.

In January 2007, Sherwin Greenblatt ‘62, then-interim executive vice president, announced that the fourth floor of NW35 would be eliminated from the building due to rising costs. The unexpected decision provoked an outcry from students who were involved in the initial design process, during which architects had promised to maintain transparency.

Greenblatt’s replacement, Theresa M. Stone SM ’76, reversed his decision when she took office in early February.

The residence’s cost was projected to be $115 million, well above its original budget of $104 million.

Based on the requests of graduate student leadership, NW35 will retain some of the features of the current Ashdown residence, including a new Thirsty Ear Pub and a new dining room to replace the large Hulitzer Room. MIT is also considering setting up dining service in the new Hulitzer Room. Building NW35 will be called Ashdown Hall, and it is currently scheduled to open by fall 2008.

Meanwhile, W1 will remain empty for two years while MIT renovates the building. The new Ashdown, NW35, will house 68 undergraduates for those two years. The Senior Segue program, in which undergraduates who said they planned to go to graduate school at MIT were housed in various graduate dormitories and paid graduate rates, will be discontinued.

It is as yet unclear how much money has been budgeted for the W1 renovations, who will be in charge of the renovations, or where the money will come from.

A 10-student ‘founders group’ will be assembled soon and will begin to plan the culture of W1, in a model which was tried for Simmons Hall.

Because W1 is expected to open in fall 2010, only current freshmen will have the opportunity to live in the new dorm. But upperclassmen will be allowed to apply to and serve in the founders group.

Director of Housing Dennis Col-lins said he expected that some students would never have a chance to live in the hall but would still be interested in helping to establish it. He said that more details about the founders group should be available in how and apply to it should appear within the next month.

International House opens

International House, a living group focused on international development, opened in New House 1 in fall 2007 in 21 undergraduate residents making up 14 different nationalities. It replaced Russian House, which closed in New House 1 in 2005.

House was designed as a ‘living and learning community,’ said Urban Studies and Planning Professor Bish Sanyal. Residents are expected to carry out international development projects and to attend dinners and other events with an international focus.

‘It’s a tremendous opportunity for me because I’m interested in architecture and urban planning and there are lots of international development projects in these fields,’ said Guest Resident Tutor Tseri I. Guo G in September.

Like most of MIT’s cultural houses, iHouse allows “social membership” for people who want to get involved with its projects but who don’t live in

Building W1, currently known as Ashdown, will undergo a complete renovation before it reopens as an undergraduate dormitory in the fall of 2010.

Successful Year for Fraternity, Sorority Recruitment

By Nick Semenovich

Both fraternities and sororities saw increases in their bids this year, following some changes in rush.

For the first time since 2002, the Panhellenic Association decided to move sorority recruitment to the fall. According to Annika S. Larson ’08, former Pashel president, the move was made to provide a support system of upperclassmen for incoming students. Larson said that spring recruitment had posed problems because many women were off campus during Independent Activities Period.

Fall 2007 sorority rush resulted in 163 bids. In December, Pashel revealed its goal to add an additional sorority for the fall currently at MIT. The goal is for the new sorority to join MIT in fall 2008. A sixth sorority would strengthen the Pashel community and add diversity, while reducing each member class to create a closer feel within each chapter, Pashel executive board members said in December.

Fraternity members were allowed to wear Greek letters on the ribbon. There were at least 317 new pledges, up from 299 in 2006.

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Dining Hall to Replace W1 Kitchens

In March 2007, rumors circulated that the kitchens of undergraduate dormitory Burton-Conner were going to be removed to make way for additional undergraduate rooms. Although Dean for Student Life Larry G. Benedict stoutly denied these rumors, the Undergraduate Association passed two resolutions emphasizing that Burton-Conner kitchens are “focal points of the suite, floor, and dorm-wide community interactions” and are “indispensable to students.” The bill also asserted that the UA would only endorse proposals in which residents are included in the decision-making process.

Former UA Vice President Ruth Miller ’07 said in March that she was wary of statements saying that no one intended to remove Burton-Conner’s kitchens. “This seems to happen a lot, where [the administration] tells us there are no plans, then goes ahead anyway,” she said.

While the Burton-Conner kitchens will remain untouched for now, the administration has decided to destroy other old kitchens. MIT announced in December that Ashdown House, which is scheduled to reopen as an undergraduate dormitory in fall of 2010 after renovations, will no longer have floor kitchens when it is reopened. Instead, MIT decided that the new undergraduate dormitory will have a dining hall and dining program.

Senior Lecturer Amy B. Smith serves as the former Dean for Student Life Larry G. Benedict’s committed to dining,” Clay said to The Tech in December. “We have not built in recent years a residence hall that doesn’t have dining.”

Benedict, in collaboration with the Office of Dining, gave students a voice when on Oct. 22 he charged the Beta Ribbon Committee on Dining to investigate the structure of campus dining. The committee contains undergraduate students, faculty, housemasters, and staff members, including Wilson and Berlin from the Office of Dining. MIT has also hired a consultant from Envision Strategies, an operational consulting and strategic planning company, to work with the committee.

“The committee was formed with the intention of recommending major reforms to MIT’s dining system,” said Undergraduate Association President Martin F. Holmes ’08. Holmes said the committee should make dining at MIT “financially solvent,” high-quality, and affordable.
Hunger Strike Ignites Discussions of Racism at MIT

By Joyce Kwan

In 2007, MIT garnered attention in an unexpected light — through allegations of racism in its tenure process. An African American associate professor in the Bioengineering Department charged that racism influenced his tenure denial, prompting his hunger strike, the resignation of an executive director, the withdrawal of an alumna, and the initiation of an Institute-wide study on underrepresented minority issues.

James L. Sherley alleged that racism influenced his tenure case and ultimately influenced his tenure denial. Denied tenure in December 2004, Sherley urged administrators to review his case and concluded that he would not overturn the denial.

In December 2006, after the grievance reviews and Reif's decision, Sherley sent an e-mail to MIT faculty members calling for support. The letter, titled "A plea for help to end racism at MIT," detailed Sherley's version of the events leading to his situation at the time.

In the letter, Sherley claimed to have received inadequate laboratory space because Robert A. Brown, School of Engineering dean at the time, said "he was not smart enough to give a Black man." Yet after the BE department gained significant laboratory space Douglas A. Laufenburger, head of BE, did "nothing to rectify the situation," giving "it all to White faculty members." Despite his requests, Sherley said.

Also, while BE considered his case, a member of the MIT Corporation contacted Sherley about his race and his criticism of Brown, an improper act, Sherley said in the letter. Such an occurrence, Laufenburger's disregard for his requests for laboratory space, should be sufficient to overturn Laufenburger's denial, Sherley argued.

Yet more problems arose throughout Sherley's case. One of Sherley's internal letters of recommendation came from Laufenburger's wife, BE Professor Linda G. Griffith, with whom Sherley had openly hostile relations. Griffith, Sherley said, failed to appreciate his controversial research concerning adult stem cells. "They might tolerate and even celebrate such a challenge from a White faculty member, but never from one who is Black."

Sherley also stated that Laufenburger solely arbitrated his tenure case, and that conflict of interest issues seeped into his case because Griffith supplied one of Sherley's recommendation letters.

At the conclusion of his letter, Sherley demanded that tenure be granted to him and that Reif resign. Otherwise, "If their wrongful deeds are not corrected, I will die defiantly in Reif's office ... I will either see the Provost's office from 9 a.m. to noon every day or I will go to this step."

Sherley began his hunger strike, which ultimately lasted 12 days, outside Reif's office on Feb. 5, 2007. Surrounded by media, supporters, and those simply curious about the issue, Sherley appeared at peace, even optimistic, enthusiastically speaking to reporters about his plight.

"My motivation for this protest is not the fact that I have been denied an opportunity for tenure. It is because of the reason that I have been denied this opportunity ... What I do now is not a rash reaction to disappointment, it is a well-reasoned self-sacrifice for change," Sherley told The Tech several weeks before his strike.

Legal approaches would not suffice in attracting attention to the source of the problem, Sherley said. "I had to find some way to get people to stop and say there must be something really of great gravity going on here for someone to go to this step."

Sherley stationed outside the provost's office from 9 a.m. to noon every weekday to publicly protest. He had altered his stance, demanding that Reif receive "some form of censure" — Reif's resignation was no longer necessary — while maintaining that tenure be granted to him and that MIT acknowledge racism as the determining factor in his case and those before him.

Shortly after Sherley's hunger strike began, a letter signed by MIT faculty, including Institute Professor Noam Chomsky, circulated around campus urging the reexamination of Sherley's case by a committee consisting of members from both inside and outside of MIT.

Conflict of interest and racial discrimination charges clash against the core of MIT values, therefore, "it is imperative that they be thoroughly purged," the letter stated. It continued, detailing the provost's letters to Sherley, arguing that the provost's reasons for denying him tenure were not sufficient. "Racial attitudes, as is well known, are usually complicated and deeply nuanced."

After 12 days, Sherley terminated his hunger strike for which he ingested only water, electrolytes, and vitamin supplements. None of his demands were met when he ended his strike, but Sherley said he terminated the strike believing that MIT would reassest his case with the aid of an external panel. MIT, however, said it made no such agreement.

MIT's side of the story

In a January 2007 letter sent to the faculty, Reif delineated the two grievance reviews Sherley received. Sherley approved the initial lineup of committee members and was given the opportunity to review and modify the charges sent to the committee both times, Reif said in the letter.

The committee ruled Sherley's tenure process adequate and fair, persuading him to no overturn Sherley's tenure denial, a final decision, Reif said. He concluded the letter with the announcement that a committee would be organized "to undertake a comprehensive, rigorous and systematic study of minority issues at MIT."

On the first day of Sherley's strike, the BE senior faculty released a statement to the MIT community stating their "conviction that “race that did not play any role” in denying Sherley tenure."

Later, in March, the BE senior faculty circulated a more detailed e-mail explaining their decision. They refuted Sherley's allegation that the decision to grant him tenure rested solely on the BE department head, explaining that Laufenburger did not vote on the case and acted only as a moderator of discussion. The "decision not to carry Prof. Sherley's case forward reflected the vote of the faculty," they said in the e-mail.

Also, Sherley's performance did not meet standards, they said. During his years at MIT, Sherley published only six peer-reviewed publications describing original research, two of which were based on work he had conducted in his previous position at the Fox Chase Cancer Center. "If the faculty assesses particular, the impacts of peer-reviewed articles," but his publication record did not meet BE standards, the BE senior faculty said.

The letter continued to explain that about two-thirds of Sherley's $1.5 million pre-tenure fund was obtained through several grants for projects...
Marilee Jones Leaves Behind Complicated Legacy

By Marissa Vogt

Dean of Admissions Marilee Jones resigned abruptly in April 2007 after admitting to lying on her résumé, shocking the MIT community and putting herself and MIT in the national spotlight. When MIT administrators discovered that Jones had, at various times, falsely claimed degrees from three universities, she was asked to resign publicly to preserve the integrity of the Institute. Jones issued a brief statement through the MIT News Office apologizing to the community and saying that she “did not have the courage to correct my résumé.” Since then, Jones has been unresponsive to attempts to reach her, and MIT administrators have been relatively terse on what Chancellor Phillip L. Clay PhD ’77 called in April “a very sad case of personal tragedy.” These circumstances have complicated the question of what will be Marilee Jones’ lasting impression on the Institute.

Jones had worked in the Admissions Office since 1979 and became dean of admissions on Jan. 1, 1998. During her 28 years at MIT, admission to the Institute became increasingly more competitive and the incoming classes became more diverse. As the associate director of admissions, Jones was tasked with increasing the percentage of female students, which grew from 28 percent in 1985 to 42 percent in 1996.

Michael C. Behnke, director of admissions during that time, said in an e-mail that although Jones was his point person on female recruitment, the increase was the result of a team effort by the Admissions Office and was supported by MIT administrators, including then-President Paul E. Gray ’54. “Marilee has obviously brought some discipline and drive, and I would be sad to see any of that reflected on the increase in female enrollment that happened while she was there,” Behnke said.

When Behnke left MIT to take a position at the University of Chicago, Jones was named interim director of admissions and a national search began to find her replacement. By conducting a serious national search, we wanted to ensure that any internal candidates would be measured against the highest standards,” Professor Rosalind H. Williams, dean of students and undergraduate education from 1995 to 2000, said in an e-mail. “The search committee, which included then-Chancellor Lawrence S. Bacow ’72 and other MIT administrators, eventually chose Jones for the job based on her familiarity with MIT and the admissions process and her commitment to diversity and equity, Williams said. After Jones was selected, the chair of the search committee, then-Associate Dean of Engineering, John B. Vander Sande told The Tech, “I feel confident that I can speak for the committee in saying that in Marilee Jones we have gained for MIT the best dean of admissions in the country.”

Jones was known nationally for her efforts to reduce the stress associated with the college admissions process. In her public statements and writings, including in her book Less Stress, More Success: A New Approach to Guiding Your Teen Through College Admissions and Beyond and a 2003 editorial for USA Today, Jones criticized the amount of pressure placed on students applying to college and encouraged high school students to participate in a few activities that they were passionate about rather than spreading themselves thin to make their applications appear more impressive. That attitude was reflected in MIT’s admissions decisions year after year, where “passion” was a common factor among admitted students.

“We look for people with passion — self-initiated, self-motivating individuals who get stoked up about something,” Jones told The Tech in 2001. She often became emotional when discussing her work, especially when referring to the many well-qualified students who could not be admitted to MIT. Outspoken but also approachable, Jones was well-liked by most students until her resignation, though her strong opinions were sometimes polarizing. Jones drew a particularly strong amount of student criticism for a 2001 essay in the faculty newsletter in which she refers to students born after 1979 as ‘millennials,’ a generation that requires praise, instant gratification, and a strong amount of guidance.

Former Dean of Admissions Marilee Jones resigned in April 2007 after it was discovered that she had misrepresented her educational information on her résumé.

2007 Admissions And Financial Aid By the Numbers

- 12,433 applicants for Class of 2011
- 2 percent increase in early applications, attributed to Harvard and Princeton eliminating early admissions
- 1,070: the target size of the freshman class
- 12 percent acceptance rate for all applicants the Class of 2011, a record low
- 21 percent acceptance rate for women to the Class of 2011
- 9 percent acceptance rate for men to the Class of 2011
- 208 students admitted off the waitlist
- 69 percent yield for the Class of 2011, a record high
- 588: the number of MIT students represented (not North Dakota)
- $1.6 million received by MIT students in Pell grants, federal aid grants offered to the neediest
- $87.5 million offered to MIT students in financial aid
- $34,986: cost of tuition for the 2007–08 academic year, a 4.1 percent increase from 2006–07

Changes at Peer Institutions Affect MIT Admissions

By Marissa Vogt

MIT saw the effects of major changes in the admissions and financial aid policies at some of the Institute’s competing universities this year.

Harvard and Princeton ended their early admissions programs in the fall after claiming that such programs put low-income and minority applicants at a disadvantage. As a result, this year saw a rise in the number of early action applications at Yale, the University of Chicago, Georgetown University, and MIT.

Though MIT’s 13 percent increase in early action applications was similar to last year’s increase and smaller than the increases at other schools, the elimination of Harvard and Princeton’s early admissions programs “had an effect” on the numbers, Interim Director of Admissions Stuart Schmill ’86 said in November.

The full effect of the change is unlikely to be felt until the spring, when students — whether admitted early or regular action — choose whether or not to accept MIT’s offer of admission. MIT’s yield, or the percentage of admitted students who choose to attend, has increased steadily in the past few years, but Schmill says he expects it to decrease this year as a result of the changes at Harvard and Yale.

“There are likely to be students in our applicant pool who have Harvard or Princeton as their first choice and in the past would have applied early to one of those schools,” Schmill said in November. Though yield is difficult to predict, the end result of this year’s changes could be a more conservative number of acceptances than MIT has seen in recent years.

Harvard announced further changes in December when it pledged additional financial aid for students from middle-class and upper-middle-class families. Under the new plan, families with annual incomes between $120,000 and $180,000 will be expected to pay 10 percent of their income, though families with incomes below $60,000 will continue to pay nothing.

Earlier this month, Yale announced a similar plan that applies to students from families earning up to $200,000.

Since 2004, when Harvard announced its first plan to eliminate costs for low-income families, MIT — whose roughly $10 billion endowment pales in comparison to those of Harvard and Yale — has yet to form any competitive financial aid policies. The most significant financial aid changes in recent years came in 2006 when MIT announced its Pell grant matching program to use Institute funds to match the amount of federal Pell grants for eligible students.

Both the number of MIT students receiving Pell grants and the average amount awarded to MIT students increased for the 2006–07 academic year. The number of recipients increased 3.5 percent and the average amount increased 5.5 percent from the previous year, Director of Financial Aid Daniel Barkowitz said in August. Nearly $1.6 million in the form of Pell grants was given to 575 eligible students for the 2006–07 academic year.
Education Sees Course Changes, Classes for Freshman Experience

By Yuri Hanada

Education at MIT in 2007 saw a number of changes: two undergraduate courses revamped their curricula, opportunities for freshmen expanded with the addition of project-based engineering and foundational Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences courses; and two degree programs nearing acceptance by MIT.

Courses VI overhauled

In the spring, the Department of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science announced an overhaul of the Course VI curriculum. The changes, designed to emphasize flexibility, hands-on experience, and current research, represent the first significant modifications to the curriculum in three decades.

EECS Department Head W. Eric L. Grimson PhD '80 said that the new curriculum aims to attract more students to EECS and to give students practical, hands-on work. One such new survey class, Introduction to EECS I (6.01), will replace Structure and Interpretation of Computer Programs (6.001), which was taught for the last time in the fall.

Course VI sophomores will continue on a more spaced-out route, selecting classes from a set of foundation subjects that contain the fundamental portions of the material currently taught in courses like Circuits and Electronics (6.002), Signals and Systems (6.003), and Computation Structures (6.004). One surprise in the Course VI revamp was the mid-fall announcement that the popular Laboratory in Software Engineering class (6.170), famous from students, would not be taught in the spring or in the future. Department administrators and faculty said that the substantial overlap between 6.170 and Principles of Software Development (6.005) warranted the cancellation of 6.170.

Course V gets lab 'modules'

As an engineering program changed its focus, so too did a program in the School of Science. The Department of Chemistry, Course V, introduced a new set of 12 four-unit classes, or "modules," to replace its existing three mandatory laboratory classes. Three modules comprise each of four new subject areas: Introduction to Experimental Chemistry (5.35), Biochemistry and Organic Lab (5.36), Organic and Inorganic Lab (5.37), and Physical Chemistry Lab (5.38).

The existing lab classes Introductory Chemical Experimentation (5.311) and Intermediate Chemical Experimentation (5.32) were replaced in the fall by several of the new modules. Advanced Chemical Experimentation and Instrumentation (5.33) will be replaced in fall 2008.

More classes aimed at freshmen

In fall 2006 and spring 2007, six experimental project-based classes, aimed at freshmen, were taught for the first time. Out of 999 freshmen (now sophomores), 147 took such a class, according to a September 2007 Faculty Newsletter article by Professor Dennis M. Freeman PhD '86, Elizabeth D. Cooper, a senior project manager in the Office of Faculty Support, and William A. Lucas, the Cambridge-MIT Institute's executive director.

The article reported that students who took the project-based classes were more likely than other freshmen to report interest in new areas, to have done "more than the required work" in subjects because they were interested, and that "faculty now know me well enough to write a letter of [student] appreciation for me." The article noted that the female students were especially well-served by the classes: they were more likely than other female freshmen to report that "I have been able to do something outside of class about my interests."

The students taking project-based classes were less likely to agree that they had maintained "a balance between my academic work and other aspects of my life," suggesting that these courses could contribute to heavy course loads. The six project-based classes taught in 2006-07, along with two new classes, are scheduled to be taught in the 2007-08 school year.

Elsewhere in the HASS world, various departments offered freshman classes focused around themes or foundational ideas, including How to Stage a Revolution (21H.001) and The Art of the Probable (21H.017).

Two new degree programs

In 2007, two new degrees were in the works. The MIT-Computative Medica Studies (CMS) degree program, a five year experiment by the Committee on the Undergraduate Program, cleared most of the technical hurdles to become a permanent major at MIT. It now awaits approval from the Faculty Policy Committee and from the Institute faculty.

The Sloan School of Management is also undergoing the approval process for a new Masters program in Finance, rights management controls aimed at restricting access to SAE documents.

April 20: A body that washed to shore on Cape Cod on April 9 is identified as Daniel J. Barclay '07, who has been missing since April 8. The death is later ruled a suicide, according to the Wood Street Journal. FAMILY, FRIENDS ARE WORKING TO APPEAL THE RULING.

April 21: Ivan D. Dimitrov '10 passes away at Brigham and Women's Hospital after losing control of his motorcycle on Storrow Drive in the early morning.

April 23: Dean of Admissions Marilee Jones released after it was discovered that she had misrepresented her academic credentials. Jones, who had been employed at MIT for 28 years, had a bachelor's degree from the College of Saint Rose but allegedly claimed both master's and bachelor's degrees on her resume from schools she did not graduate from — Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, Albany Medical College, and Union College.

April 27: The Ying Yang Twins and Ozomatli perform in the Spring Weekend concert in Johnson Athletic Center.

April 30: Sarah C. Hopp '08 and James T. Albrecht '08 are elected as president and executive vice president of Dormitory Council.

May 2: MIT receives 23 pre-litigation settlement letters from the RAA, alleging copyright infringement and music piracy; the letters were subsequently forwarded on to the students.

May 4: The Department of Athletics, Physical Education, and Recreation will charge students a $40 account fee for use of its facilities for the entire summer, The Tech reports. Previously, access to DAPER facilities was free during the summer, paid for by the mandatory Student Life Fee. The fee will continue for summer 2008.

May 4: The Baker House Dining Committee releases a report saying that the Preferred Dining program is a loss for Baker students. The committee found that the average Baker resident lives on $125 per term through Preferred Dining.

May 11: Interim Director of Admissions Stuart Schmill '86 releases a report documenting the Class of 2011, with 1,053 of the 1,533 admitted students choosing to enroll. MIT later admits students of the class, and as of June 1, 1,077 students had chosen to enroll. Among those who have said they will attend, every state is represented, except North Dakota.

May 11: In response to the May 4 Baker Dining report, Campus Dining decides to freeze the Preferred Dining fee at $325 for up to three years. Preferred Dining
Sherley’s deadline was approaching, yet no one’s stance had changed. Development officers continued to work on the student’s case, as they had for years. Sherley’s behavior, according to the administration, was in violation of the school’s code of conduct. The administrators were concerned for the safety of the students and the community, and they wanted to ensure that the school remained a safe and respectful environment for everyone.

The preliminary report released in late July stated that both quantitative and qualitative data would be gathered for a study on the underrepresented minority experience at MIT. Qualitative data would consist of interviews with minority faculty. This data would be used to generate a deep and penetrating review of the issues at MIT.

In January 2008, Chemical Engineering Professor Paula T. Hammond ‘84, a member of the Race Initiative, said in an e-mail that the committee has collaborated with the Office of the Provost addressing the implementation of the short-term recommendations from the report, many of which have now been implemented in some form.

The committee has been gathering data for the purpose of the study and a “research team has been assembled to execute the one-on-one interviews that will be a part of the qualitative study as described in our preliminary report,” Hammond said. She said the past term has also included several meetings with “the minority faculty, the general faculty, faculty officers, the newly appointed Associate Provost for Faculty Equity and other members of the MIT community to address aspects” such as long- and short-term approaches to increase underrepresented minority faculty recruitment.

Besides Hammond, the initiative’s current members are Emery L. Brown of the School of Science, Leslie K. Norford of the School of Architecture and Planning, Christine Ortiz of the School of Engineering, Marcus A. Thompson of the School of Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences, and Lotte Bailyn of the Sloan School. In September 2007, Professors Wesley L. Harris and Barbara H. Lis- kov were appointed to the position of associate provost for faculty equity. The position was created in September 2006, before Sherley’s protest.

Jones’ Lasting Legacy Remains to Be Seen

In 2006, Michael C. Behnke arrived at MIT as the new director of admissions. 1996 was the last full year that Behnke was at MIT, Marilee Jones replaced him. * Percent refers to students whose high school rank was

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Applicants</th>
<th>Admits</th>
<th>Percent Admitted</th>
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<td>1,947</td>
<td>24%</td>
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<tr>
<td>2007</td>
<td>1,443</td>
<td>1,353</td>
<td>24%</td>
<td>98%</td>
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Viewpoints on Sherley’s Hunger Strike, Race at MIT

The Tech’s opinion section received numerous letters and columns about James L. Sherley’s hunger strike and the larger issues it raised. Presented here are a few excerpts.

Sylvia Sanders

Quite apart from arguments of fairness, process, conflict of interest, and forth, the significant obstacles confronted by members of the MIT community who are minorities are being overlooked. Those obstacles and their effects need not manifest themselves in the open to influence outcomes. And yet, they are frequent, cumulative, and insidious. Without a thorough examination and discussion of the real situation of your minority colleagues, it is not possible to deem the process fair, and it is not realistic to expect that MIT will fulfill its stated mission of increasing minority representation.

I was the sole African American member of MIT’s Biology Department from 1997–2001, when I resigned. Some of my experiences during that time undercut my status and represent the kind of racism that Professor Sherley is opposing and that his Bioengineering & Environmental Health colleagues claim does not exist.

Sander was an assistant professor of biology at MIT from 1997–2001.

Ben Barnes ‘76

... I am troubled that to my knowledge nearly all African-American faculty members that have come to MIT in science and engineering are assistant professors, have failed to thrive, have not been tenured (or had to appeal a tenure denial), or have left science altogether. These faculty include Luther Williams, Cardinal Ward, Sylvia Sanders, Philip Phillips, and now James Sherley. All feel strongly that they were not treated fairly by MIT. Perhaps there are more I am unaware of. Sylvia Sand- ers’ experiences were so bad that even though she was an HHMI investigator, she left MIT and dropped out of science altogether, and now teaches third grade down the street from where I lived.

Sherley’s hunger strike should prompt each of us to question ourselves if we could be contributors, even if uncon- sciously, to this problem. How many of us can be truly certain that we have not been deeply insensitive to per- sonal and racial barriers that we have not personally experi- enced?

Barres is a professor of neurobiology at Stanford University School of Medicine.

Chi-Sang Poon

In the case of bias against female faculty, Vest made a historic move in 1999 conceding gender discrimination...

As Professor Nancy Hopkins put it in 2003, “It took great courage and conscience [for Vest] to say this at that time. Even today, it is not universally accepted or understood. But this comment changed the lives of women significantly and internationally by greatly increasing awareness of this issue.”

Will President Susan Hockfield rise to the same chal- lenge on the racial discrimination issue?

Poon is a principal research scientist in the Harvard–MIT Division of Health Sciences and Technology.

Barun Singh ECS ‘06

By equating the response of the administration to his hunger strike with the beating and lynching of civil rights activists in the ’60s, Sherley is guilty of using racial hyperbole to manipulate the emotions of his audience and further his own objectives, whether they be as personal as getting tenure or as noble as fighting racism everywhere. Ironically, individuals who practice race-baiting often cause themselves more harm than good. Such tech- niques may successfully quell dissenting viewpoints, but they also create resentment among those who have been strong-armed into silence. This resentment, with time, contributes to unnecessarily negative views of the minor- ity community at large. Minorities fighting racism cannot afford to squander the goodwill of those sympathetic to their cause, thus winning the battle by losing the war.

Singh is a former Graduate Student Council president and was an opinion editor for The Tech in 2007.

Associate Provost for Faculty Equity and other members of the MIT community to address aspects such as long- and short-term approaches to increase underrepresented minority faculty recruitment.

Besides Hammond, the initiative’s current members are Emery L. Brown of the School of Science, Leslie K. Norford of the School of Architecture and Planning, Christine Ortiz of the School of Engineering, Marcus A. Thompson of the School of Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences, and Lotte Bailyn of the Sloan School. In September 2007, Professors Wesley L. Harris and Barbara H. Lis- kov were appointed to the position of associate provost for faculty equity. The position was created in September 2006, before Sherley’s protest.

Adsmissions Demographics Over Time

In 1985, Michael C. Behnke arrived at MIT as the new director of admissions. 1996 was the last full year that Behnke was at MIT, Marilee Jones replaced him.

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As Laptop Begins Production, OLPC Faces Competition

In 2007, the One Laptop Per Child foundation began production of the XO laptop (pictured). The laptop faced challenges in the market from for-profit competition, including Intel's Classmate PC. The XO, well-known as the "$100 laptop," was priced at $188 by October 2007.

By Nick Bushak

The One Laptop Per Child foundation had a momentous year in 2007 as it prepared for beginning production of its long-awaited XO laptop in November. The nonprofit also faced new challenges: for-profit competition; OLPC formed an uneasy relationship with Intel, who announced a competing low-price laptop. In early January, however, the relationship dissolved.

Faced with a lower-than-expected commitment rate from countries it had signed contracts with, One Laptop Per Child offered to sell consumers an XO laptop in exchange for a $399 donation. Since $399 is more than the cost of a laptop — originally billed as the "$100 laptop," but priced at $188 in October — the donation would also pay for an XO to be distributed to one of the nations designated a Least Developed Country by the United Nations.

OLPC and Intel: business relationship on the rocks

A strained relationship between Intel and OLPC characterized 2007. When he found that Intel was aggressively marketing its $350 Classmate PC as an alternative to OLPC's XO in key developing countries, Nicholas Negroponte '66, founder and chairman of OLPC and co-founder of the Media Lab, said in a May 2007 letter to the RIAA that "Intel has hurt the [OLPC] mission enormously." Pressured by Negroponte's remarks, Intel joined the OLPC board on July 13, 2007. William A. Swope SM '76, general manager of Intel's Corporate Affairs Group and architect of the deal, said that "from any perspective, it would be impossible to ignore the timing" of the deal.

But the terms of the relationship were never completely clear. Intel continued to aggressively push the Classmate PC in the same countries eyed by OLPC. Swope told The Tech in October 2007 that Intel was preparing a proposal to put Intel chips in the next version of the OLPC's XO laptop, but that they had not lost their focus on the Classmate PC.

Walter R. Bender SM '80, president of OLPC Software and Content, said that Intel was "dragging their feet" on several different proposed collaborations. "They [Intel] don't tell me," said Bender. "Nothing new there."

Bender said that Intel and OLPC had entered into a "mutual nondisparagement agreement" with respect to their marketing of the Classmate PC and the XO.

Negroponte told The Boston Globe in early January 2008 that Intel had been "put on probation" for their continued attacks on the XO.

The situation came to a boil when, according to Negroponte's comments to the Globe, Intel's top executive in Peru tried to poach the Peru business from OLPC after OLPC had publicly finalized a deal. Negroponte claimed that Intel's executive contacted the Peruvian vice minister with the information that, since Intel was on the OLPC board, Intel had inside information that choosing the XO would lead to the program's failure. Negroponte also told The Boston Globe that Intel was using similar tactics in Mongolia.

Bender said that "Intel contributed nothing to OLPC, the terminology was not significant."

Give 1 Get 1 program solicits donations, sells laptops

Facing challenges in selling XO laptops to governments, OLPC capitalized on first-world consumers' interest in September 2007 by announcing a "Give 1 Get 1" program. The program accepted orders from Nov. 12, 2007 to Dec. 31, 2007.

Bender said that the program was a success; over $4,000 pairs of laptops were sold during the promotion. He said that many of the laptops donated are now being rolled out in Mongolia.

About one fourth of the donors had not received their laptops as of Jan. 28, 2008, Bender said. Individual donors have complained on the OLPC wiki about errors in foundation's order system, ranging from inaccurately recorded shipping addresses to completely lost orders.

Bender said of these complaints that "the problem was more miscommunication than anything else." He said that OLPC failed to communicate to GI1G1 customers that some XOs would be sent out in January 2008 because of production shortages. But he said that OLPC was working to remedy the problems, and that he hoped the rest of the laptops would be sent to donors in early February.

OLPC continues to expand sales

Bender said that OLPC has sold laptop solutions to the governments of Peru and Uruguay, and laptops from the Give 1 Get 1 program are being sent to Mongolia. He said that OLPC is preparing laptop solutions in Mexico, Haiti, and Afghanistan. "We sold a contract for more than we can [currently] produce," said Bender. About 250,000 laptops have been produced so far, and "we're scrambling to keep production up," said Bender.

2007 was also characterized by an increased commercialization of the low-cost laptop sector that OLPC created. Intel aggressively marketed the Classmate PC around the world. Mary Lou Jepsen, OLPC's founding chief technology officer, left the foundation after receiving pay cuts and clashing with some of her OLPC inventions, like the XO's innovative display.

Bender said that the commercialization of the technologies invented at OLPC is "completely orthogonal" to the goals of OLPC.

"OLPC is going to continue to do what we're doing, which is addressing the needs of an underserved population," Bender said.

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2007 cost $300 during the spring 2007 term; a $25 price hike for the fall was announced earlier in the year.

May 14: The MIT Corporation's Executive Committee decided to divest from companies involved with the Sudanese government that violate MIT's investment principles and whose actions or expressed attitudes are abhorrent to MIT; an MIT statement announces. By Sept. 21, 2007, the Institute will not have any investments in the top 20 companies deemed the highest offenders by the national Sudan Divestment Task Force, according to Secretary of the MIT Corporation Kirk D. O. Kolenbrander.

May 14: Randall Munroe, creator of the xkcd Web comic, speaks to a packed K-250, where his presentation of playpen balls fall from ceiling hatchles during the lecture; the balls were labelled with a 32-digit HD-DVD processing key.

May 26: A body is found in the Mount Holyoke Range that is later identified as missing student Ryan Davis '10. Davis had been missing since March 31, and was last seen on the Mount Holyoke College campus.

June 1: Professor Frank L. Douglas resigns, saying the Institute breached an agreement to continue discussions with Professor James M. S. Sherley regarding his claims of racial discrimination in the tenure process.

June 1: MIT and Novartis sign the first contract of a 10-year corporate partnership between the MIT Center for Continuous Manufacturing. Novartis will invest an anticipated $65 million over the next 10 years in this partnership.

June 8: Former MIT President Charles M. Vest, president-elect of the National Academy of Engineering, speaks at the Institute's 141st Commencement. During the ceremony, the Class of 2007 presents MIT with the Senior Gift, a check for $26,861 that will go toward a newly-established study abroad fund and other MIT groups and funds. The Class of 2007 achieved a record 52 percent participation rate.

June 9: A new LED lighting system for the Great Dome, funded by an alumni donation, debuts with a reception in Killian Court. The dome is now illuminated at night.

June 11: After a longer than expected renovation period, Subways opens in Lobello food court on the second floor of the Student Center.

June 11: MIT announces that Civil and Environmental Engineering Professor Steven R. Lerman '72 will be the new Dean for Graduate Students, effective July 1, replacing Isaac M. Colbert.

July 16: The RIAA files a copyright infringement lawsuit against eight defendants at MIT. The defendants named in the case were those who did not settle after receiving pay cut letters from the RIAA in May.

July 16: MIT releases a preliminary report detailing recommendations of the Race Initiative.

June 25: In response to a student-
The Institute in National, Local News

By Ryan Ko

When MIT made national and local headlines in 2007, it was largely because of one of many controversies, scandals, and bizarre incidents that may have put a dent in MIT’s reputation. The year saw clashes with the administration and lawsuits, a professor on a hunger strike alleging racism had affected his tenure denial, an admissions dean resigning because she had lied on her resume many years ago, a sodium explosion in the Charles River where MIT was responsible, as no witnesses of the event did a Web search and put two-and-two together. [We did a] Web search and put two-and-two together,” Kaplan said to The Tech in September.

However, it quickly became doubtful that the East Campus sodium drop was responsible, as no witnesses of the event reported any pieces of sodium skidding towards the Boston-side bank of the Charles River. It is unlikely that highly reactive sodium would last an entire week between the events, or that the metal could have made its way to the Boston shore from the middle of the Harvard Bridge, where the sodium was dropped this fall.

But other campus groups have also been known to drop sodium and potassium into the Charles River — in particular, Tau Epsilon Phi likely held a sodium drop in the days before the explosion. Although the Massachusetts State Police investigation proved inconclusive and no disciplinary action was taken, MIT donated $6,000 to the Charles River Cleanup Boat to cover the damages incurred. MIT also contributed to the fund that supports the cleanup boat in 2004 and 2006.

Sophomore arrested at Logan Airport

The sodium explosion incident had hardly cleared up when, a mere two weeks later on Sept. 21, Simpson was arrested at Logan International Airport by state troopers with MP5 machine guns and charged with possession of a hoax device.

Simpson, who was meeting her boyfriend arriving from California, was wearing a circuit board with LEDs arranged in the shape of a star. The circuit board unerved an information desk worker, who called the police. The police noted that Simpson was found carrying five to six ounces of Play-Doh. Simpson’s defense attorney said that the Play-Doh, in the shape of a rose, was a gift for her boyfriend.

Later that day, MIT released a press release which controversially called Simpson’s actions “reckless.” Chancellor Phillip L. Clay PhD ‘75 said the Institute had not talked to Simpson before releasing the statement. The statement was protested a week later by a group of students in front of Walker Memorial.

The discussion at the protest was focused on Simpson’s arrest, but protestors also talked about the actions taken by the administration in response to the sodium fire and the frivolous charges filed against hackers who had been caught exploring in the Faculty Club.

At the student protest, Biyeun M. Bucyk ’10 said that MIT was “bending over to media” and “issued a comment that was taken as criticism when [Simpson] really didn’t do anything wrong.” Clay told The Tech that he thought “reckless” was the right word based to use based on what the administration knew at the time. But Clay also said that the media’s portrayal of Simpson as a hoax bomber was “unfair and unfortunate,” as Simpson “is not a malicious person.”

The facility also expressed concern about MIT’s remarks. At the Dec. 19 faculty meeting, attended by over 200, a motion asked MIT to limit its public statements about community members facing criminal investigations. The motion was defeated, though Professor Patrick H. Winston, a co-sponsor of the motion, said later that he felt he had made his point and that, in a way, “the statement was heard.”

MIT’s interpretation of privacy act comes under fire

Susan L. Kayton ’50 faced a sobering reason to struggle against the MIT administration; the death of her son Daniel J. Barclay ’07, who was declared a missing person on April 13 and was found dead on a beach in Cape Cod Bay on April 19.

According to The Wall Street Journal, despite Barclay having first been reported as missing by his friends on April 8, MIT denied Kayton access to Barclay’s dormitory room and his Athena files, citing the 1974 Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act. Undeterred by the administration, Kayton took a red-eye flight to MIT, and broke into her son’s room with the help of some of Barclay’s friends.

“Because of all these privacy laws … we have to get court orders,” Kayton said to The Tech in April. “The law has gone too far in regards to missing persons cases.”

Kayton alleges that Barclay’s death could have been avoided had MIT allowed her access to Barclay’s room and property. Barclay’s death was ruled a suicide, but Kayton and her husband are working to appeal the ruling, the WSJ reports.

Stabbing hits Next House residents close to home

The community received another shocking piece of news on Oct. 23, when then-Wellesley College junior Anna L. Tang allegedly stabbed her ex-boyfriend Wolfe B. Styke ’10 seven times in his room at Next House.

The event prompted a campus-wide examination of current dormitory security policies because Tang had obtained a key to Stykes’ room through a night watchman on duty at Next House. According to the Cambridge Police report, the night watchman said he had given Tang a key because he didn’t know the two were no longer romantically involved.

After these events came to light, President Susan Hockfield charged Chancellor Phillip Clay with creating a task force to look at dorm security. Although that task force has been created, the only visible result so far is that desk workers (and, in Besley Hall, graduate resident tutors) will no longer let dormitory residents into their rooms — students who are locked out should now call x3-1500 instead.

Tang, arrested at the crime scene, was detained until Nov. 7 and was held without bail until Jan. 9. She was released on $10,000 bail and ordered to be kept under house arrest. She is no longer a Wellesley student.

MIT fails to 7th in U.S. News rankings

MIT’s fall from fourth to seventh place in the U.S. News and World Report college ranking was driven in part by changes in how MIT defines and computes class sizes and by corrections in how MIT reports its entering class’s SAT scores. The Wall Street Journal picked up the story.

Previously, MIT did not report certain standardized-test scores from some students, such as the SAT verbal score for international admits who also took the Test of English as a Foreign Language or the less favorable scores of students who took both the SAT and ACT. “If we didn’t use
The Year in Review

2007

Tuition Rises Even as Endowment, Donations Balloon

By Nick Semenkovich

Tuition rose by 4.1 percent last year, even as donations and the endowment increased to record numbers.

In March 2007, MIT announced that tuition would increase by 4.1 percent to $34,986. MIT’s financial aid offerings increased by 13.4 percent to $68 million. In contrast, Harvard University raised their tuition by 3.9 percent to $31,456, but revamped their entire financial aid system. Harvard is now free to families making less than $60,000 per year, and financial aid is offered to families with income up to $180,000.

MIT’s endowment had a return of 19.3 percent this year, boosted by investment returns of 22.1 percent. The endowment now stands at $9.98 billion, placing MIT sixth among all colleges and universities.

Other universities saw comparable increases in their endowments, such as Harvard (19.8 percent), Princeton University (21.0 percent), and Stanford University (21.9 percent). The highest return was at Yale University, with a whopping 28.0 percent, putting their endowment at $22.5 billion.

These enormous endowment returns combined with tuition increases prompted concerns by the Senate Finance Committee. In January 2008, the committee asked the wealthiest 136 universities for information on endowment use, tuition increases, and executive compensation.

MIT raised $160 million by October for the Campaign for Students. Alongside MIT’s tuition and endowment increases, the Institute started a new donation program called the Campaign for Students. According to Chancellor Phillip L. Clay PhD ’75, the program is aimed at raising $500 million over the next five years, of which $200 million will support undergraduate financial aid programs and scholarships, and the remaining $300 million will be evenly divided between graduate student fellowships, student life, and student learning.

The Campaign for Students had raised $160 million by October 2007, which Clay said put the program “ahead of schedule.”

Ranks, Stata Bring MIT Into National Headlines

> from Headlines on page 12

A student’s score … we didn’t report it,” Interim Director of Admissions Stuart Schmill ’86 said in September. “This year we did.”

Additionally, class size reports vary from year to year as multiple sections of the same class can be interpreted to mean either distinct classrooms or a single class. “The language is muddier,” Director of Institutional Research Lydia S. Snover said in September. “We’ve been having these debates on and off over what is a class.”

For other U.S. News rankings, MIT remained at the top of undergraduate engineering schools, where it has been for the past six years. The departments of Aeronautics and Astronautics, Chemical Engineering, Electrical Engineering and Computer Science, and Mechanical Engineering were ranked first as well.

Institute sues Stata architect

On Oct. 31, MIT filed a lawsuit against Frank O. Gehry, the Stata Center’s architect, and Skanska USA Building Inc., the construction company that built the $300 million building. The suit alleged that negligent design and construction had caused architectural problems like poor drainage, mold growth, leaks, and ice sliding from the roof. It said that the outdoor amphitheater need $1.5 million in repairs.

Although the contractual issues were largely ones of minor negligence and liability, the news also reit a public debate over whether Gehry’s twisted metal-and-glass design for the Stata Center reflects inspired brilliance or an expensive embarrassment.

Former Boston University President John Silber, an outspoken critic of the Stata Center, said to the Boston Globe that Gehry “thinks of himself as an artist, as a sculptor. But the trouble is you don’t live in a sculpture and users have to live in this building.”

But MIT Robotics Professor Rodney Brooks disagreed. He said in an e-mail to The Tech that he and other MIT faculty had worked closely with Gehry during the design and construction of the Stata Center, and that he was happy working in the building.

The suit continues in the Suffolk County Superior Court.

A Protracted Divestment from Sudan

By Nick Semenkovich

After many student protests, MIT finally announced its intention to divest from Sudan in May 2007. The decision came from the MIT Corporation’s Executive Committee, which heard recommendations from an advisory committee.

Kirk D. Kolenbrander, secretary of the Corporation, issued a statement saying that MIT would be “reviewing the securities portfolios over which it may exercise direct investment discretion and will divest as appropriate,” characterized the acts in Sudan as “genocide.”

Despite those strong words, it has been difficult to see further progress in divestment. Kolenbrander, citing institutional policy, has declined to provide any information as to how much money was invested in Sudan and in what companies. Kolenbrander also declined to speculate on how long MIT was invested in Sudan and in what information as to how much money was invested.

MIT’s investment managers moved companies but did say that they would not say whether MIT was invested in Sudan and in what companies with income up to $180,000.

The body of Cambridge residents was largely one of minor negligence and liability, the news also reit a public debate over whether Gehry’s twisted metal-and-glass design for the Stata Center reflects inspired brilliance or an expensive embarrassment.

In September, Kolenbrander announced that MIT was not invested in the 20 “highest offenders” as determined by the national Sudan Divestment Task Force. Kolenbrander would not say whether MIT was ever invested in any of the offending companies but did say that “whatever changes were necessary, our investment managers moved promptly to make that happen … there’s no further work to be done there, as I understand it.”

led plan for improvement of east campus dining options, Campus Dining announces that Pritchett Dining will not reopen in the fall and that the semester fee for Preferred Dining would be rolled back to $300 for the fall.

June 30: James L. Sherry meets the end of his appointment. Sherry faced locked a New York Times article attempted to work in his lab after the June 30 deadline.

July 2: Bernard Loyd ’83, an African American alumnus and former MIT Corporation trustee, withdrew from activities supporting MIT in protest of the Institute’s handling of the Sherry case.

July 6: Construction has begun on 303 Third Street near Kendall Square, the site that will house MIT’s University Residential Community, the result of over four years of planning by members of the MIT community to provide affordable housing close to campus to those affiliated with MIT. The Tech reports. Prices for housing units range from $478,000 for a one bedroom apartment to $1.5 million for a three bedroom apartment.

July 6: MIT has formed a new Security & Emergency Management Office, The Tech reports. With a staff of three — David M. Barber, Thomas W. Komola, and Daniel L. Michaud — the office will coordinate campus security response as well as provide assistance with security questions and advice on installing security systems.


July 22: James T. Albrecht ’88 passes away after falling from the roof of a New York City apartment building.

July 27: Professor of Mechanical Engineering Subra Suresh becomes the new dean of engineering.

July 29: The body of Cambridge resident Michael Gonzalez ’04 is found in Grout Pond in Stratton, VT. Gonzalez had been missing since July 7 when he became separated from his group while hiking during a camping trip.

Aug. 6: An MIT Federal Credit Union branch opens on the first floor of the Student Center.

Aug. 17: Kirk D. Kolenbrander announces a test of a new campus-wide emergency communications system that will occur in the week. The test was considered a success with 26,000 e-mail messages sent in under five minutes, The Tech later reports.

Aug. 18: A bomb threat to MIT via an anonymous e-mail, though the MIT Police do not find any evidence to substantiate the threat. MIT was one of many schools to receive the e-mail threat, including Princeton University, The University of New Hampshire, The University of Iowa, and Carnegie-Mellon University. The e-mails also prompted small evacuations at Clemson University and Cornell University.

continued on page 17

MIT filed a lawsuit against Frank O. Gehry, the Stata Center’s architect.
In Memoriam

Walter Alan Backofen
Walter Alan Backofen ‘46, retired professor of metallurgy and materials science, died at his Marblehead, Mass., home on Dec. 2, 2006. He was 80. Backofen taught at MIT for 25 years, retiring in 1975. He designed new courses and a new laboratory and became recognized for bridging theory and practice over a wide range of real-life problems — from automotive stamping to orthopedic implants and the Star Wars defense shield.

Douglas Ross
Douglas Ross SM ’54 passed away on Jan. 31, 2007 after a fall at his home in the Brookline area of Lexington care community. He was 89.

A lecturer in the Department of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science, Ross was well-known for having invented the Automatically Programmed Tool computer language while simultaneously learning and teaching at MIT, according to the Boston Globe. He was also the founder of software engineering company SofT-ech and coined the term “computer-aided design.”

Frances E. Low
Frances E. Low, a retired MIT physicist and provost who worked on the Manhattan Project, died of heart failure on Feb. 16, 2007 at a retirement home in Haverford, Pa. He was 85.

“Frances was a hero of the physics department,” said Professor Marc A. Kastner. “His theoretical ideas shaped much of modern particle physics as well as condensed matter physics, and he was a wise, generous colleague who helped many of us when we were starting at careers at MIT.”

Ronald H. Stowell
Ronald H. Stowell, a postdoctoral researcher associated with MIT’s Plasma Science and Fusion Center, passed away on March 4, 2007 at a retirement home in Haverford, Pa. He was 52.

“Frances was a hero of the physics department,” said Professor Marc A. Kastner. “His theoretical ideas shaped much of modern particle physics as well as condensed matter physics, and he was a wise, generous colleague who helped many of us when we were starting at careers at MIT.”

Charles D. Paton
Charles D. Paton, professor of Electrical Engineering, died on May 26, 2007 in Cambridge, Mass. He was 91.

“Charles was a remarkable teacher and research advisor who advanced battery technology,” said Ryan M. Davis ’10, an energetic young MIT student from Georgia.

Ryan M. Davis
Ryan M. Davis ’10, an energetic and vibrant student with a passion for teaching at MIT, died on June 8, 2007. He was 88.

“Ryan was an amazing student and a member of the MIT faculty for more than 60 years,” said Ted Devlin, a former MIT economics professor renowned for his pioneering work in the field of regenerative medicine. “He was 88.”

C. Proehl ’09. “Even if it was 2 a.m., if you went to his room and knocked on the door.”

James T. Albrecht
James T. Albrecht ’08, a Baker House resident known for his contributions to academic and student life and MIT, died on July 22, 2007 from injuries sustained in a fall. Albrecht, 21, appears to have fallen from the roof of New York City’s Department of Health building and landed on a second-story ledge of an adjacent building, according to the New York Police Department.

“James Albrecht’s most charming and memorable quality was his overwhelming generosity,” said Sarah C. Proehl ’09. “Even if it was 2 a.m., and he had myriad problems set to do, he would gladly put down his work to help any student knock on his door.”

Albrecht N. 80 described Albrecht as “a laid-back, easy going guy, always funny and enjoyable to be around.”

“Even if someone who derived a lot of pleasure through helping others, something that I think speaks more truly to his character than any of his other virtues,” Ni said in an e-mail to Baker House. “There is no question that the time I shared with him as a roommate and a friend was enjoyable and invaluable. He was the first person to make me feel welcome at MIT.”

At MIT, Albrecht also served as the president of Baker House and was elected as vice president of the Dormitory Council in May 2007.

Hollis M. Lilly
Hollis M. Lilly, staff associate in the Office of Undergraduate Advising and Academic Programming, died on July 28, 2007 due to complications from surgery. He was 36.

Lilly came to MIT in October 2003. In his capacity as staff to the faculty Committee on Academic Performance and as the coordinator of Advanced Placement transfer credit and UAAP sponsored study sessions, he worked with both faculty and students.

For more than a dozen years, O’Connor was the face of Draper Laboratory in the Cambridge community. O’Connor presented Draper’s viewpoint on topics of public interest, such as the Nuclear-free Cambridge Referendum of 1983, and he provided leadership for many civic organizations.

Eugene Bell
Eugene Bell, a former MIT biology professor renowned for his pioneering work in the field of regenerative medicine, passed away on June 22, 2007. He was 88.

Bell recently donated more than $1 million to MIT to establish the Eugene Bell Career Development Professorship of Tissue Engineering. Darrell J. Irvine, the inaugural holder of the professorship, said Bell came to be known as the “father of tissue engineering” as a result of a seminal study he published in the Journal Science in 1981.

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By The Tech's Editorial Board

Incorporating perspectives built upon institutional memory and the paper’s untouched archives, The Tech’s editorial board weighed in on several matters of importance to the MIT community this past year. Below find editorials on what we consider to be some of the year’s most important topics.


James L. Sherley wants us to believe MIT is racist, and that it is because of this institutional racism that he was denied tenure. Unfortunately, his numerous lengthy public statements have supplied no evidence to support his claims. Sherley’s numerous public statements have provided detailed descriptions of improprieties in other conduct towards him and his tenure review — from the Institute, the Biological Engineering department, and particular members of the faculty and administration.

MIT must actively engage the faculty as a whole with regards to how to correct those broken components of its tenure process.

If his allegations of conflicts of interest, personal vendettas, and misleading public statements are indeed true, they would certainly constitute a breakdown in the tenure process, and warrant some form of action to safeguard against future problems.

However, even if one were to accept every single one of Sherley’s allegations at face value, there would still be no evidence of racism.

MIT is, at its heart, a school built on the principles of science and engineering. We search for evidence, the tools of logic, and are not in the habit of accepting rumors and allegations as truth. …

For its part, MIT owes Sherley a true and open response to all of his allegations, and must actively engage the faculty as a whole with regards to how to correct those broken components of its tenure process. Equally important, if Sherley or his supporters fail to provide any concrete evidence of racism, the Institute owes it to the entire community not to follow the path of appeasement.

If our hiring process is not reliable, how can we defend our integrity in other areas, like research?

We need to discover what changes we should make while still preserving that which makes MIT exceptional.

For the MIT police to charge three MIT students who were found exploring after hours indicates a fundamental misunderstanding of their mission: to provide a police presence that is suitable for our community.

If convicted, the students facing charges would potentially suffer a lifetime of closed doors, social stigmas, job referrals, and even the loss of voting rights in some states. The MIT administration also claims to value our hacking culture — celebrations of past hacks are proudly displayed within our halls, along our lobbies, and in our museum. Campus tour guides are directed to highlight past hacks, and they are frequently featured on the MIT homepage. Given all of this, how can the administration possibly justify letting the MIT police ruin three students’ lives for doing exactly what is usually glorified?

The Tech calls upon the MIT Police and the administration to quickly take all steps necessary for charges to be dropped against the three students. The Tech also calls on the administration to publicly reaffirm its commitment to deal with such situations through internal reviews, and to use community service as the standard punishment. Finally, the administration must work with students to review and clarify the role of our campus police.

Jones’ Resignation Right For MIT — May 4, 2007

MIT made the right decision in asking Marilee Jones to resign. If our hiring process is not reliable, how can we defend our integrity in other areas, like research? … All of MIT should be held to the same standard for honesty in order to maintain credibility.

Although Jones’ effectiveness in running our Admissions Office illustrates that the degrees in question were not necessary for even her high-level position of dean, it does not mean that such qualifications are not important during hiring. … It may be unreasonable to expect the Institute to thoroughly check the background of all new employees at all levels. But it is the Institute’s responsibility to find out what it usually glorifies? …

My intent is not to exclude other aspects of the MIT mission from our focus, but to share these entirely personal views. We need to discover what changes we should make while still preserving that which makes MIT exceptional. As both an alumnus and a long time faculty member, I have my own list of core attributes worthy of preservation. I certainly would not suggest to大家分享 these entirely personal views.

First, we must continue being a specialized university centered in science and technology. This means a commitment to rigorous core curricula and major programs that require a deep understanding of a discipline. My intent is not to exclude other aspects of excellence outside science and technology; we must also sustain a diversity of intellectual disciplines so that our students have the opportunity to become well-rounded and well-informed. However, we must continue to pick and choose those other areas carefully so that we don’t try to be everything to everybody.

We need to preserve the true spirit embodied in "Mens et Manus." This means a sustained commitment to doing things of practical value to society, not just observing and analyzing. This will require continuing our historical engagement with industry and government in translating new knowledge into useful products and services that meet human needs. MIT should never be solely a bystander, just doing research solely for its own sake.

We also need to retain a culture which supports the view that integrity, well-reasoned ideas, and verifiable evidence are what matter in determining scientific truths, rather than ideology, intellectual fashions, simplistic beliefs, or the unsupported assertions of people of great stature.

We must expand our efforts to be inclusive as possible in all aspects of our work. Intellectual excellence can come from anywhere, and we must be a place where the best minds come to
New Admins Can't Take Nerd Culture for Granted

By Ruth Miller

I've often referred to MIT as a “nerd reservation,” or a place for the world's extremely bizarre people to live and work together by their own system of rules and social norms. This beautiful society they created — one based on respect for logic and invention — is not coincidentally a mine of greatness. While churning out Nobel Laureates and top ranks, MIT garnered the reputation of being fun for those that appreciate spelunking, Smoots, and steel.

But this made it all for granted. When asked to name the biggest problem facing MIT in 2007, my immediate thought was “threat to culture.” For now, parental complaints, various lawsuits, and the attention that distracts disproportionately high profile institutions have had only the occasional impact on student life (though infamous examples include freshmen in dormitories, dining dollars, the flag policy, a sensitivity to mental health considered unusual in other environments, and a general policy of looking over students when confronted by the media).

MIT has been fortunate to have administrators and governing “powers that be” that are aware of the fragility of their intellectually fertile and legally compliant campus, seemingly understanding a complex social organism such as MIT is difficult to accomplish through any means other than first-hand experience. Continuing administrative turnover and the high influx of people previously unexposed to MIT’s culture does not bode well for the Institute with a feeling of continuity.

In my tenure as Undergraduate Association vice president, I was fortunate to have the willing ear of many members of MIT’s administration. This is the administrator who desire to help students, and they draw upon their collective experience at a variety of institutions. But the line between “draconian and cool” is a fine one and many people lack an understanding of the unique demographic they’re attempting to serve. Trying to explain the necessity of residential exploration (though infa- culty) to new students was “threat to culture.”

When asked to name the biggest problem facing MIT in 2007, my immediate thought was “threat to culture.”

MIT Students Go Global

By Sally Susnowitz

The constant barrage of news about climate change, energy shortages, environmental degradation, and war demonstrates the challenges and dangers of an increasingly interconnected world. However, in the face of these grim realities and predictions, it is reassuring to witness the real-world, international successes of MIT students. By working with communities around the world, MIT students create positive outcomes that have transformative effects. The more MIT students participate in international public service, the better chance we have of creating a world where interconnection is an asset and headlines can be positive.

Consider just a few of the outcomes of MIT students’ international public service work. First, the students gain substantial educational benefits from their public service experiences abroad. Given that MIT students often become powerful professionals, these lessons are themselves important opportunities for positive change in the world. The experiential education they gain through public service helps them learn about issues, about complexity, about problem-solving, about how to apply and fully understand their academic subjects. They learn about the cultural, geographic, political, social, economic, and technical influences that shape communities and countries. They also gain important personal insights about their own assumptions, capabilities, and strengths.

By tackling the problems of human need collaboratively with local people, MIT students also develop community capability. When MIT students work with teachers and community leaders to establish a computer center in India or to develop a hands-on science curriculum in Tanzania, they continue to empower people long after they return home from their travels over the Independent Activities Period or the summer. Over time, the effects of MIT students’ international public service work can expand. For example, one IDEAS Competition winning project has already enabled 25,000 people in Nepal to drink cleaner water, and as communities share the technologies, those numbers will rise.

Last year, MIT began an initiative to expand experiential education and international opportunities. Initiative committees were formed to assess current offerings and develop appropriate guidelines for growth. The “Global MIT” Web site was launched, followed by a “Go Global” subsidary supporting students. House opened, thanks to the collective efforts of students, faculty, and administrators, all eager to see this new living-learning environment empower students to become successful leaders in a global context.

We hope that this Institute emphasis on international experience will continue — and that it will enable the MIT Public Service Center to expand international public service opportunities through the IDEAS Competition, Public Service Fellowships and grants, and service learning classes like D-Lab. Through these support systems, MIT students are already working on innovative ways to regenerate coral reefs, to curb the spread of tuberculosis and malaria, to irrigate arid regions, and to enable access to communication technology to spur education and economic development. But in a world where a billion people lack clean drinking water, where smoke from indoor cooking kills thousands each year, and where children suffer from poverty, persecution, and illiteracy are a fact of life for millions, MIT students have much more work to do.

Sally Susnowitz is the director of the MIT Public Service Center.

Not Just Another Ivy League

By Sarah C. Hopp

MIT is going through an identity crisis. Administrators frequently use Ivy League universities as a yardstick by which MIT’s student life is evaluated. MIT fundamentally differs from these other elite institutions in our commitment to excellence, our focus on the student experience, our interdisciplinary and independent student life. The tides at MIT are turning, MIT administrators are more out of touch on numerous student life issues. Although student input is sometimes sought, it often comes too late in the decision-making process to have a significant impact, or is disregarded outright.

Ashdown has recently exemplified this decline in student-administrator interactions. Over a year ago, graduate students were completely in the dark about their future home in NW35. Building designs stirred organic community growth and included no input from future residents. Improvements were made only after significant negative press. Only months later, undergraduate ended up in a similar situation regarding future undergraduate dormitory W1; the original building planning committees, which had student members, were abandoned by administrators after only a handful of meetings, without producing any firm recommendations.

Finally, at the end of last semester, a sweeping plan for Ashdown was revealed. Included in this plan was a full dining hall, much to the chagrin, but not surprise, of the original student committee members. These students had been told in one of their few committee meeting months prior that the decision had already been made and that it was completely non-negotiable. Committee members had numerous concerns about the feasibility of the proposed dining hall and its effect on organic community in W1, but were not heard.

The Great Copyright Crackdown

By Jeffrey I. Schiller

2007 has been the year of the great copyright crackdown. While copyright has been part of the law for hundreds of years, protecting intellectual property so that those who create it are justly compensated is now even more important in an information economy, even as the prevalence of digital media makes it easier to violate copyrights laws. Copyright is not an intuitive concept. I believe that humans are not naturally wired to understand intellectual property — for all, our ancestors made their living by hunting mammoths with sticks. So if someone asks you to photocopy a book, you don’t say no because you viscerally understand copyright. Later, the reason you don’t copy a book is because it’s a hassle and it would just be cheaper and easier for the other person to purchase his own copy.

However digital media is trivial to copy, so the hassle factor is removed. Moreover, the legal options for things like getting music are clumsy, inefficient, and often offer suboptimal functionality. In contrast, many “pirate” distribution methods are just plain cheaper and more convenient than official distribution channels. It is as if you were forced by law to go to a dealer and buy a crappy old rusty car, where just down the street there’s a lot of unguarded shiny new Mercedes with the doors unlocked and the key in the ignition. If you took one of those, it would be stealing … but only one in every thou- sand people get caught. It’s a huge incentive to break the law.
MIT’s Missile Defense Cover-Up

By Theodore A. Postol

Over the past seven years, the MIT Corporation has been actively concealing evidence of scientific fraud at MIT Lincoln Laboratory, relating to the effectiveness of its national missile defense system. During that time, the U.S. has mis-spent nearly $70 billion of national treasure on a flawed system, and MIT’s name has been used to market a defense system that was not even working. This will be a difficult truth to accept for anyone who reads them will understand that the actions of the MIT Corporation in this case have ignored the nation’s best interests.

The outrage is twofold. First, that fraud and misconduct happened on such an expensive and consequential project, and second, that the Corporation’s manipulation covered it up. Between 2001 and 2008 the MIT Corporation impeded a federally mandated investigation by falsely claiming that information was being withheld from the government. The administration also repeatedly told the faculty and the MIT community about barriers to an investigation that did not exist.

Documents obtained this past year through the Freedom of Information Act, including reports from MIT’s internal investigation [3], the Department of Defense’s “independent” investigation [4], the initial POET study from Lincoln Laboratory itself [2], and communications between MIT’s administration and Congress [5], provide detailed insights into how the MIT Corporation concealed information from the Congress that indicated possible scientific fraud at Lincoln Laboratory.

Among the findings:
1. The POET report was “silent on the issue of calibration and functional status of the eye” [3] refer to the fact that Lincoln Laboratory did not report that the sensor in the “successful” experiment had failed to take any usable scientific data.
2. The MIT inquiry found that the claims made about the success of the IFT-1A could not possibly be true as the sensor provided no data that could be used to reach the asserted conclusions.
3. The POET report analyzed only a subset of the scientifically unusable sensor data from the experiment and removed data that indicated different conclusions from what they presented as proven scientific findings.
4. MIT’s administration claimed to have identified a mock warhead by analyzing certain characteristics of the signals from the warhead and surrogate decoys. The MIT report years later found that “indispensable analysis by Professor Postol suggests...this could not be the case.” Without this indispensable additional data, this observation by the MIT inquiry report also indicates false reporting of experimental and analytic results.
5. Lincoln Laboratory managers, in addition to staff were subjected to an additional internal investigation by the Whitehead Defense Agency. The whitehead Defense Agency’s classification of the MIT internal inquiry.
6. He told Levin that the inquiry could not be released to him because it contained substantial amounts of “highly sensitive classified information.” Although Vest made some vague statements about the inquiry’s findings, he did not tell Levin that the findings were unclassified, nor did he tell Levin that the findings included evidence of likely scientific fraud at Lincoln Laboratory. Vest concluded by saying that “MIT has not...been able to devise a process that would permit a meaningful determination of the issues and at the same time be acceptable to the MIT Lincoln Laboratory. The research...Thus MIT forfeited its responsibilities for an independent investigation.

A renewed interest in the Congress on this matter will inevitably lead to new insights about how and why the MIT Corporation chose to work against the nation’s interest on behalf of the Missile Defense Agency, a major “sponsor” of research at MIT Lincoln Laboratory. A recent University of Massachusetts study ranks the Institute for Advanced Science. The U.S. Missile Defense Agency responds on Sept. 27.

Aug. 30: OpenLabWare, a Web-based project that teaches people about how research is done, is live at http://olw.mit.edu/. The Tech reports, the brainchild of George S. Zaidan ’08, OLW will host “modules,” or case studies of real research.

Sept. 4: MIT’s diversity recruitment and fraternity rush begin; this is the first time since 2002 that sorority recruitment will occur in the fall. The Tech later reports a record 163 bids and 143 acceptances for completed sorority recruitment, all of which were accepted, and 472 bids given out to 373 men, for an unprecedented diversity recruitment, resulting in at least 317 new pledges.

Sept. 5: A ribbon cutting ceremony is held as part of the formal opening of iHouse, a New House community focused on international development.

Sept. 6: Five people — including paramedics and volunteers for the Charles River Clean-Up — are injured in a boat fire on the Charles River that appears to be caused by an electrical short. Local media draw a connection between the sodium on the bank of the Charles River and the MIT tradition of dropping sodium in the water as a comedy stunt.

Sept. 7: Professors Barbara Liskov and Wesley Harris have been selected the share the new position of associate provost for faculty equity, MIT announces. The post was created a year ago.

Sept. 10: Hundreds of students and community members eat and socialize at the MIT Community Picnic on Killian Court, sponsored by the Office of the President.

Sept. 11: The Boston University Student Dental Plan, one of the least expensive of the options available to students in the area, will no longer be available to members of the MIT community this year, The Tech reports, possibly because of a number of complaints and cancellations from full-time students over the past year.

Sept. 12: The Dormitory Council responds on Sept. 27.

By Theo Postol ’67, a well-known critic of missile-defense systems, of mischaracterizing missile defense capabilities in ongoing discussions with Russia at a Capital Hill briefing through the Whitehead Defense Agency and the Advancement of Science.

Aug. 28: Professor Theodore A. Postol ’67, a well-known critic of missile-defense systems, tells the brainchild of George S. Zaidan ’08, OLW will host “modules,” or case studies of real research.

Aug. 27: The POET report analyzed only a subset of the scientifically unusable sensor data from the experiment and removed data that indicated different conclusions from what they presented as proven scientific findings.

Aug. 28: Professor Theodore A. Postol ’67, a well-known critic of missile-defense systems, tells the brainchild of George S. Zaidan ’08, OLW will host “modules,” or case studies of real research.

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Aug. 27: The POET report analyzed only a subset of the scientifically unusable sensor data from the experiment and removed data that indicated different conclusions from what they presented as proven scientific findings.

Aug. 26: The POET report analyzed only a subset of the scientifically unusable sensor data from the experiment and removed data that indicated different conclusions from what they presented as proven scientific findings.

Aug. 25: The POET report analyzed only a subset of the scientifically unusable sensor data from the experiment and removed data that indicated different conclusions from what they presented as proven scientific findings.

Aug. 24: The POET report analyzed only a subset of the scientifically unusable sensor data from the experiment and removed data that indicated different conclusions from what they presented as proven scientific findings.

Aug. 23: The POET report analyzed only a subset of the scientifically unusable sensor data from the experiment and removed data that indicated different conclusions from what they presented as proven scientific findings.
1. CityDays, Aug. 31
   —Alex H. Chan

2. MIT Juggling Club’s Juggle Mania III, Nov. 17
   —Eric D. Schmiedl

3. Head of the Zesiger Cardboard Boat Regatta, Oct. 19
   —David M. Templeton

4. Commencement 2007, June 8
   —David M. Templeton

5. Commencement 2007, June 8
   —Brian Hemond

6. MIT Dance Troupe, May 13
   —Brian Hemond

7. Former MIT Police Chief John DiFava
   —Eric D. Schmiedl

8. East Campus undergraduate dormitory Residence Exploration, Aug. 24
   —Eric D. Schmiedl
Through the Lens
The Year in Pictures
The Paradox of Institute Performance and Faculty Perceptions

By Bish Sanyal

During the last few months, as I served as the chair of the MIT faculty, I have been surprised by a phenomenon which I can only describe as a paradox. While all the indicators of MIT’s institutional performance look quite positive and convey clearly that MIT remains a leading research university in the world, the faculty — not all, but a sizeable number — seem to feel that the Institute is not moving in the right direction, that its institutional norms and practices are changing, moving away from MIT’s traditional models of decentralized innovations towards a relatively centralized and somewhat corporate model of governance. This odd juxtaposition of success and alarm has been intriguing for me.

The record of MIT’s success should be well known, thanks to periodic and well-clicked stories, such as the recent presentations of the Institute campus-wide presentation by the senior administrators. That is why I am surprised how often I have to recount all the “good things” that MIT has done. To take one example, the fact that MIT when I hear complaints of the kind I mentioned earlier.

For example, compared to the time not so long ago when MIT had to freeze the faculty salary for a year, or reduce administrative support through reorganization, a major financial situation is very strong. Our endowment has increased steadily, our budget deficits have turned into surpluses, and we can now support a top quality faculty which is not cheap, and our allocation for student financial aid has also increased steadily over the last few years. If we look at other indicators, such as number of applications for admission, faculty productivity, and institutional investments in new initiatives, those too look quite good.

In terms of physical infrastructure, the kind of boom we witnessed with the completion of the Lawrence A. Simpson Hall has subsided somewhat; nevertheless, two or three projects are currently underway, including construction of a new dormitory for students, a new old dormitory, and construction of two new buildings, one for the Sloan School and the other for the extension of the Media Lab. Funds are also being raised from private donors for additional projects. MIT is also engaged in a miniature campaign, very similar to a major fund drive, to raise funds for student fellowships and extra-curricular activities which enhance the quality of student life. These give us reason to believe that the basic indicators of the health of our institution all look quite good — in fact, better than what we experienced in the late 1990s or early 2000s.

And, yet, there is still unease and discontent about one central state of MIT. In my meetings with faculty, I hear that MIT is changing from a place that celebrated decentralization as a framework for unpretentious academics to one that is managed increasingly by a centralized group of powerful administrators. As the chair of the faculty, I do participate in one such centralized group, called the Academic Council. I am struck by the range and depth of issues discussed at the council meetings where I have the opportunity to present the faculty’s concerns at any time.

The December faculty meeting discussions were cut short when administrators deserted the committees and completed the decision-making behind closed doors.

Not only was the decision frustrating because of the lack of student input, but it went against MIT’s oft-vaunted tradition of student involvement and scientific approach to problems. With four nearby dining halls hemmorhaging money and a fifth already closed, the addition of another faculty makes little sense economically. MIT needs to look at the big picture and develop a strategic plan instead of offering ineffective piecemeal solutions as issues arise. This year, approximately $50K was spent on consultants hired to collaborate with students and administrators to form an effective plan for dining. However, this investment has lost its utility since plans for a new dining facility have been prematurely set in stone without the input of this new dining committee. Students have been cut out of the picture, as have the consultants with the expertise to integrate student ideas into a successful new system.

Many administrators are trying to harmonize best with their busy lives. While finding the best possible system is important, and change is certainly not all bad, only MIT students know what is best for themselves.

Community building, around dining has been the central focus in MIT student life in recent years. If administrators were willing to meet eye-to-eye with students, share frequent meals in a dormitory hall or a kitchen, in a dormitory or an FSILG, they would understand that we already have an amazing, supportive community for every different type of student and we don’t need dining programs to foster it. Even if we’re not dining in a dining hall, or participating in some other sort of official community-building event, we’re socializing and supporting each other in lounges, hallways, courtyards, and suites all around campus. These community bonds are what will excite prospective students, help current students learn and survive, and encourage alumni (and their pocketbooks) to stay involved.

The strength of MIT’s community cannot be attributed to the manifestation of one, but to the collective creative power of many individual students. In the coming year, I hope that administrators will take a step back, engage in that creativity and that community, and seek more student contact and input. Most of all, though, I hope that administrators will look beyond what other top-ranking universities also do, because the legal climate which now affects the academic institution is very different than, say, 20 years ago.

Finally, some faculty are concerned that more attention seems to be paid to MIT’s international engagements than what happens at 02139 Cambridge, Mass. The good news is that MIT’s international reputation continues to flourish, and much effort is being devoted by a special task force, headed by Associate Provost Philip S. Khoury and Vice President for Research Claude R. Canizares, to address the kinds of issues which concern the faculty.

That is the question that intrigues me, and I hope I can play a positive role in bridging the gap between institutional performance and faculty perceptions as a necessary step for strengthening the learning environment at MIT.

Bish Sanyal is the chair of the MIT faculty and a professor in the Department of Urban Studies and Planning.

A Year of Quiet Victories: Student-Led Initiatives

from Wyne on page 15

have a dining hall and program (The Tech, Dec. 7, 2007). This decision was apparently made without input from the Blue Ribbon Committee, which outgoing Dean for Student Life Larry G. Benedict told us was undertaking a complete reassessment of dining at MIT.

The W1 decision confirms that we — students, that is — are not going to win every time, and we should not expect to. It also reminds us of the pressing challenges that we confront. Professor James L. Sherryl’s hunger strike prompted another review of the Institute’s stance on matters of race.

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In an open letter to President Susan Hockfield, Sarah F. Ackley ’08 stated that she was “appalled that MIT has failed to give Star its full support in this matter” (The Tech, Sept. 25, 2007) — so, too, were many other MIT students. There is a perception that Institute has grown less supportive of its students.

A student protest letter published one day before Ackley’s opinion piece asked, “What happened to All Tech being student led?” With Professor Patrick H. Winston also involved in a faculty meeting addressing the same issue. Whether or not the quote is real, the perception that MIT is less supportive of students than in years past certainly is.

This conviction strengthened when MIT did not defend 19 students who were subpoenaed by the Recording Industry Association of America for allegedly downloading music illegally. Erek R. Speed ’09 lambasted the Institute for downloading music illegally. “appeasing the dogs,” arguing that “appeasing the RIAA” has undermined students and the dogs,” arguing that “appeasing the RIAA” has undermined students and faculty, I hear that MIT's international engagements than what happens at 02139 Cambridge, Mass. The good news is that MIT's international reputation continues to flourish, and much effort is being devoted by a special task force, headed by Associate Provost Philip S. Khoury and Vice President for Research Claude R. Canizares, to address the kinds of issues which concern the faculty.

That is the question that intrigues me, and I hope I can play a positive role in bridging the gap between institutional performance and faculty perceptions as a necessary step for strengthening the learning environment at MIT.

Bish Sanyal is the chair of the MIT faculty and a professor in the Department of Urban Studies and Planning.

A Year of Quiet Victories: Student-Led Initiatives

from Wyne on page 15

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A practical solution so that this kind of situation does not arise again.

RBA Limits Freshman Choice, August 28, 2007

Dormitories which offer Resi-
dence-Based Advising should give
choices a chance to get out — or get in — during Orientation. They
should stop repeatedly setting off
Improving Readjustment Lottery … should not exclude McCormick Hall and Next House …

Under the current system, there is no way for freshmen to "try out" these RBA dormitories. Potential residents are
doubtless deterred by the fact that they
will not be able to move if they find
they are not happy there. Thus, it is
likely that fewer people apply to
RBA dormitories, and those dormito-
ries lose out on the chance for valuable
community members who prefer to
pick a residence after arriving at MIT.

The current system discourages
choice and yields no real benefit.

The bedrock principle of housing at MIT; our dormitories
and their residents set the Insti-
tute apart from many other univer-
sities. It is in everyone's best interest to give students more choice.

Why Can't We Tell You to Live in the Tech? Sept. 29, 2007

The ASA should eliminate its
complex and unnecessary recruitment
rules. In addition, the ASA should
advocate for the movement "Indie
Activities Midway" to earlier in the
week, possibly by rotating the
major day-
time events of Wednesday, Thursday,
and Friday. Finally, the ASA should
encourage students to foster the well-
being of student groups, not to strangle them

in needless red tape.

The purpose of the ASA is
foster the well being of
students, not to strangle
them in needless red tape.

Choice is a bedrock principle
of housing at MIT. It is in
everyone's best interest to
give students more choice.

Sodium Doesn't Just Fall From the Sky — Sept. 18, 2007

Who should be accountable for the
apparent accident that led to five
people being burned by sodium on
Thursday, Sept. 6? If MIT's Civil
Disobedience Policy is truly
accepted, the responsible party
should be held accountable for its
actions. If no responsible
party can be found, the Insti-
tute should help the people who
have been hurt …

Most students who organize large-

scale events with potential hazards,
such as Sodium Drop and Orange Tours,
exercise extreme caution; and the an-
nual student-run Sodium Drop has
occurred for years without causing
any injuries. MIT officials and po-
lice have in the past implicitly en-
dorsed the annual Sodium Drop by turning a blind eye to it. The Tech, Wikipedia, and MIT's own
informational documents say this was
an event for Institute. Instead, the Institute

should ban this tradition which
would not measur-
ably improve safety …

If the people responsible for the
Sodium fire cannot be identified, the

Institute should keep the side of taking too
much blame and should volunteer
to help the burned individuals. Charles
Ringe, Cleanup Boat volunteers and
government regulators. The
Institute, which has
obligations to both the Cleanup Boat
in all four years of that or-
gressive's exist-
te, should cov-
er the costs of medical treatment and
pay to make the boat seaworthy again.

Support Our Students — Sept. 25, 2007

Star A Simpson '10 made an
hon-
est mistake when she wore a glowing
device. MIT — which should be
acting to help its student — was curi-
ously quiet, releasing only a statement
that [a]s reported to us by the author-
ities, Simpson's actions were reckless and
understandably created alarm at the
airport.

Instead, the Institute should make
the facts of the case clear — that Simp-
son and the device were harmless —
and the district attorney's office should
drop the charges against Simpson.

… by remaining silent and unsupport-
ive, MIT risks being perceived as
uninterested in its students and
future. Worse, if MIT gains a reputation for prioritiz-
ing its image over its students' well-be-
ing, talented prospective students
will be turned off by the Institute.

The MIT Museum unveils a
$3 million expansion and
renovation, which gives the
museum a new ground level with
5,000 square feet of additional space.

River Cleanup Boat volunteers have
helped the burn victims from the Charles
River since the spring has been
22 percent.

Freshman Class Council

The MIT Museum holds its first
Freshman Class Council
Presidential Debate.

Sept. 21: Star A Simpson '10, wearing a circuit board with light-emitting diodes that was connected to a battery, is arrested at gunpoint at Logan International Airport and is
charged with possession of a hoax
device. MIT issues a widely-quoted press release saying Simpson's actions "reckless." Dean for
Student Life Larry G. Benedict and other administrators speak with the student protesters.

Sept. 25: Oliver R. Smoot '62,
known for the unit of length on the
Harvard Bridge, and author
Robert tavernor are on campus
to discuss Tavernor's recently
published book Smoot's Ear: The
Measure of Humanity.

Sept. 29: The MIT Museum unveils
its entering class's SAT scores,
which has
class sizes and
by corrections in how MIT
eports its entering class's SAT scores, The
Tech reports.

Sept. 14: The MIT endowment grew
by $1.6 billion this year, bringing the
total to $9.8 billion, The
Tech reports.

Sept. 12: A bedbug problem
that has been plaguing Ashdown
House since the term has been
resolved, The Tech reports.

Sept. 16: A Boston-area university
student reports that she was
essually assaulted on the MIT
campus in the early morning after
leaving a party at Senior House.

In an e-mail to the community
the next day, President Susan
tockfeld said that there was no
indication MIT students were
involved in the attack.

Sept. 18: Season 4 of reality show
"Big Brother" premiered on the
CW. John U. Gardner, a member of the
MIT Class of 2007, is a contestant.
Gardner is eliminated in the
week of the show.

Sept. 21: Newpaper the
Charles River Cleanup Boat
volunteer organization faced with
bills for decontamination and booking, after 38 people
picked up a chunk of sodium that
caugh fire and exploded on Sept.
6. The Institute has donated to
the organization every year for the
last four years.

continued on page 17

The Year in Tech Editorials

From Schiller on page 16

from Schiller on page 13

from Editorials on page 15

OPINION

The Great Copyright Crackdown

tempts, because the incentives are
all wrong. And if you don't happen to
have an iPod, or subscribe to iTunes,
this is exactly the position you're in.

Content owners, particularly the
Recording Industry Association of
America, have become more agres-
sive in enforcing the copyrights of
their members. Instead of fixing the
incentives by making the legal op-
ton more appealing, they're trying to
change behavior by making it more
likely that you get caught. At this
point, it is too late to change rules.
Several companies have gone into the business of devel-
opments to technologically en-order content at the network level by
attempting to detect the presence of
peer-to-peer file-sharing technologies.
They, along with some in the content
industry, arelobbing Congress to make
an incentive program that will mandate some form of technologi-
cal control to stop piracy.

Unfortunately, none of these tech-

ologies really work particularly well.
Most of them stop all peer-to-peer file-
sharing, including file-sharing that is
completely legitimate. These products
also can act as network bottlenecks,
having a performance impact on all
network traffic. So where should MIT
and its members stand on this issue?
First, we can say the music in-
dustry, “You have to straighten the
incentives,” but for now, they can say,
“We have no choice on our side.” Maybe
they should change, but they're not

continued on page 25
New Admins Can’t Take Nerd Culture for Granted

from Miller on page 15

2007

OPINION

Retaining MIT’s Uniqueness

from Lerman on page 15

2007

MIT’s Sudan divestment dilemma

by Shiliang Tang ’08 — Oct. 20

The Year in Editorial Cartoons

Kayvan Zainabadi 4/12/07

2006-07.

2007 wasn’t really so bad. Overall, it — why can’t MIT?

Fortunately, not all of these experiences were so exasperating. During a slew of meetings to discuss the felony-charged hackers, one administrator — on his way to catch a plane and hurriedly stuffing papers into a briefcase as we spoke — stopped cold when I said, “We don’t want to be held responsible for letting this happen on our watch.” “On your watch?” he asked, right

fully insulted. “How about on my watch? Do you think I, Hockfield, or anyone else wants to be held responsible by the alumni or the Corporation for letting this happen?” A few decades-deep into MIT, he felt the weight of the MIT community better than either of the second semester seniors sitting in his office.

Administrators new to MIT, particularly those tasked with improving student life or learning, must understand the unique relationship between student and Institute from both the Institute and the student’s perspective. The caliber of minds that MIT competes for are attracted by more than rankings — MIT students expect a certain level of responsibility, choice, and autonomy in exchange for their brilliant and feverish academic work.

Overall, 2007 wasn’t really so bad. Rather than defining a great problem of the past, I’ll frame 2008 as an opportunity to bring in a fresh wave of consensus-seeking administrators. But each new administrator entering MIT needs to see his or her position as that of collaborator ready to understand and engage students, not just members in the party of new ideas.

Whether this is best conducted through the training of new administrators in the ways of MIT student life, or in the recruitment of MIT students into the ways of administration, is an open question. I’d love to see students invited to create an orientation for new hires. Students need to continue building relationships with administrators and making their perspectives tangible. And until former UA VPs are offered advisory roles within the Institute, the UA needs to find a way for students seated on Institute Committees to be better representatives.

As MIT grows in new and unpredictable ways, leading the world in the few dozen fields that we occasionally take for granted, its leaders must recognize that they are feeding more than just an investment portfolio or research lab. Taking the time to understand what attracts brilliant minds to MIT (we could have gone to Yale if we’d wanted to, but each of us chose to come to MIT) and supporting those activities, lifestyles, and dispositions that make MIT unique will preserve our greatest attraction — our culture — for another 146 years.

Ruth Miller ’07 was vice president of the Undergraduate Association from 2006-07.

We must retain the quirkiness that is quintessentially MIT. ‘Nerd Pride’ isn’t just a slogan.

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the nation and the world. This means being a global university that embraces international students as a source of new talent and opportunities. Our recent emphasis on providing students with a broad array of educationally meaningful opportunities outside the United States is just the down payment on our becoming truly global. MIT-educated students will be leaders in a world that our grandparents could never have envisioned. Ideas flow seamlessly across international boundaries, businesses operate at a global scale, and new challenges to our core values can arise from anywhere on the planet. We need to resist the emergent xenophobic tendencies that arise in society as knee-jerk reactions to globalization.

Finally, we must retain the quirkiness that is quintessentially MIT. ‘Nerd Pride’ isn’t just a slogan. It’s a style of education and life that we need to respect and embrace as an essential element of MIT’s culture.

Steven R. Lerman ’72 is the dean for graduate students.
How does one define 2007 in terms of the music it produced? Surely the selections should reflect the events of the year: in this case, record low temperatures, iPhones for everyone, and an over-abundance of celebrity chattering. At the same time, records making the annual list should be timeless; they should be representative not only of yearly trends, but also be able to withstand a 10-year flashback without much embarrassment on the reviewer’s behalf.

A first, this list seemed impossible. There were a couple of obvious top picks, a few extreme disappointments, and a sea of seeming mediocrity filled up with unknown self-releases, iPod bands, and just plain bad electronics. At the cost of sounding rookit (only because our list incidentally seems to glorify the white and the guitar-bearing), I think we have done the job of sea sifting with some expertise and have culminated our findings into the best of the best. Here we present a top 10 countdown of albums that exemplified 2007 as we (and maybe you) lived it.

10. Caribou — Andorra

Andorra, the fourth full-length from the artist formerly known as Mani-lo, is named after the tiny, Catalan-speaking country nestled in the Pyrenees between Spain and France. What has this to do with the music, you ask? More than you’d initially think. Psychadelic with sleigh bells, multi-tracks, and monumental orchestration, Andorra is like the center of an open cluser, irregularly-binding isolated genes to create a unique yet familiar sound (like the hybrid language and secluded culture of the Andorrans themselves).

Opening track “Melody Day” waits not even a second before kicking into full speed, utilizing fuzzy bass, lax guitar lines with in-your-face timing, combining equal parts Beach Boys and Ty Segall, creating a track that could turn anyone into a “Faded Inferno.” Of course, Menomena is an album that exemplified the lo-fi recording of the year-end chart topper (see: all-time favorite, Mountain Nation), combining true soul melodies and dream pop, in the same way that Menomena’s “Living关键技术” is an exercise in unique sound, which the band has described as “honey-tonk calypso.” Throw in some fantastically harmonious liberties, cooler-than-cool frontmen who trade songs with mini-quips, and the soundscapes of a world in chaos, and you’ve got all the components of their 2007 debut. According to the Bushwick band themselves, a new album is in the works. Maybe next time I’ll prematurely rank it and then follow through with my predicition.

9. A Sunny Day in Glasgow — Scribble Mural Comic Journal

Even if you disregarded how A Sunny Day in Glasgow is fronted by a pair of identical twins, there’s no way you could confuse their sound with polka-dotted normal or even terrestrial. This album sounds so evolved, it could’ve just as easily been recorded in 2007 … in another solar system, I suppose.

Vocalists Robin and Lauren Daniels channel some ancient non-land-language as their brother Ben drapes their ghostly melodies with not but the finest analog and digital synthesizer effects. Dream pop has always been about the pursuit of perfection in both sound as well as structure, and Scribble Mural Comic Journal seems startlingly close to achieving it. And we’re meant to believe this is a debut? — Lee

8. Panda Bear — Person Pitch

Panda Bear (a.k.a. Noah Lennox) is a one-man chorus from the clouds in this masterpiece of sound that is just as crown-winning as managing a揣 a-hut-top cover art. Person Pitch is so dense with reverbs that the foreground is nonexistent. What’s left is a tasty mixing bowl of samples, electronic effects, and experimental noises that create the busy asphalt-folage meld we our world has grown into. (What negative connotations?) This is a record that can be enjoyed equally as a soundtrack to your morning commute on the T or an archaeological expedition through the Amazonian jungle. For, or the truly imaginative, both at once. — Lee

7. Blitzen Trapper — Wild Mountain Nation

It’s painfully redundant to tell you that Portland is housing some pretty freaking fantastic musicians at the moment, including but not limited to Menomena (which you’ll be hearing about shortly) and Stephen Malkmus and the Jicks (see: all-time favorite). Well, another Portland favorite (and this 97 year-end chart topper) has toured the circuit, and it will play with the former next month; this can only mean good things. Blitzen Trapper (off compared to Malkmus’ inaugural band Pavement, and with good reason) combine raucous, oddly-timed guitar lines with in-your-face mountainous folk. Sound impossible? Check out Wild Mountain Nation, the third and last album BT self-released before signing to Sub Pop last summer.

The band seems to be possessed by a couple of copyright ghost: the first some sort of Maritime’s early 90s lineup, the second a kissing cousin of modern-day Wilco. Consider equal parts Tyler Childers and The Decemberists, the lo-fi recording of the exorcism, performed by unordained priests with demonic intent. — Dupuis

6. Deerhunter — Cryptograms

Fromman Brandon Cox’s eccentric and candle-lit live performances (and interviews, and blog entries, and a sea of identical beeswax personal identification) made him one of the most compelling rock personalities to arrive in 2007. His hyping surrounding Deerhunter’s thoroughly atmospheric album Cryptograms making that you could basically put any one of his tracks into two camps: who thought the emperor had clothes and who thought the emperor had really, really good clothes. Place me among the latter group who see Cryptograms as a revolution revealed in noise and distortion. What is truly sinister is that he manages to balance his world of aggression and bstling squallor, there is one of calm and poignant desolation. Only the most diehard of fans could reflect the underdog status the band has had in the Montreal scene, but it’s hard to imagine how an album this perfect could be so under-rated. — Lee

5. White Rabbits — Fort Nightly

In an article published in The Tech, lead singer, Matthew Mondanile reflected that “White Rabbits could have issued an album of the year even closer to home in the most abult heart,” combining true soul melodies and heart. The sheer volume of ideas and passion as indie rock gets. By comparison, the one-hitters channel some ancient non-lan-thinking, I think we have done the job of glorify the white and the guitar-bear-

4. Of Montreal — Hissing Fauna, Are You the Destroyer?

In the decade or so that Of Montreal has existed, songwriter Kevin Barnes has managed to create an orchestra of otherworldly, and often, for the truly imaginative, both at once. Or, for the truly imaginative, both at once. — Lee

3. The Besnard Lakes — ... Are the Dark Horse

The eight tracks on this record average almost six minutes in length, and have titles such as “Disaster” and “Devastation.” Clearly, a song is no trifling matter in the eyes of the Besnard Lakes; this is as intrinsic and necessary to create as a trifle is not even a second before kicking into an electrifying post-punk and serene shoegaze, Cryptograms is an astonishingly tangible portrait of a wounded childhood.

2. Menomena — Friend and Foex

Had Menomena continued the anagrammatic theme of their first album, I Am the Fun Blame Monster (a rearrangement of “the first Menomena Menomena”), they might have sounded like Friend and Foex (a rearrangement of “friend you ex”), I think we have done the job of...
**On the Silver Screen: Major Movies of 2007**

By Jillian A. Berry, Samuel J. Cole, Sarah DuPuis, Alice Macdonald, and Kevin Wang

Every year, there are certain movies that stand out from the rest. Some shine as cinematic masterpieces full of magnificent acting and direction. Others push the boundaries of technology and reinvent how movies are made. Still others stand out for telling captivating stories. Whatever the reason, below are our picks for the most significant movies of 2007.

**Juno**

What do you get when you cross a pregnant sixteen-year-old with a not-so-perfect, perfect suburban couple? A comedy, of course. In one of the best films of the year, Ellen Page and an all star supporting cast bring laughter to the drama of teenage pregnancy. Sure, the movie makes light of a serious problem, but it’s so entertaining with humor and heart that you can’t help but love it. — **Berry**

**I Am Legend**

Will Smith claims more people flipped him off while he was shooting “I Am Legend” on location in Manhattan than he’s ever encountered in his whole life. Apparently, New Yorkers didn’t take too well to having their city closed down for the film’s shooting, but the resultant on-screen empty metropolis was surely worth the abundance of rude gestures. An abandoned Fifth Avenue far outshine the computerized zombies in terms of fright factor, but Smith’s outstanding portrayal of physical and mental survival in a nearly apocalyptic city made this late arrival a top pick of the year. — **Dupuis**

**Waitress**

I wonder if I would have heard of or seen “Waitress” if not for the infamous death of its writer and director Adrienne Shelly (she was murdered while finishing post-production for the film), but I’m glad I have since it is such a wonderful film. Keri Russell plays Jenna, a woman stuck in an unhappy marriage who finds out she is pregnant, destroying any chances of her leaving her husband. All the while, she relieves her stress by making creative and delicious pies with names like “I Hate My Husband Pie” and “Pregnant Miserable Self Pitying Loser Pie ...” Lumpy oatmeal with fruitcake mashed in. Flambé of course. A little romance with a young doctor completes this humorous and touching film. — **Berry**

**No Country for Old Men**

If there was an Oscar for the creepiest haircut ever, it would go to Javier Bardem for his role as an unstoppable killer in “No Country for Old Men.” I guess he will have to settle for best supporting actor, which he deserves to win. Shot in a desolate region of Texas, “No Country for Old Men” completely transports you to another world and all aspects of the film are integrated seamlessly. Some viewers may be disappointed or confused by the anti-climactic ending, but overall this is one of the best films of the year. Of course, we expect nothing less from the Coen brothers. — **Macdonald**

**There Will Be Blood**

Oh, that Daniel Day-Lewis. He may be a nut job, but he sure can act. Every film he actually gets around to doing is an automatic Oscar nod. “There Will Be Blood” is no exception. Contrary to the title, the film is not a murder mystery or a gruesome horror film; it is the story of a turn-of-the-century oil tycoon. Directed by Paul Thomas Anderson of “Boogie Nights” fame, this film is being lauded as an epic masterpiece and is sure to pick up some more big prizes this award season. — **Macdonald**

**American Gangster**

A controversial subject for a biopic (with the lawsuits to prove it), “American Gangster” follows the climb, peak, fall, and (cinematic) redemption of notorious, Vietnam-era heroin kingpin Frank Lucas. Denzel Washington’s portrayal of Lucas is largely fictionalized but still brilliantly depicts a man who was violent, glamorous, and utterly in control. His performance is contrasted expertly by Russell Crowe, whose squeaky-clean cop character compensates for his unsound personal life by aggressively and brilliantly fighting for a solution to drug crimes. — **Dupuis**

**Zodiac**

Jake Gyllenhaal’s role seems to possess him, and this is certainly true in the murder flick and biopic “Zodiac.” Gyllenhaal plays real life cartoonist-turned-novelist Robert Graysmith, who falls into an amateur investigation of the horrific Zodiac serial killings that took place in the late 1960s. The film is long, truly, but also engaging; it offers the historical gore while also revealing the real manifestations of the investigation in Graysmith’s life. We feel his rightful paranoia, we grow uneasy as his obsession destroys his marriage, and we bite our nails as he happens upon the truth. — **Dupuis**

**The Darjeeling Limited**

The fifth full-length installation in director Wes Anderson’s cinematic collection, “The Darjeeling Limited” follows the emotional yet basic reunion of three out-of-touch brothers on the Indian-bound titular train. You can always expect a sensory overload in Wes’ World; the Satsuij Resme’s-Kindes-kinks soundtrack especially aids the East-meets-West theme. But the best part of this film is its three leading men. Vets Jason Schwartzman and Owen Wilson usher in new pledge Adrien Brody with gusto, allowing Anderson to portray yet another wonderfully weird dysfunctional family. — **Dupuis**

**The Diving Bell and the Butterfly**

One of the standout foreign films of the year, this French oeuvre takes full advantage of the visual medium to create a beautiful and dreamy landscape. It is the story of a man left completely paralyzed except for a single eyelid after a stroke who still manages to dictate his memoirs. Oscar nominated director Julian Schnabel takes the true story of former Elle editor Jean-Dominique Bauby and melds it with a beautiful soundtrack and terrific performances to yield a film that is touching while remaining subtle. — **Macdonald**

**Michael Clayton**

The problem with George Clooney is this: on one hand, he makes great films that no one ever sees, but on the other hand, he makes pieces of cinematic shit that everyone flocks to. Last year’s “Oceans Thirteen,” which grossed $36 million in...
its opening weekend, is a prime example of the latter. Thankfully, Clow- ney also made “Michael Clayton” last year. The thing is: no one actu- ally wants to watch this far superior film. I mean, which would you rather see, a film where Clooney robs a ca- sino with Brad Pitt, or a moral par- able on corporate America? — Macdonald

Ratatouille
“Ratatouille” follows the escapades of Remy the rat on his quest to break away from normal rat society and become a world-renowned chef. By chance he befriends Linguini, a clumsy, young kitchen cleaner, and eventually they find themselves working together to bring famous Chef Gusteau’s res- taurant into the limelight once again. Employing some of the most amazing computer animation ever created, the film tackles many themes in a surpris- ingly intelligent and mature nature. The movie’s inspirational messages of courage, determination, and growth make it one of the most affecting and heartwarming movies of recent mem- ory. — Cole

The Bourne Ultimatum
“The Bourne Ultimatum” provides a fitting and ap- propriate end to the Bourne tril- ogy — so fitting, in fact, that it’s virtu- ally indistinguish- able from the first two. Matt Damon delivers a strong performance with a grittiness, modern take on the classic spy role. Overall, the film provides an exciting and engaging adven- ture, although the visuals sometimes resemble a handy-cam being thrown into a washing machine. — Hong

The Simpsons Movie
After nearly two decades on the small screen, the Simpson family fin- ally made it to the big time with this summer’s “The Simpsons Movie.” Es- sentially a 90-minute episode from some of the more classic (and funnier) television seasons, the movie brings together everyone from Springfield in this hilarious adventure that starts with Homer falling in love with a pig.

And like any good episode of this show, the film emphasizes the impor- tance of family in our fight for life. — Berry

Superbad
“Superbad,” co-written by Seth Rogen and Evan Goldberg, fol- lowed June’s sick, sexual, and sweet “Knocked Up” by only a few months, but this Frat Pack feature offered a little something special: sardonic and filthy wit coming out of the mouths of mere babes. Jonah Hill and Michael Cera (as Seth and Evan, respectively) obnoxious but closest friends. — Dupuis

Hot Fuzz
The team behind “Shaun of the Dead” have struck again with “Hot Fuzz.” This piece of action movie par- ticiple is pure enjoyment. Unlike dread- ful parodies of the “Scary Movie” genre, “Hot Fuzz” is actually entertaining. The key lies in the multi-dimensional comedy thanks to writer and director Edgar Wright and spot-on performances by Simon Pegg and Nick Frost. — Macdonald

Enchanted
In an attempt to prevent her from marrying the prince, an evil witch banishes Giselle from the magical kingdom of Andalasia. In her quest to re- turn to her world, Giselle meets Rob- ert Phillps, a man in desperate need of Giselle’s enthusi- astic and naive ap- proach to life. Along the way she gets a much needed dose of reality and learns more about herself and others in the process. The film’s twist on the classic Disney movie using elements from musical, animated, comedy, and live- action fantasy films makes it refresh- ing and light. A surprising star turn by Amy Adams, who plays Giselle, also elevates the movie from its fantastical story. — Cole

300
Three hundred half-naked Chuck Norrises fight off a million Persian warriors in a glorious bloodbath fu- eled by gratuitous nudity and absurdly dramatic speeches. There is no acting. There is no character development. There is only violence, softcore porn-ography, and more testosterone than you would find in Roger Clennens’ bloodstream. — Hong

Transformers
“Transformers” delivers a brutal combination of face-shattering visuals, infantile dialogue and a stellar concept (robots + cars + explosives) to provide a direct and unsurprisingly watchable film. Director Michael Bay taps into a simple but brilliant formula: if one explosion is good, and two are better, then two and a half solid hours of de- struction ending in the throwing of a flaming bus is probably best. — Hong

continued from page 21

Oct. 1: Chancellor Phillip L. Clay- PD ’75 sends an e-mail to MIT students saying that they must take full responsibility for their actions even while celebrating traditions such as hacking. The e-mail was sent in preparation for the release of a set of hacking guidelines created with input from student representatives.

Oct. 2: President Susan Hockfield holds the State of the Institute forum; the last forum was held in 2004.

Oct. 2: Two MIT alumni — Saul T. Cohen, PhD ’04; and Fuyuki Matsuoka PhD ’89 — were awarded “genius grants” by the MacArthur Foundation and will receive a stipend of $500,000 over the course of five years, The Tech reports.

Oct. 5: The construction of the new Green Center for Physics and related renovations of Buildings 2, 4, 6, and 8 are complete. The project, known as PDSI, was announced in 2002.

Oct. 9: The Graduating Student Council begins a series of dining events for graduate students known as Two Dollar Tuesdays; 125 students attended the first event.

Oct. 11: Hotel@MIT is sold to HEI Cambridge LLC for $63.2 million. The name of the hotel is now Le Meridien Cambridge.

Oct. 12: Thirty more individuals at MIT were sent pre-litigation settlement letters in September 2007 after allegedly illegally downloading copyrighted music, The Tech reports.

Oct. 16: Former MIT economics professor Eric S. Maskin and former graduate student Mario R. Capecchi were among the recipients of the Nobel Prize in Economics and Medicine this year, respectively, The Tech reports.

Oct. 19: MIT announces that Dean for Student Life Larry G. Benedict will retire at the end of the academic year. Benedict has served as MIT’s first student life dean since 2000.

Oct. 20: One day before the 43rd annual Head of the Charles Regatta, MIT holds its first annual Head of the Zesiger Cardboard Boat Regatta. The Boat Ship Happens — built and manned by Rebecca K. Oman ’08, Chenxi Ouyang ’08, and Ellam Cohen ’08 — is the only vessel to survive at the end of the day.

Oct. 22: The Nuclear Regulatory Commission starts a special inspection of the MIT research reactor after receiving a report that a reactor operator was exposed to an unusually high dose of radiation. After investigating from October to November, the NRC cites the lab for violating two minor safety regulations.

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Through the Lens

The Arts at MIT

(clockwise from above)
MIT Symphony Orchestra, March 16—Omari Stephens
Dance Troupe fall concert, Dec. 7–9
The Logarhythms, Dec. 14—Martha Angela Wilcox
Resonance, Nov. 17—Andrea Robbins
Festival Jazz Ensemble, Nov. 17—Omari Stephens
Dramashop, “Imperceptible Mutabilities in the Third Kingdom,” Feb. 8–10, 15–17—William Yee
By Paul Baranay

Even before arriving on campus for Orientation, I knew that MIT was liter- ally steeped in tradition. Whether I was listening to upperclassmen tell stories during Campus Preview Weekend, perusing blog entries on the Admissions Web site, or simply reading about MIT in the panoply of books and magazines that happened to mention the “fute,” every reference to our little corner of Cambridge was decidedly positive.

Most of the emphasis was put on the amazing research opportunities, the incredibly brilliant and creative and passionate and [insert-adjective-here] students who went to MIT, and the interesting hacks that fascinated people across campus. Little or no mention was made of the problem sets, the tests, the late-night study ses-
sions that occasionally turned into all-
nighters — and to be honest, that was probably for the best. Because even though I was told of HFTFP’s many definitions, I don’t think anyone could have adequately explained what that all-purpose acronym would come to mean to me over the next four months.

I think my perspective started to shift when I walked into 10-250 for my first 18.02 lecture and was promptly heralded my first MIT problem set. They expected me to do work here? Okay,” thought my fresh self, “I can handle work. After all, I had gotten through high school without too much trouble — how much harder could col-
lege be? Then the Tae Kwon things happened in each of my other three classes. Not as easy as high school, after all.

That is just one example of the many realizations, both minor and major, that I accumulated throughout my first days and weeks at MIT. In the past five months, I have experienced not just the smaller, private dramas that make up our daily lives, but also the larger story of what it means for all of us to learn and live at this place we like to call the Institute.

While in many ways my expectations for my first semester at MIT were

not only met but exceeded, I nonetheless discovered that not everything here is perfect — that the version of MIT so highly exalted in hacker lore and glossy admissions brochures is not necessar-
ily equivalent to the MIT of daily life. Sometimes, sodium drops don’t go as planned; airport employees panic and confuse LEDs with bombs; ice cream stores fail to pay their taxes. Adminis-
trators fail to in-


Fave Movie? Best Party? The Tech Asks…

Tech staff Andrea Rolles ’10 and Monica Kahn ’10 went around the Institute last week asking people for their thoughts about 2007. Here are some of the answers.

Alan M. Benson G

Most overplayed song of 2007? “I have to say ‘M’Humps’ by the Black Eyed Peas.”

Favorite 2007 MIT party? “The Graduate Student Council’s ski trip. Grad students are pretty boring, but once you get them up on a mountain.”

Favorite local restaurant? “That burger joint in Har-
vard Square — Mr. Bartley’s.”

Who you’ll miss most? “I’m going to miss Benazir Bhutto.”

TV show currently aching for? “Heroes — I really do miss it.”

Sara K. Sheehan ’10


My sister dragged me to see it, but I loved it!”

Most overplayed song of 2007? “The umbrella song [by Rihanna].”

TV show currently aching for? “I kind of have a thing for ‘Grey’s Anatomy.”

Jeffry F. Disko ’10


Favorite 2007 MIT party? “Ooh, we have good ones.”

Favorite local restaurant? “Pizzaria Regina is pretty good.”

Best tabloid story of 2007? “There were some UFO sightings.”

Who you’ll miss most? “There was a maintenance guy who quit, I sometimes talked to him.”

Cynthia A. Bouldrick ‘11

Favorite 2007 movie? “Probably ‘Shrek the Third.”

Most overplayed song of 2007? “‘Crack That (Soulja Boy).’ It’s fun to dance to, but I got sick of hearing it on the radio.”

Favorite local restaurant? “IHOP!”

Dumbledore is gay. Thoughts? “It was kind of funny to me. I didn’t know if [JKR] was serious.”

Best tabloid story of 2007? “Kanye West and his mom when I saw it on the news at LaVerde’s, I just stopped.”

Dhruvajeet Boddupalli ’97, admissions counselor

Favorite 2007 movie? “No Country for Old Men.”

You should watch it.”

Most overplayed song of 2007? “‘Buy U A Drink’ [by T- Pain]. It’s a catchy song and they play it all the time.”

Favorite local restaurant? “Excell-

Katherine A. McCusker ’10

Favorite 2007 book? “I Am Amer-
ica (Sorta So Can You)” by Stephen Colbert.”

Favorite 2007 MIT party? “DTYD on your birthday.”

Abigail E. Connick ’09


Favorite local restaurant? “Cambridge Brewing Co.”

Best tabloid story of 2007? “The bigger stories of what it means for all of us to live and learn at MIT.”

Laura J. Jackson ’08

Favorite 2007 movie? “Junio.”

Most overplayed song of 2007? “‘Apologize’ [by Tishband feat. One Republic]. They’re always playing it at the Z Center.”

Favorite 2007 MIT party? “Braveheart on Fifth West at East Campus.”

Dumbledore is gay. Thoughts? “I don’t really care. I thought he was a good headmaster. More power to him.”

Best tabloid story of 2007? “I’d say Britney Spears attacking a car with an umbrella. I’d say that tops her shaving her head.”

Joel P. Wagner G

Favorite 2007 album? “Eric Hutchin-
son’s Sound Like This.”

Most overplayed song of 2007? “Fergali-

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The Year in Review
Profiles in Dedication: Athletes at MIT

By Shreyes Seshasai

To most of the world looking in, MIT is about its research. To most of its students, MIT is about the education. But for a select few, nothing gets them as excited as the athletics. The hard work and dedication of many talented student-athletes have created a strong presence for MIT in the collegiate athletic community, and their performance has created a legacy that will persist beyond their graduation. These are a few of their stories.

Michael R. Allhouse '08 — Soccer

Defender and co-captain Michael R. Allhouse '08 capped his final season on the MIT men’s soccer team by being named to the 2007 ESPN the Magazine Academic All-America Second Team, awarded by the College Sports Information Directors of America (CoSIDA).

Allhouse helped MIT reach a 9-5-2 record, including strong conference wins over Worcester Polytechnic Institute and Babson College. The latter victory was one of the most memorable moments of the season for Allhouse and the team.

"On the road we fought them all game long and won in overtime 1-0," Allhouse said. "It really showed how far we have come since last year when we lost to them twice 5-0. Our victory helped give confidence to a team that was previous winless against opponents in the New England Women’s and Men’s Athletic Conference, and turned out to be the second win of a five-game unbeaten streak to conclude the regular season.

This season was also interesting as it marked the final year for head coach Milton Gooding, who took over for longtime coach Walter A. Alessi. Gooding brings a tradition of winning into MIT, as Allhouse explained, "We were times when things got interesting. Coach was trying to figure out how MIT worked and we tried to figure out how he worked."

In his four years with the team, Allhouse has maintained a level as a play- er, which he attributes to both confi- dence in himself and trust in his team- mates. Playing with many of the same teammates for three years, Allhouse was confident his teammates would do well in their roles, and “that let me focus on what I had to do,” he said.

Allhouse was also one of the 13 members named to the 2007 NEWMAC Fall Aca- demic All-Conference Team.

Craig M. Edwards '08 — Swimming

Craig M. Edwards ‘08 once again performed exceptionally at the National Collegiate Athletic Association Division III Men’s Swimming and Diving Cham- pionships last spring, finishing fourth in all three events in the two-day meet. Edwards came into his final season on the MIT men’s swim- ming and diving team with high expectations, and the talent of the incoming freshman class helped strengthen his team.

Edwards led a contingent of four Engineers to the NCAA Cham- pionships last spring but was in a unique position as the only veteran of the group. Joining Edwards were three freshmen — Rastislav Racz ’10, Jeffrey Y. Zhou ’10, and Luke R. Cummings ’10. “It was amazing to witness both the skill and potential of our fresh- men,” Edwards said.

Edward’s head coach Dawn B. Gerken was proud of his performance at nationals, and American finish was not the only impressive result of the championships. “More impor- tant, he’s been a role model for the three freshmen,” said Gerken at na- tionals. “I can’t say enough about how important his presence has been.”

Edwards also anchored the team in both the 200-yard and 400-yard medley relays, where their strong performance propelled MIT to an 11th place finish in the NCAA Championships.

Doria M. Holbrook '08 — Swimming

Doria M. Holbrook ‘08 continued to impress this season as one of the nation’s premier divers, winning the NCAA Division III three-me- ter diving championship for the second consecutive year. Her performance to that result with a second place finish in the one-meter diving competition, elevating MIT to 20th place in the NCAA Cham- pionships.

Holbrook was named to the CoSIDA/ESPN the Magazine Academic All-America Second Team, adding on to a slew of awards she won this season including NEWMAC Diver of the Year. Her favorite moment of the NEWMAC Championship was inspiring, as not only did she shatter Institute records in both the one- and three-meter competitions, she also set new NEWMAC records in both those events.

While winning the national championship is not new terri- tory for Holbrook, the season was a little different this time around. Imagine going to prac- tice everyday and training along- side of the same people for years.

For Doria M. Holbrook ‘08, this scenario was a reality. Last season, the Tufts diving team, including Kendall Swett who narrowly edged Holbrook for the three-meter diving crown at the 2006 NCAA Championships, began practicing at MIT, sharing both the pool and the same coach.

“It was very hard at first, it kind of felt like someone was on my turf,” Holbrook said. But the tension quickly gave way, as the two helped each oth- er become stronger competitors and

one shot at a time, one match at a time.

But, the best way to get MIT students to do something is to tell them it can- not be done, so we’ll see,” he said.

Lee and Nee ended the season with a slew of awards to add on to the medals they received during their past years on the team. Nee was selected to the All-American First Team for stan- dard, air, and sport pistol. Lee too was selected to the First Team for free and standard pistol, and the Second Team for air pistol. Rounding out the team’s Institute record for All-American se- lections were also in standard pistol (Second Team), Yunja Chen ’07 in sport pistol (Second Team), and Huo ’09 in standard pistol (First Team).

The seniors also ended the season with Holbrook anchoring the team in a relay that they are required to buy to participate in the tournament. It’s running a joke on the team that they are some of the few card-holding members of the NRA in Cambridge.

Pistol Wins Second National Title in Three Years

By Travis Johnson

The MIT pistol team captured their second national championship in three years by beating the Army, Navy, Coast Guard, Merchant Marine Academies, and other military and civil schools in a three-day competition held in March 2007 at West Point.

The final standings in the open di- vision of the National Rifle Associa- tion Intercollegiate Championships, which includes both male and female competitors, were MIT (6,372), Army (6,365), and Navy (6,322). MIT’s top individual performer was freshman Craig M. Edwards who had an score of 421.

Navy’s top performer was Leanne Page, who scored a 422 overall victory.

Despite losing Nee, Lee, and anoth- er top shooter, P. Raja Palaniappan ’08, after the season, Hart said that another national championship in 2008 is not out of the question. “My philosophy is

Brian Hemond — The Tech

Page 28 The Tech
**Women’s Volleyball Reaches NCAA Sweet 16**

By Caroline Huang

The Massachusetts Institute of Technology is widely accepted as a scholastic superpower, producing some of the world’s greatest mathematicians and scientists. Unsurprisingly, its athletic program — though distinguished in its own right — has consistently been an afterthought in a discussion of MIT’s accomplishments.

As of late, however, MIT can add “perennial volleyball force” to both its academic and athletic résumés. Both the men’s and women’s programs have shared success in the classroom and on the court, and nowhere was it more evident than in Rockwell Cage during the last days of the women’s volleyball season — except perhaps during its 30-match win streak and five tournament titles.

**NCAA tournament**

For the second year in a row, Rockwell Cage shook with the crowd’s thunderous support en route to MIT’s appearance in the NCAA Division III Women’s Volleyball Tournament. Top-seeded Tech fell to No. 3 Amherst College in four games — 30-25, 30-16, 24-30, 30-23 — in the final of the New England Regional on Saturday, Nov. 10, 2007. Beginning with a straightforward 3-0 win against overmatched Maine Maritime Academy on Thursday and concluding with a tight 3-1 loss to Amherst College on Saturday, the volleyball team had its fans riveted throughout its three matches.

MIT concluded its remarkable season with a 36-3 mark, the second-best season in team history. (Only the 1983 team posted a better record, finishing 41-2.) As the season closed, Tech received hearty support from the fans, especially the loyal bunch who painted their bodies to spell out “B-E-A-V-E-R,” “T-E-C-H,” and “G-O M-I-T V-B.” The sandpiper-clad and paint-decorated fans led the audience in cheers through megaphones during every timeout.

Tech cruised to a straight-set victory over eighth-seeded Maine Maritime Academy by a score of 30-13, 30-6, 30-14. In a match that was never close, the Engineers demarcated the Mariners with a combination of service aces and overpowering hitting (four players had hitting percentages higher than .400). In a grudge match versus Wellesley College — which beat MIT in the NEWMAC Volleyball Championship Final last year — the Engineers lost to the NCAA regionals — the Engineers prevailed in a turbulent five-game affair 34-32, 30-25, 30-23, 30-15, 13-15. After squeaking out the first game on a well-placed Amanda J. Morris ’08 hit, Tech relied on the serving of Lindsey E. Hunting ’09 to win the second game. Wellesley established control of the third game at the start and never relinquished the lead, cutting the deficit to 2-1. The fourth game featured a close start and several fruitless attempts by the Engineers to overtake the Blue: four times the Engineers drew themselves within two points, but four times Wellesley escaped with the lead intact. When the Blue went on a well-timed scoring run to grab 10 of the last 15 points, it looked like the Engineers’ momentum had slipped away for good.

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Women's Track and Field Claims Its First Ever NEWMAC Championship

By Fletcher A. Brooks

The 2007 spring season was arguably the strongest ever for the women's track and field program, as the team went undefeated during the indoor season and placed fifth at the New England Division III Indoor Track and Field Championship, a huge jump from the previous year's 13th. Much of this improvement came because of a strong freshman class, including Ward's strongest 10K runner, Shantall W. Arsenault, doing great work. Head Coach Edward D. Benford, who shared the Institute record in the 3K run with a time of 17:21.62.

The outdoor season was highlighter by the women's cross-country team winning the NEWMAC championship in April, having defeated nine-time defending champion Wheaton College. Competing the following weekend at the New England Division III Championship at Springfield College, the Engineers accomplished another first for the program with a second place finish, setting a handful of Institute records along the way. Amy R. Magnuson '10 set Institute records in the long jump (with a distance of 179.5") and in the 100-meter hurdles (14.31 seconds). Andrea Staid '07 and Andrea E. Bradshaw '09 both bested the 800-meter Institute record with times of 2:19.20 and 2:19.51, respectively. Staid and Bradshaw then joined Rachel M. Niehuus '07 and Adrienne M. Bolger '09 to win the 4x800-meter relay with an Institute record of 9:23.3.

Following the second place finish in Springfield, a handful of women traveled to Dartmouth College for the New England Intercollégiate Amateurs Athletics Association Championships. There the team placed 10th among the New England Division I, II, and III colleges, the highest finish ever for the program. Magnuson again set a school record with a long jump of 181", placing fourth but falling just short of the NCAA provisional cut. Aline M. Thomas '08 also set an Institute record in the hammer with a mark of 1636", good enough for fourth place in the event.

Rounding out a great year, three women traveled to Oshkosh, Wisconsin for the NCAA National Championship meet. Magnuson, Thomas, and Chi-Fong Wang '07 all performed well and placed higher than their previous years.

Fletcher A. Brooks is the head coach of the women's track and field team.

Women's Cross Country Finishes Seventh in New England Regional

By Halston W. Taylor

In the 2007 fall season, the women's cross-country team won the New England Women's and Men's Athletics Conference Championship, scoring 50 points to runner-up Wheaton College (72); Kathryn A. Gordon '11 received the DSU-IAC RoboBuck of the Year honors as Maria J. Monks '10 led the way with a fourth place finish. Close behind were teammates Elizabeth M. Finn '09 (5th), Jennifer A. Close '09 (6th), Elizabeth L. Palmer '09 (7th), Gordon (14th), and Adrienne M. Bolger '09 (15th). The win marked the third time that both the men's and women's cross-country teams took the NEWMAC title in the same year. At the New England Intercollégiate Amateur Athletics Association Championships, the women finished in seventh place overall, the highest finish for either the men's or women's programs ever.

After an impressive season, the women unfortunately seemed to be suffering from fatigue at the NCAA Division III Regional Championship, finishing a disappointing seventh out of 47 teams. The team missed qualifying for the national championship by two spots.

Individually, Finn qualified for NCAA Division III Championships by finishing 20th overall in the 6,000-meter race with a time of 22:22. She became the fourth runner in team history to do so and ended up finishing 100th overall in the competition.

Halston W. Taylor is the head coach of the women's cross country team.

Sailing Finishes Fall as No. 11 in U.S.

By Matthew Lindblad

The MIT sailing team saw great results during the 2007 fall season, including overall wins at the Smith Trophy and the Erwin Schell Trophy (for the first time in 27 years). The coed team also had top finishes at the Captain Hurst Bowl in New Hampshire and the Crews Regatta at MIT. To finish out the fall season, the team placed 11th at the Atlantic Coast Championship at Eckerd College in Florida.

The coed crew entered the season as the 10th ranked team in the country. Despite being ranked as high as eighth at one point, they ended the fall season ranked 11th in the country and sixth in the New England Conference.

Senior captains John M. “Jack” Field ’08 and Julie C. Arsenault ’08 were also named New England Intercollegiate Sailing Association (NEISA) Scholar Athletes for the NCAA National Championship. The team is looking forward to the upcoming spring season, featuring a “tournament style” national championship format new to the Intercollegiate Sailing Association. During the preceding winter months, the team still takes part in land based fitness and classroom instruction, and it will train again at the U.S. Naval Academy for a week in March.

Matthew Lindblad is one of the head coaches of the sailing team.
**Men’s Volleyball Takes NECA New England Division Title**

By Paul Dill

The varsity men’s volleyball 2007 season turned out to be the best campaign in program history. The team finished with a 27-6 overall record and a No. 11 ranking in the Division III Collegiate Volleyball Association’s Coaches Poll. The team also went undefeated in the North East Collegiate Volleyball Association’s NECCA Championship tournament. MIT men’s volleyball vs. Emmanuel College, Feb. 10.

Freshman Stephen Morton Wins NEWMAC Male Athlete of the Year

**from Track and Field** on page 29

place finish. Morton raised his triple jump freshman record with a 45’10½” effort on his final jump to earn third place, adding to his second place finish in the 200-meter and fifth place in the long jump. The only victories for Tech came toward the end of the meet in the distance medley relay, made up of Jeremiah R. “Yermie” Cohen ’09, Alex G. Rothberg ’09, Archimedes C. Sule ’10, and Hemagiri Arumugam ’10, and in the 4x800-meter relay, comprised of William S. Phipps ’10, Jacob J. Ruzevick ’09, Peter J. Mulligan ’08, and Matthew F. Bieniossek ’09.

Outdoor team wins seventh straight NEWMAC title

Making the transition to the outdoor track proved especially difficult this year, with rain falling what seemed to be every day. For the first time 25 years, MIT was forced to cancel an outdoor meet: the Engineers Cup Track and Field Invitational Tournament, held in the Endicott Invitational Tournament, and put together a 17-match win streak. Many individuals garnered awards during the season as well. Praveen Pamidimukkala ’08 and Philip M. Rogoz ’10 were named to the NEWMAC East Division First Team, while Ryan G. Dean ’08 and T. Scott Pollon ’09 were named to the NEWMAC New England All-Division Second Team. Pamidimukkala was also named New England Player of the Year, NEWMAC All-Conference First Team Men’s Track and Field team. MIT also led the conference with eight NEWMAC All-Conference team members. In addition, Head Coach Paul Dill was named NEWMAC New England Division Coach of the Year and NEWMAC Conference Co-Coach of the Year.

Overall, the men’s volleyball program continues to be a program on the rise. After not having a winning season in 11 years, the program has had its three most successful seasons in a row, making it to the post season all three years and reaching its highest national ranking ever.

Paul Dill is the head coach of the men’s volleyball team.

**Oct. 22:** The Undergraduate Association creates the “Fresh Fund” to hold $10,000 of funding that will be used to support new ideas and initiatives.

**Oct. 23:** Wolfe B. Style ’10 is stabbed seven times in his Next House residence, a building that was allegedly, by his ex-girlfriend and Wellesley College junior Anna L. Tang. Tang is charged in connection to the stabbing with home invasion and armed assault with intent to murder. The stabbing prompts a review of housing security policies.

**Oct. 23:** MIT fell from first the 13th in Washington Monthly’s annual college rankings, which evaluates schools based on service to the community. MIT was ranked first for the last two years.

**Oct. 28:** The Red Sox won the World Series, beating out the Colorado Rockies, 4-3, in Game 4 at Coors Field.

**Oct. 30:** About a dozen students show up in Scheme-themed Halloween costumes to the 6.001 (Structure and Interpretation of Computer Programs) lecture. This is the last semester that 6.001 will be offered.

**Nov. 1:** MIT files a lawsuit against Stata Center architect Frank O. Gehry and construction company Skanska USA Building Inc. MIT alleges that Gehry was negligent in the designing the building and that both Gehry and Skanska breached their contractual obligations, citing design and construction failures leading to cracking, poor drainage, leaks, and mold growth.

**Nov. 2:** Alpha Phi Omega’s weeklong Unhealthiest Human on Campus competition concludes with $1,261.80 raised for Transition House, an organization that combats domestic violence.

**Nov. 3:** MIT places fourth at the finals of the DARPA Grand Challenge with its autonomous car. The car finished the race alone after five of its competitors: 11 teams out of the original field of 89 competed in the finals.

**Nov. 5:** The Department of Facilities is separated into two divisions: Operations and Security, headed by MIT Police Chief John DiFava, and Capital Projects and Strategic Planning, headed by Richard Aram, MIT’s attorney. MIT also led the conference with eight NEWMAC All-Conference team members. In addition, Head Coach Paul Dill was named NEWMAC New England Division Coach of the Year and NEWMAC Conference Co-Coach of the Year.

**Nov. 6:** MIT’s entry, a house called “Solar House,” is the last semester that 6.001 will be offered. The Department of Facilities is separated into two divisions: Operations and Security, headed by MIT Police Chief John DiFava, and Capital Projects and Strategic Planning, headed by Richard Aram, MIT’s attorney. MIT also led the conference with eight NEWMAC All-Conference team members. In addition, Head Coach Paul Dill was named NEWMAC New England Division Coach of the Year and NEWMAC Conference Co-Coach of the Year.

**Nov. 7:** The Red Sox win the World Series.

**Nov. 8:** MIT fell from first the 13th in Washington Monthly’s annual college rankings, which evaluates schools based on service to the community. MIT was ranked first for the last two years.

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**Nov. 6:** MIT’s entry, a house called “Solar House,” is the last semester that 6.001 will be offered.
**Men’s Gymnastics**

Record ('06–'07): 1-5
Head Coach: Noah Riskin
2nd place, New England Invitational Championship
3rd place, USA Gymnastics Collegiate National Championship

**Women’s Gymnastics**

Record ('06–'07): 5-14
Head Coach: Jennifer Miller-McEarchern
5th place, ECAC East Championship

**Men’s Ice Hockey**

Record ('06–'07): 13-6-1
Head Coach: Mark P. O’Meara
1st place, Conference IA East Division, NECCHA

**Women’s Ice Hockey**

Record ('06–'07): 5-14
Head Coach: Danielle Holchtshlag
10th place, ECAC East

**Men’s Lacrosse**

Record ('07): 7-7
Head Coach: Walter A. Alessi
5th place, Pilgrim Lacrosse League

**Women’s Lacrosse**

Record ('07): 5-7
Head Coach: Cheryl Silvia
3rd place, NEWMAC

**Pistol**

Record ('06–'07): 5-2-1
Head Coach: Will Hart Jr.
1st place, NIRA Intercollegiate National Championship

**Rifle**

Record ('06–'07): 10-4 (smallbore), 8-3 (air rifle)
Head Coach: John G. Muller
2nd place, Expert Division smallbore, MAC Championships

**Sailing**

06–07 Season:
Head Coach: Matthew Lindblad
9th place, New England Dinghy Championships

**Alpine Skiing**

07 Season:
Head Coach: Todd O. DuMond
6th place, ECSC Regional Championship

**Men’s Soccer**

Record ('07): 9-5-2
Head Coach: Milton Gooding
5th place, NEWMAC

**Women’s Soccer**

Record ('07): 13-7-0
Head Coach: Krista M. Fulnoe
4th place, NEWMAC

**Softball**

Record ('07): 2-24
Head Coach: Julie Fox
NEWMAC Sportsmanship Award

**Squash**

Record ('06–'07): 2-13
Head Coach: Orla O’Doherty
Ranked 39th in National

**SPORTS**

**Moments You Shouldn’t (and Probably Can’t) Forget From 2007**

By Shreys Seshasai

For the average sports fan, 2007 was filled with moments of many of us will remember for years to come. In a year that featured so many memorable events, it will be difficult to pick out which team won the NCAA Championship (“Hmmm, it’s an odd year…I’ll guess the Spurs”) or which team won the Stanley Cup (was a team from California?). What will stick out in our minds are moments that we knew right away were special. Ones where teams and athletes rose above and beyond expectations, ones whose effects will be felt for years to come.

These are our most memorable sports moments of 2007.

**Colts win Super Bowl XL1**

The Indianapolis Colts defeated the Chicago Bears in what would be Peyton Manning’s first Super Bowl and coronation into football immortality. Finally putting an end to the Brady era, he can win the big game, Manning’s MVP performance in the Super Bowl will probably not be remembered as something that made the game better, but he won the game over the New England Patriots. Coming back from an 18-point deficit, Manning finally beat the Patriots when it mattered most, setting up a match-up between Tony Dungy’s Colts and Lovie Smith’s Bears, the first two black coaches to lead a team to the Super Bowl. Oh, and who can forget Denver’s running back the opening kickoff. Too bad Bears fans couldn’t celebrate much longer.

**Pakistan’s cricket coach dies**

Boo Wooldridge, the cricket legend and coach of the Pakistan national cricket team, was found dead in his hotel room on Saturday, March 18, a day after his team lost to Ireland in one of the most improbable upsets imaginable in the sport. Had the setting been different, perhaps people would have been more inclined to give the man a break, but he was a man who lied to his team on his whereabouts and then lied to the police. Too bad.
Men’s Lacrosse Loses in New England Semis

By Walter A. Alessi

After a slow 0-3 start, the men’s lacrosse team won six of their last nine regular season games (including four of their last five) to qualify for the Eastern College Athletic Conference New England Tournament.

A decisive 16-4 win in the opening round over Daniel Webster College put the Engineers into the semi-finals against top-seed Providence College in Providence, Rhode Island. In May. In what some observers called a “classic,” the Engineers came out on the short end of a 17-16 overtime decision. The loss ended their season with a final record of 7-2-1.

Twelve of the team’s 25 players were released on the Pilgrim Lacrosse League All-Academic Team.

Senior tri-captain goalmaker Zachary E. Brewer ’07 had an outstanding season and was selected as the team’s Most Valuable Player. He was chosen as a representative in the senior West-East All Star Game played at Harvard University and helped lead the East All-Stars to victory.

Walter A. Alessi is the head coach of the men’s lacrosse team.

Outlook Positive for 2008

SPO T S

Rocks win one game playoff

The Colorado Rockies had a magical run at the end of the 2007 Major League Baseball season, and looking back, it’s still hard to fathom what they accomplished. The team finished the regular season on a 13-1 run, just barely enough for a tie with the San Diego Padres for the NL Wild Card spot. The most intriguing part of the story is how close they came to not making it at all.

The Padres, on a 11-4 run themselves, could have sealed the wildcard spot in their second to last game of the season. With two outs in the bottom of the ninth, Padres closer (and all-time MLB saves leader) Trevor Hoffman blew the save, and the Padres eventually lost.

Hoffman again blew the save in the bottom of the 13th in the run-off game between the Rockies and Padres. Colorado continued their hot streak by sweeping the Phillies, who themselves had completed an improbable comeback just to reach the postseason, erasing a seven game deficit to the New York Mets in only 17 games. A sweep of Arizona left the Rockies a ridiculous 21-1 heading into the World Series. The only downside: sitting on the sidelines watching the American League had a champion, a wait that probably cooled them off enough for the Red Sox.

The Mitchell report is released

Former Senator George Mitchell released the “Mitchell Report” in December, recommending the inclusion of Roger Clemens ensued. While most of the media, and Congress, is worried about the “he said/she said” fight between Clemens and former pitcher Brian McNamme, I’m going to choose not to care. I’d rather see Major League Baseball step up and start doing what the report wants it to do, clean up the game. I’m going to choose not to care. I’d rather see Major League Baseball step up and start doing what the report wants it to do, clean up the game. I’m going to choose not to care. I’d rather see Major League

Did you use recorded information like this in your previous Super Bowl victories?

MIT men’s lacrosse vs. Norwich University, April 14

MIT’s men’s lacrosse team, after a 22-12 win over the Pilgrim Lacrosse League All-Academic Team.

Setter Morris led the way, leading the NEWMAC with 1,385 assists and establishing her as one of the most prolific setters in Institute history with 3,597 assists, good for third all-time at MIT. Her awards list goes on for ever: NEWMAC Athlete of the Year, New England Women’s Volleyball Association Player of the Year award, NEWWA All-New England First Team for the second consecutive year, the American Volleyball Coaches Association New England Player of the Year award, and AVCA New England All-Region honors, among others. And that’s before the All-America awards — Morris earned spots on the AVCA All-America Third Team and CoSIDA/ESPN The Magazine Academic All-District Third Team.

Coach Paul Dill added to the award total with the Gutmann awards, winning the AVCA Division III New England Coach of the Year and the NEWVA Coach of the Year for the second year in a row.

2008 outlook

Next season will mark a transition of sorts, as Buchanan, Morris, and Zhong formed the backbone of this year’s team. Tech will miss Buchanan’s all-out defensive play and spectacular digs, as well as Morris’ stellar sets and Zhong’s strong hitting.

“The seniors … were instrumental in helping take the program to the next level over the past four seasons and will be very hard to replace. However, the program is designed to keep the expectations the same, no matter what,” Dill said. “The solid core of returning players along with a hopefully strong recruiting class will be sure to step up so we can pick up where we left off this season.”

The expectations may remain “the same,” but there’s good reason to describe them for them: ambitious, lofty, and entirely possible. After all, the 2007 team rebounded quite nicely after losing four players to graduation, injury, and the NFL.

As Coach Dill said: “This is one of the greatest women’s teams I have ever coached. The team culture and ability to pursue excellence at such a high level is unparalleled in my time at MIT.”
**SPORTS**

Student-Athletes Face Unique Challenges Beyond the Classroom

From Profiles on page 28


Amy R. Magnuson’s breakout season did not come easily though, as she had to deal with a calf injury that kept coming up. “Coach [Fletcher A. Brooks] was very supportive ... and the support of my teammates helped a lot. I couldn’t have gone as far without them,” Magnuson said.

A year earlier, Magnuson faced the same decision that many similar student-athletes face each year: where to attend college. For Magnuson, “my education was most important. To me it’s not just about athletics.”

Magnuson also notes her role as an advocate for students who have lost help though. Before deciding
to come to MIT, Magnuson talked with Brooks about the track and field team. A year later in reflection, she is “pleasantly surprised about how good the program is, given that it’s Division III,” Magnuson said. “It’s been chal-
ging and a lot of work.”

As the 2008 season is now under way, Magnuson looks to improve her times and help the team improve overall. Given last year’s strong performance, achieving that will certainly be no easy feat, but Magnuson is “looking forward to the challenge.”

Amanda J. Morris ’08 — Volleyball

Amanda J. Morris ’08 is certainly no stranger to success, but ask her what she remembers most from last season, and it won’t be her team’s 3-2 victory over Wellesley College at home to get to the NCAA Division III Sweet 16. “Moments when I saw my teammates match,” she answered. “Especially when I saw the freshmen suddenly grasp a new skill, or games when the sopho-
mores impressed me with smart choices.”

Morris finished her four years as a member of the women’s volleyball team by being named to the CoSIDA/ESPN The Magazine Academic All-American First Team, becoming the first player in the program’s history to do so. Mor-
ris was also named to the American Volleyball Coaches Association All-
American Third Team, the program’s first such winner since 1984.

While the team fell a few victories short of reaching its goal of the NCAA Final Four, Morris still be-
lieves the team “achieved the spirit of our mission.” This season was also special for the team, as MIT got to host the New England Regionals of the NCAA Tournament. “Playing in the NCAA Regionals was one of my proudest moments... It was also a lot of pressure because I knew that if we lost, I would not be able to wear my jersey the next day,” since this was her final year of competition.

On a personal level, Morris hoped to improve on her setting and lead-
ership this season. While the former is much more easily defined (Morris led NEWMAC with 1,385 assists this season), her lead-
ership was evident in her re-
lationships with the younger players. When considering what has helped her develop the most as a player, Morris attributes her growth in lead-
ership and skills to the coach-
ing staff. She also cites the different personalities and strengths of her teammates as helping her to become more confident and dynamic.

One particular challenge for Morris this year was developing her defense, as she had the opportunity to play more on the front line. Learning how to block effectively and transition into setting was a challenge for her, but she still had fun with it. “Our assist-
tant coach Charles [I. Mor-
ton] G is so supportive that he and I made a bacon bagel involving candy,” Morris said. “The extra incentive certainly helped me improve, but let’s just say I still owe him a few candy bars.”

Stephen A. Morton ’10 — Track and Field

As a freshman, Stephen A. Morton ’10 had an immediate impact on the men’s track and field team, helping to lead the team to its seventh straight NEWMAC Indoor Championships. Mor-
ton became the second rookie in the conference’s history to earn the honor of NEWMAC Male Athlete of the Year, an award that was rightly justi-

fied given his performance throughout the season.

Both a talented sprinter and jumper, Morton won the 200-meter dash, long jump, triple jump, and as anchor, the 4x100-meter relay at the NEWMAC Championships. He also placed third in the 100-meter dash.

Winning at NEWMAC’s was one of Morton’s most memorable mo-
ments of the season, but he didn’t stop there. Morton did well at the New Eng-
land Division III Championships, where his time of 10.89 seconds in the 100-meter dash was good enough for fifth. Morton also finished fifth in the long jump, all while fac-
ing hamstring problems that came up throughout the season.

Morton credits much of his develop-
ment as an athlete to his coaches here at MIT. “I was real raw when I got here, but they helped me develop and get my technique down,” Morton said.

His teammates were also an inte-

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1New England Women’s and Men’s Athletic Conference
2Intercollegiate Rowing Association
3Intercollegiate Fencing Association
4Eastern Coast Atlantic Conference
5Northeast College Hockey
6Mid-Atlantic Conference
7Eastern College Ski Conference
8North East College Volleyball Association
9College Water Polo Association
Ruzevic Leads Men’s Cross Country Team to 10th Consecutive Title

By Halston W. Taylor

The men’s cross country team began the fall season with victories over the Tech-Triumph and the Smith College Invitational. The team had no problem winning their 10th consecutive New England Men’s and Women’s Athletics Conference Championship with a perfect team score. The victorious J. Ruzevic ’09 was the team’s top runner, earning NENMAC Runner of the Year honors while Gihan S. Amarasinghe ’10 set a personal best, earning NENMAC Rookie of the Year award.

MIT had six runners finish in the top 10 overall, including Ruzevic (1st), Jeremiah R. “Yermie” Cohen ’09 (2nd), Joseph D. Roy-Mayhew ’08 (4th), Hemangari Arumugam ’10 (5th), Jack H. Bourbonnais ’10 (6th), Trevor B. Rundell ’09 (7th), and Brian Ja- cobs ’08 (8th).

Even though Ruzevic was unable to finish the race at the New England Intercollegiate Amateur Athletics Association Championship, MIT still placed second (12th) among all New England colleges, including Division I, II, and III teams. At the NCAA Division III Regional meet, MIT finished in sixth place, but was just one spot short of qualifying for the national championship.

Halston W. Taylor is the head coach of the men’s cross country team.

Julia C. Zimmerman ’09 – Gymnastics

Julia C. Zimmerman ’09 did last season what no other MIT gymnast has done in the past: she qualified for the NCAA Division I Northeast Regional Championships. She did not only qualify, Zimmerman performed well, placing 11th overall in the all-around competition.

Zimmerman qualified for the Division I Regional competition after taking the title of National Collegiate Gymnastics Association All-Around Champion, becoming the second MIT woman gymnast to do so. Her performance led her to be named NCAADivision III Northeast Region Gymnast of the Year along with East Coast Athletic Conference Gymnast of the Year.

In looking forward to this upcoming season, Zimmerman says that she hopes to help the team make nationals.

Looking forward to MIT, Zimmerman trained for 25-30 hours a week in club gymnastics. In her three years of collegiate competition, her training has been reduced to only around 10 hours a week. The change has had a beneficial effect on Zimmerman, she says, as it has allowed her to stay healthier.

“Before I came here I was getting injured left and right,” she said. These injuries included shoulder surgery in high school, along with a bone chip in her neck, from which she has now fully recovered.

The size of the team has also helped Zimmerman, as “since there’s fewer of us, only three to four people to perform, we can learn a lot more in the time we have,” she said.

Zimmerman credits being a part of a close-knit team as a reason that she has become a better, more consistent gymnast. “The pressure’s not just for you to do well, but to do well for the team,” —Julia C. Zimmerman ’09

The pressure’s not just for you to do well, but to do well for the team.

—Julia C. Zimmerman ’09

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Through the Lens

The Year in Sports

1. Football, Sept. 29 — David M. Templeton
2. Men's basketball, Nov. 29 — David M. Templeton
3. Jiu Jitsu, Feb. 28 — Eric D. Schmiedl
4. Men's tennis, March 11 — David M. Templeton
5. Women's ice hockey — David M. Templeton
6. Baseball, May 4 — Gheorghe Chistol
7. Men's soccer, Sept. 4 — Alex H. Chan
8. Cycling Club, Sept. 16 — Omari Stephens