

Fin. Aid Boosted; No Tuition For Families Earning Under \$75K

By **Natasha Plotkin**
ASSOCIATE NEWS EDITOR

MIT announced on Friday that students whose families earn less than \$75,000 per year — approximately 30 percent of the student body — will no longer pay tuition. To cover these and other new policies, MIT's financial aid budget will rise to \$74 million, a \$7 million increase over last year's budget.

MIT also increased its tuition by 4 percent, to \$36,390.

Students whose families earn less than \$75,000 a year will also have lower self-help expectations than last year: \$2,850, down from \$5,250 last year. The new figure will allow students to avoid taking out loans to pay for tuition, by working on an Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program or other on-campus job for two semesters. Students whose families earn more than \$75,000 a year will now have an expected self-help contribution of \$4,750.

Home equity will no longer be considered in determining financial aid packages for students whose families earn less than \$100,000 a year. Families in this income range who rent their homes will have comparable increases in their financial aid. This measure will increase the value of these families' financial aid packages by an average of \$1,600.

Vice President for Institute Affairs and Secretary of the Corporation Kirk D. Kolenbrander said that funding for the financial aid budget increase will come from both endowed and un-endowed funds in the general Institute budget.

External and internal pressure

The announcement follows a string of decisions by peer universities to eliminate tuition for lowest-

income students and to substantially increase financial aid for students in the middle-income segment.

In December, Harvard University, whose lowest-income students already attend tuition-free, announced that families with incomes between \$60,000 and \$120,000 would pay between zero and 10 percent of their income to tuition, and families with incomes between \$120,000 and \$180,000 would pay 10 percent. In January, Yale University eliminated tuition for families earning less than \$60,000 a year, limited tuition costs for families making \$60,000 to \$200,000 a year to an average of 10% of their income, and decreased all student self-help contributions to \$2,500. Stanford University announced in February that it would eliminate tuition for families with incomes under \$100,000 a year and eliminate all educational expenses, including room and board, for families with incomes under \$60,000 a year.

Stanford and Yale continue to factor home equity into financial aid assessments, while Harvard and Princeton do not.

Kolenbrander said that "our discussion about financial aid has been influenced by the recent announcements of other universities." While no part of MIT's new financial aid policies specifically addresses families in the \$100,000 to \$200,000 income range, Kolenbrander remarked on other schools' changes, saying "This is the road we're on ... MIT is already serving the upper middle class, but we do feel a particular push to help families of greater need."

MIT's new plans also follow a recent increase in political pressure

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GREGORY I. TELIAN

President Susan Hockfield, MIT Corporation Life Member David H. Koch, Mayor of Cambridge Denise Simmons, and other notables break ground for the new David H. Koch Institute of Integrative Cancer Research on Friday.

MIT Names MacVicar Fellows For Excellence in Undergrad Teaching

By **Ramya Sankar**
STAFF REPORTER

Five MIT faculty members were named MacVicar Fellows for their excellence in undergraduate teaching last Friday during this year's MacVicar Day, a celebration which recognizes contributions to undergraduate education at MIT. The program began in 32-123 with a lecture on science education by Nobel Laureate in Physics Carl E. Wieman '73. The lecture was followed by an MIT faculty reception hosted by President Susan Hockfield at Gray House, where the five fellows were announced.

At the faculty reception, the awards were presented by Provost L. Rafael Reif to the 2008 MacVicar Fellows — Biology Professor Tania Baker, Materials Science and Engi-

neering Professor Craig W. Carter, Mechanical Engineering Associate Professor Sanjay E. Sarma, Literature Professor Stephen J. Tapscott, and Physics Professor Barton Zwiebach.

As each award recipient was presented with a framed certificate, Reif read a few words from their nominators. The most compelling comments were from students, who described each fellow's dedication and passion for teaching undergraduates.

"Learning from Professor Baker and learning from someone average is like the difference between a 5 star and 2 star restaurant service," wrote a student about Baker. About Sarma, another wrote, "Sanjay is the man." One student said of Zwiebach, "I encourage every physics major at MIT to take a class from him; I have taken

three, and I still want more."

All of the recipients expressed gratitude for the honor. Many said that the MacVicar Award is on a different level than any of the other awards they have received in the past because it is based on input from colleagues and, most importantly, their students. Referring to his love for teaching, Carter explained that, unlike his previous awards and honors, the MacVicar Award was like an "award for eating ice cream."

The fellows praised MIT students, especially the students' uniqueness and inquisitive nature. Baker said that she loves the fresh perspective that undergraduates bring to her class. Barton said that the best part of his job was "the looks in the eyes

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ARKA P. DHAR

Karena K. Tyan '08 sings during the Chorallaries annual Bad Taste concert, held this past Saturday evening in 26-100. See page 10 for more photographs.

Decrease in High School Graduates Will Increase College Admission Rates

By **Alan Finder**
THE NEW YORK TIMES

High school seniors nationwide are anxiously awaiting the verdicts from the colleges of their choice later this month. But though it may not be of much solace to them, in just a few years the admissions frenzy is likely to ease. It's simply a matter of demographics.

Projections show that by next year or the year after, the annual number of high school graduates in the United States will peak at about 2.9 million after a 15-year climb. The number is then expected to decline until about 2015. Most universities expect this to translate into fewer applications and less selectivity, with most students probably finding it easier to get into college.

"For the high school graduate, this becomes a buyers' market," said Daniel M. Fogel, president of the University of Vermont.

That won't help Charlie Cotton, a senior at Madison High School in New Jersey. He has the grades and scores to aim for the nation's elite universities, yet in the hyper-competitive world of college admissions, his chances of winning a spot at his top picks — like Middlebury, Dartmouth and Oberlin — are highly uncertain. When his sister, Emma, who is in eighth grade, applies to college, she is expected to face a less frantic landscape with fewer rivals.

The demographic changes include sharp geographic, social and

Admissions, Page 14

In Short

¶ The 2008–2009 ASA Executive Board was elected at the General Body Meeting last night. Student groups in the Association of Student Activities elected Keone D. Hon '11 president, Shan Wu G treasurer, Rishi V. Gupta '10 secretary, Nan Gu G and Roberto J. Perez-Franco G graduate members-

at-large, Gillian M. Grogan '10 and Rachel E. Meyer '10 undergraduate members-at-large, and Kevin A. Riggle '08 student member-at-large. All positions were uncontested.

Send news information and tips to news@the-tech.mit.edu.



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WORLD & NATION

A Space Robot With Arms To Make R2D2 Jealous

By Warren E. Leary

THE NEW YORK TIMES

The International Space Station is finally getting its robot. Anyone who has followed science fiction knows that a good long-duration spacecraft has to have a robot. The space shuttle Endeavour takes off for the space station on Tuesday with a large, Canadian-made robot named Dextre in its cargo bay. Endeavour's seven-member crew will assemble the robot during three of the mission's five scheduled spacewalks.

Dextre — pronounced "Dexter" and formally dubbed the Special Purpose Dexterous Manipulator — is to roam the outside of the space station when commanded by its crew or controllers on the ground, doing odd jobs that previously required a spacewalk.

"It's an operational robot that's pushing the limits of what we can do in space today with robotics," said Daniel Ray, technical manager of the Dextre project for the Canadian Space Agency.

Assembled, Dextre resembles a human form with hips, torso, shoulders, upper body and two long, seemingly ape-like arms. The 3,400-pound robot stands 12 feet tall, and each of its multijointed arms can extend 11 feet.

China Will Keep One-Child Policy

By Jim Yardley

THE NEW YORK TIMES

BEIJING

China's top population official said the country's one-child-per-couple family planning policy would not change for at least another decade. The announcement refutes speculation that officials were contemplating adjustments to compensate for mounting demographic pressures.

The official, Zhang Weiqing, minister of the National Population and Family Planning Commission, said China would not make any major changes to the overall family planning policy until roughly a decade from now, when an anticipated surge in births is expected to end.

"The current family planning policy, formed as a result of gradual changes in the past two decades, has proved compatible with national conditions," Zhang said in a front-page interview published Monday in China Daily, the country's official English-language newspaper.

"So it has to be kept unchanged at this time to ensure stable and balanced population growth."

Zhang said that 200 million people would enter childbearing age during the next decade and that prematurely abandoning the one-child policy could add unwanted volatility to the birthrate.

Southern Baptists Back A Shift On Climate Change

By Neela Banerjee

THE NEW YORK TIMES

Signaling a significant departure from the Southern Baptist Convention's official stance on global warming, 44 Southern Baptist leaders have decided to back a declaration calling for more action on climate change, saying its previous position on the issue was "too timid."

The largest denomination in the United States after the Roman Catholic Church, the Southern Baptist Convention, with more than 16 million members, is politically and theologically conservative. Yet its current president, the Rev. Frank Page, signed the initiative, "A Southern Baptist Declaration on the Environment and Climate Change." Two past presidents of the convention, the Rev. Jack Graham and the Rev. James Merritt, also signed, as did presidents of seminaries and Baptist colleges, editors of Baptist newspapers and pastors of churches, many of them in the younger generation of Baptist leaders.

"We believe our current denominational engagement with these issues has often been too timid, failing to produce a unified moral voice," the church leaders wrote in their new declaration.

Spitzer Hired High-Priced Prostitutes, Apologizes

By Danny Hakim and William K. Rashbaum

THE NEW YORK TIMES

ALBANY, N.Y.

Gov. Eliot Spitzer was a client of a high-end prostitution ring broken up last week by federal authorities, according to law enforcement officials, a development that threatened to end the governor's career and turned the state's political world upside down.

Spitzer's involvement with the prostitution operation was detailed in court papers filed last week, the officials said, as federal prosecutors brought charges against four people who had been running the service, Emperor's Club VIP. Spitzer was caught on a federal wiretap discussing payments and arranging to meet a prostitute in a Washington hotel room last month. The affidavit, which did not identify Spitzer by name, indicated that he had used the prostitution service before, although it was not clear how many times.

Spitzer appeared briefly with his wife at his Manhattan office on Monday afternoon to apologize, though he did not specifically address any involvement with the ring. He said he needed to repair his relationship with

his family and decide what was best for the state, but declined to take questions, leaving after barely a minute.

"I have acted in a way that violates my obligations to my family and violates my or any sense of right or wrong," the governor said. "I apologize first and most importantly to my family. I apologize to the public to whom I promised better."

"I have disappointed and failed to live up to the standard I expected of myself. I must now dedicate some time to regain the trust of my family."

The governor, a first-term Democrat, then returned to his Fifth Avenue apartment, and remained there on Monday night, receiving counsel from his advisers and considering his resignation, an aide said.

The New York Times began investigating Spitzer's possible involvement with the prostitution ring on Friday, the day after prosecutors arrested the four people on charges of helping run the Emperors Club. After inquiries from The Times over the weekend and on Monday, the governor canceled his public schedule. An hour after The Times published a story on its Web site saying Spitzer had been linked to the ring,

the governor made his statement.

The news was met with disbelief and shock in Albany, a capital accustomed to scandal. Some legislative staffers said they were too stunned to speak, and lawmakers gathered around television sets in hushed offices, trying to make sense of what had happened.

"We're at a total standstill," said Keith L.T. Wright, a Democratic assemblyman from Harlem. "Everybody is stunned. Everybody is absolutely stunned."

Spitzer has not been charged with a crime. But one law enforcement official who has been briefed on the case said Spitzer's lawyers would probably meet soon with federal prosecutors to discuss any possible legal exposure. The official said the discussions are likely to focus not on prostitution, but how it was paid for: Whether the payments from Spitzer to the service were made in a way to conceal their purpose and source. That could amount to a crime called structuring, which carries a penalty of up to five years in prison.

Yusil Scribner, a spokeswoman for the U.S. attorney's office in Manhattan, declined to comment.

Talks, But No Truce, Accompany Lull in Gaza Violence

By Isabel Kershner

THE NEW YORK TIMES

JERUSALEM

A senior Israeli official and leaders of Gaza militant groups have held talks with Egyptian officials in recent days, but Prime Minister Ehud Olmert of Israel denied on Monday that Israel was engaged in talks to broker a truce, despite several days of relative quiet near the Gaza border.

Olmert said, however, that if the militant groups halted their rocket fire and the smuggling of weapons into Gaza, "Israel will have no reason to fight the terrorists there."

Representatives of the groups in Gaza said they were trying to create a calm atmosphere to give Egypt a chance to broker a more comprehensive deal between the warring sides.

The Palestinian president, Mahmoud Abbas, added to the specula-

tion about an emerging understanding, saying he believed that Israel and Hamas, the Islamic militant group that controls Gaza, were "agreed in principle" on terms for a truce.

Hamas "wants to protect its leaders and those of Islamic Jihad from the Israelis, and I think Israel agrees on that or has already agreed," Abbas was quoted by the official Palestinian news agency, WAFA, as saying on Monday after talks in Jordan with King Abdullah II.

The comments came after a three-day lull in hostilities in and around Gaza. No rockets were launched against Israel from Gaza on Monday, and only a few were fired over the weekend, all toward open, unpopulated areas, an Israeli army spokeswoman said. The last military strike in Gaza, against a group of armed men, occurred late Friday night, she said.

Hundreds of rockets and mortar shells were fired at Israel during a surge in hostilities in late February and early March, and more than 120 Palestinians, many of them civilians, were killed in an Israeli air and land campaign against the rocket launching squads. Four Israeli soldiers and an Israeli civilian were killed by Palestinian fire.

Ahmed Yousef, an adviser to the Hamas leadership in Gaza, said on Monday that all the militant groups there were abiding by a temporary lull to give Egyptian officials a chance to "reach a comprehensive agreement that will deal with all the issues." Those issues, he said, include the possibility of a prisoner exchange between Israel and Hamas, the opening of the passages on Gaza's borders with Egypt and Israel, which have largely been closed, and a longer-term lull in violence.

WEATHER

Trust Me, I'm a Meteorologist

By Brian H. Tang

STAFF METEOROLOGIST

Given all the sources of weather forecasts online and in the media these days, you might wonder, who should you trust: The Weather Channel, your favorite weather character on TV, or your friendly neighborhood staff meteorologist at *The Tech*? This is actually a much harder question to answer than by simply pointing a finger at myself and humbly saying, "I'm the best!" Perhaps a better question to ask is: how far out can you trust any weather forecast?

Take, for instance, the three most common variables the average person wants to know: the high temperature, the low temperature, and precipitation. The fact is that when it comes to 1-3 day forecasts of these three variables, all major weather forecast sources do a decent job and have a fairly equal probability of being within some error tolerance. Beyond this time frame, the numerical weather prediction models that form the backbone of weather forecasting lose their accuracy rapidly as initial errors grow and contaminate the numerical projection of the atmosphere's state. Be wary of any forecast portending a near miss or direct hit by a big storm 5-7 days out. Beyond a week, there is essentially no skill compared to taking the average weather history for the date, so don't fall in to the trap of using that 7-14 day forecast to plan your spring break getaway.

Extended Forecast

Today: Sunny. High 43°F (6°C).

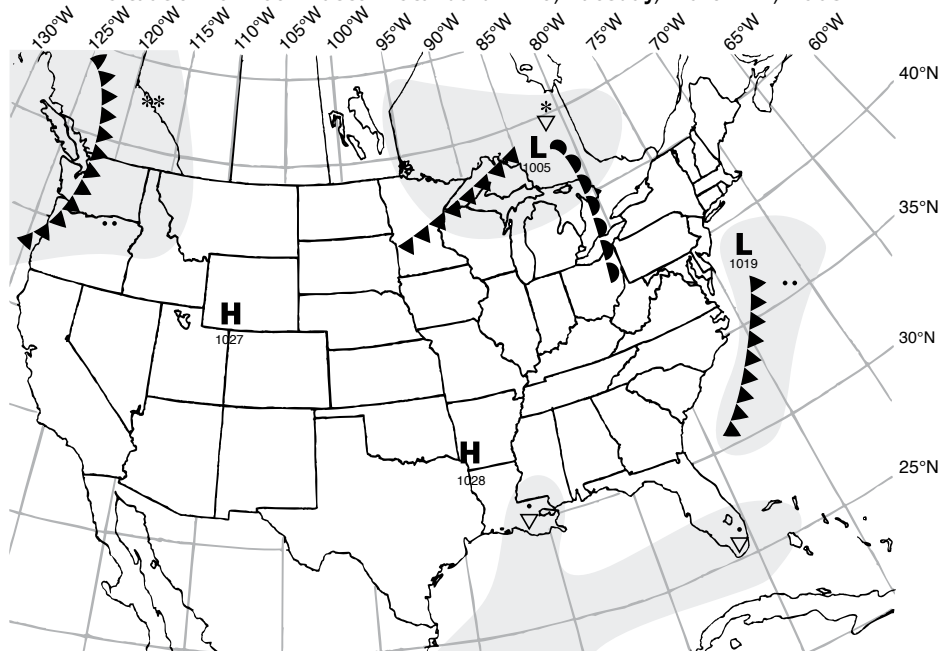
Tonight: Becoming cloudy. Low 34°F (1°C).

Tomorrow: Mostly cloudy and breezy with a sprinkle possible. High 47°F (8°C).

Tomorrow night: Clear. Low 28°F (-2°C).

Thursday: Sunny, then increasing clouds late. High 45°F (7°C).

Situation for Noon Eastern Standard Time, Tuesday, March 11, 2008



Weather Systems	Weather Fronts	Precipitation Symbols	Other Symbols
H High Pressure	- - - Trough	Snow *	Fog
L Low Pressure	— Warm Front	Light Rain ▽	Thunderstorm
§ Hurricane	▲▲ Cold Front	Moderate Rain *	Haze
	▲▲ Stationary Front	Heavy Rain **	

Compiled by MIT Meteorology Staff and *The Tech*

Powered by Ocean Waves, Boat To Sail From Hawaii to Japan

By John Geoghegan
THE NEW YORK TIMES

On Sunday, a boat will sail from Honolulu on a planned voyage of 3,780 nautical miles, powered just by the wave action of the sea.

The craft, the Suntory Mermaid II, is promoted as the first oceangoing, wave-powered boat. If it completes its maiden voyage from the Hawaii Yacht Club to the Kii Channel off the east coast of Japan, it will show that an environmentally friendly wave-powered boat not only works in the laboratory, but can also navigate in real-world conditions.

And the journey would set a record for the longest trip by a wave-powered vessel.

Dr. Yutaka Terao of the department of naval architecture and ocean engineering at the Tokai University School of Marine Science and Technology is responsible for engineering the propulsion system for the Mermaid.

"Fossil fuel will run out one day," Terao said. "So I have studied wave propulsion as a promising way to save energy."

He has been doing so for more than 20 years.

The Mermaid propulsion mechanism is mounted under the bow and not the stern, and it is designed to pull the boat, rather than push it forward, regardless of weather, wave height or direction.

The mechanism consists of two side-by-side horizontal fins that move up and down with the motion of the waves to create a dolphinlike tail kick that propels the boat.

"A wave-powered boat can transform wave energy into a propulsive power that moves the craft forward," Terao said.

He conducted his first large-scale test of a "wave devouring boat" in partnership with Dr. Hiroshi Isshiki of the Hitachi Zosen Corp. in 1988.

The test was on Suruga Bay, near Mount Fuji, and used a single 12 1/2-foot fin mounted on the bow of the Tokai University teaching vessel. The test was considered a success when three-foot waves propelled the 20-ton boat at 2 knots.

The test did not bring interest from shipbuilders. To improve efficiency, Terao arrived at the two-fin

configuration.

According to an English patent application, wave-powered boats have been in development since at least 1895. In 1935, Popular Science reported that an 18-inch model of a wave-powered boat traveled five miles per hour in a test off Long Beach, Calif.

Until now, tests of wave-powered boats have been small scale or in simulated conditions. This is the first time a three-ton wave-powered boat has been tested over thousands of miles.

"I am not aware of any attempts by a wave-powered boat over such a distance," said R.W. Yeung, a professor of naval architecture and ocean engineering at the University of California, Berkeley. "They could be successful, but it's a risky undertaking. It depends a lot on weather conditions."

The Guinness Book of World Records lists the captain of the Mermaid, Ken-ichi Horie, 69, as holding two records for piloting environmentally sensitive boats. In 1993, Horie set a 4,660-nautical-mile record in a human-powered pedal boat.

Bomber Kills 5 U.S. Soldiers On Patrol in Iraq's Capital

By Erica Goode
THE NEW YORK TIMES

BAGHDAD

A man walked up to a group of American soldiers on foot patrol in an upscale shopping district in central Baghdad on Monday and blew up the explosives-filled vest he was wearing, killing four of the soldiers and wounding three others and an Iraqi interpreter who accompanied them. A fifth soldier died later of his wounds.

It was the deadliest single attack on American soldiers in Baghdad since the height of the troop surge in the capital last summer. Nine Iraqi civilians were also injured in the blast, according to officials at Yarmuk Hospital, where the victims were taken.

Reports from Iraqi witnesses suggest that soldiers may have let down their guard because of the relative quiet of the last few months, leaving the safety of their Humvees and chatting with local people and shopkeepers.

Hours later, a car bomb exploded outside the most important hotel in the northern Kurdish city of Sulay-

maniyah, killing two people and wounding 30 in the first significant attack in that normally placid city in several years.

The two attacks underscored how fragile security in Iraq remains despite a recent drop in violence, and statements by American military officials that Sunni insurgents are on the run.

In Baghdad, the suicide bombing, in the Mansour neighborhood, shattered a perfect spring afternoon, with shoppers out sampling hamburgers and sausage from street vendors and browsing through boutiques for the latest fashions.

The owner of a clothing store on Mansour Street said that five soldiers and an interpreter entered his shop about 3 p.m.

"The soldiers were asking about the security situation and also making jokes and laughing," said the store owner, who refused to give his real name for fear of reprisals from local militias. "Some of them said, 'Be sure that we'll come back again in order to buy clothes from you before we leave on vacation.'"

After the soldiers left the store,

he said, he climbed up a ladder to a storeroom to retrieve his lunch and then heard a large explosion. He scrambled back down, he said, to find the bodies of two of the soldiers he had just been chatting with lying across the doorway of the store.

Mohammed, a hamburger vendor whose stand is about 175 feet from the site of the bombing, said that the same group of eight or nine American soldiers had been coming to the street for the last three days, getting out of their Humvees and walking around the shopping area, called the Al-Rawad intersection after a popular ice cream parlor there.

"Usually, we see the Americans come in Humvees and they don't stop, they just keep driving," said the vendor, who was afraid to give his last name. On Monday, he said, a soldier carrying a notebook walked into a currency exchange called The Ship. The other soldiers gathered in a small group.

"When the explosion happened we panicked and started running, and the gunner on one of the Humvees started shooting," Mohammed said.

Buyout Industry Staggers Under Weight of Debt

By Michael J. De La Merced

THE NEW YORK TIMES

NEW YORK

Celebrated buyout firms like the Blackstone Group and Kohlberg Kravis Roberts & Co., hailed only a year ago for their dealmaking prowess, are seeing their profits collapse as the credit crisis spreads through the financial markets.

Investors fear that some of the companies that these firms bought on credit could, like millions of American homeowners, begin to buckle under their heavy debts now that a recession seems almost certain. The buyout lords themselves suddenly confront multibillion-dollar losses on their investments.

On a day in which the stock market tumbled to its lowest point in two years and rumors flew that a major Wall Street firm might be in trouble, Blackstone said Monday that its profit had plunged. The firm said earnings tumbled 89 percent in the final three months of 2007 and warned that the deep freeze in the credit markets — and, by extension, in the private equity industry — was unlikely to thaw soon.

"They see the handwriting on the wall," said Martin S. Fridson, a leading expert on junk bonds, said of buyout firms. "They're staring into the jaws of hell."

It is a major turn of events for Blackstone and its chief executive, Stephen A. Schwarzman, who took the firm public last year at the height of the buyout binge. On paper, Schwarzman has personally lost \$3.9 billion as the price of Blackstone's stock sank.

Even so, Schwarzman is still worth billions, more than rich enough to pledge \$100 million to the New York Public Library, as he plans to do Tuesday.

Kissing the Earth Goodbye, In About 7.59 Billion Years

By Dennis Overbye

THE NEW YORK TIMES

In the end, there will not even be fragments.

If nature is left to its own devices, about 7.59 billion years from now, Earth will be dragged from its orbit by an engorged red sun and spiral to a rapid vaporous death. That is according to new calculations by two astronomers: Klaus-Peter Schroeder of the University of Guanajuato in Mexico and Robert Connon Smith of the University of Sussex in England.

Their report, to be published in the Monthly Notices of the Royal Astronomical Society, is the latest and gloomiest installment in a long-running debate about the fate of our planet. Only last year, the discovery of a giant planet orbiting the faint burned-out cinder of a star in Pegasus had suggested that Earth could survive the sun's death.

Smith called the new forecast "a touch depressing" in a series of e-mail messages. But "looked at another way," he added, "it is an incentive to do something about finding ways to leave our planet and colonize other areas in the galaxy."

Earth's basic problem is that the sun will gradually become larger and more luminous, according to widely held theories of stellar evolution. In its first 4.5 billion years, according to the models, the sun has already grown about 40 percent brighter.

Across the Country, High Courts Follow California's Lead

By Adam Liptak

THE NEW YORK TIMES

The California Supreme Court is the most influential state court in the nation.

That's not just talk. The numbers back it up.

A new study counted up the number of times the decisions of state high courts were followed in other states — in other words, how often one state's decision played a direct role in shaping a decision elsewhere. That sort of citation analysis is a common measure of influence, and there is a cottage industry of rankings for judges, law professors, law reviews, law faculties and the like.

According to the study, published in December in the University of California, Davis, Law Review, the California Supreme Court won by a landslide.

In the 65 years ending in 2005, more than 24,000 state high court cases have been followed at least once. California leads with 1,260 decisions. Washington is next, with 942, and Colorado is third, with 848. New York comes in 10th and is only about half as influential as California, with 627 followed cases.

The Kentucky Supreme Court is the least influential high court in the nation, with 177 cases. The median was 453.

California also leads nationally if only cases followed three or more times are counted. The same goes for cases followed five or more times. In each category, California beats New York handily, by 160-39 for three or more followed cases and by 45-6 for five or more. The race has tightened a little, though, in the last 20 years.

South Korea Announces Woman As First Astronaut

THE NEW YORK TIMES

SEOUL, SOUTH KOREA

South Korea announced Monday that a female bioengineering student will become its first astronaut when she blasts off on board Russia's Soyuz rocket April 8 on a trip to the International Space Station that will be watched on television by millions of South Koreans.

The astronaut, Yi So-yeon, 29, was selected after the Russian space authorities accused the man who was initially chosen for the mission of breaking training rules.

While many South Koreans appeared disturbed by the last-minute switch, which saw their preferred candidate for the Russian mission rejected, women's groups said Yi's participation was likely to boost the rising status of women in South Korea's traditionally male-dominated society.

The male astronaut she replaced, Ko San, a 30-year-old computer engineer, was initially selected in August for the mission after beating 36,000 contestants in a nationwide government competition in which almost any South Korean could apply. Yi, who came second in the competition, has been training with Ko in Russia as his backup since last year.

House Democrats Steer Their Own Path on Warrantless Wiretaps

By Eric Lichtblau
THE NEW YORK TIMES

WASHINGTON

In continued defiance of the White House, House Democratic leaders are readying a proposal that would reject giving legal protection to the phone companies that helped in the National Security Agency's warrantless wiretapping program after the Sept. 11 attacks, congressional officials said Monday.

Instead of blanket immunity, the tentative proposal would give the federal courts special authorization to hear classified evidence and decide whether the phone companies should be held liable. House Democrats have been working out the details of their proposal in the last few days, officials said, and they expect to bring it to the House floor for a vote on Thursday.

The Democrats' proposal would fall far short of what the White House has been seeking.

President Bush has been insisting for months that Congress give retroactive immunity to the phone companies, calling it a vital matter of na-

tional security. The Senate gave him what he wanted in a vote last month that also broadened the government's eavesdropping powers.

But House Democratic leaders have balked at the idea.

When the White House would not agree to allow more time for negotiations, House leaders last month let a temporary six-month surveillance measure expire. The White House says the Democrats' inaction has imperiled national security. Democrats have accused Bush of fear-mongering.

The flash point in the debate has been the question of whether to protect AT&T and other major phone companies from some 40 lawsuits pending in federal courts, which charge that the companies' participation in the eavesdropping program violated federal privacy laws and their responsibilities to their customers.

Bush says the companies acted out of patriotism in responding to what they believed was a lawful presidential order. He said that the lawsuits were being pursued by money-driven class-action lawyers and that they should not be allowed

to threaten the financial solvency of the phone companies.

The Bush administration has shown no sign of backing down, with Kenneth L. Wainstein, the assistant attorney general for national security at the Justice Department, laying out its position most recently in an interview broadcast on Sunday on C-SPAN's "Newsmakers" program. Wainstein said the phone companies had "received assurances from the government, the highest levels, that this was a lawful program and that it was authorized by the president and was necessary for our national security."

But House Democratic leaders appear ready to give the White House a fight on national security, an issue over which they once largely conceded the field to Bush.

The tentative proposal would impose tougher restrictions on NSA eavesdropping than the Senate version does by requiring court approval in advance of the agency's wiretapping procedures, instead of approval after the fact. It would also reject retroactive immunity for the phone carriers.

OPINION



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Corrections

The March 4, 2008 article on the birthday of Random Hall incorrectly referred to the death of Elizabeth H. Shin '02 as occurring six years ago. Shin died in 2000, eight years ago.

The right hand photo on page 8 of the March 7, 2008 issue incorrectly identified the individual on the floor as Benjamin M. Park '10. He is actually David A. Brescia '10.

Support Graduate Pass/D/Fail

By Emily Fox, Stephen Hou,
and Cheston Tan

The MIT Mission states: "The Institute is committed to generating, disseminating, and preserving knowledge, and to working with others to bring this knowledge to bear on the world's great challenges." Many of the challenges facing the world today, ranging from curing diseases to tackling energy issues, from harnessing information technology to understanding brain and mind, require solutions that span multiple disciplines. As a result, scientists and engineers increasingly face the need to be versatile in their knowledge, and also the need to work with colleagues from different backgrounds.

On February 20th, the MIT faculty considered a motion to allow graduate students to take subjects beyond their degree requirements on a Pass/D/Fail (P/D/F) basis, similar to the option currently available to undergraduate juniors and seniors. Having this option would not only enhance interdisciplinary research in the various departments and labs around the Institute but would also improve graduate student education and professional development. We urge the faculty to support this proposal.

As fields are becoming increasingly interdisciplinary, there has been a rise in demand on students to have a breadth of knowledge. Students interested in exploring other fields may not have all the background needed to do well in a subject that would seem rather foreign to them, but they would still benefit immensely

from a concerted effort to learn the material. However, it is not uncommon for students to receive C grades in undergraduate subjects, and graduate students who embark on this venture may jeopardize their fellowship status as a result. While graduate subjects carry less risk in terms of grading, they assume a greater amount of background knowledge, meaning that simply keeping up with the material may require onerous levels of time and effort. A P/D/F option would lower the barrier to this type of exploration to gain fundamentals in other fields that may benefit graduate research.

Furthermore, P/D/F would promote more effective learning in the classroom. Students could focus on distilling the core concepts of a subject rather than on grades. Students would be less prone to dropping non-required subjects, which inevitably happens as the semester goes on. Since subjects are designed assuming that students will complete the course, dropping out halfway can result in learning much less than half of the material. A P/D/F option would result in more accurate and consistent teaching resource allocations for students, including assigning the correct number of TAs and graders.

The most common remark given by students and faculty alike is that P/D/F is unnecessary because students can already take optional subjects at their own leisure on listener status, where they can attend class without the pressure of doing homework, taking exams, or grades. Although the listener option addresses some of these issues, it does not cover all concerns for a student seeking further enrichment nor does it provide sufficient motivation. Human nature being as it is, motivation in listener courses wanes as the semester progresses, and

many students eventually stop attending class when other activities push listener subjects to the back burner. Moreover, even if a student does register as a listener, the teaching staff has no obligation to grade problems sets and exams nor to devote time for listeners in office hours, which can be a valuable educational resource. Furthermore, since taking a subject as a registered listener does not appear on a student's official MIT transcript, many students do not bother to register and instead simply attend the lectures. Transcript records may be important for some students when they apply for jobs, an issue especially emphasized by students seeking international employment. In contrast, P/D/F subjects would appear on the transcript and thus boost a student's desire to register.

Departmental officers and administrators have provided valuable insights on how graduate P/D/F might affect their students and faculty. One reservation that some departments expressed was a concern that additional coursework would take time away from research. The other reservation was that popular subjects would become over-subscribed. We emphasize that graduate officers and advisors are the gatekeepers the use of P/D/F and that instructors can control enrollment in their subjects, as is always the case. The proposed policy leaves a considerable amount of discretion in the hands of departments and instructors. For example, a department may choose to allow doctoral students to exercise the P/D/F option only after they have taken all the required coursework and passed the qualifying exams.

According to data from the Registrar's Office from the past two years, more than 15% of graduate students take at least one subject on listener status in any given term (not counting unregistered listeners). Of these subjects, more than 40% are outside the students' home departments. This conservative estimate suggests substantial interest by graduate students in additional coursework for their own intellectual development. Finally, many of our peer institutions, including Stanford University, UC Berkeley, Caltech and Harvard University, have options that are similar to P/D/F for their graduate students.

The proposal for creating a graduate P/D/F option has been presented on separate occasions to the Graduate Student Council, the Committee on Graduate Programs, and the Faculty Policy Committee. They have all unanimously voted to endorse the proposal. These bodies, encompassing students, faculty and administrators, have deliberated the proposal and concluded that it would benefit both the students and the Institute as a whole. When the faculty discuss the proposal at their March meeting, we know that they will carefully consider the benefits, drawbacks, and ways to mitigate the drawbacks that we have presented here. We hope that they will likewise conclude in favor of the proposal and vote in support of a graduate P/D/F option.

For more information about the graduate Pass/D/Fail proposal, visit: <http://gsc.mit.edu/sgeo/>

Emily Fox and Stephen Hou are graduate students in the Department of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science. Cheston Tan is a graduate student in the Department of Brain and Cognitive Sciences.



"Nice to know America's still the world's leader in SOMETHING!"

Opinion Policy

Editorials are the official opinion of *The Tech*. They are written by the editorial board, which consists of Chairman Benjamin P. Gleitzman, Editor in Chief Nick Semenkovich, Managing Editor Jessica Witchley, Opinion Editor Aditya Kohli, and Contributing Editor Rosa Cao.

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Letters, columns, and cartoons must bear the authors' signatures, addresses, and phone numbers. Unsigned letters will not be accepted. *The Tech* reserves the right to edit or condense letters; shorter letters will be given higher priority. Once submitted, all letters become

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Guest columns are opinion articles submitted by members of the MIT or local community and have the author's name in italics. Columns without italics are written by *Tech* staff.

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CAMPUS LIFE

It's a Big, Big World

Is it Easy Being Green?

By Diana Jue
STAFF COLUMNIST

Every morning in Bangalore, my host father, Prabhakara, awoke at 6 a.m. to select fruits and vegetables from a freshly stocked sidewalk stand on the main road of Thyagarajanagar, his residential neighborhood. Afterward he stopped by a local restaurant to pick up warm idli (a white rice cake) or masala dosas that were neatly packaged in one sheet of thin wax paper, newspaper, and string. After his morning exercises and prayers, he prepared breakfast: sliced apples and carrot sticks, idli and chutney (think Indian salsa), homemade roti (flat bread) and curry, or my favorite — scrambled eggs packed with chopped vegetables and spices. Each morning I was greeted with a cup of chai tea and a food-filled circular metal plate with a vertical rim that I used to wipe away excess food from my eating hand.

There were two amazing things about these mornings: the food (obviously) and the ecologically friendly process by which the food was purchased, prepared, and served. Contrast the Bangalore experience to one that is typical in Boston. If I weren't a student, I'd drive my car to Shaw's and buy a week's worth of (not so fresh) imported produce and packaged, preserved foods that have a shelf life of months. I'd purchase restaurant food packaged in non-biodegradable Styrofoam cartons instead of materials that leave minimal waste. Prabhakara's aversion to waste prevented him from buying more food than necessary. However, I'm prone to overbuying fruit and other foods. A week after their purchase, I toss out rotten oranges without too much concern.

This breakfast story is one example that contrasts two lifestyles that have different environmental impacts. "Sustainability," "environmentalism," going "green" — these are buzzwords that are unsparingly sprinkled in academia, retail, and the media. The latest Nobel Peace Prize went to people who alerted the public about man-made climate change. At MIT, we're faced with the challenge of creating technologies to address present and near-future energy and environmental needs. Then there is the rise of the "green consumer," the do-gooder who buys organic or a hybrid vehicle or solar panels in the name of a "green revolution."

What does sustainability mean, anyway? It is generally agreed to be good, but a complete definition eludes me. I've heard a few attempts to give the word substance: a process that makes ecological systems indefinitely productive, making sure that future generations are as well off as the current generation, and saving the Earth from doomsday because "it's the only one we got." And what does practicing sustainability look like? I feel like I'm waiting for sustainable technologies and items to

purchase, but in elementary school I learned to reduce, reuse, and recycle to rescue the environment. This strategy actually equates to having less.

My homestay families in India and China practiced sustainability without energy-saving light bulbs and other eco-friendly products. The only trashcan in my Bangalore house was a 2.5 gallon kitchen canister. Most of our waste could be fed to the outdoor compost bin because it was organic. Ceiling fans and floor to ceiling windows provided adequate ventilation without central cooling. With one bucket of water I could shampoo and rinse. We hung our clothes to dry on the porch. In Beijing, I visited a classmate who lived in her host family's hutong, a type of communal-style housing with shared public bathrooms. One three-person family lived in two small rooms with a total floor area less than that of my freshman year double at Next House. The hutong was cozy and comfortable. Beijing families were lucky to own one car, but almost everyone had a bicycle.

In both cities, my families had enough and were proud of what they had. Yet interestingly, a wave of consumption is bubbling up from within these modest households as the younger generation enters a higher-paid workforce. When my Bangalore host sister, Swetha, wanted new home appliances, I accompanied her to Shopper's Stop, "India's No. 1 Fashion and Lifestyle store for the family." We drove across the city to a shiny new, multi-story, lit up Sears/Macy's department store mash-up. While Swetha was deciding on a juice extractor, I perused the selection of good, bad, and ugly items in the home furnishings, footwear, and fragrances. For similar prices at the Cambridgeside Galleria, I could have bought many of the items that young Indians were clamoring to own.

Middle-class aspirations transcend national borders. I have a professor who blames this on satellite television,

which globally projects overabundant American lifestyles and extravagant consumption patterns. Instead of influencing the international middle-class living standard, maybe we Americans should aim to imitate lifestyles of our international cohorts in order to truly go green. If everyone lives and buys like Americans do, sustainability is dead (if you haven't yet seen it, watch The Story of Stuff at <http://www.storyofstuff.com/>). But if Americans were to live and buy like my homestay families in India and China, the goals of sustainability might have a chance.

Of course this is not easy. Sure, sometimes I put my Nalgene to good use, opt for silverware over plasticware, refrain from having my groceries bagged, and turn off the lights in an empty dorm lounge. But I don't budge when it comes to my stuff. After traveling around the world with two small bags, I was shocked by how much junk I had in dorm storage and even more shocked by how many items I was unwilling to part with.

A real commitment to sustainability requires a change in lifestyle. Is it a commitment that we're willing to make?



DIANA JUE—THE TECH

Hutongs are streets in Beijing that are packed with communal-style housing developments. Though the space is limited, families usually have enough. Here, two hutong residents demonstrate exercises with Chinese yo-yos in their courtyard.



DIANA JUE—THE TECH

In Bangalore, vegetable stands line commercial streets and provide easy access to fresh produce.

Guest Speaker Commencement Exercises 2009

The Commencement Committee invites suggestions for the guest speaker at MIT's Commencement Exercises on Friday, June 5 from all members of the community. The Commencement speaker should be one who will be able to address topics of relevance to MIT.

Suggestions may be submitted to:

Phi Ho
President of the Class of 2008
phi@mit.edu

Martin Holmes
President of the Undergraduate Association
goholmes@mit.edu

Leeland Ekstrom
President of the Graduate Student Council
lekstrom@mit.edu

Vivian Tang
President of the Class of 2009
vivianic@mit.edu

Gayle Gallagher
Executive Officer for Commencement
gayle@mit.edu

Please submit suggestions by
Wednesday, March 19.

Brouhaha Rhythms

Martha Stewart Weeps

By Michael T. Lin

STAFF COLUMNIST

Decorating my dorm room poses a peculiar problem. On the one hand, I don't trust myself to nail anything to the wall that won't bleed. On the other, the surfaces in my dorm, for some cosmic reason, are incompatible with duct tape and render it completely unsticky — which, if what you're trying to hang is a) above your head, and b) heavy, is bad.

So, as I stare blankly at the walls staring blankly back at me, what are you to do if you want to ensure that any faces you see in the walls are not stress-related hallucinations? I've still got that framed New Yorker cover with the Mobius strip hanging by my desk, but when I've been attempting instantaneous-forehead-information-osmosis (also known as "headbashing the pset"), watching little stick figures walk around and around in an infinite journey of symbolic fu-

tility doesn't help my mood any. I could always just use more duct tape, but somehow, that solution seems to lack a certain elegance that MIT problem solving should embody.

One option for dorm room decoration is to decorate through lighting modifications. Aside from being highly functional, on the off-chance that your room's shape isn't conducive to full-coverage ceiling lighting (like mine), it also provides an excellent opportunity to make a statement. Such statements include "I have no regard for the maximum recommended safe wattage for a household outlet," and "fire alarms will be going off within 30 seconds of me flip-

ping this switch." Nothing says "nerd" and "safety hazard" at the same time better than a Jacob's ladder sizzling and buzzing in the corner (from Martha Stewart's Mad Scientist collection). My roommate, to his credit, prefers low-power, low-heat LEDs that pulsate blue and green in our foyer, legitimizing the radiation symbol on our door's dry-erase board.

Another option, for the artistically-inclined among you, would be to use paint as opposed to wall-hangings. Infinite, cylindrical-shaped rooms excepted, painting the interior of a room is generally fairly straightforward, whether you're seeking a flat color change or hoping to

channel your inner muralist. Of course, painting does not lend itself to spur-of-the-moment decisions to slap something on the wall — sticks of dynamite in paint cans, though doubtlessly entertaining, probably would be frowned upon by neighbors and administrators alike. If a person wants to paint their room, they make a day of it — invite friends, bring food, charge money to let them paint the number "7" around your room, all that stuff. For someone who procrastinates as much as I do, I don't know if I'd be able to plan well enough to give my room a new paint job.

Now that I think about it, maybe I should just stick to what I know — the art of alternative adhesive. If you'll excuse me, I've got some redecorating to do. *The Tech* recently got rid of a "Good Will Hunting" poster, and I don't have enough duct tape to laminate it. Now where'd that chewing gum get to?

Nothing says "nerd" and "safety hazard" at the same time better than a Jacob's ladder sizzling and buzzing in the corner.

Rants & Raves

More Than Numbers

By Mimi Zhang

When I first arrived at MIT, I went to a few graduate student orientation events to meet my new schoolmates and find out more about what other students at MIT were up to. While many were already too inebriated to speak or understand anything coherently, I did talk to quite a few new faces. The conversations went mostly like this.

"Hi, I'm in Sloan/Course X, what are you?"

"I am studying environmental policy"

"... oh. That's not engineering, is it? Is it Course 1?"

"No, I'm actually in the planning department."

"What number is that?"

"I don't know."

"Did you do engineering in undergrad?"

"No, I did geology."

"Oh, course 12!"

These conversations made marginally more sense to me after I sat down and tried to memorize all of the course numbers and their associated meanings. I still find it odd to identify my academic affiliation by a number rather than a discipline's name, but that doesn't really bother me anymore.

What does bother me is the lack of communication and collaboration between the many outstanding disciplines that MIT excels at, and they go far beyond the realm of engineering. I went to a college that valued interdisciplinary education. We were required

to take a number of language, humanities, and social science classes in addition to quantitative courses. Of course we all complained about it — the humanities students wondered why they had to take math and the science students didn't see the point of learning philosophy, but I appreciated the point of those requirements. If you really want your work to be useful and socially relevant, you have to understand the context and at least have an idea of what else is out there.

I know that MIT has an undergraduate humanities requirement, but I also know that many students take economics to satisfy this requirement. Economics, though extremely important, does not exactly cover any of the topics and issues that you generally get from

a humanities class. Do we not care about non-quantitative disciplines because we dislike writing papers, or do we really just not care about the subject matter? There seems to be a lot of competition and downright hostility between those who have identified themselves with an academic field. The engineers at my college called the college of arts and science the college of arts and crafts. While they slaved away doing problem sets, I suppose they pictured everyone else finger painting.

Though I must confess that some finger painting may have occurred, I find it alarming that the world of academics has shifted so much towards only rewarding work that produces quantitative and potentially profitable results. I know that institutions need to bring in money and I applaud the desire for academic institutions to provide practical and usable solutions rather than just churn out esoteric work. But it is still important for a well balanced and well educated individual to at least acknowledge the importance of the types of things that humanists study.

After Hurricane Katrina hit, I went to a speech by a prominent English professor who spoke of his frustration at not being able to use his expertise to help the victims. Unlike many of his colleagues, he was not able to conduct research on how mold from flooded homes was affecting homeowners trying to salvage these buildings or work on a ways to effectively drain floodwater out of the city. However, he emphasized that such situations did not mean that humanities were not important. It is imperative that continue to study and analyze the past so we do not forget what has happened in our history. It is important that we continue reading and writing literature that examines the human condition. Humanists study the intangible aspects that make us human. Understanding our motivations, emotions, and beliefs is not a goal to dismiss or look down upon. The importance of this understanding has been highlighted in looking at environmental issues and conflicts. Why do so many seemingly wonderful policies not work out? For one, it is impossible to understand and address every aspect of an issue to generate your desired outcome without creating any problems, but it is also just as impossible to predict the actions and behavior of people. To better understand the potential impacts of climate change, we can run climate models to try to determine climate conditions in the future, but such a program could never predict the actual outcome of climate change.

How will people choose to deal with such a change? How can we motivate individuals to prepare for such a change? What historical precedent do we have for such movements? Engineering solutions can go a long way towards solving global problems, but many other types of expertise are also crucial.

I know MIT is known for its science and engineering work, but there is also amazing work being done here in other fields. Would it really kill us to recognize the importance of disciplines that we aren't familiar with?

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Coop Student Board of Directors Election Update

The following student Coop members have been nominated by the Stockholders as candidates for the Board of Directors for the 2008-2009 academic year.

M.I.T. Undergraduate Students:

Karlen Ruleman 2009
Christopher Whitfield 2009

M.I.T. Graduate Students:

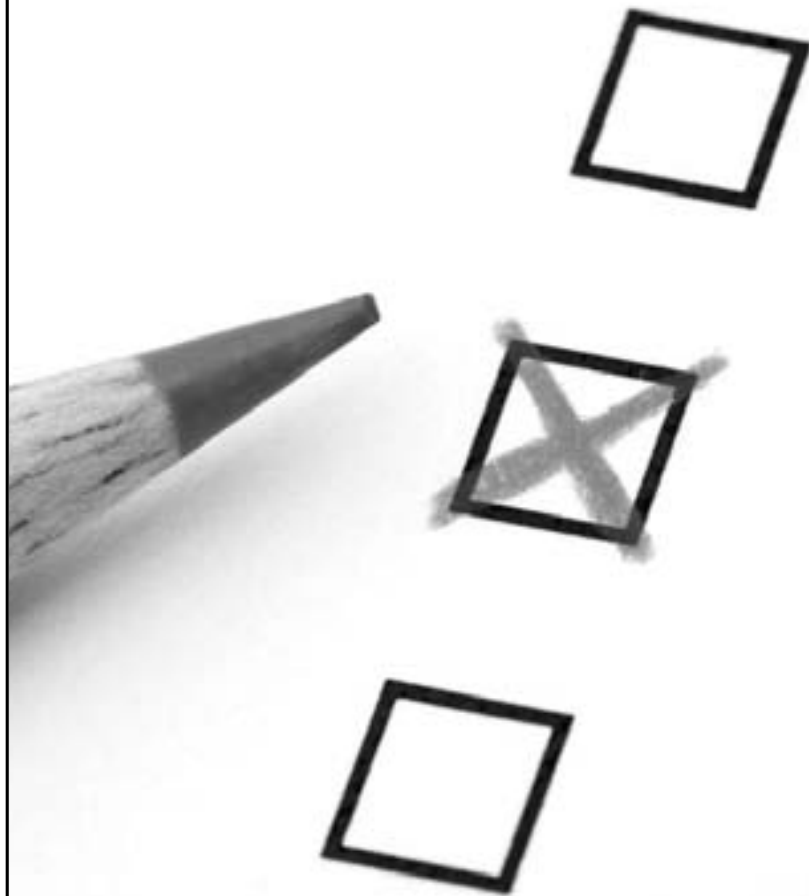
Loreena Lee-Houghton 2011
Tanguy Chau 2010
Alex Chan 2011

Harvard Undergraduate Students:

Patrick Brennan 2011
Tami Kim 2011
George Thampy 2010

Harvard Graduate Students:

Aaron Chadbourne 2011
Ari Bloom 2009
Luke Fuszard 2009



Any student Coop member may Petition to be a candidate on the ballot. A Petition application is available online at www.thecoop.com. The Petition period is March 07, 2008 to March 21, 2008. For complete rules on the Petitions consult the information posted in the election section on the Coop website at www.thecoop.com



[HTTP://www.thecoop.com](http://www.thecoop.com)

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MIT Study Abroad

Office of the Dean
for Undergraduate Education



March 12

3:30 - 4:30

3-133

March 13

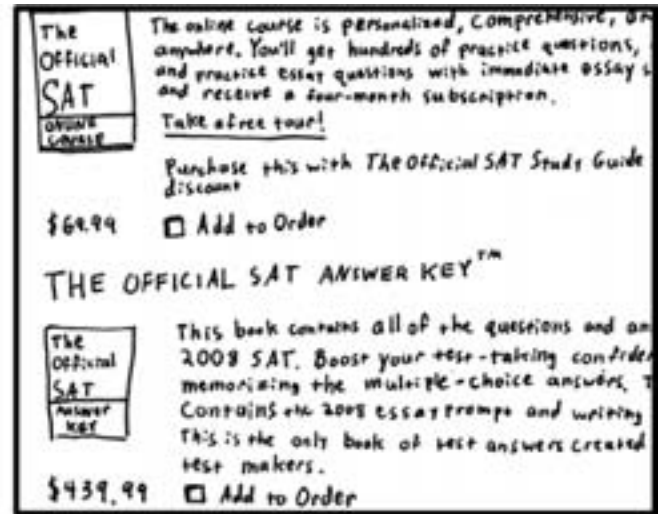
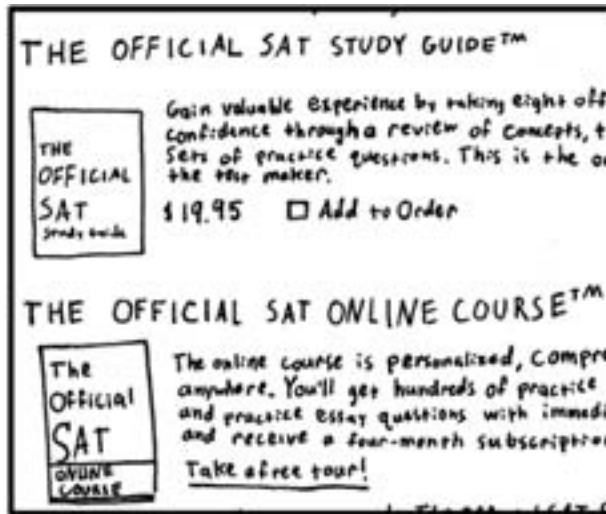
4:30 - 5:30

1-190

* If you are unable to attend either session, please visit the Study Abroad Office at 12-189 or web.mit.edu/studyabroad, E-mail studyabroad@mit.edu or call x3-0676

Steal My Comic

by Michael Ciuffo



Blobbles

by Jason Chan

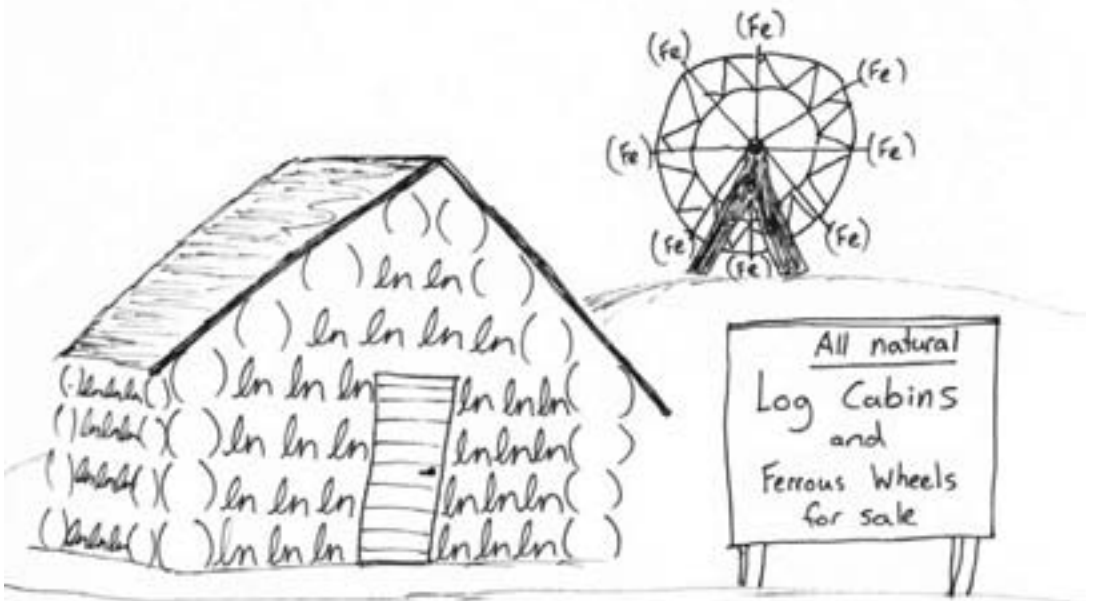
The problem is, I'm incredibly ironic.



Remember, this is how Blobbles works: you send me a caption, and I make a drawing out of it. blobbles@mit.edu

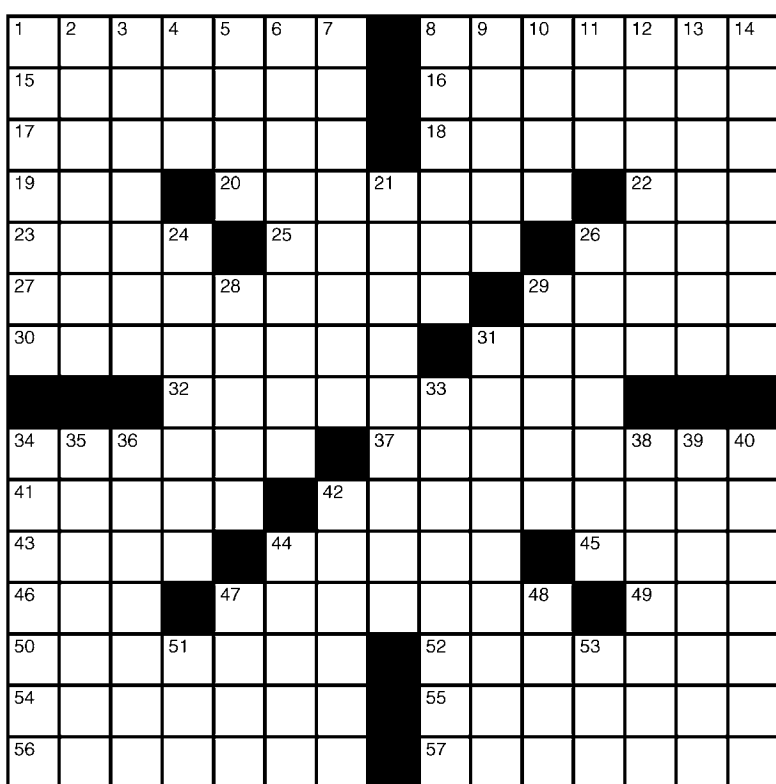
The Daily Blunderbuss

by Ben Peters



Crossword Puzzle

Solution, page 14



ACROSS

- 1 Stay abed
- 8 Huddle together
- 15 Agricultural pesticide
- 16 Unpleasant sight
- 17 Pronounce free from guilt
- 18 Vilified
- 19 Author Deighton
- 20 Tranquilized
- 22 Ryan of "Sleepless in Seattle"
- 23 Spoken
- 25 Covers with frost
- 26 Open-mouthed stare
- 27 Extremely confused situation
- 29 Sovereign
- 30 Most satiny
- 31 Plural of Mr.
- 32 Decorative vines
- 34 Pops a top off
- 37 Bullpen pitcher
- 41 Approaches
- 42 Publicize in search of buyers
- 43 Related
- 44 Highland hillsides
- 45 Religion spin-off
- 46 Tropical black

Instructions: Fill in the grid so that each column, row, and 3 by 3 grid contains exactly one of each of the digits 1 through 9. Solution on page 17.

SU|do|KU

© Puzzles by Pappocom

	4	2	1			8
	1					
			2		7	5
3	8	6		2	5	
		7	6		8	3
2	8			6		
						9
	6			5	3	2

Solution, tips, and computer program at <http://www.sudoku.com>

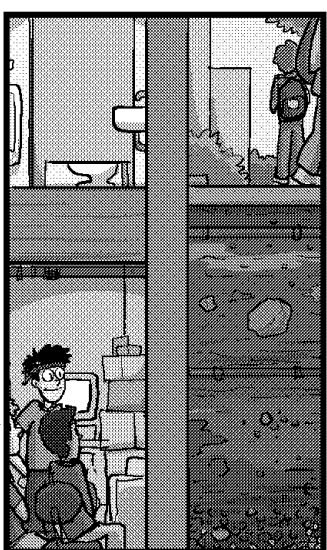
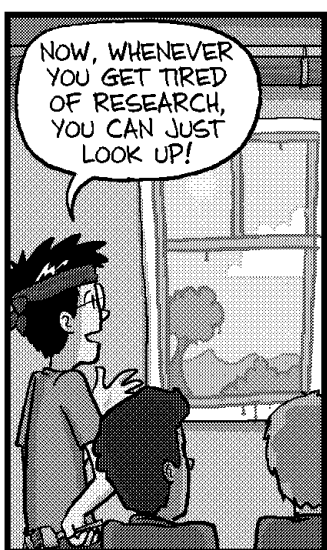
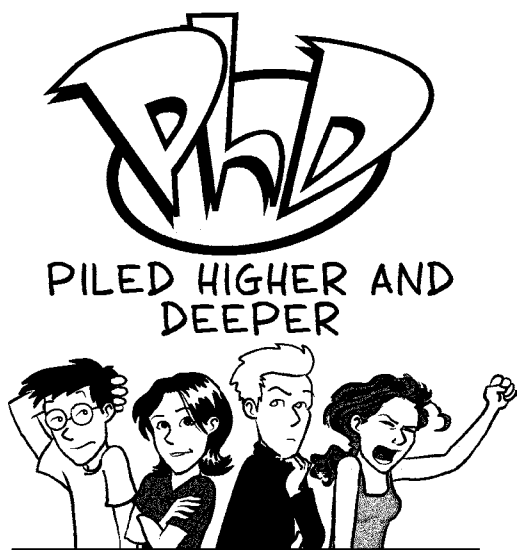
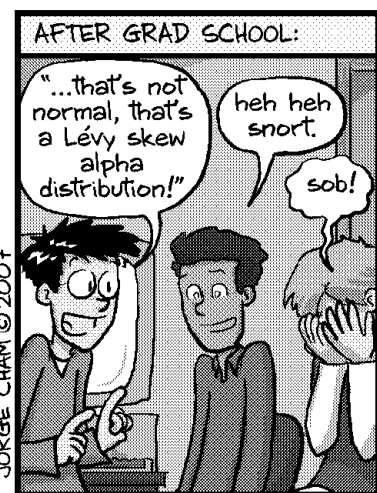
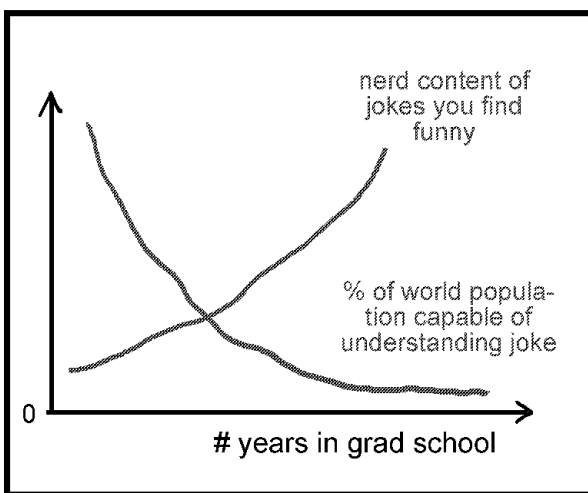
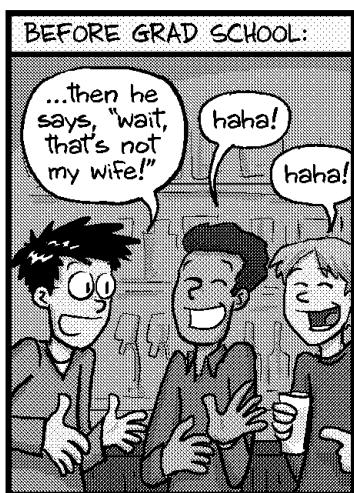
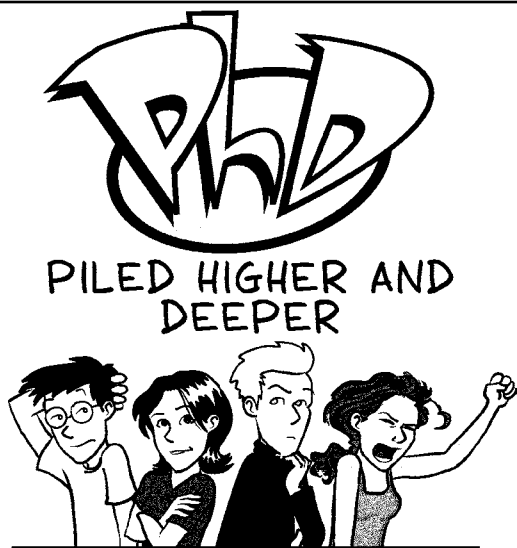
- 47 Production plans
- 49 Sci-Fi Doctor
- 50 Device for doing work
- 52 Roller-coaster comparative
- 54 Stars in Bordeaux
- 55 Importune
- 56 Tart or torte
- 57 Gobi and Namib
- 2 Broad-minded
- 3 Catch
- 4 Former name of Tokyo
- 5 Chums
- 6 Terminus of the Caledonian Canal
- 7 Most indigent
- 8 Sonnet ending
- 9 Floral clusters
- 10 Oboe or bassoon
- 11 Dos Passos trilogy
- 12 Control groups
- 13 Infant garment
- 14 Those avoiding straight answers
- 21 Dutch capital
- 24 Away from the wind
- 26 Garment inserts
- 28 Passes over
- 29 Broadcast again
- 31 Significant event marker
- 33 Made known
- 34 Wild
- 35 Newborn child
- 36 Mottled cats
- 38 Exhibiting further-out opinions
- 39 Reversion of property to the state
- 40 Incisive replies
- 42 Check
- 44 Foolish blunder
- 47 Dossier
- 48 Excessive boozers
- 51 Towel word
- 53 Nuptial or natal lead-in

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Bonus Puzzle

Solution, page 17

ACROSS

- 1 Satellite circuit
- 6 Pond organism
- 10 Coin from Chiapas
- 14 Madcap Marx
- 15 Energy food, for short
- 16 Somewhat circular
- 17 Wee hr.
- 18 Social reformer Jacob
- 19 Give temporarily
- 20 Goes ballistic
- 23 Beatles hit, "___ Loves You"
- 24 Puny pest
- 25 Egg cells
- 28 Pitch callers
- 31 Swipe
- 35 Sinful city
- 37 Jumble
- 39 Stumblebum
- 40 Evidenced anxiety

- 43 Mary Kay competitor
- 44 K2's continent
- 45 Finest of the finest
- 46 More promising
- 48 McGregor of "Trainspotting"
- 50 Pitcher Maglie
- 51 Wholesale quantity
- 53 Educational org.
- 55 Transmission type
- 62 Labs and boxers
- 63 Unadorned
- 64 Under-the-bar dance
- 65 Bar in a car
- 66 At any point
- 67 Be of use
- 68 Recolors
- 69 Ranked player
- 70 Hardly verbose

DOWN

- 1 Anticipatory cry
- 2 Rajah's spouse
- 3 Writer Harte
- 4 Poker player's "check"
- 5 Diminutive hero of folklore
- 6 Plot of land
- 7 Not of the cloth
- 8 "Peer Gynt" composer
- 9 Anise-flavored liqueur
- 10 Type of party
- 11 All tied up
- 12 Caroled
- 13 Timeworn
- 21 Skirt border
- 25 Grouchy Muppet
- 26 Swedish automaker
- 27 Farewell, Maria
- 29 Advanced degs.
- 30 French composer

- Erik
- 32 Perry of fashion
- 33 West African river
- 34 Ford failure
- 36 Literary compendiums
- 38 "Pygmalion" dramatist
- 41 Pierced places
- 42 Deflated
- 47 Belg. location
- 49 Simian
- 52 Scoundrel
- 54 Wanted poster option
- 55 Sly
- 56 Goggle at
- 57 Family diagram
- 58 Gnu group
- 59 General Bradley
- 60 Kimono sashes
- 61 Part to play
- 62 June celebrant

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	
14					15				16				
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Chorallaries Perform Annual Concert in Bad Taste

The MIT Chorallaries held their annual Concert in Bad Taste a capella and humor event this year in 26-100, since their usual venue, 10-250, is undergoing renovations.

Photography by Mark Thompson (clockwise from right)

Paper — both printer and toilet — flies through the air at the start of the concert at 11:59:59 p.m. on Saturday.

Joshua C. Hester '11 expresses his frustration and constipation in one of the Chorallaries' original compositions.

The Chorallaries' alumni join the current members on the stage for the Engineers' Drinking song to wrap up a night filled with humor that ran well into the early morning.

The line outside 26-100 weaves through the halls as hundreds of students wait for the Chorallaries' annual Concert in Bad Taste.



Donald Byron Leads Jazz Ensemble

The Festival Jazz Ensemble presented "Don Byron's Musical Worlds Part 1" this past Friday, March 7 in Kresge Auditorium. Donald Byron, an MLK Visiting Professor as well as a Grammy-nominated composer and clarinetist, played the saxophone and the clarinet while directing part of the concert.

(right) Donald Byron looks on as Daniel E. Bickerstaff '10 plays a guitar solo during Byron's own "Joe Btfsplk."

(below) Matthew J. Rosario '10 concentrates as he plays the piano during the world premiere of "That Meaningful Look," a composition by Ensemble guitarist Geoffrey Sheil '09.

Photography by Omari Stephens



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Financial Aid Policies Were Finalized Last Friday

Financial Aid, from Page 1

from the Senate for universities to pay out higher percentages of their endowment to increase financial aid. Over the past two months, Senate Finance Committee chairman Sen. Max S. Baucus (D) and ranking member Sen. Charles E. Grassley (R) conducted an investigation into the endowment spending and financial aid policies of the 136 richest universities in the country to inform their discussion about how universities ought to be handling their finances.

Undergraduate Association President Martin F. Holmes '08 said that

he thought MIT changed its financial aid policy because of political pressure from the Senate and the competitive pressure from peer institutions. "MIT is not acting entirely out of generosity — it is also acting because of political pressure," said Holmes. "MIT must stay on the good side of the U.S. government and it must be seen as a friendly school in the eyes of families and students applying to college. MIT can't have financial aid limit the quality of students it attracts," said Holmes.

In a meeting discussing the announcement, Chancellor Phillip L. Clay PhD '75 said Monday that "historically we've always won against

the other peers, except when it's Harvard versus MIT. We don't want to be in a position where that dynamic changes."

A stream of internal pressure from current students and their families complemented external pressures.

Holmes e-mailed the undergraduate student body on Feb. 24 asking for student opinions on a number of current Institute issues, hoping to discuss them with the administration. Holmes said he received dozens of responses concerning financial aid and tuition — many several pages long and detailing personal experiences — that urged the Institute to

increase its generosity toward middle class students.

UA Vice President Ali S. Wyne '08 said that he believes that these submissions and the months-long pressure from the student body contributed significantly to the revised aid policy. "The responses of the student body gradually developed into a groundswell of criticism of financial aid policies," said Wyne. "This decision is a statement to what grassroots effort from students can do," he said.

Change stronger than expected

Discussion about financial aid begins each year in the Committee on Undergraduate Admissions and Financial Aid, a faculty committee led by Professor Stephen L. Graves that also includes four students. They make recommendations to the Enrollment Management Group, led by Dean for Undergraduate Education Daniel E. Hastings PhD '80, that passes on their recommendations to the Academic Council and MIT Corporation Executive Committee, both chaired by President Susan Hockfield. The decisions of the MIT Corporation Executive Committee are not finalized until the MIT Corporation votes to approve the plans, as it did this Friday.

The approved plan turned out to represent a much greater increase in financial aid than was originally recommended by CUAFA in December and even, according to Holmes, the plan that was in place just a few weeks ago.

Clay said during the Monday meeting that the final financial aid plans "went beyond" CUAFA's recommendations. Although CUAFA did recommend relief based on home equity, the overall recommendations made by CUAFA were "insignificant" compared to the recent changes made at peer universities, according to Clay.

Monica Simo '08, a member of

CUAFA, said that reducing self-help and student contributions were also ideas that CUAFA had discussed. She said that the committee had developed recommendations with options that depended on the decided budget increase for the year, and that the final plan was "in many ways, more than we expected."

Holmes said that his first reaction to the financial aid announcement was "shock ... and then joy [because] ... I had heard talks and gotten the picture that MIT was not going to make as drastic a move as it actually did." He said, "It's very clear that there were changes made late in the game because of competitive and Congressional pressure," said Holmes. "They had to look at finances and figure out where more money could come from," Holmes said.

MIT takes significant step

Kolenbrander said that announcement does not represent a change in MIT's approach to financial aid but rather "a continuation of a long-standing commitment to make MIT's doors open to students of all financial backgrounds, regardless of their need."

It might not be a change in philosophy, but students and faculty agree that MIT has taken an important step to remain a competitive institution.

Holmes said that although MIT's previous financial aid budgets had already been generous, the latest announcement will help to make people aware of that generosity. "Part of this is a public relations campaign," Holmes said. "MIT must have a visible public image that it's doing something. MIT finally got the public relations down." He added, "This is a victory for students. It keeps MIT as competitive as it was before."

Wyne agreed: "While MIT might not be increasing its financial aid budget substantially more than in previous years, this has a powerful symbolic impact."



ERIC D. SCHMIEDL—THE TECH

The indie synthpop/new wave band Freezepop performed at the Middle East Downstairs in Cambridge, Mass. on Friday.

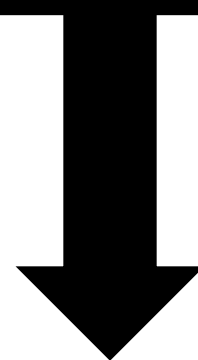
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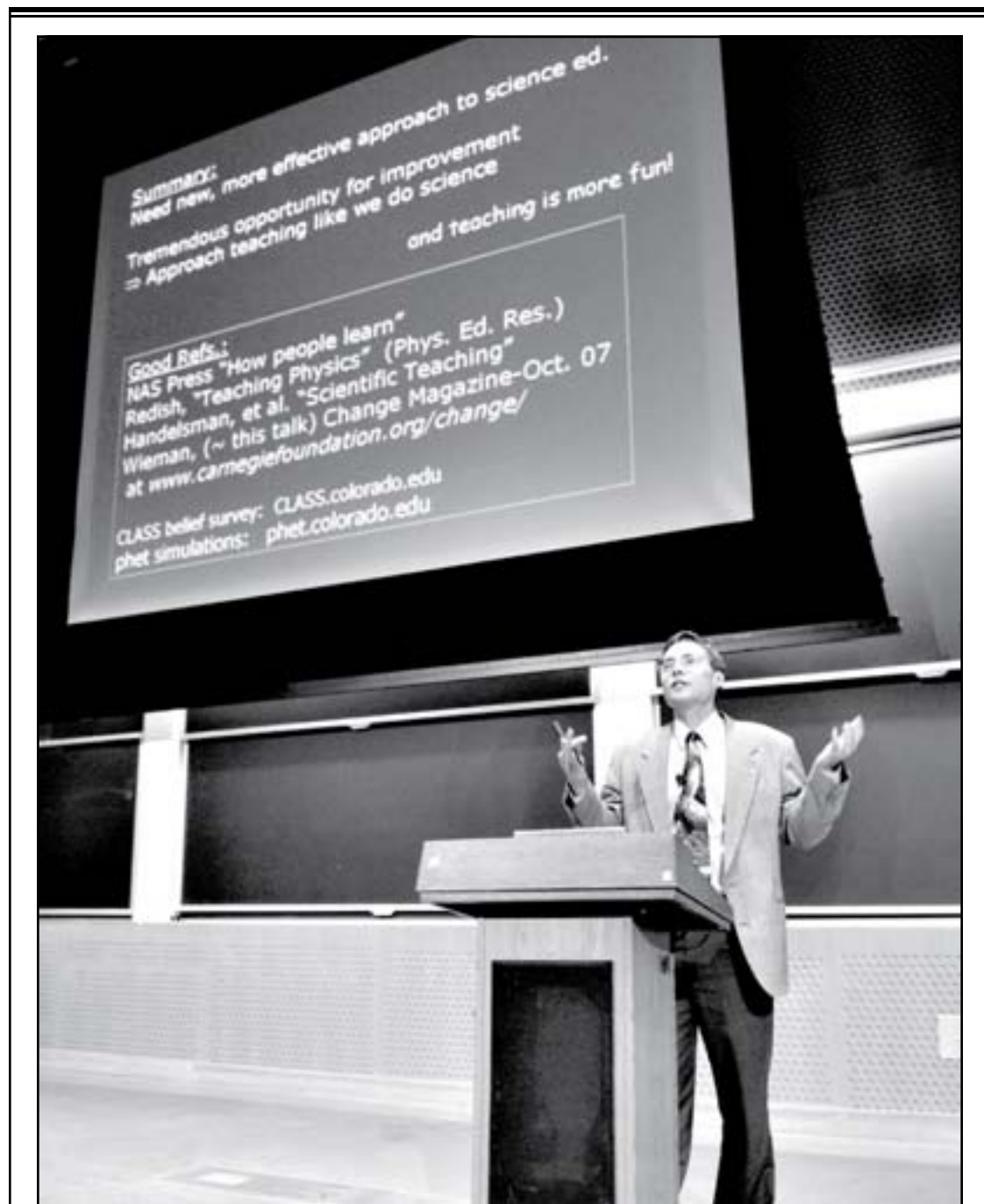


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Carl E. Wieman '73 delivers a talk entitled "Science Education in the 21st Century: Using the Tools of Science to Teach Science" for the 2008 MacVicar Day lecture, held Friday in 32-123.

PERRY HUNG—THE TECH

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Colleges Will Need to Attract Lower-Income Students

Admissions, from Page 1

economic variations. Experts anticipate, for example, a decline in affluent high school graduates, and an increase in poor and working-class ones. In response, colleges and universities are already increasing their recruitment of students in high-growth states and expanding their fi-

nancial-aid offerings to low-income students with academic potential.

Still, some admissions deans and independent consultants say the struggle to win entry to the most prestigious universities is likely to continue.

"The ones that have the strongest brand identification are still going to be awash in applications, but 99 per-

cent of us are going to see declines," said Robert J. Massa, vice president for enrollment at Dickinson College.

But other admissions officials have a different view. Lee A. Coffin, dean of undergraduate admissions at Tufts University, thinks top students might well find less competition. "We could see something resembling the admissions environment of the

early 1990s, in which the most talented students might have an easier time," he said.

While many admissions deans expect to look nostalgically on what has become, for them at least, a golden era in college admissions, some say that a letup in the admissions craze might not be so bad.

"I actually think it's kind of good," said Monica C. Inzer, dean of admission and financial aid at Hamilton College. "We need a shakeup. I think the anxiety families are feeling right now is not the way we planned it."

The extent to which admissions become less selective may depend, many admissions deans say, on whether they can successfully alter their recruiting — by reaching out to a broader range of students, with a more national and even international approach.

"I think that those institutions that decide to run the model as it's been so successfully run over the last decade and a half will see their admission rates go up," said Kurt M. Thiede, vice president for enrollment management at Bucknell.

Nationally, the population decline is projected to be relatively gentle, with the number of high school graduates expected to fall in the Northeast and Midwest, while continuing to increase in the South and Southwest.

The number of white high school graduates will go down nationally, and the number of African-American graduates will remain relatively steady. But the number of Hispanic and Asian-American graduates will increase sharply, according to projections by the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education, whose demographic estimates are highly regarded by admissions officials.

And so admissions officials are scrambling to attract Hispanic and low-income students, who have been underrepresented at the most prestigious private and public universities. Colleges in the Northeast and Midwest have particularly intensified their efforts to strengthen alumni networks and make themselves better known at high schools in fast-growing states like Texas, Arizona, Nevada, Florida and Colorado. Cornell sent an admissions officer to live full-time in Los Angeles.

"It's kind of a demographic perfect storm in some ways," said Robert S. Clagett, dean of admissions at Middlebury College. "Because

where the increases are going to come are in states where the college-going rate is lower and where those who do go to college primarily stay in the state."

Colby College and a number of others in the North have also begun to offer airplane tickets for low-income high school students and their parents from Sun Belt states to visit their campuses. Last summer, Middlebury and Williams flew in 27 college counselors from states where the colleges are not well known.

"It was nice for me to see the campuses and say to our kids, This is what they are like," said Sharon Goodman, director of college counseling at One Voice, a nonprofit group in the Los Angeles area that identifies and prepares low-income students with the academic potential for elite colleges.

Many colleges anticipate having to dig deeper to attract more low-income students. This is among the prime reasons why many of the most selective institutions have been in a race to significantly expand their financial aid to poor and working-class students.

When Harvard recently increased financial aid packages, it wanted "to send a really clear message out there to people who would not ordinarily apply to college, much less apply to a school like this," said William R. Fitzsimmons, dean of admissions and financial aid at Harvard College.

"Our theory is if we're really going to succeed, and not just Harvard, at increasing the college-going rates of people in the bottom quarter and bottom half of the economic ladder, then you're going to have to be really aggressive in your outreach," Mr. Fitzsimmons said.

The new recruiting strategies take many forms. Bucknell, Cornell, Amherst and the University of Michigan are among eight colleges and universities to receive grants from the Jack Kent Cooke Foundation to create partnerships with community colleges; the goal is for some of the most promising graduates of two-year schools to transfer to the elite universities for their last two years of college.

Concern about the coming demographic shifts is also partly behind a surge in recruiting international students. At Colby College, for example, more than 20 percent of the 4,800 applicants this year were from outside the United States.

Back in New Jersey, Mr. Cotton, 17, checks the mailbox every day to see which colleges will offer him admission. "There's a lot of pressure," he said. "Even if you're qualified, you're not always going to get a chance to get into these schools, which is the scary part."

Mr. Cotton, who has applied to 10 colleges, said he was pleased to learn that the competitive frenzy is expected to calm down. "It's good for my sister," he said. "Definitely I'm a little jealous."

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Solution to Crossword
from page 8

S	L	E	E	P	I	N	S	C	R	U	N	C	H
L	I	N	D	A	N	E	E	Y	E	S	O	R	E
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O	R	A	L	R	I	M	E	S	G	A	P	E	
M	A	R	E	S	N	E	S	T	R	U	L	E	R
S	L	E	E	K	E	S	T	M	E	S	S	R	S
U	N	C	A	P	S	R	E	L	I	E	V	E	R
N	E	A	R	S	A	D	V	E	R	T	I	S	E
T	O	L	D	B	R	A	E	S	S	E	C	T	
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E	T	O	I	L	E	S	E	N	T	R	E	A	T
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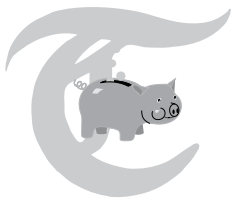
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ERIC D. SCHMIEDL—THE TECH

Hackers hung objects and symbols from the Nintendo game series Super Smash Bros. in Lobby 7 on Sunday to celebrate the release Super Smash Bros. Brawl, the third game in the Smash Bros. series.

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Wieman Discusses Research Based Teaching

MacVicar, from Page 1

of the students getting the material.”

The reception was preceded by Wieman’s talk, titled “Science Education in the 21st Century: Using the Tools of Science to Teach Science.” Wieman is currently aiming to improve undergraduate education as the director of the Carl Wieman Science Education Initiative at the University of British Columbia, according to the MacVicar Day Web site. Speaking in front of a packed audience in Stata’s Kirsch Auditorium, Wieman stressed the need to look towards brain and cognitive research to improve teaching methods.

Wieman began by recalling his memory of the late Margaret L. MacVicar ’64, the former Dean of Undergraduate Education and Professor of Physics in whose memory the MacVicar Faculty Fellows Program is named. He recalled having a conversation with her when she was trying to find funding to support undergraduate research in MIT laboratories.

The subject of that conversation became the now-ubiquitous Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program (UROP). “I don’t think they realized this when they invited me to speak, but I think I was the very first UROP student,” he said. “[MacVicar] was a very friendly, caring, thoughtful, attractive woman physicist.”

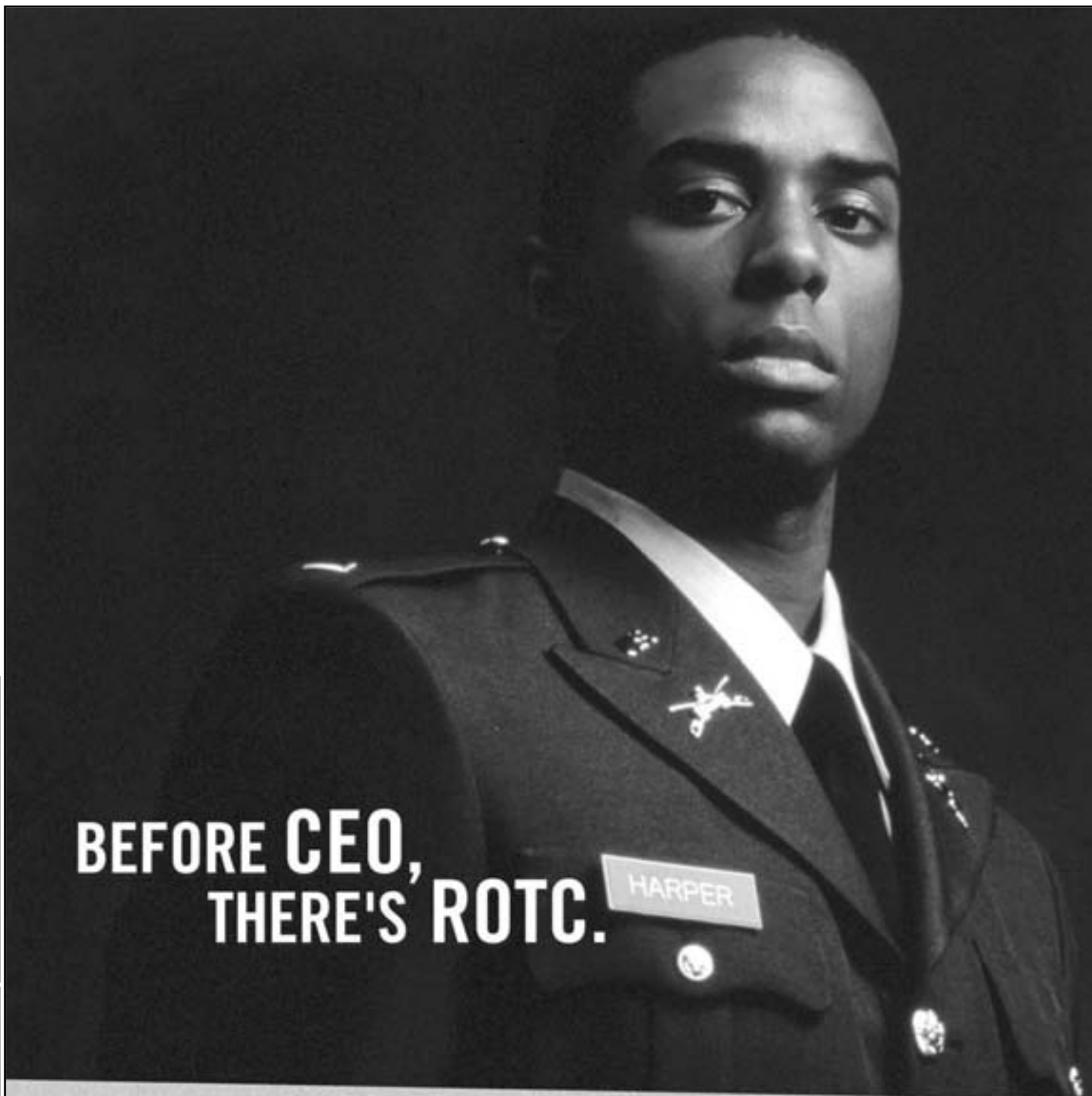
Wieman discussed improving science education in the rest of his talk. He explained the difficulties associated with engaging students during lecture, citing evidence from cognitive science research that individuals have a poor ability to retain large amounts of concentrated information. In studies that he conducted, he found that students become more disinterested in physics after taking introductory physics classes.

Wieman suggested involving students in lecture with group discussions and technology such as “clickers,” remote control devices used to gauge students’ understanding. However, he warned that technology in the classroom needs to be utilized properly to be effective.



MARK THOMPSON—THE TECH

A four foot Tesla coil demonstration in Lobby 13 fittingly concludes the day-long Spark event held by the Educational Studies Program on Saturday. Spark invites Boston area students to take classes from a wide range of topics taught by MIT students and faculty.



**BEFORE CEO,
THERE'S ROTC.**

Solution to Sudoku
from page 8

6	4	2	1	5	7	9	8	3
7	1	5	8	3	9	4	6	2
8	3	9	2	6	4	7	1	5
3	8	6	9	7	2	5	4	1
4	9	1	5	8	3	2	7	6
5	2	7	6	4	1	8	3	9
2	7	8	3	9	6	1	5	4
1	5	3	4	2	8	6	9	7
9	6	4	7	1	5	3	2	8

Solution to Bonus
from page 9

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O	N	E	A	M	R	I	I	S	L	E	N	D		
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O	V	A		U	M	P	S		T	H	I	E	V	E
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C	L	I	M	B	E	D	T	H	E	W	A	L	L	S
A	V	O	N	A	S	I	A	E	L	I	T	E		
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				B	U	L	K		P	T	A			
F	O	U	R	O	N	T	H	E	F	L	O	O	R	
D	O	G	S	B	A	R	E	L	I	M	B	O		
A	X	L	E	E	V	E	R	A	V	A	I	L		
D	Y	E	S	S	E	E	D	T	E	R	S	E		

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Student Triumphs Despite Socioeconomic Pressures

By Joseph Berger
THE NEW YORK TIMES

BAYONNE, N.J.

Eric Delgado is what those in research call an outlier — an anomaly, a deviation from the typical.

Mr. Delgado, 18, one of the 40 finalists in the Intel Science Talent Search, the nation's most prestigious high school science laurel, won his prize in a way that defied the formula. That formula may not be as unforgiving as $E=MC^2$, but it goes something like this:

A) Attend a top-flight school with high-octane students.

B) Join a freshman program that teaches you how to do research and then perform ever more challenging experiments into the senior year.

C) Pair with scientists and adapt an unresolved sliver of their research.

$A + B + C = \text{Intel}$. But that's not the path Mr. Delgado followed while investigating the mechanism that bacteria use to resist antibiotics. He did not attend Stuyvesant High School in Manhattan or any of the Long Island public schools that pop out Intel winners like clockwork. Rather he is a senior at Bayonne High School, a three-block-long fortress in a blue-collar city of 62,000 where oil refinery tanks loom over a landscape of one- and two-family clapboard houses. The median household income is \$41,566. Only half the 3,000 high school students go on to four-year colleges.

"We have a history of kids who go to Ivy League schools and kids who try to stay out of prison," was how Robert Dawson, the Bayonne School District's director of science, tartly described the spectrum of students.

Bayonne's research program is catch-as-catch-can, a three-year-old "science seminar" where currently only five students beguiled by science fair projects meet before school with their adviser. Any research training they receive is on an ad-hoc basis.

But a growing number of schools across the region, including schools in less affluent communities, have been putting extra resources into developing research programs that challenge their academic stars and, in some cases, lead to science prizes for both students and school districts.

In Westchester County, Ossining High School, which also has an economically and academically diverse student body and started an intensive research program in 1998, has produced 22 Intel semifinalists, including 6 this year.

On Long Island, schools in Dix Hills, East Setauket, Kings Park, Smithtown, Port Washington, Roslyn and Great Neck turned out 9 of the nation's 40 Intel finalists this year. They as well as six other finalists

from New York State including one from Byram Hills High School in Armonk in Westchester (Connecticut had none this year and New Jersey had just Mr. Delgado) will join Mr. Delgado at the Intel dinner on Tuesday in Washington, where scholarships of \$40,000 to \$100,000 will be awarded.

Here's a look at how finalists from two schools — Bayonne High School and John L. Miller-Great Neck North High School on Long Island — went about their projects and the teachers and programs that helped them.

At Bayonne, Maria Aloia, a physical science teacher who runs the science seminar, helped Mr. Delgado secure bacteria cultures and plant extracts and arranged telephone and e-mail consultations with scientists in California, Colorado and Arkansas. But he never met those mentors face to face. He did the research on his own, working out of a storage closet at the back of a science classroom where his equipment was not much more sophisticated than a centrifuge and an incubator.

Yet Mr. Delgado, a broad-shouldered youth whose twin, Nelson, is the captain of the football team, became the first finalist Bayonne ever had in the 67-year-old Intel contest (originally known as the Westinghouse). He showed that Intel scholars can blossom in any soil if a student is ardent about investigative science.

"The talent is here, but in a suburban school it's more obvious that it's catered to," said Ms. Aloia, a former chemical engineer in her fifth year of teaching. "Still, we perform miracles. Eric did his research in a closet!"

Mr. Delgado's achievement was helped by two forces of nature — Ms. Aloia, 53, who sensed immediately that Mr. Delgado had the right stuff, and his mother, Virginia Davila, 49, the daughter of Puerto Rican migrants who raised her sons as a single office-working mother but had the determination to make sure they optimized their talents.

It was not entirely predictable that Bayonne would have spawned an Intel winner. It is the kind of school where, according to teachers, some students reject evolution for religious reasons while others opt out of dissections because they consider them cruel.

Yet Mr. Dawson and Ms. Aloia found methods of immersing talented students in research in ways that don't cost a lot of money. Bayonne is one of 19 New Jersey high schools whose students shuttle to the Waksman Institute of Microbiology at Rutgers University to learn how to break up DNA and identify individual genes, using organisms like brine shrimp.

"Biology is changing from dissection to biochemistry and how

things work on a molecular level," said Mr. Dawson, who sometimes wears a tie with a picture of Einstein and his $E=MC^2$ formula.

His school's star science student was interested in science as a little boy, asking for a chemistry set for Christmas while other children were asking for Game Boys. Mr. Delgado remembers taking apart a computer at age 11 to see how it worked "and my mom getting mad because the pieces were all over the living room."

His Intel project had its genesis in his eighth-grade study of how proximity to power plants diminished the diversity of tardigrades, tiny segmented organisms that live off the lichen found on trees. He and his mother drove around a good part of Hudson County using tweezers to take lichen samples.

In the summer after his sophomore year he had an internship at the Jersey City Medical Center conducting statistical studies of cases where bacteria resisted antibiotics and came across a paper on herbal antibiotics that inhibit bacterial resistance.

He asked Ms. Aloia to find him some experts, and she put Mr. Delgado on a call with a scientist at a company in Hamilton, N.J., working on bacterial resistance. Mr. Delgado peppered him with questions about lab techniques. "I loved that conversation with your student," the scientist told Ms. Aloia.

Another scientist sent Mr. Delgado strains of genetically modified *E. coli* bacteria that could be safely taken to school. A third scientist in Colorado sent him a plant extract that inhibited a pump-like system in the bacteria membrane that expelled antibiotics.

"As long as the professor knows that I'm legitimately interested in what I'm doing, they're more than ready to help," Mr. Delgado said. "They want to contribute to the next generation of scientists."

Mr. Delgado zeroed in on a hypothesis that the plant extract could be engineered to inhibit resistance in bacteria like *E. coli* that are more common in humans. Starting last August, he put in 20 to 30 hours a week on his project and demonstrated when the extract could or could not be effective.

Such focus explains why he can also be captain of the mock-trial and debating teams and work 10 hours a week as a veterinarian's helper. (The only TV he watches is when he is running on the treadmill.) Not surprisingly he is heading for Princeton next fall on a full scholarship.

"He's got a Type B exterior and Type A interior," Ms. Aloia said. "He'll look real cool on the outside and on the inside he's got a zillion things going on."

His mother still cannot quite take in how much a child of hers has accomplished, and her voice broke as she recalled her struggles. "I always said nothing's impossible and whatever you want to do you can — just put your all into it," she said.

Winning an Intel prize is nothing new at Great Neck North, which has produced 8 finalists and 39 semifinalists.

Freshmen enroll in a 14-year-old program where they learn how to search databases, apply statistics, organize scientific papers and produce compelling oral reports, then practice their skills with simple social science experiments. Around 25 students take the class, and those who stay into the sophomore and junior years perform a series of independent experiments that they submit to science fairs.

Toward the end of the student's junior year, teachers help those interested in the Intel contest find professional mentors. Such research opportunities everywhere offer a way to cultivate scientists at young ages in the same fashion that Olympic skaters are molded at a young age by expert coaches. Six Intel/Westinghouse finalists have gone on to win Nobel prizes.

"Getting kids to play the game of science with the scientists is likely to get them interested in science professionally," said Alan Schorn, a physics teacher and the impresario of Great Neck's research program. "It's like the classic guild system. A shoemaker takes on an apprentice."

The community they live in is the famously Gatsbyesque peninsula of 40,000 on the North Shore of Long Island with gently rolling acres of Tudors and colonials and a median household income of \$76,645. At Great Neck North High School, 93 percent of the 960 students earn Regents diplomas, and many are accepted to elite colleges. Graduates include the film director Francis Ford Coppola, the Olympic ice skater Sarah Hughes and David Baltimore, winner of the 1975 Nobel prize in medicine.

This year, the school's finalists were Benjamin Mueller and David Rosengarten. Mr. Mueller, 18, worked at an M.R.I. lab at Columbia University Medical Center under the guidance of Dr. Joy Hirsch, professor of functional neuroradiology, taking the Long Island Rail Road and the subway every day during the summer to perform brain scans on five adult subjects, including his father, a musician, and his mother, a book editor. In a project partly titled, "The Neural Basis of the Decision to Reward or Punish in Parenting," he tried seeing what regions of the brain were fired up by rewards or punishments for deeds like scoring a straight-A report

card or getting caught stealing. He discovered that a parent's decision to reward more often uses neurocircuits associated with emotion while decisions to punish require more cognition and calculation.

Mr. Rosengarten's project in astrophysics, "Rotation Curves in Five Dimensions," investigated the motion of stars within galaxies and the influence of matter not visible to the eye — so-called dark matter. Mr. Rosengarten, 17, the son of an accountant and an elementary schoolteacher, was doing long division in first grade, algebra by sixth grade and Advanced Placement calculus and physics by ninth grade. He developed his project in a conversation with a professor of theoretical physics at Stony Brook University, Martin Rocek.

Like so many Intel finalists, both students do many things well. Mr. Mueller, a sturdy 6-footer, is captain of the basketball and soccer teams. Mr. Rosengarten is captain of the chess and math teams and plays cello in the orchestra.

Their full-blown induction in science began as freshmen in the school's research program. The other day, a freshman, Alex Schifter, 14, was testing his hypothesis that up-tempo music gets people to work harder while a more indolent beat slows them down. He has cajoled 25 classmates to put on a sensor that measures force while music like the theme from the film "Rocky" is played. In another project, Maria Angelidis, 14, was testing 46 students to show that there are differences between boys and girls in the associations they make to color.

"Boys might associate red with anger and girls might associate it with love," she said.

Of course, Intels are a hopeful marker of how well science is taught in American schools. By contrast, frequent studies bemoan the state of science instruction, mostly by contrasting American students with those in European and Asian countries. But experts say the issue is complicated. European schools often funnel their weakest students into vocational tracks. At the highest levels and for the most affluent or striving, many experts say, American schools do well, explaining why the nation clings to its stature as the world's great science research powerhouse.

"More and more there's a separation between the well-educated and the not well-educated," said Alan I. Leshner, chief executive of the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

Too many schools — particularly in poor or rustic areas — give short shrift to science instruction, resulting in widespread ignorance of basic principles, he and other experts said. Jo Ellen Roseman, director of an American Association for the Advancement of Science project to improve science literacy, said fewer than 25 percent of middle-school students recognize that a burning marshmallow is a chemical reaction.

Some critics hold responsible what they see as the current emphasis on "critical thinking" at the expense of basic scientific knowledge; others blame innovations like the No Child Left Behind law that focus on reading and math to the detriment of subjects like science.

Locally, New Jersey and Connecticut finished roughly 21st and 23rd among the 44 states that took the National Assessment of Educational Progress science test in 2005. Only 29 percent of eighth graders in both states scored in the proficient ranks and 4 percent in the advanced ranks. (New York State, with the exception of the five boroughs, did not participate.)

Whether it is in Great Neck or Bayonne, front-page news about Intel winners serves a useful purpose in both places: it draws new acolytes.

"It's making science popular," Ms. Aloia said. "The school is so big a lot of students never realized there was a cool science program they could join. Now a lot of kids are asking me, 'Can I try a science project?'"

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Tuesday April 15	Contra Dance in W20-407
Tuesday April 29	Contra Dance in W20-407
Sunday May 4	Int'l Folk Dance in Lobdell
Tuesday May 13	Contra Dance in W20-407

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VINCENT CARLAUYEUNG

Robin C. Friedman G and Wellesley College sophomore Brittany Low compete at the 17th annual Harvard Invitational Ballroom Dance Competition on Saturday.

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BOSTON SECESSION

Handel in the Strand

Saturday, March 15, 2008 at 8:00 p.m.
 First Church in Cambridge, Congregational
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 Closest T-Stop: Harvard Square, Red Line

In the Baroque period, J.S. Bach beetled away in Germany as the introverted, provincial genius while George Frideric Handel took London by storm, becoming the era's extroverted, cosmopolitan superstar. A German who wrote in the Italian style in England, Handel was wildly popular in his day—and it is his musical style that has left an indelible mark on nearly all the greatest composers after his death in 1759. This concert traces the musical inheritance of Handel's heirs—from the 18th century to today.

<http://www.bostonsecession.org>

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 Carla Kihlstedt, violin

Ken Ueno: On a Sufficient Condition for the Existence of Most Specific Hypothesis *World Premiere*

Ken Ueno, throat singer

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Derek Hurst: Clades *World Premiere*

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SPORTS

Institute Records Fall as Track And Field Competes at ECACs

By DAPER Staff

The women's track and field team recorded its best finish ever at the Eastern College Athletic Conference Division III Championships this weekend, finishing second overall out of 51 scoring teams. Moravian College topped the standings with 56 points, followed by MIT with 42.5, and Bates College came in third with 42.

MIT led the competition after 16 events, behind a number of school records. The team boasted a record number of qualifiers for the ECAC Championships this year, which helped gain the points necessary to finish close to the top of the final rankings.

Capping her season in the thrower's circle, Aline Thomas '08 achieved two personal bests and NCAA provisional qualifying finishes over the weekend, placing fourth in weight throw. Her spin of 50'7.25" added nearly two feet to her best and makes her only the second Engineer to best 50' in the event. In the shot put, Thomas tossed a personal-best 42'2".

Amy R. Magnuson '10 delivered new records in both the hurdles and long jump. After leading the qualifiers from the prelims behind an Institute-record 8.15 seconds in the 55-meter hurdles, Magnuson shattered the school and meet record during finals with a clip of 8.04. Unfortunately, Magnuson still finished in second, as Sumer Rohrs of Frostburg State finished with a time of 7.98 seconds, the fastest in the nation this season.

Magnuson spanned 17'6" en route to fourth place in the long jump, eclipsing the four year old Institute record of 17'3.75. On Friday, Magnuson finished 20th in the triple jump, reaching 34'3".

Andrea E. Bradshaw '09 pulled the Institute 800-meter mark down another tick for the fourth time this season, finishing a strong third-place at 2:16.89.

Bradshaw was part of another record-setting performance in the distance medley relay, as her split in the 800-meter set-up the anchor mile leg run by Jacqui M. Wentz '10. Adrienne M. Bolger '09 and Leanne M. Veldhuis '08 ignited the Engineers' NCAA provisional run as MIT finished third in 12:17.06.

Wentz picked up two important points with a seventh-place finish in the mile (5:12.26) and Veldhuis placed twelfth in the 600-meter run at 1:20.15.

Emily Hwang '09 tied for third place in the pole vault after clearing 11'0.75". Karin E. Fisher '11 scaled a personal best 10'6.75" and tied for 12th.

The indoor season ends with the NCAA Championships next weekend, with only Magnuson a guaranteed entry at this point, as provisional qualifiers will have to wait for the selection process.

Morton, Stephens Lead Men

The men's track and field team finished eighth at the ECAC Division III Championships this weekend, despite resting many of their athletes for the upcoming outdoor season.

Stephen A. Morton '10 was sensational in the triple jump, despite finishing second. His jump of 47'11" was the fifth-best jump in the NCAA this season, topping a 25 year old school record of 47'7.25" set by Martin Taylor '83.

Omari S. Stephens '08 cleared 16'0.75" to win the pole vault with an NCAA provisional mark that was nearly one foot ahead of his previous season-best. Stephens attempted the meet record of 16'3.75", but was unable to clear the height despite a few solid attempts.

Greg D. Tao '10 (14'5.25") and Patrick R. Barragan '08 (13'5.25") also competed in the pole vault, while Anthony D. Teixeira '08 placed tenth

in the triple jump at 44'11.5". Mattias S. Flander '11 finished fifteenth overall with a jump of 44'6.75".

The freshman 4x800-meter relay team of Richard J. Prevost, Paul D. Welle, Shawn S. Conrad, and Kevin G. Kleinguetl wanted to go for the MIT freshman record of 8:05.13 set back in 1992. Prevost, primarily a distance runner, led off with a fine 1:59.2 and handed the baton to Welle in third place. Welle got out well, took the lead halfway through and held on to first place by running an outstanding 1:57.6.

Conrad held onto the lead for a while but could not stay with the top two runners in the final 200 meters before handing off to Kleinguetl in a distant third. Kleinguetl could not close the gap despite a split of 57.4 seconds in the first 400 meters, but he finished with a 1:58.8 to enable the Engineers to set a new freshman record with the time of 7:57.23.

Next week Stephens and Morton will travel to Ohio Northern University in Ada, Ohio, to compete in the NCAA Division III Championship. A live webcast will available at: <http://www.onusports.com/NCAATrack08/>

If Morton qualifies in the long jump, he will compete at 1 p.m. on Friday afternoon and 10 a.m. Saturday morning in the triple jump. Stephens will compete in the pole vault at 5 p.m. on Friday.



VINCENT AUYEUNG

Amy R. Magnuson '10 flies 17'6" through the air to secure fourth place and the MIT long jump record at the Eastern Collegiate Athletic Conference championships this weekend at Harvard University. Magnuson also broke the Institute record in the 55-meter hurdles, leading the women's track and field team to a second place finish.

Pier Places Fifth in Giant Slalom at Nationals

By Shreyes Seshasai

SPORTS EDITOR

After leading the alpine skiing team to one of its best seasons in recent memory, Timothy F. Pier '08 performed well last weekend, this time as an individual. Pier placed fifth overall in the giant slalom at the U.S. Collegiate Ski and Snowboard Association National Championship, held at Sunday River, Maine.

Competing against the top skiers in the country, Pier found himself in tenth place after the first run with a time of 1:09.68. An impressive second run of 1:08.89 outdid all but two of his competitors to bring his combined time to 2:18.57, good enough for fifth place.

In the slalom, Pier placed 26th overall with a combined time of 1:49.26. A strong first run put Pier temporarily in eleventh, but he couldn't hold on after a tough second run.

The competition ends Pier's collegiate skiing career on a high note. Skiing to the cheers of his teammates, who made the trip up to Maine to support him, Pier delivered on a national stage uncommon for most MIT skiers.

Pier was just the second skier in MIT history to qualify for the National Championship, following the tracks of Jason W. Christopher '05.

Pier qualified for nationals after finishing eleventh overall in the giant slalom at the USCSA Eastern Regional Championship on Feb. 24. His overall time of 2:01.60 made him the top performer on a non-qualifying team, allowing him to represent MIT at nationals.

UPCOMING HOME EVENTS

Tuesday, March 11, 2008

Men's Lacrosse vs. Salve Regina University 4 p.m., Jack Berry Field

Thursday, March 13, 2008

Women's Lacrosse vs. Williams College 6 p.m., Jack Berry Field

Men's Volleyball vs. Johnson & Wales University 7 p.m., Rockwell Cage

SCOREBOARD

Women's Gymnastics

Friday, March 7, 2008

University of Rhode Island (8-4-1)	189.000
Yale University (8-4)	185.775
Southern Connecticut State University (16-5)	182.575
MIT (6-15)	177.225

Men's Lacrosse

Saturday, March 8, 2008

MIT (0-1)	10
UMass-Dartmouth (1-0)	14

Women's Lacrosse

Saturday, March 8, 2008

MIT (0-1)	16
Endicott College (2-0)	18

Sailing

Sunday, March 9, 2008

Wood Trophy	
MIT	11 of 18

Men's Tennis

Saturday, March 8, 2008

Endicott College (0-1)	0
MIT (5-1)	9

Men's Track and Field

Saturday, March 8, 2008

ECAC ¹ Championship	
MIT	8th of 58

Women's Track and Field

Saturday, March 8, 2008

ECAC Championship	
MIT	2nd of 51

Men's Volleyball

Saturday, March 8, 2008

MIT (17-8)	3
SUNY New Paltz (8-16)	1
MIT (18-8)	3
Medaille College (10-9)	0

Sunday, March 9, 2008

MIT (18-9)	0
Nazareth College (22-4)	3
MIT (18-10)	0
Ramapo College (13-5)	3

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Daily Meditation

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The Tech's Athlete of the Week: Amy R. Magnuson '10

Amy R. Magnuson '10 added yet another record breaking performance to her impressive season at the Eastern Collegiate Athletic Conference Championships, re-setting the Institute record in the 55-meter hurdles with a time of 8.04 seconds.

Her time was well under her personal best of 8.15 seconds, set in the preliminaries, and is the second fastest time in the country this season, bested only by Sumer Rohrs against whom she competed on Saturday.

Magnuson also set an Institute record in the long jump with a distance of 17'6".

Coming off her great showing, Magnuson is set to compete in the NCAA Division III Indoor Track and Field Championships this weekend at Ohio Northern University.

—Shreyes Seshasai, Sports Editor