

UA Candidates Debate Student Involvement, Dining

By Nick Bushak
NEWS EDITOR

On Sunday evening, the candidates for Undergraduate Association President and Vice President debated issues ranging from housing concerns to MIT students' relationship with the administration.

The tickets for UA President and Vice President are, respectively, Akash A. Chandawarkar '09 and Amanda J. Maguire '09, Jason C. Forte '09 and Brittany A. Holland-Marcus '10, Bradley H. Gampel '09 and Willard J. Johnson '09, and Noah S. Jessop '09 and Michael A. Bennie '10.

Most of the candidates were in accord on the need to improve UA transparency, improve the student-administration relationship, address dining concerns, and make SafeRide more dependable, but the candidates' specific perspectives on the problems varied.

Improving student involvement

All tickets voiced the need to improve UA transparency through an improved, maintained UA Web site, but the Web site was a key to Jessop and Bennie's platform. Bennie suggested a UA "portal" which would have different depth of content for students with differing levels of interest. For example, a student only interested "a little bit" in UA affairs could see a condensed version of UA news.

Chandawarkar said that "all [UA] meetings should be open and publicized to the general MIT population," among other suggestions. In particular, he cited how "people have no idea what the class councils are doing," and mentioned that he is trying to get their meetings to open to the public right now through the Senate. When asked why he and Maguire have not already made more attempts to improve transparency of the UA in their past experience, given that it is such a large part of their platform, Chandawarkar responded that it took him some time to understand the workings of the UA.

Forte suggested a number of changes, including publishing UA



Willard J. Johnson '09 (VP) and Bradley H. Gampel '09 (P)



Akash A. Chandawarkar '09 (P) and Amanda J. Maguire '09 (VP)



Michael A. Bennie '10 (VP) and Noah S. Jessop '09 (P)



Jason C. Forte '09 (P) and Brittany A. Holland-Marcus '10 (VP)

PHOTOGRAPHY BY MAKSIM VIKTOROVICH IMAKAEV

meeting locations and agendas beforehand, and making the lists of committee members public. He also suggested working more closely with dorm governments and *The Tech* to get students more involved.

Referring to the purported current opacity of the UA, Gampel said "I didn't even know what the UA was my first two years here." Johnson suggested video addresses to students via

the UA Web site. Also, he proposed a student question-and-answer session in the student center with the UA Executive Board every two weeks.

Gampel pointed to the fact that "the Baker senator just quit," and he proposed a system for maintaining "senator accountability." He said "some senators get very involved, and others end up doing nothing."

"So what does the United States

do? You start ripping people in newspapers. You get [them] embarrassed. You ruin their name," Gampel said. He went on to say, "you're not necessarily supposed to attack people, but we're saying use *The Tech* as a device to kind of hold the senators accountable."

Campus dining

The issue of dining was brought

up on a number of occasions during the debates, but the most disagreement on the issue came after a student, Vinayak V. Ranade '09, asked the candidates whether "dining with good food" or "community building" through dining were more important, in reference to the administration's recent claim that dining halls will

Elections, Page 8

MIT Corporation Election for Recent Graduates Begins

Voting is now open for the classes of 2006, 2007, and 2008 to elect a recent graduate to the board of the MIT Corporation.

Students who received an undergraduate or graduate degree in 2006 or 2007 or expect to receive one in June 2008 may vote.

The Corporation Screening Committee selected eight recent graduates to place on the ballot after nominations from eligible voters and interviews with the nominees. The candidates are:

- ¶ Ronak Bhatt ScD '06
- ¶ Nolan Browne MBA '06
- ¶ Sylvain Bruni SM '04, PhD '08
- ¶ Jordan K. Fabyanske '06
- ¶ Christina Gomez '07
- ¶ Jessica H. Lowell '07
- ¶ Marta Luczynska '06, MEng '07
- ¶ Megan Roberts '08

Candidates and eligible voters "should NOT campaign on behalf of any candidate OR promote the election in any way", according to the ballot Web site. The only sanctioned form of campaigning is the biographies and "poster pages" available to eligible voters on the ballot Web site.

More information about the election can be found at <http://alum.mit.edu/about/elections/corpballet/>. The polls close on Friday, April 25 at 5 p.m.

—Quentin Smith

Blackjack Team Book Embellished; Mezrich Claims Alterations Needed

By Drake Bennett
THE BOSTON GLOBE

The movie "21," which opened last weekend as the No. 1 box office action-adventure movie that adds sex, violence, and some theatrical high living to the plot of the book on which it is based. But readers of the book, the 2002 nonfiction bestseller "Bringing Down the House," might wonder why any embellishment was necessary.

The original book — "the inside story of six MIT students who took Vegas for millions" by counting cards at the blackjack tables — was juicy enough to spend more than a year on the hardcover and paperback nonfiction best-seller lists. And its runaway success transformed its Boston-based author, Ben Mezrich, into a local celebrity and a one-man

publishing brand, a specialist in true tales of egghead kids pulling off acts of lucrative derring-do.

Yet "Bringing Down the House" is not a work of "nonfiction" in any meaningful sense of the word. Instead of describing events as they happened, Mezrich appears to have worked more as a collage artist, drawing some facts from interviews, inventing certain others, and then recombining these into novel scenes that didn't happen and characters who never lived. The result is a crowd-pleasing story, eagerly marketed by his publishers as true — but which several of the students who participated say is embellished beyond recognition.

"I don't even know if you want to call the things in there exaggerations, because they're so exaggerated they're basically untrue," said John

Chang '85, an MIT graduate and one of the inspirations for the character Micky Rosa, who in the book is the team's founder and leader.

The book is vaulting back to prominence at a time of big scandals elsewhere in publishing, and low public trust in the media. Recent high-profile revelations of exaggera-

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In Short

¶ **Big Screw voting** runs this week in Lobby 10 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Votes for this year's "Big Screw" cost one penny.

¶ **The U.S. Secretary of Energy**, Samuel W. Bodman ScD '65, will be presenting a lecture entitled "America's Energy Security: The Challenges We Face and How You Can Be Part of the Solution" tomorrow from 11:30 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. in E15-070 (Bartos Theater). The talk is hosted by the MIT Energy Club, the MIT Energy Initiative, and the MIT Washington D.C. Office.

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



See big business, the law, and local politics collide in India

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NEWS

Applicants share college rejection letters on 'Wall of Shame'

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More students major in philosophy

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WORLD & NATION

Washington Post Wins Six Pulitzers

By Richard Pérez-Peña

THE NEW YORK TIMES

NEW YORK

The Washington Post won six Pulitzer Prizes on Monday, the second most that any newspaper has won in a year, including awards for reporting that helped define much of the national political dialogue in 2007.

The Post won the prestigious public service award for revealing the mistreatment of wounded soldiers at Walter Reed Army Medical Center, in work by two reporters, Dana Priest and Anne Hull, and a photographer, Michel du Cille.

"Journalists show their patriotism in strange ways," Hull said. "We felt that we could make a difference in the lives of these wounded soldiers."

The national reporting prize went to The Post's Jo Becker and Barton Gellman, for documenting the power wielded in secrecy by Vice President Dick Cheney. Steve Fainaru won the international reporting prize for his examination of private security contractors in Iraq.

A Post business columnist, Steve Pearlstein, won for commentary. Gene Weingarten won the feature-writing award for a long article in The Post's Sunday magazine on a world-famous violinist, Joshua Bell, playing incognito for subway riders.

And the paper's staff won the prize for breaking news for coverage of the mass killing at Virginia Tech.

Negligent Driving Killed Diana

By Alan Cowell

THE NEW YORK TIMES

LONDON

After six months of hearings and testimony by 278 witnesses, a jury at a British inquest found Monday that Diana, Princess of Wales, and her lover, Dodi al-Fayed, were unlawfully killed by the negligent driving of their chauffeur and of the photographers who pursued the couple's speeding Mercedes-Benz into a Paris underpass a decade ago.

The verdict of unlawful killing, by a vote of 9-2, represented the toughest judgment available to the jury, which needed only a majority to render a decision. The jury, which began to deliberate on Wednesday, had been told that a verdict of unlawful killing was tantamount to one of manslaughter.

The crash, in August 1997, seized attention in Britain and around the world, with rumors, conspiracy theories and allegations. Diana, who was 36 when she died, was described by Tony Blair, then the prime minister, as the "people's princess."

The verdict said the crash "was caused, or contributed to, by the speed and manner of the driver of the Mercedes and the speed and manner of the following vehicles."

Baghdad Attacks Spiked in March

By Michael R. Gordon

and Eric Schmitt

THE NEW YORK TIMES

BAGHDAD

After an overall decline in attacks against civilians and U.S. and Iraqi security forces in Baghdad over the past several months, the number more than doubled in March from the previous month, according to statistics compiled by the U.S. military in Baghdad.

The sharp increase in overall attacks, to 631 in March from 239 in February, reflects new strikes against the Green Zone, the heavily fortified headquarters for Iraq's central government and the U.S. embassy here, as well as renewed fighting in the Sadr City district of Baghdad between Shiite militias and Iraqi government and U.S. forces.

Violence in Sadr City first flared more than a week ago after Prime Minister Nouri Kamal al-Maliki launched a poorly coordinated military campaign to retake the southern port city of Basra from Shiite militias. The fighting has had repercussions in other Shiite enclaves across the country, but nowhere is it as severe as in Sadr City.

Nearly all of the increase came in attacks against U.S. and Iraqi security forces, which rose to 562 in March from 177 in February. Attacks against civilians in the capital remained relatively unchanged: 69 in March from 62 in February.

Pres. Candidates Converge As Iraq War Enters Spotlight

By Elisabeth Bumiller

THE NEW YORK TIMES

WASHINGTON

Three presidential candidates and two very different views of Iraq will be on full display on Tuesday as Gen. David H. Petraeus, the top American commander in Baghdad, testifies before the Senate in a marathon session of war and White House ambitions.

All three senators running for president — John McCain of Arizona, Hillary Rodham Clinton of New York and Barack Obama of Illinois — will have a chance to question Petraeus and Ryan C. Crocker, the American ambassador to Baghdad. Each of the three is determined to use the spectacle to advantage, but all face political risks as well as opportunities in the back-to-back hearings before the Senate Armed Services and Foreign Relations Committees.

"They're going to be walking a tightrope over the Grand Canyon," said Alan K. Simpson, a former Republican senator from Wyoming who was a member of the bipartisan Iraq Study Group that in 2006 recommended a change of administration strategy in Iraq. "Everyone is going to be watching this like hawks."

Overall, Clinton and Obama, both Democrats, are likely to criticize the costs of the war and a lack of political progress. McCain, an early supporter of the troop escalation who has acknowledged that his political fortunes are directly tied to American success in Iraq, will say that the "surge" is working, and is likely to add that the Democrats are ignoring the gains.

Petraeus is expected to recommend at least a temporary halt in troop withdrawals and to speak more extensively about Iran's influence in Iraq.

McCain, a Republican, has the logistical advantage in appearing before his two Democratic competitors. Petraeus is set to testify first to the Armed Services Committee, beginning at 9:30 a.m., and McCain, the ranking Republican member, will be the second to speak, after the committee chairman, Sen. Carl Levin, D-Mich.

Clinton, a more junior member of the panel, will speak later. Obama, a junior member of the Foreign Relations Committee, which is holding its hearing in the afternoon, will be the 13th on that panel to speak, perhaps after the evening news. When Petraeus last appeared before the two panels, in September, the sessions lasted

for 10 hours, ending after 7:30 p.m.

McCain's strategy was foreshadowed in a speech he gave Monday to the Veterans of Foreign Wars in Kansas City, Mo., where he praised Petraeus and by clear implication his own approach to Iraq.

"We sent to Iraq additional troops, many of them on their third or fourth tour," McCain said in the speech, "and a great, seasoned general to lead them, with a battle plan that at long last actually addressed the challenges we faced in Iraq." The reduction in violence, McCain said, "has opened the way for a return to something approaching normal political and economic life for the average Iraqi."

As a result, he said, the United States is "no longer staring into the abyss of defeat."

But politically, McCain risks looking like an eager cheerleader if he heaps too many accolades on Petraeus. The senator's advisers say he will also question the general closely about the recent assault against Shiite militias in Basra, when more than 1,000 Iraqi soldiers and police officers refused to fight or abandoned their posts.

Inflation in Asia Pressures Prices for Western Consumers

By Keith Bradsher

THE NEW YORK TIMES

BAT TRANG, VIETNAM

The free ride for American consumers is ending. For two generations, Americans have imported goods produced ever more cheaply from a succession of low-wage countries — first Japan and Korea, then China and now increasingly places like Vietnam and India.

But mounting inflation in the developing world, especially Asia, is threatening that arrangement, and not just in China, where rising energy and labor costs have already made exports to the United States more expensive, but in the lower-cost alternatives to China, too.

"Inflation is the major threat to Asian countries," said Jong-Wha Lee, the head of the Asian Development Bank's office of regional economic integration.

It is also a threat to Western consumers because Asian exporters, even in very poor countries, are passing their rising costs on to consumers.

Developing countries have had bouts of inflation before. Indeed, some are famous for them, like Brazil, which experienced triple-digit inflation in the late 1980s and early 1990s. But two things make this time different, and together promise to send prices higher at Wal-Mart and supermarkets alike in the United States, just as the possibility of recession looms.

First, developing countries now produce nearly half of all American imports. Second, inflation in these countries is coming at the same time that many of their currencies are rising against the dollar.

That puts American consumers in a double bind, paying at least

some of producers' higher costs for making their goods, and higher prices on top of that because the dollar buys less in those countries.

Asian businessmen say they do not have a choice about charging more. "This is a tough time to do business," said Le Hoai Vu, the sales manager for the Quang Vinh Ceramic Co. here in northern Vietnam.

The company just increased by up to 10 percent the prices it charges Pier 1 Imports in the United States for hand-painted vases because labor costs are rising 30 percent a year.

Overall, in Vietnam, one of the fastest-growing destinations for manufacturing investments and one of the fastest-growing sources of American imports, prices rose 19.4 percent from March 2007 to March 2008.

WEATHER

Go Out and Enjoy

By Roberto F. Rondanelli

STAFF METEOROLOGIST

The presence of a high off the New England coast will dominate weather over the next couple of days. As the high moves towards the east, the southerly flow will bring relatively warm temperatures and clear skies that are, at this time of the year, modulated by the relatively cool ocean temperatures (about 40°F). As the air in near contact with the ocean follows the ocean temperature, a pressure gradient across the coast builds up, making a steady and moist sea breeze possible along coastal regions. This "sea breeze" was mostly responsible for the stratocumulus clouds and heavy drizzle observed during the last few days. With a stronger southerly flow, we could expect this low level influence to be less important, specially during Wednesday and Thursday, where temperatures will rise to about 60°F.

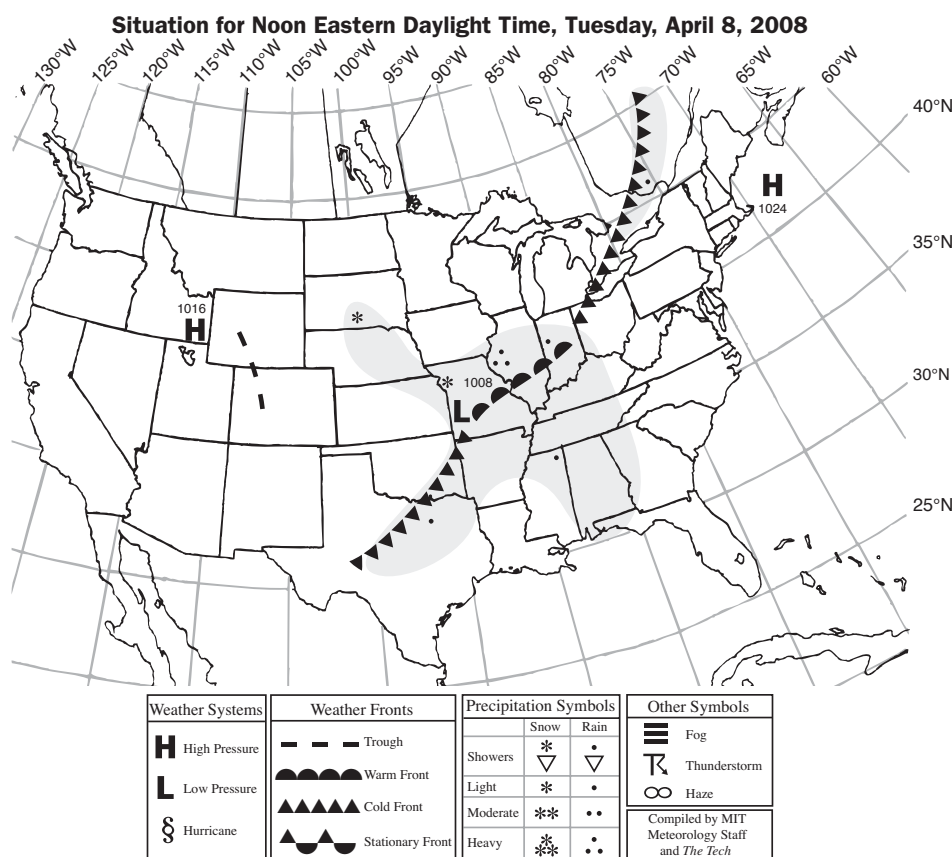
Extended Forecast

Today: Mostly sunny. Low 34°F (1°C). High 50°F (10°C).

Tonight: Clear. Low 35°F (2°C).

Wednesday: Mostly sunny in the morning, then becoming cloudy in the afternoon. High 57°F (14°C).

Thursday: A chance of light rain in the morning, then partly cloudy in the afternoon. Low 42°F (6°C). High 63°F (17°C).



In One Law, Congress Grants Power to Trump Many Others

By Adam Liptak
THE NEW YORK TIMES

Securing the nation's borders is so important, Congress says, that Michael Chertoff, the homeland security secretary, must have the power to ignore any laws that stand in the way of building a border fence. Any laws at all.

Last week, Chertoff issued waivers suspending more than 30 laws he said could interfere with "the expeditious construction of barriers" in Arizona, California, New Mexico and Texas. The list included laws protecting the environment, endangered species, migratory birds, the bald eagle, antiquities, farms, deserts, forests, Native American graves and religious freedom.

The secretary of homeland security was granted the power in 2005 to void any federal law that might interfere with fence building on the border. For good measure, Congress forbade the courts from second-guessing the secretary's determinations. So long as Chertoff is willing to say it is necessary to void a given law, his word is final.

The delegation of power to Cher-

toff is unprecedented, according to a report from the Congressional Research Service. It is also, if papers filed in the Supreme Court last month are correct, unconstitutional.

People can disagree about the urgency of border security and about whether it is more or less important than, say, the environment. Congress is entrusted with making those judgments, and here it has spoken clearly. In the process, it has also granted the executive branch more of just the sort of unilateral power the Bush administration has so often claimed for itself.

No one doubts that Congress may repeal old laws through new legislation. But there is a difference between passing a law that overrides a previous one and tinkering with the structure of the Constitution itself. The extraordinary powers granted to Chertoff may test the limits of how much of its own authority Congress can cede to another branch of the government.

Chertoff explained the reasoning behind the law in a news release last week. "Criminal activity at the border," he said, "does not stop for endless debate or protracted litigation."

Chertoff has issued three other similar waivers, and a challenge to the constitutionality of one of them has just reached the U.S. Supreme Court. If the court decides to hear the case, its decision will almost certainly apply to last week's waivers as well.

The case was brought by two environmental groups, Defenders of Wildlife and the Sierra Club. They sued Chertoff last year over his decision to suspend 19 laws that might have interfered with the construction of a border fence in the San Pedro Riparian National Conservation Area in Arizona.

Congress, the groups said, had given Chertoff too much power.

"It is only happenstance that the secretary's waiver in this case involved laws protecting the environment and historic resources," the groups told Judge Ellen Segal Huvelle of federal district court in Washington. "He could equally have waived the requirements of the Fair Labor Relations Act to halt a strike, or the provisions of the Occupational Safety and Health Act in order to force workers to endure unsafe working conditions."

As Olympic Torch Reaches Paris, Protests And Scuffles Follow

By Katrin Bennhold
and Elisabeth Rosenthal
THE NEW YORK TIMES

PARIS

China dubbed its Olympic torch relay the "Journey of Harmony," a 21-nation promotional tour for the most expensive Games the world has seen and for a host nation eager to showcase its rising wealth and diplomatic clout.

But what was supposed to be a majestic procession through the French capital resulted in waves of chaos Monday, as human rights groups used the event to assail China's record on rights and make the Olympic Games an increasingly delicate political challenge for the ruling Communist Party.

China has spent eight years and tens of billions of dollars preparing to host the Summer Games, which Beijing has envisioned as a kind of coming-of-age party to showcase its rapid growth. But the outbreak of violent unrest in Tibet and an on-going crackdown there by Chinese security forces has emboldened China's critics, a diverse coalition of rights groups whose demands are

often ignored in China and downplayed by Western leaders eager to promote Chinese trade and investment.

Passing through Paris under armed guard, the torch was extinguished several times, and police officers moved it aboard a bus to protect it as demonstrators swarmed the security detail. Chinese Olympic organizers abruptly canceled the last leg, as well as a scheduled stop at Paris' City Hall, where a banner proclaimed, "Paris Defends Human Rights Everywhere in the World."

About 3,000 police officers — on foot, horseback, inline skates, motorcycles and even boats in the Seine — had been deployed in an attempt to prevent a repeat of scenes played out in London on Sunday, when the relay turned into a tumult of scuffles and dozens of arrests.

The torch ceremonies have focused attention on causes that have languished on the world's back burner for decades. At the International Campaign for Tibet, telephones have rung continually with calls from news media outlets, politicians and people wanting to sign

petitions and hold events, said Jan Willem den Besten, the Dutch campaign coordinator.

"What is most dramatic is to see how broad and deep the support has become," den Besten said. "You almost have to feel sorry for the Chinese, because it's turned completely against the public image they wanted to present."

In San Francisco, where the torch is due on Wednesday, several protesters scaled the vertical suspension cables of the Golden Gate Bridge and unfurled two large banners reading, "One World, One Dream," and "Free Tibet 08." At least seven people were arrested.

At the same time, the city's mayor, Gavin Newsom, was huddling with the police to consider last-minute changes to the torch's route and new security measures, said Nathan Ballard, a city spokesman. "If adjustments to the route for safety reasons are necessary, then adjustments will be made," said Ballard, who said the mayor had been in contact with U.S. and Chinese officials, as well as protest groups.

Youth Voters Supporting Sen. Obama Exhort Their Elders to Follow

By Jan Hoffman
THE NEW YORK TIMES

The daily phone calls. The midnight e-mails. And when college lets out, those dinner table declamations? Oh, please.

Sen. Barack Obama's devotees just won't give their parents a break.

As the race for the Democratic presidential nomination continues, the young supporters of each candidate have been campaigning with bright-eyed brio, not only door-to-door but at home as well. But the young supporters of Obama, who has captured a majority of under-30 primary voters, seem to be leading in the pestering sweepstakes. They send their parents the latest Obama YouTube videos, blog exhortations and "Tell Your Mama/Vote for Obama!" bumper stickers.

Megan Simpson, a Penn State senior, had not been able to budge her father, a Republican. But the day before the deadline for registering for the coming Democratic primary in Pennsylvania, she handed him the forms and threw in a deal-sweetener as well. "I said, 'Dad, if

you change your party affiliation in time to vote for Obama,'" recalled Simpson, 22, an Obama campus volunteer. "I will get you the paperwork the day after the primary if you want to switch back to being a Republican."

Thus did Ralph E. Simpson Jr., 50, construction company owner, become a newly minted Democrat. "I probably will switch my affiliation back," Simpson said, "but I haven't decided who I will vote for in the general election. If Meg keeps working on me, who knows?"

No poll has counted Obama supporters who made their choice at the urging of their children, and in fact combining exit polls in all the primaries so far (excluding Florida and Michigan) shows that Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton has edged Obama, 50 percent to 46 percent, among voters ages 45-64 — those who are old enough, and then some, to be the parents of Obama's young supporters.

But even politicians are mentioning the persuasiveness of their children, either in earnest or as political

cover, as a factor in their Obama endorsements.

That list of Democrats includes Sen. Bob Casey of Pennsylvania, Gov. James E. Doyle of Wisconsin, Sen. Claire McCaskill of Missouri, Gov. Kathleen Sebelius of Kansas and Sen. Amy Klobuchar of Minnesota.

Caroline Kennedy mentioned her children in explaining why she decided to campaign for Obama. And last week, former president Jimmy Carter, a superdelegate, pointedly told reporters that his children and grandchildren support Obama, though he declined to name his own choice.

While politicians inevitably invoke children and the future, rarely have the political preferences of children themselves carried much weight with their elders. On the contrary: when baby boomer parents were the age their children are now, the ideological and social gap between generations was more pronounced. Parents were, by definition, authoritarian. Their children were, by definition, anti-

Hospital Faces Sanctions Over Improper Use of Patient Records

By Jennifer Steinhauer

THE NEW YORK TIMES

LOS ANGELES

The head of California's health department said Monday that the agency planned to sanction the University of California, Los Angeles, Medical Center after hospital workers improperly viewed the records of more than 60 patients, including the actress Farrah Fawcett and the state's first lady, Maria Shriver.

The center, one of the country's leading medical institutions, learned last May that the security of the medical records had been breached after The National Enquirer printed an article about a recurrence of Fawcett's cancer before she had told family members.

As soon as Fawcett's lawyers notified hospital officials that they feared her medical records had been leaked to one or more tabloid newspapers, the center began an investigation, said Roxanne Moster, a spokeswoman.

The investigation revealed that records of 61 patients, roughly half of them celebrities or politicians, had been opened by one unauthorized worker who had since quit. "There was intent to terminate," Moster said, "and I believe it was going on when she resigned."

Moster said there was no evidence that the employee, whom she would not name, revealed medical information about Fawcett or anyone else to reporters.

After Letters, Microsoft and Yahoo Still in Stalemate

By Miguel Helft

THE NEW YORK TIMES

SAN FRANCISCO

After their top executives traded recriminations in an exchange of letters, Microsoft and Yahoo continued their stalemate, with Yahoo shareholders expected to play an increasingly large role in the takeover battle.

In a letter to Microsoft early Monday, Jerry Yang, the chief executive of Yahoo, and Roy Bostock, its chairman, once again rejected Microsoft's bid for their company, saying it undervalues Yahoo. But they made it clear that Yahoo remained open to a deal, as long as Microsoft sweetened its bid.

The two Yahoo officials also said that the company was continuing to explore alternatives to Microsoft's offer.

People briefed on the situation said Yahoo was still in conversations with Time Warner about a deal to merge that company's AOL unit into Yahoo.

A Time Warner spokesman declined to comment.

"We are not opposed to a transaction with Microsoft if it is in the best interests of our stockholders," Yang and Bostock wrote. "Our position is simply that any transaction must be at a value that fully reflects the value of Yahoo, including any strategic benefits to Microsoft, and on terms that provide certainty to our stockholders."

Yahoo's statements were in response to a letter on Saturday from Steven A. Ballmer, the chief executive of Microsoft, threatening to begin a proxy fight to oust Yahoo's directors if the two companies had not reached a negotiated deal in three weeks.

Ballmer also warned that a proxy fight would likely be accompanied by a lower offer for Yahoo.

Microsoft's offer on Jan. 31 was initially valued at \$44.6 billion, or \$31 a share, but has fallen to just over \$42 billion, or \$29.36 a share, after a decline in the price of Microsoft's shares.

After Clinton Shake-Up, Campaign Seeks Calm

By John Harwood
and Jeff Zeleny

THE NEW YORK TIMES

WASHINGTON

"This isn't exactly what I was planning on when I woke up this morning," Geoff Garin e-mailed Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton after a hasty weekend shake-up left him atop her campaign's strategy team.

Clinton answered his dry humor in kind. "Isn't that what makes life so interesting?" she responded.

The question is whether Garin, in succeeding Mark Penn, his Harvard classmate, can make life different for a candidate with dwindling opportunities to overtake Sen. Barack Obama for the Democratic presidential nomination before the August convention. By all accounts, from outsiders as well as Clinton loyalists, it is a long shot.

"I'm operating on a shorter time horizon," Garin said in his office at Peter D. Hart Research Associates, the polling firm where he has worked for three decades. "The immediate imperative is to win and do well. For the next few weeks, we have to do that. If we do that, the weeks after that will take care of themselves."

For now, Garin is helping to provide a cathartic moment for a Clinton team riven for months by infighting and antagonism. Low-keyed, he stands in some ways as the antithesis of his predecessor — as easy-going as Penn is brusque, known for offering unvarnished analysis in contrast to Penn's reputation for incorporating his centrist views in his advice to candidates.

For McCain, Little Talk of Controversial Endorsement

By Neela Banerjee

THE NEW YORK TIMES

When Sen. John McCain won the endorsement of the Rev. John C. Hagee in February, his campaign hoped it would shore up his conservative credentials among evangelicals and build enthusiasm among a voting bloc that would be critical for him in November.

But since then, Hagee has been on the defensive over some of his views about Catholics and Jews, and he and McCain's campaign have been silent about his endorsement.

The controversial endorsement points to McCain's tenuous relationship with conservative evangelicals, a group that President Bush courted with tremendous success and that Republicans have come to view as vital to their prospects in many states.

The McCain campaign sought Hagee's support, Hagee said in a recent interview. But after the two announced the endorsement at an event on Feb. 27 in San Antonio, Hagee's hometown, the campaign has stopped talking about it.

OPINION



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Corrections

Because of an editing error, Friday's story "GSC Officers Elected" reported that incoming Graduate Student Council president Oaz Nir is the current editor of *Graduate Student News*. He was its editor last year. The story also incorrectly reported that the officers had been elected to serve in the 2007–2008 rather than the 2008–2009 school year.

Letters To The Editor

'21' Is An Affront To MIT

The whitewashing of the cast of the movie "21," based on Ben Mezrich's best-seller *Bringing Down the House* is indeed wrong, and almost enough to get me from seeing it. However, unfortunately I got convinced by some friends into spending \$8 to go and see it, only to realize that, much worse than the way the whitewashing treats Asians is the picture in which MIT is painted.

When Sony Pictures (owner of 20 percent of MGM, recently bought from MGM Mirage, the second largest gambling company in the world) decided to make a movie about the story of a few MIT students beating the casinos in Vegas it decided as well to take some "artistic liberties." As a result, the

character of a scumbag MIT professor who stole from his students and was hell-bent on destroying their lives (by making them fail MIT, etc.) was created. At the same time, the casino-hired thug played by Laurence Fishburne was painted in a semi-positive light, salvaging the main character's graduation and being allowed to retire peacefully after face-recognition software put him out of business. Besides, despite all his trouble, the main character gets away without making a dime (a message to anyone thinking about doing the same, perhaps?).

Even though the stories portrayed in "21" have been twisted and turned almost into complete fiction, I cannot help but feel outraged as a member of the MIT community. Kudos to MIT for not allowing Sony to film on campus but I cannot help but wonder why is not more being done against Sony? Why are they

allowed to tarnish MIT's reputation like that? Why is the MIT Corporation not taking punitive legal action against these people? Can you imagine what would happen if some studio came out with a fictional story where an employee from, say, Chevron, clubbed baby seals for fun?

Casinos and gambling companies have been allowed to get away with too much for too long. They can discriminate people based on intelligence (even though discrimination based on race, gender, etc. is forbidden), are allowed into the Dow Jones Sustainability Index even though they make their living out of cheating old people out of their pension money, and now, apparently, are even allowed to try to shatter the image of one of the country's leading academic institutions. It is high time someone puts an end to this.

Miguel Valença Pires G

Star Simpson: Part of the MIT Family

If we were President Susan Hockfield, here's the letter that we would write concerning Star A. Simpson '10:

Dear Members of the MIT Community,

On September 21, 2007, Star A. Simpson '10, one of our students in Electrical Engineering and Computer Science and a student researcher in the Media Lab, went to Logan Airport to meet an arriving passenger. She was wearing a sweatshirt with a device made of plastic circuit board with green blinking light-emitting diodes (LEDs) in the shape of a star — the same sweatshirt that she had worn the day before at the MIT Career Fair. She was carrying clay shaped into a rose. The circuit board on her sweatshirt was similar to those created in a popular class: "6.002 Circuits & Electronics."

At the airport, Ms. Simpson's MIT Career Fair apparel was mistaken for a bomb; she was arrested by state troopers with MP5 submachine guns and charged with possessing a "hoax device." After three court appearances, she still faces a court trial on May 23.

I remind the community and the greater public that our legal system assumes, as a bedrock principle, that anyone charged with a crime is innocent until proven guilty in a court of law. I apologize for any statement by my administration that may have caused damage or distress to Ms. Simpson, her family and friends, or anyone else in the extended MIT community.

The Institute should have acted faster to provide the media with a reasonable understanding of the kind of engineering and electronic art that are part of our research and teaching, some of which interfaces with the world of design and fashion. In that regard, we thank Professor Rosalind W. Picard ScD '91 of the Media Lab for her efforts with the press and in court. As Professor Picard pointed out in an affidavit, Ms. Simpson's sweatshirt falls in the category of "wearable electronics" that are "harmless, safe and commonplace in society." I myself would add that similar clothing is available in many retail outlets, including some airport terminal shops. According to an interview in the Boston Globe, Professor Picard's own wardrobe includes wear-

able electronics such as blouses with LEDs, circuit boards, wires and batteries, and she expects colleagues in her field to wear their electronic designs. In court, Professor Picard has further stated that Ms. Simpson's sweatshirt can be reasonably considered "a method of self expression, fusing art and engineering" and that such artifacts constitute one mode of "encourag[ing] young women to create clothing-worn electronic technologies," thus inspiring them to "develop creative electronic skills."

MIT highly values the creative endeavors of its students and faculty. The Institute is committed to supporting such creative work in its classrooms and laboratories, and to its appropriate dissemination beyond MIT. We expect it to provide nothing less for Star Simpson, a valued member of our community.

Two years ago, in April 2006 after Campus Preview Weekend, Mr. Bryan G. Nance, Director of Minority Recruitment in the Admissions Office, described Star Simpson as "a perfect fit for MIT," and he wrote: "Star, Welcome to the MIT family!"

Star Simpson is still part of the "MIT Family." As such, we stand by her.

Signed,

Michel DeGraff
Associate Professor, Linguistics and Philosophy

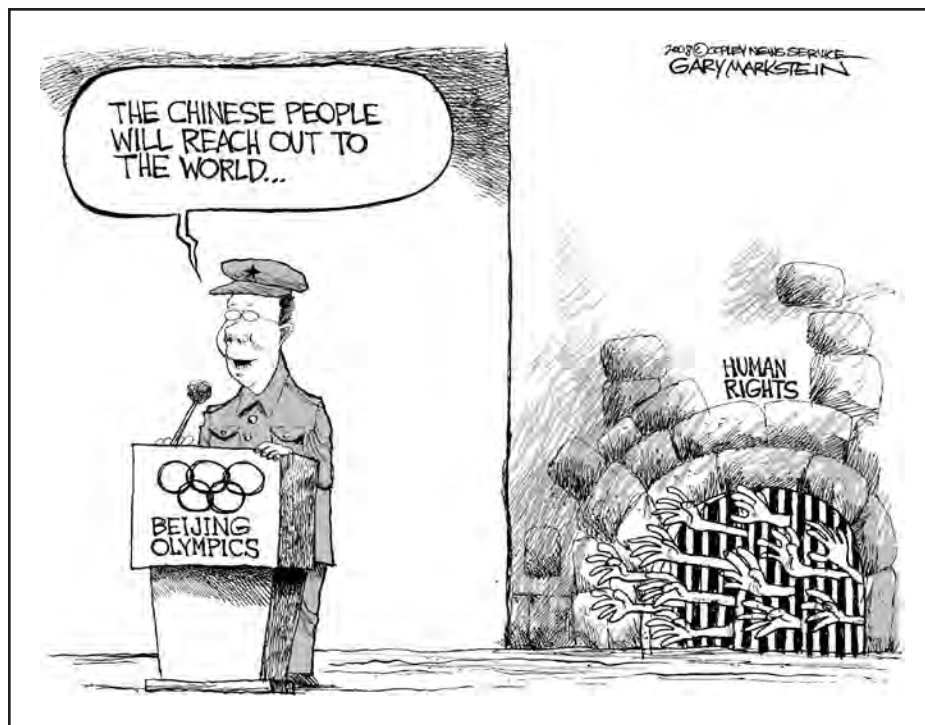
Dorothy Hosler
Professor, Materials Science and Engineering

Heather Lechtman
Professor, Materials Science and Engineering

Seth Teller
Professor, Electrical Engineering & Computer Science

Alex Paul Pentland
Professor, Media Arts & Science

For more information on Star A. Simpson '10 in her own words: please see <http://stars.mit.edu>. Also see <http://web.mit.edu/fnl/volume/203/manning.html> and <http://people.csail.mit.edu/phw/star.html> for related commentary by other MIT faculty. Professor Picard's affidavit is downloadable at <http://www-tech.mit.edu/V128/N1/simpson/>



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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

Brouhaha Rhythm

Her Name is Alberta, She Lives in Vancouver

By Michael T. Lin
STAFF COLUMNIST

It's hard having a significant other at a distant school. Maybe not as hard as, say, upgrading your computer to dual-boot BSD, but challenging all the same. Being an ickle freshman with no independent cash flow and a consistent homework load sort of precludes the possibility of regular travel for the time being, and our vacations don't seem to line up properly, rather like Red Leader's proton torpedoes. (Case in point: her spring break was three weeks before ours. Curse you, Massachusetts weather that's only hovering above freezing, even after the vernal equinox!) I continue to be thankful that MIT is so well and fully wired that staying in contact in the electronic age is especially simple here. After all, that's what the Internet is for, right? Sending enough Facebook music dedications to fill dozens of mix tapes? I've actually been several blocks up Mass. Ave. and wondered where the nearest Athena station was, but that's for another article to address. My comedy well is

only so deep, and I need to keep a good tab on what few funny subjects I can manage to conjure.

Given how difficult it is to maintain a long-distance relationship, I confess that I can't help but derive some Schadenfreudian pleasure from seeing other people's Facebook statuses change to "single." I know it's not very empathetic and that dating is not a competition, but even so, it's comforting to know that I might actually be doing something right. As a stereotypical male whose intuition has always been somewhat hit-and-miss, trying to gauge how my girlfriend is feeling based solely on text or voice is like trying to predict the weather based solely on how your hand feels when you stick it out the window. You'll have no idea whether it's sunny or cloudy, and by

the time you realize the storm of the century is coming, it's already arrived. I mean, my girlfriend is not the sort of person that gets sore at someone for no reason, and throughout our relationship, she's actually been way more forgiving of my bone-headed mistakes than I

I do think that long-distance relationships can be worth the while. After all, separation (like everything else in life) is only temporary.

probably deserve. Still, it's not the same as a face-to-face encounter if I happen to end up digging myself into a hole, without the benefit of seeing the scowl or crossed arms that indicate that I should drop the shovel.

In spite of all of that, I do think that long-distance relationships can be worth the while. After all, separation (like everything else in life) is only temporary. I can't even begin to convey how great it was to walk off a plane after three months and see my girlfriend waiting with my parents to greet me (chick

flick moment!). It was also especially impressive considering my flight got in at two o'clock in the morning. (Curse you, Massachusetts weather that drops two blankets and a quilt of snow on Boston/Cambridge the day I fly out for winter break!)

It's also quite the confidence booster to hang out seven times in as many days and find three months of separation to be virtually inconsequential with regard to relationship functionality. The eventual parting tends to be more bitter than sweet, and I am a little ashamed to admit that I sentimentally pressed my hand against the window when I rode away from her (chick flick moment number two!).

The logistics of long-distance relationships naturally vary from couple to couple, but on the off-chance any of you out there are leery of them, just be aware that you don't have to be. Now, if you'll excuse me, I've got work to do. There may be life outside my dorm, but in the meantime, there is science to be done. Unless, of course, you elect to pursue a B.A. in English.

It's a Big, Big World

The Showdown

By Diana Jue
STAFF COLUMNIST

After I arrived in the United States from studying abroad in Argentina, India, and China last semester, one frequent question I received was, "What was your most memorable experience?" Many amazing events occurred — I rode an elephant bareback in Indian, bicycled to Beijing's Olympic construction, visited a soccer stadium in Buenos Aires, and experienced locals' hospitality in every city. However, one particular event stood out above all.

I was part of a 14 person group standing on the shoulder of the Bangalore-Mysore Infrastructure Corridor (BMIC), an expressway built to alleviate traffic in the city's Silicon Valley section. Loopholes were taken to advance the project. The area around the road now contains an illegal extension of the city with unregulated housing, commercial, and corporate establishments. We were studying the negative environmental and social impacts of its construction.

As Leo drew a map of Bangalore in the dirt, a security officer approached us. He was from Nandi Infrastructure Corridor Enterprises (NICE), the developer whose main office was located on the roadway's other side. The man ordered us to leave because we were on a private roadway. Our professor responded that we had public access to the road and that we would leave shortly.

After we piled into our vehicles, Leo drove 300 feet before realizing that a group of 10 men had approached the passenger van with most of the students. The men weren't letting the van leave, and when Leo reversed and

stepped out of his car, they began heckling him. Again, Leo said that we had the right to be on the road and that we'd leave if they'd let us. They wouldn't. Pushing and shoving broke out when Leo retrieved his camera from the car and snapped his first photo. Even the famous managing director of NICE appeared to watch the violence, which escalated after his appearance.

Watching the fight from outside and hoping to capture the commotion for the sake of evidence, I took photos and short video clips. A lanky man in green saw me and with a quick reach, tried snatching my camera. He nearly hit my face, but fortunately my friend grabbed his arms before he touched me. My female professor positioned herself between him and me because it would be unlawful for him to touch her.

We scurried into the van with the rest of the students, who were terrified, watching the entire scene unfold through the van's windshield. Our driver wanted to ditch the scene, but we wouldn't leave Leo by himself. While someone sat on the driver, another student stole his key and pretended to throw it out the window. At another point, we suddenly felt the van rocking and rolling backward. The group of nearly 40 men outside began pushing the vehicle into incoming traffic. Another professor heroically jumped into the van and yanked the emergency break.

Meanwhile, we students frantically called for help from every Bangalore contact we knew. We received a few interesting responses from our host families, such as "Get out of there as soon as possible!" and "The U.S. embassy? What can they do for you?"

The incident was somewhat surreal, and I felt somewhat disconnected from the situation. I just watched it all happen. I watched the men push Leo up against the van, throw him to the ground, and rip his shirt. I watched the students dialing and scribbling down telephone numbers. I watched the local police arrive and do nothing to stop the fight. I watched the local police's second squad arrive, perhaps after the embassy contacted them. I watched the police arrest Leo and escort him to their vehicle. I watched my classmates prod our van driver to follow the police to the Thalaghattapura Police Station, where we spent the next four hours filing a police report. At the end of our day, news cameras and microphones greeted us outside of the police station.

I realized a few things from what I now refer to as "the showdown." Politics — the art of getting things done — work differently in developing countries with weaker governments. Decisions are often made by down and dirty combat as opposed to courts. There are few protections for the weak and voiceless because of corruption among government officials. Money talks. Leo tells us that local police around the corridor were most likely paid by the developer. This development process lacked clarity of information. Even after the entire dilemma, I'm still unsure about the

public or private status of the corridor. The media's pervasive power was also seen, but its accuracy of the facts was not. One article contained the following humorous comment from NICE: "Villagers in the area whom [Leo] abused had beaten him up. We went there to rescue him." Also worth noting is that even as a United States citizen and the protections that come with it, I am vulnerable in a foreign country.

We gave a final presentation of solutions to the problem of illegal land development. I reflected on the fact that anyone can make up perfect solutions, but their real life implementation, constrained to conditions like budget and corruption, is incredibly difficult. Even if I plan for an equitable and transparent development process by taking input from villagers, even if fair plans are drawn up, even if I color a portion of my map green to reserve it as open space, there is little way to ensure that any of my perfectly logical and technical solutions will be carried out accordingly according to plan. The problems that we address are complex, people-involved, and more difficult to find solutions for than anything presented in school or theory. But that's how the real, big world is.



Following the altercation we were greeted by the media outside the police station.

DIANA JUE—THE TECH

"Close your eyes to racial differences, and welcome all with the light of oneness."

— Bahá'u'lláh (b.1817)

Provided by the MIT Bahá'í Association

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Pre-Frosh

The Daily Blunderbuss

by Ben Peters



Transparent Horizons

Oh, Wow!
This must be one of those "hacks" I've been hearing so much about!

Sweet!

No, it's... um... why not, yea... it's a hack.

Let's go this way... away from the stata center...

Steal My Comic

by Michael Ciuffo



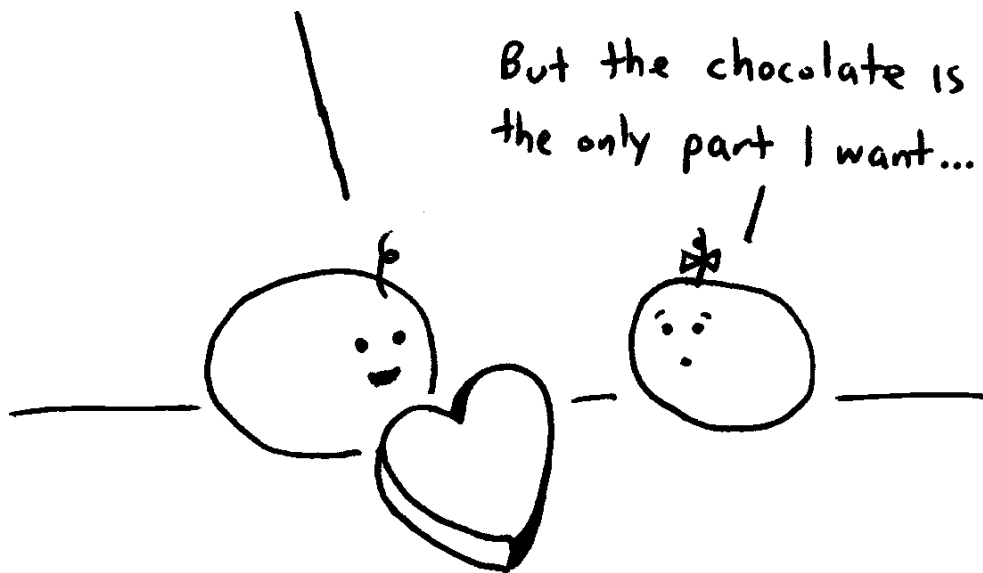
Blobbles

by Jason Chan

Is this what love is?

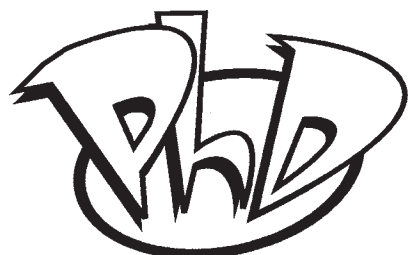
The heart is for you, but the chocolates are for me!

But the chocolate is the only part I want...

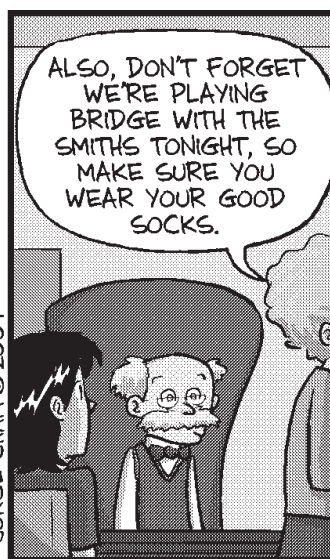
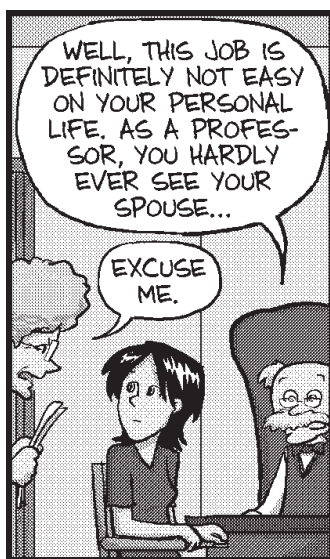


Remember, this is how Blobbles works: you send a caption, and I make a drawing out of it.

blobbles@mit.edu



PILED HIGHER AND DEEPER



Doonesbury Flashbacks

BY GARRY TRUDEAU

Dilbert® by Scott Adams

Crossword Puzzle

Solution, page 15

- ACROSS**
- 1 Calls on the carpet
 - 7 Charged particles
 - 11 Peke's bark
 - 14 Repeat from memory
 - 15 Business outfit
 - 16 Wallet single
 - 17 "Chess mate" dancer
 - 19 Actress Hagen
 - 20 Hanoi holiday
 - 21 Play about Capote
 - 22 Hindu princess
 - 24 Suspension part
 - 27 "Chess mate" actor
 - 31 Christie's "sparkling" poison
 - 33 Waist watching
 - 34 Italian three
 - 35 Zone for DDE
 - 36 No more seats
 - 37 "Chess mate" poet
 - 43 Wine cask
 - 44 Made in the __
 - 45 Two-piecer top
 - 46 Feeler
 - 49 Scrutinize
 - 53 "Chess mate" talk-show host
 - 55 Smooth transition
 - 56 Australian isl.
 - 57 NASA vehicle
 - 59 Color TV pioneer
 - 60 Soft metal
 - 61 "Chess mate" mystery pseudonym
 - 66 Solitaire starter
 - 67 Level
 - 68 Take offense at
 - 69 Ballpark fig.
 - 70 Hardens
 - 71 Augments
- DOWN**
- 1 Picayune nitpicker perhaps
 - 2 As a result of this
 - 3 Summer cooler, to some
 - 4 Clamor
 - 5 French summer
 - 6 Faction
 - 7 Periodical number
 - 8 Not at home
 - 9 Zero
 - 10 Breastbones
 - 11 Immature-ish
 - 12 Modern protagonist
 - 13 Shooter missile
 - 18 Uffizi display
 - 23 Helping hand
 - 25 Bug movie
 - 26 Ms. Sorvino
 - 28 Shakespear-ean verb
 - 29 Like unsightly knees
 - 30 Semi-convertible
 - 32 Discredit
 - 35 Greek letter
 - 37 Latin & others
 - 38 Crazies
 - 39 Corporate web
 - 40 Actor Morales
 - 41 Incenses
 - 42 Kemo __
 - 47 Hosp. areas
 - 48 NYC team
 - 49 Elbe tributary
 - 50 Concurs
 - 51 Softly bright
 - 52 Shanty
 - 54 48D, e.g.
 - 58 Gore Vidal's Breckinridge
 - 60 __ kwon do
 - 62 Recline
 - 63 Countenance
 - 64 Math proof letters
 - 65 Coyote State sch.

1	2	3	4	5	6		7	8	9	10		11	12	13
14							15					16		
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60				61	62	63				64	65			
66					67					68				
69					70					71				

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 10.

SU | do | KU

Puzzles by Pappocom

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

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

APRIL Tuesdays

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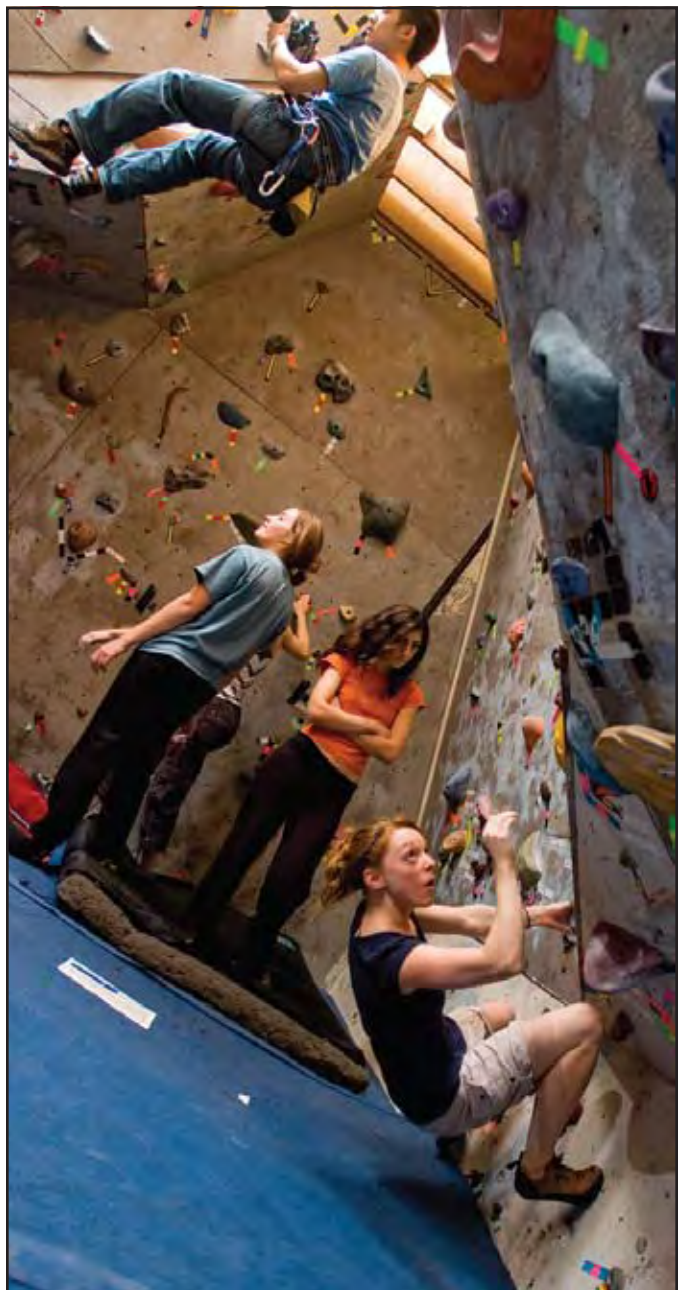
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MARTHA ANGELA WILCOX—THE TECH

Martha E. Metzler '08 reaches for a hold in the Women's intermediate category during the MIT Climbing Competition on April 5 in Walker Memorial. MIT hosted this two day climbing competition open to all climbers ranging from beginner to wicked good in the Boston area.

UA Candidates Discuss Policies

Old Chandawarkar E-Mail Prompts Controversy Over Housing

Elections, from Page 1

help foster community.

All of the candidates except for Jessop and Bennie chose "dining with good food," largely because they claimed that "you can't force community," in the words of Gampel. In response to the question, Holland-Marcus said, "People hang out where they're comfortable and we don't want to force people into a community that they don't want to be in." Maguire said, "you can build community elsewhere, not just in the dining hall."

Jessop and Bennie said "community building" was more important, but the dining hall model is restrictive and does not necessarily promote community. Jessop brought up the example of Amherst College, which has 400 students and a single dining hall in which people "sit with their friends, ignoring everyone else," according to him.

Personal qualifications

The candidates also discussed their qualifications relative to other candidates. The tickets of Chandawarkar/Maguire and Forte/Holland-Marcus were the two most experienced. Chandawarkar was the Class of 2009 president for two years and is currently a UA Interfraternity Council Senator, and Maguire has had two years of experience on the UA Senate and is currently UA Events Chair and UA Dining Vice Chair. Forte has been involved in the UA for the past two years and is currently the UA Senate Vice Speaker, and Holland-Marcus is currently the UA Public Relations Chair.

Bennie was a UA senator from freshman year until recently when he moved into his fraternity, while Jessop has no previous UA experience. Drawing on the fact that, between the two, they had lived in Burton-Conner, East Campus, fraternities, and

off campus, Jessop claimed that "we collectively have seen what different parts of campus are like."

Neither Gampel nor Johnson have previously held positions in the UA. They both stressed their athletic and fraternity experience. Gampel said that his position as the basketball team's captain prepares him for the position; he likened the coach to the MIT administration and the team players to the students. They also stressed their strong friendship, their personality, and their ability to communicate as qualities that make them strong candidates.

Student-administration relationship

The candidates also discussed the importance of a good relationship with the administration.

Forte suggested working with "influential people who have the administration's ear." "It will be very hard for the administration to ignore Ray Stata ... or David Koch," he said. When asked about his ticket's distinguishing factors, Forte pointed to the ticket's experience and existing relationships with administrators, saying, for example, that he has attended MIT Corporation meetings and met the Corporation's members.

Chandawarkar said that, given his ticket's experience, "we already have a working relationship with the administration." He said that "we should not work against the administration ... [rather] we should work with them" to find solutions that work for both sides.

Jessop told a story about a student's experiences on the W1 founders group committee to illustrate his view on the general disconnect between students and the administration. According to the Jessop, the committee was working to decide on dining options in the renovated W1. He said that the administration waited until a student mentioned what they wanted to hear: that a single kitchen in the basement could be a possibility. Then, the administrators "immediately latched onto that point." He concluded by saying, "Student

involvement is not the same as students parroting what the administration wants us to say."

Johnson said that he has not worked with administrators through the UA, but he said he worked with administrators through athletics and his fraternity. In particular, he said that he has met with Larry G. Benedict, the outgoing Dean for Student Life.

Mailing list response

At 12:46 a.m. on Monday, hours after the debate ended, Sarah C. Hopp '08 forwarded an e-mail to the *ec-discuss* mailing list sent by Chandawarkar to the UA Senate over IAP. The e-mail was Chandawarkar's response to a survey of UA senators that he chose to send to the entire Senate. In the forwarded e-mail, Chandawarkar wrote in support of placing incoming freshmen into random dorms and moving Residence Exploration (REX) to sophomore year. He wrote that "I think it defeats the purpose of having a 'diverse' campus if the campus self segregates and the MIT community/UA doesn't take measures to prevent it."

This e-mail was then forwarded to several other dorm mailing lists, including *senior-haus*, *bc-talk*, and *next-forum*. It spawned a long thread of e-mails, most of which were in opposition to Chandawarkar's idea of randomized housing.

Chandawarkar responded to the thread with an e-mail to *bc-talk* at 2:36 a.m. that same night. He wrote that "I NEVER said this is something I would try to implement at all (and you won't find this in my platform either), but merely threw it out as an 'out of the box' and 'radical' idea that relates to fostering community." He added that his responses to the survey were simply "answering Martin's brainstorming call."

The full platforms for all of the candidates can be found at <http://vote.mit.edu>. Electronic voting begins Monday, April 14 at 12:01 a.m. and continues until Thursday, April 17, with paper balloting following on Friday, April 18.

Coop Student Board of Directors Election Update

The following student Coop members are candidates for the Board of Directors for the 2008-2009 academic year.

MIT Undergraduate Students:

Karlen Ruleman 2009
Christopher Whitfield 2009

MIT Graduate Students:

Loreena Lee-Houghton 2011
Tanguy Chau 2010
Alex Hamilton Chan 2011
Paul K. Romano 2011

Harvard Undergraduate Students:

Patrick Brennan 2011
Tami Kim 2011
George Thampy 2010
Matthew Zehnder 2011

Harvard Graduate Students:

Aaron Chadbourne 2011
Ari Bloom 2009
Luke Fuszard 2009

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Those Rejected From Colleges Find Comfort in Wall Postings

By Peter Schworm
THE BOSTON GLOBE

With each maddeningly thin envelope, each remorseless rebuff from another top-choice college, Kellen Mandehr died a little death. In search of catharsis, the senior at Newton South High School posted the offending documents on the school's "Wall of Shame," a hallway bulletin board blanketed with dozens of college rejection letters.

With each punch of the stapler, each slam of his fist, Mandehr won a small measure of payback. And a large measure of liberation.

"It was definitely a good feeling," he said Monday, reminiscing by the mural of rejection letters. "I pounded it pretty good."

High school seniors everywhere have traditionally posted their rejection letters as an act of collective defiance against the high-pressure and hypercompetitive college admissions process. But this year, with top-tier colleges rejecting more applicants

than ever before, dejected students say they are especially in need of what amounts to a group hug.

At Newton South, rejection letters from most of the country's most selective colleges, from Amherst to Wesleyan, from Bowdoin to the University of Southern California, tell the grim tale. A demographic bulge in the number of high school students, combined with a sharp rise in the number of colleges they apply to, has created a numbers crunch.

Newton South students did their part, with about a third of the class of 425 students applying to at least 10 schools, with an average of about seven.

Nearly all Newton South seniors will wind up at a strong four-year school this fall. Still, the sting of rejection, particularly for high-achieving students whose sights have been trained on the Ivy League since grade school, is hard to shake.

"These are kids who are used to getting their way their whole lives,"

said Newton South college counselor Barbara Brown. "For many, this is their first major disappointment. That can be very difficult, especially in a community like this."

So in their moment of need, the reeling students rally together. By making a personal setback public, sharing the letters can be cathartic, students say. Instead of wallowing in self-pity, students find comfort in a communal, almost collegial, show of solidarity against an impersonal, seemingly arbitrary system.

"It's unifying, and kind of celebratory," said Max Lorn-Krause, who was denied at several schools and plans to study theater at Ithaca College. "It's a rite of passage."

Calling the postings the Wall of Shame is meant to be sarcastic, students say. In many ways, posting the rejection letters is a way to find acceptance.

"At first, it was painful. I basically had to lie down and not be out in the world for a while," said Alex Kaufman, who said he was denied at nearly the entire New England Small College Athletic Conference, which includes Amherst, Williams, and other top liberal-arts colleges. "There's nothing worse than getting a rejection letter, but knowing you're in the same boat as lots of other people, that definitely helps."

When Sofya Rozenblat, 18, got the bad news from Dartmouth College, her first choice, she was crushed. She shed some tears. Stapling her letter on the wall the next morning, she recalled, started the healing process, she said.

"It's very therapeutic," she said. "Letting everyone know made me feel so much better. I realized that almost everyone gets rejected, so it's one more thing we all have in common." Now, the setback seems distant as she looks forward to starting at the University of Michigan.

At Newton, the Wall of Shame serves as kind of a water cooler for college-related gossip and reflection. Some sigh and shake their heads, muttering.

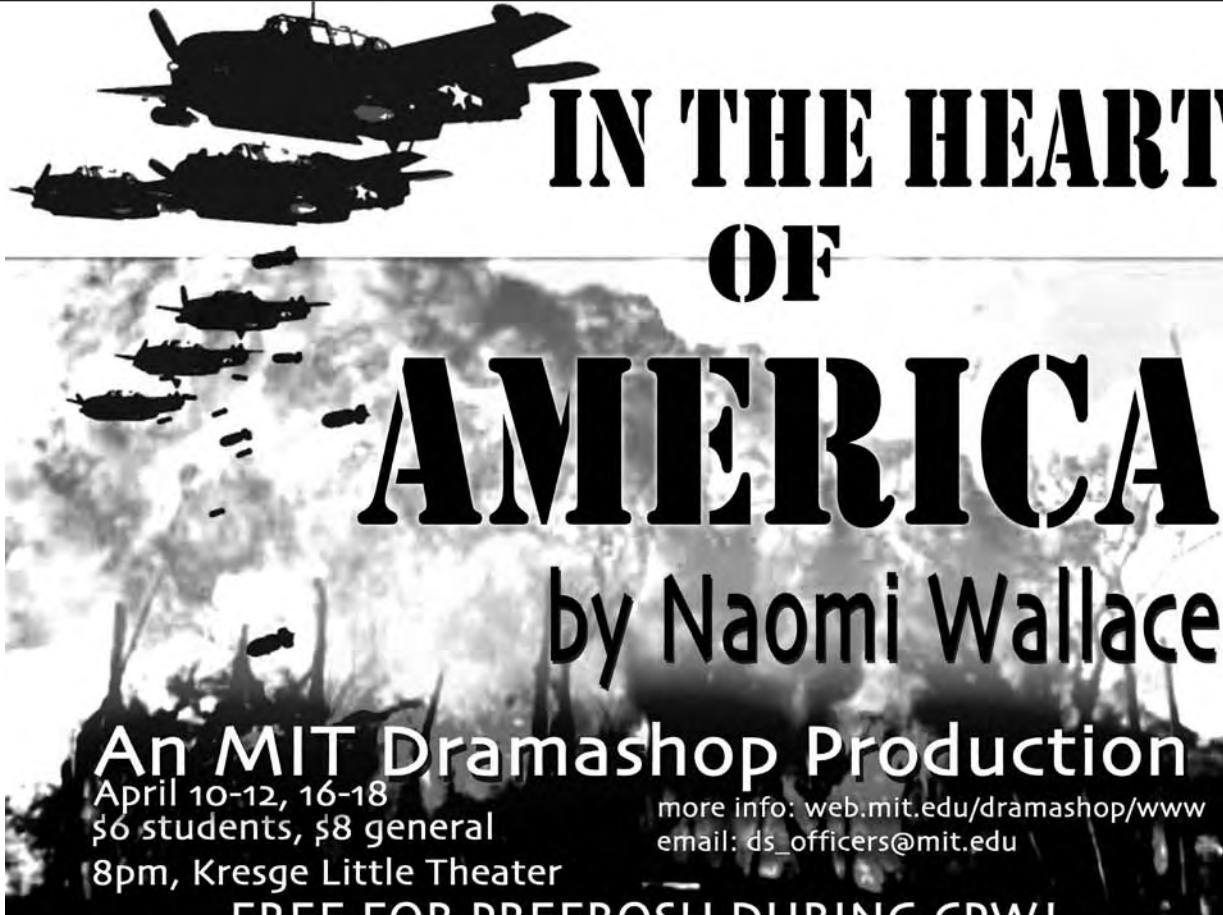
Some walk by and glance, then turn their head away in disgust, then reflexively snap it back, like a car crash. Some juniors walk by and gulp.

A few pore over them, reading each stock phrase of gentle letdown — "very real regret" (Duke), "sincere regret" (Yale), "so sorry to tell you" (MIT), "I am sorry to bring you disappointing news" (Wesleyan), "careful and concerned consideration" (Brown), and "we wish you every success with your further education" (Georgetown).

A few students have written editorial comments on the letters. "Don't worry, I got in other places!" wrote one student rejected by Bowdoin.

The wall started four years ago by a pair of friends who both applied early to Dartmouth, Brown said. One got in, one didn't, and a tradition was born.

Brown said the college admissions season is always filled with heartache.



IN THE HEART OF AMERICA

by Naomi Wallace

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Solution to Sudoku
from page 7

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

Philosophy More and More Popular Among University Students

By Winnie Hu
THE NEW YORK TIMES

NEW BRUNSWICK, N.J.

When a fellow student at Rutgers University urged Didi Onejeme to try Philosophy 101 two years ago, Onejeme, who was a pre-med sophomore, dismissed it as “frou-frou.”

“People sitting under trees and talking about stupid stuff — I mean, who cares?” Onejeme recalled thinking at the time.

But Onejeme, now a senior applying to law school, ended up changing her major to philosophy, which she thinks has armed her with the skills to be successful. “My mother was like, what are you going to do with that?” said Onejeme, 22. “She wanted me to be a pharmacy major, but I persuaded her with my argumentative skills.”

Once scoffed at as a luxury major, philosophy is being embraced at Rutgers and other universities by a new generation of college students who are drawing modern-day lessons from the age-old discipline as they try to make sense of their world, from the morality of the war in Iraq to the latest political scandal. The economic downturn has done little, if anything, to dampen this enthusiasm among students, who say that what they learn in class can translate into practical skills and careers. On many campuses, debate over modern issues like war and technology is emphasized over the study of classic ancient texts.

Rutgers, which has long had a top-ranked philosophy department, is one of a number of universities where the number of undergraduate philosophy majors is ballooning; there are 100 in this year’s graduating class, up from 50 in 2002, even as overall enrollment on the main campus has declined by 4 percent.

At the City University of New York, where enrollment is up 18 percent over the past six years, there are 322 philosophy majors, a 51 percent increase since 2002.

“If I were to start again as an undergraduate, I would major in philosophy,” said Matthew Goldstein, the CUNY chancellor, who majored in mathematics and statistics. “I think that subject is really at the core of just about everything we do. If you study humanities or political systems or sciences in general, philosophy is really the mother ship from which all of these disciplines grow.”

Nationwide, there are more colleges offering undergraduate philosophy programs today than a decade ago (817, up from 765), according to the College Board. Some schools with established programs like Texas A&M, Notre Dame, the University of Pittsburgh and the University of Massachusetts at Amherst, have twice as many philosophy majors as they did in the 1990s.

David E. Schrader, executive director of the American Philosophical Association, a professional organization with 11,000 members, said that in an era in which people change ca-

reers frequently, philosophy makes sense. “It’s a major that helps them become quick learners and gives them strong skills in writing, analysis and critical thinking,” he said.

Schrader, an adjunct professor at the University of Delaware, said that the demand for philosophy courses had outpaced the resources at some colleges, where students are often turned away. Some are enrolling in online courses instead, he said.

The Rutgers philosophy department is relatively large, with 27 professors, 60 graduate students, and more than 30 undergraduate offerings each semester. For those who cannot get enough of their Descartes in class, there is the Wednesday night philosophy club, where, last week, 11 students debated the metaphysics behind the movie “The Matrix” for more than an hour.

An undergraduate philosophy journal started this semester has drawn 36 submissions — about half from Rutgers students — on musings like “Is the extinction of a species always a bad thing?”

Barry Loewer, the department chairman, said that Rutgers started building its philosophy program in the late 1980s, when the field was branching into new research areas like cognitive science and becoming more interdisciplinary. He said that many students have double-majored in philosophy and, say, psychology or economics, in recent years, and go on to become doctors, lawyers, writers, investment bankers and commodities traders.

As the approach has changed, philosophy has attracted students with little interest in contemplating the classical texts, or what is known as armchair philosophy. Some, like Onejeme, the pre-med-student-turned-philosopher, who is double majoring in political science, see it as a pre-law track because it emphasizes the verbal and logic skills prized by law schools — something the Rutgers department encourages by pointing out that its majors score high on the LSAT.

Other students said that studying philosophy, with its emphasis on the big questions and alternative points of view, provided good training for looking at larger societal questions, like globalization and technology.

“All of these things make the world a smaller place and force us to look beyond the bubble we grow up in,” said Christine Bullman, 20, a junior, who said art majors and others routinely took philosophy classes. “I think philosophy is a good base to look at a lot of issues.”

Frances Egan, a Rutgers philosophy professor who advises undergraduates, said that as it has become harder for students to predict what specialties might be in demand in an uncertain economy, some may be more apt to choose their major based simply on what they find interesting.

Max Bialek, 22, was majoring in math until his senior year, when he discovered philosophy.

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483

The Tech

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There are tons of great events going on this weekend. Drop by our office on the fourth floor of the Student Center and check out these events:

Thursday, April 8. **9:30 p.m. – 12:00 a.m.:**
 CPW Festival at Johnson Athletics Center
 See a sneak peek of Friday's issue.

Friday, April 9. **5:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.:**
 Open House at The Tech Office
 Meet the staff. Challenge them to a round of Halo 3, Guitar Hero 3, or Super Smash Bros. Brawl.

Saturday, April 10. **1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.:**
 Activities Fair at Johnson Athletics Center
 Grab a piece of cake and find yourself on the front page of *The Tech*.

Saturday, April 10. **3:00 – 9:00 p.m.:**
 Open House at The Tech Office
 After the fair, come grab dinner and a movie.

join@the-tech.mit.edu
 W20-483



Mezrich Argues That His Work Is Still Non-Fiction

21, from Page 1

tion and outright fabrication in memoirs have rekindled a long-running debate about how much massaging of the facts is acceptable in a nonfiction book. While memoirists are being publicly humiliated and dropped by their publishers for fabricating incidents in their own lives, the Mezrich empire is prospering, and the actor Kevin Spacey, a star in "21," is developing two more of Mezrich's books into movies. Yet some observers say "Bringing Down the House"—and other books like it—are precisely the kind of storytelling that most threatens the important line between what is real and what is not.

"When the public learns that a small piece of a supposedly nonfiction story has been fictionalized, they begin to doubt everything in that story, and when they begin to doubt a particular story then the doubts occur in their mind about whether they can trust any work, or any work of nonfiction," says Roy Peter Clark, a senior scholar at the Poynter Institute.

Editors and industry analysts say that with sales of fiction flagging, book publishers are pressured toward the genre of dramatic nonfiction. Much like reality television shows, the shift is fed by the sense that what audiences want is reality, but packaged with an excitement and drama that the original facts lack.

Clark says reality TV shows "are really using, and I would argue in many cases abusing, the strategies of traditional fictional storytelling. And I think the same thing is happening, and perhaps more so, on the book publishing side."

Both Mezrich and the book's publisher, Simon and Schuster's Free Press, see nothing to apologize for. The book, they point out, was published with a disclaimer (in fine print, on the copyright page) warning that the names, locations, and other details had been changed, and that some events and individuals are composites, created from other events and individuals. Nearly all the details and facts in the book were culled from his research, Mezrich says, and where they were compressed or creatively rearranged, the fundamental truth of the story he tells is undiminished.

"Every word on the page isn't supposed to be fact-checkable," Mezrich said. Most readers and writers, he said, have no problem with that.

It is of course impossible to say precisely what readers expect when they read Mezrich's book. Yet Mezrich freely admits that only one of the book's main characters, "Kevin Lewis," is based on a single actual person, an MIT graduate whose real name is Jeff Ma '94. And Ma's character does things that Ma himself said he never heard of until he read the book. Whatever readers expect from a work of nonfiction, it is unlikely to be this.

Though Mezrich claims that his techniques are standard practice in journalism and nonfiction writing, many editors, critics, and nonfiction writers strongly condemn these methods, and the frank justification Mezrich offers for them. "I just am not comfortable with that," says Robert Weil, an editor at W.W. Norton, of publishing books as nonfiction that have composite characters and altered timelines, "and I can't recall a case where I've done it."

To Gay Talese, a pioneer of dramatic nonfiction writing and author of nonfiction works like "The Kingdom and the Power" and "Honor Thy Father," the sort of liberties Mezrich takes with character, chronology, and plot are "unacceptable, dishonest, and I have little or no respect for people who do it."

"Bringing Down the House" tells a dramatic tale. Led and trained by a slovenly former MIT whiz kid and teacher who had been one of the school's youngest-ever graduates, an elite blackjack team of MIT students uses a sophisticated card-counting strategy to prey on the country's big-

gest casinos.

On weekends, the book reports, the team members would board planes for Vegas with hundreds of thousands of dollars strapped to their bodies, or concealed in hollow umbrellas, laptops, or casts. The book even features an implacable, made-for-film-treatment nemesis, a man with "narrow ice-blue eyes" who team members come to believe is Vincent Cole, a private detective reputed to have once forced a card-counter, at gunpoint, to swallow a \$500 chip.

Yet the story doesn't match up with the recollections of the people who were the basis of the book. Five of the six main team members are amalgams of people who played on or managed various, occasionally competing MIT blackjack teams over the course of two decades. Instead of a tightknit group of six (and, later in the book, nine), players remember the team as a looser assemblage that at various times encompassed as many as 25 people, not all of whom were MIT students. Fourteen former players spoke to the Globe for this article; five of them were, at some point, on the team that was the primary basis for the team in the book.

Chang, the leader of the team Ma played on early in his career and the person whom the book's team leader seems most based on (none of the book's main characters' names are real), did not teach at MIT. And, far from being a young graduate, he took 10 years to finish college.

The stories of the team's cloak-and-dagger techniques for sneaking money around are even more curious. The book's narrative is interspersed with scenes in which Mezrich himself interviews certain characters. In one of them, Mezrich quotes Lewis describing the methods the team devised to smuggle hundreds of thousands of dollars in cash through airport security. The team had tried, Lewis says, fake umbrellas and laptop computers, plaster casts and hollow crutches, "James Bond kind of stuff." Eventually, however, they settled on strapping much of the cash to their bodies under their clothes in Velcro bags. Hollow crutches, Lewis says in the book, "are a lot harder to explain to the FBI than Velcro."

But Ma, the person on whom the Lewis character is based, said that he never described those techniques to Mezrich, or knew of anyone using them. Until he read the book, he said, he had never heard of them at all.

Similarly, the book has Lewis occasionally catching glimpses of the blue-eyed man shadowing the team. Accompanied by two goons, the man catches up with another character, Jason Fisher, in the bathroom of a Bahamian casino and has him beaten bloody.

But Ma says he never saw a man matching that description following them. Mike Aponte '95, who the Fisher character is largely based on, says he was never beaten up in a casino anywhere. And while some of the former MIT players interviewed for this story could remember instances of teammates being threatened by casino personnel, none could recall an actual beating. Of a dozen former players asked about the swallowed chip story, none recalled it, and some described it as implausible.

Near the end of the book, there is a break-in at the character Dylan Taylor's apartment that closely matches the real-life burglary of the apartment of Kyle Schaffer, the character Taylor was at least partly based on—but differs in a few important ways. In the book, \$75,000 is stolen, the hidden safe where it is kept literally pried out of the wall, and the reader is made to suspect that the theft could have been a betrayal by a team member or a message from Vincent Cole. In reality, Schaffer says, \$20,000 was stolen from his desk drawer. What's more, Schaffer adds, \$100,000 to \$120,000 in blackjack chips that had been sitting next to the money in the drawer was left untouched, strongly suggesting that the thieves had no idea of their worth.

"I am 99.9 percent sure that it had nothing to do with blackjack and was a lucky find for someone who was in the right place at the right time," said Schaffer, a Boston area investment adviser.

Mezrich's response to these specifics is to say that everything he describes is accurate, only that it didn't necessarily happen to the people, in the places, or at the times it occurs in the book. He had to change things, he says, in part to protect the identities of the people he wrote about. But he also admits that, as he puts it, "I took literary license to make it readable."

"The idea that the story is true," he adds, "is more important than being able to prove that it's true."

Dominick Anfuso, the editorial director at the Free Press and the editor of "Bringing Down the House," said that the factual alterations in Mezrich's work were driven by the need to protect the identities of the characters. "There was an obvious need for privacy of some of the people involved," he recalls.

But he said he is uncomfortable with the idea that an author would also change facts to tell a better story. "I don't think you should make the plot more exciting at the expense of truthfulness, ever," he said. Anfuso refused to provide a definition of the standards he uses to distinguish fiction from nonfiction, and did not return follow-up calls.

After "Bringing Down the House," Mezrich switched publishers, to William Morrow, an imprint of HarperCollins, and the disclaimers that come with his books have become more prominent. In his most recent book, "Rigged: The True Story of an Ivy League Kid Who

Changed the World of Oil, from Wall Street to Dubai," there is a passage at the end of the author's note that warns readers about changed names, compressed time periods, and altered identities and backgrounds. Certain characters, it goes on, "are not meant to portray particular people."

Mauro DiPreta, the book's editor at William Morrow, says the disclaimer was inserted simply "to let the reader know what to expect in the book." What Mezrich does, he argues, is clearly nonfiction. "Sometimes reality is messy," he says. "I think it can be fine to streamline a story for narrative purposes."

From time to time, there have been questions about the accuracy of Mezrich's writing. A 2004 Boston Globe Magazine article, for example, called his work "imaginatively enhanced nonfiction." Last month, a profile of Mezrich in Boston maga-

zine raised more specific concerns. In the story, Aponte and David Irvine '95, another former MIT team player, said the team had never, as recounted in the book, trained in an underground Chinatown casino, used strippers to cash in chips, or relied on "shadowy outside investors." Nor had any team member ever been beaten up. Micky Rosa, they told the magazine, was a completely fabricated character.

Mezrich's defense of his methods has remained consistent. He began his career writing techno-thriller novels, and as a fiction writer, he says, "I learned the skills of plot and the skills of character." As a result, "when I set out to write a true story, I set out to write it in a way that people really want to read it."

"I don't think narrative nonfiction exists without composite characters," he adds.

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SCOREBOARD

Baseball	
Sunday, April 6, 2008	
MIT (8-9, 2-2 NEWMAC ¹)	0
Wheaton College (18-4, 6-0)	6
MIT (8-10, 2-2)	0
Wheaton College (19-4, 7-0)	3

Men's Gymnastics	
Sunday, April 6, 2008	
ECAC ² Championship	
MIT	6th of 6

Men's Lacrosse	
Saturday, April 5, 2008	
MIT (1-6, 0-2 PLL ³)	5
Massachusetts Maritime Academy (2-4, 1-1)	7

Women's Lacrosse	
Saturday, April 5, 2008	
MIT (1-5, 0-1 NEWMAC)	13
Springfield College (6-3)	20

Sailing	
Saturday, April 5, 2008	
Presidents Trophy	
MIT	9th of 16

Softball	
Sunday, April 6, 2008	
MIT (3-13, 0-5 NEWMAC)	3
Worcester Polytechnic Institute (10-10, 3-4)	10
MIT (4-13, 1-5)	12
Worcester Polytechnic Institute (10-11, 3-5)	7

Men's Tennis	
Friday, April 4, 2008	
MIT (8-5)	1
Bowdoin College (7-6)	7
Saturday, April 5, 2008	
Babson College (7-8, 1-1 NEWMAC)	1
MIT (9-5, 2-0)	8

Women's Tennis	
Saturday, April 5, 2008	
Trinity College (CT) (7-4)	2
MIT (12-5)	7

Men's Track and Field	
Saturday, April 5, 2008	
Engineers Cup	
MIT	1st of 3

Women's Track and Field	
Saturday, April 5, 2008	
Engineers Cup	
MIT	1st of 3

Men's Volleyball	
Friday, April 4, 2008	
#9 MIT	3
#8 Hunter College	2
Saturday, April 5, 2008	
#9 MIT	0
#1 Vassar College	3

¹New England Women's and Men's Athletic Conference

²Eastern College Athletic Conference

³Pilgrim Lacrosse League

Coblenz Leads Team On Rings and Floor As Temple Wins Title

Gymnastics, from Page 16

exercise was separated by just over a point as it notched a score of 52.400. Coblenz led the squad with a 13.550, followed by Rasin (13.150), Caldwell (13.150), Jacob S. Sharpe '11 (12.550), and Shapiro (12.400).

Rasin claimed 18th place on the parallel bars with a total of 13.400 as the Engineers scored 50.550. Coblenz finished with a score of 13.200 while Shapiro posted a 12.850. Caldwell added a mark of 11.100.

The Engineers closed out the meet with a score of 48.500 on the high bar. Caldwell tallied a team-leading 13.300 as Coblenz notched a total of 12.900. Rasin registered a mark of 12.100 while Shapiro wrapped up the scoring with a 10.200.

Temple University claimed the team title with a total of 341.450. The University of William and Mary finished closely behind (341.350), followed by University of Illinois-Chicago (340.900), the U.S. Naval Academy (336.700), and Springfield College (322.200).

Singles Matches Close as Hoover Drops First Set But Wins In Three

Tennis, from Page 16

a close match. The match was even until after the fourth changeover, when Trinity led 4-3, but the Engineers' serves were broken twice in an 8-3 loss. Assistant Coach Pedro Pinto remarked that despite the big lead indicated by the score, each game was very close, and Diskin and Pikhart were just unable to capture the important points during those close games.

Finally, Leslie A. Hansen '10 and Mariah N. Hoover '08 earned a tough 8-6 win at first doubles, putting the Engineers ahead 2-1 overall. The entire game was neck and neck, and the Bantams were even ahead at times. Hansen and Hoover stuck it out, however, with Hansen putting away the final shot of the doubles play.

In singles, Hansen started off in the top slot with a 6-4, 6-2 win over Brenna Driscoll. Hansen commented that the win was not easy, as her opponent hit with a lot of pace and was "moving [her] around [the court] a lot." In the second singles position, Hoover struggled through her first set, losing 6-3 to Amanda Tramont, who in Hoover's words "came out swinging." During her break between sets, Hoover said that she reassessed her game and then "killed [Tramont] in the next two sets," pulling out a final score of 3-6, 6-2, 6-1.

At the third singles position, Diskin lost 6-3, 6-4 to Sarah Gould, though she played well in the loss. The second set was a very close fight, as Diskin was ahead 4-3 and returning serve with a score of 15-40, but her opponent denied her both break point opportunities and eventually held serve.

Next to Diskin, in the fourth slot, Wang played an incredible match against Arielle Leben that earned her the MVP-of-the-Day award from Head Coach Carol Matsuzaki. Her strong, smart play earned her a final singles score of 6-1, 6-2, meaning that she only gave the Bantams five games overall between her singles

and doubles play.

At number five singles, McCree played a close and long match that resulted in a 6-4, 7-6 (5) win. "It's the best I've played in a while," McCree said, commenting that each of her really long points reminded her of the classic "butterfly drill" in tennis where two players alternate hitting down the line and crosscourt such that they are constantly running back and forth along the baseline.

McCree's match was "streaky," she said, where she would win several games in a row, and then her opponent would do the same. This showed in her first set when her 5-2 lead turned into 5-4 before she finished it off, 6-4. It happened again in the second set, where she started off losing the first three games before coming back and ultimately winning in a second-set tiebreaker.

Finally, at sixth singles, Pikhart defeated Sydney Meckler in a three-set affair that ended in a 10-point tiebreaker, 6-2, 3-6, 11-9. Matsuzaki commented that her game was "precise," and assistant coach Kat Pick attributed a number of unforced errors to her second-set loss. In the final 10-point tiebreaker, Pikhart faced two match points, trailing 9-7, but she reeled off four straight points to finish the match.

In exhibition play, MIT faced three tough eight-game pro sets. Katherine M. Smyth '10 and Jennifer A. Rees '11 lost in the fourth doubles position by a score of 8-5. At seventh singles, Kerry R. Weinberg '10 lost 8-0, and Emma M. Rosen '11 lost in a tiebreaker at eighth singles by a score of 9-8 (7).

MIT resumes play against New York University on Saturday, April 12 in a home match at 2:30 p.m.



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Brahms Viola Sonata in E-flat major, Op. 120, No. 2
Dvorak Piano Quintet in A major, Op. 81

Irina Muresanu and Lily Francis, violins
Marcus Thompson, viola
Wilhelmina Smith, cello
Randall Hodgkinson, piano

<http://www.bostonchambermusic.org>

Tickets available at the MIT Office of the Arts (E15-205) Monday - Friday, 10am - 4pm in person, first-come, first-served only.
2 tickets per MIT student ID

Solution to Crossword

from page 7

C	H	I	D	E	S	I	O	N	S	Y	A	P
R	E	C	I	T	E	S	U	I	T	O	N	E
I	R	E	N	E	C	A	S	T	L	E	U	T
T	E	T	T	R	U	R	A	N	I			
I	B	E	A	M	T	E	D	K	N	I	G	H
C	Y	A	N	I	D	E	O	N	A	D	I	E
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E	L	I	Z	A	B	E	T	H	B	I	S	H
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A	N	T	E	N	N	A	E	Y	E	B	A	L
L	A	R	R	Y	K	I	N	G	S	E	G	U
T	A	S	M		L	E	M		R	C	A	
T	I	N	E	L	L	E	R	Y	Q	U	E	E
A	C	E	T	I	E	R	R	E	S	E	N	T
E	S	T	S	E	T	S	A	D	D	S	T	O

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SPORTS

Wang Dominates As Women's Tennis Out-Duels Trinity College

By Karina Pikhart
TEAM MEMBER

The Engineers pulled out a solid victory over Trinity University on Saturday, leaving with a 7-2 win. A record number of fans were in attendance at the J.B. Carr indoor tennis bubble to cheer them on to their win, including President Susan Hockfield and her husband, Thomas Byrne.

The match opened with doubles

play, and the second doubles team of Anisa K. McCree '10 and Yi Wang '09 recorded the first point with a decisive 8-2 win. Although all of Trinity's doubles teams used a special I-formation on their service games, this did not phase McCree and Wang en route to a one-sided victory in their third match together.

Meanwhile, in the third doubles slot, Melissa A. Diskin '11 and Karina N. Pikhart '09 were struggling in

Tennis, Page 15

Rasin Voted Most Improved as Men's Gymnastics Takes Sixth

By Mindy Brauer
DAPER STAFF

The men's gymnastics team finished in sixth place with a score of 310.300 at the Eastern College

Athletic Conference Championship hosted by the U.S. Military Academy this past weekend. In the individual competition,

Boris Rasin '09 placed eighth in the pommel horse (13.300) as Joshua S. Coblenz '08 captured ninth in the parallel bars (13.150). In addition, Rasin was voted the Most Improved Gymnast by the league's coaches.

In the all around, the Engineers captured 12th through 15th place. Coblenz led the charge with a tally of 79.050 as Rasin finished at 79.000. Thomas S. Caldwell '09 posted a score of 76.950 while Jacob T. Shapiro '11 came in at 75.150.

MIT secured a fifth-place finish on the pommel horse with a team total of 50.500. Rasin tied for eighth with a mark of 13.550 as Caldwell ranked 17th with a 13.000. Shapiro notched a tally of 12.200 while Coblenz contributed an 11.750. Jesse M. Ashcraft-Johnson '11 also represented MIT in the event, finishing with a score of 10.700.

Shapiro led the way for the Engineers on the vault with a 13.800 as the team posted a total of 54.500. Coblenz finished right behind him at 13.700 while Caldwell (13.650) and Rasin (13.350) rounded out the group.

On the rings, MIT compiled a mark of 53.850. Coblenz was the team's top performer as he tied for 14th with a 13.950 while Shapiro recorded a score of 13.700 to tie for 17th place. Rasin registered a 13.450 as Caldwell scored 13.450.

Tech's contingent in the floor

Gymnastics, Page 15



MAKSIM VIKTOROVICH IMAKAEV

Goalkeeper Garth S. Grove '10 defends the net against a Massachusetts Maritime attackman's shot, contested by Dylan F. Roden '09, during an April 5 home game. The Engineers lost 7-5.

Women's Water Polo Earns Easy Victories Against Bowdoin, Bates

By Analiese DiConti
TEAM MEMBER

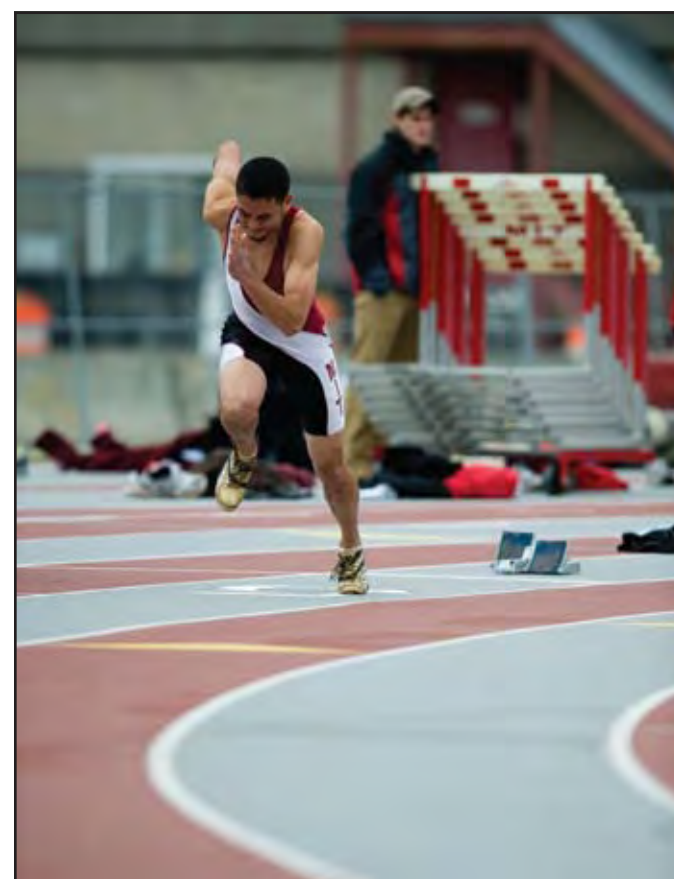
The MIT women's water polo team (7-0) earned two easy victories over Bowdoin College and Bates College by scores of 14-1 and 15-2, respectively, this Sunday at Bowdoin College in Brunswick, Maine.

Analiese M. DiConti '10 led the Engineers with nine goals, scoring over half of her goals in the first quarter to give the team early leads in both matches.

Rookie Amanda C. Engler-Dobberke G proved steady in goal in tallying 10 saves and allowing only three goals.

Caroline A. DeBoer '11 continued her dominating rookie season with seven goals. Blair K. Brettmann G contributed six goals, despite playing with a shoulder injury. Kellie S. Young '11 was unbeatable on defense, holding the hole sets scoreless and also scoring four. Lisa C. Tacoronte '10 also added three goals to the board to give the Engineers commanding leads.

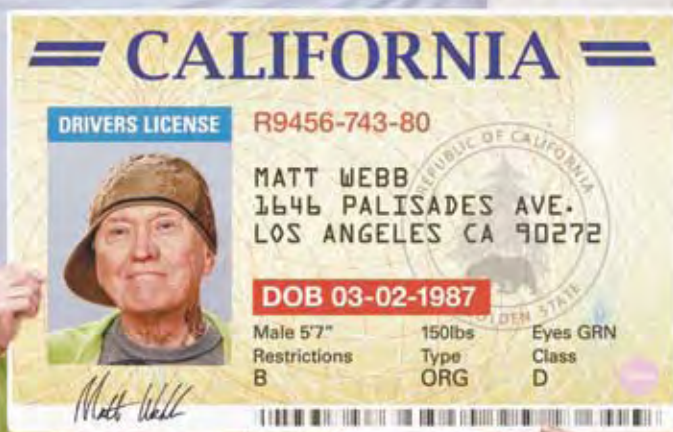
The Engineers' next game is on Tuesday, April 8 at 6 p.m. against Wellesley College in the Zesiger Center Pool. Following that, the North Atlantic Division League Championship begins on Friday, April 11 at 8:30 p.m. at Boston University against Bates College. See <http://collegiatewaterpolo.com/html/schdna08w.htm> for the full tournament schedule.



WILLIAM YEE—THE TECH

Anthony D. Teixeira '08 comes off the blocks in the 200-meter dash last Saturday at the Engineer's Cup, held at Steinbrenner Stadium. Teixeira finished second overall in the sprint, and also placed first in both the long and triple jumps. MIT finished first among three teams at the meet.

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UPCOMING HOME EVENTS

Tuesday, April 8, 2008

Baseball vs. Clark University 3:30 p.m., Briggs Field
Women's Lacrosse vs. Babson College 6:00 p.m., Jack Barry Field

Wednesday, April 9, 2008

Softball vs. Babson College 3:30 p.m., 5:30 p.m., Briggs Field

Thursday, April 10, 2008

Baseball vs. Eastern Nazarene College 3:30 p.m., Briggs Field