

Government Declares Some Grad Students Are 'Security Threats'

By Michael McGraw-Herdeg
EXECUTIVE EDITOR

Eight MIT graduate students with student visas were denied a key credential by the Department of Homeland Security. After their department appealed the decisions on their behalf, the DHS declared at least two of the students "security threats."

The troubles stem from a new homeland security program called the Transportation Worker Identification Credential, a plastic card which, like an MIT ID, contains personally identifying information and can be read wirelessly. Without the credential, the students will soon have a harder time boarding and leaving ships at U.S. ports, including the three research ships at the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute, where the students work.

The situation was well-known to WHOI, but it only came to MIT's attention yesterday, when a German student forwarded to colleagues in the Earth, Atmosphere, and Planetary Sciences Department a letter from the Department of Homeland Security. The letter said in part: "I have personally reviewed the Initial Determination of Threat Assessment, your reply, accompanying information, and all other information

and materials available to the TSA. Based upon this review, I have determined that you pose a security threat and you do not meet the eligibility requirements to hold a Transportation Worker Identification Credential (TWIC)." A British graduate student received a similar letter, said James A. Yoder, dean of WHOI.

After the denials, WHOI sent an appeal on behalf of each student, saying how important the students were to government-sponsored research, Yoder said. "We'd sure like them to have the same access rights as any other graduate student," Yoder said.

WHOI will continue to try to obtain the credential for the students. "We're a long way from giving up," he said.

Without a TWIC, graduate students will face a hassle, but not an insurmountable burden, Yoder said. In preparation for a research cruise, people frequently have to run out and get supplies or replace broken parts, Yoder said, and this is hard if you cannot freely enter and leave the port.

WHOI is currently working within the DHS system to try to get credentials for its workers with stu-

Threat, Page 14



Gregory D. Tao '10, winner of the 2007 robotics competition "Da(yes)MIT," is carried on a victory lap by Utilikilt-wearing Professor Alexander H. Slocum, last night in the Johnson Athletic Center.

Head of Mechanical Engineering Dept. Will Leave His Post in July

By Ramya Sankar
STAFF REPORTER

On July 1, Mary C. Boyce PhD '87 will become chair of the Mechanical Engineering department. She will be the first female department head within the School of En-

gineering.

The department has changed substantially over the seven-year tenure of outgoing chair Rohan Abeyaratne. In structure, curriculum, and future plans, the department has exhibited shifts that Abeyaratne said left it stable and ripe for a transition.

Over seven years, 19 new faculty members joined the department, a move that Abeyaratne said "energizes the department because they have active programs in new areas."

The mechanical engineering department also grew in 2005, when Ocean Engineering (XIII) was elimi-

nated and merged into Course II.

During Abeyaratne's time, the department saw new programs to improve the sense of community among faculty and graduate students. He cited as an example mentorship by the Graduate Association of Mechanical Engineers group, which reaches out to incoming graduate students before they arrive on campus.

In the classroom, instruction changed, with an emphasis on open-ended concept questions replacing

Abeyaratne, Page 17

Mass. State Considers Taking 2.5% Of University Endowments

By Peter Schworm
and Matt Viser

THE BOSTON GLOBE

Massachusetts lawmakers desperate for additional revenue are eyeing the endowments of deep-pocketed private colleges to bolster the state's coffers by more than \$1 billion a year, asserting that the schools' rising fortunes undercut their nonprofit status.

Legislators have asked state finance officials to study a plan that would impose a 2.5 percent annual assessment on colleges with endowments over \$1 billion, an amount now exceeded by nine Massachusetts institutions. The proposal, which higher education specialists believe is the first of its kind across the country, drew surprising support at a debate on the State House budget last week and is attracting attention in higher education circles nationally.

The idea has prompted a range of questions, including whether it is legal to infringe upon private colleges' tax-exempt status or single them out based on their wealth. It also faces significant opposition from the colleges and some skeptical lawmakers.

But proponents say the colleges' vast accumulations of wealth — Harvard University has the biggest endowment at \$34 billion — and their often modest contributions to their host communities justify the assessment.

Endowment, Page 15



WILLIAM YEE—THE TECH

Heather A. Levites '08 performs in Dance Troupe's spring concert: "Summer Nights." Performances will be tonight at 7 and 10 p.m., tomorrow at 4 and 8 p.m., and Sunday at 2 p.m. in Kresge Little Theatre. Tickets are \$10 at the door. For more photos, see page 7.



Steer Roast 2008: Pictures from the front lines

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CAMPUS LIFE

Is the magic in your life gone?

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Ryan Seacrest: Incredibly dumb, or secretly faking it?

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Robert I. Hulsizer Jr. PhD '48

MIT NEWS OFFICE

Professor of Physics Emeritus Robert I. Hulsizer Jr. PhD '48, a former chairman of the faculty and expert on elementary particle physics whose zeal for teaching science made him a student favorite at MIT, died on April 30 of complications from Alzheimer's. He was 88.

Born in East Orange, N.J., in November 1919, Hulsizer received his BS in math from Bates College in 1940, an MA in physics from Wesleyan University in 1942, and his PhD in physics from MIT.

During World War II, Hulsizer helped develop radar at the Radiation Lab at MIT. Among the applications he worked on were radar-guided bombsights that allowed bombers to find their targets through cloud cover, which was an important advance for wartime pilots who previously relied on visual sighting.

In 1964, after spending 15 years at the University of Illinois, he

Hulsizer, Page 16

In Short

¶ Mass. Ave will be paved from Main St. to Memorial Dr. on Monday, May 12 and Tuesday, May 13, weather permitting. No parking will be allowed from 6 p.m. to 7 a.m.

¶ Part of the Building 2 roof will be replaced over four weeks start-

ing Thursday, May 15. The roof above 2-301 through 2-330 will be removed, reinsulated, and replaced. The work will occur from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. each day.

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

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WORLD & NATION

Congressman Calls for Criminal Charges in Utah Mine Collapse

By Ian Urbina

THE NEW YORK TIMES

WASHINGTON

The general manager and possibly other senior staff at the Crandall Canyon Mine near Huntington, Utah, where nine miners died last August, hid information from federal officials that could have prevented the disaster and should face criminal charges, the chairman of a House investigation said Thursday.

The chairman, Rep. George Miller, D-Calif., accused the company of concealing the extent of an earlier collapse in the mine that involved the same high-risk technique, known as retreat mining, that was being used when the disaster began. Miller said that if federal mine officials had known the extent of that earlier collapse, they would not have allowed the company to continue using the method, in which miners remove coal from the pillars that hold up the tunnels.

Miller disclosed that he had sent a referral letter in late April to the Justice Department asking it to investigate whether the mine's manager, Laine W. Adair, on his own or in conspiracy with others in the company, concealed facts or made false statements to federal investigators about the condition of the mine before the disaster.

On Aug. 6, roof supports in a section of the mine gave way in a major collapse that left six miners fatally entombed. Ten days later, three miners who were working as rescuers died after more tunnels fell.

Airlines Raising Ticket Fees, Negating Many Discounts

By Micheline Maynard

THE NEW YORK TIMES

Air travel these days is an adventure with many surprises, some of them unpleasant.

That also describes the process of simply buying a ticket.

Airlines have raised fares or increased surcharges, partly to cover the rising cost of jet fuel, at least 10 times so far this year — most recently on Thursday, when American Airlines and Delta Air Lines raised ticket fees again. The increases have wiped out many of the discounts the carriers offered in 2007 to fill planes.

Full-fare coach tickets on some transcontinental routes, like Los Angeles to Philadelphia, now cost more than \$1,000 round trip. Leisure fares, purchased in advance, are back to the levels that passengers paid in 2006, or about \$230 round trip, on average, according to Robert Harrell of Harrell Associates, which tracks airfares.

Business-class tickets are up 30 percent from the recent lows touched three years ago, when Delta cut fares sharply, Harrell said.

But those figures do not include higher charges and fees, particularly for the higher price of fuel, which has jumped more than 63 percent over this time last year.

Gunmen Assassinate Acting Chief Of Mexico's Federal Police

By James C. Mckinley

THE NEW YORK TIMES

MEXICO CITY

Gunmen assassinated the acting chief of Mexico's federal police early on Thursday morning in the most brazen attack so far in the year-and-a-half-old struggle between the government and organized crime gangs.

The Mexican police have been under constant attack since President Felipe Calderon took office in December 2007 and launched an offensive against drug cartels who had corrupted the municipal police forces and local officials in several towns along the border and on both coasts.

Since then, Calderon has sent thousands of federal agents and troops into those areas to establish law and order, provoking a powerful backlash from drug cartels, who have killed some 200 officers, among them at least 30 federal agents.

Myanmar's Biggest City Still Paralyzed, Days After Storm

By The New York Times

THE NEW YORK TIMES

YANGON, MYANMAR

Five days after the powerful cyclone struck, this city, Myanmar's commercial capital and until Saturday a verdant oasis of wide avenues, was far from back to normal on Thursday.

Thousands of trees lie where they fell, jetties on the Yangon River have collapsed into the water and only a few traffic lights are working.

Most of Yangon, a city of 5 million people, remains without electricity, and even the local branch of the Ministry of Energy has no power.

The death toll in Yangon has been small compared with the devastation in the delta of the Irrawaddy River. The government has counted fewer than 400 people killed here compared with the more than 22,000 dead, and by some unofficial estimates possibly tens of thousands more, in all of Myanmar since the huge cyclone hit on Saturday.

But the inability of the government to clear debris and restore basic utilities like water and power in the country's wealthiest city is a measure of how difficult Myanmar's disaster

recovery could be.

In Yangon, the top American diplomat's Cadillac is trapped in the garage by giant fallen trees, and lines for rationed gasoline snake through the city for blocks. Generators hum everywhere. Buildings have lost roofs and facades. The sign for the Hotel Yangon is missing its Y and n.

Essential equipment — chainsaws, machines capable of lifting heavy debris and helicopters — is in short supply or absent altogether. The government has 12 helicopters, but only five are operational and can transport supplies to far-flung locations, diplomats here say. In neighborhoods where soldiers are clearing trees, they are often using small machetes and axes to hack away at thick branches. Neighborhoods where workers have chainsaws look and smell like lumberyards.

Basic construction materials are unavailable.

"There are no nails to be found in Yangon," said Shari Villarosa, the charge d'affaires at the U.S. Embassy here, who said the embassy imported chainsaws from Thailand and Bangladesh. "The basics are not here."

The damage to buildings, many already decrepit, is extensive. The city's

largest hospital, a majestic red-brick building built by the British, lost large portions of its roof during the storm. Crumbling colonial mansions are newly ravaged by wind and rain. Reams of fabric at the nearby Bogyok Aung San market were soaked by the cyclone and were rolled out onto balconies to dry.

At the once elegant compound housing the French Embassy, Ambassador Jean Pierre Lafosse wanders the grounds looking lost.

The embassy's front wall was destroyed by a fallen tree, as were other buildings and walls throughout the compound.

"All these trees were 40 and 50 years old," said Lafosse, whose crisp white shirt and tie appear to be the only neat and orderly part of the embassy in the wake of the cyclone. "There is only one tree left. But that is not a unique situation in Rangoon at all." Rangoon is the former name of Yangon.

In the wealthy neighborhoods where the generals and diplomats live, groups of soldiers are clearing away debris and workers are perched on rooftops replacing tiles. But in the poorer neighborhoods, "there are no soldiers at all," said one resident.

Tensions Rise in Lebanon As Telecom Network is Shut Down

By Nada Bakri and Graham Bowley

THE NEW YORK TIMES

BEIRUT, LEBANON

The decision by the Lebanese government to shut down a private telephone network operated by the Iranian-backed group Hezbollah was an act of war and Hezbollah would defend itself, Sheik Hassan Nasrallah, Hezbollah's leader, said Thursday.

The comments were among Nasrallah's strongest since the beginning of Lebanon's months-long political crisis and may signal a new level of confrontation between Hezbollah and its supporters and the Western-backed government. Tensions have escalated in recent days, and clashes and gunfire continued on the streets of Beirut on Thursday as Hezbollah tried to enforce a general strike called by labor unions. It is the country's worst political crisis since the 1975-1990

civil war.

On Tuesday, the government said that it would send troops to shut down a telephone network operated by Hezbollah in south Lebanon and the southern suburbs of Beirut.

"This decision was a declaration of war and the start of war on the resistance and its weapons," Nasrallah said, speaking via satellite at a news conference convened by Hezbollah in the southern suburbs of Beirut.

"Our response to this decision is that whoever declares or starts a war, be it a brother or a father, then it is our right to defend ourselves and our existence," he said.

However, Nasrallah left open the door for some negotiations by saying that it would stop the strike if the government's forces left the streets of Beirut and the government reversed its decision on the telephone network.

The government has said it would

prosecute those responsible for operating the network, which was mainly used for communication between Hezbollah members during the war with Israel in 2006. It also accused the militant group of placing several spy cameras on a road outside the Beirut airport to monitor pro-government officials. The cabinet dismissed the airport's director of security, a figure close to Hezbollah.

On Thursday, parts of the city were still shut down, and roads were still blocked by burning tires and garbage cans set on fire by Hezbollah supporters and other opponents of the government.

They were trying to enforce a strike protesting government economic policies and demanding higher minimum wages. Roads to the airport were still closed, and only one plane managed to leave Beirut on Thursday.

WEATHER

Volcano Eruption in South America

By Roberto Rondanelli

STAFF METEOROLOGIST

Volcanic eruptions are natural phenomena ever present in the Earth's history, although not in our minds most of the time. However, they are critical to the history and evolution of the Earth's atmosphere. The atmosphere of the Earth before life had a similar composition to modern volcanic outgassing (mainly CO₂, water and nitrogen), and all the water present in the oceans as well as most of the atmosphere is thought to have a volcanic origin. Volcanoes can influence climate in shorter time scales by injecting reflective sulfate aerosols and can also modify the chemical composition of the stratosphere influencing ozone depletion. The most spectacular case of volcanic eruption during the past century was the eruption of Mount Pinatubo in 1991, that is believed to have cooled the planet by about 0.5 C, an amount similar in magnitude to the accumulated trend in warming during the last 100 years.

The most recent example of a volcanic eruption is occurring right now in Southern Chile. The Chaiten Volcano located at about 42 degrees South near the Pacific coast of South America, believed to be dormant for the last 9000 years, started erupting on May 2nd and has injected material into the atmosphere in a 15 km high plume. Satellite images from the MODIS instrument on board the NASA's Terra satellite amazingly capture the dispersion of the volcanic plume that has already crossed the South American continent making its way towards the Atlantic. The volcanic ash has prompted flight cancellations as far from the Volcano as Buenos Aires (about 1000 miles from the volcanic cone).

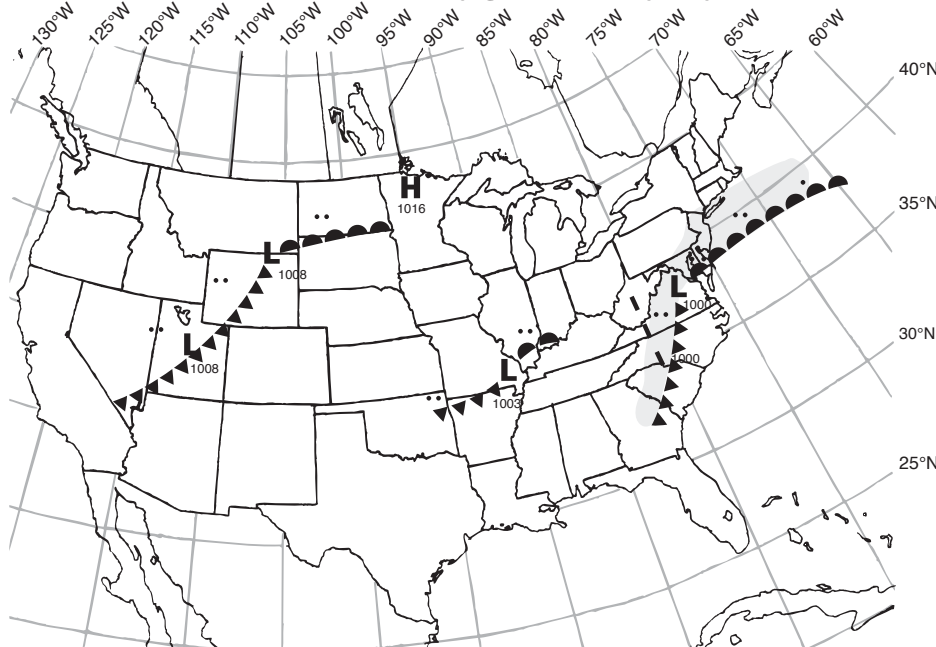
Today: Mostly sunny. Rain in the afternoon, heavy at times. High 58°F (14°C).

Tonight: Rain. Low 45°F (7°C).

Tomorrow: Rain tapering off in the morning but still mostly cloudy and moist during the rest of the day. High 58°F (14°C).

Sunday: Mostly sunny. Low 47°F (8°C). High 66°F (19°C).

Situation for Noon Eastern Daylight Time, Friday, May 9, 2008



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

Compiled by MIT Meteorology Staff and The Tech

Obama Returns to Capitol and Tries to Rally Democrats

By Carl Hulse
and David M. Herszenhorn
THE NEW YORK TIMES

WASHINGTON

Sen. Barack Obama began trying to rally the Democratic Party around him on Thursday. He struck a tougher tone against Sen. John McCain, saying McCain was "losing his bearings" in his pursuit of the presidency.

Even as Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton persisted with her campaign for the Democratic presidential nomination, Obama made a celebratory return to the Capitol, where he received an enthusiastic reception on the floor of the House in an appearance staged to position him as the party's inevitable nominee.

Behind the scenes, there were new discussions between Obama and the party leadership. Senior Democratic officials said he met with Speaker Nancy Pelosi on Thursday when their paths crossed at Democratic Party headquarters. They had spoken by telephone about the state of the race earlier in the week. The officials declined to discuss the substance of the conversations. Pelosi

and Clinton have had no known recent talks.

Addressing concern among some Democrats that Clinton would fight on to the national convention in late August, Terry McAuliffe, chairman of the Clinton campaign, suggested that the race would end quickly after the final primaries in early June, sparing the party a potentially debilitating summer-long battle.

"After June 3, this is going to come to a conclusion," McAuliffe said on NBC's "Today" program.

Other close Clinton allies said much the same thing, evidence of a growing consensus that Clinton has another four weeks to make her case to voters and superdelegates but then should exit quickly if she has not somehow turned the race around. The Clinton campaign continued to grapple with a number of impediments to fighting on, including a decline in fundraising.

"I think she should complete the primary season, and then she has to re-evaluate and her supporters have to re-evaluate," said Rep. Nita M. Lowey of New York, a Clinton backer.

Obama made no public effort to pressure Clinton from the race, and in interviews with CNN and NBC News he praised her as a formidable candidate who could not yet be counted out. But he said that he was likely to lock up a majority of the pledged delegates — those awarded by voting in the primary and caucus states — after the Kentucky and Oregon primaries on May 20, and that at that point he could declare victory.

While he was respectful to Clinton, Obama seemed eager to challenge McCain. Asked on CNN about McCain's recent statement that the radical Palestinian party Hamas, considered by the United States to be a terrorist organization, would favor Obama's election, Obama said it was offensive and called it a smear.

"And so for him to toss out comments like that I think is an example of him losing his bearings as he pursues this nomination," Obama said.

In the meantime, Obama continued to scoop up more support from the superdelegates, the elected Democrats and party officials whose votes will be necessary for either candidate to secure the nomination.

North Korea Opens Documents On Its Nuclear Programs

By Helene Cooper
THE NEW YORK TIMES

WASHINGTON

North Korea has turned over to the United States 18,000 pages of documents related to its plutonium program dating from 1990, in an effort to resolve remaining differences in a pending agreement meant to begin the denuclearization of the Korean peninsula, Bush administration officials said Thursday.

The documents contain information about North Korea's three major campaigns to reprocess plutonium for nuclear weapons, in 1990, 2003 and 2005, a senior official said. The official, like some others who agreed to discuss the documents, spoke on the condition of anonymity because of diplomatic considerations.

But the documents do not include information on two other areas about which North Korea has promised to be forthcoming — a uranium program that some officials in the Bush administration regard as another track toward weapons development, and North Korea's involvement in the proliferation of nuclear material.

State Department officials have nev-

ertheless described the move on Thursday as an important step, saying they hope it will help to resolve a dispute over how much plutonium North Korea holds. Administration officials have not said how much plutonium North Korea has admitted possessing, but they have criticized as incomplete a preliminary declaration it made in December.

The documents, which fill seven boxes, "will help shed light on why they have a lower figure," said an administration official who insisted on anonymity. He said one reason could be that North Korea has more nuclear waste than expected, which could have led to lower plutonium production than the United States had estimated.

Officials in Pyongyang, the capital of North Korea, gave the documents to Sung Kim, director of the State Department's Korea office, on Thursday, and he was poring over them in his hotel before bringing them back to the United States this weekend, State Department officials said. They said that several other U.S. diplomats would accompany Kim and the documents on a commercial flight back to Washington so they could transport the boxes as carry-on luggage. Transporting them

as checked baggage would be too risky, the officials said. The acquisition of the documents is the latest step in the Bush administration's effort to complete a nuclear pact with North Korea before it leaves office in January. The nuclear deal has come under fire from some conservatives, in and out of the administration, who contend that North Korea cannot be trusted to end its nuclear program.

On Wednesday, The Wall Street Journal's editorial page, which has opposed the pact, said that Christopher R. Hill, the assistant secretary of state for East Asia and Pacific affairs, had "made a mockery of the interagency process." It said he had been bypassing other Bush officials and, instead, "handpicking experts to work at Yongbyon," where North Korea is dismantling its nuclear reactor.

Hill has the backing of Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, and they have kept President Bush's support for a pact that many foreign policy experts say is the administration's best chance at a tangible foreign policy accomplishment — beginning the denuclearization of the Korean peninsula — in its remaining months.

Team China Plants Olympic Torch on Everest Peak

By Edward Wong

THE NEW YORK TIMES

BEIJING

A team of climbers on a mission from China carried the Olympic torch to the summit of Mt. Everest on Thursday, fulfilling a long-held goal of Chinese government to have the Olympic flame lit atop the world's highest mountain.

But overseas groups opposed to Chinese policies in Tibet denounced the event, saying the Chinese government was simply using the torch to bolster claims of sovereignty over what they say should be an independent country.

The ascent of the 29,035-foot Mt. Everest was the most ambitious leg of what is expected to be the longest Olympic torch relay in history. The torch that climbers carried to the top at 9:18 a.m. on Thursday was a side torch; the main torch is making its way through the southern province of Guangdong and will continue through every province of China before arriving in Beijing in August for the Summer Games.

The Chinese government has tried to maintain tight control over every aspect of the Everest climb. Officials brought a group of journalists to the base camp to help publicize the ascent while barring foreign climbing groups from any summit attempts during this period for fear of Tibet-related protests marring the torch relay, which has already been beset by anti-China protests in foreign cities.

Like Its American Rivals, Toyota Feels Slowdown in U.S.

By Martin Fackler

THE NEW YORK TIMES

TOKYO

Toyota Motor said Thursday that the slowdown in the U.S. economy would likely cause its first annual profit drop in nine years, accelerating a shift by it and other Asian car manufacturers into emerging markets like China, Latin America and the Middle East.

The shifting emphasis toward emerging markets is part of a broader trend in the industry, and underscores the declining stature of the United States in the global economy. Both Asian carmakers and American rivals like General Motors have seen a rising portion of sales in emerging markets that were not even a factor a decade ago.

Toyota, now in a dead heat with GM to be the world's largest car company, said most of its recent profit growth has come in new markets like Brazil, China and Russia. It said the growth helped offset sluggish sales in the United States, traditionally Toyota's largest and most profitable market, and other mature economies like Europe and Japan.

"Our profit structure has become more geographically balanced, with growing contributions from resource-rich countries and emerging countries," Toyota's president, Katsuaki Watanabe, said in a statement.

This shift has been partly driven by the faltering prospects of the United States market. Declining American sales, along with the weakening dollar and rising material prices, prompted Toyota to forecast a 27.2 percent decline in net profit to 1.25 trillion yen, or \$12.5 billion, during the current fiscal year, which ends March 2009. Last month, Honda Motor projected an 18 percent drop in net profit this fiscal year, citing similar reasons.

Austrian Man Who Imprisoned Daughter Makes Comments

By Mark Landler

THE NEW YORK TIMES

FRANKFURT, GERMANY

Josef Fritzl, the 73-year-old Austrian who imprisoned and raped his daughter for nearly a quarter century, said he knew his actions were wrong. But he denied he was a "beast," and said he thought constantly about freeing her from the underground vault where she was locked up, along with three of her seven children, whom he fathered.

In his first public comments since being arrested last month — relayed by his lawyer and published in an Austrian magazine on Thursday — Fritzl offered a defense, by turns lurid and banal, of the indefensible. He also appeared to be laying the groundwork for a legal case based on his disturbed mental state.

"I constantly knew, during the entire 24 years, that what I did was not right, that I must have been crazy to do something like this," the magazine quoted Fritzl as saying to his lawyer, Rudolf Mayer. "With each week that I held my daughter captive," he said, "my situation got crazier."

Still, while admitting a lifetime of unfathomable abuse, Fritzl also painted a picture of depraved domesticity.

"When I went into the bunker, I brought flowers for my daughter, and books and stuffed animals for the children," he said. They watched adventure movies while his daughter, Elisabeth, cooked their favorite meals. "And then we all sat around the table and ate together," he said.

European Central Bank Leaves Benchmark Rate Unchanged

By Carter Dougherty

THE NEW YORK TIMES

ATHENS, GREECE

The European Central Bank left its benchmark interest rate unchanged at 4 percent on Thursday, saying that the region's economy remained resilient despite nearly nine months of financial turmoil.

Also Thursday, the Bank of England kept its benchmark rate at 5 percent, pausing to study the effects of three interest rate cuts it has made since Dec. 6. Both decisions were expected.

The president of the European bank, Jean-Claude Trichet, said in Athens that information on business confidence, consumers' mood and the service industries had been mixed, but that broadly, Europe had been largely untouched by the credit crisis and the slowdown in the United States.

"Latest data and survey information on economic activity confirm previous expectations of moderate but ongoing growth in the first half of 2008," Trichet said. "Over all, the euro-area economy has sound fundamentals."

While European stock markets have risen in recent weeks, the credit markets — particularly among banks — remain tense, reflecting uncertainty about whether the damage linked to the American mortgage market has run its course. Though sanguine, Trichet's message fell short of the one given last week by the Bank of England, which hinted that financial assets backed by mortgages had become undervalued because of an overly gloomy outlook.

Russian Parliament Overwhelmingly Approves Putin As Prime Minister

By C.J. Chivers
THE NEW YORK TIMES

MOSCOW

Russia's Parliament overwhelmingly confirmed Vladimir V. Putin as prime minister on Thursday, completing his managed departure from the presidency in a manner that left him the country's dominant politician, with a firm grip on power.

Putin, out of office only a day, received 392 votes in the 450-seat Duma, Parliament's lower house, before the resolution confirming his new post was handed to his protegee and presidential successor, Dmitri A. Medvedev, who promptly accepted it.

Only 56 members of Parliament, all Communists, voted against the appointment. Their party leader issued a scathing assessment of Putin's eight years of rule, saying they were marked by lost opportunities. Two members of Parliament were not present.

The dissenting speech was broadcast live on national television — unusual in a country where criticism of Putin has been blocked from television for years.

But Putin, secure with the guarantee

of 315 votes from United Russia, the party he leads, once again commanded the stage. Before the vote, he delivered a 45-minute speech proposing a series of domestic policy initiatives. While the speech included many of Medvedev's campaign themes, it was largely indistinguishable from Putin's presidential addresses over his two terms.

"Great and grandiose tasks lie before us," he said, addressing a legislature under his control. Medvedev sat silently.

The proposals included efforts to reduce double-digit inflation; legislation to create tax breaks for education, housing and medical costs; and more government spending for housing, infrastructure and military equipment.

He also proposed tax reductions for the oil sector and a law to stop corporate raiding, and said his government would work to revive agriculture and spur domestic food production.

As much as 70 percent of the food in Russia's major cities is imported, he said, suggesting that costs for staples were especially vulnerable to inflation in a time of rising global transportation costs. "To lower prices, we must

increase our production," he said.

Putin, 55, suggested that he would move quickly and that legislators would receive draft legislation in August with the details of his proposals.

The underlying message centered on continuing the economic rebound, both to raise living standards and economic security for Russia's citizens and to secure Russia's path as a resurgent world power, themes that Putin developed as president.

Medvedev, 42, was sworn in as Russia's third post-Soviet president on Wednesday. His path to office had been assured since December, when Putin, who under the Constitution could not seek a third consecutive term, endorsed him.

In Washington on Thursday, the State Department said that Russia had ordered the expulsion of two U.S. military attaches working at the U.S. embassy in Moscow. "We believe that the expulsions were not justified," Sean McCormack, a department spokesman, said at a midday briefing. "But as we all know, in the world of diplomacy, sometimes these things happen from time to time."

OPINION

Letters To The Editor



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Pires Misunderstands China Letters

In the last issue of the Tech, Miguel Valença Pires G has labeled the response of the MIT Chinese student community to recent cartoons as "a type of attack," raising a question "what chance do more basic human rights stand?" However, the author misunderstands the response of Chinese students and I do not agree that it is a type of attack. Moreover, I doubt that the author even knows what *basic* human rights means, especially to people living in China.

First, it seems that Mr. Pires considers the response of the Chinese students as a violation of the human rights of those who have published anti-China cartoons. I have a complete different view from Mr. Pires.

Let us start with this definition of human rights given by the United Nations: "All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights. They are endowed with reason and conscience and should act towards one another in a spirit of brotherhood".

For the Chinese student community, the recent cartoons offended their dignity, and hurt their feelings (to understand why this is the case, one has to at least know some

Chinese culture and history). As a response, what they did was simply to use their rights, submitting letters to *The Tech* to express their different viewpoints about the current issues and clarify the misunderstandings that some cartoon authors may have.

The words they chose were very peaceful and the facts they cited were objective. In those letters, I did not see any single word that could be categorized as "a type of attack" and I do not think they hurt anyone's feelings.

The Chinese student community is protecting their dignity using their rights without offending other people's dignity. If Mr. Pires persists in saying that this is "a type of attack" and an overreaction, then I would like to ask Mr. Pires's advice on two questions: Should the Chinese student community have just kept its mouth shut? How do we distinguish between overreaction, underreaction, and a reaction of the right amount?

When people are talking about human rights, there is no denying that China is still behind most developed countries, like all other developing countries. When it comes to *basic* human rights, we need to look at the right to food, the right to education, the right to medical care, and the right to work, because these rights are crucial and indispensable.

If you have never lived in a country that has more than 70 percent illiteracy and millions of people suffering from starvation and diseases like China a half-century ago, you would find it difficult to understand how important these basic human rights are to the Chinese people.

Fortunately, China has improved these basic human rights dramatically in this half century: illiteracy decreased to less than 10 percent, life expectancy reached 73, not to mention that no one in China now suffers from starvation.

To maintain the right to food, an American spends about \$3000 a year, which is about twice as much as the GDP per capita in China. The Chinese government has to maintain the basic human rights of its people using only half the amount of money that Americans put toward food.

Isn't this a huge achievement for a huge developing country? Wouldn't this make China qualify to host of the Olympic Games?

Judging China in black and white terms, neglecting China's achievements on improving basic human rights, and viciously distorting Beijing's intention of hosting the Olympic Games can hardly be regarded as friendly gestures toward the Chinese community at MIT and everywhere in the world.

The 2008 Olympic Games is being held in Beijing starting August 8, 2008, with the opening ceremony commencing at 08:08:08 p.m. There are six eights in the date and time. 'Eight' and 'six' are good numbers in Chinese culture, meaning wealth and harmony, respectively.

Hosting the Olympic Games is not to show off, but to deliver a message to people all around the world who really care about China the Chinese people, that wealth and harmony are two characteristics of a society that China is going to be in 20 years, if not shorter.

Fei Chen G

Criticism of Olympics Has Role

In response to the letter from Jamie B. Edwards '08 on May 2, the United States and the global community should not back down in criticizing China for human rights violations. Mr. Edwards is correct that the U.S. has had many despicable incidents in its history that we would rather forget today. But I think his claim that the US should "think twice about scolding the Chinese" is flawed.

It is far worse to remain silent in the face of human rights violations, even in an attempt to avoid hypocrisy, than it is to for a people with its own flawed record to stand up for human rights. If the US had always ignored human rights for the sake of avoiding hypocrisy, many of our best moments in history would never have happened.

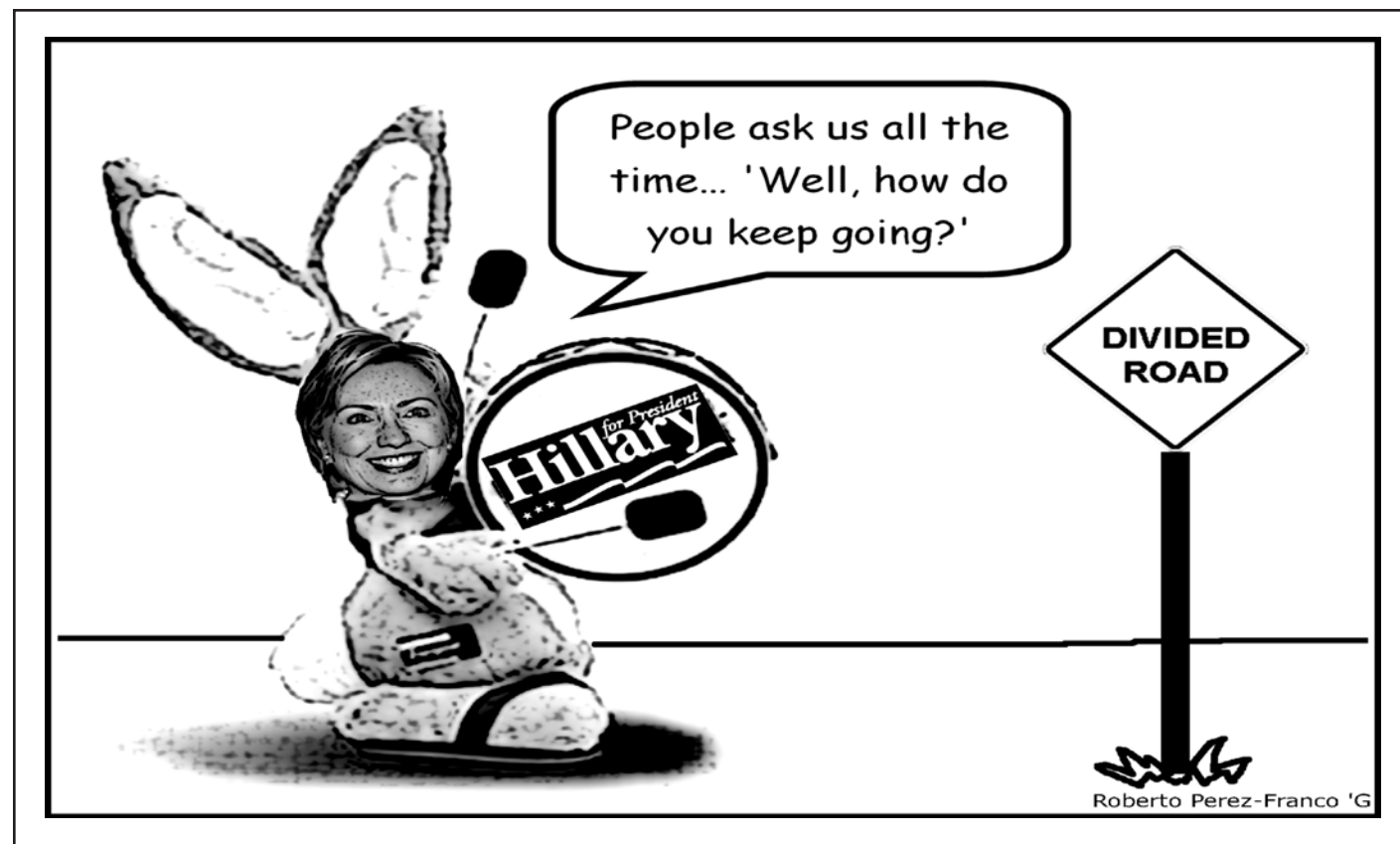
If the northern states had decided not to fight the Civil War because they had once permitted slavery, the slaves would never have been freed. If the US had decided not to fight the Nazi invasion of Europe in World War II because we had once invaded and destroyed Native Americans, the Nazis would never have been defeated. And again more recently in Kosovo, in Somalia, and in the first Persian Gulf war, the US has stood up, despite its own flaws, for good and just causes.

I recognize that pure altruism did not motivate all of these actions, nor were all of these actions totally morally executed, but I believe the fact remains that on the whole, the US has made many just decisions in defense of human rights.

I agree with Mr. Edwards that our history is imperfect. We have made many mistakes. But if we allow our mistakes to hold us back from doing what we have learned is right, then we doubly wrong all those whom we have wronged in our past.

We cannot rely on perfect leaders, because there are none. We must do the best we can, with open minds and open eyes, and a good memory. And that is why we should not today restrain ourselves from criticizing China and other nations that may violate human rights.

Ben Switala '09



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Foreign Policy Principles for the Next Administration

Ali Wynne

Restoring America's standing in the world must surely rank as the next administration's foremost priority. Unfortunately, the three remaining presidential candidates have yet to articulate a clear strategy for achieving this (admittedly daunting) objective. Whoever prevails in November should ground their strategy in seven principles and policies. I do not regard the first three as particularly controversial — the experiences of the past decade or so yield them quite naturally — and, as such, I present them without comment:

1. Abandon neoconservatism as a foreign policy paradigm.
2. Bring in more students and scholars from countries in the Islamic world.
3. Intensify efforts to cultivate alternative energy sources and make them economically viable.
4. Engage India and China.

While India and China are rapidly growing economic powers, they are not the fearsome titans that Western media would often have us believe. They face — China, in particular — serious challenges to their development that are concealed in pictures of gleaming skyscrapers and reports of 10 percent annual GDP growth. The zero-sum conception of global politics that has come to characterize Washington's mindset maintains that their growth threatens our own. The high extent of interdependence between the world's powerful economies exposes the fallacy of this argument. Putting aside the reality that attempting to "contain" or reverse their growth would be mutually inimical, such an action would be immoral. In engaging India and China, we have the opportunity to enhance our own leadership and lift billions of enterprising minds out of poverty.

5. Engage non-state actors in the Middle East such as Hamas and Hizballah.

Isolating groups whose interests differ from our own does not always result in their losing appeal among their constituencies. In the case of impoverished, desperate societies that depend on militant organizations, adopting that course only entrenches those organizations' hold. In 1943, Abraham Maslow proposed a pyramidal hierarchy of human needs. At the bottom were physiological needs such as food and water, and at the top was the need for self-actualization. The Bush Administration stresses the importance of instituting modern governance in Muslim countries, and decries the brutality of groups like Hamas and Hizballah (among others). It is misguided for two reasons. First, most Muslims resent their governments, as polls of Iranians and Saudi Arabians amply demonstrate. Second, and perhaps more important, even the most fervent proponents of democracy will side with an unsavory entity if it can provision their basic needs.

Lebanon offers an excellent example. One of the reasons that the United States is losing the proverbial battle for hearts and minds there is that relief organizations that receive funding from the American government are legally prohibited from employing Hizballah as an intermediary in their efforts. Unfortunately, because its influence is so pervasive — Hizballah administers the disbursement of all reconstruction monies — this stipulation virtually assures that the United States cannot fund or establish a viable, credible alternative to it.

6. Subsidize wheat production in Afghanistan.

In 2007, Afghanistan produced 95 percent of the world's opium; in 2006, that figure was 92 percent; in 2000, it was 70 percent; and in 1990, it was 52 percent. These figures suggest that NATO's current counternarcotics campaign is fundamentally misguided. Eliminating poppy crops is tantamount to eliminating the sole source of income for many Afghans. The West cannot hope to undercut the Taliban's influence unless it creates alternative avenues of employment for them. Since Afghanistan is largely an agrarian economy, NATO should invest more energy in determining which staple crops other than poppy generate the highest yields in its soils. *Building a New Afghanistan* showcases compelling research on the potential of wheat to be such a staple crop.

7. Sign the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court.

With the utility and relevance of conventional military power rapidly diminishing, a country's foreign policy success largely hinges on its credibility. Few single actions would do as much to reverse the notion that the United States abides by double standards than this one. In 2003, it terminated over \$47 million in military aid to countries that did not sign deals to grant American soldiers immunity from war crimes prosecution. This policy is difficult to justify when the United States' government avows (properly so) its right to prosecute to the fullest extent of the law those individu-

als who are alleged to have committed crimes against American personnel. Indeed, the Bush Administration has circumvented the Geneva Convention to allow for the torture of such individuals.

Unifying these seven propositions is the simple but powerful conviction that the United States stands to achieve its greatest success when the global community is prospering. Articulating a clear foreign policy paradigm and corresponding principles will be of particular

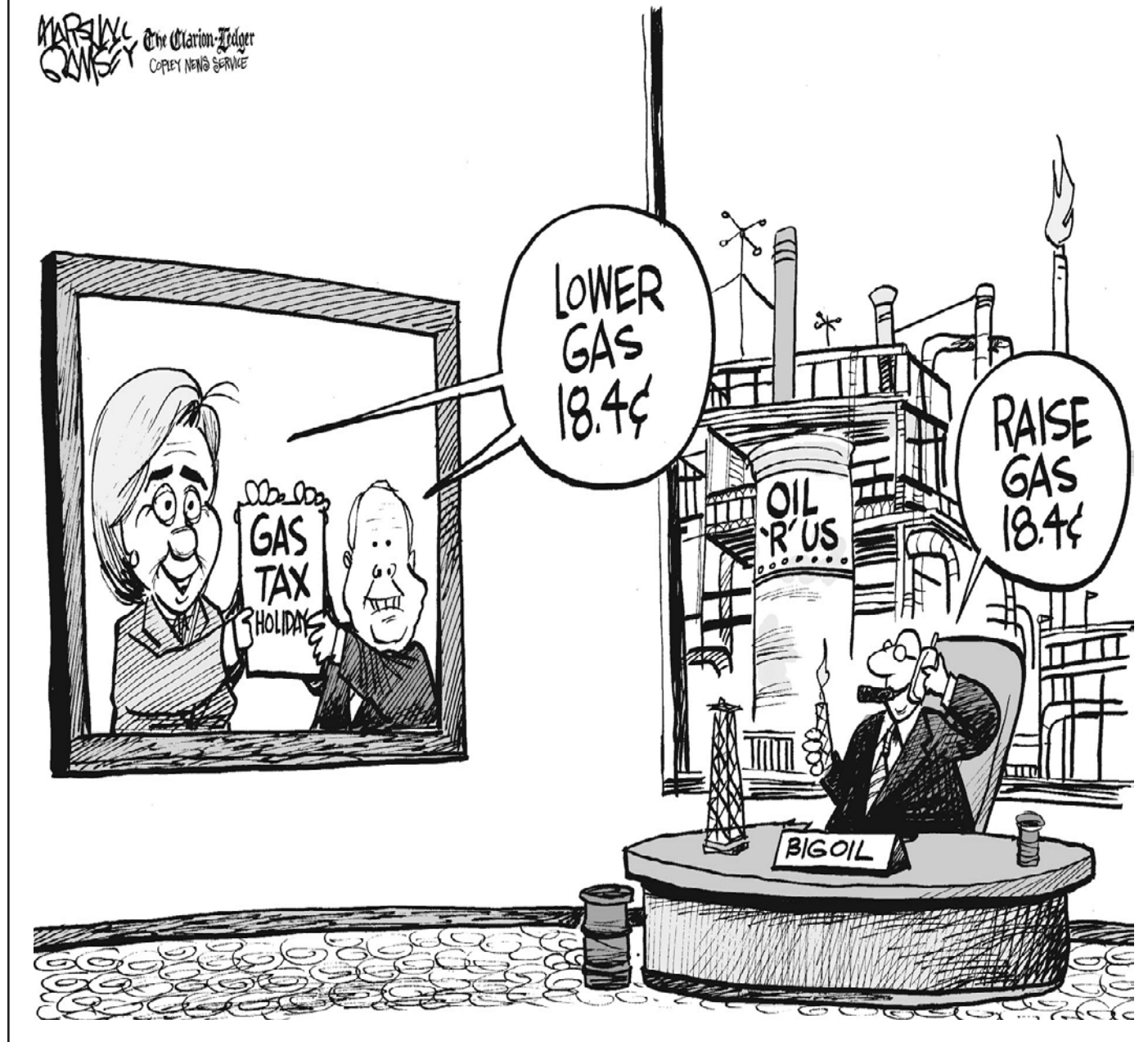
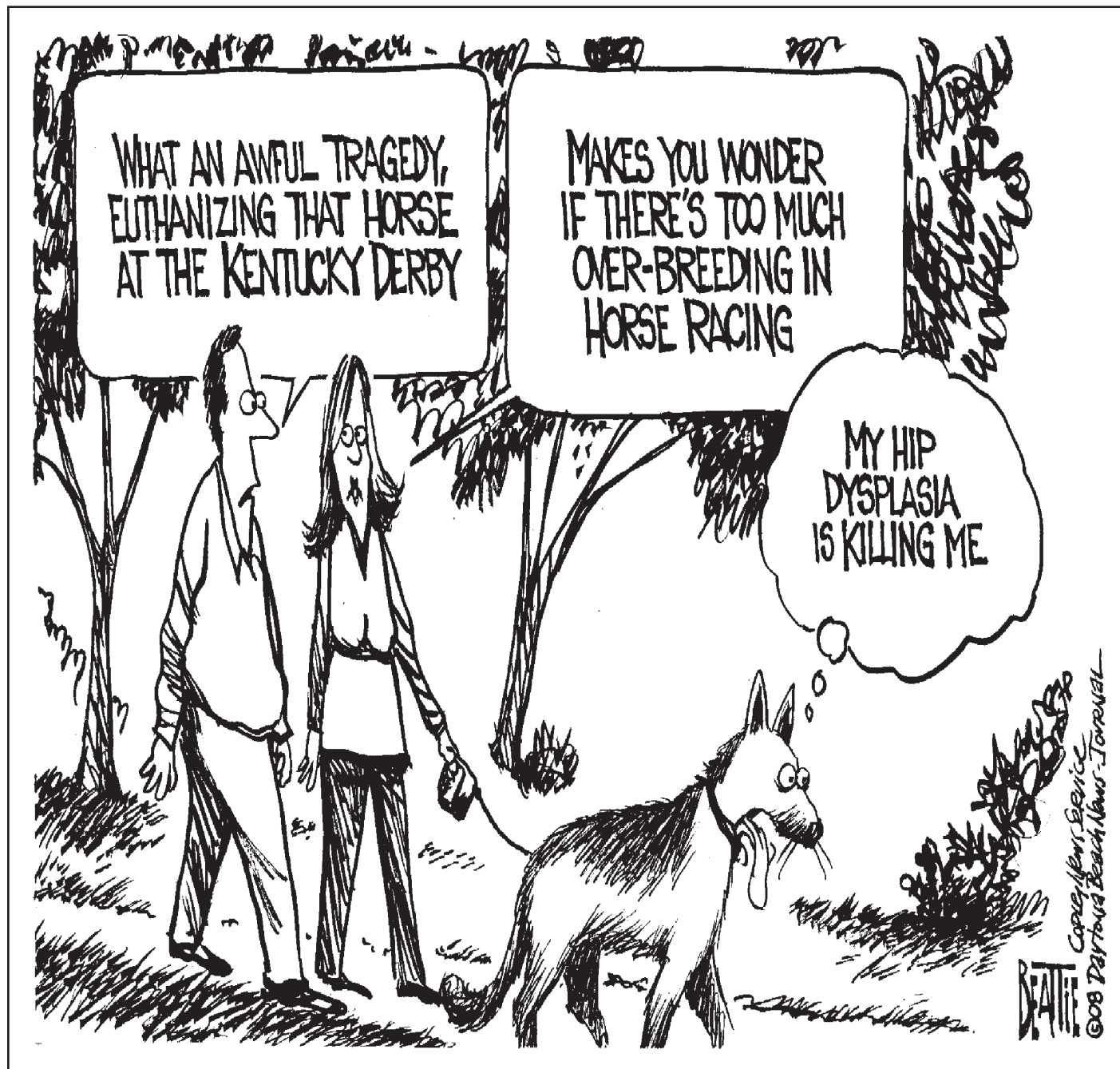
importance for the next administration since it will begin to see the appearance and ramifications of nonpolarity. The lead story in the current issue of Foreign Affairs argues that "The United States' unipolar moment is over. International relations in the twenty-first century will be defined by nonpolarity."

The end of the United States' time as superpower will usher in an era where there is no superpower, but rather, multiple strong powers. Individuals, nonprofit organizations, and other

non-state actors will experience growing influence. Accelerating globalization and an evolving definition of power — one that deemphasizes military prowess — will ensure that state and non-state actors compete for influence.

The next administration has, then, a dual imperative: restoring American leadership and comprehending a power landscape that is changing in uncertain, complex ways.

Ali Wynne is a member of the Class of 2008 and the current U.A. Vice President.



ARTS

FESTIVAL REVIEW

*Alternatives to 'Iron Man'**What You Might Have Missed at Boston's Independent Film Festival*

By Alice Macdonald

STAFF WRITER

2008 Independent Film Festival of Boston
April 23rd to April 28th, 2008
Somerville, Coolidge Corner, and Brattle
Theatres

The sixth installment of the annual Boston Independent Film Festival took place a couple weeks ago from April 23rd to 28th. Over 90 films were screened over seven days at the Somerville Theatre, the Brattle, and Coolidge Corner. In case you missed the action, here are some highlights and lowlights so you can start getting excited for next year's festival.

A good way to start is to highlight the films that won awards at the festival. Awards at film festivals are great, mostly because they allow filmmakers to put that little laurel thing on the DVD box or their Web site. They are also useful to help one decide what films are actually worth watching! This year *Ballast*, *Momma's Man*, and *My Winnipeg* won awards for narrative features. *Sing Song Blue*, *Secrecy*, and *Life Support Music* won for documentaries. For the short films, *Man*, *Glory at Sea*, and *Tony Zoreil* came out on top. Be on the lookout for these films at local cinemas or on Netflix.

Now comes the part where I confess that I didn't actually make it to most of these winning films! I sampled the festival's offerings in a manner that best fit my schedule more than anything else. The result was sort of a mixed bag — some good surprises and some really boring surprises.

To begin with the good, I have to say that the twelve shorts I was able to see were almost all fantastic! *Tony Zoreil* is an adorable and delightfully whimsical French short about the

aply named Tony Zoreil (oreille is French for ear) with unusually large ears. Also of note is *The Rambler*, which in the spirit of gross-out horror succeeded in being one of the most disgusting things I have ever seen.

I was also not disappointed with both full-length documentaries I attended. *We are Wizards* is about the Harry Potter fan culture and instead of trying to cover the whole phenomenon, it focuses on a few people who were inspired creatively by the books and films. The result is an extremely joyful film about people with Harry Potter Web sites, rock bands, and cartoons. It isn't as centered as it could be, but it is still a fun experience, especially if you are not afraid to embrace your dorky side.

Crawford documents the lives of the citizens of a small town in Texas where president George W. Bush just happens to live. Although it is about a subject that even Michael Moore would admit is extremely played out, the film approaches the Bush presidency from a slightly different angle. It is not about what Bush himself actually did or didn't do so much as the personal stories of the people who live in a minuscule town that the president decided to relocate to shortly before his election and how this affected them.

I have mixed feelings about some of the narratives I saw. *Transsiberian* is a big bad-ass production starring Sir Ben Kingsley, Woody Harrelson, and Emily Mortimer. Russians are in right now and this film is *Eastern Promises* plus trains and minus the naked fight scene.

The film makes it half-way to good, but then makes a U-turn and heads straight to crazy. It débuts with some beautiful shots and an interesting reversal of fortune, but then it just all falls apart and is totally ridiculous. I liked it, but only because of what it could have been.

Blood Car lies on the other end of the finance spectrum from *Transsiberian*, which had an estimated 15 million dollar budget. There are no big names or fancy explosions, but there is a lot of blood and sex. The film takes place in the near future where gas is over 30 dollars a gallon and no one can afford to drive. But how is a young man supposed to get laid without any wheels? The solution, naturally, is to kill people and use the blood to fuel your ride. My beef with the movie, besides the fact that it sometimes felt a little too much like an extended YouTube video was the complete lack of effort to make the movie a little layered.

Yes, I understand that the filmmakers weren't trying to change the world or win an Oscar, but would it have hurt to make any of the characters more than one-dimensional caricatures?

And now, dear readers, prepare yourself for the not so good. Two narrative films that I found to be excruciatingly boring were *The Tracey Fragments* and *My Effortless Brilliance*. *The Tracey Fragments* seemed promising — it stars Ellen Page as a girl running away from home while searching for her missing younger brother. The film starts as an interesting cinematic device where the film is literally fragmented as the title suggests. For the first few minutes,

many screen in screen and splitscreens are interesting, but it becomes very tiring. I have seen other films utilize this sort of gimmick, such as *Conversations with Other Women*, but the reason *Conversations* is so great is that the split-screen is used to show more at once than what one is capable of seeing in a single shot. Here, however, it often felt that multiple shots were shown simultaneously not to gain more perspective, but for the pure sake of continuing the style. It would make for a cool music video, but not a cool movie. Even worse, Page is obnoxious in this role that feels like a re-hash of her brilliant previous performances in *Juno* and *Hard Candy*. I was really hoping to see Page take on a different character and command the role, but it appears she is in a bit of a rut. This film will probably be out soon in select theaters ... don't be lured in by Ellen Page's star power — see something else.

As far as *My Effortless Brilliance*, it had some great humorous moments, but they were literally few and far between. I don't think I have looked at my watch so many times in a period of 90 minutes since high school orchestra rehearsals. Something would happen, but then seemingly endless minutes of cinematically empty footage followed. While I can appreciate a slower paced film — rather than a lightning-fast Michael Bay blockbuster — watching people sit around and do crosswords as in *My Effortless Brilliance* felt pointless. It was missing a connective thread or direction such as, say, a plot would have provided.

Okay, well I hope you will consider attending next year's festival and looking into some of these films, even if they are a little harder to find! Or you could just see *Iron Man* like everyone else and I will cry my little Robert Downey Jr. tears to myself.

ALBUM REVIEW

*Fripp Fripp's Latest Crimson Release**Better at Collecting Dust Than Being Collectable*

By Balaji Mani

STAFF WRITER

King Crimson
The Collectable King Crimson: Volume 3
Release Tuesday, May 6
DGM Records

It's that time of year again: Robert Fripp and co. have reached a lull, anticipating their end-of-summer tour, and the only way to put food on the table (and promote the shows) is to release a blindly hand-picked bootleg from the King Crimson archive. And thank goodness they picked a decent show.

Robert Fripp started King Crimson more than thirty years ago, and to this day remains the only sustaining member of the band. For those who don't know, Fripp is one of music's most notorious guitar snobs, an anal-retentive maniac (who has kicked out fans from shows for taping), a pompous and condescending bandmate, and yet one of progressive-rock's greatest assets. Championing his strange style of interlocking guitar parts, vertigo-inducing time signatures, and ambient sonic textures, every incarnation of King Crimson has stood at the forefront of its contemporaries.

With sporadic album releases throughout the nineties, it was hard to keep the fans interested all the time. The intermittent Crimson-related music projects have been numerous, but diverse. Fripp's company, Discipline Global Mobile, has been releasing live King Crimson albums in special collector's edition bootleg CDs to keep fans investing in the King Crimson

moniker, a trademark that sits carefully under Fripp's watch.

Just this Tuesday, DGM released The Collectable King Crimson: Volume 3, the third installment in a series of recovered live concerts spanning the band's whole career. It's clear that Fripp asked one of his lackeys to file through the archives and throw something onto a double disc set for immediate sale. The album art is shockingly dull and immature: a cheesy burgundy gradient emblazoned with two awful square pictures of the band playing live.

The recording is taken straight from the soundboard at a 1996 London show, the last show of that tour. The opening act canceled at the last minute, so Fripp opened with a self-indulgent "soundscape," a technique and term he coined in the seventies which involves him creating repeated textures and ambient noises with one guitar and a decent array of guitar effect pedals. After draping the audience in a wash of fluttery guitar notes, the rest of the band joined him on stage to kick into "Conundrum." This short percussion interlude did only a little to stir the audience, so it was up to singer Adrian Belew to get things started with "Thela Hun Ginget," a title that anagrams Belew's soaring chorus line: "Heat in the jungle!"

Belew struggles his way through the lyrics

to "Neurotica," a song that features him essentially performing a spoken-word slam poem in distinct counter-rhythm to the rest of the band. Eventually, he finds his pace. The whole first set is pretty standard: the classic songs from the 80s incarnations and new tunes from the most recent album, THRAK. Of the new songs, which at that point fans were quite acquainted with, "Sex Sleep Eat Drink Dream" proved the most accessible in the live setting. The 90s lineup of King Crimson introduced second percussionist Pat Mastelotto, who prevails on "Sex."

The new songs also indicate that the band has steered away from using Belew's maddening lyrics and skilled singing to attract attention. While Belew hasn't changed a bit, the music tends towards arrangements that are clearly against pop standards. "Vroom," one of the more popular new songs, contains a multitude of noisy sections, chaotic rhythms, and intermittent dreamy passages that culminate into a really likeable King Crimson track.

The virtuosity is still there. However, the disc leaves a listener feeling standard and unmoved. Either the band didn't preview the disc before release, or they've changed their sales standards: the concert contains a lot of mistakes and imperfections that many would consider unprofessional. Try listening to disc two while

ignoring a drunken fan in the front row yelling "Crrrrrimmmssson!" every couple minutes. Then when you've had enough, try tapping your foot to classic songs like "Lark's Tounge In Aspic pt II," "Frame By Frame," or "Three of a Perfect Pair." You simply can't because they are played much too fast. At times the beautiful interlocking guitar parts shift out of phase and become muddled and mediocre.

King Crimson has played much better shows, with much better set-lists, and with much more spirit. Belew stupidly says at the intermission, "Give us fifteen minutes, and we'll assault you again." The silly banter and amateur mistakes are not definitive of King Crimson, nor do they belong on a special edition CD meant to be a collectible. What does save this disc, and perhaps the key reason it was released, is the inclusion of the song "21st Century Schizoid Man" towards the end of the set. The song hadn't been played in 22 years, due to over-rotation on radios. It was the song that put Crimson on the map, but Fripp didn't want to sell out to pop stardom.

Once August begins, King Crimson will embark on a new tour. It's been three years, but the general hope is that they've been preparing for a powerful and virtuosic sampling of their latest music. Though it's generating income for the band, the fans could have done without The Collectable King Crimson: Volume 3 — it's the forthcoming tour that's going to really determine if Fripp plus five can reverse the effects of a couple bad releases in the King Crimson catalogue.

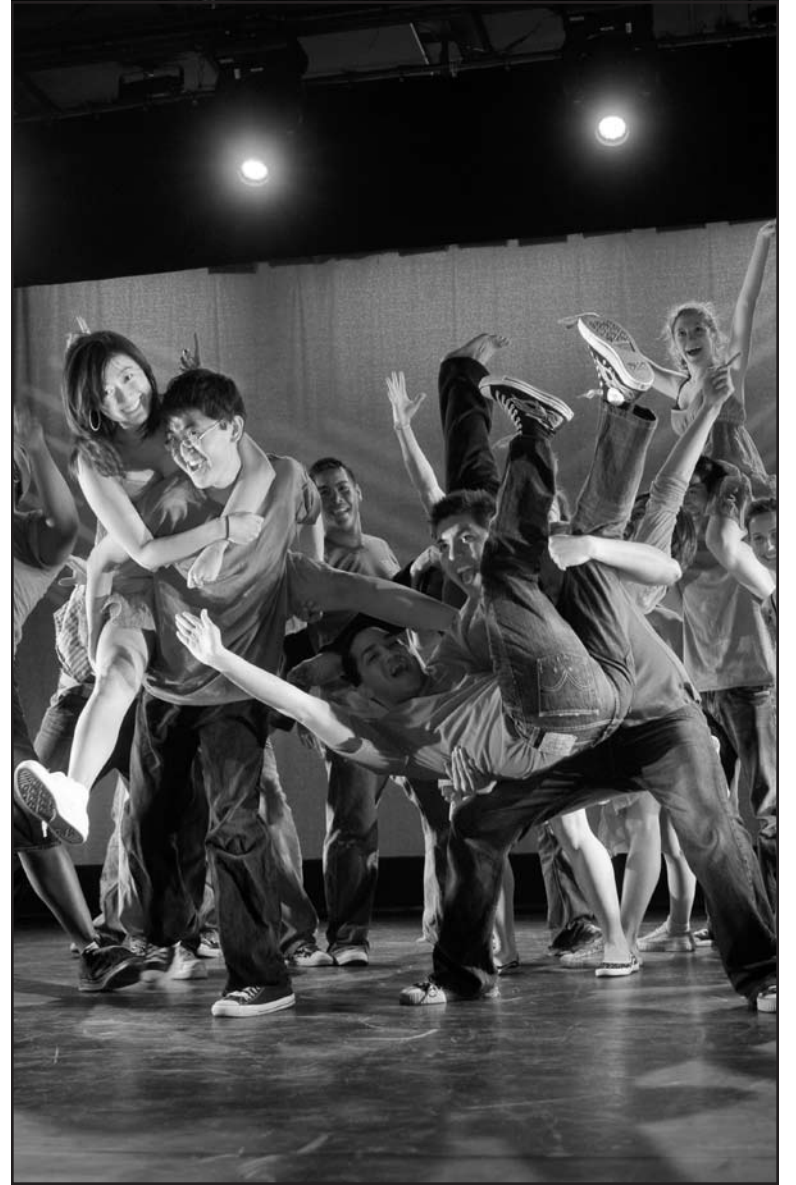
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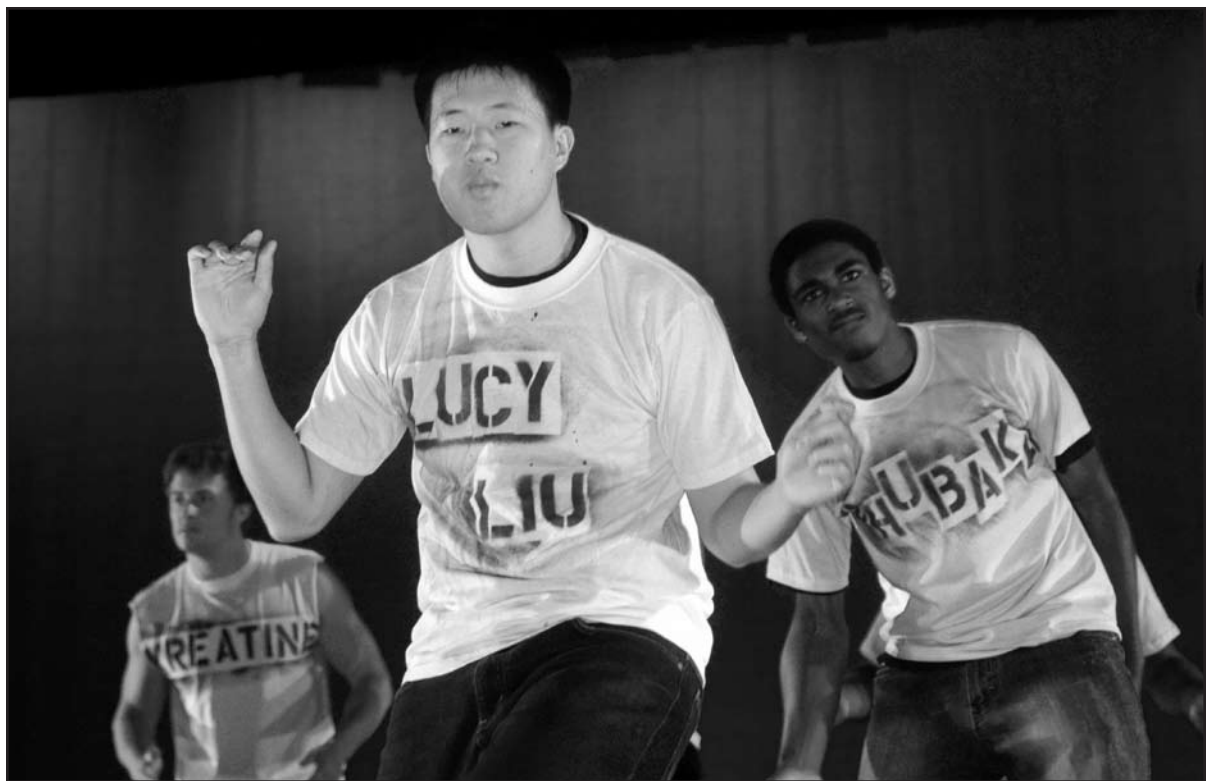


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Dance Troupe's Summer Nights



MIT Dance Troupe presents their Spring 2008 concert, "Summer Nights," this weekend. Performances will be tonight at 7 and 10 p.m., tomorrow at 4 and 8 p.m., and Sunday at 2 p.m. in Kresge Little Theatre. Tickets are \$10 at the door or \$7 if purchased in the Student Center today in between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m.

(clockwise from left)

Jessica D. Luttkus '08 strikes a pose in "Heatwave," a piece choreographed by Tarikh C. Campbell '09.

Hannah J. Hsieh '09 dances in a piece called "Tell Me Something Good."

Heather A. Levites '08 and Adlai R. Grayson '08 step through a routine in "Perfect Sense," a piece choreographed by Grayson and Adam Kho '08.

Dancers strike a pose at the end of "Greasy Bois & Girls," a piece choreographed by Bettina H. Tso '08.

Chris Liu '10 (center), and Chukwuka C. Mbagwu '11 (right) dance in a piece entitled "Candy and Caprice," choreographed by Alexandra M. Beyer '10, Jason A. Scott '10, Kamo Jurn '10, Tarikh C. Campbell '09, Thaddeus R. Cybulski '10.

Photography by Brian Hemond

IT'S FRIDAY

Brought to you by **CAMPUS LIFE**

The Tech, May 9, 2008, Page 8

Ramblings From Hell

Every Raindrop Is Another Brick in the Pathway to Misery

By **S. Campbell Proehl**
STAFF COLUMNIST

It occurred to me after the fifth straight day of clouds and cold rain last week that the magic in my life has disappeared. Maybe it's because it's finals time and I'm stressed, or because there's always more work to be done, or even simply because it's raining. I have a sense, though, that it's more than just the rain and the homework and the exams. I think the magic is just gone.

My grandfather, Aloysius Kelly, grew up poor in Brooklyn. He shared a bed with his three brothers and spent most of his days sitting around or creating mischief, because there wasn't much to do and no money to do things with. He used to tell me that every time he got a nickel (which wasn't very often during the Great Depression), he went to the movies. It was always a great day when he saw a picture, because it was guaranteed to be something he had never seen before and it let him escape for a while.

There was no television in his 1930s Brooklyn, and the characters in the movies he saw were fascinating to him because they were so unlike the people he knew. They were novel, interesting, and eloquent characters who led romantic lives. The men angered the women, and the women slapped them, because they could do that in the movies. He told me that he loved the romantic pictures,

because he secretly wanted a woman to slap him too.

Aloysius met my grandmother, Mary Merten, after what could most accurately be described as a love at first sight that took a long time to manifest itself. They took the same subway train home to Brooklyn most nights and gave each other "the eye" for a couple of weeks or months (they never told me how long it was — there seemed to be less of a time scale back then). Mary agonized about how to start a conversation, and discussed the cute sailor with her friend. "Drop an envelope addressed to you," the friend said. "Then he'll know where you live and he can go ask you on a date."

My grandmother never had to drop the envelope, because one night soon after, Aloysius got off at her stop and introduced himself. Then he walked the mile-and-a-half back to his house. They started dating, but my grandfather's family disapproved because Mary wasn't Irish and wasn't from their neighborhood. Eventually, things were settled and Aloysius proposed.

The engagement was uncharacteristically long for the post-war 1940s. My grandmother is stubborn to the core and argues until the cows come home, no matter the subject. She gave the ring back so many times that they spent seven years cycling between being engaged, not engaged, and reengaged — rare for a

World War II sailor who fought at Iwo Jima and a New York gal. "I thought your parents were never going to walk down the aisle," Mary's best friend later told my mother.

When my mom first told me this last summer, I was mesmerized. I thought about my own love story, which was born on the roof of the Stata Center last May, the night before my 7.02 final, and how it would never be even half as magical, by virtue of the fact that I go to MIT, and life is never magical for me here, because we have permacloud from November until May, and there is rarely free time.

And now I find myself almost a year later, wanting something exciting to happen because I have spent the last eight months walking back and forth through the infinite several times a day, looking out at a gray Boston skyline and wishing I could go to brunch instead of chemistry lab.

To everyone about to spend the next few rainy weeks wanting to do anything but studying: think about my grandparents — about how a dashing young man shared a bed with three brothers, went to war, made it all the way back from Iwo Jima to New York, found a woman whom his parents didn't want him to marry, then eventually convinced them to let him marry her.

May you find some magic during finals.

Squid vs. Whale

Theory of Seacrest

By **Charles Lin**
CAMPUS LIFE EDITOR

It's around this time of year that American Idol starts to really bug me. Now it's not 'cause of the contestants, Simon, or Paula's every slipping grip on reality, it's mainly Seacrest. Don't get me wrong. I don't have anything against Ryan Seacrest. I think he's an affable guy and an all-right TV host. It's simply the idea of Seacrest that bothers me.

See, no one believes me when I say this, but Ryan Seacrest may be one of the most successful individuals of our generation. Seriously. The guy rakes in more than 14 million dollars a year, has an eight figure television deal, is the heir apparent to Dick Clark, and has a media empire worth millions upon millions. You don't even know it, but Seacrest is everywhere. He has a stranglehold on popular radio, owns a collection of LA hotspots, produces tons of television specials, and even has his own fashion label. That's right. Ryan Seacrest will even make you a dress shirt.

Why is this troubling to me? Well, success is one thing for exceptionally talented individuals, but it's an aberration when it comes to someone like Seacrest. Does Seacrest strike you as someone who's extremely intelligent, talented, attractive, athletic, tall, well read, cultured, etc ... ? No, no, no, no, no, and more noes.

In fact, a cursory examination of the accompanying figure confirms that Ryan Seacrest may have one of the highest success/talent ratios ever measured.

I've been scratching my head over this for many years now, and only recently have I been able to elaborate my Theory of Seacrest in words.

To wit, the Theory of Seacrest states that first, no man in all of recorded history has achieved more with less talent than Ryan Seacrest, and second, Seacrest's success is a direct result of his alarming lack of talent.

Seacrest is an anomaly in that his success depends on him being quite possibly the least threatening individual of all time. The following thought experiment proves this notion beyond a shadow of a doubt.

Ask yourself this: If you put 10 random people in a room with Seacrest and then asked yourself the question, "whom would I pick as my adversary in a _____ competition?"

Congratulations, the answer is always Seacrest. I don't care if the competition is fisticuffs, chess, mountain climbing, extemporaneous writing, or flower arranging, I want to go up against Seacrest. He's like the perennial B-team captain. He's the pinnacle of mediocrity. Jack of all trades, master of none.

And yet I propose this is precisely why he has attained such great success.

Most exceptional people walk around with targets on their backs. Superlative skill breeds contempt and elicits adversaries. As such, exceptional people must always fight past their detractors in order to succeed.

This is where the power of Seacrest finds its advantage. He has molded himself into the most non-confrontational, non-controversial, and non-threatening individual of all time. He exists as nothing more than a vaguely pleasant impression that's impossible to pin down and impossible to get worked up about. And ac-

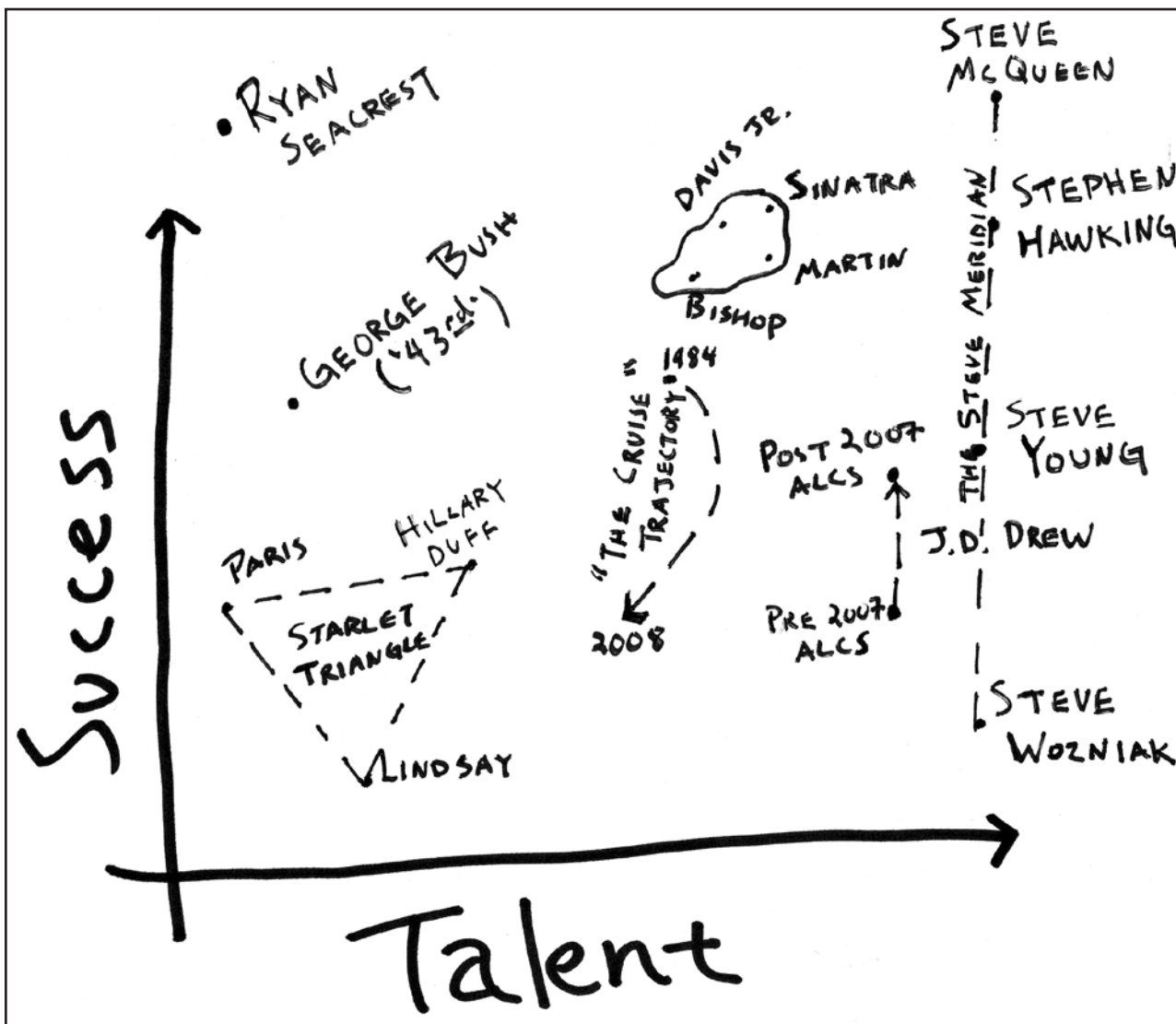
cordingly, Seacrest has no target on his back, because why would anybody bother? Thus, he has managed to keep moving onward and upward, slipping through the cracks unnoticed.

There is, however, a countervailing hypothesis stating that no man in all of history is more grossly underestimated than Ryan Seacrest. It's entirely possible that this could be true. It could be that the Seacrest we know is all a façade, and that the real Seacrest is a formidable genius. After all, Seacrest did eradicate that other guy who used to host American Idol. And by eradicate, I mean that Seacrest has actually managed to erase that guy's existence from our collective memories. Seriously, I can't think of a

single person who can still remember that guy's name.

However, this is a reality I refuse to accept. I just can't wrap my mind around the idea that Seacrest might be an evil genius masquerading as a fool. I can't even stomach the idea of him being that conniving, ruthless, and intelligent. I can't give Seacrest that much credit. I just can't paint a target on his diminutive figure and even exert the effort to want to take him down, because who can honestly get that worked up about Seacrest? Seacrest has everything because he exudes the perception of nothingness. Therein lies his true power.

Seacrest Out.



This figure plots innate talent versus achieved success and is a standard metric of whether one's life surpasses or falls below its expectations. Of particular interest are:

(1) The Starlet Triangle: Due to their fleeting fame and general lack of better judgment, all Hollywood starlets fall within a triangle bounded by Paris Hilton, Hillary Duff, and Lindsay Lohan. (2) The Steve meridian: Humanity has been blessed by the preponderance of extremely talented people named Steve. However, not all of them have lived up to their expectations e.g. Wozniak (whatever happened to that guy), Young (too many concussions), and Hawking (was wrong that one time which is inexcusable for someone of his talent). As usual Steve McQueen represents both the epitome of talent and success. (3) The Rat Pack Cluster: All members of the Rat Pack exist within this cluster of effortless cool bounded by Frank Sinatra and Joey Bishop. (4) The Cruise Trajectory. Tom Cruise is perhaps the only individual to have peaked early (Top Gun) and shown additional promise later in life (Rain Man), only to have all of his previous successes mitigated by entering a downward spiral instigated by the Bad Idea Bears of Scientology. (5) The J.D. Drew redemption: J.D. Drew's grand slam during game 6 of the 2007 ALCS marked the single greatest instantaneous rise in individual success ever recorded. In that instant, Drew not only became worthy of his \$75 million contract, he also shed his many nick names including: J.D. Boo and Nancy Drew. It should be noted that Ryan Seacrest achieves the highest ratio of success/talent. Many other nitwits have achieved disproportionate success but often there are mitigating factors involved e.g. nepotism in the case of George W. Bush.

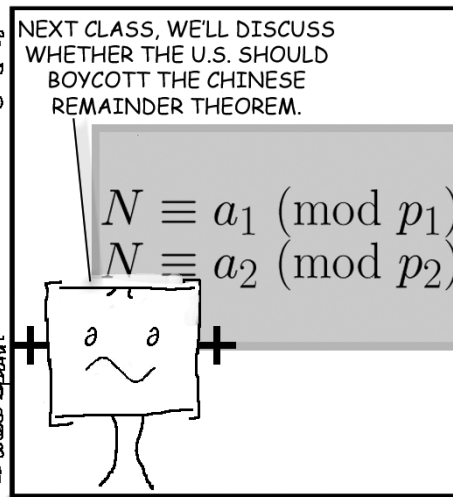
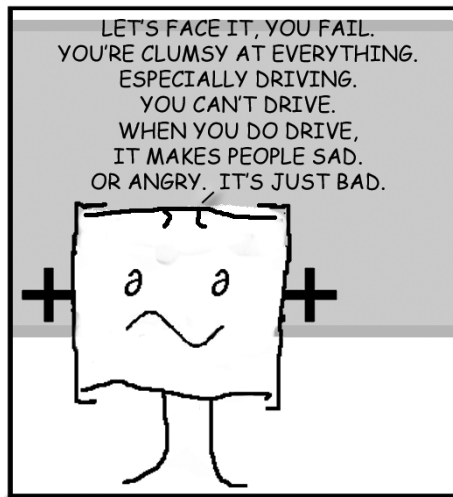
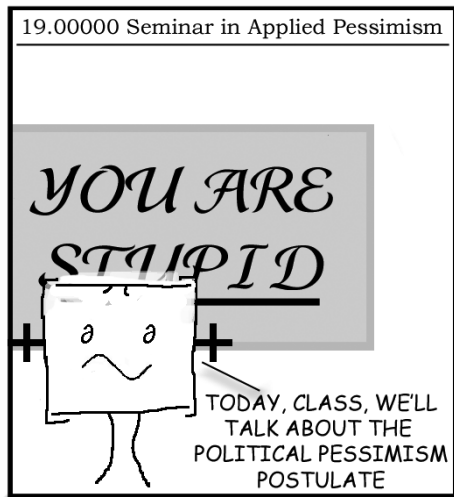
Overheard at MIT

"This is why chemical engineers are superior to all other fluid mechanics; We have five ways of giving, receiving, and accounting for head."

—A professor during 10.301 lecture

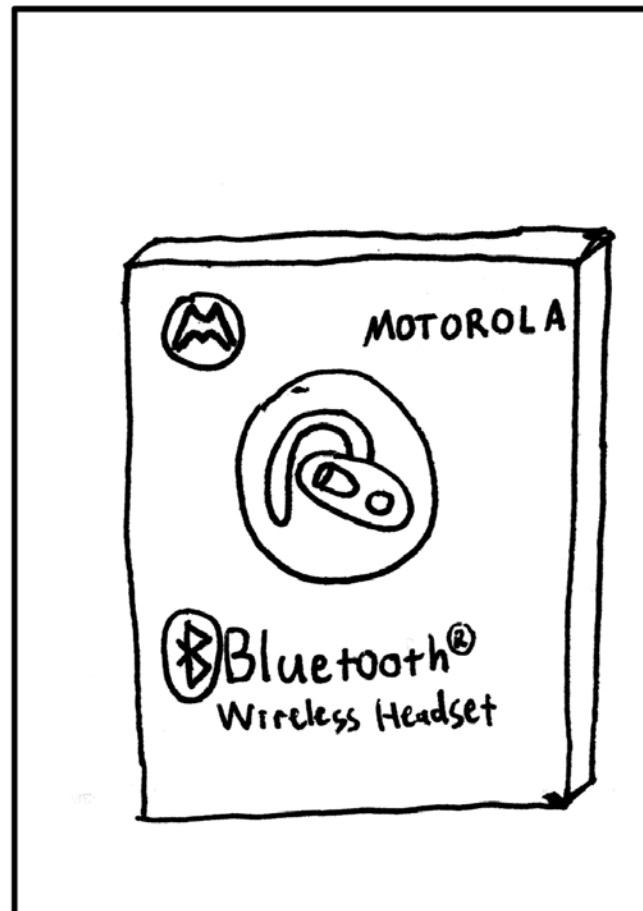
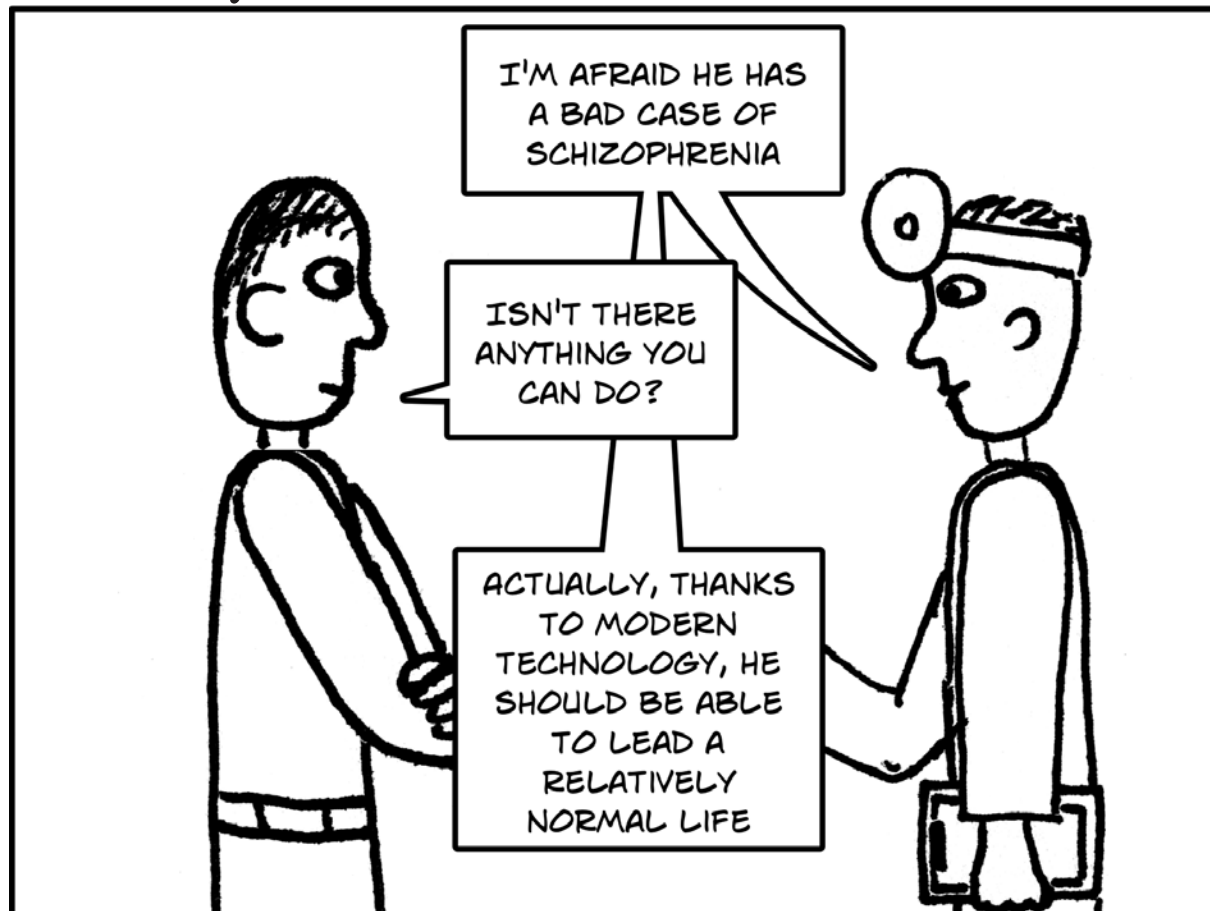
PROOF OF FALSE

by Andrew Spann



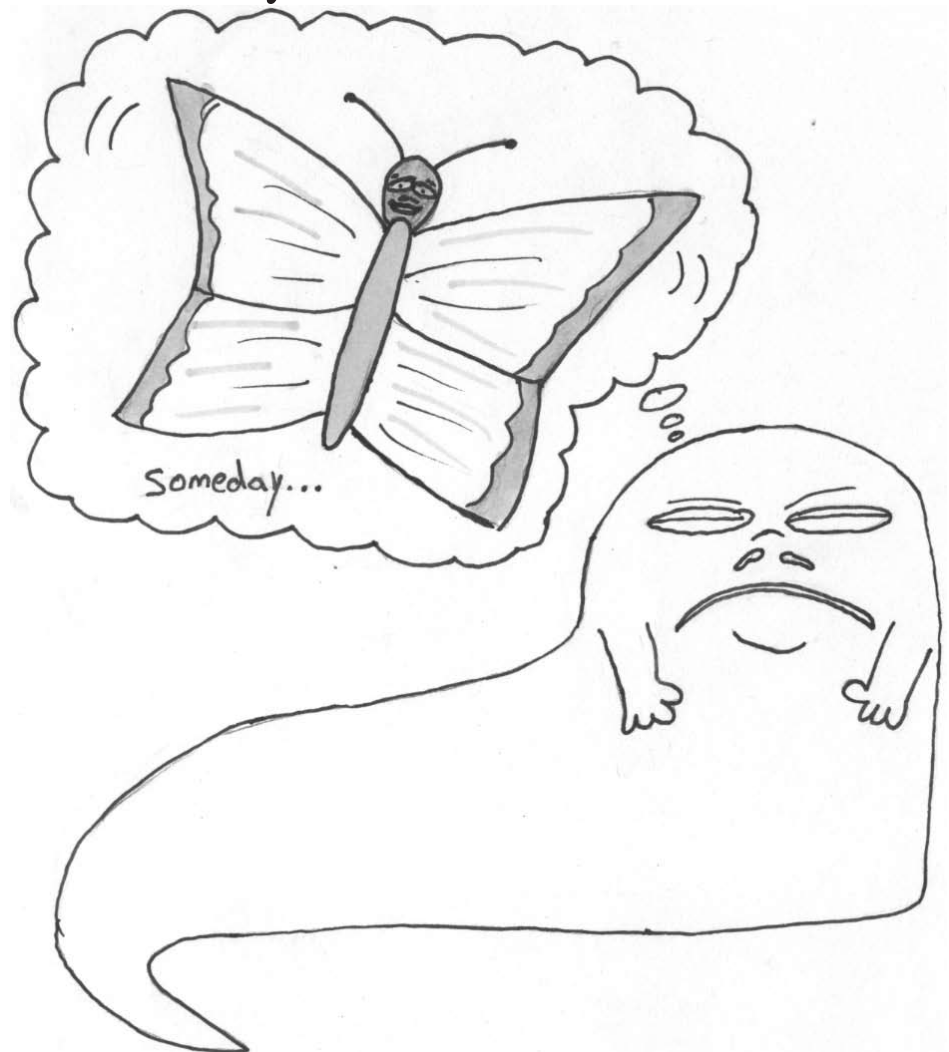
Steal My Comic

by Michael Ciuffo



The Daily Blunderbuss

by Ben Peters



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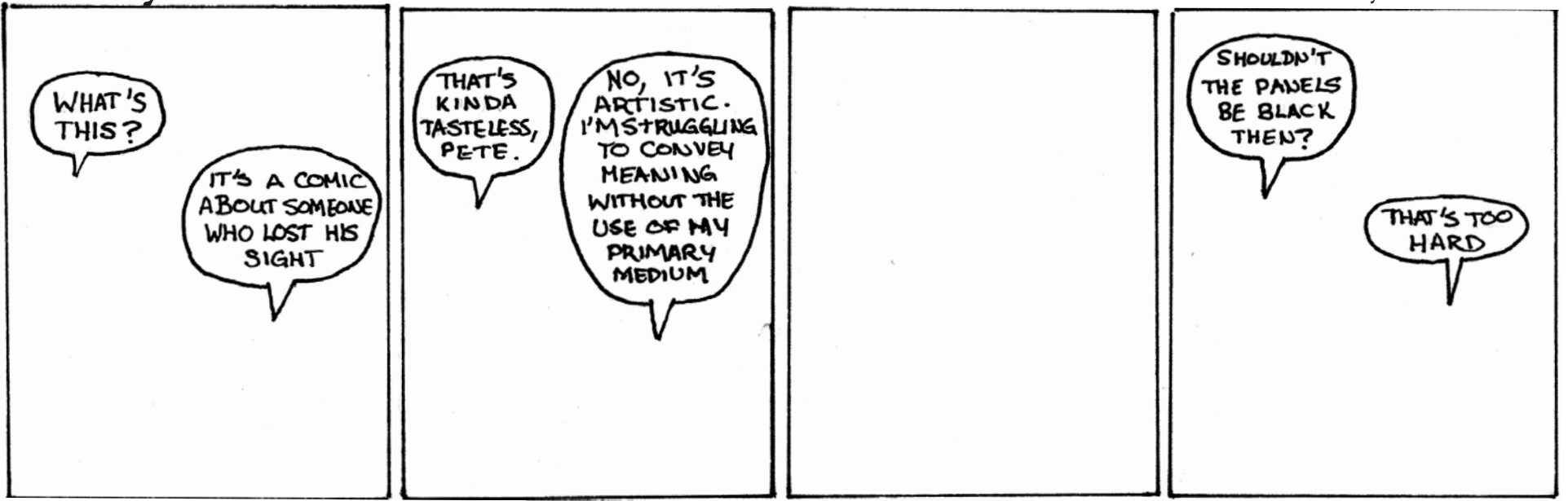
Instructions: Fill in the grid so that each column, row, and 3 by 3 grid contains exactly one of each of the digits 1 through 9. Solution on page 14.

© Puzzles by Pappocom

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

Theory of Pete

by Cai GoGwilt



Quantum Samurai

by Justin Lan, Maryia Lu, and Kim Baldauf



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Pseudoscience

by Daniel Klein-Marcuschamer

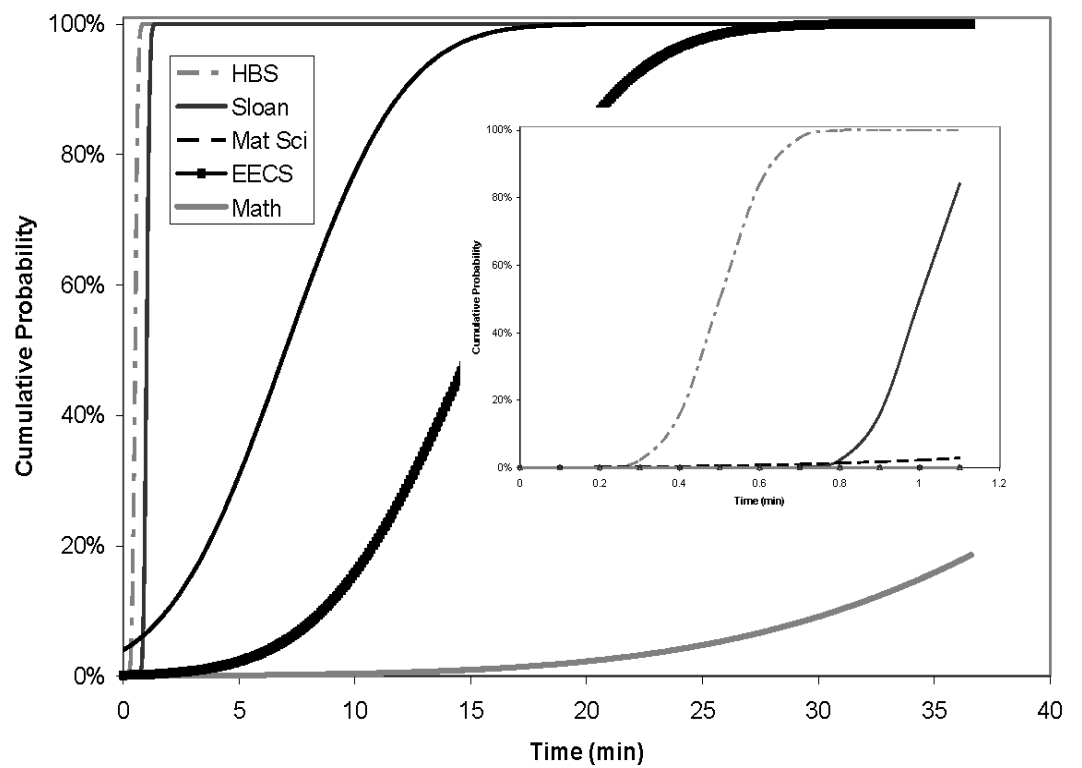


Figure 33. The plot shows the dynamics of business card deployment by different students, depending on their school or field. The x-axis measures the time after the test-subject and examiner (undercover) are introduced, while the y-axis shows the cumulative probability of the test subject offering his/her business card. HBS and Sloan students are the fastest, as expected; the inset is provided to help the reader appreciate the difference between them, a few seconds. Even though a curve for math students is shown, we must point out that it was obtained from a model, as insufficient experimental data (usually collected during networking events) was available.

Crossword Puzzle

Solution, page 14

ACROSS

- 1 NaCl
- 5 Burlesque bits
- 10 Toasty
- 14 Nabisco treat
- 15 Like 20 Questions questions
- 16 Hautboy
- 17 Cosby character meets actor/director?
- 20 Refrain
- 21 Balms
- 22 Earth model
- 25 Great honor
- 26 Major mix-up
- 30 Country of fjords
- 32 Heathens
- 34 Compass dir.
- 35 Poppa pig
- 39 Everyman meets actor?
- 42 Time in prison
- 43 Bout outcome, in brief
- 44 Eucalyptus eaters
- 45 Slacken
- 48 Wear away
- 49 Sour-tasting, old-

DOWN

- 1 Nap locale
- 2 Riyadh resident
- 3 Okay, why not?
- 4 Perfectly
- 5 Actress Thorndike
- 6 Enamored of
- 7 Neighbor of Leb.
- 8 Letters that bang
- 9 Mournful sounds
- 10 Tiger moth caterpillar
- 11 From the beginning: Lat.
- 12 Weatherman AI
- 13 Unkempt
- 18 __ Beach, CA

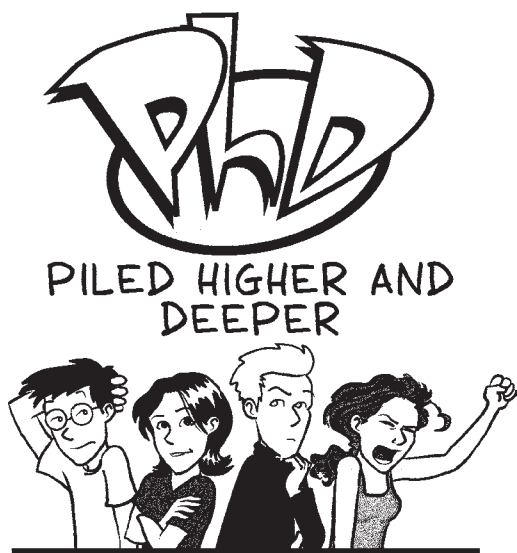
- 19 Hindu music form
- 23 Good day, Yves
- 24 Rubik's first name
- 26 Tiff
- 27 Basilica section
- 28 Maturing agent
- 29 Brown arms and neck
- 31 Half a fortnight
- 33 Some NCOs
- 36 Capital of 30A
- 37 Fancified sch.
- 38 Loom up
- 40 Scraped (by)
- 41 Type of license or justice
- 46 Genesis casualty
- 47 Feeling of pity
- 49 Arabic word for God
- 50 Nile city
- 51 Organic compound
- 53 Causing laughter
- 55 Evening in Bologna
- 57 Plump president
- 58 Memo heading
- 59 Poems of praise
- 60 Turndown from Putin
- 62 Glass container
- 63 Ottawa's prov.

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13
14					15						16			
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26	27	28	29			30			31					
32						33	34				35	36	37	38
39						40					41			
42						43				44				
					45	46				47		48		
49	50	51				52			53					
54						55		56			57	58	59	60
61						62	63							
64						65					66			
67						68					69			

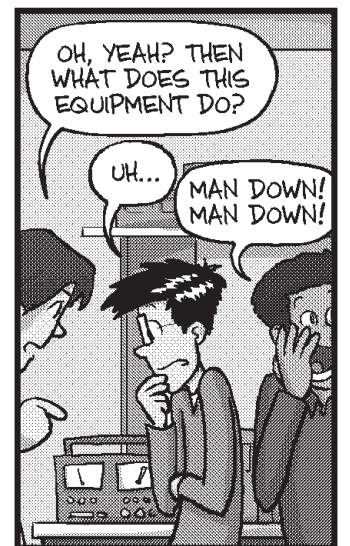
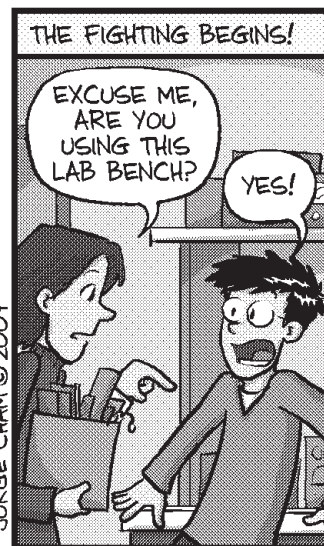
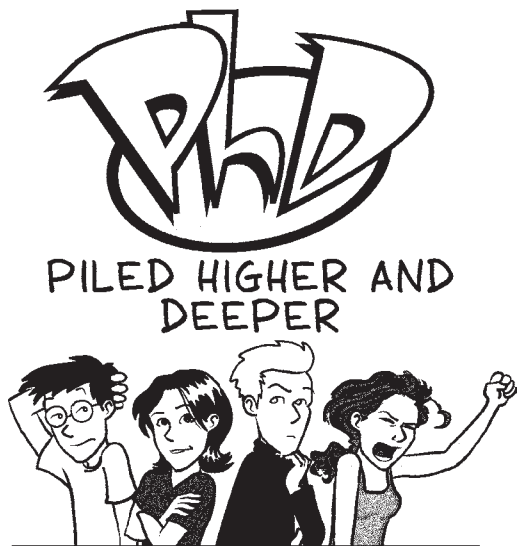
Doonesbury Flashbacks

BY GARRY TRUDEAU

Dilbert® by Scott Adams



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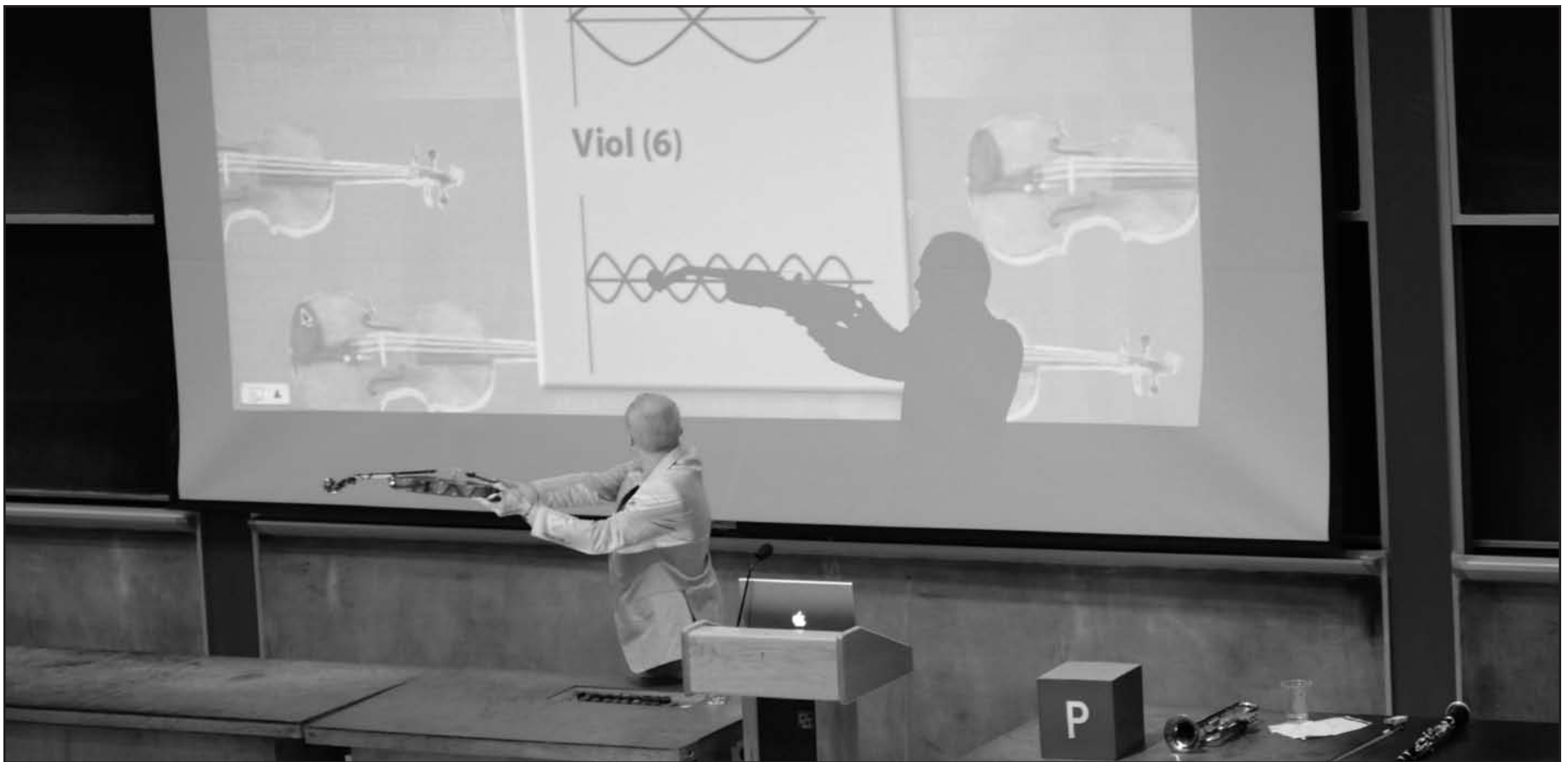
Marcus du Sautoy Shares The Music of the Primes



Oxford Professor of Mathematics Marcus du Sautoy presented a lecture entitled "The Music of the Primes" yesterday evening in 26-100. The lecture was sponsored by the Clay Mathematics Institute, which in the year 2000 placed \$1 million bounties on 7 major problems in mathematics. (Counterclockwise from above)
 ¶ Sautoy plays Charlie Parker's "Yardbird Suite" on trumpet as a fun, yet appropriate diversion.

¶ A large die with a single prime number P on it helps illustrate the prime number theorem.
 ¶ Sautoy explains how the waveform of a violin's sound can be expressed as a linear combination of pure tones. The explanation served as a stepping stone toward explaining the utility of the famous Riemann hypothesis, one of the 7 millenium problems.

Photography by Omari Stephens



T-SHIRTS

...a necessary fact of College!



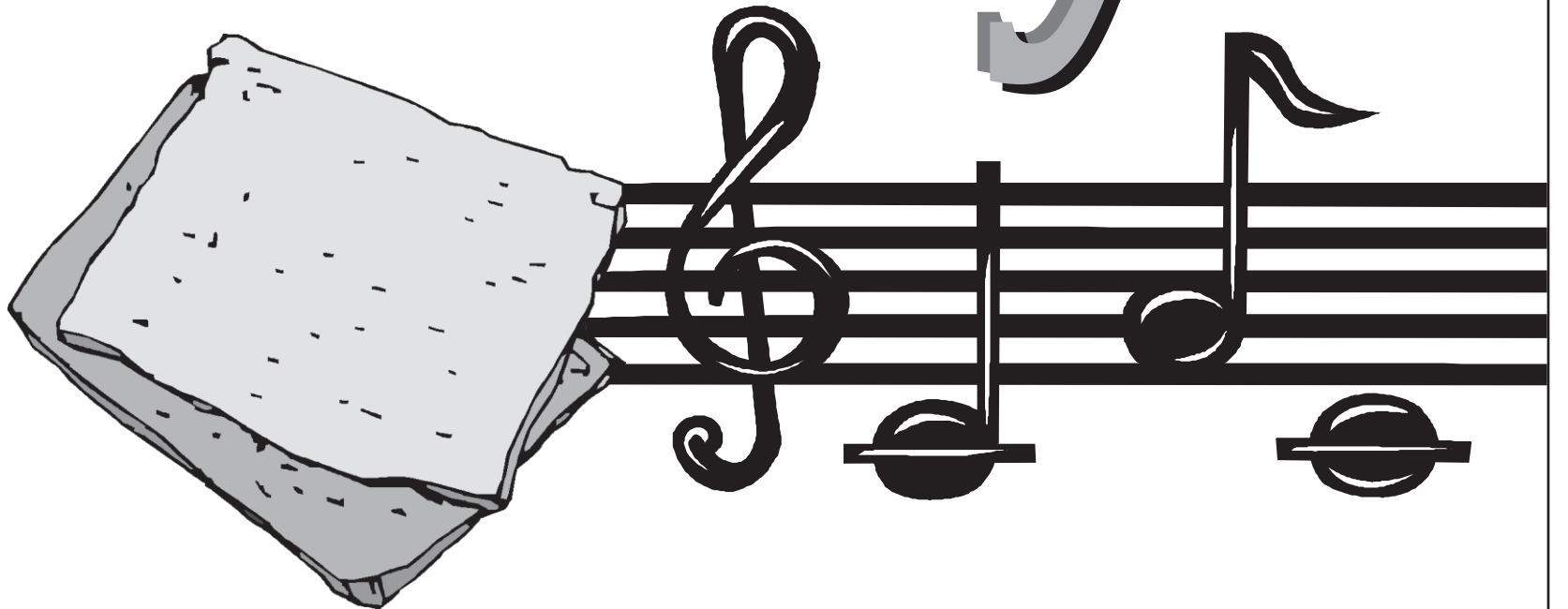
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Graduate Students Told They Pose 'Security Threat'

Threat, from Page 1

dent visas, called F-1 visas. WHOI has also contacted its Congressional delegation, Yoder said. They have not yet contacted an attorney, he said.

Students as 'security threats'

The government has denied at least two students' appeals and decided that the students' visa status

made them a "security threat."

Applicants to the credential program were required to submit electronic fingerprints and their passports were photocopied, but whether the DHS will connect this information to their "security threat" status (which could make it difficult to fly) is as yet unclear.

It is "just really offensive" to call the graduate students security threats,

said Yoder. The students conduct research funded by federal agencies including the National Science Foundation, he said. Because WHOI has no secure facilities, its employees do not do research on site that requires a security clearance, Yoder said.

Wilken-Jon von Appen G, an oceanographer from Germany who had his request for a TWIC denied and was subsequently deemed a "se-

curity threat," said that the TWIC restrictions only hinder research. Field research is essential to oceanographer's work: "If you have not been out at the field and have not seen under which conditions measurements are being taken, you have no feeling whatsoever" for your research, said von Appen.

Von Appen has worked on research cruises that departed from Woods Hole during summer 2006 and summer 2007. He plans this summer to visit a mooring point off the Greenland coast, where he will collect information about short-term changes in the currents that leave the Arctic Ocean.

It caused "a bit of a troublesome feeling" to be considered a threat by the government, von Appen said. He said he would have understood an explanation of why his visa status made the government think it should his deny his application, but the "threat" language made little sense.

Yoder agreed. He said he understood the government's arguments about the students' visa status. But he said he took issue with "this outrageous wording that calls them security threats. ... That's unreasonable."

What exactly is a security threat? In the Code of Federal Regulations, a person generally presents a "security threat" if the TSA considers him a threat to national security, to transportation security, or of terrorism. A person may also pose a "security threat" if he "has lacking mental capacity." But a person may also pose a threat if he does not have the right kind of visa, as described in 49 CFR § 1527.105.

The TWIC card is available to most U.S. citizens and to some residents with certain visas, according to the Code of Federal Regulations. Student visas are not explicitly listed as one of the kinds the government may accept, but the rules provided allow the government some leeway. Despite this flexibility, the TSA's Security Threat Assessment Operations department denied applications by eight WHOI graduate students. The \$132.50 fee for each application, paid by the institute, is nonrefundable.

MIT unaware of problems

Although WHOI has been working on the TWIC denials since early April, administrators at affiliate institution MIT seem to have only learned of the troubles yesterday.

"I just learned about it moments before you called me," said Danielle Guichard-Ashbrook, director of the International Students Office, yesterday afternoon. "I'm sure that MIT is going to be very, very concerned about this," she said.

MIT will investigate the problems and contact lawyers and immigration officials if necessary, she said.

Through his secretary, Dean for Graduate Education Steven R. Lerman '72 declined to comment and deferred to the ISO.

Chancellor Phillip L. Clay PhD '75 was made aware of the situation yesterday, Yoder said. Clay could not be reached for comment.

Other oceanographic institutions have not tried to get credentials for all their staff and students, Yoder said, so they are unlikely to have encountered similar problems.

At the University of Washington's School of Oceanography, ship crew and dock workers have received TWIC credentials, but there is no coordinated effort to get the card for all employees, according to a spokeswoman for the administrative office.

Also unavailable for comment were representatives of the Volpe National Transportation Systems Center in Cambridge. Employees of that center developed technical and policy specifications for the national TWIC system, said former Volpe director John O'Donnell.

Although all ports were originally required to check for the credential by mid-September 2008, most ports now face an April 15, 2009 deadline. Boston and New England have an Oct. 15, 2008 deadline instead, in a "realignment" announced by the DHS last Friday.

The delay may be related to the slow speed at which credentials are being issued: workers receive a TWIC identification card 4-8 weeks after they have completed the signup process, "due to technical capacity challenges that resulted from the sophisticated encryption that ensures the security of the cards," according to the TSA's Frequently Asked Questions Web site.

Specifications for the card are available online at http://www.tsa.gov/assets/pdf/twic_reader_card_app_spec_032808.pdf.

Seeking comment from the government, this reporter was referred by the DHS media relations office to the TSA public affairs office, who redirected the call to the TWIC hotline. After 30 minutes on hold, this reporter was told by an operator to contact the DHS, who did not return a request for comment.



RAMYA SANKAR—THE TECH

MIT Steel Bridge Team members Adam Benjamin Talsma '10, left, and Quinn A. Vollmert '08, right, construct a bridge in front of the Student Center on May 5 while their teammates Jose G. Cano '09, Tracy R. Takemura '08, and Matthew A. Pires '10 look on. The team will be going to nationals on May 23 and 24 at the University of Florida.

We want you in our sheets.



join@the-tech.mit.edu

The Sloan Subject Bidding (SloanBid) System
Bidding Dates for Fall, 2008 Courses

<https://sloanbid.mit.edu>

First time logging in? Use your MIT ID as both your log in and password. Follow instructions on the site to change your password or retrieve lost passwords. Once logged in, make sure and check that your information (i.e. program of study and graduation date) is correct.

Institute-wide bidding for Sloan subjects:
 Opens 9:00 a.m., Tuesday, May 13
 Closes 5:00 p.m., Tuesday, May 20

Waitlist Round for closed Sloan subjects:
 Opens 9:00 a.m., Tuesday, July 15
 Closes 5:00 p.m., Tuesday, July 29

Section Swap Round for sectioned Sloan subjects:
 Opens 9:00 a.m., Friday, August 1
 Closes 5:00 p.m., Friday, August 8

Please contact Scott Alessandro, salessan@mit.edu, if you have questions regarding Sloan Course Bidding.

Successful bids will appear on your Registration Form on September 2 and will be posted on the bidding website as of July 15 -- write down your password to check results!

LEGAL COUNSEL

MIT students, family, employers and start-ups seeking U.S. legal counsel, campus or office consultation. Call:

James Dennis Leary, Esq.
 321-544-0012

Solution to Sudoku

from page 9

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

Solution to Crossword

from page 10

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

Mass. Considers Taxing Well-Endowed Universities

Endowment, from Page 1

"When is a nonprofit not a nonprofit because of the wealth they are acquiring?" said Representative Paul Kujawski, a Democrat from Webster and chief backer of the legislation.

"It's mind boggling that one entity not paying taxes has \$34 billion. How do you justify that?" said Kujawski, who serves on the influential House Ways and Means Committee. "When people can't afford to live. How do you justify not taxing them?"

University leaders criticized the plan as a gimmick that would backfire by hurting institutions that are pivotal to the state.

"You'd be taxing success here," said Kevin Casey, Harvard's associate vice president for government, community, and public affairs. "Over time, this would put us at a real competitive disadvantage, which would drastically hurt the Commonwealth."

Casey said it was understandable that lawmakers would search for new sources of revenue when economic times are tough. But he said the law would hurt colleges' fund-raising and financial aid initiatives.

The plan was introduced amid a national debate over whether elite colleges are hoarding their endowments. Members of Congress, including Senator Charles Grassley, Republican of Iowa, have questioned why elite universities do not spend more of their vast reserves to defray the cost of tuition.

Amid the scrutiny, some top-tier colleges have sharply expanded financial aid offerings, often replacing student loans with grants and waiving tuition for a greater number of families. At some of those schools, increases in financial aid are outpacing tuition increases.

The Massachusetts plan has also brought to the fore a more radical notion: whether certain colleges have amassed so much wealth that they no longer deserve to be tax-exempt.

In addition to Harvard, the legislation would affect Amherst College, Boston College, Boston University, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Smith College, Tufts University, Wellesley College, and Williams College.

Lawmakers estimate that by assessing a fee for assets exceeding \$1 billion, they would raise about \$1.4 billion a year, a significant influx for a state budget of approximately \$28.2 billion. Amounts up to \$1 billion would not be assessed under the plan.

The House's approval of a study last week was only a first step toward adopting a new assessment, but it indicated a political willingness to cross a previously sharp boundary. Most lawmakers predicted the measure would quickly wilt against the universities' political muscle. But after several hours of debate, it became clear that the issue had gained momentum.

Senate President Therese Murray said she supports the idea of studying the issue. Murray declined to answer questions about the proposal, but her spokesman e-mailed a statement saying: "Some of these institutions give very little back to their communities. With such large endowments, they should be doing more. We've done some research on the endowments at some universities and other large non-profits, and we will continue to look into it."

The plan has garnered support among those who believe many top-tier colleges are managed more like corporations than nonprofits and are not doing enough to reach out to low- and middle-income students and the communities around them.

"The pileup of wealth doesn't match their mission of serving the public good," said Wick Sloane, a specialist on college finances and student access who teaches at Bunker Hill Community College. "These schools have generated huge cash flows but are not doing their civic duty."

Sloane and others pointed out that private colleges receive significant government funding for research and financial aid and that their tax-free endowments, financed by tax-free donations, represent a major public subsidy.

"The Williams indoor golf nets are paid by all of us through federal tax policy," said Sloane, a Williams

graduate. "These institutions have brought this upon themselves."

College graduate. "These institutions have brought this upon themselves."

College graduate. "These institutions have brought this upon themselves."

College graduate. "These institutions have brought this upon themselves."

College graduate. "These institutions have brought this upon themselves."

other benefits such as scholarships and volunteer work.

Boston receives \$1.8 million a year from Harvard, for example, \$261,000 from BC, and \$141,000 from Northeastern. Many communities say colleges, which often own significant chunks of valuable land, rarely pay property taxes.

Richard J. Doherty, president of the Association of Independent Colleges and Universities in Massachusetts, which has lobbied against the assessment, said the plan would weaken one of the state's strongest sectors. "It's like Florida taxing oranges," he said.

Amherst College's treasurer Peter Shea said that the idea would be "unfortunate" and that the college relies on its \$1.66 billion endowment for more than one-third of its annual spending.

Other critics said the measure would result in donors essentially writing checks to the state government. "This could provoke a real backlash," said Matthew Hamill, senior vice president of the National Association of College and University Business Officers.

"When is a nonprofit not a nonprofit because of the wealth they are acquiring?"
—Paul Kujawski

College graduate. "These institutions have brought this upon themselves."

College graduate. "These institutions have brought this upon themselves."

Write code.

Mostly Python. (Some Squeak and Lua.)
No Python experience required ... as long as you can learn it quickly.

Get paid.

And have fun. I'm an MIT grad and "parallel entrepreneur" looking for a boatload of summer interns to crank out code for 3 different projects.

This summer.

Somewhat local. Live out in the suburbs to be close to work; take the commuter rail into Boston if you need more excitement on weekends.

And beyond?

I'm also looking for at least one 2008 (or earlier) grad to continue the momentum beyond the summer.

Use Croquet or similar metaverse tool to build a cutting-edge 3D environment for kids age 6-9 to learn a second language.

Other tasks include machine learning, information extraction, and general slicing & dicing of textual and numeric data to present on the Web.

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The History Faculty is pleased to call for submissions for the 2008 Bruce Mazlish Undergraduate Prize in History. We will award one prize of \$300 and two prizes of \$200 to undergraduate students for outstanding essays in history.

- Papers must be at least 10 pages in length.
- The deadline for submission is:
Friday, May 23, 2008.
- Papers written in either the fall 2007 or spring 2008 semesters are eligible.
- Submission form found on:
<http://web.mit.edu/history/>
- Submit papers to the History Office, E51-285.

If you have any questions,
please contact Professor Haimanti Roy,
haimanti@mit.edu.

Hulsizer Remembered As Kind, Intelligent

Hulsizer, from Page 1

returned to take a professorship at MIT and to direct what became the Education Research Center, which was focused on new ways of teaching science and integrating the humanities and social sciences.

A tremendously popular and inspiring professor, Hulsizer saw teaching as an essential part of being a scientist. For many years, he taught the 8.01 and 8.02 elementary physics courses required of all MIT students, where he created many lively, vivid lectures and demonstrations that brought the subject to life.

Ray F. Magliozzi '72, better known as half of Click and Clack from the National Public Radio series Car Talk, said Hulsizer was one of his favorite professors at MIT.

"I only took one course with him but he made a tremendous impression on me — he had a very gentle, non-imposing way of conveying complex concepts," Magliozzi told the MIT News Office. "I would say he gave me the confidence to tackle a few courses that I probably should have flunked."

Hulsizer's talent as a teacher sprung from his insights, deep empathy and his conviction that complex ideas can be made understandable to anyone. One student evaluation from his class read, "We ... wanted to learn because of his zeal and absolute enthusiasm for the subject. To learn from a man like him makes me feel really special. He is considerate, kind, highly intelligent and can relate to students even though he is decades older."

Hulsizer and his wife were housemasters of Ashdown House, a graduate dormitory, from 1974-85. The pair hosted a popular weekly evening of ice cream and socializing. When they stepped down as housemasters,

the space where it was held was re-named the Hulsizer room.

Hulsizer retired in 1986 after 22 years as a professor at MIT, and continued teaching at the Institute for many years after. In Chilmark, Mass., where he had a second home, he served as chairman of the Zoning Board of Appeals and of the Town Affairs Committee.

He was a fellow of the American Physics Society and a member of Sigma Xi, Phi Beta Kappa, the American Association of University Professors and the American Association of Physics Teachers. Hulsizer also served as the chairman of the MIT faculty from 1977-79.

Hulsizer's memory began to fail him several years ago. He gave up teaching when he could no longer recall scientific formulae fast enough to stay ahead of his students. He was diagnosed with Lewy Body dementia, an Alzheimer's-like disease.

He is survived by his wife of 41 years, Carol Kasen Hulsizer. His marriage to Bernice L. Hulsizer ended in divorce in 1965. He is survived by his children from his first marriage: Stephen Hulsizer and wife, Elsie, of Seattle; Ann Wymore of Jemez Springs, N.M.; Morgan Jenkins and husband, Bill Jenkins, of Fredericksburg, Va.; and Cynthia Hulsizer and husband, Bob Bernahl, of Philo, Ill. He is also survived by his stepchildren, Elizabeth Ascher and husband, Michael Yogman, of Cambridge, Mass.; Ellen Ascher of San Diego; and Steven Ascher and wife, Jeanne Jordan, of Newton, Mass; and grandchildren Adam Wymore, Sara and Robin Jenkins, Madeline and Alexandra Yogman, Jordan Ascher and Ana Maria Ascher.

A memorial service will take place July 19 in Chilmark and at MIT in the fall (date to be announced).

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Stepping Down, Abeyaratne Says His Department Is Still Growing

Abeyaratne, from Page 1

rote calculation problems. Abeyaratne said that the shift, helped by the Teaching and Learning Lab, is meant to help professors find out how well students understand the material.

Looking to the future, Abeyaratne says the department should grow by increasing the class capacity of some of its popular laboratory subjects.

Freshmen are courted by the relatively new subjects Fundamentals of Engineering Design: Explore! Earth, Sea, Space (2.00A/16.00AJ) and Toy Product Design (2.00B). The popular Toy Product Design subject can accommodate fifty students but is frequently oversubscribed, Abeyaratne said.

The resource-intensive lab subjects, along with a growing Course II enrollment (see table below), place increasing demands on the department, which needs resources to hire more staff, Abeyaratne said.

Notable among the increase in students is an increase in the number of female students in the department, Abeyaratne said. He speculates that this may relate to an increase in fe-



Rohan Abeyaratne, the Quentin Berg Professor of Mechanics, is stepping down as the head of the Mechanical Engineering Department on July 1.

male faculty, who serve as role models for female students, he said.

A final resource increase Abeyaratne said his department needed was new labs focusing on energy,

especially "micro and nanotechnology." The department was looking into energy even before the energy initiative began, he said.

Asked about the high and low points of the job, Abeyaratne expressed joy in taking part in hiring and mentoring new faculty.

By choosing to hire the right faculty, the chair can set the direction of the department, he said.

The toughest part of the job turned out to be interpersonal issues, Abeyaratne said, a challenge he wasn't entirely prepared to face. "As academics, we are not trained to deal with people as much," he said.

Having left the department what he says is in a good place, where will Abeyaratne go?

Back to teaching, he said.

Enrollment in Course II, 2000-2007

Year	Undergraduate Enrollment	Graduate Enrollment	Total
2000	292	373	665
2001	264	355	619
2002	276	360	636
2003	293	388	681
2004	347	404	751
2005	380	492	872
2006	394	468	862
2007	406	441	847

SOURCE: WEB.MIT.EDU/REGISTRAR/

Total undergraduate and graduate enrollment in Course II, as reported by the registrar in the fall of each year.

Undergraduate enrollment includes students in Mechanical Engineering (II), Mechanical Engineering (II-A), Mechanical Engineering (II-B) until 2002, and Mechanical and Ocean Engineering (II-OE) starting with 2005.

Graduate enrollment also includes students in Mechanical Engineering at Woods-Hole (II-W). Starting with 2005, it includes students in Mechanical and Ocean Engineering (II-OE), Ocean Systems Management (II-MB), Naval Construction and Engineering (II-MN), Ocean Engineering (II-MO).



ANDREA ROBLES—THE TECH

David S. Baumgartner '08 removes blocks as Professor Herbert H. Einstein looks on after the bridge designed by his team failed to support the 2000 lbs it was intended to hold. The event took place outside of student center on May 7 as part of Senior Civil and Environmental Engineering Design (1.013).

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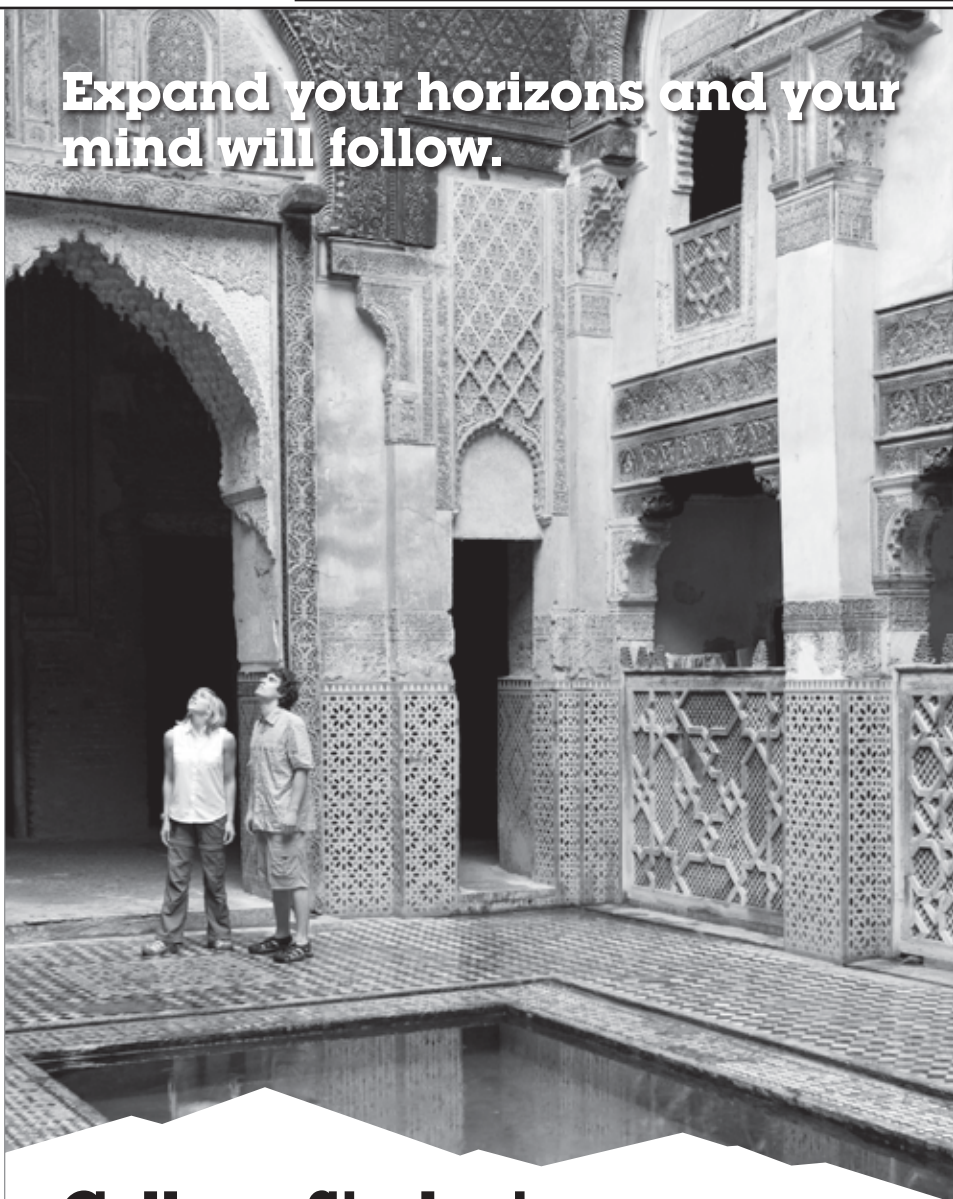
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Senior Haus Hosts Annual Steer Roast Party



MIT Senior Haus' annual weekend-long Steer Roast party started at 5 p.m. on Friday, May 2 with the lighting of the fire pit and traditional mud wrestling (featuring Haus housemasters Henry and Cynthia Jenkins) and continued until well past the bands finished playing late Saturday night.

(clockwise from below)

Crowds watch as fire extinguisher-wielding residents spray down the fire pit right after it was lit to kick off Roast.

Steer Roast 2008 Veep Erik D. Fogg '09 (right) and Hani Sallum '96 (left) pose for the cameras in their armored costumes at Roast Kickoff.

Javier M. Duarte '10 throws Cinjon T. Resnick '10 while mud wrestling at Steer Roast 2008 on May 2.

Big Bear performs at Roast on Saturday, May 3.

Neptune performs at Roast on Friday, May 2.

Photography by Eric D. Schmiedl

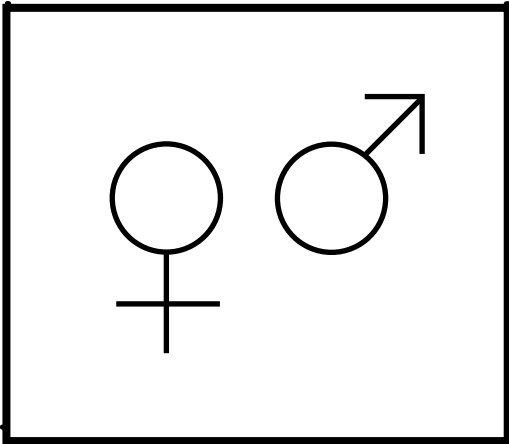


Deadline Monday May 12th midnight

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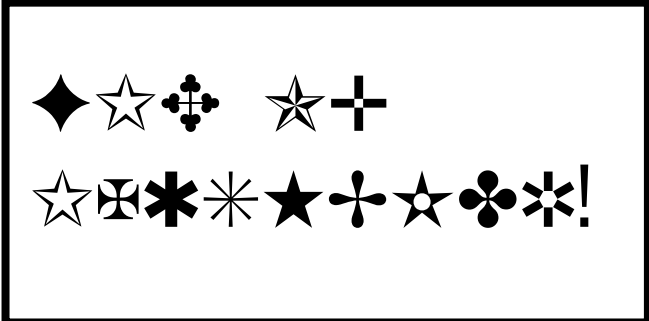
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SPORTS

Despite New Sparring Format, Sport Taekwondo Wins Nationals

By Jennifer Huang
TEAM MEMBER

The MIT Sport Taekwondo Club competed at Stanford University in the 33rd National Collegiate Taekwondo Association Championships on April 25-26. The team of 39 competitors from MIT claimed first place by a wide margin in both the Novice (color belt) and Overall Divisions. Tied for second place overall were the University of California-Los Angeles, and UC-Berkeley.

This nationwide tournament attracts some of the best collegiate athletes from all over the country. There are two competitions at the tournament: poomsae (forms, or precoreographed moves), and kyorugi (sparring). Each of these competitions are further divided into belt and weight divisions.

MIT was dominant in the Novice Division, taking first by placing a number of athletes in both forms and sparring. In poomsae, the scoring rules were very different from the usual style used in other tournaments. Changes in the ready position, stances, and breathing styles made this new style challenging, but the MIT team practiced hard and entered the arena fully prepared for the new style. Their hard work and practice paid off: MIT won ten gold, eleven silver, and three bronze medals. The blue and red belts were particularly

dominant — five of the medals were won by blue belt women, three more came from the men blue belts. All of the red belts from the MIT team placed in their respective divisions.

MIT gold medalists in color belt forms were Andrew Sugaya '11 and Sarah J. Wright '11 in the white/yellow belt division, Jing "Jenny" Cheng '11 in the green belt division, Ranbel F. Sun '10, Allan Fong G, Stephanie R. Chiang '08 and Elisabeth M. Markham '09 at the blue belt level, and Ning Wu G, Jaclyn J. Ho '09, and club president Corinna Hui '09 among the red belts. Earning silver medals were Mark J. Yen '11, Grace S. Kim '09, and Andrew A. Hsiao '10 at the white/yellow belt level, ZheChen "Mary" Hong '10 and Chensi Ouyang '08 among the green belts, Miranda J. Ha G, Vijay Umapathy '10, and Christine Chin '09 at the blue belt level, and Wenxian Hong '10, Ziyang Chu '07, and Forrest Liao G in the competitive red belt division. Taking bronze were blue belt Tylor Hess '10 and red belts Omar E. Fernández '10 and Stephanie E. Nix '09.

Sparring at the national level was also slightly different from the format with which the team is familiar. Matches had three rounds, rather than the usual two, and points were harder to score since three of the four judges needed to see each kick, rather than two of the usual three. Furthermore, kicks to the head were allowed in all divisions. Despite this

somewhat different set of rules, MIT again rose to the challenge, earning five gold medals, six silver medals, and eight bronze medals in sparring.

In the white and yellow belt division, Yen and Wright earned silver medals, and Sugaya, Hsiao, and Kim earned bronze. The MIT women's blue and green belt featherweights swept despite being in one of the larger divisions, with Ha, Han Zhu '09, and Hong placing first, second, and third respectively. Also earning medals in the green and blue belt division were Umapathy and Chiang (gold), Chin and Fong (silver), and Markham and Sun (bronze). At the red belt level, Wu and Hui earned gold medals, Liao took silver, and Ho and Nix took bronze.

For the Championship Division forms competition, the black belt competitors were divided by dan (degree) and weight class. All six MIT first-dan black belts medaled in poomsae: Richard-Duane S. Chambers '05 and Nicole D. Teague '11 both earned bronze medals, Aaron L. Sampson '10 took silver, and John T. Wong '06, Rene R. Chen '07, and Rebecca Hung '11 all took gold medals in first-dan forms for their respective weight classes.

The second day of competition at Stanford focused on black belt sparring where the MIT team placed third in the Championship (black belt) Division. Erica Y. Chan '07 and Teague won bronze medals while Alicia Zhou '06 won silver.

Men's Heavyweight Crew Holds On For First Victory Over BU in Fifteen Years

By Stephen Young
TEAM MEMBER

The men's heavyweight crew moved up in the Eastern Sprints poll after defeating Charles River rival Boston University last Sunday morning. MIT competed as a guest in the race for the Jablonic Cup between the University of Wisconsin and Boston University.

The Wisconsin Badgers, ranked third in the country, were fastest off the line and led BU and MIT by open water at the 1000 meter mark. The Badgers crossed the line in a time of 5:43.0, finishing ahead of MIT by 11.5 seconds and BU by 12.5. The battle for second was hard fought throughout the 2000 meter course, with MIT's varsity 8+ ultimately crossing the line three seats ahead of BU.

The varsity 8+, stroked by Luke Urban '09, came off the line slower than the Badgers and Terriers and

fell behind Boston University by half a boat length within the first 500 meters. The MIT heavyweights settled into their base stroke rate of 36 strokes per minute roughly 150 meters before the Terriers settled into their base rate and crossed the 1000 meter mark 2.9 seconds behind BU. Before crossing under the Harvard Bridge, which marks the halfway point of the 2000 meter race, coxswain Stephen Young '09 called a massive move in an attempt to swing the momentum of the race in MIT's favor.

The heavyweight 8+, comprised primarily of Juniors, responded well to their coxswain's call. The crew pushed past BU in the third 500 meters of the race, crossing in front of the Pierce Boathouse in a dead heat with the Terriers. Carrying their momentum into the final 500 meter sprint, MIT pushed out to a half boat length lead during the first twenty strokes of their sprint and managed to hang onto a one second lead over

BU as they drove their rating up to 38 and eventually 40 strokes per minute.

This victory marks the first time in 15 years that MIT has beaten BU in any racing situation, and the first time in over 20 years that MIT has beaten BU in a duel race. Boston University was ranked 12th in the Eastern Sprints league and 17th in the country coming into Sunday's race against MIT and Wisconsin. After the polls came out on Wednesday, MIT was ranked 14th in the Eastern Sprints league and 21st in the country.

The Engineers will compete in the Eastern Sprints Championship next weekend. If the team wants a shot at the petite finals this year, they will have to find some late season speed in order to knock off 11th place Georgetown. After racing in Worcester next weekend, the heavyweight men will finish their season at the Intercollegiate Rowing Association National Championship in Cherry Hill, NJ on June 5-7.

Sailing Team Finishes Eight as Reed, Hass, And Field Named to All New England Team

By Mike Stoller
DAPER STAFF

The MIT sailing team finished eighth out of 12 teams at the Fowle Trophy New England Intercollegiate Sailing Association Team Race Championships hosted by Brown University this past weekend. MIT finished the event with a record of 2-12, while Boston College won with a record of 16-3.

A combined 95 rounds were

raced on Saturday and Sunday as the teams were seeded into two groups of six. The top four squads in each group advanced to the first of two Gold Fleet round robins, while the final round saw six teams racing for the top spot. MIT fell short of the finals by two spots. Winds ranged from four-ten knots.

Competing for MIT were John M. "Jack" Field '08, Brooks L. Reed '09, Jacob M. Muhleman '08, Julie C. Arsenault '08, Elizabeth A. Hass '10, and Karlen E. Ruleman '09.

Also this week, three MIT sailors were named to the 2008 All New England coed sailing team. Skippers Reed and Field earned first and second team honors, respectively, while Hass was one of only two sophomores named to the crew list.

"Criteria for these awards are primarily results based, and this demonstrates what a good year they had, particularly Brooks and Ellie who are sailing partners and have put a tremendous amount of work together," said coach Matt Lindblad.

MIT is currently ranked No. 14 in the Sailing World college rankings, and qualified for the Inter-Collegiate Sailing Association North American Dinghy National Championships for the first time since 2003 this spring.

Women Place Third at New England Div. IIIs As Men Claim Second

By James Kramer
DAPER STAFF

One week after securing an unexpected team title at the New England Women's and Men's Athletic Conference Championship, the men's

track and field team finished second at the New England Division III Championship last weekend. MIT secured just enough points to keep U.S. Coast Guard Academy at bay while Williams College pulled away for first place. The women's track and field team finished third behind national powers Williams College and Amherst College.

The Engineers began the two-day competition with a tremendous effort in the 10k run, where three competitors set personal records. Joseph D. Roy-Mayhew '08 took fourth overall in a hotly contested finish with a time of 31:35.61. Christopher Wong '08 finished sixth in 31:54.31 and M. Brian Jacokes '08 grabbed seventh in 32:10.97.

In the long jump, Stephen A. Morton '10 carried over his leading performance from trials en route to a new personal best and first-place finish with a jump of 23'8". Anthony D. Teixeira '08 jumped 21'9" to finish third.

The second day began well for MIT as James R. Oleinik '09 authored a win in the shot put with a toss of 49'8.5". Meanwhile, Vladimir Sobes '11 threw 186'7" to finish fourth overall in the javelin.

The first track events yielded success for MIT as Paul D. Welle '11 finished fourth in the steeplechase (9:29.39) and Jake J. Ruzevick '09 finished seventh in the 1500-meter run with a time of 4:00.62.

In the sprint hurdles, Teixeira placed fourth with a time of 15.44 seconds, although he had set a personal best during the preliminaries after blazing to 15.10. Teammate Omari S. Stephens '08 finished sixth in the event with a time of 15.77.

After the hurdles, Stephens went back to work in the pole vault where he finished second (15'1"). Greg D. Tao '10 knocked Stephens from the top spot after winning the vault for the second straight week with a clear of 15'5" while Patrick R. Barragan '08 capped a strong event for the Engineers with a fifth-place finish.

MIT closed out the scoring in the triple jump and 5000-meter race. Mattias S. Flander '11 took fourth in the triple jump with a leap of 45'3.75" while Roy-Mayhew capped a great weekend by finishing sixth in the 5k with a time of 15:12.95.

Women Finish Third

After finishing a close third at NEWMACs a week earlier, the New England Division III championship posed a challenge for the women's track and field team. Despite poor weather conditions at the track and

field complex of the U.S. Coast Guard Academy, the Engineers closed out the championship in third with 77 points just behind national powers Williams College (111) and Amherst College (81).

Despite having fewer competitors with qualifying marks than most of the top 10 teams, MIT remained strong near the top of the results. The possibility of repeating last year's second-place team finish was still remote going into the final event, the pole vault. Quality efforts left them just short, as Emily Hwang '09 added another gold to her season after clearing 11'1.75" for the win, while Karin E. Fisher '11 finished fourth with a jump of 10'8".

The team opened well on the first evening as MIT put 13 points on the board in the 10k run. Hana L. Adaniya '08, Jennifer A. Doyle '09, and Lauren L. McCarthy '08 finished in third, fifth, and sixth, respectively. Adaniya's final time of 37:39.03 met the NCAA provisional cut.

Jacqueline M. Wentz '10 tallied MIT's first points on the track in the steeplechase. Saturday's contest found her chasing a pair of national automatic qualifiers and a meet record, and she was rewarded with a provisional national qualifying time of her own, 11:04.47, the second-fastest time in Institute history.

Two events later, Adrienne M. Bolger '09 placed fourth in a competitive 1500-meter run. With the top eight entries within six seconds, there was a bit of gamesmanship and tactics during the race: no one wanted the lead, but no one let the pace lag too much. The tightly-bunched seeded section did not start breaking up until after the bell lap. Bolger broke the line at 4:40.83, a new school record and just tenths of a second away from the NCAA provisional time.

Aline Thomas '08 covered three throwing events in two days. The senior took second in the hammer on Friday (156'3") and first in the shot put (40'1.5") on Saturday, as well as a non-scoring 13th in the discus.

Also scoring points over two days was Hazel L. Briner '11, who posted a fourth-place finish in the heptathlon with 3459 points.

In the short sprints, Margaret C. Leibovic '10 placed fifth in the 100-meter final at 12.90 seconds, and seventh in the 200-meter sprint (26.49 seconds).

The final track points came in the 4x800-meter relay, where an inspired quartet of Andrea E. Bradshaw '09, Wentz, Doyle, and Bolger ran to fourth overall after being seeded in the slow section. Passing the stick in 9:26.67, the performance was just two seconds short of the runner-up spot from the fast heat.

Senior Leanne M. Veldhuis '08 rounded out the team's stats with a 10th-place finish in the 400m hurdles in 1:06.93.

SCOREBOARD

Baseball

Monday, May 5, 2008	
MIT (18-18)	5
Suffolk University (28-10)	8
Tuesday, May 6, 2008	
MIT (18-19)	3
Fitchburg State College (12-22)	5

UPCOMING HOME EVENTS

None

"We have driven from the human heart all else but Him Who is the Desire of the world, and glory therein."
— Bahá'u'lláh (b.1817)

Provided by the MIT Bahá'í Association