



Yunus to Give 2008 Commencement Address

By **Angeline Wang**
CONTRIBUTING EDITOR

Ten thousand people are expected to attend this morning's Commencement exercises, at which a Nobel laureate will speak and about 2,300 students will receive almost 2,600 degrees.

This year's Commencement address will be delivered by Muhammad Yunus, who won the Nobel Peace Prize in 2006 for his development of microlending and for his work in alleviating global poverty.

In addition, President Susan Hockfield will address the graduates, and Institute Chaplain Robert M. Randolph will deliver the Invocation. Outgoing Graduate Student Council President Leeland B. Ekstrom will offer a salute from the graduate student body. 2008 Class President Phi T. Ho will present this year's Senior Gift, a fund that will support students working outside MIT during January's Independent

Commencement, Page 19



MICHAEL Y. MCCANNA

Jason R. Kelly G receives his doctoral hood for completing his degree in Biological Engineering at the hooding ceremony in Rockwell Cage yesterday.

Star Simpson Receives Pretrial Probation

By **Joyce Kwan**
STAFF REPORTER

Star A. Simpson '10 was sentenced Monday to one year of supervised pretrial probation on a charge of disorderly conduct. The charge stems from a Sept. 2007 incident when she was arrested at gunpoint at Logan International after airport personnel mistook a circuit board on her sweatshirt for a bomb. The incident — and MIT's public relations — incited national and local controversy.

An East Boston District Court judge sentenced Simpson to one year of supervised pretrial probation on a charge of disorderly conduct and ordered her to perform 50 hours of community service, half of which must be completed with veterans, and to publicly announce that she had made a mistake.

"I want to apologize for the results of my conduct on September 21, 2007. Although I never intended to act in a disorderly fashion, I now realize that the shirt I created caused alarm and concern at Logan Airport," Simpson said in a statement released Monday by her attorney, Thomas E. Dwyer, Jr. "I am appreciative to the Massachusetts State Police for their diligence in protecting our citizens and apologize for the expense that was caused that day."

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In Between Class, Students Blow Glass

Beneath the Infinite, Students Learn Glassblowing and Develop Community

By **Jessica Witchley**
STAFF REPORTER

On a Sunday afternoon in April, Brendon Edwards plunges a blow pipe into a furnace hot enough to burn flesh from bone. Edwards, an advanced glassblower and instructor, is trying to make a glass bulb at the end of his pipe by rolling the pipe through

the pool of clear molten glass.

When the amount of glass is just right, he swivels on his heels and cries "To your left!" as he bears down on the smooth metal tabletop — a marver — that had been directly behind him moments before.

Rolling the glowing glass ball over the marver, Edwards shapes the ball to the proportions necessary to begin the process of making a pump-

kin. Edwards is one of six Glass Lab members who together produce about four dozen pumpkins in about four hours.

According to the popular stereotype, MIT people are geeky, artistically disinclined science nerds. But the Glass Lab, where Edwards teaches, is located just below the heart of

Glass Lab, Page 12

New OLPC Laptop Will Open Like a Book, Have Two Screens

By **Nick Bushak**
NEWS EDITOR

One Laptop Per Child unveiled the next generation of its XO laptop last month. The new machine is smaller, cheaper, and will open like a book to reveal two touch-sensitive displays.

According to Nicholas P. Negroponte '66, chairman of OLPC, production of the computer is expected to start in 2010. V. Michael Bove '83, Media Lab professor and former Tech chairman, is leading technical development.

The announcement was made at an event OLPC called a Country Workshop, where lab staff talked with representatives of numerous countries and members of the press.

The laptop will have no physical keyboard. Instead, users will type on one of the displays using an on-screen keyboard. The displays themselves are being developed by Pixel Qi, a spinoff of OLPC by Mary Lou Jepsen SM '89.

The organization is also aiming for a bold price point: \$75. The current model was popularized as "the \$100 laptop" while it was in devel-

Laptop, Page 20

Counterpoint Will Become Wellesley-Only Publication

By **Michael McGraw-Herde**
EXECUTIVE EDITOR

Counterpoint, the monthly magazine which aimed to chronicle campus life at MIT and Wellesley College, will resume publication in September as a Wellesley-only publication, the publication's co-editor announced in May's issue.

"We will be temporarily abandoning the partnership that was forged 16 years ago between our two institutions of higher interest due to dwindling MIT interest and participation and, more pressingly, because our long-serving MIT co-Editor-in-Chief is graduating, with no one standing to take his place," wrote co-editor Kristina Costa, a Wellesley junior, in the May column "One is the Loneliest Number."

In the past few years, Counterpoint has had money troubles. A December 2006 column, "Welcome to our Nightmare: Why Counterpoint

Counterpoint, Page 21



DAVID DA HE—THE TECH

The Green Hall Farewell Party was hosted on Saturday, May 10 in Amherst Alley. Green Hall, which has been a women's graduate dormitory since 1983, will be converted in the fall to an undergraduate residence for members of the Kappa Alpha Theta sorority in the fall. Green Hall residents were informed of the move in January.

The Tech will publish once a month during the summer. Our next issue is on Friday, June 13.

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Could there be hope for MIT's student biodiesel project?
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ARTS
Junot Díaz, MIT professor and Pulitzer winner, is a cool guy.
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Next House Housemaster Search Delayed

The search for a new Next House housemaster will continue into the fall because this spring's search yielded only one candidate, Professor Robert C. Berwick PhD '82. Berwick will continue to be a candidate in the fall.

Residential Life Associate Marc A. Lo will serve as "interim house director" in the fall, said Peter W. Fung '09, Next House's vice president and secretary. The dormitory's current housemasters, Muriel Medard '89 and John Simmons '90, will move off-campus with their family but will officially still serve as housemasters.

Housemaster, Page 18

In Short

¶ **Steven R. Lerman '72** will become MIT's vice chancellor on July 1. He will continue as dean for graduate education.

¶ **MIT purchased four life science buildings** in Cambridge for \$90.5 million, according to the *Boston Globe*. The buildings, located at 185 Albany St., 195 Albany St., 148 Sidney St., and 149 Sidney St., contain about 150,000 square feet of space.

¶ **Economics Professor Olivier J. Blanchard PhD '77** was appointed chief economist of the International Monetary Fund, effective Sept. 1. Blanchard wrote the *Principles of Macroeconomics* (14.02) textbook *Macroeconomics*.

WORLD & NATION

Pakistan's Ruling Party Hopes to Clip Musharraf's Power

By Jane Perlez

THE NEW YORK TIMES

ISLAMABAD, PAKISTAN

In its first substantial move since taking power, the main political party in Pakistan has proposed sweeping constitutional changes designed to limit the authority of President Pervez Musharraf.

But at the same time, the proposals by the Pakistan Peoples Party, led by Asif Ali Zardari, the widower of Benazir Bhutto, validate Musharraf's dismissal last year of the chief justice of the Supreme Court and other high court judges. That is something that could lead to a new standoff with the nation's lawyers.

The leader of the lawyers' movement, Aitzaz Ahsan, who is fighting for the restoration of the dismissed chief justice, Iftikhar Muhammad Chaudhry, said he rejected the proposed constitutional amendments that applied to the judges. They would weaken the independence of the judiciary rather than strengthen it, as the Peoples Party had promised, he said.

Ahsan, who is a senior member of the Peoples Party, said the lawyers would march from different cities around the country next week and converge on the national Parliament to demand the reinstatement of the chief justice and the other judges.

Hong Kong's Tiananmen Protest Weaker This Year

By Keith Bradsher

THE NEW YORK TIMES

HONG KONG

A somewhat smaller crowd than in prior years turned out here on Wednesday evening for the annual candlelight vigil commemorating the 1989 crackdown on pro-democracy protesters in Tiananmen Square, the participation depressed by a growing reluctance among many Hong Kong residents to confront Beijing officials on human rights issues.

Enthusiasm for the coming Olympic Games in Beijing, sympathy for victims of the May 12 earthquake in Sichuan province, and growing prosperity in Hong Kong because of mainland China's economic boom have combined to weaken the city's once-vigorous protest movement.

Even Cardinal Joseph Zen Ze-kiun, the highest official of the Roman Catholic Church in China and a vociferous critic of Beijing's human rights record for many years, has moderated his tone in the past several weeks.

Zen, who is also the bishop of Hong Kong, surprised many here on Monday when, in a special Mass for earthquake victims, he praised China for its openness in handling the earthquake rescue effort.

Borders Concern Afghans' New NATO Chief

By Carlotta Gall

THE NEW YORK TIMES

KABUL, AFGHANISTAN

As the new commander of NATO forces in Afghanistan expressed fresh concern over rising activity by militants in Pakistan's tribal areas, two powerful suicide bombs killed two people and wounded several others near the Pakistani border on Wednesday.

One car bombing occurred in the eastern Afghan province of Khost and demolished a government office, killing an official and wounding eight civilians visiting the building.

The second appeared to be aimed at a Canadian military convoy in the southern province of Kandahar near the border town of Spin Boldak. Two children were wounded, one of whom later died, according to a local border official, Abdul Razzaq.

The bombings unfolded a day after a U.S. general, David D. McKiernan, assumed command of some 52,000 NATO troops in the country.

At a news briefing in Kabul, McKiernan said he shared the concerns of his predecessor, Gen. Dan K. McNeill, who is also an American, about rising militancy emanating from Pakistan's tribal areas bordering Afghanistan. He said he would be taking up the issue with Pakistan.

Clinton Ready to End Bid and Endorse Obama, Aides Say

By Adam Nagourney and Jeff Zeleny

THE NEW YORK TIMES

Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton will endorse Sen. Barack Obama on Saturday, bringing a close to her 17-month campaign for the White House, aides said. Her decision came after Democrats urged her Wednesday to leave the race and allow the party to coalesce around Obama.

Howard Wolfson, one of Clinton's chief strategists, and other aides said she would express support for Obama and party unity at an event in Washington, D.C., that day. One adviser said that Clinton would concede defeat, congratulate Obama and proclaim him the party's nominee, while pledging to do what was needed to assure his victory.

Her decision came after a day of conversations with supporters on Capitol Hill about her future now that Obama had clinched the nomination. Clinton had, in a speech after Tuesday night's primaries, suggested she wanted to wait before deciding about her future, but in conversations throughout the day Wednesday, her aides said, she was urged to step aside.

"We pledged to support her to

the end," Rep. Charles B. Rangel, D-N.Y., who has been a patron of Clinton since she first ran for the Senate, said in an interview. "Our problem is not being able to determine when the hell the end is."

Clinton's decision came as some of her most prominent supporters — including former Vice President Walter F. Mondale — announced they were now backing Obama.

"I was for Hillary — I wasn't against Obama, who I think is very talented," Mondale said. "I'm glad we made a decision, and I hope we can unite our party and move forward."

One of Clinton's aides said they were told that except for her senior advisers, there was no reason to report to work after Friday, and that they were invited to Clinton's house for a farewell celebration that afternoon. The announcement from Clinton was moved to Saturday to accommodate more supporters who wanted to attend, aides said. "Sen. Clinton will be hosting an event in Washington, D.C., to thank her supporters and express support for Sen. Obama and party unity," said Wolfson.

Obama, not even waiting for a formal concession from Clinton, an-

nounced a three-member vice presidential selection committee that will include Caroline Kennedy, who has become a close personal adviser since endorsing him four months ago.

With some Democrats promoting Clinton as Obama's No. 2, his aides said they would move slowly in the search, allowing passions from the bruising primary battles to cool.

Obama and Clinton crossed paths briefly in Washington on Wednesday, but aides said they did not linger long enough to discuss the unfinished business hanging over them. As he left the Capitol, Obama told reporters, "We're going to have a conversation in the coming weeks."

Obama appeared before the American Israel Public Affairs Committee, where, tacking to the right, he described a far tougher series of sanctions he would be willing to impose on Iran than he had outlined during the campaign. Clinton, during an earlier appearance there, moved to reassure an audience clearly nervous about Obama's views on Israeli security.

"I know that Sen. Obama will be a good friend to Israel," she said.

Scientists Say China Disregarded Warnings on Earthquake Risk

By Howard W. French

THE NEW YORK TIMES

SHANGHAI, CHINA

Chinese scientists say that even before a final accounting can be made in last month's earthquake in Sichuan Province, one thing is painfully evident: The huge death toll stems partly from a failure to heed clear warnings of a devastating earthquake in the area.

For decades, Chinese scientists say, they have known of the risk of a potentially catastrophic earthquake along the Longmenshan belt, the area where the Wenchuan earthquake struck, and repeatedly raised their concerns with government authorities. But they say preparations for a quake there were cursory at best, and building codes remained well short of the codes that have become standard in other well-known earthquake zones, including Beijing itself.

The ruling Communist Party has hailed its own vigorous response to the quake as evidence of its concern for human life, and has generally received positive reviews at home and abroad for its rescue efforts after the quake. To date, however, China's state-run news media have paid little attention to the fact that government officials apparently did little to shore up structures, limit urban growth or even conduct basic safety drills that might have reduced the death toll.

"Chinese people have a saying that you learn a fence needs mending after the sheep have run away," said Gao Jianguo, a researcher with the China Earthquake Administration, in Beijing. "In this case, people wouldn't recognize the danger until the sheep actually died. We tried to lay out the reasons beforehand, but people wouldn't listen."

One after another, Chinese ex-

perts have emphasized that they are unable to predict the timing of an event like last month's earthquake, which left about 87,000 people dead or missing. But they say that the general danger to this region has been known since at least 1933, when a major quake struck Wenchuan, and has been studied fairly intensively since the 1970s.

"The line of the middle fault is as clear as a string," said Li Yong, a geological expert at Chengdu University of Technology. "It suggests continuous and strong movement. Such a long and clear lineament should trigger a big quake. Other scientists have had similar ideas."

In July, a paper by Li and another scientist raised the likelihood of a 7.0 magnitude earthquake along the Longmenshan belt, and spoke again of the dangers there at a conference in China a month before the disaster.

WEATHER

The Days After Tomorrow

By Mike Yee

STAFF METEOROLOGIST

My fellow members of the MIT Class of 2008, I know that this Commencement ceremony fills you with a variety of emotions, including happiness, excitement, nostalgia, and uncertainty. The same thoughts and questions are running through all of our heads: Is it June already? What am I going to do with my life? Can I really make the world a better place? Will anyone actually read my thesis? I spent a lot of time writing it.

In times like these, I am reminded of a story from the annals of meteorology lore, concerning Mr. Francisco Arias Olivera, a respected television weatherman from Peru. Respected, that is, until a weak storm predicted to leave two inches of rain became a torrential downpour, dumping 19 inches of precipitation on an unsuspecting rural village. Flash floods washed away hundreds of homes, and several residents lost their lives in the storm. The death toll included the unfortunate weatherman; as legend has it, an angry mob dragged Mr. Olivera from his office and summarily lynched him.

No amount of careful calculation or expert analysis can completely predict the behavior of a chaotic system like the atmosphere, yet meteorologists continue to provide forecasts each and every day, knowing full well that the consequences of being incorrect can be quite dire indeed. The point I wish to make is that wherever your life after the Institute takes you, you must think like a forecaster: Always do what you believe to be right, because even if you're wrong, no one's going to hang you ... unless, of course, you're doing the weather.

From myself and *The Tech's* meteorology department, our deepest thanks for allowing us to predict your weather and our most heartfelt congratulations.

Extended Forecast

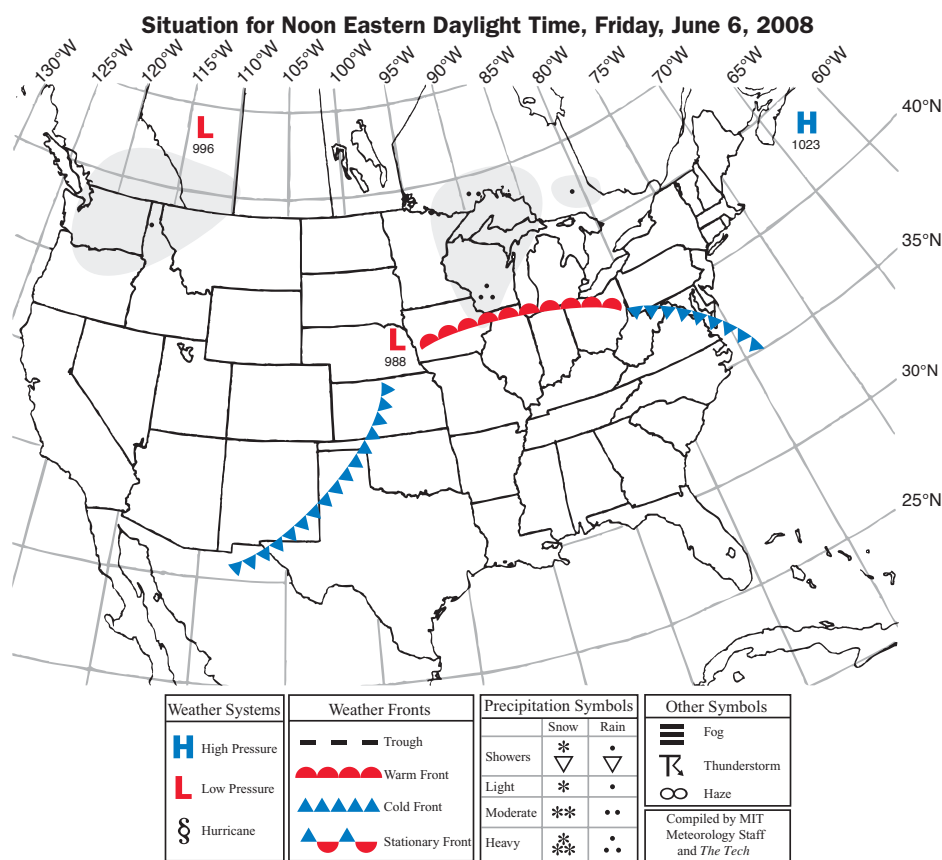
Today: Mostly cloudy, and a possibility of rain. High 73°F (23°C).

Tonight: Overcast, with variable winds. Low 66°F (19°C).

Tomorrow: Scattered thunderstorms likely. High 81°F (27°C).

Tomorrow night: Partly cloudy; goodbye MIT. Low 69°F (21°C).

Sunday: Sunny with intermittent cloud cover. High 80°F (27°C).



Zimbabwean Opposition Leader Detained by Police

By Celia W. Dugger
and Graham Bowley

THE NEW YORK TIMES

JOHANNESBURG, SOUTH AFRICA

The Zimbabwean opposition presidential candidate Morgan Tsvangirai and other party officials were detained by police while campaigning on Wednesday and were taken into custody, his party said.

Tsvangirai, who faces President Robert Mugabe in a runoff election scheduled for June 27, had been addressing political supporters in Lupane, north of Bulawayo, and was driving to Tsholotsho when his convoy of four vehicles was stopped at a roadblock in the early afternoon.

He and several other party officials were taken to a police station in Lupane, according to the opposition

party, the Movement for Democratic Change. The party's vice president, Thokozane Khupe, and chairman, Lovemore Moyop, were among those reported to be detained.

"This is bizarre," said Nelson Chamisa, a spokesman for the MDC. "It's outrageous. Who has heard of a candidate campaigning peacefully being detained?"

Tsvangirai fled his homeland days after winning the most votes in a presidential contest in March 29, choosing temporary exile because of fears he would be assassinated. He delayed his return at least once when his party received what it called credible, specific intelligence about a plot to kill him. He returned to Zimbabwe on May 24 to lead campaigning in the runoff election.

Since the first round of voting, state-sponsored violence against his supporters and party workers has intensified, as Mugabe's government, in power for 28 years, has mobilized the police, the army and thugs in what human rights groups call a systematic campaign of retribution and an attempt to destroy the opposition's support network.

In recent days, relief agencies said the government had begun to clamp down on international aid groups it accused of backing the opposition. CARE, one of the largest nonprofit groups working in the country, has been ordered by the Zimbabwean government to suspend all its operations — denying hundreds of thousands of the country's poorest people access to food and other basic humanitarian assistance.

Palestinian Leader Urges Talk With Hamas

By Isabel Kershner

THE NEW YORK TIMES

JERUSALEM

The Palestinian president, Mahmoud Abbas, called unexpectedly on Wednesday for a resumption of dialogue with the Islamic militant group Hamas, a move that could herald a breakdown of his peace talks with Israel.

In a short televised speech, Abbas, who is based in the West Bank, expressed his desire to restore national unity. Hamas took control of Gaza in June 2007.

Abbas said that if talks with Hamas succeeded, he would call for legislative and presidential elections. His term is supposed to end in January.

The Hamas takeover followed a brief but bloody factional war that ended with the routing of the Fatah forces loyal to Abbas. He subsequently fired the Hamas-led unity government, in which Fatah had participated, and appointed an alternative government in the West Bank.

Hamas has long declared its readiness for negotiations to heal the national division, but Fatah has demanded that Hamas rescind control of Gaza first. Abbas' tone on Wednesday was more neutral, and Hamas leaders in Gaza welcomed the speech.

Ahmed Youssef, an adviser to the Hamas government in Gaza, said the language was "very positive" and

opened the door for dialogue "without placing any conditions for the first time."

Saeb Erekat, a senior aide to Abbas, denied Wednesday that Fatah had dropped its demand for Hamas to "revoke its coup d'etat in Gaza." But, in an interview on Tuesday in Ramallah in the West Bank, Erekat hinted about the need for renewed dialogue. "I have a problem internally with Hamas, and it is not going to be solved by bullets," he said.

Israel only resumed peace talks with Abbas after he broke away from Hamas. Israel has had indirect contact with Hamas to explore the possibility of a temporary cease-fire in and around Gaza, so far without success.

Ex-Obama Fundraiser Is Convicted of Fraud

By Catrin Einhorn
and Susan Saulny

THE NEW YORK TIMES

CHICAGO

Antoin Rezko, a once-powerful fundraiser who helped propel the career of Sen. Barack Obama, was found guilty on Wednesday by a federal jury of 16 criminal counts, including fraud, money-laundering and bribery in an influence-peddling scheme that touched the highest levels of the administration of Gov. Rod R. Blagojevich of Illinois.

Rezko, 52, was acquitted on eight additional charges, including attempted extortion. After the verdict, he surrendered to the authorities; sentencing is Sept. 3.

While Obama's friendship with Rezko has been debated on the campaign trail, no evidence surfaced in the courtroom to suggest that Obama was involved in any wrongdoing.

In reaction to the conviction, Obama expressed disappointment and sought to make a larger point about corruption.

In a statement, Obama said that he was "saddened" by the verdict. "This isn't the Tony Rezko I knew," he said, adding that the charges against Rezko "once again shine a spotlight on the need for reform."

"I encourage the General Assembly to take whatever steps are necessary to prevent these kinds of abuses in the future," Obama said.

India and Malaysia Risk Voters Wrath by Raising Fuel Prices

By Thomas Fuller
and Heather Timmons

THE NEW YORK TIMES

BANGKOK, THAILAND

With no end in sight for high world oil prices, India and Malaysia on Wednesday became the latest Asian countries to risk the wrath of voters by raising the price of subsidized fuel. The increases are a highly unpopular measure that could further weaken both governments already made fragile by recent electoral setbacks.

The moves follow similar price increases in recent months in Indonesia, Pakistan and Sri Lanka and are a recognition by governments that they can no longer shelter their populations from the global spike in energy prices.

In India, the increase was quickly condemned by political parties from all sides. The Communist Party, allies in the coalition government, promised a week of demonstrations, including blockades of roads and trains nationwide, that were due to start Wednesday, while the main opposition party, the conservative Bharatiya Janata Party, or BJP, said its members would also take to the streets.

Raising fuel prices was the equivalent of "economic terrorism," said Rajiv Pratap Rudy, a BJP spokesman, who added that the move would drive the "last nail in the coffin for the common man." Among economists and policy makers, the decision was described as painful but necessary.

MIT Tae Kwon Do Club


Newcomer Period Begins June 9th

All Levels Welcome

No Previous Experience Necessary


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- Self Control
- Perseverance
- Indomitable Spirit



Power Theory

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Corrections

Because of an editing error, the article "Head of Mechanical Engineering Dept. Will Leave His Post in July" (Friday, May 9) implied that outgoing department chair Rohan Abaratne said he wanted to hire more energy researchers working on "micro and nanotechnology." While he said the lab should continue to increase its energy research, he has actually already hired "micro and nanotechnology" faculty experts during his tenure as department chair; he did not say that the department should hire more.

The article "With Students at the Helm, Ambulance Stands Ready" (Tuesday, May 13) incorrectly stated that MIT student EMTs can dispense Tylenol and aspirin. Student EMTs can only dispense aspirin.

The sidebar "Student Resources" (Tuesday, May 13) incorrectly implied that Nightline offers walk-in visits. While Nightline used to have a walk-in option, they currently only take calls.

A photo caption on page 1 of *The Tech's* Tuesday, April 29 issue incorrectly stated that the keynote speech at ROFLcon occurred on Saturday. The speech took place on Friday.

The article "Government Declares Some Grad Students Are 'Security Threats'" (Friday, May 9) misstated the name of an academic department at MIT. It is the Department of Earth, Atmospheric, and Planetary Sciences, not the Earth, Atmosphere, and Planetary Sciences Department.

Letters To The Editor

Offensive Ad Is Uncalled For

As one of the steering committee members of the Israel@60 week at MIT, I was perplexed and bothered by the placement of a blatantly anti-Israel ad in the Tuesday, May 13 edition of *The Tech*. The events we coordinated were designed to celebrate Israeli culture and the contributions of Israeli society with a general good will toward sections of the student demographic that may share divergent attitudes toward Israel. The week was explicitly non-political, non-propagandistic, and strictly NOT anti-Palestinian/Arab.

Despite creating a program designed to be inclusive and to open dialogue within the MIT community, we are instead rebuffed by an ad indiscriminately designed to demonize Israel and Jewish people.

It would require some pages of *The Tech* to rectify the factual misrepresentation and de-contextualizations of the claims in the ad, which my letter will not seek to accomplish. I shall suffice to note that Israeli security, history, and the status of the Occupied Territories are complex issues, on which the interested reader should seek to inform himself/herself by reading books and articles from all points of view.

With regret, I call on students responsible

for the ad to approach such political and historical issues with greater open-mindedness and sensitivity in the future.

Stephen D. Fried '09

Traffic Signals and Making a Police Officer Swear

I am writing on behalf of the Mass. Ave. crossing student body. For about two months now we have been taking our life in our hands crossing at Amherst St. I'm careful and yet have narrowly avoided being hit numerous times. In fact, late at night I have even seen a SUV full of large guys yelling at a pedestrian for being in the crosswalk.

Installing a little pair of "flappy" (rhymes with crappy) signs in the middle of the road was not sufficient, especially given the high speed of cars leaving the bridge and the volume of students crossing. (I drive too and the signs are very hard to see until too late.) Nor do I accept "construction" and "delays" as an excuse. Construction-wise Cambridge is a perpetual disaster zone — four years of yellow barrels, missing crossing lights, etc., along Mass. Ave. Temporary solutions, such as large flashing

lights or even a police crossing guard, do exist and should have been implemented. And not just at Albany street but at all the randomly failed or disconnected crossing lights along Mass. Ave. This should be someone's particular job.

On the morning of May 23, after another near miss, I approached the duty officer — who can best be described as "hanging out" with the construction crew — and asked him to step into the street and help students cross. His response was that the crosswalk was "closed" since the lights were out and no lines were painted. I pointed out that it had been this way for two months and asked him to radio for assistance. His mature response was to swear at me and then accuse me of yelling at him. Apparently, the big burly construction workers need more protection than puny pedestrians. What a perfect way to sum up Cambridge's approach to public safety! (As an aside, when I mentioned this to a foreign national colleague, his response was, it would not be in my best interest to speak to a cop that way. Telling.)

I'm willing to bet that this particular problem will be "fixed" rapidly, however Cambridge needs to significantly and immediately improve their treatment of the bipedal population, integrating them into every construction plan, not just as an afterthought when someone complains.

Nevan Clancy Hanumara G

Reinventing Student Input

Outgoing UA President Discusses This Year's Successes, Disappointments, and How the Administration Could Better Involve Students

Martin F. Holmes

MIT needs to reinvent the way it solicits and uses student input.

This past year as Undergraduate Association president, I experienced a broad mix of student victories, challenges, and disappointments. During my time in office, I gained great insight into the tremendous opportunities that we have to improve the student experience and strengthen our MIT community.

UA successes and disappointments

This year was filled with dozens of great successes. When I took office last spring, Boston Daytime SafeRide had lost a significant amount of outside funding. By gathering information, crunching numbers, gaining student support, and drafting a proposal, the UA was able to emphasize the importance of this service to senior administrators who agreed to provide the necessary additional funding.

Such success stories repeated themselves throughout the year: We drafted legislation and lobbied administrators to ensure W1, the new

undergraduate dormitory, receives a complete renovation as opposed to a short-term fix; we partnered with administrators to form the Blue Ribbon Committee on Dining; and we collaborated with administrators to allow Next House residents to participate in the housing adjustment lottery like most other dormitories. In each of these cases, strong relationships with key administrators were crucial to our success.

Though this year has seen tremendous success in many areas, there were a number of disappointments that suggest there is room for improvement. Our most frustrating concern has been with the lack of coordination in addressing the concerns we've raised about dining.

After receiving mixed signals and hearing inconsistent statements about the future of dining and the process for improving dining, the UA drafted numerous written requests to senior administrators inviting them to join us for a candid conversation to sort out our confusion. Though discussions with some administrators did alleviate some of our concerns, there was never a coordinated discussion with all the stakeholders that resolved the confusion which remains today.

In addition to the dining confusion, the infre-

quent opportunity for broad collaboration complicated a major UA initiative to align the fall Career Fair with an Institute holiday.

Student involvement in strategic decisions

As a result of these specific disappointments, and many others, there is a strong desire within the UA to better represent student interests on a broader range of issues. Strategic topics that have typically been outside the arena of student involvement, such as undergraduate enrollment, financial aid, responsible investment, deferred maintenance, and capital projects have a tremendous impact on the quality of student life at MIT.

Some of the most heated controversies on campus focus on these strategic decisions. Most prominently, the lack of student involvement in dormitory decisions has led to controversy about the transitions of both Ashdown House and Green Hall from graduate to undergraduate dormitories.

These concerns all come at a time when MIT is struggling to address issues of student support that are complicated by external influences. MIT

Holmes, Page 5

Opinion Policy

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The Graduate Student Council: A Year Ahead

Oaz Nir

It is well-known that MIT is unique in its path-shaping commitment to the pursuit of knowledge and in the translation of cutting-edge research into the practical realm. Less well-known is that MIT is unique, compared to other major universities, in having graduate students make up a significant majority of our 10,000-strong student body.

As the central representative body of more than 6,000 individuals, each with an accomplished past and a promising future, the MIT Graduate Student Council is the most powerful student group at MIT. The GSC provides essential programs and services that can earn an invaluable place in the life, learning, and development of MIT graduate students and in the tradition of MIT as an institution.

With the inauguration of its new government in early May, the GSC looks ahead to the next year with a broad vision of innovation. I would like to take this opportunity to discuss the GSC's new initiatives and explain the breadth of our activities.

Advocating for graduate students

The GSC is the voice of graduate students to the MIT administration.

By taking a data-driven approach to advocacy, the GSC identifies the needs and desires of graduate students in an objective, principled manner. In our Cost of Living Survey, we determined that most graduate students do not have access to dental insurance. In a year-long effort, the GSC has achieved a plan of basic diagnostic and preventative dental care for graduate students which will be available for subscription in the fall.

Using data from the same survey, the GSC makes the annual case for increasing graduate student stipends to match the increase in the cost of living. For the upcoming year, stipends will increase by 3.5 percent, a portion of which is intended to cover the cost of the dental plan.

In addition, the GSC consistently tackles issues of transportation, housing, rents, and fees. This year, we have worked to change the route of the Cambridge EZ Shuttle so that it provides better service for on-campus students.

The GSC's relationship with the administration is most often a collaborative one, but sometimes processes break down. In the case of NW35 as well as the conversion of Green Hall to an undergraduate dorm, the administration failed to use these agreed-upon channels to solicit student and faculty input.

To ensure that the administration uses the appropriate channels for soliciting student and faculty input and to explore the issue of student engagement more generally, the GSC and the Undergraduate Association have worked with administrators and faculty to form a new Task Force on Student Engagement, composed of

senior administrators and student and faculty leaders. It is a priority of the GSC to make this new body an effective tool for amplifying the voice of graduate students and for safeguarding against what a senior administrator recently referred to as her team's "dropped passes."

As for more specific priorities in the realm of advocacy, we will see through the implementation of the basic dental plan, and use it to collect data to make the case for more comprehensive coverage for graduate students. We will work with MIT Medical to increase the effectiveness of health care screening and support at MIT.

With the opening of NW35, the GSC will work with MIT to make sure transportation remains smooth and to explore options for a graduate dining program. At the same time, we will not lose focus on the needs of students living in Tang, Westgate, and Eastgate — particularly on the needs of married students and parents — nor on the unique needs of students living off-campus.

This year, we also look to form a strong partnership with the new Dean for Student Life and to make sure he or she understands the needs and desires of graduate students.

Providing a graduate student community

The GSC provides opportunities for intellectual and social interaction between MIT graduate students. Unlike the Institute-run undergraduate Orientation, the GSC organizes and executes its own annual graduate Orientation. Continuing graduate students are welcome at Orientation events, and interactions with incoming students helps to weave a unified fabric of graduate students.

New to this year's Graduate Orientation is a Lab Open House during which students can explore labs from neighboring departments. In addition, this year we will place a greater emphasis on connecting incoming Sloan students with students from the other Schools.

Beyond Orientation, the GSC administers the Funding Board, a source of financial support for graduate students groups on campus, and in this way promotes the development of a vibrant cultural, academic, and interest-oriented community of graduate students.

Throughout the year, the GSC puts on events that bring students together. Signature events include the Grad Gala, the Ski Trip, the Acoustic BBQ, a range of cultural outings, organized trips to sports games and excursions to various nearby attractions (F1 go-cart racing, Foxwoods casino, Six Flags, and many more).

In addition, the Muddy Charles Pub provides an environment that promotes mingling and mixing between the departments and Schools.

The GSC provides essential programs and services that can earn an invaluable place in the life, learning, and development of MIT graduate students.

A highly successful monthly series, the Two Dollar Dinners, brings students together for an inexpensive meal and the opportunity for boundary-less social interaction. This year, we will expand and adapt this program to the expanding NW Corridor.

The GSC aims to provide something for everyone, but also recognizes that different people have a different sense of what is fun. We encourage students to get involved in developing their own programming and provide financial incentive for groups to collaborate on joint events.

At the same time, a priority this year is to continue to develop ways to build graduate community. This development will take multiple forms — expanded cultural and academic events, a focus on community involvement and

volunteerism, and sustained attention to current events of social and political importance.

An area of focus for the university is increasing diversity and minority recruitment, and the GSC leadership shares this goal. We will work with the Office of the Dean for

Graduate Education to improve recruitment efforts. We will expand the scope and effectiveness of programs for education and outreach on diversity, particularly in conjunction with the Institute-wide Diversity Congress set to take place this fall.

This year, we will convene a Task Force on Alumni Relations to begin the multi-year process of developing a coordinated program of alumni relations. It is crucial to think of graduate community as involving not just current graduate students, but also graduate student alumni. This will be a unique chance to expand the ties, communications, and mentorship opportunities between students and alumni.

In addition, this year we will implement a Graduate Gift campaign (similar to a Senior Class Gift) to fundraise for a cause that directly benefits graduate students, such as the Emergency Dental Fund or graduate fellowships.

Improving support and communication

The GSC provides a range of services to support career development and decision-making.

Along with the Senior Class Council and SWE, the GSC organizes the MIT Career Fair each September. This unique event brings in hundreds of companies to MIT and is fundamental to constructing and promoting the MIT brand to industry.

Panels and workshops on academic careers are a staple of the summer months, and workshops on alternative careers are offered throughout the fall. Collaborations with the MIT Careers Office to bring in speakers throughout the year provide additional opportunities for

networking and development.

For incoming international students, the Airport Shuttle and International Mentorship Program provide basic means of support, in addition to the important services of the ISO.

For students unable to secure funding for conference travel from their advisors or departments, the GSC administers a Travel Grant program. New last year was a similar program for Athletics and Performing Arts, which boasted applications totaling an order of magnitude larger than the funds available for allocation.

Looking to the year ahead, the GSC plans to initiate several programs to provide augmented opportunities for growth and development.

A dissertation bootcamp, to be held in conjunction with the Writing Center, will help provide students a little kick to get their thesis moving and out the door.

A more substantial project on the docket for this year is to develop a single seminar calendar for all departments and centers which would unify the disparate ways that these seminars are advertised. Like the Lab Open House discussed earlier, this project serves to address the demands of a multidisciplinary MIT.

We are committed to promoting the development of graduate student leaders at MIT, not just in the GSC.

This effort has multiple goals. For one, increasing student involvement makes for a more vibrant graduate community. To this end, the GSC will work with departments that do not currently have an organized graduate student association to assess the need and potential advantages for creating such a structure.

We will also strengthen our programs that bring together current student leaders in a setting that fosters potential collaborations between groups. The whole really is greater than the sum of its parts.

The GSC also serves as a central means for communicating with the graduate student body — through the GSC Anno mailing list, the GSC Web site, and the *Graduate Student News* magazine.

Motivated by the mission of the MIT Energy Initiative and the international focus on climate change issues, the GSC also is exploring way to reduce its own carbon footprint. One way is by cutting down the printing and mailing of the GSN so that at most one issue is sent to any given apartment or office. We are exploring other opportunities to decrease our environmental impact, including ways to motivate reductions in energy consumption in graduate dorms, which would also have the net effect of lowering rents.

The strength of the GSC lies in its ability to ascertain and represent the wide range of interests of the diverse MIT graduate student body. I have tremendous enthusiasm for the year ahead. There is much that we can accomplish together.

Oaz Nir G is the GSC President for the 2008–2009 academic year.

Reinventing Student Input, Cont.

Holmes, from Page 4

continues to explore how to deal with Recording Industry Association of America lawsuits, how to balance the valuable yet risky tradition of hacking, and how to interact with the press when commenting on student behavior. Ensuring that student perspective is accurately considered in the decision-making process requires a solution on two fronts.

First, it is imperative that the student government take its responsibility to represent students seriously. If the administration cannot be confident that the student leaders are accurately representing the views of the student body, it follows that they would not engage the student government.

The responsibility to be engaged and informed cannot rest simply in the hands of the UA President, but must extend down to every Senator, every committee member, and each individual student. It is vital that UA members do a better job reaching out to their constituents and that all students be more proactive about providing feedback to the UA.

To help shift the student culture to a more representative one, the UA should be more proactive about publicity, both in *The Tech* and on the UA Web site (which desperately needs improvement). Furthermore, the UA should make every effort to coordinate with other student governments on campus, ranging from the Graduate Student Council to the Dormitory Council to the IFC to Panhel. Such a cultural shift towards a more representative and cooperative student governance will take time, but it requires a concerted effort on the part

The responsibility to be engaged and informed must extend down to every Senator, every committee member, and each individual student.

of the UA, as well as patience and involvement from the rest of the student body.

In addition to this internal reform, a second necessity that will ensure students are better represented is for the Institute to be more proactive about involving students in decision-making. While it is clear to everyone that students should not have the authority to run the Institute alone, it is also clear that the challenges our community faced this year require us to make changes.

MIT must think about how it collaborates with student government, how it involves students in strategic planning, and how it remains supportive of its student community in the face of unexpected influences from the outside. This is not an easy problem to solve.

A long-term solution has nothing to do with committees, process, or procedure. Rather, it requires a fundamental shift in administrative culture so that all members of the MIT community are aware of the importance their work has on the student body and take the initiative, regardless of any explicit regulation, to reach out to students

when an important issue emerges. As with student government, this type of cultural shift among the administration will take time, but it is vital to the success of the Institute.

The good news is that both students and administrators are committed to making these

improvements. This semester marked a major step towards achieving these difficult cultural shifts.

In an article for the March/April issue of the *Faculty Newsletter*, Chancellor Philip L. Clay PhD '75, Vice President Kirk D. Kolenbrander,

Graduate Student Council President Leeland B. Ekstrom, and I wrote about our concerns and our commitment to improving MIT by "strengthening the framework for students' role in decision-making." We charted a path forward and established the Task Force on Student Engagement.

This group has already met twice and has been charged with facilitating student-administrative communications and developing a set of principles for student involvement in Institute decision-making. I am excited to see that MIT is serious about exploring methods to strengthen our community.

How the administration can improve

In addition to the work of this task force, I would suggest the administration consider two other methods to better involve the student body and gather student input.

First, I have been thrilled with my interactions with President Susan Hockfield, but wish that there were a greater opportunity to interact with her. Everyone understands that the president's time is precious, but more regular communication between the president and student advocates could have alleviated many of the issues we've dealt with before they turned into larger ordeals. Indeed, if coordinated carefully, such meetings could be one of the best ways to provide the president with consistent feedback from the student body.

Additionally, I would encourage the administration to consider lifting what appears to be a veil of secrecy to most students. Often we are confused by how decisions get made. Regardless

of the outcome, students will always feel more comfortable with a decision if they feel like they understand the decision, their perspective was heard, and they were involved in the planning.

MIT must think about how it collaborates with student government, how it involves students in strategic planning, and how it remains supportive of its student community.

Many Institute committees operate with no student involvement. Though there are often good reasons for this, there should also be better mechanisms for bringing the student perspective to those bodies when an important student concern emerges.

Academic Council, the Enrollment Management Group, the Building Committee, and the Committee for the Review of Space Planning are only some examples of these decision-making "black boxes."

We have an incredible opportunity to start fresh next fall by bringing students, faculty, and administrators together to reshape how the Institute does business and address fundamental issues of trust that have strained our community. Paramount in all of these discussions must be candid communication and a recognition across all parties that we are in this together to serve and improve MIT.

During my time in office, I have been inspired by the commitment of all members of the MIT community to take advantage of opportunities to create a stronger Institute for the future. Reinventing student input will take time, but it is an important challenge uniquely fitting for MIT's innovative minds. I am excited to see how MIT will engineer its future.

Martin F. Holmes '08 was the president of the Undergraduate Association for the 2007–2008 academic year.

ARTS

EXHIBIT REVIEW

A Dark Trip Between TV Sets

MIT's List Center Presents a Survey Exhibition of Akerman's Work

By Praveen Rathinavelu
ARTS EDITORChantal Akerman
Moving Through Time and Space
MIT List Visual Arts Center
May 2 to July 6

The first installation in Chantal Akerman's new exhibition in the List Visual Arts Center presents an imposing blockade of television screens: placed in triptychs throughout the room, one has to weave and sidestep between the televisions to get through.

The screens depict the dissolution of the Soviet bloc through cascades of image and sound, a somber tour of Eastern European cityscapes and street corners, fragmented from Akerman's 1995 film *D'est: Au bord de la fiction* (*From the East: Bordering on Fiction*). Moving between the screens, it's difficult to avoid repeatedly coming face-to-face with the images, as the continuous drone of the street scenes follows you into every corner.

"Moving through Time and Space" is great at creating scenes like this: sparse, dark rooms that allow the abstract bits of film to transform the space, moving it to a different time, and investing us with a different emotion. But what the exhibition really does best is what its title suggests: moving through the rooms takes us to different temporal scenes, but ones that link together, playing with history and memory.

The five projects in the exhibition tackle di-

Chantal Akerman. *Women of Antwerp in November, 2007*

verse themes, that still effortlessly relate, from a meditation on race, nature, and history in the American south (*Sud*, 1999) to a depiction of illegal immigration on the Mexico-Arizona border (*From the Other Side*, 2002).

From the East: Bordering on Fiction and *From the Other Side* have similar arrange-

ments of television screens but create two entirely distinct spaces. *From the East*, with aged, relic-like television sets showing grainy depictions of Eastern Europe, feels abstract, aged, and slightly unreal. *From the Other Side*, feels insistently current, manifesting our contemporary concerns about immigration on modern

flat-screens, accompanied by the sounds of helicopters and radio transmissions.

Sud is particularly powerful in its examination of a horrific, racially-motivated act of violence. The project only presents one large screen — and also the most concrete narration in the exhibition — but watching an interview that quietly recounts an act so brutal and yet so recent, poses one of the most overpowering scenes in the exhibition. Unlike many of the other projects, the claustrophobic tension in *Sud* doesn't come from being literally surrounded by sounds and images, but from a quiet fixation that renders us incapable of focusing on anything else. Throughout *Sud* the cadence of shouts and helicopters spills in from the installations in other rooms, amplifying a kind of haunting formal unity in the exhibition.

Les Femmes d'Anvers en Novembre is the newest film presented. Contrasting with the nameless city masses of *From the East*, *Les Femmes* is a sensual and personal examination of smoking. The images often get suggestively close to women depicted smoking (and it is all women) and presents them as distinct, isolated individuals.

"Moving Through Time and Space" will be running at the List Center through July 6.

Chantal Akerman, *From the Other Side, 2002*

COURTESY OF MARIAN GOODMAN GALLERY, NEW YORK/PARIS

MAIL REVIEW

The Best of the Bin

The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly of Our Inbox

By Sarah Dupuis
ARTS EDITOR

You have no idea how much mail we get daily at *The Tech*. Seriously. If you try to guess, you'll come up short.

In the past week, the Arts mailing list alone has received slightly more than 200 e-mails. Pair this with the heavy volume of snail mail that also pours into our P.O. box on the daily and you'll understand why it's tempting to ignore the ever-growing pile of press releases, event calendars, review inquiries, and complementary media.

Part of the fun of editing for Arts is, of course, being able to request press copies of albums, books, and event tickets I badly want. But it's equally fun to stumble upon new and surprising items in my mailbox, like surprisingly brilliant upcoming CDs, misguided advice books, and hysterically embarrassing DVD releases.

Though there's no room to print each and every hidden gem that winds up on my desk in W20-483, I've (finally) cleared out the Arts inbox to present to you the weirdest, awesomest, funniest, and worst press items received this semester. Without further adieu, here's the Best of the Bin.

Most Worthless Self-Help Book
*The Automatic 2nd Date*By Victoria Michaels Rogers
Published by Howard Books

With a cute, smiling model on the cover and the promise to explain "everything to do and say to guarantee a 2nd date," Rogers' book might seem like a godsend for a bachelorette looking to increase her net of possibilities or

move into the long term with a special beau. The table of contents includes deceptively normal chapter titles like "The Art of First Impressions" and "Your Male GPS: How and Where to Meet Men," but the content is, in fact, nauseatingly similar to the creepy motivational speaker's ramble in *Donnie Darko*.

Rogers, who claims to have gotten second dates with a 98 percent success rate, is the very image of a Southern blonde, and is far more focused on self esteem from a puritan Christian perspective than real modern dating tips. "You're a doer!" she writes, "Kudos to you! Believe me, things are about to happen!"

Readers, here's a real tip for your self-esteem: Keep away from books like this, which are a waste of money, teach you nothing new, and make you look severely lame to any prospective dates.

Tastiest Promotion*Baseball As America*
Museum of Science, Boston
June 15 to Sept. 1, 2008 in Nichols Gallery

Touting the traveling show as "the most comprehensive exhibition of baseball memorabilia ever assembled," the Museum of Science probably should've mailed this press release to our sports editor, Shreyes Seshasai. Lucky for me, the curators felt this collection of uniforms, photos, and letters fit in better with Arts content, and they mailed me an invite ... and a bag of Cracker Jack! Baseball isn't my thing, but if you feed me, you've sure got my listing. Mmmmmmm.

Surprisingly Smartest CD*Phantom Planet**Raise the Dead*
Produced by Tony Berg
Fueled by Ramen
April 15, 2008

After the garage-rock brilliance of their 2004 self-titled disc, I thought for sure Phantom Planet would misstep after leaving Epic Records for Fueled by Ramen, the label responsible for such sources of my ire as Paramore, Panic! At the Disco, and Gym Class Heroes. Sure, *Raise the Dead* is poppier than its predecessor, but its conceptual lyrics and almost-orchestral arrangements make it far more beautiful and mature (even if it's not quite as fun).

The first four tracks could all easily be leading radio singles, and the last half of the disc rocks smartly. The biggest problem is the fifth track; it seems lead singer Alex Greenwald's collaboration with Mark Ronson on a cover of Radiohead's "Just" has gotten to his head, and sandwich song "Quarantine" is so derivatively Yorkeian that I had to listen to The Bends just to clean out my ears. But other than that, *Raise the Dead* is just plain good, in spite of the label responsible for it.

2 Fast, 2 Furious, 2 Unnecessary*Bachelor Party 2: The Last Temptation*
Directed by James Ryan
Written by James Ryan and Jay Longino
Starring Josh Cooke and Harland Williams

Remember the 1984 Tom Hanks comedy *Bachelor Party*? No? Neither do I, but apparently we can thank this "shocking, shameless" comedy for inspiring Hollywood gems like *Get Over It* and *How High*.

Now we have a new screen classic to add

to that list: this year's sequel, coming in 24 years later, *Bachelor Party 2: The Last Temptation*. Starring various bros I've never heard of, the film tells the story of a "happily engaged" couple that engages in "an outrageously sinful celebration that you have to see to believe!"

Yawn. Like I haven't heard that one before. Any takers on reviewing this film masterpiece? Anyone? Anyone? Bueller?

Don't Quit Your Day Job Award*Listen Act Attract: The College Guide to Attracting Women*

Ryan Clauson, a Northeastern University student, took the year off from education in order to nobly instruct college men in the fine art of wooing beautiful woman.

I'm willing to hazard that this was a poor career move.

His instructional YouTube videos and straight-outta-'97 Web site (<http://www.listen-actattract.com/>) offer two hours' worth of "the number one tool for attracting really beautiful women." Over the past few months, he has sent our office various e-mails telling me how I can learn "all the elements of face to face communication" and talk to "a girl who is clearly hot and everyone knows it."

Well. I'm a woman. Who dates a man. So. After I sent an e-mail to Clauson that only said, "Do not want," he apologized for putting us on the list by mistake. Little did I know I'd come to miss the persistent, overly-exclamatory e-mails in which Clauson promised, "I'LL LET YOU KEEP THE PROGRAM FOR FREE!!!!" Does my longing for more contact mean his program (gasp) works? Perish the thought, but check out the Web site for kicks.

INTERVIEW

In the Sandbox: An Interview With Junot Díaz

Pulitzer Prize-Winning Author Talks About Writing, Growing Up, and What It's Like to Teach at MIT

By Rosa Cao

CONTRIBUTING EDITOR

Junot Díaz is a writing professor at MIT. His new novel, published last year, won the Pulitzer Prize for fiction. *The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao* is the story of a fat Dominican “ghetto-nerd,” who loves science fiction and fantasy genre more than life, and loves women even more than genre. He’s born and raised in New Jersey, but only finds true fulfillment when he returns home to the Dominican Republic to face the demons of his family’s history.

The book took 10 years to take shape, during which time Díaz tried (and failed) to write a different novel, traveled the world, and taught writing classes at MIT. Díaz is away in Europe this semester, but agreed to an e-mail interview with *The Tech*. (There is some strong language below).

The Tech: Were you “Dominican” in the super-macho player boy sense that you describe in the novel? What do you think of that cultural standard of masculinity? What kind of man did you want to be, growing up?

Junot Díaz: I was as super-macho as my father wanted me to be. I could box, I could shoot, I could walk through my neighborhood at four in the morning and nobody said shit, I thought my mother and my sisters less than people, I was my father’s son and I’m still trying to unprogram myself, I’m still wrestling with the consequences. Masculinity is another of those wonderful myths that shape individuals and societies and that deliver catastrophic blows to both. As I kid I wanted to be the kind of man that my father would love, that would dispel all my vulnerability and fear. Didn’t happen.

TT: On the other side, were there strong women in your life?

JD: Of course. I grew up with my grandmother, my mother, her two sisters and my two sisters in the house. Now that’s a lot of women. And Díaz women are like lightning: strong, brilliant, unpredictable and could clear a goddamn room with the slightest appearance. In that respect I had a very Frank Herbert childhood.

TT: You’ve said that your father had a library in the basement that showed you that reading could be masculine. I never thought of it as special to any gender in particular — in your culture, does everything have to be either masculine or feminine?

JD: In my culture? You mean our culture? Are you trying to tell me that reading and intellectual activity isn’t feminized in the U.S.? At a cultural level? That gender doesn’t infect nearly all our thinking in this, our society? These false binaries between masculine and feminine [are] not something that I invented nor something that’s exclusively “Dominican.” I might just happen to be more aware of these things but that doesn’t mean that we’re not all in the same sandbox.

And yes, if my father hadn’t been a reader,

I doubt I would have embraced the practice so hungrily.

TT: How do the kids at MIT compare to the kids that you knew growing up or in college? Have you met anyone as nerdy as Oscar here?

JD: Shit, even nerds pick on people nerdier than them, all the while claiming not to be nerdy themselves. As for the last question: yes. Many times.

TT: There are lots of non-Hispanic immigrants at MIT — I’m thinking of Asian and South Asians in particular, who form the largest minority at MIT. Do you see their experiences as being similar to your own? Or is the cultural gap too wide?

JD: No use [generalizing] about something so stupendously complex. Always similarities and shared experiences but always gaps too. There are poor white kids and middle class black kids at MIT who had similar experiences to mine.

TT: What effect has your time at MIT had on you? Learned anything?

JD: OK, this isn’t a real question is it? Did I learn anything at MIT? How could you NOT learn something at MIT, whether you want to or not. MIT has more brains than money and ... MIT is rich as shit so go figure.

TT: Do you like teaching, or is it just a way to make a living while you write?

JD: For me teaching is not about liking or disliking. It’s something I believe in. I think it’s important for every person to teach at one stage in their life or another. The teaching-learning dynamic is like no other.

TT: I got the feeling from the footnotes that you think the typical reader will be pretty ignorant of anything about the Dominican Republic, or even the role the U.S. played in its history.

JD: Really? The footnotes, for me, were not at all about educating readers. They were about the tension between the prime voice of the main text and the under-voice of the footnotes. The footnotes were all about the question of narrative authority and also about how desperate we as people are desperate for that authority. We want things clear and rational.

TT: What about politics? Do you care? Who do you support in the U.S. presidential elections? What do you think of Obama?

JD: As for politics do I care? This isn’t a real question is it? Yes, I care.

TT: The portrait of Oscar was sort of an excruciating close-up. I felt like I could see the sweat beading up on every roll of fat. Were you ever fat? How did you manage to get inside Oscar’s heaving body?

JD: Never fat. I’ve always been super-fit, my father’s son. A runner and a weight-lifter. But loathing the flesh is not something exclusive to those who are overweight. Oscar’s fleshiness stands in for so much in my mind. Didn’t take much for me to reach out my creative hand and seize the painful human condition that our bodies inflict upon us.

TT: I’m curious about the title: What do you mean by wondrous? Full of wonders like in fantasy or sci-fi? Because Oscar’s life is not exactly wonderful at first glance.

JD: Really? How many of us get a chance to confront a global curse, to confront the darkest dictatorship in the New World, to become a mythic force?

TT: You make fun of magical realism as a sort of stereotype of Latin American writing. How did that tradition inform this book? Did you make a conscious effort to avoid it?

JD: I don’t think I make fun of MR any more than I make fun of hip hyper-realism. For the record I’ve got nothing against magical realism. It’s a narrative strategy. A tool.

Like all tools, useful in the right hands. I just don’t believe in hewing to any one strategy or one tool. To approach this world you need all strategies, all tools.

TT: I’ve heard you say that you felt like the biggest freak in the world growing up. Have you since found fellow freaks?

JD: Oh I certainly felt like a tremendous freak. But I also had the distinct impression that all my peers felt exactly the same. I feel like I’ve been surrounded by fellow freaks all my damn life. They’re called humans.

TT: Have you ever seriously considered suicide?

JD: Yes.

TT: What kind of history did your family have under the Trujillo regime? Lola [Oscar’s sister in the novel] says, “We’re a nation of 10 million Trujillos” — (or was it 8 million ... Is that how much the population has changed in between the New Yorker short story and the novel?)

JD: Just rounded up to ten million because I had no idea when I would finally finish the novel. My family had almost no contact with the most repressive structures of Trujillo regime. We were anonymous poor folks, the kind you see in crowd scenes in movies.

TT: Your father was part of the [Dominican] military. Are you curious to know exactly what he did? How much moral responsibility or guilt would you feel to know that your family was part of a basically evil system?

JD: I know what my father did during his military service. Guilt? Responsibility? I’ve a more complicated relationship with my family’s history.

TT: You mentioned in an interview with Terry Gross on Fresh Air that “it was like Fight Club” growing up. That your father thought that kids should fight, and made sure that you all did. So were you a good fighter? Did you usually win?

JD: What a sensational question. Let’s say I was the best fight there was in Central Jersey and I knocked plenty of folks out. Would that change the basic cruelty of that dynamic, the sadness of a boy trying to impress, to curry love from his father, through fighting?

TT: Did you ever experience firsthand the kind of extreme violence that you describe in the book?

JD: And this is relevant why?

TT: You held a lot of different jobs (sometimes several simultaneously) growing up and in college. Did that discipline help you work on the book despite all the slow periods?

JD: Yup, I was first a laborer before a writer. The discipline didn’t hurt. One of the reasons I get up and write three hours a day.

TT: What was your first job, and how old were you?

JD: I was a pool table deliverer and wrote about that. My first job: paperboy. Delivered 120 papers a day. I was eleven.

TT: Are you religious at all? Do you believe in fuku?

JD: I only believe in my ancestors. And in history.

TT: What kind of schools did you go to as a kid? Did they do a good job on you?

JD: Public school all the way through college. A good job? Made me realize that you could be smart as hell but since you didn’t have the label of private school or elite school no one would really fucking care.

TT: Did you consider careers other than the one you eventually took up? Like science? What do you really think about scientists and engineers anyway?

JD: I’ve always known that I’d be doing something with books. As for MIT types, hard to generalize. I seem to get along with most science types OK but that’s not the first thing I look for in friends. Justice-minded outlook, adventurousness, loyalty and a background of hard work. And you can find people like this at MIT and outside of it too.

TT: Have you been back to visit the DR? What’s it like? Are you happy with the situation there now? What would you change?

JD: I go to Santo Domingo three times a year on average. If I could change anything I would change late modern capitalism, which is the reason so many people in the Caribbean are immiserated.

TT: Could/would your current success give you any leverage to do something?

JD: Being a writer only gives you leverage at the library. Certainly doesn’t give you power to do anything else but keep writing. Writers critique power and privilege but rarely do either of these things accrue to us.

TT: What’s next? What are you working on now? Do you still need a day job, and if not, will you come back and keep teaching at MIT anyway?

JD: I’ve never needed a day job. I’m one of those people who can live off very little. I teach because a) having health insurance is awesome and b) because I think it’s important, because it’s something that I feel I still have the energy to do. I’ll be back in Fall. Unless the lottery ticket I have in my hand pans out. Then I’ll be too busy buying books to teach.

THEATER REVIEW

Still Relevant and Consistently ‘Earnest’

Lyric Stage Presents a Solid Production of Wilde’s Most Famous Comedy

By Sarah Slotznick

The Importance of Being Earnest
Lyric Stage Company of Boston
May 9 to June 7

Has Victorian humor survived the past century?

It certainly appeared to Friday, May 9 as the audience rolled with laughter on opening night of the Lyric Stage Company’s production of *The Importance of Being Earnest*.

This classic British comedy of manners by Oscar Wilde has become famous for its witty, snappy language, comedic romances, and hysterically funny characters. Yet this play is also a biting satire of British society in the 1890s and is still recognizable as such today.

The show had an excellent cast with Lewis D. Wheeler’s Algernon and Ed Hoopman’s Jack complementing each other perfectly. Both fine actors, Wheeler emphasized the lightness of Algy’s character while Hoopman balanced him with a believable earnestness.

Bobbie Steinbach added a new twist to Lady Bracknell’s famous “Handbag” scene. In it, she began shaking with horror and shock and came close to a fit during her “A handbag!?!?” line.

Steinbach departed Act 1 — her last line

forbidding her daughter “to marry into a cloak-room, and form an alliance with a parcel” — with even more force, built-up shock, and horror. Although unique, the overall effect felt like over-acting and added a sour note to the otherwise splendid scene. All was forgiven, however, in Act 3 as Steinbach closed the show with a superb performance.

Hannah Barth, who played Gwendolen, had a superb sense of comic timing, which brought the audience to the floor during the proposal scene. But she ruined it all by over-sexualizing Gwendolen’s character and overstepping the Victorian bounds of propriety as she constantly kissed Jack’s neck during the proposal. (This is especially striking because the rest of the show remained true to the period.) Although probably a directorial decision, this scene left a lasting stain on the audience’s perception of Barth’s performance, which was never completely erased by the following acts.

Jessica Grant, as Cecily, felt a little “off” compared to the rest of the company. Her acting was good enough, yet somehow she never sparkled the same way the other players did.

The technical elements of the show offset any foibles of the acting or directing. A creative set design allowed for easy transitions between the three different scenes, while still allowing

each scene to look natural.

Set Designer Brynna Bloomfield paid meticulous attention to period detail. The first act was almost entirely mauve, a fad in England at the time, with popular wallpaper designs from the 1890s. (In fact, the library for Act 3 had a William Morris wallpaper design.)

The costumes were also excellent. While being completely true to the period — the men wandered around with spats on their shoes and the women’s dresses had the mandatory bustle — the costumes went a step further in adding to the interpretation of Wilde’s play. In the final scene, Lady Bracknell, dressed in a deep purple that contrasted sharply with the light, summery outfits of the rest of the actors, storms into the country estate like a black thundercloud intent on ruining a perfect day.

As with many productions of *The Importance of Being Earnest*, the director, Spiro Veloudos, presented a period production without any major cuts or additions to the script, but his vision for the show did shine through in his elegant blocking. The couples were often placed at mirrored corners of the stage, balancing each other while creating delicious symmetry. As the actors moved around the stage in mirrored motions, the audience was reminded of the inherent location and character symmetries

in Wilde’s work.

But, at times, Veloudos’s desire to maximize the utility of the thrust stage used by the production led to unusual, and often distracting, blocking configurations. In the long dialogues between Jack and Algernon, the actors paced around the small stage, hopping up and sitting down periodically in different chairs for different views of the audience. The direction felt awkward, as the motion distracted from the vitality of the characters’ dialogue and added nothing to the scene.

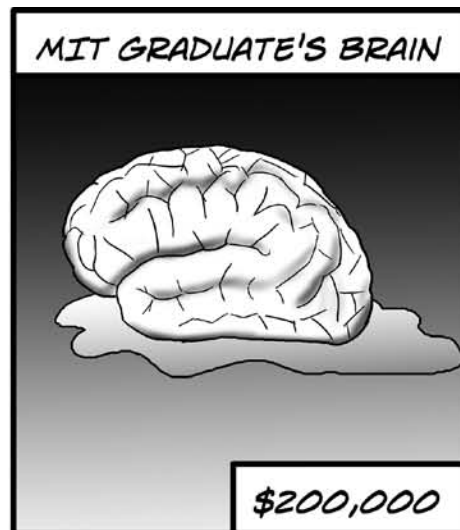
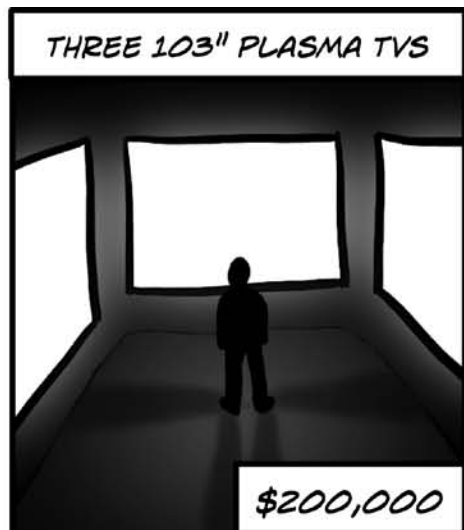
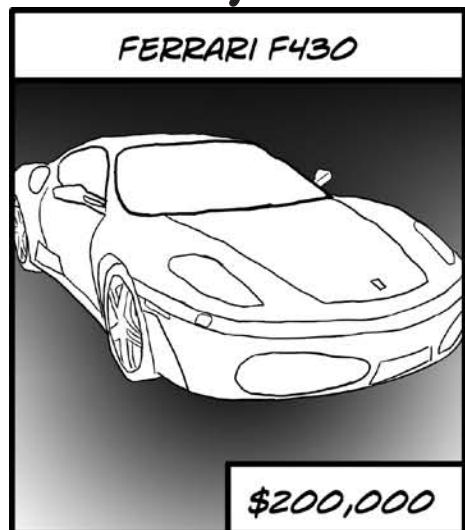
Perhaps the subtlest, but most interesting, directorial addition to the show was in the opening of the third act. Algernon and Jack entered the study nonchalantly, whistling a catchy tune, heard long before they themselves are seen entering: Gilbert and Sullivan’s “Never Mind the Why and Wherefore” from *H.M.S. Pinafore*. The song, which rebukes class rank and social standing in favor of marriages for love, adds a dimension to the marriages set at the end of the play. In *The Importance of Being Earnest*, love does not level all ranks, and the “happy” marriages are only ultimately achieved with the incentives of monetary and social gain.

The inclusion of “Never Mind the Why and Wherefore” added a clever twist to the play, and fit nicely in a production that allowed the flourishes of Wilde’s script to shine through.

“You could be smart as hell but since you didn’t have the label of private school or elite school no one would really fucking care.”

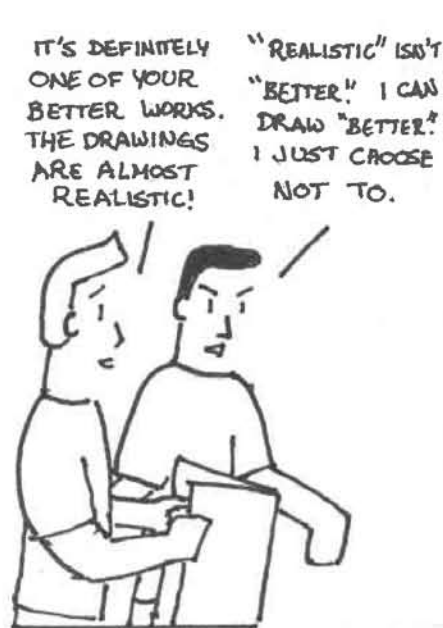
Steal My Comic

by Michael Ciuffo



Theory of Pete

by Cai GoGwilt



The Flow of Things

brought to you by Campus Life

CONGRATULATIONS CLASS OF 2008!
NOW WHAT?



su | do | ku

© Puzzles by Pappocom

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 20.

		4			8			1
9								
	6		7				3	9
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Pseudoscience by Daniel Klein-Marcuschamer

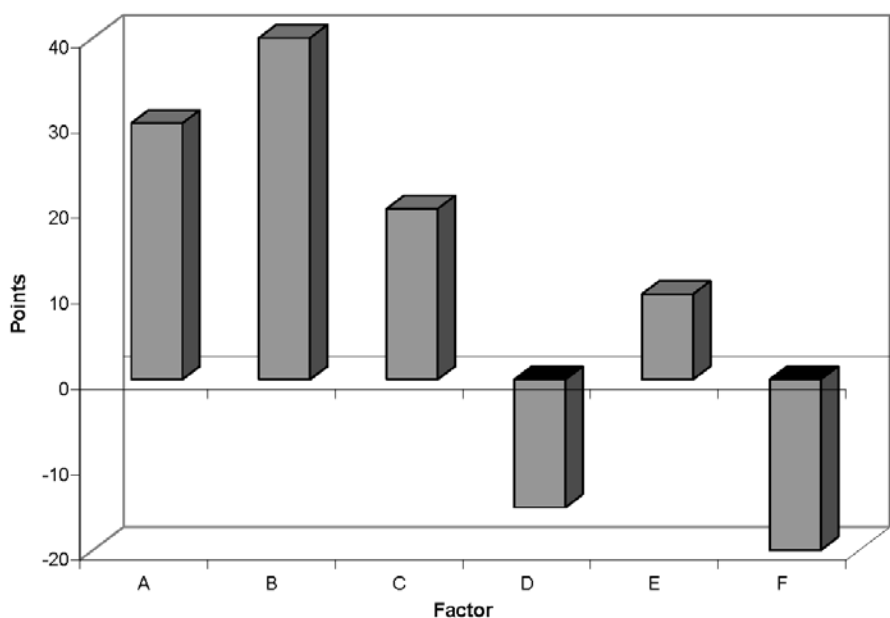
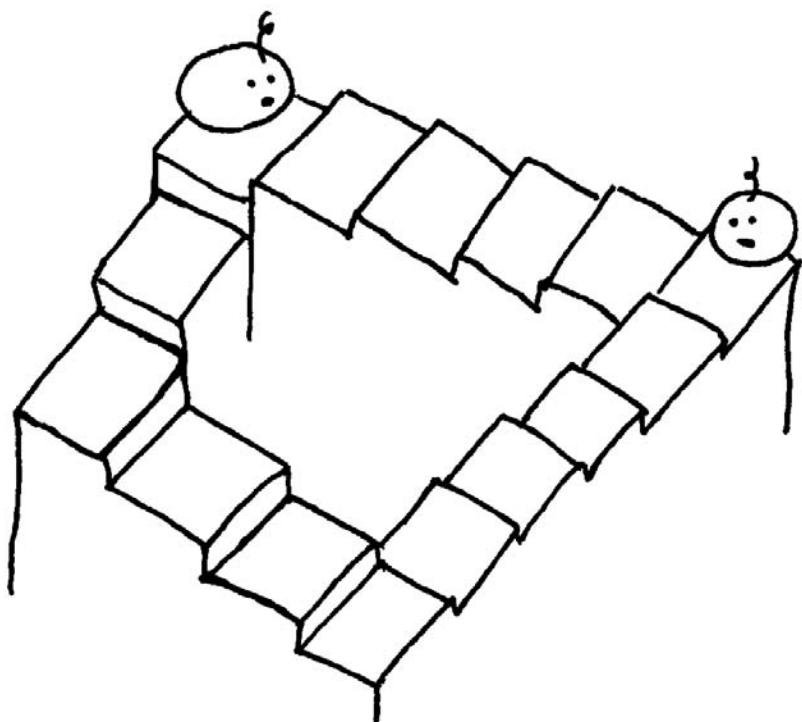


Figure 34. The figure shows the factors that make a paper more (positive points) or less (negative points) attractive for publication. The relative impact of these factors is given by the number of points. The factors shown are the following: A. The address of the corresponding author is a top-tier Institution (preferably in Massachusetts or California); B. The paper presents interesting results; C. The title has one or more words with the prefixes “bio” or “nano”; D. The editor has a competing interest; E. Presented research contradicts previous evidence; F. Presented research contradicts previous theory. Two things must be noted, first, that the results are only twice as important as the title, and second, that if one is to contradict previous work, it is much more advantageous if such work is recent.

Blobbles

by Jason Chan

Hey - does anyone know where the second floor is?



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

blobbles@mit.edu

MIT Crossword Puzzle

Solution, page 16

by Kevin Der

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14				15				16				
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51				52	53			54		55	56	57
			58			59	60					
61	62	63			64				65			
66					67				68			
69					70				71			

ACROSS

- 1 Noggin
- 5 Ale order
- 9 Baseball gloves
- 14 “___ expert, but ...”
- 15 Salon sweepings
- 16 “Tomorrow” musical
- 17 Stretched out in bed
- 18 Prefix with directional
- 19 Kind of pole
- 20 Furry and brown campus mascot
- 23 “Just Do It,” e.g.
- 24 Actress Myrna of “The Thin Man”
- 25 China’s Chairman ___
- 28 Martini ingredient
- 31 Response to someone pointing
- 33 Quantity: Abbr.
- 36 Like Napoleon on Elba
- 38 Gazillions
- 39 Kind of chain
- 41 School founded in 1861, or what’s found 13 times in the completed puzzle (up, down, across, backwards, and diagonally)
- 42 Russian currency
- 43 Partner of chocolate chips, in ice cream
- 44 Needs no further work
- 46 Broadcast
- 47 Take in
- 49 ___ Gay (W.W. II plane)

DOWN

- 1 Kung Fu-___ (alternative name for Confucius)
- 2 It might depict Building 10 or the Stata Center
- 3 “___ running out!”
- 4 Location of today’s commencement ceremonies
- 5 Genetically determined feature
- 6 Mine, in France
- 7 Peace Nobel Wiesel
- 8 Great amusement
- 9 Metal in some batteries
- 10 Nota ___
- 11 Turns up
- 12 To ___ (perfectly)
- 13 Asia’s ___ Sea

ACROSS

- 21 Osment of Spielberg’s “A.I.”
- 22 Empty space
- 25 Peach ___ (dessert)
- 26 Garlicky mayonnaise
- 27 Weasel cousin
- 29 Energies
- 30 Slur, as syllables
- 32 ___ de Cologne
- 33 Pre-frosh, say
- 34 Large pipes
- 35 Touch of color
- 37 Historic British prep school
- 40 Sault ___ Marie
- 42 Archaeologist’s find
- 44 Slanted, as type: Abbr.
- 45 Mean
- 48 Sword makers
- 50 Single-celled creature
- 53 Public square
- 55 Mathematician who introduced the natural logarithm
- 56 ___ Spalko (recent Indiana Jones villainess)
- 57 Bridge material
- 58 Toy with strings attached
- 59 Cry of someone playing tag
- 60 First-rate
- 61 HBO alternative
- 62 Copacabana city
- 63 Robot component

Tubular Puzzle

Solution, page 16

ACROSS

- 1 Oater actor Jack
- 5 D-Day town
- 9 Clamping devices
- 14 Queue
- 15 Stuff
- 16 Related on mother’s side
- 17 Kodak attachment
- 18 Keep in check
- 19 Brilliance
- 20 Start of quote
- 23 Primary color
- 24 ___ excellence
- 25 ___ d’etre
- 29 Styrene starter?
- 31 Actress Lupino
- 34 California desert town
- 35 Buddhist monk
- 36 Glitch
- 37 Part 2 of quote
- 40 Run without

DOWN

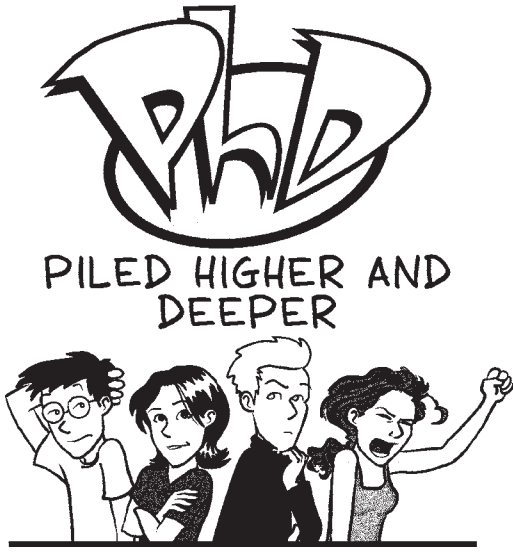
- 1 moving
- 41 Tennis champ
- 42 Lendl
- 43 Seine feeder
- 44 ___ Moines, IA
- 45 Nights before
- 46 Fondle
- 47 Raw mineral
- 48 Director Howard
- 49 End of quote and the speaker
- 50 Page or Lupone
- 51 Ye ___ Shoppe
- 52 Give the green light to
- 53 Old English county
- 54 Attack
- 55 “Show Boat” composer
- 56 Jerome
- 57 Sibilant letters
- 58 Gainsay
- 59 Punta del ___, Uruguay

DOWN

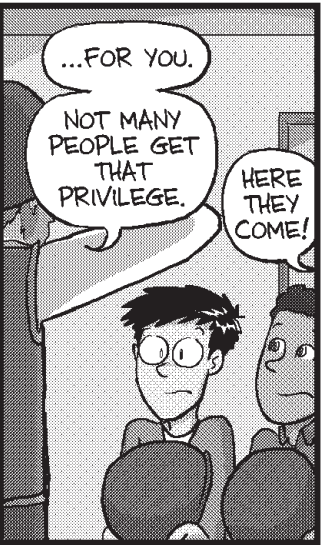
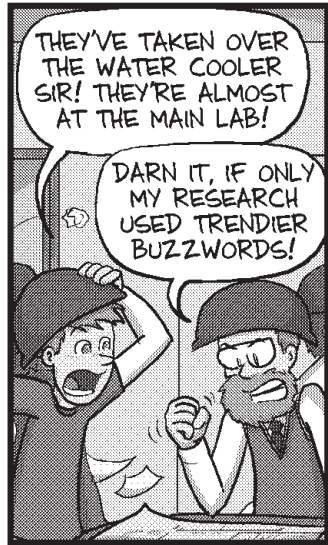
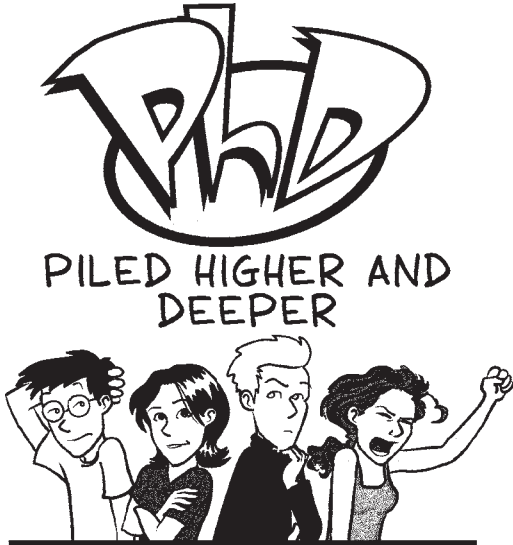
- 1 Vocalist
- 2 Fitzgerald
- 3 Made stuff up
- 4 “___ of the Thousand Days”
- 5 Bathe
- 6 Headliner
- 7 Resided
- 8 Muscat man
- 9 Pyle and Banks
- 10 “The ___ of Errors”
- 11 Bizarre
- 12 French sculptor
- 13 Basilica area
- 14 Bleacher cheers
- 15 Elisha Graves of elevators
- 16 North of Paris
- 17 Winglike parts
- 18 Bit of humor
- 19 Hawaiian guitars, briefly
- 20 Flit
- 21 Unit of force

- 22 Agouti’s kin
- 23 Warning sign
- 24 Accustom
- 25 Repairs socks
- 26 “___ of God”
- 27 Bathe
- 28 Headliner
- 29 Resided
- 30 Muscat man
- 31 Pyle and Banks
- 32 “The ___ of Errors”
- 33 Bizarre
- 34 French sculptor
- 35 Basilica area
- 36 Bleacher cheers
- 37 Elisha Graves of elevators
- 38 North of Paris
- 39 Winglike parts
- 40 Bit of humor
- 41 Hawaiian guitars, briefly
- 42 Flit
- 43 Unit of force

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57						58				59			
60						61				62			
63						64				65			



WWW.PHDCOMICS.COM



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Awesome Puzzle

Solution, page 19

ACROSS

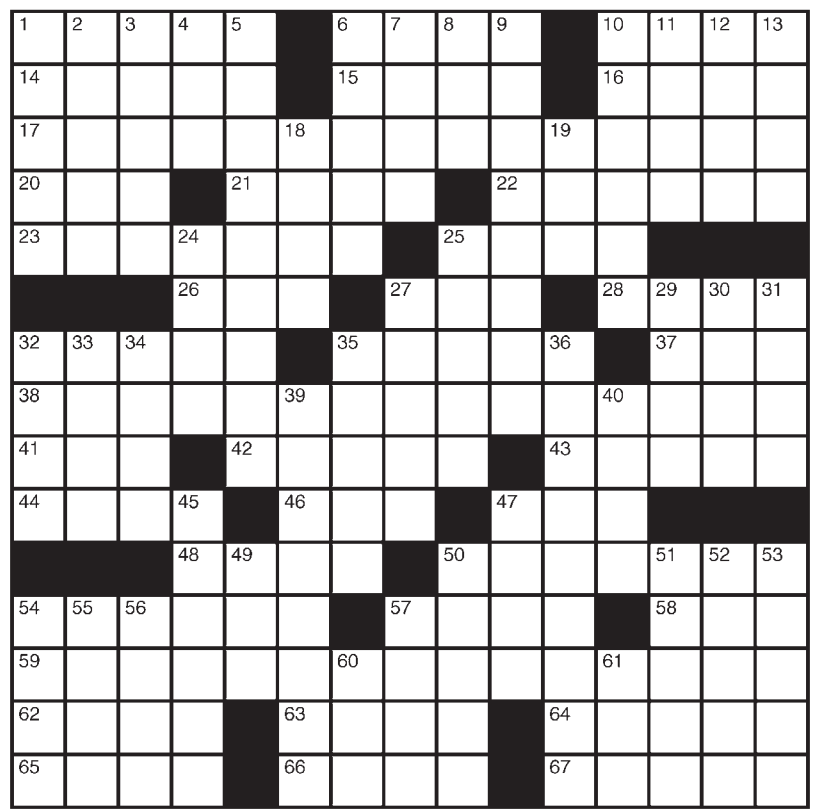
- 1 Was deserving of
- 6 Pilgrimage to Mecca
- 10 Love handles
- 14 Texas mission
- 15 Funnies pooch
- 16 Clinton attorney general
- 17 Purely platonic
- 20 Pub pint
- 21 Proceeds
- 22 Opinion pieces
- 23 Friendly relations
- 25 Gimme a break
- 26 Former queen of Spain
- 27 Jackie's O
- 28 Singer Redding
- 32 Razz
- 35 PGA great Sammy
- 37 Two-by-two vessel
- 38 Potent

- firewater
- 41 "A Bug's Life" hero
- 42 Flags
- 43 Reagan attorney general
- 44 Impulsive
- 46 Shirt tag abbr.
- 47 Charge for services
- 48 Way to store data
- 50 Blowhard
- 54 Entity's manifestation
- 57 Roughly
- 58 Cassowary cousin
- 59 Kelley Blue Book info, e.g.
- 62 Ray of "Battle Cry"
- 63 "Mickey Blue Eyes" co-star
- 64 Grand sagas
- 65 __ my lips!
- 66 Florida islands

DOWN

- 1 Indian monarch
- 2 Gene Vincent's "Be-Bop-__"
- 3 Stun gun
- 4 CPR specialist
- 5 Shucks!
- 6 Baloney!
- 7 Claps on
- 8 Peter Pan rival
- 9 Isaiah follower
- 10 California city
- 11 Diva Horne
- 12 Capp of the comics
- 13 Big cheese
- 18 Wife of Charlie Chaplin
- 19 Late starter?
- 24 Tableland
- 25 Gangs
- 27 Fed the kitty
- 29 Give's partner?
- 30 Angry states
- 31 Hebrides

- island
- 32 Ruler before Lenin
- 33 View from Catania
- 34 __ and crafts
- 35 Reduce to tatters
- 36 Hack paperback
- 39 Tchotchke
- 40 Sesame, for one
- 45 Muscle car
- 47 Closed hand
- 49 '60s war zone
- 50 Small songbirds
- 51 Misrepresent
- 52 Wild way to run?
- 53 Wild stab
- 54 Yonder
- 55 Crooner Jerry
- 56 Verdi classic
- 57 Approve
- 60 "Norma __"
- 61 Simian



Mondo Puzzle

Solution, page 19

ACROSS

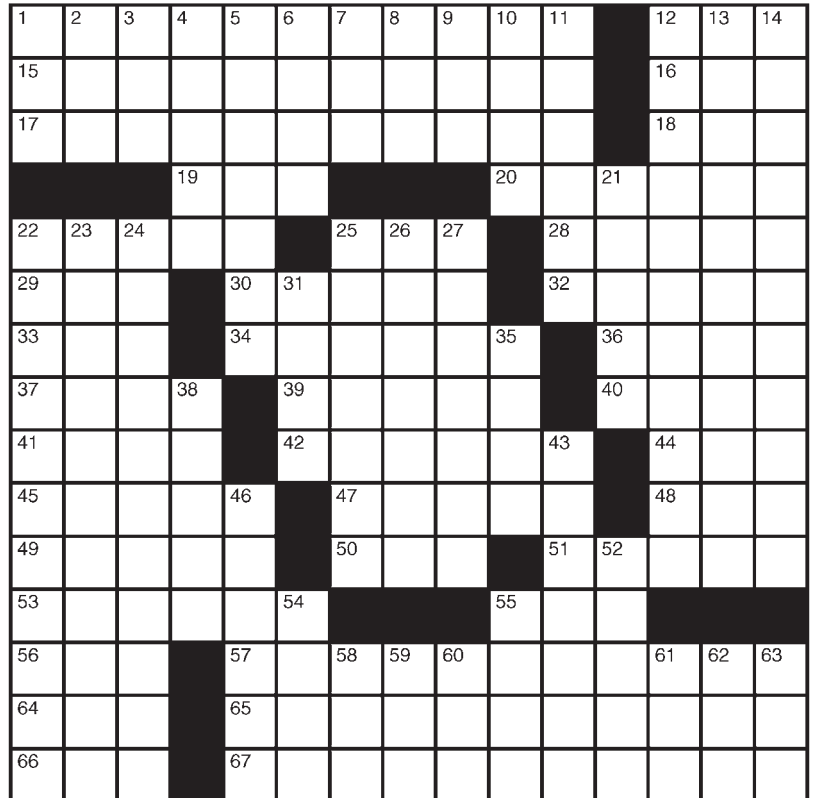
- 1 Capital of Honduras
- 12 Sedan or coupe
- 15 Active hatreds
- 16 Metal-yielding mineral
- 17 Chow chow choppers?
- 18 Hamm of soccer
- 19 Top gun
- 20 Slings mud
- 22 Uttered, old-style
- 25 Ask for alms
- 28 Blue dyes
- 29 Pause fillers
- 30 Serving dish
- 32 Ballet __ of Monte Carlo
- 33 Neg.'s opposite
- 34 Cylindrical
- 36 Very German?
- 37 Nice girlfriend?
- 39 Hissy fits
- 40 QED part

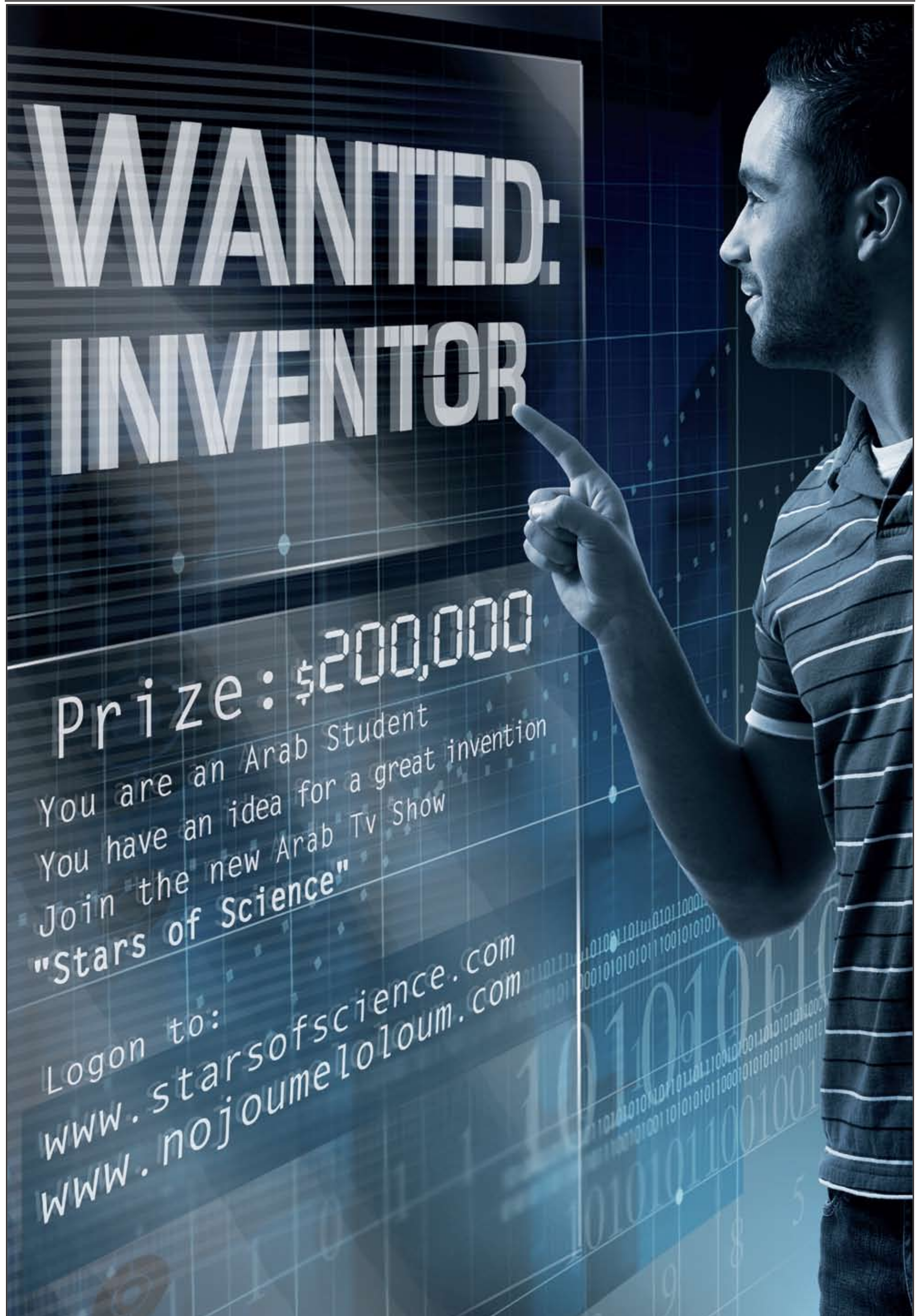
- 41 Bird-girl of "Green Mansions"
- 42 Dar es __
- 44 Jackie's O
- 45 Herb with aromatic seeds
- 47 Artifact
- 48 Excessively
- 49 Fax ancestor
- 50 Summer hrs.
- 51 Scott of "Backdraft"
- 53 Too routinized
- 55 Roh __ Wu of Korea
- 56 Halloween's mo.
- 57 Possible to refute
- 64 Classical leader?
- 65 Marine shocker
- 66 Russ. or Lith., once
- 67 Cowboy toppers

DOWN

- 1 Tic-toe tie
- 2 Former queen of Spain
- 3 Rummy game
- 4 Inuit craft
- 5 Idea
- 6 Words of realization
- 7 Beat it!
- 8 Goddess of folly
- 9 Prevarication
- 10 Cockatoos and cocker spaniels
- 11 Masonry block
- 12 Sympathize
- 13 Israeli general "Arik"
- 14 Second declaration
- 21 Currently occupied
- 22 Intervals
- 23 Solar flares
- 24 One who

- absorbs knowledge
- 25 College in New York City
- 26 French stars
- 27 Whole that is more than the sum of its parts
- 31 Defeat
- 35 Morales of "Bad Boys"
- 38 Loom bar
- 43 "Riverboat" star Darren
- 46 Oozes forth
- 52 Lixivate
- 54 Pinball error
- 55 Deere rival
- 58 Bishopric
- 59 %
- 60 Civil libs.
- 61 Arthur of "Maude"
- 62 Do-over tennis service
- 63 Golfer Ernie





For Glass Lab Director, 'Sense of Discovery' Is Key

Glass Lab, from Page 1

the Institute, in the basement of the Infinite Corridor in Building 4.

MIT's Glass Lab was first established in the early 1970s by J. Kim Vandiver PhD '75, then a graduate student and now a research dean at the Institute. The Department of Materials Science and Engineering originally used the lab for hands-on teaching. In 1986, Professor Michael J. Cima assumed control of the lab and decided to remove its classes from the Course III curriculum.

Artist Page Hazlegrove ran the lab as director from the mid-1980s until 1997, when she unexpectedly passed away. Her assistant at the time, Peter B. Houk, took over the responsibility of running the lab and is the current director.

Houk emphasizes that the sense of discovery is the best part of glass blowing. By teaching outside of the MIT curriculum, students get a pure "desire to explore the material in a hands-on way," he said in an e-mail.

The lab, currently supervised by DMSE, is completely self-sufficient, with its revenue provided by fundraisers held throughout the year.

On the Sunday afternoon in April, Edwards's "crew" is preparing for one such fundraiser: October's Great Glass Pumpkin Patch sale. More than a thousand glass-blown pumpkins will be taken to Kresge Oval and sold off one Saturday. The annual event is a big regional draw, and almost every pumpkin is claimed within the first four hours of the sale's opening. The proceeds go toward the lab's maintenance.

Making a glass pumpkin

After Edwards has made his glass ball, he returns to one of the side furnaces, also known as a "glory hole," to reheat the still glowing glass that hardened while being rolled over the marver.

Seconds later, he brings the ball back to the marver and into aluminum tins of glass shards, called "frit." Edwards rolls the clear glass through the purple and green frit.

After more reheating, rolling along the marver, and reheating, the glass is ready to enter the "optic mold." The mold's round cavity has jagged edges that will give the pumpkin ridges.

Edwards drops the glass-covered tip of his blow pipe into the mold and delivers a short, powerful burst of air through the upper end of the pipe into the inner domain of the glass

ball. The outward pressure forces the pliant glass to fit the ridges of the mold. Edwards again plunges the glass into the glory hole.

At this point, the rest of the pumpkin's shaping is transferred to the care of Michelle M. McGuire, another crew member. McGuire uses a special rubber tube to fit the end of the pipe so that she may continue to blow through it as she rolls the base of the pumpkin within the glory hole.

As the pumpkin reaches its final size, it is removed from the glory hole to be rolled along the raised side bars of one of the two benches in the lab.

McGuire uses the sharp prongs of a pair of "jacks," a tool shaped like long tweezers with a rounded top, to thin the layer of glass connecting the bottom of the pumpkin to the excess glass around the tip of the blow pipe. The rounded top of the jacks smooths some of the chunkier frit on the surface of the pumpkin.

While the finishing touches are put on the base of the pumpkin, Edwards is busy constructing the stem. An elongated version of the clear glass used for the base is rolled over the marver and then in yellow, green frit. After a quick trip to the glory hole and a dunk in a smaller optic mold, the stem is ready to be attached to the pumpkin's base.

When McGuire requests a stem, one seems to materialize at her side ready to go. She guides the stem to the top of the pumpkin using the jacks, and Edwards pulls back on his blow pipe as McGuire rolls her blow pipe to stretch the glass an appreciable distance while also twisting the ridges in the stem.

Then Edwards wraps the stretched glass around a copper pipe held by McGuire. Diamond shears are used to cut away the glass connected to Edwards's blow pipe. McGuire pulls the copper pipe through the glass coils while simultaneously spinning the blow pipe attached to her pumpkin, allowing the stem to nest prettily around the top.

A blow torch is then used to adhere the rapidly cooling coils to the base of the pumpkin. After yet another trip to the glory hole to prevent the pumpkin from cooling too rapidly and cracking, it's off to a bed of cotton, where the pumpkin nests as it is tapped from the blow pipe.

A second blow torch is used around the small opening where the pumpkin had been attached to the blow pipe to melt any sharp edges. A simple metal spoon smooths over

those sharp protrusions.

The pumpkin is quickly transferred to the annealer. It will stay there for about a day as it slowly cools to room temperature. This slow cooling helps to prevent cracking.

Not every pumpkin makes it to the sale in October. Some nearly complete pumpkins are deemed inferior and quickly sentenced to the trash bin. Glassblowers are perfectionists: Even a small crack, or too-thin walls, may doom a pumpkin.

Starting at the beginning

Each semester, about 16 students take beginner glassblowing classes at the lab. Admission is by lottery: The lecture hall 6-120, which seats about 150, is nearly filled to capacity each semester. Many joke that the Glass Lab is harder to get into than MIT.

Brendon Edwards and Katina I. Edwards, instructors of the beginner classes, start one session by demonstrating how to make a paperweight.

Like most things in the lab, the paperweight begins as a clear glass blob at the end of a blow pipe. From there, the students use their creativity to create the interior of the paperweight, which is then covered by a layer of clear glass. Further manipulations create a rounded shape. Only then is the paperweight ready to be released from the pipe.

In another session, students learn to make punties. A punty isn't much — just a small glass piece at the end of a blow pipe. But the punty is an indispensable tool for a glass blower because it can be used to transfer larger glass pieces between pipes. Proper punty proficiency will greatly reduce the scarring sustained by cups and other items that will be made in later classes.

As each student approaches the marver and begins manipulating a punty, Brendon and Katina offer suggestions: "Bend your knees more." "Tip the pipe up."

The instructors can tell the students whether their punty is good by eyeballing the glass. If a punty is not made quite right, students are expected to repeat the process until they could consistently make good punties.

Edwards then creates a glass ball for the students to practice their punty transferring ability. If a student's punty is too cool, it won't affix to Edwards's pipe, and the glass ball will drop to the floor, where it will roll away or shatter on impact with the cement.

Students who have completed the beginner class often continue at an intermediate level, where they may teach beginners and may learn from advanced students or professionals in the field. Intermediate students learn to make more sophisticated items, like bowls.

But the lab instills more than a sense of technical proficiency: For many, it creates a community, too. The lab is a "strong and lasting community of active participants," Houk said in an e-mail. At any time, about



JESSICA WITCHLEY—THE TECH

Martin L. Demaine talks to potential buyers at the Mother's Day Glass Lab sale on May 5.



JESSICA WITCHLEY—THE TECH

Kaitlyn P. Becker '09 (left) and Martin L. Demaine take a break at the Glass Lab with food and studies.

50 people affiliate themselves with the lab, about 40 students and 10 instructors.

Martin L. Demaine, an advanced glassblower who is an artist-in-residence and visiting scientist at the Computer Science and Artificial Intelligence Lab, drops by during his lunch breaks and watches beginner classes.

Kaitlyn P. Becker '09 has been

blowing glass for a few years. She hangs around the Lab, doing homework and occasionally glancing up to see what is going on over at the work benches.

For Michael L. Stern '09, a mechanical engineering student and an intermediate glassblower, one of the best parts about glass blowing is "the people."



JESSICA WITCHLEY—THE TECH

Michelle M. McGuire secures the stem of a glass pumpkin to its base using a blow torch.



JESSICA WITCHLEY—THE TECH

Brendon Edwards rolls molten glass that will become the body of a pumpkin over a metal plate called a marver.

Congratulations

Susquehanna International Group, LLP (SIG) congratulates the following students on their upcoming graduation and holds deep appreciation for the hard work and commitment they have put forth to arrive at this milestone of a day. We look forward to welcoming them as members of the SIG team.

Jarrold Boland

graduating with an MBA, is joining SIG as an Assistant Trader.

Nandan Sudarsanam

graduating with a PhD in Industrial Engineering, is joining SIG as an Assistant Trader.

SIG also welcomes the newest members of our Intern Program:

Elisabeth Markham,
studying for a Bachelor of Science in Mathematics.

Justin Schaefer,
studying for a Bachelor of Science in Management.

Congratulations to all!

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Senior Gift Challenger



Simpson Receives Pretrial Probation

Simpson, from Page 1

Simpson's arrest

On the morning of Sept. 21, 2007, Simpson wore a black hooded sweatshirt. Atop the sweatshirt was a circuit board which contained green light-emitting diodes in the shape of a star, which she had used as a "name tag" during that week's Career Fair. That morning, she traveled to Logan Airport to pick up her boyfriend.

When she approached an information booth at Logan Airport's Terminal C, an employee questioned her about the device on her sweatshirt, according to Assistant District Attorney Wayne Margolis, speaking at Simpson's Sept. 21 arraignment. She "said it was a piece of art" and "refused to answer any more questions," Margolis said. Simpson then left the building and disconnected the battery that was powering the LEDs, according to a press release provided by Suffolk County District Attorney press officer Jake Wark in September.

Outside Terminal C, Simpson was arrested at gunpoint by state troopers wielding MP5 submachine guns.

"Thankfully, because she followed instructions as was required, she ended up in a cell as opposed to the morgue," said State Police Maj. Scott Pare at a Sept. 21 press conference before Simpson's arraignment.

In a Sept. 21 press release, the MIT News Office said that "Ms. Simpson's actions were reckless and understandably created alarm at the airport." The statement ignited controversy among many at MIT who wished the Institute had not called her actions "reckless."

At the May 2008 faculty meeting, President Susan Hockfield expressed regret over the way her administration had handled the case. Hockfield was unavailable to comment for this story.

"It's really important to me to thank the MIT community," Simpson said in an e-mail to *The Tech*. "I've received a whole lot of support from many fabulous individuals within it."

Pretrial probation agreement

Simpson was originally charged with "possession of a hoax device," a charge which would require prosecutors to show she meant to scare people with her circuit board, which contained light-emitting diodes in the shape of a star. But they "determined that they could not move forward on that count and dismissed it to the disorderly [conduct] charge," according to a press release supplied by Wark.

Instead of going to trial, Simpson accepted the pretrial probation offer on Monday, June 2. If Simpson performs the community service and does not re-offend in the next year, the charge of disorderly conduct will be dropped. (Otherwise, the district attorney's press release says, "the case will be returned to the court docket for trial.") Simpson said she does not yet know what the community service will be.

According to the press release, prosecutors weighed Simpson's behavior during her trial against her lack of criminal record, her academic involvement, and her experience of arrest at gunpoint in their decision to lower the charge.

During the time between her arrest and the June 2 hearing, Simpson was banned from Massport property, including Logan Airport, and had to fly out of other New England airports. "It also meant I couldn't attend the international symposium on wearable computing, as it was held at the Hyatt at Logan Airport," Simpson said in an e-mail to *The Tech*.

It is unclear who issued the ban. Wark said the district attorney's office had not requested this restriction. Dwyer could not be reached by press time.

According to Simpson, her lawyers worked pro bono. She paid court fees.

Biodiesel Team Considers NW14 Location

The Future Is Uncertain, But Not Completely Bleak, for Alternative Fuel Program

By Valery K. Brobbey
CONTRIBUTING EDITOR

The mission may not be over after all for the Biodiesel@MIT team, which three weeks ago was prepared to abandon its two-year project in the face of insurmountably high costs.

MIT says it may have found an affordable place for the team to install its biodiesel processor, which would convert used grease from around the campus into fuel.

The team's project, first brainstormed in January 2006, received a major funding boost in March 2007 with a \$25,000 prize from the mtvU/General Electric Ecomagination Challenge. Because of administrative delays, the prize was not received for six months, and the team missed its original goal of getting a fuel processor running by the 2007 school year.

But the team faced another, harder problem: where to put the processor. Over the course of a yearlong planning phase, estimated costs for preparing a site ranged from a \$3,000 safety budget to a \$35,000 estimate from Facilities to a \$137,000 quote.

MIT's Committee for the Review of Space Planning was willing to pick up some — but not all — the cost of the required changes.

In a May 8 meeting, CRSP and Facilities told Biodiesel@MIT that the project might be feasible if the team could raise another \$20,000, facing a total cost of \$80,000. The team decided that the costs didn't justify the potential environmental and economic benefits and considered giving up the project, *The Tech* reported on May 13.

Since then, MIT has searched for

more options and has found a possible location in the Francis Bitter Magnet Lab.

"We're looking into it, to see if the space will work," said Associate Provost Lorna J. Gibson, CRSP chair.

Joseph D. Roy-Mayhew '08, the team's founder, said that the team said "nothing has been confirmed."

The team has known about the space in NW14 for years, but it "wasn't put back on the table until early May or so," Roy-Mayhew '08 said. The space is currently occupied by a graduate student in Earth, At-

mospheric and Planetary Sciences, who is expected to finish his thesis this month, Roy-Mayhew said.

If the team decides to move into the space, it won't do so before September, Roy-Mayhew said.

Gibson said that they looked at other spaces that "ended up costing too much" but are yet to get an estimate of cost of preparing the space for Biodiesel@MIT from the contractor they are working with. She said that they will get the estimate in the next few weeks. The space has to meet safety requirements and the fire code.

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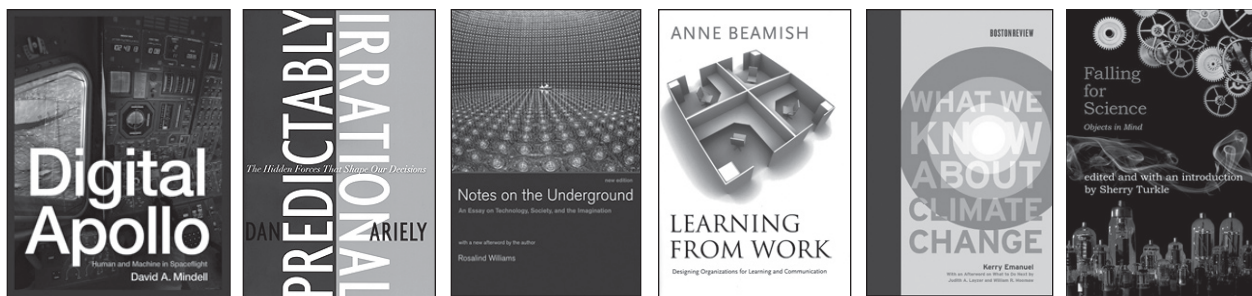
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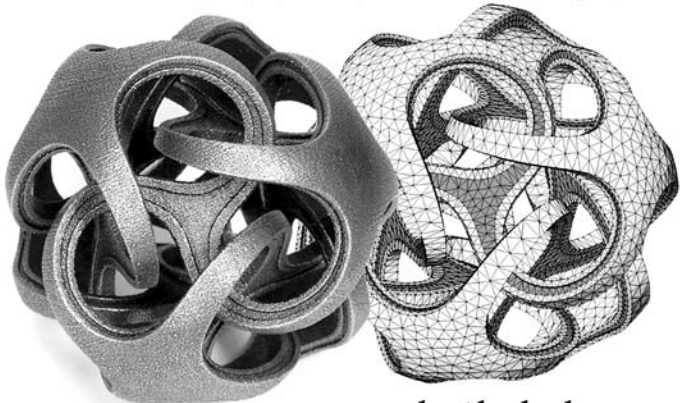
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Despite a Weak Economy, Job Situation Is OK for Graduates

By Kate Murphy
THE NEW YORK TIMES

Given that the economy is flagging, this would seem an inauspicious time to be graduating from college and looking for full-time employment.

Job prospects this year, however, have been better than career counselors and recent graduates had expected. Employers are still extending offers, just not as many as last year.

Economists said the class of 2008 has been helped by employers concerned by the impending exodus of baby boomers from the work force. But they warn that the job market is going to get tougher as the full extent of the nation's financial problems emerges, and they predict a growing inequality in access to employment between elite and lower-achieving students.

As a result of the tighter job market, applications to graduate schools and service-oriented programs abroad are expected to increase in the fall.

"Things are not good but they

aren't really bad yet either," said James Tarbox, director of career services at San Diego State University. Of the 23 campuses in the California State University system, half have had a decline in campus recruiting last semester.

Indeed, MonsterTrak, a career development and job search Web site

"It's not going to work to just post a résumé on a Web site anymore."

—Randy Miller,
CEO, ReadyMinds

based in Los Angeles, reported that 59 percent of 1,200 employers surveyed nationwide in February expected to hire 2008 graduates in the spring or summer, a drop of 17 percentage points from last year. And 29 percent said they were unsure, nearly twice as many who were undecided in 2007.

Companies in the troubled financial and housing sectors like Citigroup, Merrill Lynch, Home Depot and the home builder D. R. Horton have pulled back the most, according to college career counselors. And, of course, Bear Stearns, after its collapse, had to rescind its offers to new graduates.

Regardless, many in the class of 2008 have found employment. Preliminary surveys conducted by university and college career counselors indicate that the percentage of students who had found jobs by graduation was about the same as last year. The salaries were also comparable to last year, which, given inflation, could be interpreted as a decline.

But this year's graduates reported that they had fewer choices than the class of 2007. "They might have received one or two job offers when last year they might have gotten four or five," said Al Cotrone, director of career services and student affairs at the University of Michigan School of Business in Ann Arbor. Undergraduates, as well as graduate students, are jumping at any opportunity. "When the economy is like it is, they are accepting what they get as soon as they get it," he said.

Thomas Holstien, a 22-year-old finance major at the University of Texas at Austin, said his job search over the last several months yielded two job offers from banks in Houston. But said he was leaning toward working in Washington as a senatorial staff assistant for three to five years partly because, he said, "maybe by then the financial sector will be better off."

Experts said the aging of baby boomers was insulating recent graduates somewhat from the sluggish economy.

"Employers can't afford not to fill the pipeline," said John Challenger, chief executive of Challenger, Gray & Christmas, a recruiting and consulting firm in Chicago. In addition, some companies are laying off long-time employees and replacing them with new graduates at lower salaries. "Employers only want the cream" of the graduating class to fill these positions, he said.

Many companies, including the Walt Disney Company, McKinsey & Company and Pfizer, are offering

paid and unpaid internships to new graduates rather than full-time positions. "In uncertain times, employers are more cautious and want a known quantity before they decide to hire," said Michael Profita, director of career services at Skidmore College in Saratoga Springs, N.Y.

Sarah Rossetto, a 22-year-old communications major from San Diego State University, started a paid internship in public relations at an agency in San Diego the day after her graduation this month. "My hope is that it will lead to a permanent job," she said. "It's good experience no matter what."

Career advisers and placement agencies said that entry level, career track or management training positions were going to only the most motivated and competitive candidates who graduated at the top of their class and have, through an internship or otherwise, demonstrated their ability.

"It's not going to work to just post a résumé on a Web site anymore," said Randy Miller, chief executive of ReadyMinds, a career counseling service based in Lyndhurst, N.J. His business, in fact, has had a 15 percent increase in clients, 2008 seniors and other job seekers, since March, when the economy "really started to sink."

The graduates who are struggling to find work now typically earned degrees from less prestigious institutions and were not the top students.

"A poor economy magnifies the differences between student groups," said Lawrence Katz, a professor of economics at Harvard. "Those graduating from spectacular schools with spectacular grades will continue to do well, while those in the middle and lower end will have a much harder time finding jobs and will be offered much lower salaries."

Moreover, entry-level hiring lags behind economic conditions. "If you look at the last recession in 2001, the job market didn't fully reflect economic reality until 2002," Mr. Katz said. Indeed, career services directors at universities predicted that the class of 2009 might suffer. "We're braced for even more declines in recruiting and hiring next year," said Mr. Tarbox at San Diego State.

Some recent graduates are choosing to end their job search and further their education instead. Graduate school preparation programs like Kaplan and Princeton Review report double-digit increases in enrollment in the last few months, far outpacing the same period last year.

Other recent graduates are choosing to wait out the economic downturn by engaging in more adventurous or service-oriented pursuits. "This generation perhaps because of 9/11 wants meaningful work and experiences," said Mr. Challenger, of the outplacement consulting firm. "They aren't just in it for the money."

Travis Roe-Raymond, a 22-year-old religious studies major at Skidmore College, said he initially looked for community development jobs on the East and West Coasts but is now planning to lead bicycle tours in France for the summer before leaving for China to teach English for a year.

After that, he is unsure what he will do. "I guess the idea is to leave now and come back when the economy is better," he said. "But I'll cross that bridge when I get to it."

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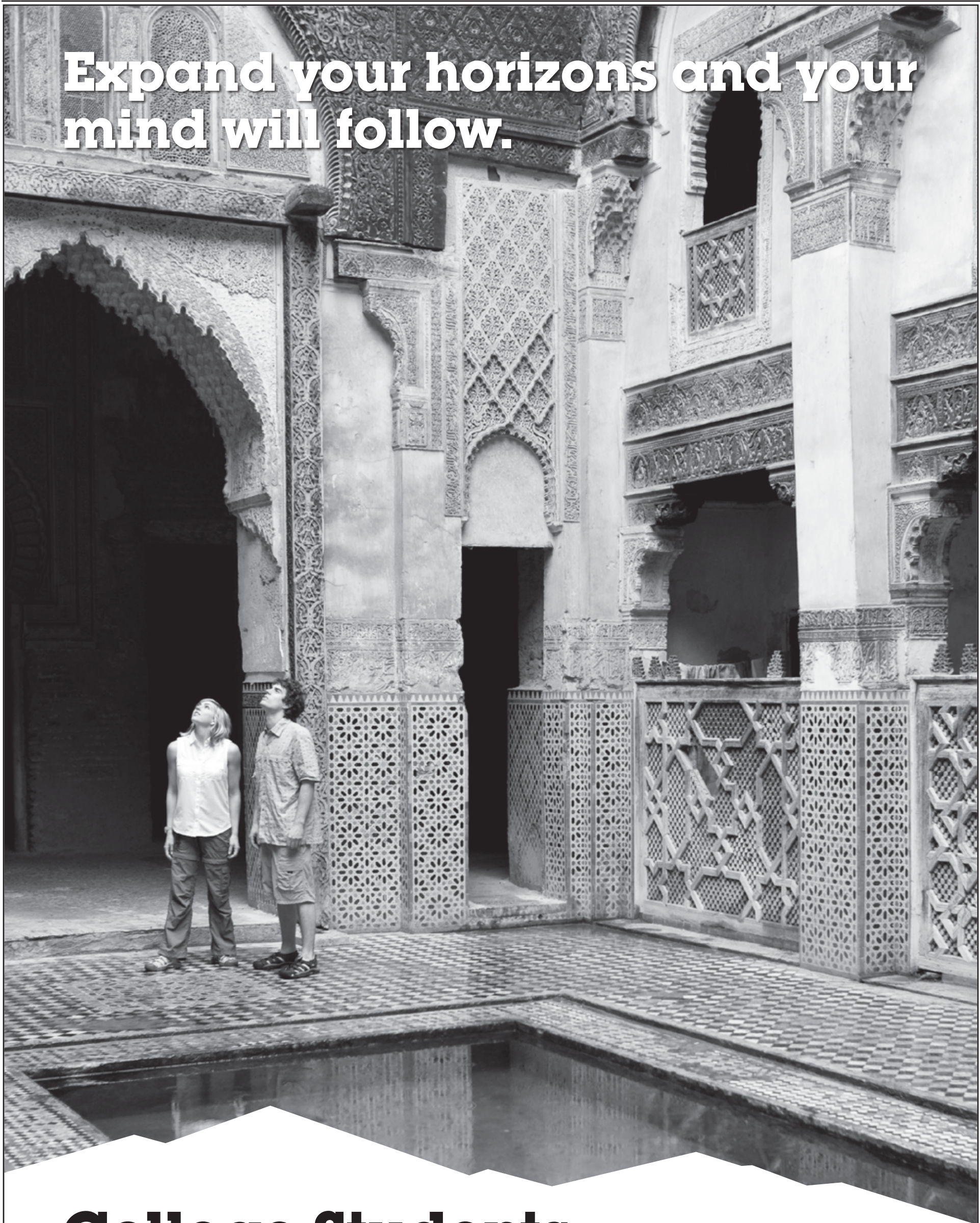
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Solution to Tubular Puzzle

from page 9

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Next House's Housemaster Search Will Continue in September

Housemaster, from Page 1

in which capacity they will "remain only an email or phone call away," Fung wrote in an e-mail to the dormitory's residents.

Medard and Simmons announced their departure in late February, saying that Next House could no longer meet their family's expanding space needs. A search committee was formed shortly thereafter. Little time was left to find a replacement since Medard and Simmons planned to leave at the end of this academic year. Some of the potential candidates the committee asked to apply declined because of the short notice, Fung said.

Berwick, the only applicant, met Next House residents at a study break and interviewed with graduate resident tutors and, separately, with student residents, Fung said.

"The search committee decided that it would be best for Next House to explore other candidates and to give other faculty members an opportunity to assess their candidacy and apply," Fung wrote in his e-mail to residents. Berwick "will continue to be a candidate when the search resumes in September," Fung wrote.

A good housemaster should provide a good fit for the dormitory's culture and should be able to communicate effectively with residents in the event of a major crisis, Fung said in an interview.

Medard and Simmons drew some criticism in October 2007, when Anna L. Tang allegedly stabbed her ex-boyfriend in his Next House room seven times, from residents who said they had learned more about the events from friends and the media than from their house managers. At the time, Medard said that she had told the residents only the facts she could verify, and that privacy concerns limited her communications. Medard told *The Tech* in February that she and Simmons focused mostly on ensuring the well-being of students who needed support: "Mostly, we just offered a haven."

The search committee is comprised of Next House undergraduates, a GRT, house manager Julie T. Gagnon, Burton-Conner housemasters Merritt Roe Smith and Bronwyn M. Mellquist, and Lo, Next House's RLA.

—Michael McGraw-Herdeg



Ritchie D. Nicholson '11 holds his team's project during the 16.00 (Introduction to Aerospace and Design) class flyoff for lighter-than-air vehicles at Johnson Athletics Center on Friday, May 13.

STEVE HOWLAND—THE TECH

Police Log

The following incidents were reported to the MIT Police between April 4, 2008 and June 3, 2008. This summary does not include incidents such as false alarms, general service calls, or medical shuttles.

- April 4:** M16 (21 Rear Ames St.), 11:39 a.m., Breaking and entering; larceny of space models. M36 (50 Vassar St.), 12:09 p.m., Larceny of parts from mobility scooter.
- April 5:** E51 (70 Memorial Dr.), 10:04 a.m., Malicious damage to motor vehicle.
- April 8:** M32 (32 Vassar St.), 1:12 p.m., Larceny of iPod.
- April 9:** 3 Cambridge Center, 1:37 p.m., Breaking and entering; BlackBerry stolen.
- April 10:** W89 (291 Vassar St.), 9:37 a.m., Report of past indecent assault and battery at on-campus living group.
- April 11:** E38 (292 Main St.), 11:57 a.m., Larceny of wallet. W89 (291 Vassar St.), 1:16 p.m., Larceny of wallet. E25 (45 Carleton St.), 8:54 p.m., Breaking and entering; lab equipment stolen.
- April 12:** W84 (550 Memorial Dr.), 12:30 a.m., Assault; Woman reported assault by person known to her.
- April 15:** E34 (42 Carleton St.), 10:23 a.m., Larceny; of construction material stolen. M13 (150 Rear Massachusetts Ave.), 2:09 p.m., Larceny of bike. M26 (60 Vassar St.), Larceny of bike.
- April 16:** Hayward Lot, 6:06 p.m., Larceny of hubcaps.
- April 17:** E52 (50 Memorial Dr.), 2:03 p.m., Larceny of cell phone. NE25 (5 Cambridge Ctr.), 5:01 p.m., Individual reports he was assaulted on CambridgeSide Galleria bus; Cambridge Police arrest six individuals.
- April 18:** W85 (550 Memorial Dr.), 3:35 p.m., Larceny of bike.
- April 20:** Alpha Epsilon Pi (155 Bay State Rd.), 11:20 a.m., Malicious destruction; Phone wires damaged.
- April 22:** NW30 (224 Albany St.), 11:28 a.m., Fraudulent use of credit card. M3 (33 Massachusetts Ave.), 5:47 p.m., Malicious destruction; vending machine damaged. M34 (50 Vassar St.), 8:11 p.m., Report of fight; David Moro of 14 Thorndike St., Somerville, Mass., and Nicole Estell, homeless, arrested for domestic assault and battery. E52 (50 Memorial Dr.), 10:12 p.m., Laptop computer stolen.
- April 23:** E23 (25 Carleton St.), 4:41 p.m., Report of past assault and battery.
- April 24:** N42 (211 Massachusetts Ave.), Attempted break in. E52 (50 Memorial Dr.), 12:42 a.m., Larceny of cell phone.
- April 25:** M10 (122 Memorial Dr.), 9:05 a.m., Breaking and entering; computer monitor stolen. M54 (21 Rear Ames St.), 11:43 a.m., Larceny of bike. M6 (182 Memorial Dr.), 1:47 p.m., Report of harassing e-mails and phone calls.
- April 26:** W89 (291 Vassar St.), 7:57 p.m., Larceny of bike.
- April 27:** M12 (60 Rear Vassar St.), 8:52 p.m., Malicious damage to sink.
- April 28:** M14 (16 Memorial Dr.), 11:36 a.m., Reporting person noticed suspect, approximately 45 years old, in gray sweatshirt and dark pants, fleeing from office. Reporting person then noticed wallet was missing. M13 (291 Vassar St.), 3:27 p.m., Laptop stolen. W89 (291 Vassar St.), 6:09 p.m., Fraudulent use of credit card. N42 (211 Massachusetts Ave.), 10:27 a.m., Breaking and entering; package stolen from mail room. E52 (50 Memorial Dr.), 4:14 p.m., Larceny of bike. W20 (84 Massachusetts Ave.), 11:56 p.m., Rafael Teixeira of 35 Williams St., Medford, Mass., arrested, given outstanding warrant. M56 (21 Rear Ames St.), 11:31 a.m., Larceny of cell phone. M2 (182 Memorial Dr.), Report of bike stolen from Hayden Library rack. M26 (60 Rear Vassar St.), 5:35 p.m., Report of bike stolen.
- May 1:** M56 (21 Rear Ames St.), 11:31 a.m., Larceny of cell phone. M2 (182 Memorial Dr.), Report of bike stolen from Hayden Library rack. M26 (60 Rear Vassar St.), 5:35 p.m., Report of bike stolen.
- May 2:** M26 (60 Rear Vassar St.), 5:30 p.m., Report of bike stolen.
- May 3:** E52 (50 Memorial Dr.), 2:56 p.m., Report of bike stolen.
- May 5:** E53 (30 Wadsworth St.), 1:33 a.m., Breaking and entering; theft of toilet tissue. W59 (201 Vassar St.), 1:49 a.m., Malicious destruction; rock thrown through window. E2 (70 Amherst St.), 2:24 a.m., Report of past assault and battery. Albany Street, 8:31 a.m., Truck reported vandalized.
- May 6:** E15 (20 Ames St.), 3:20 a.m., Malicious destruction of audio/video equipment.
- May 7:** M3 (33 Massachusetts Ave.), 2:31 p.m., Laptop stolen. M54 (21 Rear Ames St.), 5:50 p.m., Report of items stolen from bike. Waverly Lot, 6:12 p.m., Malicious destruction; window of van broken.
- May 8:** W89 (291 Vassar St.), 7:40 p.m., Bike stolen. M57 (Alumni Pool), 3:16 p.m., Laptop stolen from locker room. W20 (84 Massachusetts Ave.), 5:26 p.m., Digital camera stolen. *Editor's note: A Nikon D300 DSLR with serial number 3074095 has been stolen from The Tech. If you find it, please return it to The Tech's office, W20-483, no questions asked.* W35 (100 Vassar St.), Wallet stolen from locker. M56 (21 Rear Ames St.), 10:31 a.m., Larceny of wallet.
- May 9:** M56 (21 Rear Ames St.), 10:31 a.m., Larceny of wallet.
- May 10:** Waverly Lot, 5:39 p.m., Hit and run; damage to SafeRide bus. M50 (142 Memorial Dr.), 11:59 p.m., Laptop stolen.
- May 11:** BTP (119 Bay State Rd.), 5:53 a.m., Report of person stealing license plates from cars. W84 (550 Memorial Dr.), 7:27 p.m., Report of three juvenile males cutting lock off of bike. W51 (410 Memorial Dr.), 8:46 p.m., Bicycle stolen.
- May 13:** M1 (33 Massachusetts Ave.), 8:38 p.m., Report of suspicious person in men's room, trespass warning issued.
- May 14:** Waverly Lot, 11:50 a.m., Malicious damage to SafeRide bus; Edward Pacheco of 240 Albany St. M32 (32 Vassar St.), 12:16 p.m., Larceny of wallet. W85 (540 Memorial Dr.), 4:21 p.m., Domestic disturbance; person reports neighbor requests police assistance.
- May 15:** M6 (182 Rear Memorial Dr.), 4:46 p.m., Report of laptop stolen. M8 (21 Rear Ames St.), 8:08 p.m., Report of cell phone and wallet stolen.
- May 16:** E52 (50 Memorial Dr.), 8:41 a.m., Report of harassing mail and phone calls. W61 (450 Memorial Dr.), 2:14 p.m., Larceny of wallet. W70 (471 Memorial Dr.), 6:28 p.m., Report of harassing phone calls.
- May 19:** NW86 (70 Pacific St.), 2:07 p.m., Report of computer stolen in February. W89 (291 Vassar St.), 3:57 p.m., Report of bike stolen. M62 (21 Ames St.), 4:36 p.m., Report of bike stolen. M2 (182 Memorial Dr.), 5:02 p.m., Monitor reported stolen over weekend.
- May 21:** W7 (362 Memorial Dr.), 11:27 a.m., Car stolen; vehicle was left running by delivery driver. W20 (84 Massachusetts Ave.), 3:39 p.m., Report of wallet stolen. W20 (84 Massachusetts Ave.), 3:42 p.m., Suspicious person; report of person taking photos of area around ATM.
- May 23:** M7 (77 Massachusetts Ave.), 6:01 a.m., Vandalism of motor vehicle; scratched with keys. M37 (70 Vassar St.), 12:04 p.m., Suspicious person; individual calls about professor's phone and fax, but hands up when questioned.
- May 24:** Central Square, 6:29 p.m., Cell phone stolen; Suspect with phone demanded \$30 for return of phone. Suspect stopped by MIT police.
- May 27:** W85 (540 Memorial Dr.), 8:02 p.m., 911 caller reports domestic disturbance. Cambridge and MIT respond, arrest Chuang-Cheng Jing and Sheng Jing, both of 286 Vassar St., for domestic assault and battery.
- May 28:** M34 (50 Vassar St.), 4:04 a.m., Malicious damage to chairs. W20 (84 Massachusetts Ave.), 8:49 a.m., Larceny of bicycle. M16 (21 Rear Ames St.), 11:40 a.m., Larceny of cables. W20 (84 Massachusetts Ave.), 1:53 p.m., Larceny of laptop and camera.
- May 30:** W20 (84 Massachusetts Ave.), 12:03 p.m., Larceny of vacuum. M3 (33 Massachusetts Ave.), 4:44 p.m., Larceny of laptop.
- May 31:** M32 (32 Vassar St.), 7:17 p.m., Suspicious activity; caller reports group of males in Stata wreaking havoc. Police find juveniles in area. E55 (60 Wadsworth St.), 7:51 p.m., Bike stolen from garage. T Station at Kendall, 8:17 p.m., Report of graffiti being written. Transit police notified.
- June 2:** Lot 2 (20 Albany St.), 5:15 p.m., GPS reported stolen from vehicle. Lot 2 (20 Albany St.), 5:53 p.m., GPS reported stolen from vehicle. Lot 2 (20 Albany St.), 6:08 p.m., Report of vehicle broken into. NW86 (70 Pacific St.), 6:36 p.m., Hit and run; report of car hit.
- June 3:** M8 (21 Rear Ames St.), 12:43 p.m., Larceny of tools from truck.

COMPILED BY NICK SEMENKOVICH

Seniors Give \$7,000 To Externship Fund

Commencement, from Page 1

Activities Period.

According to Registrar Mary Callahan, 2,334 students confirmed they were attending the ceremony located in Killian Court, with 983 undergraduates receiving 1,140 undergraduate degrees and 1,351 graduate students receiving 1,453 graduate degrees.

About 150 students who received degrees in September 2007 or February 2008 will also walk across the stage today.

Each graduating student received four commencement tickets, and each faculty member who marches in Commencement can request one ticket. But because some graduating students hope to seat far more guests (or far fewer), a robust ticket distribution network has evolved over the years.

The Class of 2008 has set up a Web site at which people can advertise that they have extra tickets to give away or need extra tickets. Meanwhile, dormitory e-mail lists are full of offers to give away, sell, or buy tickets. And as of press time, 18 Craigslist posts offer to sell tickets at prices from \$40 to \$100.

Guests who don't have a ticket will be able to view the exercises at many locations set up around campus. (The located are advertised online at <http://web.mit.edu/commencement/2008/>.)

In case of inclement weather, additional viewing venues will be provided, Gayle M. Gallagher, executive officer for Commencement, said in an e-mail.

The ceremony can also be viewed online starting today at <http://web.mit.edu/commencement/2008/web-cast.html>.

The level of security during the exercises will be as high as it has been for MIT Commencement exercises since Sept. 11, 2001, Gallagher said. All guests must pass through metal detectors when entering Killian. Only guests with tickets or event staff with credentials will be permitted onto the court.

Concessions will be available for purchase on Killian Court again this year. "This was a break-even proposition last year but [food vendor] So-

dexo is again committed to donating any monetary proceeds this year to the Senior Class Gift," Gallagher said in an e-mail.

This year's Commencement is the 142nd that MIT has held. But the Class of 2008 will be the 141st class to graduate from the Institute. Why the discrepancy? Because of World War I, MIT held no Commencement exercises in 1918 or 1919. During World War II, MIT held "double exercises" in 1942, 1943, and 1944. There have been three extra Commencements and two skipped Commencements — a total of one extra.

Seniors donate to externship fund

MIT encourages graduating seniors to donate money, in what the Institute calls a Senior Gift campaign. This year, 645 seniors donated \$16,454, representing a record-high 64.2 percent of the class. Last year, 52 percent of the graduating class donated, which was at the time a record-high percentage.

All MIT donors can specify a particular group or fund to receive their gift. Of the 645 seniors who donated, about 317 specified that their donation should go towards the class gift, which this year is an externship fund meant to support students working outside MIT.

Those students donated about \$7,000 to the fund, according to Senior Gift Adviser Rosheen B. Kavanagh, of the MIT Alumni Association.

The senior class gift will support students who take on otherwise unpaid work during January's Independent Activities Period as part of the Alumni Association's externship program.

In IAP 2008, 269 students participated in externships through the program.

An additional \$25,000 will be donated to the externship fund by Harbo Jensen PhD '74, Alumni Association president, who had agreed to make the donation if more than 55 percent of the class donated money.

"This class is really special. They should be so proud of what they did," Kavanagh said.

"We hope they continue to support MIT after graduating," she added.



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Student Center

June 5 & 6
Thu & Fri
10am - 3pm

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Solution to Awesome Puzzle

from page 10

R	A	T	E	D	H	A	J	J	F	L	A	B		
A	L	A	M	O	O	D	I	E	R	E	N	O		
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F	A	I	R	M	A	R	K	E	T	V	A	L	U	E
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Solution to Mondo Puzzle

from page 10

S	L	V	H	N	O	S	I	E	L	S	W	S	S			
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H	A	R	O	G	A	L	P	A	L	G	I	C	O	N	E	L



ERIC D. SCHMIEDL—THE TECH
 Josh McCrea (left, vocalist) and Xan McCurdy (right, guitarist) of alternative rock band Cake perform at Earthfest 2008 on May 24 at the Hatch Shell in Boston.

For \$3 Extra, OLPC Laptops Come With Windows This Year

Laptop, from Page 1

opment. Actually, it ended up costing around \$200 when it was finally released.

But Negroponte and Bove are confident that a number of factors will make the second laptop cheaper. Component manufacturers were wary to deal with OLPC during the development of the first XO, Bove said, because sales prospects were uncertain. OLPC now has “a very different relationship with the industry at large,” said Bove.

The OLPC can “piggyback” on the popularity of portable DVD players, Negroponte said, because they have driven down the cost of small widescreen displays like those used in the new laptop. Displays are among the laptop’s most expensive components.

Negroponte plans to market the new laptop as an e-book reader to developing countries. The new machine will act as a “trojan horse,” he said: People will buy it to act as an e-book reader, but it will also include other educational software.

Negroponte also announced that there would be another iteration of the Give 1 Get 1 program, in which people can pay for two laptops and receive one, with the cost of the other going to send a laptop to a developing country. The program is likely to happen in August or September, he said.

Internal strife marks spring

OLPC has had an eventful few months. A number of its early employees, including Ivan Krstic and Pixel Qi’s founder Jepsen, quit the operation.

Most recently, Walter Bender SM ’80, who served as president of software and content, left the non-profit because of philosophical disagreements. Bender told *The New York Times* that “OLPC has become implicitly agnostic about learning” and has focused on getting laptops to children. “It’s a great goal, but it’s not my goal,” he said.

But Negroponte says that nothing has changed. During the Country Workshop presentation, he revisited OLPC’s mission statement and said the organization’s goals are the same.

Bender has recently established Sugar Labs, a non-profit organization developing the Sugar educational user interface system that was key to the first OLPC.

Sugar Labs is working to expand the reach of the software beyond just the XO, Bender said in an interview with *The Tech*. Sugar is already available as an alternative desktop environment for Linux distributions like Ubuntu and Fedora Core. Bender is in informal talks with other laptop manufacturers, he said.

OLPC is still doing development work on Sugar, Bender said, but Sugar Labs will not focus on one particular hardware platform like the OLPC laptop.

Windows to run on some current XO laptops

OLPC also announced in May a partnership with Microsoft. For an additional \$3 licensing fee per computer, OLPC XO laptops will come installed with Windows. Explaining the partnership, Negroponte told *The New York Times* that “[t]he people who buy the machines are not the children who use them, but government officials in most cases.” “And those people are much more comfortable with Windows,” he said.

A dual-boot system was in development, Negroponte said during his Country Workshop presentation. This system would let Windows run alongside another operating system such as Linux. Windows laptops are being rolled out as pilots in four countries, Negroponte said. “It’s going to give you more choice,” he said.

Charles Kane, the former CFO, was announced in early May to be OLPC’s president, a position intended to improve OLPC’s day-to-day management. “I’m the vision department,” Negroponte said during his Country Workshop presentation. But “[w]hen it comes to running something, that’s not my strength,” he said.

Congratulations



Class of 2008 & Thank You!

From CopyTech!

Solution to Sudoku

from page 8

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

Moving to Wellesley, Campus Life Journal Considers Its Options

Counterpoint, from Page 1

Has Been MIA,” also written by Costa, outlined difficulties including unpaid invoices and a failure to ask Wellesley’s student group funding board for money.

To cut costs, recent issues of *Counterpoint* switched from a glossy color cover to a black-and-white cover on thinner paper stock.

The organization also faces issues remaining an MIT student group because it has few MIT members. Any MIT student group must, under Association of Student Activities rules, require in its constitution at least five members from MIT. Half of the group’s membership must also come from MIT. But only a few of *Counterpoint*’s staff were MIT students in 2008, and only a handful of the contributions in 2008 issues of *Counterpoint* were attributed to MIT students.

In February 2004, the ASA revoked *Counterpoint*’s status as an MIT student group because of MIT/Wellesley balance issues: 14 staff members were MIT students and 28 were Wellesley students. The organization was later re-recognized in April after the group changed its constitution to state that it had separate MIT and Wellesley chapters, *The Tech* reported.

The magazine, which is currently distributed at MIT and Wellesley, will only be distributed in Wellesley starting with its September issue, Costa wrote in the column. Its Web site, currently accessible at <http://counterpoint.mit.edu/>, will move to a Wellesley server, Costa wrote, although it is not yet clear where. Editors will be able to be reached at counterpointmail@firstclass.wellesley.edu. *Counterpoint* will also leave its office space in the MIT Student Center, Costa wrote.

Although *Counterpoint* was not always the MIT-Wellesley Journal of Campus Life, it has always sought to cover news at both institutions.

In its earliest incarnation, in November 1991, it was an MIT publication of “Rational Discourse and Campus Life.” Publisher Avik S. Roy ’93 wrote in the journal’s first issue that he hoped to oppose “sensationalism” in the press and to provide an “open forum for rational debate and casual reading.” The journal hoped to take on “controversial issues such as multiculturalism, harassment, and affirmative action,” he wrote. The first issue included columns opposing and supporting MIT’s harassment policy, which was then new; it also included fiction, an events calendar and discussion of local news.

But the journal has always tried to include Wellesley, too — an ad in its first issue said “Attention Wellesley students! We want you to help us cover Wellesley Campus Life.” In its third issue, published in February 1992, *Counterpoint* was subtitled “The MIT-Wellesley Journal of Rational Discourse and Campus Life.”

The rational discourse departed about a decade later: February 2000’s issue was “The MIT-Wellesley Journal.” After that issue, *Counterpoint* was again “The MIT-Wellesley Journal of Campus Life.”

Among the magazine’s numerous lasting contributions to the public discourse at MIT and Wellesley are a survey, published in November 2001, that laid bare the sex lives of more than 500 MIT and Wellesley students; and a yearly assessment of fraternities at MIT, most notably the

August 1995 “Wherever You May Roam: A Frank Guide to ILGs at MIT.”

Copies of that August 1995 issue were dumped in garbage cans in Lobby 7 and the Student Center soon after distribution.

In recent years, the magazine has focused more on Wellesley life and less on politics or on MIT news. The April 2008 “Mental Health Issue” contained several stories covering the challenges facing mental health care at Wellesley, but only one article about mental health at MIT. (That article described the late-night talk service Nightline.)

Costa and graduating co-editor in chief Edward K. Summers ’08 did not respond to requests for an interview. Summers told a Tech photographer on May 11 that he did not want to comment and that things were not finalized.

“I and my fellow 2008–2009 editorial board will remain dedicated to bringing *Counterpoint* back to MIT and exploring collaborative options with other area colleges,” Costa wrote in the column.



ERIC D. SCHMIEDL—THE TECH

Author Neil Gaiman participates in a question-and-answer discussion between him and Professor Henry Jenkins III, MIT Comparative Media Studies program head. Gaiman gave the first annual Julius Schwartz Lecture at Kresge Auditorium on May 23.

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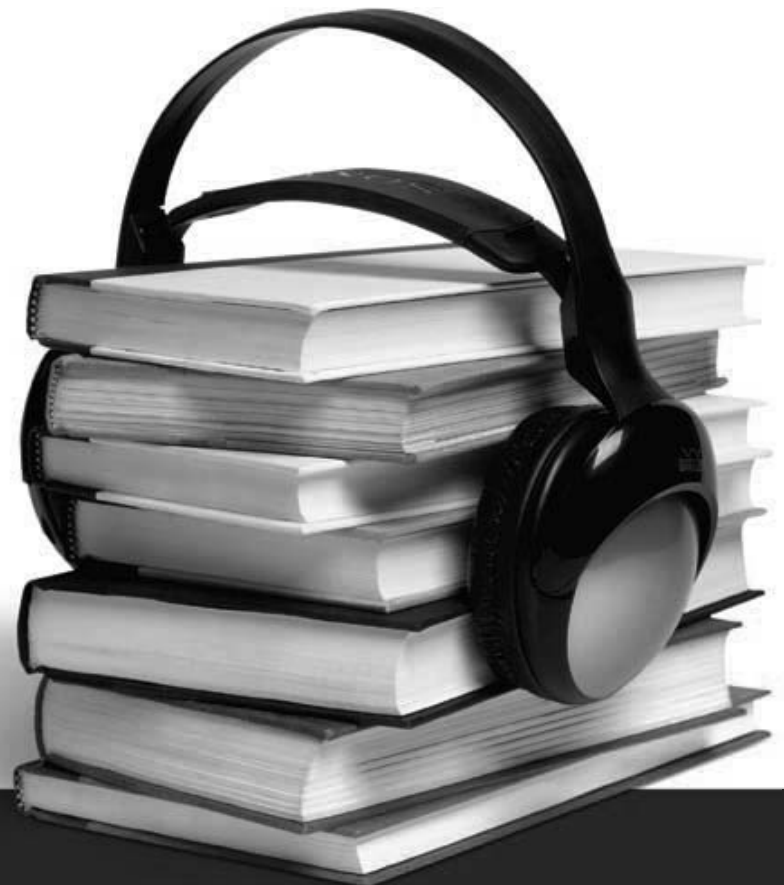
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Strong Climbing Helps Women's Cycling Control the Road Race

Cycling, from Page 24

same thing happen again at nationals. They finished in 25 minutes, 10 seconds to earn fourth among a host of strong competitors and first among ECCC schools.

The women's win in the TTT along with the men's fourth place finish put MIT solidly in first place in the team standings entering Saturday's road race. The race course featured a 500 foot climb in the first mile of the race, followed by a combination of flat, windy sections and rollers.

The women's team, which includes several of the best climbers in the ECCC conference, knew that this course was going to play to their advantage and planned to break up the pack on the first climb. The race went exactly as planned. Buckley was the first rider up the first hill and formed what would be the winning break along with four other riders. Matsumoto and Cates were members of the first and second chase groups. All three of these riders finished in the top 20, with Buckley, Matsumoto, and Cates taking third, 10th, and 19th, respectively.

The dynamics of the men's road race played out much differently, with several breaks forming early in

the race only to be reeled back in by the pack. Edlund played a dominant role in the race, leading a number of attacks and going with several breaks, which were unable to stay ahead of the pack.

Despite using valuable energy early in the race and being unable to make it on to the winning break, Edlund finished with the first main pack in 13th, only one minute behind the leaders. Fujiwara placed 57th.

With these strong finishes, the Engineers were still leading in the team standings heading into Sunday's flat, fast, and technical criterium race. Despite a number of attempts at breaks, the women's pack remained together for the entire 60-minute race. Matsumoto unleashed her devastating sprint to finish 6th. Buckley came in two spots behind her in 8th, and Cates finished only a few seconds behind the day's race leaders in 27th.

The 75-minute men's race played out much differently, with a break forming halfway through the race and gaining almost a lap over the rest of the field. Sears, a veteran of many collegiate cycling championships on road and track, made sure he was part of this key breakaway group. Using his stellar cornering and drafting skills, Sears was able to stay on the

break and still have energy left for a sprint at the end.

Sears sprinted to an outstanding fourth place finish, beating his own seventh place from last year's nationals criterium. Edlund, Fujiwara, and Behrends all finished in the main pack, taking 43rd, 49th, and 54th, respectively. When the points were tallied, MIT had ended its stunning weekend with 395 points, beating Dartmouth University's 364 points to take first place among Division II schools across the country.

Individually Buckley finished fourth, Matsumoto eighth, and Cates 25th in the women's omnium, while Edlund came in 22nd among the men's racers.

MIT's victory at Nationals concludes a successful collegiate cycling season. Two weeks earlier, the team claimed its third consecutive Division II ECCC victory. Along with the team omnium, Matsumoto claimed the Division II individual omnium in the women's A category. Buckley finished the season in second in the women's A category, Trnovcova placed second in women's B, and Fujiwara finished second in men's B. The team saw 25 first place finishes and more than 150 top 10 finishes during the nine-week long season.

Seven Steps to Optimize Enjoyment When Cheering Against Boston Teams

Anti-Boston, from Page 24

for the Sox, make note of the die-hard fans around you. These are the guys who you know will be drunk by the fifth inning.

4. When there's a positive for the Sox's opposition, even if it's just a faint glimmer of hope, let out a single clap. Loud enough for everyone to hear, but not sustained enough to get

them looking where it came from.

5. Wait for something big to happen against the Sox, and then stand up and clap, cheer, or do whatever you want to celebrate. Keep going until you get at least one shout back from that die-hard fan that you know you're upsetting.

6. Gauge the sobriety of the die-hard fans. Like most things in this world, the danger you're in can be rep-

resented by a normal distribution, so try your best to stay in the tails (where the people around you have either had very little or very much to drink).

7. Hope Boston loses. If they do, you can bask in glory with those few other people around you on your side. It usually won't work out in your favor (such as the last World Series), but when it does, it's worth it (such as the last Super Bowl).

Athletes Should Leave the Game Confident, Having Fully Reaped the Sports' Benefits

Retirement, from Page 24

there are the Brett Favres and Julio Lugo of the world, who compete past what we consider their primes. This leaves us with an interesting dichotomy: At what point does a person reach the Goldilocks standard for retirement — not too early, not too late, but just right?

We alternately lauded and castigated Favre for leaving the Green Bay Packers hanging as he experienced his yearly "Should I retire?" discussion. Lauded him for his courage and age-defying skills, castigated him for playing a young man's position and repeatedly leaving his team hanging. But his desire to play kept burning, and though the results weren't always stellar, he stood by his decision to continue competing. He was rewarded in 2007 with a stellar supporting cast, culminating with the National Football Conference championship game. Before the 2007 season, though, the naysayers said that he had already overstayed his welcome. If the Packers had been closer to Humpty Dumpty than a Cinderella story, wouldn't we all have belittled Favre for refusing to let go?

We watched Jerome Bettis win Super Bowl XL with the Pittsburgh Steelers in February of 2006, fulfilling his goal of winning of a championship before retiring. We called it a feel-good story, a celebration of his dedication and perseverance. We feted his decision to go out on top, rather than stick around and sink into mediocrity.

Likewise, we cheered as David Robinson finished his farewell tour, the 2002-2003 National Basketball Association season, with a second championship. We said it was a fitting way for a classy player to finish his career. But if they hadn't won

championships and had been part of a sub-.500 team, would we have said that they deserved better? What if "better" was simply the result from last year? Would we expect them to play another year, just to erase the bitter taste of an unsuccessful season?

We watched Tiki Barber make a stunning retirement announcement in February 2007 and were confused by his choice. We couldn't decide if we should applaud his decision to leave the game without lasting physical damage, or boo his call to leave the game without a team championship. We thought that it would be hard for Tiki to last on the sidelines while his twin brother Ronde continued to suit up on Sundays. But what if he had stayed with the Giants another year, enough to grab a Super Bowl ring in February 2008? Would we then have accepted his decision to retire as reasonable?

In the past few weeks, I have read commentaries about how Henin and Sorenstam's early retirements are the result of a gendered society; of the increasing difficulty to keep up with stronger, taller, younger versions of themselves; of the weighty expectations they faced daily. With all due respect, however, retirement is more of a personal, psychological, and physical decision than any one of these phenomena. Both Henin and Sorenstam dealt with serious injuries and illnesses, and those take their toll on both the athlete and the person behind the gritty confidence. At some point, battling both your opponent and your own self-doubt, mental fatigue, and physical pain is no longer worth it.

It's a lesson to other athletes — and the rest of society — that Henin, Sorenstam, Bettis, Robinson, and Barber chose to leave when the sport ceased being fun or worthwhile for

them. After all, that is the prevailing reason that people everywhere leave their jobs when they have mid-life crises: They simply don't enjoy the work anymore. And for athletes who have basically been professionals-in-training since the age of seven, particularly in golf and tennis, retiring at 25 means they've invested 18 solid years into their work.

The take-home message is that these pro athletes left the game precisely when they were ready, confident that they had finished reaping the benefits of the sport, and sure that one more title or another million dollars was not worth the sacrifice of travel, long hours, and loneliness. Standing across the court or green from someone who takes unabashed joy in pounding a backhand or sinking a putt, knowing that showing the same emotion or passion would be nothing more than an act, would be devastating.

Sure, we may bemoan the fact that we can't watch such athletes rule the courts and fields anymore. But it's better to remember them as they were at or near the top of their games — dominant, steely, powerful — than to remember watered-down, injured, disinterested shadows of players who didn't know when to say goodbye. Given the choice, I would rather a player sacrifice a few years of good results than slip into mediocrity because she wouldn't admit her skills were declining or her passion was gone. Growing accustomed to quarterfinal finishes instead of tournament victories is a steep and unwelcome learning curve for both spectator and player.

Of course, there's always the Michael Jordan retirement for those who are on the fence: Retirement is not a binding or irreversible decision. Besides, spectators always root for a comeback.

Arsenault/Field Take Fourth in B Division

Sailing, from Page 24

string of five straight top-six finishes during the second day, won the 18th and final race of the competition. The duo finished fourth overall in the B division with a score of 137.

Reed and Hass also performed well in the A division, concluding the championships in 12th place overall with 175.

Georgetown University won the national championship with a total score of 238, followed by Boston College, St. Mary's College, Roger Williams University, and Connecticut College. MIT's score of 312 placed the team comfortably in sixth place among the very competitive field. The competition was hosted by New York Yacht Club, Brown University, and Salve Regina University.



MOLLY M. JABAS

John M. "Jack" Field '08 (far) and Julie C. Arsenault '08 (near) sail in after a race on Tuesday during the ICSA/Gill Coed Dinghy National Championship. Field and Arsenault finished fourth overall in the B division, helping MIT place sixth overall in the competition.

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was contested between the crews of Columbia, Pennsylvania, and MIT.

Tech continued to move into the contest for second place, making a charge in the last 500 meters, but eventually ran out of race course as they finished just over a length down.

Freshman coach Andrew Hilton summarized the race for the young Engineers. "The guys felt they culminated their season with their best race of the spring. That translated into defeating a crew by nine seconds who had bested them in the dual season by 2.1 seconds. I look forward to seeing them carry that momentum into next year at the varsity level."

The men's lightweights now prepare for the Intercollegiate Rowing Association National Championships in Camden, N.J. this weekend.

—James Kramer, DAPER Staff

Women's Novice Lightweights Take Bronze at Eastern Sprints

The women's lightweight crew traveled to Cooper River in Camden, N.J. on May 18 to face top competition at the Eastern Sprints. The novice crew held off a late push by Radcliffe College to take the bronze medal in 7:32, over six seconds ahead of their upstream rivals.

Tension was high as this regatta marked the first time the Engineers had the opportunity to race their peers in the novice lightweight eight event, having raced in fours, and against varsity and openweight crews throughout the regular season.

The novice lightweight eight took on crews from the University of Wisconsin, Georgetown University, and Radcliffe.

The women's novice crew went quick and hard off the line into second place behind Wisconsin. As the crew lengthened into their race rhythm, however, Georgetown proved too strong and moved ahead to take second place.

The afternoon brought heavy rain and even stiffer competition for the varsity lightweight eight. The Engineers lined up against Radcliffe, Wisconsin, Princeton University, and Georgetown for the top spot. Again, MIT jumped quickly and cleanly off the line, but couldn't quite hold the pace and moved into fifth place, finishing in 7:11.

Wisconsin took first in an incredible 6:41, followed closely by Princeton, then Georgetown and Radcliffe. While the placing was disappointing, this finish put MIT 16 seconds closer to the gold medal than they were just a year ago.

The varsity lightweight eights will now have three weeks to prepare for the IRA National Championship regatta back on the Cooper River this weekend.

—James Kramer, DAPER Staff

Hansen Goes 1-1 at NCAA Championship

Leslie A. Hansen '10 pulled off the first upset of the NCAA Women's Tennis National Singles Championship by outlasting No. 3 seeded Jordan Hook 7-6 (2), 7-6 (4). The victory was significant as it was MIT's first since Mealani K. (Nakamura) Parish '00 accomplished this feat in 1999 and 2000.

Hansen played "one of her best matches ever," said Head Coach Carol Matsuzaki. "She was nervous going into the match, but it helped her to be aggressive. That is a big part of her game. She went after her forehand and had a high first-serve percentage, which is amazing considering the wind. Both players did a great job of playing the wind this morning."

In the round of 16, Hansen fell to Lauren Caire of Washington and Lee University, 6-3, 6-0, ending her season with a singles record of 26-3.

—Mindy Braur, DAPER Staff

Congratulations to *The Tech's* Class of 2008

James Scott Berdahl

Jillian A. Berry

Valery K. Brobbey

Jeffrey Chang

Waseem S. Daher

Ray C. He

Cokie Hu

Perry Hung

Christina Kang

Tai Ho Kang

Alice Macdonald

Garrett P. Marino

Tyson C. McNulty

Arthur Petron

David Reshef

J. Graham Ruby

Shreyes Seshasai

Omari Stephens

Marie Y. Thibault

Jiao T. Wang

Martha Angela Wilcox

Ali S. Wyne

Mike Yee

James Zorich

DAVID M. TEMPLETON



SPORTS

Team Time Trials Set Pace as Cycling Wins Div. II National Title

By Zachary A. LaBry and Martha W. Buckley
TEAM MEMBERS

The MIT Cycling Team won the 2008 Division II National Championship at the USA Cycling Collegiate Championships help in Fort Collins, Colo. on May 11. The MIT team seized an early lead in the opening event, the team time trial, and built their advantage throughout the weekend to take a surprise victory.

The MIT women's team time trial (TTT) team of Martha W. Buckley G, Yuri Matsumoto G, Zuzana Trnovcova '09, and Sonya J. Cates G entered the competition solidly positioned as the best team in the Eastern Collegiate Cycling Conference, having won four of five team time trial events during the season, including the ECCC championships.

At nationals, though, stiff competition from west coast schools and the particular course made victory

for the team tough. While hills were a strong suit of the team, the course was almost completely flat and windy out-and-back. Despite these challenges, the team used their drafting skills to stay together in the strong tailwind on the way out and powered through the headwind on the way back.

After the race, Cates described it as "blaringly fast," and she was right. MIT's time of 29 minutes, 51 seconds for the 19.2 kilometer course was good enough to take the win by eight seconds.

The men's TTT team of Jason A. Sears G, Eric M. Edlund G, Seth S. Behrends G, and G. Issao Fujiwara G began the race ready to take vengeance on their competitors. Despite top three finishes in every race during the ECCC season, including two wins, the team finished fourth at the conference championships, less than four seconds out of second place.

The men's team would not let the

Cycling, Page 22

Cheering Against Boston Sports Is Fun, Believe Me

By Shreyes Seshasai
SPORTS EDITOR

What's the easiest way to have more fun than you ever thought possible while watching sports in Boston? Start cheering against the Boston teams.

Go into Fenway Park, wait for the Sox to screw up, stand up, and start clapping as loud as you can.

Go into a sports bar, wait for the Yankees or whoever the Sox are playing to hit a home run, and let out a short shout.

You'll certainly draw attention, and you may draw shouts. But as you soon realize, the more jeering from Sox fans, the better.

I came to Boston four years ago indifferent about Boston sports teams. Back in the fall of 2004, I felt the excitement as the Red Sox won four straight against the Yankees, joined in the riots when they won the Series, and celebrated the end of one

of the most storied curses in sports.

But then I had to deal with the aftermath. An entire city of people, obsessed with this team. People who had never seen a baseball game in their life were wearing Red Sox hats. There was an expectation of success and a complete lack of humility that was entirely unappealing as a long-time baseball fan.

This feeling extended beyond baseball too, with the Super Bowl winning Patriots. And that's when I realized that I could have so much more fun here. Here are steps to follow to optimize your enjoyment:

1. Find a place with real fans. If you can't get into the stadium, try a local sports bar.
2. Don't reveal your resentment towards the Boston team right away. Start out being the quiet guy who doesn't like to cheer, flying under the radar.
3. When something good happens

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MIT Sailing Team Finishes Sixth in Competitive ICSA/Gill Coed Dinghy National Championship

By Shreyes Seshasai
SPORTS EDITOR

The MIT sailing team finished sixth this week in the ICSA/Gill Coed Dinghy National Championship. Senior co-captains John M. "Jack" Field '08 and Julie C. Arsenault '08 sailed in the

B division boat, while Brooks L. Reed '09 was the skipper for the A division boat with Elizabeth A. Hass '10 on crew. Gabriel B. Cira '08 also crewed with

Brooks a few times during the competition.

Competing for over three days in Newport, R.I., the team got off to a great start, finishing the first day in

All-Americans Thomas, Stephens Lead MIT at NCAA Championship

By James Kramer
DAPER STAFF

Donning the Cardinal and Gray for the last time, Aline Thomas '08 and Omari Stephens '08 (also a *Tech* senior editor) accounted for all of MIT's scoring at the pinnacle event in Division III track and field, the NCAA Outdoor Track and Field Championships. Hosted at the University

of Wisconsin-Oshkosh from May 22-24, the pair earned All-American accolades.

Thomas, who finished eighth in the second flight of the shot put with a throw of 42'0.75", finished sixth in the hammer. She demolished her existing school record in the hammer by nearly three feet, as she finished second in the second flight with a mark of 170'5".

Stephens led a great effort for MIT in the pole vault. While Greg-

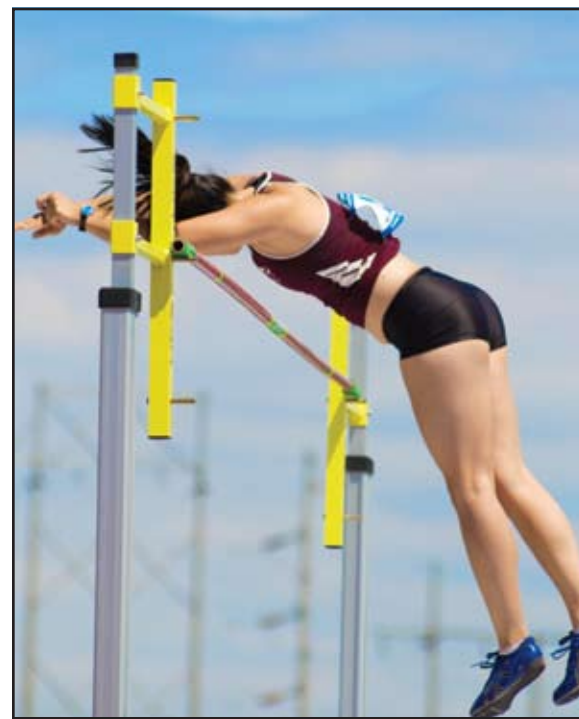
ory D. Tao '10 earned valuable experience en route to his 10th-place finish on the leader board, Stephens cleared the same height in fewer attempts to earn eighth and a spot on the All-America team. Both competitors cleared 14'11.5".

Emily Hwang '09 finished 15th overall in the vault on the women's side with a leap of 11'4.5". Stephen A. Morton '10 competed in the long jump, finishing 10th with a mark of 22'3".



OMARI STEPHENS—THE TECH

Aline Thomas '08 competes in the shot put at the NCAA Division III Outdoor Track and Field National Championship meet. While Thomas' best put of 42'0.75" did not make the finals, her hammer throw of 170'5" earned her sixth place in that event and All-American honors. MIT sent five athletes to the meet, which was held at the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh on May 22-24.



OMARI STEPHENS—THE TECH

Emily Hwang '09 clears 11'4.5" in the pole vault at the NCAA Division III Outdoor Track and Field National Championship meet. Hwang placed 15th in the event. MIT sent five athletes to the meet, which was held at the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh on May 22-24.

Henin's, Sorenstam's Recent Retirements Begs the Question: When Is It Time to Leave?

By Caroline Huang
CONTRIBUTING EDITOR

Retirement. Even seeing the word in print bewilders me.

Given that today a quarter of the MIT undergraduate population is graduating, retirement discussions may seem a bit out of place. Regardless of the path seniors have chosen for their next act, graduation is typically a time of new

beginnings, not finite endings. So why am I pondering retirement at the ripe old age of 20?

It's not because I'm having my first mid-life (quarter-life?) crisis, and it's not because I have creaky knees. It's because the world's best women's tennis player, Justine Henin, issued a retirement announcement "effective immediately" on May 14. It's because golfer Annika Sorenstam gave her career's-end notice a day prior.

Normally, hearing that an athlete has retired affects me for a day or so. I may Google the player's achievements and team affiliations. If it's a player I particularly liked, I'll mourn the loss of pass-catching abilities or dazzling serves for a little while, and then move on with my life.

However, the recent set of retirements has had a lasting effect. Why do Henin and Sorenstam's goodbyes give me so much pause? Probably because 25-year-old Henin is just five years older than I am and just a few years older than those graduating today. Sorenstam is a comparatively ancient 37, but still quite young by AARP standards. I know graduate students older than Henin who have barely begun their academic careers as researchers, professors, or both. It is difficult to think about leaving a profession just a few years into it.

To be fair, this is not a completely unexpected result because athletics generally have a shorter shelf life than academics. In contrast, though,

Retirement, Page 22



SHREYES SESHASAI—THE TECH

Brooks L. Reed '09 (far) and Elizabeth A. Hass '10 (near) control the No. 6 Dinghy for MIT on Tuesday during the ICSA/Gill Coed Dinghy National Championship. Reed and Hass finished ninth in this particular race on their way to a 12th place overall finish in the A division. As a team, MIT placed sixth in the competition.

Men's Lightweight Crew Finish Strong at EARC Sprints

For the first time in over 10 years, both the varsity and freshman eights of the men's lightweight crew team finished in the top 10 in the Eastern Association of Rowing Colleges Rowing Championships. The team sent three boats to the competition, which took place on Lake Quinsigamond on May 18.

"It is great to [be] part of a program that is moving in such a positive direction," said Head Coach Ted Benford. "Our student athletes have made a determined effort to compete at the EARC level. We are looking forward to continuing the progress made this year."

The Engineers' varsity crew took fourth in the Petite Final to finish 10th overall. Georgetown University won the race with a time of 6:31.86, while Harvard and Penn followed with 6:37.06 and 6:44.91, respectively.

The Hoyas had a quick start and took charge of the race early. MIT, Harvard, and Pennsylvania battled for the next 400 meters with Harvard establishing itself solidly in second place. Penn and MIT then traded seats for the last 600 meters with Penn holding off a late charge by the Engineers to take third.

The first freshman also finished fourth in the Petite Final and 10th overall with a time of 6:26.02. The crew overcame an early deficit to pass Dartmouth College before the half-way mark. The final 800 meters

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