

MIT's
Oldest and Largest
Newspaper



The Weather
Today: Mostly sunny, mid 40s°F (8°C)
Tonight: Clear, mid 20s°F (-4°C)
Tomorrow: Mostly cloudy,
mid 30s°F (1°C)
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Tuesday, February 19, 2008

Removing Pass/NR Improved Freshman Grades, CUP Reports

By Angeline Wang
CONTRIBUTING EDITOR

Freshman grades have improved since the change from pass/no record grading to A/B/C/no record grading in the spring term, according to a report released last month by the Committee on the Undergraduate Program. But sophomore grade point averages for both fall and spring terms have remained constant since the change.

The report, which will be presented at tomorrow's faculty meeting, recommends that the sophomore exploratory option be made permanent and that the system which flags poor academic performance during the fifth-week of the freshman terms be expanded to include upperclass students.

The change to A/B/C/no record grading and the addition of the sophomore exploratory option "have provided a gradual transition from pass/no record in a student's first term at MIT to full grades in the junior year, and this gradual transition has worked to the benefit of the majority of our students," Professor Dennis M. Freeman PhD '86, chair of the CUP, said in an e-mail.

The report is available to the MIT community at <https://web.mit.edu/committees/cup/mitonly/P-NRreport.html>.

Freshman grades improve with A/B/C/no record in spring

The change to A/B/C/no record from pass/no record grading for the freshman spring term began in academic years 2002-03. In September 2000, a subcommittee of CUP released a report that said pass/no record grading relieved the anxiety and pressure associated with the first year and let students explore extracurricular activities. The committee proposed A/B/C/no record grading for the spring term to help prepare students to receive grades in the sophomore year.

The new grading system was controversial. Some community members worried that the end of spring term pass/no record would not provide students adequate time to adjust to the academic rigor of MIT and would hurt participation in student activities.

While the 2008 CUP report says

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Kerberos, Tunnel Map, Hidden '143' Appear on 2010 Class Ring

By Lulu Wang
STAFF REPORTER

A streamlined Brass Rat, featuring clear lettering and winks at Harry Potter and last year's fire truck hack, was the star at a ceremony last night in Kresge Auditorium where the 2010 Ring Committee presented their design.

The committee focused on making the ring "a lot classier," said S. Balaji Mani '10, the committee's vice chair. This year's ring has fewer symbols, and the words "MIT" and "2010" are larger than in prior years' rings. "Usually [the words] 'MIT' and '2010' are in a trapezoid but we decided to cut it out so it looks bolder," Mani said. This is the first ring to portray the beaver with its head turned back towards campus — a change which is meant to commemorate the shared experiences of the Class of 2010.

Images of President Susan Hockfield's Energy Initiative and of the end of the Harry Potter series are both evoked by a lightning bolt striking the dome.

The class shank features a NASA space shuttle, a spiral galaxy, and the mythical three-headed dog Kerberos guarding the key to the Institute. The seal shank is anchored by an owl whose eyes spell out 'punt' and 'tool' and whose wings make out the class



JESSICA WITCHLEY—THE TECH

The bezel for the 2010 Brass Rat is presented to the Class of 2010 during Ring Premiere held last night in Kresge Auditorium. Besides the typical features of the beaver grasping a diploma, the phrase "IHTEP" is hidden in the buildings in the background and a fire truck is included to represent a Sept. 11, 2006 hack.

year in Roman numerals.

Over the course of the night, the Ring Committee raffled off four rings, a Nintendo Wii, and 27 gift certificates to various eateries. The ceremony concluded with a toast to the Class of 2010 and a challenge to find the 20 "10"s hidden in the Brass

Rat, of which 13 are on the bezel itself.

For the next two weeks, sample rings will be on display in a booth in Lobby 10. Prices for the ring range from \$115 to \$781. All members of

Brass Rat, Page 8

MIT to Select Founders Group for W1

For the Next Two Years, 57 Future Residents of W1 Will Live Together in NW35

By Elijah Jordan Turner
STAFF REPORTER

This fall, about 50 undergraduates will live in the new graduate dormitory NW35 in advance of moving into a renovated W1, currently called Ashdown House, when it reopens in fall 2010.

Approximately 10 of those residents, a "founders group" to be se-

lected by MIT, will take part in the planning of W1, from selecting graduate resident tutors to advising architects.

The 50-or-so undergraduates, several GRTs, and W1's future housemasters Suzanne Flynn and Jack Carroll will occupy 57 rooms in an "incubator" section of NW35, according to the MIT Housing Web

site. All the rooms in NW35 are singles. The "incubator" rooms include one-person efficiency apartments and two-bedroom apartments with living rooms.

The founders group will meet with the housemasters as often as weekly beginning in early March and continu-

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Third Eye Blind Set to Rock At Spring Weekend Concert

Opening Act Should Be Announced in Next Few Weeks

By Arkajit Dey
STAFF REPORTER

Third Eye Blind will be the main act in the Spring Weekend Concert to be held on April 25 in the Johnson Athletic Center. The alternative rock band was the favorite choice in a survey of over one thousand undergraduates, garnering a 76 percent approval rating. Jimmy Eat World and Akon ranked second and third, respectively.

"We're really excited about the main act," said Undergraduate Association President Martin F. Holmes '08. "People are going to be very pleased with Third Eye Blind."

An opening act has yet to be selected, but Holmes said the decision should come in the next few weeks.

Last year's Spring Weekend concert featured Ozomalti opening for the Ying Yang Twins.

This year's survey, which was conducted online by the Undergraduate Association Events Committee in December, listed a variety of rock, rap, and indie acts, including Ben Folds, Common, Gavin DeGraw, Gym Class Heroes, Jason Mraz, Lifehouse, Lupe Fiasco, Paramore, Sean Kingston, Spoon, and T-Pain.

Concert tickets will probably cost between \$8-12, said Holmes. Patrick Raymond, assistant director of student activities and the advisor for the committee, could not be

Spring Concert, Page 13



MARTIN SEGADO—THE TECH

Current W1 residents tour a partially-finished apartment in NW35 on Feb. 14. A group of undergraduates, GRTs, and housemasters who intend to move into W1 will live in 57 rooms of NW35 until fall 2010.

Louis Menand III

By Bryan Marquard
THE BOSTON GLOBE

Even among college professors and the politically passionate, Louis Menand III was notably unabashed.

"He would say in class, 'There are two types of people: There are Democrats and there are stupid people,'" said Jonathan Gruber '87, a professor of economics at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology who once sat in Dr. Menand's classes as a student.

"Everybody knew pretty quickly what his positions were, and he wasn't very shy about it," Louis Menand, a Pulitzer Prize-winning author, said of his father.

Eloquent and brilliant, Dr. Menand encouraged MIT students to be as emphatic about their opinions as he was with his, teaching his classes to forcefully argue a position. And he did so almost as a sideline while serving in key administrative roles under three presidents and helping to run the college.

Dr. Menand died Jan. 30 at Massachusetts General Hospital of complications from cardiac surgery. He was 85.

Dr. Menand divided his time between the Back Bay and a 1772

Menand, Page 14



Staff columnist Diana Jue writes about seeing Western influences firsthand in Bangalore.

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WORLD & NATION

New Kennedy Artifacts Unlocked

By Leslie Eaton

THE NEW YORK TIMES

DALLAS

The Kennedy assassination — a defining moment in American history and a never-ending topic of debate among conspiracy theorists — re-entered the spotlight for a moment Monday, after the Dallas district attorney unveiled the contents of a safe that had been secret for more than 40 years.

Inside were clothing worn by Lee Harvey Oswald; a small, tooled leather holster belonging to his killer, Jack Ruby; and piles of typed, old, crackling documents. But nothing in the cache was likely to settle the longstanding dispute over President John F. Kennedy's death.

Perhaps the most intriguing item was what purports to be a transcript of a conversation Ruby had with Oswald at Ruby's Dallas nightclub, the Carousel, in which they plot to kill Kennedy to satisfy organized-crime bosses.

But the not-terribly-lifelike dialogue reads like a movie script — and may well have been. For example, Ruby responds to Oswald's suggestion that they kill the president by saying, "But that wouldn't be patriotic."

Reports of Gunman's Prozac Use Renew Debate Over Drug Risks

By Benedict Carey

THE NEW YORK TIMES

Steven P. Kazmierczak stopped taking Prozac before he shot and killed five Northern Illinois University students and himself, his girlfriend said Sunday in a remark likely to fuel the debate over the risks and benefits of drug treatment for emotional problems.

Over the years, the antidepressant Prozac and its cousins, including Paxil and Zoloft, have been linked to suicide and violence in hundreds of patients. Tens of millions of people have taken them, and doctors say it is almost impossible to tell whether the spasms of violence stem in part from drug reactions or the underlying illnesses.

"It's a real chicken-and-egg sort of situation," said Dr. Jane E. Garland, director of the Mood and Anxiety Disorders Clinic at BC Children's Hospital in Vancouver, British Columbia.

Garland said some people could and did become agitated and unpredictable in response to the drugs, usually just after starting to take them or soon after stopping.

"But it's hard to make a case for a withdrawal reaction here, because Prozac comes out of the system gradually," she said.

The girlfriend, Jessica Baty, said in an interview on CNN that Kazmierczak took Prozac to battle anxiety and compulsive behavior but that it "made him feel like a zombie and lazy."

Silicon Valley Losing Mid-Wage Jobs

By John Markoff

THE NEW YORK TIMES

SAN FRANCISCO

Silicon Valley is in danger of creating its own digital divide.

The California region is losing its middle-class work force at a significant rate, according to an annual report that tracks the economic, social and environmental health of the nation's technology heartland.

The 2008 Index of Silicon Valley — which this year was sponsored by Joint Venture: Silicon Valley Network, a public-private partnership, and the Silicon Valley Community Foundation, a nonprofit — found that from 2002 to 2006, middle-wage jobs fell to 46 percent of the work force, from 52 percent.

At the same time, while the percentage of higher-end jobs rose slightly — to 27 percent from 26 — lower-wage jobs expanded to 27 percent, from 22 percent of the work force. In all, more than 50,000 middle-income jobs have disappeared over the four years measured by the study.

The vanishing jobs — defined as those paying \$30,000 to \$80,000 — represent workers who had been in the lower part of the white-collar pyramid, including secretaries, clerks and customer support representatives.

Musharraf Receives Strong Rebuke in Pakistan Elections

By David Rohde

THE NEW YORK TIMES

PESHAWAR, PAKISTAN

They arrived in small groups over the course of the day, defying religious militants who say Pakistani women should not be allowed to vote.

"We were thinking about not coming," said Huma Shakeel, 22, a college student who was visibly relieved after casting her ballot here Monday. "People are afraid because of bombers, suicide bombers."

Despite the deployment of 60,000 soldiers and police officers in Pakistan's embattled North-West Frontier Province, threats from militants appear to have prevented thousands of women from casting their ballots there on Monday, according to Pakistani election officials.

Over the past year, religious militants have made enormous headway in the province, carrying out suicide attacks and intimidating moderates.

Election monitors in six polling stations specifically for women in Peshawar, the provincial capital, said 523 of 6,431 registered women had cast their ballots as of late Monday afternoon, a turnout of roughly

8 percent. Turnout among men was estimated at 20 percent across the province, low but still more than twice the estimated women's level.

On Sunday night, militants posted signs in towns outside Peshawar warning candidates not to bring their female supporters to ballot booths. On Monday morning, elders in the Mattani district, just south of Peshawar, closed 30 polling stations for women, according to local journalists.

In Peshawar, election officials said they believed some families had barred women from journeying to the polls out of fear they would be attacked.

"Some families stop the women," said Naheed Begum, an election worker who said 72 of 1,300 women registered to vote in her polling station had actually cast ballots.

Urban voter turnout is often significantly lower than rural turnout in Pakistani elections. But election officials said they believed that a series of recent attacks — including an election rally suicide bombing that killed 47 people Saturday — had discouraged voters, male and female, from journeying to the polls.

Overall turnout in the province appeared to be roughly half of what it was during the country's last national elections in 2002. Over the last year, the province has suffered attacks from Pakistani and foreign militants based in the adjoining Federally Administered Tribal Areas, a lawless strip of territory along the Pakistan-Afghanistan border.

In interviews in Peshawar, female voters and poll workers criticized the militants. According to recent public opinion polls, religious extremists have grown increasingly unpopular in Pakistan as suicide bombings have increased.

Nasra Zahid, 37, a zoology professor who was working at a polling station, said Islam guaranteed women the right to vote. Zahid, who is religiously observant, wears a black veil that covers her face except for her eyes — an unusual sight in Pakistan, a religiously moderate society. Counting election results Wednesday night, she said militants were grossly misinterpreting her faith.

"These are not religious students," she said. "These are terrorists. Our religion gives completely the right to vote to women."

Facing Recession, Clinton and Obama Push Populist Projects

By John M. Broder and Jeff Zeleny

THE NEW YORK TIMES

WAUSAU, WIS.

Sens. Hillary Rodham Clinton, D-N.Y., and Barack Obama, D-Ill., intensified their populist appeals on Monday, responding to widespread economic anxiety and pushing the Democratic Party further from the business-friendly posture once championed by Bill Clinton.

Hillary Clinton, speaking on the eve of the Wisconsin primary but looking forward to primaries in Ohio and Texas on March 4, issued a 12-page compendium of her economic policies that emphasizes programs aiding families stressed by high oil prices, home foreclosures, costly student loans and soaring health care premiums.

In public appearances here and in her economic booklet, she took aim

at hedge fund managers, oil company profits, drug company subsidies and trade agreements that she says encourage companies to export jobs.

Clinton told an audience that the Wisconsin primary and subsequent contests were "a chance for all of you here to help take our country back."

"We need tax breaks for the middle class, not for the wealthy and the well-connected," she said Monday morning at St. Norbert College in De Pere, Wis. "We're going to rein in the special interests and get the \$55 billion in giveaways and subsidies they've gotten under Republicans back into your pockets."

Clinton referred to the "two oilmen in the White House" and repeated her call for a windfall-profits tax on the oil industry to finance a \$50 billion program to develop alternate energy sources and create "green jobs."

Campaigning in Ohio before flying to Wisconsin for an election-eve rally, Obama said the wealthy had "made out like bandits" under the Bush administration and called for an end to tax breaks for companies that move jobs overseas.

"In the last year alone," Obama said, "93 plants have closed in this state. And yet, year after year, politicians in Washington sign trade agreements that are riddled with perks for big corporations but have absolutely no protections for American workers. It's bad for our economy; it's bad for our country."

The two candidates' tone was driven in part by the prospect of a recession, which has in recent weeks shifted the focus of the presidential contest from war and terrorism to concerns much closer to home: jobs, foreclosures, energy and health care costs.

WEATHER

Sunny Today But Wet Pattern to Continue

By Cegeon J. Chan

STAFF METEOROLOGIST

After yesterday's rain storm, Boston is now over three inches above the normal liquid precipitation (3.3") for all of February. Last year, there were only 2.2" for the whole month and only four cloudy days. This year, there have already been seven cloudy days. So what's causing this unpleasant stretch of weather?

It's not the destination that's important; it's the journey that gets you there. For storms, the same philosophy applies. The amount of precipitation that falls over Boston is highly correlated to the storm track. Imagine two scenarios. If storms travel from Louisiana to Massachusetts, then there is virtually an "infinite" amount of moisture from the nearby Gulf of Mexico. However, when storms come from the Michigan direction, the moisture supply is orders of magnitude less. The current jet stream, which determines the storm track, over the continental U.S. starts in Montana, dips toward the Gulf States, and then goes through upstate New York. With the shape of the jet stream not budging, the trend of this wet pattern will remain with considerable precipitating storms coming every two to three days and mostly sunny to mostly cloudy skies in between.

Extended Forecast

Today: Mostly sunny with highs in the mid 40s°F (8°C). West winds 15–25 mph.

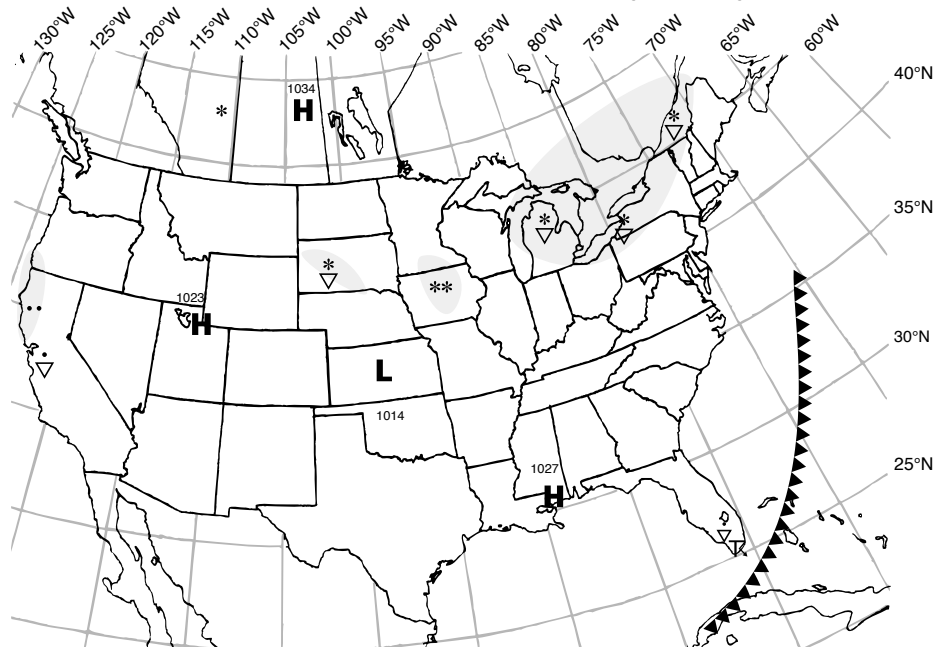
Tonight: Clear. Lows in the mid 20s°F (-4°C). West winds 15–20 mph.

Tomorrow: Mostly cloudy. Highs in the mid 30s°F (1°C).

Thursday: Sunny and cold. Highs in the upper 20s°F (-2°C).

Friday: Mostly cloudy. Snow likely. Highs in the mid 30s°F (1°C).

Situation for Noon Eastern Standard Time, Tuesday, February 19, 2008



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

Compiled by MIT Meteorology Staff and The Tech

In Independence, Kosovo Finds Mix of Recognition, Rejection

By Nicholas Kullish and C.J. Chivers

THE NEW YORK TIMES

BERLIN

Kosovo won the recognition of the United States and its biggest Western European allies on Monday, while earning rebukes and rejections from Serbia, Russia and a disparate mix of states the world over that face their own separatist movements at home.

One day after the tiny Balkan province declared its independence, the world had its chance to choose sides. While some countries had made their decisions months in advance, that did not lessen the drama of whether a newly birthed nation would be welcomed into the fold or rejected.

Major European powers, including France, Germany and Britain, along with the United States, officially recognized Kosovo, even as officials took pains to point out that it should not serve as an invitation or precedent for other groups hoping to declare independence. That is because one of the biggest unknowns remains whether Kosovo's declaration could rekindle conflicts

elsewhere, including in ethnically divided Bosnia.

As a result, the reverberations were felt from Russian-backed enclaves in Georgia to the Taiwan Strait. Spain, a member of the European Union and one of the countries with soldiers in the NATO force in Kosovo, refused its recognition. Yet Turkey, despite its history of conflict with Kurdish separatists, chose to support Kosovo's independence.

In a letter to Kosovo's president, Fatmir Sejdiu, President Bush wrote: "On behalf of the American people, I hereby recognize Kosovo as an independent and sovereign state. I congratulate you and Kosovo's citizens for having taken this important step in your democratic and national development."

In an apparent conciliatory gesture, Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice said in her own statement, "The United States takes this opportunity to reaffirm our friendship with Serbia, an ally during two world wars."

But Prime Minister Vojislav Kostunica of Serbia, which has regarded Kosovo as its heartland since medieval times, vowed that Serbia would

never recognize the "false state." Kostunica recalled Serbia's ambassador to Washington, wire services reported. The State Department had no comment on those reports on Monday evening.

At the United Nations, Boris Tadic, Serbia's president, told the Security Council that the declaration of independence "annuls international law, tramples upon justice and enthrones injustice." He asked that Secretary General Ban Ki-moon direct the U.N. mission chief in Kosovo to declare the action "null and void" and to dissolve the Kosovo Assembly, which adopted the declaration on Sunday.

Addressing the Council before Tadic spoke, Ban said the U.N. administration, approved by the Council in 1999, would continue to run Kosovo until a formal transition could be arranged.

European foreign ministers meeting in Brussels appeared to reach a minimal common position, acknowledging that Kosovo had declared independence and allowing those nations that wanted to recognize it formally to do so.

Middle-Age Suicide Rate Increase Leaves Health Experts at a Loss

By Patricia Cohen

THE NEW YORK TIMES

Shannon Neal can instantly tell you the best night of her life: Tuesday, Dec. 23, 2003, the Hinsdale Academy debutante ball. Her father, Steven Neal, a 54-year-old political columnist for The Chicago Sun-Times, was in his tux, white gloves and tie. "My dad walked me down and took a little bow," she said, and then the two of them goofed it up on the dance floor as they laughed and laughed.

A few weeks later, Steven Neal parked his car in his garage, turned on the motor and waited until carbon monoxide filled the enclosed space and took his breath, and his life, away.

Later, his wife, Susan, would recall that he had just finished a new book, his seventh, and that "it took a lot out of him." His medication was also taking a toll, putting him in the hospital overnight with worries about his heart.

Still, those who knew him were blindsided. "If I had just 30 seconds with him now," Shannon Neal said of her father, "I would want all these

answers."

Steven Neal is part of an unusually large increase in suicides among middle-aged Americans in recent years. Just why thousands of men and women have crossed the line between enduring life's burdens and surrendering to them is a painful question for their loved ones. But for officials, it is a surprising and baffling public health mystery.

A new five-year analysis of the nation's death rates recently released by the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention found that the suicide rate among 45-to-54-year-olds increased nearly 20 percent from 1999 to 2004, the latest year studied, far outpacing changes in nearly every other age group. (All figures are adjusted for population.)

For women 45 to 54, the rate leaped 31 percent. "That is certainly a break from trends of the past," said Ann Haas, the research director of the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention.

By contrast, the suicide rate for 15-to-19-year-olds increased less than 2 percent during that five-year period — and decreased among peo-

ple 65 and older.

The question is why. What happened in 1999 that caused the suicide rate to suddenly rise primarily for those in midlife? For health experts, it is like discovering the wreckage of a plane crash without finding the black box that recorded flight data just before the aircraft went down.

Experts say that the poignancy of a young death and higher suicide rates among the very old in the past have drawn the vast majority of news attention and prevention resources. For example, \$82 million was devoted to youth suicide prevention programs in 2004, after the 21-year-old son of Sen. Gordon H. Smith, R-Ore., killed himself. Suicide in middle age, by comparison, is often seen as coming at the end of a long downhill slide, a problem of alcoholics and addicts, society's losers.

"There a social-bias issue here," said Dr. Eric C. Caine, co-director at the Center for the Study of Prevention of Suicide at the University of Rochester Medical Center, explaining why suicide in the middle years of life had not been extensively studied before.

Princeton to Offer Entering Students A Year Abroad Doing Social Service

By Karen W. Arenson

THE NEW YORK TIMES

Seizing on students' desire for a year off before college, Princeton University is working to create a program to send a tenth or more of its newly admitted students to a year of social service work in a foreign country before they set foot on campus as freshmen.

Princeton's president, Shirley M. Tilghman, said in an interview that such a program would give students a more international perspective, add to their maturity and give them a break from academic pressures. She called it a year of "cleansing the palate of high school, giving them a year to regroup."

Tilghman, speaking ahead of an announcement Tuesday, said that she hoped to begin the program in 2009 and that Princeton would not charge tuition for the year abroad, and would even offer financial assistance to those who needed it. A committee of faculty and staff members, as well as students, is to work out other details.

Growing numbers of high school students have opted to take a "gap

year" before entering college, and many colleges offer one-year deferrals to students they admit. A small industry has developed to place some of them in work or travel experiences in other countries that often cost thousands of dollars. But experts say they believe that Princeton will be the first university to formalize such a program for entering freshmen, though many institutions offer study-abroad programs for students already on campus.

Proponents of the year off say it allows students to discover themselves and the world before they enter college.

"People are too young when they start college," said Allan E. Goodman, president of the Institute of International Education. "This way, they would have a year to mature, and they can do something constructive."

Goodman said most programs sending high school students to study in other countries placed the students with host families. And, he said, college students who enter study-abroad programs usually go

after a couple of years of college, so they have had more experience living independently.

As for Princeton's idea, he said: "I can imagine the lawyers having some hesitation about this. The kids are young. The university doesn't know them yet. And it is not safe in every country in the world."

But, he added, "I still think it's neat, and that it's very doable."

The university said it expected to start with a smaller group of students and expand to 10 percent or more of its entering class.

Tilghman said that she recognized that not all families would be interested in the program, but that she expected it to appeal to many. She said that the university had enough money to run the program for a couple of years and that she expected to raise more to pay for it on a permanent basis.

The committee to be announced Tuesday will work out details including what the program will cost, the legal issues, how students are to be selected and what organizations they may work with abroad.

Former President George Bush Endorses McCain

By Michael Cooper

THE NEW YORK TIMES

HOUSTON

When former President George Bush stood beside Sen. John McCain here Monday and gave him a Presidents Day endorsement, it was just the latest chapter in the sometimes-tangled saga of the Bush and the McCain dynasties.

In World War II, Bush was serving under McCain's grandfather, Adm. John S. McCain, in the Pacific when he was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross for finishing a bombing run even after his airplane was hit; he bailed out at sea only after he had finished. Years later, Bush commissioned the guided missile destroyer John S. McCain, named for McCain's grandfather and father, another admiral in the Navy.

If McCain has sometimes seemed to have a complicated relationship with Bush's son President George W. Bush, he has always spoken warmly of the first President Bush — calling him last summer "maybe the nicest man that ever sat in the Oval Office."

So on Monday, as the former president and the man who hopes to succeed his son stood together with their wives on a small stage in front of a row of American and Texas state flags in an airplane hangar, there was no awkwardness. Bush wore a blue necktie with a pattern of little aircraft carriers running across it, and McCain said he and the former president had two things in common. "One is that we were both naval aviators, and the other is that we were both shot down," he said.

The former president gave McCain a strong endorsement that the candidate said he hoped would help unite the fractured Republican Party behind his presidential bid.

Lending Cuts Could Hurt Education

By Jonathan D. Glater

THE NEW YORK TIMES

Major commercial education companies are scrambling to ensure a steady stream of college-level students despite the credit squeeze, with some preparing to offer student loans themselves.

The move shows how dependent this sector of education is on student loans and how vulnerable the industry could become if credit woes continue to make it harder for lenders to raise capital.

Commercial colleges largely offer practical education in fields like business, computers, health care and culinary arts, often catering to low-income students and students already in the workplace.

Seeking to reassure investors, Corinthian Colleges Inc., one of the nation's largest chains, recently said it was exploring "alternatives to help students fund their educational programs," including expanding its own lending program and finding new lenders.

The Career Education Corporation, another large chain, has announced a similar effort.

ITT Educational Services Inc. recently announced a deal with three major banks to preserve students loans through the rest of the year.

And Universal Technical Institute Inc., which offers programs in fields like automotive, diesel and motorcycle repair, said it could lose tuition revenue if students default on subprime loans from an outside lender. About 3 percent of the company's revenue now comes from such loans.

Pakistanis Oust Musharraf's Party

By Carlotta Gall and Jane Perlez

THE NEW YORK TIMES

ISLAMABAD, PAKISTAN

Pakistanis dealt a crushing defeat to President Pervez Musharraf in parliamentary elections Monday, in what government and opposition politicians said was a firm rejection of his policies since 2001 and those of his close ally, the United States.

Almost all the leading figures in the Pakistan Muslim League-Q, the party that has governed for the last five years under Musharraf, lost their seats, including the leader of the party, the former speaker of parliament and six ministers.

Official results are expected Tuesday, but early returns indicated that the vote would usher in a prime minister from one of the opposition parties, and opened the prospect of a parliament that would move to undo many of Musharraf's policies and that may even try to remove him.

The early edge went to the opposition Pakistan Peoples Party, which seemed to benefit from a strong wave of sympathy in reaction to the assassination of its leader, Benazir Bhutto, on Dec. 27, and may be in a position to form the next government.

The results were interpreted here as a repudiation of Musharraf as well as the Bush administration, which has staunchly backed Musharraf for more than six years as its best bet in the campaign against the Islamic militants in Pakistan. U.S. officials will have little choice now but to seek alternative allies from among the new political forces emerging from the vote.

Politicians and party workers from Musharraf's party said the vote was a protest against government policies and the rise in terrorism here, in particular against Musharraf's heavy-handed way of dealing with militancy and his use of the army against tribesmen in the border areas, and against militants in a siege at the Red Mosque here in the capital last summer that left more than 100 people dead.

Pettitte Apologizes for Using HGH

By Joe Lapointe

THE NEW YORK TIMES

TAMPA, FLA.

In a one-hour news conference on Monday that neither he nor the Yankees could have ever wished on themselves, a composed Andy Pettitte apologized for using human growth hormone in 2002 and 2004, said there was no other drug use he was concealing and revealed that he had not spoken recently with Roger Clemens, his friend, former teammate and now awkward rival.

Pettitte said he used HGH not to gain a competitive advantage but to recover from injuries while with the Yankees in 2002 and with the Houston Astros in 2004. He said HGH was not forbidden by baseball when he used it, although he acknowledged it was wrong to use it without a medical prescription.

"I am sorry," Pettitte said at the news conference, which came as he reported four days late to spring training, with the Yankees' permission. "I know in my heart why I did things. I know that God knows that. I know that I'm going to have to stand before him one day. The truth hurts sometimes and you don't want to share it. The truth will set you free."

OPINION



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Corrections

The Feb. 12, 2008 article "Green Hall Residents Will Leave In Fall and Thetas Will Move In" incorrectly stated that fewer beds will be available to undergraduates in fall 2008 after Senior Segue ends. In fact, the same number of beds will be available. Though 103 fewer beds in graduate dormitories will be offered to undergraduates, Green Hall will provide housing for 46 Kappa Alpha Theta members, and 57 spaces have been reserved in new graduate dormitory NW35 for students who will eventually occupy W1 when it becomes an undergraduate residence.

Letters To The Editor

MIT Should Promote Science Debate for Presidential Candidates

Historically, MIT's role in promoting science policy is unparalleled. Vannevar Bush EGD '16 had a key role in the massive mobilization of the science community during World War II. But even in peacetime, he lobbied for the creation of the National Science Foundation. MIT Presidents Karl T. Compton and James R. Killian Jr. '26 also helped shape U.S. science policy in this era.

The United States has again reached a crossroads. Without a Nazi or Soviet threat to galvanize the scientific community to action, we must take the initiative in promoting science awareness. We must confront our presidential candidates and hold them accountable for their opinions and policies regarding scientific issues. We cannot allow science to take

the back seat to partisan squabbles and political grandstanding as it has in the recent past. Recent budget cuts to the NSF, the Department of Energy's Office of Science, and the National Institutes of Health highlight how low science has sunk in the pecking order in Washington.

It's relatively easy to see the effects of stagnated science policy on our community. Stem cell research in the United States is crippled, and labs continue to move abroad. MIT has significant investment in "big science" initiatives at CERN, Fermi National Accelerator Laboratory, and Stanford Linear Accelerator Center that have been cancelled or scaled back. Perhaps your lab or research escaped the chopping block this year. However, Congress and the president continually demonstrate their disregard for the machinery that drives our economy. To satisfy our hunger for more energy at lower cost, new drugs and treatments, and a decreased environmental footprint, we must grease the wheels with funding and support at

the national level.

In spite of all this, MIT is yet to join Stanford University, the University of California, Berkeley, the National Academies of Engineering and Science, and five MIT faculty Nobel laureates in persuading the 2008 presidential candidates to participate in a televised science debate. MIT can and should take not only a role but the lead in this matter. Our institution is universally recognized as the premier science and engineering institution in the United States, and its support adds credibility to a movement yet to gain traction outside the science community. I hope that in the coming months President Hockfield, the faculty, and students formally express their support for the idea.

Since my graduation in June, MIT has made plenty of headlines: fraudulent staff, incorrect reporting of SAT scores, a murder attempt, and jokes at the airport. Perhaps it's time that we make a positive contribution to the national news.

Brian A. Wilt '07

Student Living Demands Student Input

You Zhou

As we students enjoy a passing resemblance to having lives and would be delighted to contribute meaningfully to MIT's decisions regarding how students live — that is to say, regarding housing — we are continually dismayed at how little attention the administration pays to student input. But are we surprised? A reading of *The Tech's* archives suggests that even "ten-year-old" students should be anything but.

In 1994, there were plans to renovate East Campus and Senior House and convert them to graduate housing. Many students were concerned about the loss of tradition, and then-Undergraduate Association President Vijay P. Sankaran '95 said that "the students in Senior House and East Campus weren't consulted in this decision at all" (*The Tech*, Nov. 8, 1994). According to Sankaran, then-Senior Associate Dean Robert M. Randolph "indicated ... that he did not want student input until after the planning stages were through." Yet undergraduates said they wanted "to be involved in the decision making process" and graduate students wanted not to be forgotten as "second or third order effects" (*The Tech*, Nov. 8, 1994).

In 1995, the Strategic Housing Planning Committee recommended Ashdown House be converted to undergraduate housing and its residents be moved to a new dorm at the site of Sidney-Pacific. Graduate students expressed concern about the safety and inconvenience of the new location and worried that their "community is going to be destroyed." Thomas H. Burbine PhD '00, then-chairman of Ashdown said, "All contact we've had with the administration was initiated by the graduate students. They never asked us what they thought" (*The Tech*, Jan. 11, 1995).

In 1996, students' concerns about Senior House renovations over the summer came to be ignored. Contrary to the wishes of residents, the dormitory was not available for temporary housing for Orientation week, and heavy construction near the end of term began at 7:30

a.m. Students were not even notified (*The Tech*, June 7, 1996).

In 1998, the announcement that all freshmen would be housed on campus starting in 2001 "came as a surprise" to Duane H. Dreger '99, then-president of the Interfraternity Council (*The Tech*, Aug. 26, 1998).

In 2001, a letter entitled "Seek Graduate Student Input" described a controversial change made by senior administrators, contrary to student feedback, that would have reduced common space in the design of Sidney-Pacific graduate dormitory. Fortunately, the administration later met with graduate students and were convinced otherwise (*The Tech*, March 23, 2001).

In 2004, a summer housing task force proposed dividing undergraduate dormitories into "conference houses" and "residence houses"; students would be kicked out of the former for the summer to make way for visitors. After student outcry and input from Dormitory Council, a compromise was reached, so only parts of some dorms would become conference houses (*The Tech*, March 9, 2004).

In 2006, when MIT planned to construct a new graduate dorm to replace Ashdown House, students expressed anger that they had been left in the dark for several months and had only been asked for input 30 days before a deadline. Ashdown Housemaster Terry P. Orlando said, "Basically there has been no student input ... We were all frozen out of this." This is a stark contrast to Dean for Student Life Larry G. Benedict's declaration that "there is plenty of time for quality student input ..." The situation was akin to that of Sidney-Pacific in 2000, where student input was not sought until the design was "very advanced" (*The Tech*, Feb. 28, 2006). Several letters to *The Tech* highlighted the plight of students: Sanith Wijesinghe PhD '03, a former Graduate Student Council president, wrote, "[A]dministrators have consciously kept the community in the dark by making decisions behind closed doors" (*The Tech*, Feb. 28, 2006). Later, administrators agreed to receive more student input.

In 2007, rumors surfaced that Burton-Corner's kitchens would be removed and replaced with undergraduate rooms. Though the administration said the rumors were baseless, wary undergraduates, aware of what had come to pass about NW35, started petitions and bills in the UA Senate, describing the kitchens as "focal points" of community (*The Tech*, March 6, 2007).

In 2008, MIT informed Green Hall graduate residents that they would have to move out within six months without previously telling them of the plan to move Kappa Alpha Theta into the building. GSC President Leeland B. Ekstrom G said he was "amazed" and "troubled" by MIT's decision-making process. Similarly, UA President Martin F. Holmes '08 said he had heard nothing about it, even in December. *The Tech* did not say whether it was a surprise to Kappa Alpha Theta as well. Green Hall residents are "unhappy," "very upset," and "displeased with the short time frame," and fear the loss of their sense of community (*The Tech*, Feb. 12, 2008).

If a secondary theme can be perceived under the astounding profusion of poor decision-making, it is that a sense of community, something intangible and not easily observed by aloof administrators, is easily forgotten when students are left out of planning. Students are not interchangeable parts, and to treat them as pegs to be shuffled about between lumps of brick and concrete grossly devalues their experiences.

Whether it is a stomach-turning aversion to engaging students in fruitful discussion, a long-standing institutionalized oversight, or merely a myopic inability to learn that students' needs matter, the administration demonstrates time and time again how it chooses to disregard students when making decisions affecting how they live. To see administrators treat students as responsible adults, and their concerns as worthy of respect, would be a pleasant surprise indeed.

Zhou is a member of the Class of 2007 and a current graduate student.

Opinion Policy

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Dissents are the opinions of signed members of the editorial board choosing to publish their disagreement with the editorial.

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

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CAMPUS LIFE

It's a Big, Big World

The Times, They Are Adapting

By Diana Jue
STAFF COLUMNIST

Here is a list of phrases that I wrote to describe Bangalore immediately after returning to the United States: meandering cows, trash, spit bins, extended families, the head nod with multiple meanings, auto rickshaws, colorful saris, noise, outdoor eating, markets, no maps, two wheelers, temples, men holding hands, *masala dosas* (a Southern Indian omelet), spices, bucket showers, squat toilets, hard mattresses, crazy traffic with underutilized lanes, broken infrastructure, and learning to cross the street without getting killed.

The list revives memories and encapsulates that indescribable air, that *je ne sais quoi* that left me in love with Bangalore. Perhaps the best name for what I fail to describe is culture, which has the anthropological definition of "the sum total of ways of living built up by a group of human beings and transmitted from one generation to another." However, this definition implies cultural stagnancy. Bangalore's urban culture was obviously dynamic.

The global economy is characterized by the cross national exchange of goods, and inevitably, ideas, values, and cultures. New city developments were built for a global audience to attract foreign investors and gain worldwide recognition. Bangalore had Brigade Road where I stopped by the McDonald's for lunch; Shanghai had a downtown that was accurately painted as a New York-like city. As a result, these developments were more Western and would not seem out of place in the United States. But does

development have a direction that is predominantly Western? Do development and Westernization necessarily have to coincide?

Western influences were embedded in lifestyles of Bangalore's young people, which starkly contrasted their parents'. My host cousin Vinay was a 22-year-old college graduate who loved all things American. On his bedroom wall, he plastered America's poster boy and his role model, the *Top Gun*-era Tom Cruise. As a support guy for Australia's Symantec users, Vinay had a sizable income for a single guy. With that money, he bought a new car.

Around midnight one Friday evening, Vinay and two of his female cousins showed up at my house to ask if my host brother, roommate, and I wanted to get ice cream. The innocent request for a play date turned into an hour long joy ride (minus the theft) through Bangalore's empty nighttime streets. With the six of us crammed into his tiny blue sports car, Vinay sped on a roundabout route across the city to the Leela Palace, one of Bangalore's five-star hotels and one of the few places with a late night food joint. Along the way, Vinay blasted his favorite mix CD of American pop, hip hop, and country music. With the windows down, sporadic motorcyclists staring at us in bewilderment, and driving through a city I barely knew with people I had just met, I can honestly say that this was my most ridiculous yet favorite way so far to sing along to *NSYNC's "Bye Bye Bye."

Midnight joy riding was probably not a regular activity enjoyed by the previous generation. They lacked the disposable cash of today's

young urban professionals. They didn't grow up with satellite television, an ubiquitous fixture of Bangalore's middle class homes that transmitted images of Western lifestyle. India's education system produced a high tech generation that gained global awareness and connectivity through the Internet and cell phones.

A changing culture was evident in fashion: among young urban women, jeans were gaining popularity. My host sister Swetha rarely wore a sari. It was evident in food: I met Bangalore natives at Pizza Hut for lunch. It was evident especially in consumption patterns: my host brother splurged on a brand new stereo system for his father's bedroom.

Changes were also evident in the family structure. My host mother didn't work because she was born into a well-off merchant family and few women of her generation held jobs. However, her recently married daughter works full time at Accenture. My host parents had an arranged marriage, but Swetha had a cross-caste "love marriage." My host family used to live on a multi-family compound behind the grandfather's store. Now, most relatives live in nearby single-family homes.

On the one hand, the changes extended rights to women and otherwise outcast members of society. On the other hand, the changes seemed to normalize everything that made India unique and exhilarating. The new Bangalore was boring, more of the same, run of the mill.

On a backwater tour of Kochin, a fishing community, a friend and I were mourning over how Kochin citizens were displaying themselves like animals in their native habitats for tourist money. Then we realigned ourselves. Were we maintaining over-romanticized notions about untouched natives who would progress economically if they opened up to outside influence? Was it wrong for us outsiders to insist on the preservation of a local culture?

Every Friday and Saturday evening, my host father Prabhakara sat cross-legged on the rug in front of his television to watch his favor-



DIANA JUE—THE TECH

Little fabric shops like these line commercial streets in Bangalore, but they are being replaced by large malls that sell Western clothing.

ite show, "Star Voice of India," India's version of "American Idol." For the next two hours, our house teemed with the powerful, fluctuating Hindi vocals of young Indian Bollywood star wannabes. The show's emcee and judges spoke Hindi smattered with English. I understood one out of every five words on average.

Here was a national pastime based on the global singing competition phenomenon. However, Indians adapted it to local flair through music, tongue, clothing, dramatic filming style, and public behavior like displays of emotion and affection between men. This wasn't the culture clash I had envisioned, mourned. The local culture expressed its national identity by giving new meaning to an element of global culture. There was no cultural genocide, cultural sharing, or cultural selling out. "Star Voice of India" was a prime example of cultural adaptation — a locally initiated effort that was all Indian and hopefully an example of development to come.



DIANA JUE—THE TECH

My host family and I spent an evening playing with a digital camera and projecting photos on our television. Shown here, my host sister is dressed in Western clothing.

Brouhaha Rhythm

The First and Second Rule Are the Same

By Michael Lin
STAFF COLUMNIST

There are an awful lot of student organizations available at MIT, but for a school as unusual as ours, they start to seem a little boilerplate. I suppose I'm not really an authority on student clubs here, since the only thing I'm a card-carrying member of is Blockbuster, but even so, I can't help but feel like we could be weirder and more distinctive — no offense meant to the Tiddlywinks team.

After all, prospective Engineers seem to be becoming less and less conscious of the strength of our educational program and more and more floored by the strength of our culture. We are perceived as so bizarre that we get credit for originality that isn't ours. The other day, I walked past a pair of prospective students in Lobby 7 who seemed convinced that "The Vagina Monologues" was an MIT-born show. (It's not.)

This begs the question: why aren't we do-

ing more to distinguish ourselves from other top-tier schools (on purpose)? I mean, besides skewing the walls of all our new architecture and putting cop cars and cows atop the old architecture? I'm well-aware that no school in the galaxy could hold a candle up to us — but for some reason or another, we haven't been able to convince everyone else.

I once spoke with a woman who had a choice between MIT and another school. MIT sent her a Valentine's Day card; the other school didn't. Three guesses which school she decided to attend. Bearing that in mind, in the same spirit of caring and compassion for the individual, I think we could afford a few more clubs and student groups of the sort that will illustrate both how much our students' needs matter to us as well as how unique we are. As a matter of fact, I already have a few possible ideas for new clubs here.

In keeping with MIT's sterling reputation as a haven for geeks and nerds, I wouldn't say

no to a Nobel Laureate Trading Card Game* Club. After all, considering how many of our alumni have won Nobel prizes, one might argue we deserve such a club more than anyone else. (Harvard may have more Nobel laureates than we do, but are they as dedicated to trading card games as we are? I don't think so.)

Or what about a Nose "Scratchers" Anonymous organization to help people with a tragic and slightly off-putting addiction? Say all you want about "It was a scratch, not a pick!" — we know what was going on. Just admit you have a problem, and you get access to the secret handshake. Which, as you might imagine, requires participants to don latex gloves prior to execution.

Perhaps most important would be the Video Game Injuries Clinic. Aside from the usual thumb splints and carpal-tunnel medication, the clinic's services will probably begin to infringe on the borders of the field of traditional

sports medicine, icing down hands and feet, and stocking plenty of knee and elbow braces. I love Nintendo as much as the next person, but the advent of the Wii has generated the frightening prospect of crippling more geeks than it creates. Don't even get me started on those among Dance Dance Revolution players burdened with an overabundance of confidence in their own coordination.

That was just a taste of the possibilities for proving the life of those already here, reaching out to those who have not yet been assimilated, and ensuring that the Institute's place as one of the most culturally distinct institutions on the planet. We may not be as high-class as some other colleges — but that's what makes us special.

* The Nobel Laureate Trading Card Game is not an actual card game, so be aware that any attempt to find it will end in considerable laughter at your expense. Invent it, however, and you get a cookie.

An unlocked gun could be the death of your family.
Please lock up your gun.



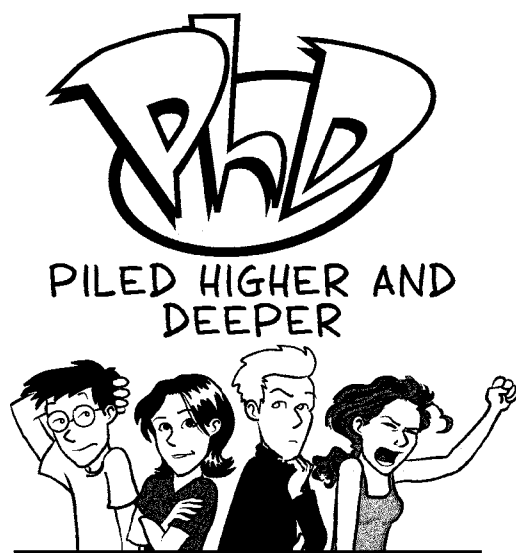
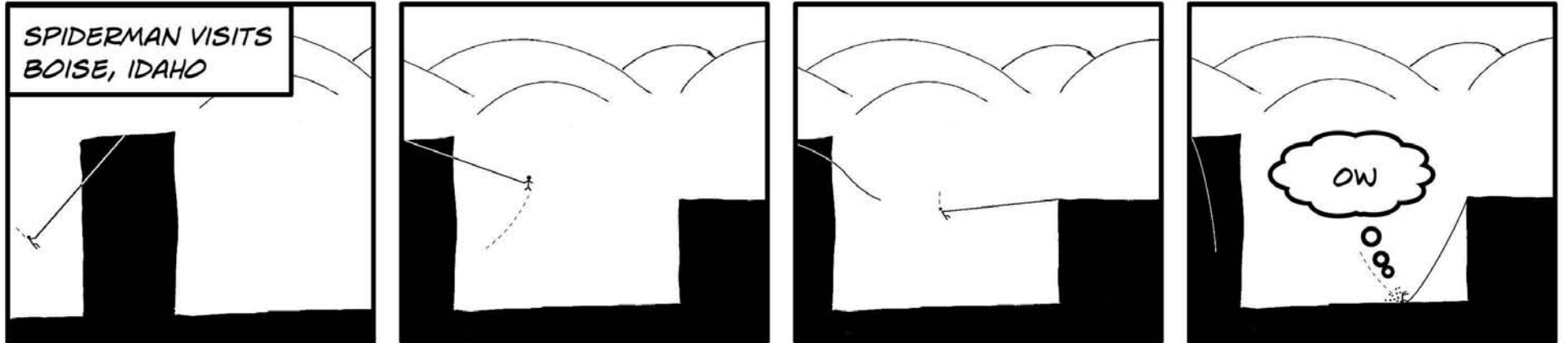
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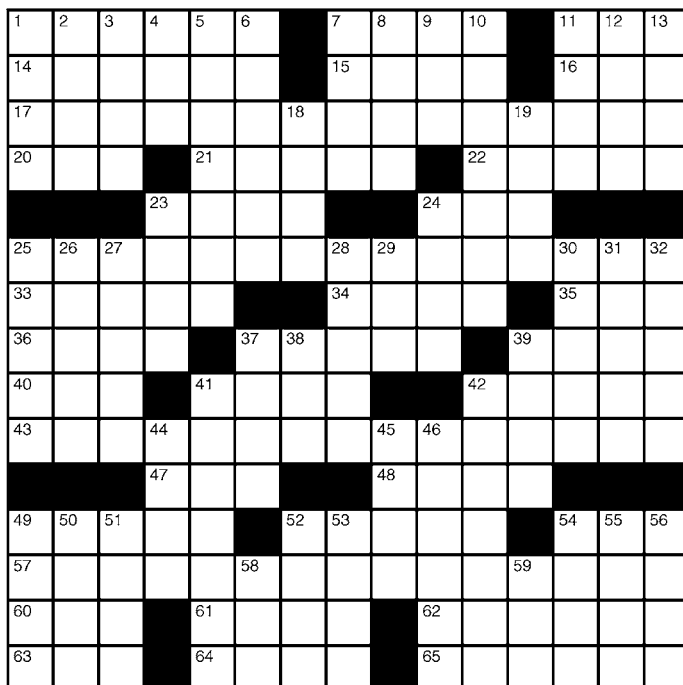
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Crossword Puzzle

Solution, page 10

ACROSS

- 1 Naval engineer
- 7 Angel's prop
- 11 CPR specialist
- 14 Imbue with spiritual awareness
- 15 Banned spray
- 16 Old card game
- 17 Aiming high
- 20 Fla. neighbor
- 21 Compere
- 22 Ecuador's capital
- 23 Pesky insect
- 24 Group of GIs
- 25 Very rare event
- 33 English Channel port
- 34 Asian sea
- 35 ___ Antonio, TX
- 36 Cries of discovery
- 37 More immoral
- 39 Await action
- 40 Go bad
- 41 Shankar of the sitar
- 42 Eagle's pad
- 43 Zwieback, e.g.
- 47 Keats offering
- 48 Spoonful of medicine
- 49 Extrapolate
- 52 Toshiba rival
- 54 Actor Mineo
- 57 Hot sports ticket
- 60 Wolfed down
- 61 Thick piece
- 62 Smoothed
- 63 General Mills brand
- 64 To be, in Toulon
- 65 Sister of Venus



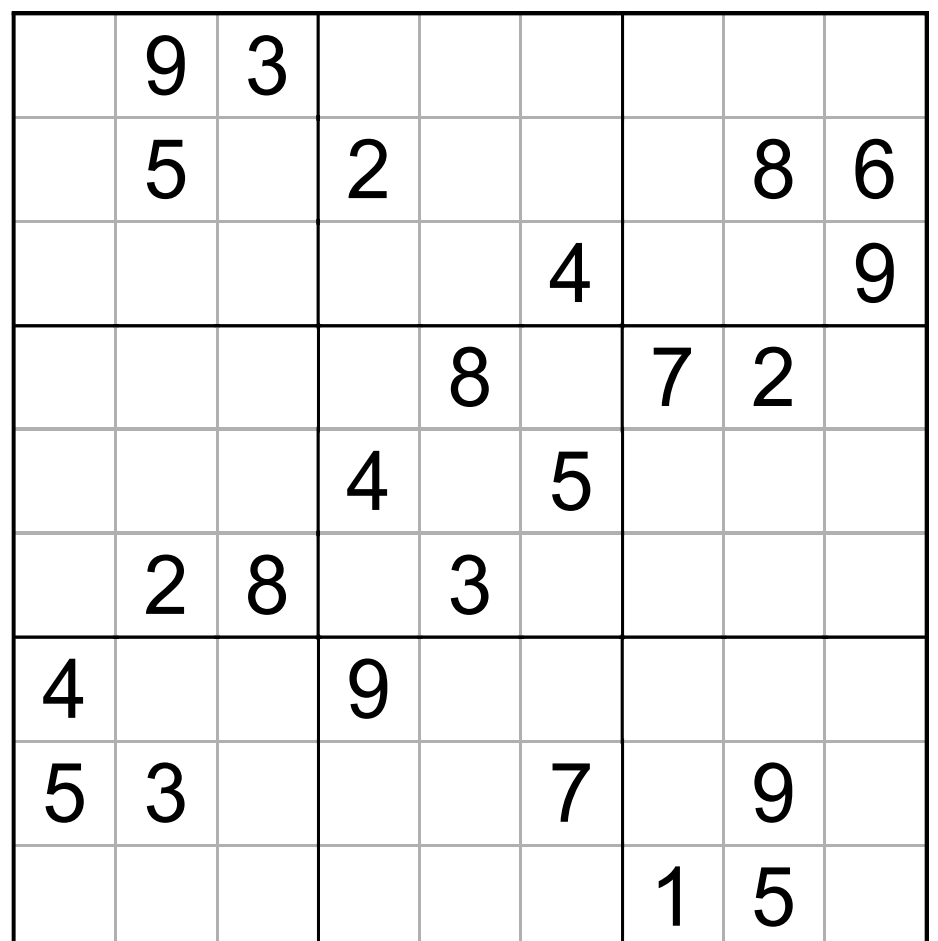
- 5 Wife of Napoleon III
- 6 Actress Jenna
- 7 Fabled dawdler
- 8 Der ___ (Adenauer)
- 9 Fan noise
- 10 Hit film follow-up, perhaps
- 11 "The Time Machine" race
- 12 Drop feathers
- 13 Uproar
- 18 80-year-old prefix
- 19 Wind blast
- 23 Salon goops
- 24 In the distance
- 25 Eyeball-bending pictures
- 26 Never ever
- 27 Raccoon cousin
- 28 Corrective eye surgery
- 29 Hot temper
- 30 Grenoble's department
- 31 Passion
- 32 Wound up
- 37 Yankee Ruth
- 38 Ms. Gardner
- 39 Bardot's dad
- 41 Lancaster's emblem
- 42 Pardon
- 44 Vassar, since 1969
- 45 Millay of poetry
- 46 Arthur Conan and others
- 49 Author Dinesen
- 50 Don't look at me!
- 51 Bend
- 52 Certain twinkler
- 53 French priest
- 54 Reasonable
- 55 Revival shout
- 56 Swan lady
- 58 Most remote, briefly
- 59 Aus. neighbor

DOWN

- 1 Nintendo rival
- 2 Hydroxyl compound
- 3 Europe's neighbor
- 4 Nice good?

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 10.

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

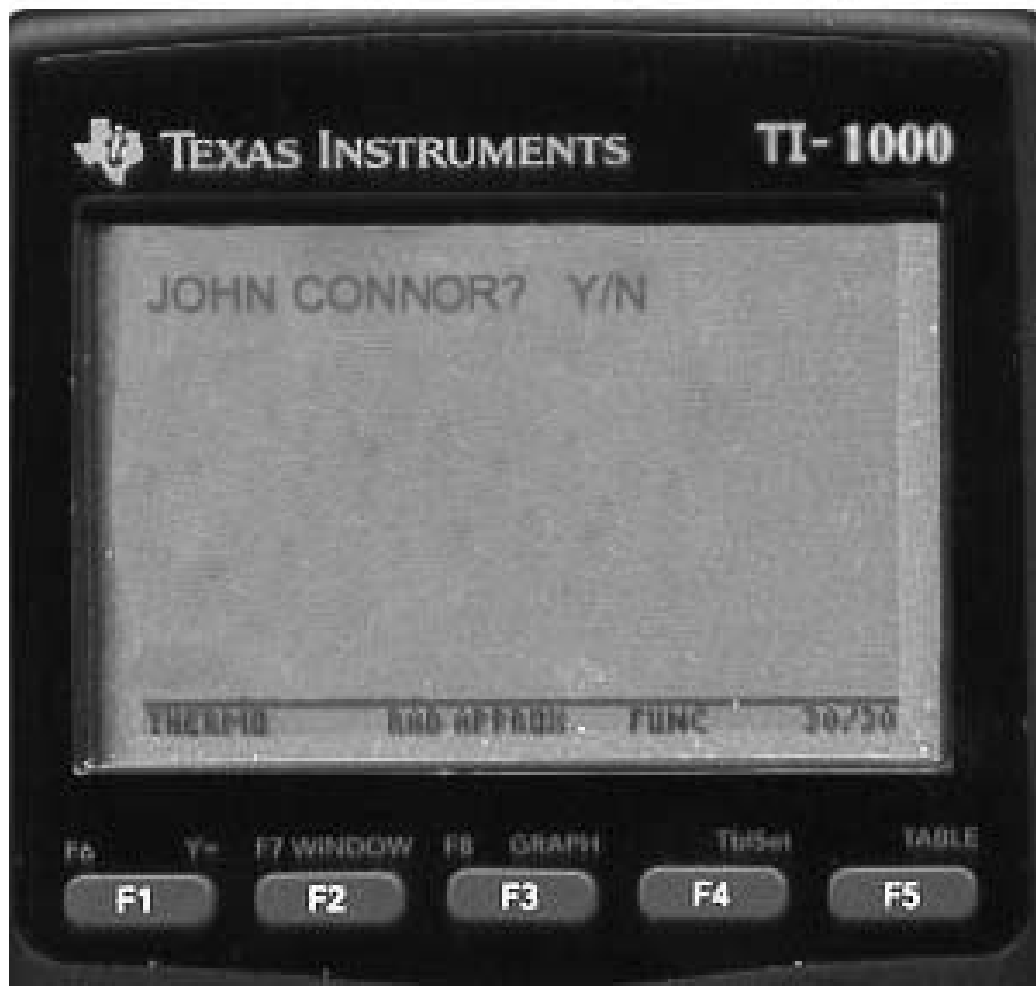
Doonesbury

BY GARRY TRUDEAU

Dilbert® by Scott Adams

The Daily Blunderbuss

by Ben Peters



Blobbles

by Jason Chan



Blobbles is the comic where you, yes you, make the titles! If you want a comic made out of your title, send a short caption to blobbles@tech.mit.edu. With a little bit of luck, you may very well see your title being acted out in the next edition of *The Tech* by cute little blobbles!

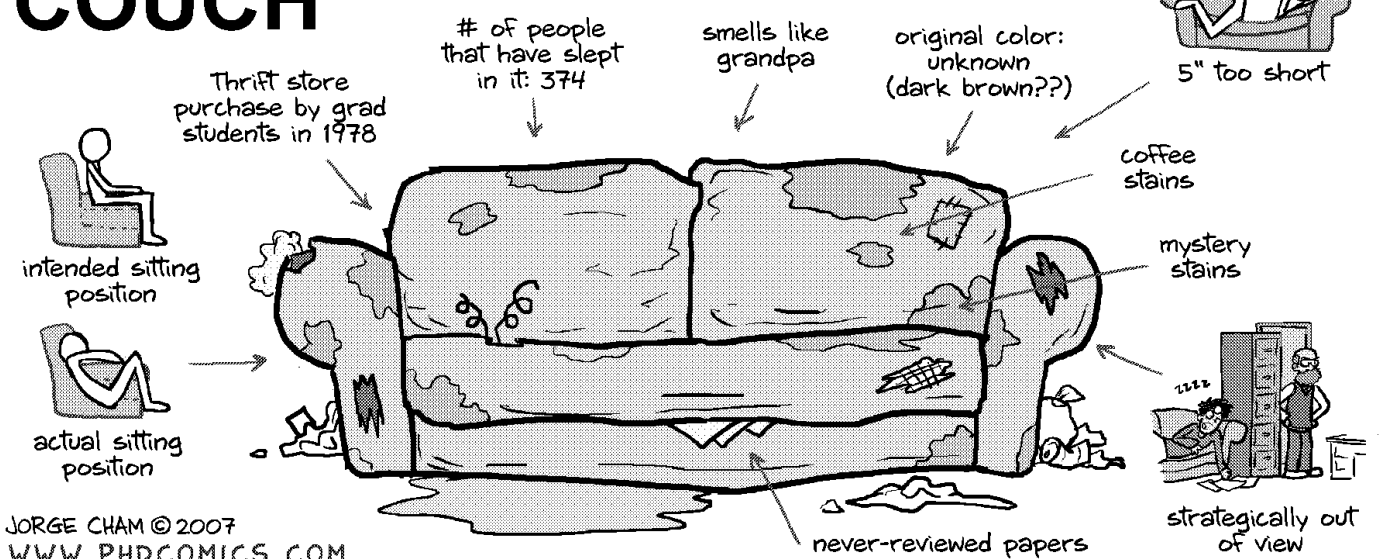


PILED HIGHER AND DEEPER



THE LAB/OFFICE COUCH

Should you sit in it?





DIANE RAK—THE TECH

Students May Find Twenty '10's Hidden In 2010 Class Ring

Brass Rat, from Page 1

the Class of 2010 are invited to the Ring Delivery event, to be held on April 25 at Moakley Courthouse, which overlooks Boston Harbor.

Joseph P. Diaz '10, a Ring Committee member, said that the committee met weekly throughout the fall term with a representative of ring company Balfour. "We were a really good group of people," he said. "We didn't have many difficulties. I was excited to have opportunity to work [on the ring]." The committee conceived ideas for the Brass Rat from previous class rings and the local news.

Students at the ring premiere received the design warmly. "Our ring will be very fun to look at in the future, from counting the '10's in class to agreeing with the 'IHTFP' in the skyline," said Catherine Melnikov '10.

Headed by Laura E. Aust, the committee consists of Mani, Adam M. Blakeway, Aria H. Reynolds, Claire I. Mazumdar, Diaz, Kimberly A. Brink, Nicholas A. Souza, Ritu Tendon, Raymond R. Ma, and Emily J. Onufer.

Although gold prices have increased by about 50 percent in the past year, the price of this year's Brass Rat was not affected by the gold price increase. "The price of the ring is under contract, so it was determined beforehand. Next year's ring will be impacted though," said Nancy Whooley, a Balfour representative.

A 14-karat Brass Rat costs about 10 percent more compared with last year's prices.

More information about the ring can be found online at <http://web.mit.edu/2010ringcomm/>.



KRISTYNA A. MAJORCA



ANDREA ROBLES—THE TECH

The design of the Class of 2010 Brass Rat was revealed at the Ring Premiere held in Kresge Auditorium last night.

(left) Rosemarie M. de la Rosa and Yvette M. Beben admire the Rats in display at Kresge Auditorium.

(below) Steven Mo waits anxiously for the Brass Rat to be revealed.



ANDREA ROBLES—THE TECH

Hundreds of sophomores packed Kresge Auditorium last night for Class of 2010 Ring Premiere. Ring Delivery will occur at Moakley Courthouse in Boston on April 25.

(top left) Sabrina H. Tsang gazes at Brass Rats after Ring Premiere.

(above) Kachina C. Gosselin browses through a pamphlet that explains the details of the 2010 Brass Rat.

(left) Laura E. Aust and S. Balaji Mani, chair and co-chair, respectively of the 2010 Ring Committee, present the bezel for the ring in superhero costumes.

(below left) Emily J. Onufer, a member of the 2010 Ring Committee, explains the significance of the hacker map inscribed on the inside of the 2010 Brass Rat.



ANDREA ROBLES—THE TECH

(below) The Ring Committee toasts the Class of 2010 at the end of Ring Premiere.



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Solution to Sudoku
 from page 6

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

Solution to Crossword
 from page 6

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

CUP Recommends Permanent Exploratory Option, More Flags

CUP Report, from Page 1

that the change to A/B/C/no record grading has reduced failing performance (D's or F's) for freshmen in both semesters (see graphic on page 11), the cause of the improvement is unclear.

Freshmen may be doing better because they anticipate spring term A/B/C/no record grading. The change may also be linked to other changes in the freshman experience — most notably, the requirement since fall 2001 that freshmen live in dormitories.

While freshman grades have improved, sophomore GPAs have remained constant at around 4.2. The report says that the A/B/C/no record change has helped accomplished their original goal of helping students to transition into the sophomore year.

In an e-mail, Freeman said he was concerned about some of his committee's numerical results appearing in a newspaper article. "MIT never releases information about grades (such as average GPAs) for audiences outside MIT," Freeman said. "The reasons for this are obvious: MIT grades are not comparable and should not be compared to grades at other institutions. The CUP report is intended for the MIT community and access to its report is restricted to the MIT community."

The change in grading policy not only affected students' GPAs but also the classes freshmen took in the spring. The 2000 CUP subcommittee found that freshmen were eager to take academic subjects for which they lacked qualifications, in particular Thermodynamics & Kinetics (5.60), Structure & Interpretation of Computer Programs (6.001), Circuits & Electronics (6.002), and Mechanics and Materials I (2.001).

According to the 2008 report, fewer freshmen have enrolled in 6.002 and 5.60 since the change to A/B/C/no record. "It is the sense of the Chemistry faculty that the changes to freshman grading are the main reason that freshman enrollment in 5.60 has declined, and they view this as a largely positive change," the report says.

Although fewer freshmen are taking some difficult courses, more students are choosing to leave behind their "freshman" status altogether; the number of students electing sophomore standing has increased dramatically since the change to A/B/C/no record grading. According to the report, between 15 and 26 students elected sophomore standing before the grading change; an average of 107 students elected sophomore standing after the change.

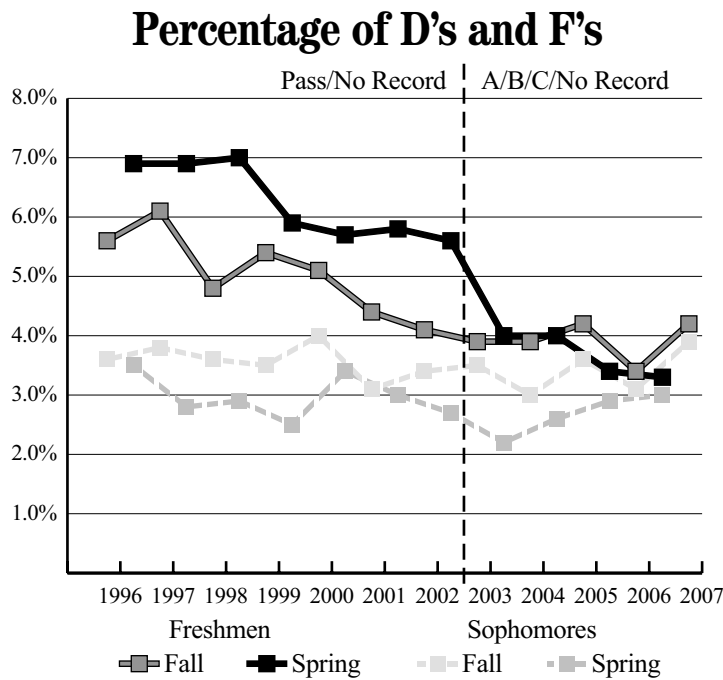
Letter grades for MIT freshmen were first eliminated and a pass/fail policy adopted as an experiment in 1968. This policy was changed to pass/no record and made permanent by the faculty in 1973.

CUP recommends permanent exploratory option

The sophomore exploratory option, a five-year experiment of the CUP, began the year after A/B/C/no record was adopted. Sophomores can declare one subject per semester "exploratory" and change its status to "listener" — effectively hiding their grade in the subject — any time before the next semester.

The committee recommends that the sophomore exploratory experiment be made a permanent option beginning in fall 2008.

According to the report, 25–30 percent of sophomores designated a subject as exploratory each semester between fall 2003 and spring 2007. This figure rose only slightly to 35



SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON THE UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAM JANUARY 2008 REPORT

The percentage of D's and F's received by freshmen has generally dropped in the past few years, while the percentage received by sophomores has stayed constant. In 2003, grading for freshmen during the spring term changed from pass/no record to A/B/C/no record.

percent in fall 2008.

"The Sophomore Exploratory Option is well used and valued as a means to try ambitious subjects (both in the major and in potential minors and new majors) without having to worry about possible negative effects on grades," Freeman said in an e-mail.

According to a survey conducted by the Teaching and Learning Laboratory in March 2005, 65 percent of surveyed students did choose to designate a subject as exploratory because it would not hurt their GPA if they did poorly; however, 75 percent of respondents would have still taken the subject had it not been exploratory. Moreover, only 36 percent felt it was related to their interest in a minor or second degree, and only 11 percent went on to change their major between sophomore and junior years.

Declaring a subject exploratory costs nothing and can only help one's academic record. So why do two-thirds of undergraduates not bother to do it? The CUP report suggests that one answer is poor communication among students and advisers about their options. Another possibility is that students feel they must immerse themselves in their major early on so they do not fall behind other students.

Students who declare a subject exploratory tend to have higher grades. In fall 2007, the average unit load for

all sophomores was 53 units and the average GPA was 4.2; the average unit load for students that designated an exploratory subject was 57.5 units and the average GPA 4.4.

CUP recommends midterm flags for upperclassmen

The report recommends that MIT expand its fifth-week flag system to include upperclass students "as part of a robust and holistic advising system." The system, first presented to the faculty in spring 1995, is meant to identify poor academic performance early in the semester so that freshmen can successfully seek help early in the term.

The Office of the Dean for Undergraduate Education is working on a plan to expand the system through MIT's Student Information Systems, according to Freeman.

The fifth-week flag system is currently administered for freshmen by the Office of Undergraduate Advising and Academic Programming. Since 2000, the UAAP has built a database to keep track of flags and has followed up more aggressively with flagged freshmen, according to the CUP report.

The report says that these changes have led to more flagged students recovering their grades. The average recovery rate for academic year 2000–01 was 53.5 percent; the recovery rate for 2005–06 was 71.55 percent.

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W1 Founders Group Will Examine Yale, Stanford Dormitories

W1, from Page 1

ing for the next two years, Flynn said.

Members of the founders group will select GRTs, design W1's government, and shape decisions made by the architects renovating the dormitory. Flynn said that they might look at other universities' dormitories for inspiration, in particular those of Yale or Stanford.

Carroll said that the small size of the founders group would help them make quick decisions. "We could decide something in September, but then decide in May we want to do something else," he said. The "incubator" students who are not in the group will nevertheless work closely with them, most likely in committees.

The housemasters said they hope the colony will help build a unique culture for W1. "We're not interested in merely duplicating another dorm," said Flynn. "We're looking for something new."

Most upperclassmen will have graduated when W1 reopens, but juniors, sophomores, and freshmen may all apply to join the founders group. Students selected to help found W1 will live in NW35 for the next two years (or until they graduate). Undergraduates forming the colony will have access to the same facilities available to graduate students in the dorm, and they might take part in a graduate-undergraduate mentoring program.

Applications for this founders group were originally due tomorrow, but the deadline was extended to Monday, Feb. 25. Students may pick up an application at a meeting to be held in the W1 Hulsizer Room on Thursday, Feb. 21 at 6 p.m. or by e-mailing w1foundersgroup@mit.edu. The application process for the other residents will come later.

Only about a dozen students went to a planning meeting on Feb. 11; another meeting for those interested in being part of the founders group will be held this Thursday. The deadline was set early because architects of the W1 project will visit campus on March 14, Associate Dean for Residential Life Donna M. Denoncourt told the Dormitory Council at its Feb. 13 meeting.

The price of housing for the fifty undergraduates living in NW35 next year has not been confirmed, but Flynn and Carroll said that they hoped the prices would be competitive with other undergraduate dorms. "No one should be priced out [of the founders group]," Flynn said.

Graduate students will pay \$1,078, \$1,024, or \$960 per month to rent rooms with the same layout as those reserved for undergraduates, according to the Housing Web site.

When W1 reopens in about 2010, it will be the largest undergraduate dormitory, offering approximately 400 residents.

Daily Meditation

"Nature is God's Will and is its expression in and through the contingent world... It is endowed with a power whose reality men of learning fail to grasp."
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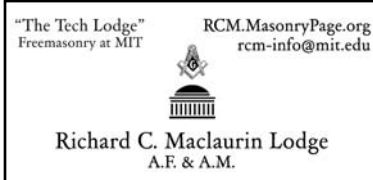
[HTTP://www.thecoop.com](http://www.thecoop.com)

UA Events Committee Will Organize Spring Weekend, Fall Festival

Spring Concert, from Page 1

reached for comment yesterday. The 10-to-15-member UA Events Committee, formerly the Spring Weekend Committee, was formed this year to organize both Spring Weekend and Fall Festival so there would be "more coordination" between the two events. In 2006, the Spring Weekend Committee's total budget was \$95,000. The committee's 2007 budget included about \$80,000 contributed by MIT and \$16,700 from 2006 ticket sales.

Based in San Francisco, Third Eye Blind emerged on the music scene in 1997 with their eponymous debut album featuring hit singles "Semi-Charmed Life," "Jumper," and "How It's Going to Be." The band has released two more albums, and a fourth, *The Hideous Strength*, is in the works.



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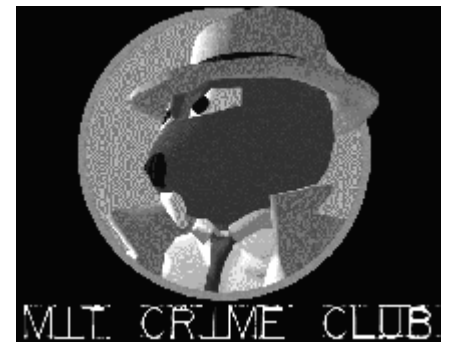
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Menand Remembered as Passionate, Political Professor

Menand, from Page 1

house on the side of Moose Mountain in Etna, N.H., that he bought in 1959, a place he valued for its grand views of distant mountains.

A senior lecturer in MIT's political science department, Dr. Menand developed a subject he called the Supreme Court and Constitutional Process. He always had a copy of the US Constitution handy and preferred that others did, too.

"He loved his family, he loved his children, he loved his teaching, he loved his students, he loved his books, he loved politics, and he loved the Constitution," said his wife, Kay. "And he was always pressing copies of it on his friends, saying, 'You should keep this with you at all times.'"

Dr. Menand joined the MIT administration in 1968 as assistant

to the provost and later served as special assistant to the provost until retiring in 1988. At a school known for producing top-notch engineers, mathematicians, and scientists, he emphasized the ripple effect that his students' work would have on society.

"Louis himself was a humanist," said Charles H. Stewart III, head of MIT's political science department. "What Louis worried most about was that MIT had a soul and a social conscience. He was great at teaching undergraduates because he knew that they wanted to make a difference in the world and make it a better place. ... He challenged students in very effective ways to think about the linkages, what was happening in their lives with science and technology, and how that relates to politics and government and human rights."

Philip S. Khoury, associate provost and history professor at MIT, said, "He was always conscious about the moral fiber of MIT — how do you keep this remarkable culture we've got together and not let it unravel?"

Stepping off campus, Dr. Menand could shrug off his professorial demeanor and slip into his other passions for music and nature.

"In every intellectual endeavor he was all about reason," his son said, "and yet he had this enormous love for opera, which is all about irrational desire."

And at his house on Moose Mountain, Dr. Menand was content to be still and listen to the sounds emerging from the panorama of nature.

"He loved the place that we had in New Hampshire mainly because of the view of the mountains. He was a mountain person," said his daughter, Constance Margowsky of Somersworth, N.H. "He just spent hours gazing out at the mountains, and I would sit there gazing with him."

The respite afforded by the rural retreat may have reminded Dr. Menand of his childhood, his family said. He was born in Menands, N.Y., a village north of Albany that was named for his great-grandfather, who grew orchids.

"I think his small-town life is where his values came from, too, the idea that all the adults are responsible for all the kids, and everyone looked

out for everyone else," his daughter said. "That's how he thought people really are, and should be. That's one of the sublime principles of how people can be."

Dr. Menand graduated from Middlebury College in Vermont with a bachelor's in political science and received his doctorate from the Maxwell School of Public Administration at Syracuse University. During World War II, he took time from his studies to enlist in the Navy, spending two years commanding a landing craft in the Pacific through eight invasions and returning home as a lieutenant, junior grade.

He taught at Dartmouth College and at Vassar College in Poughkeepsie, N.Y., where he met Kay Shults, whom he married in 1949.

"I took a course from him my senior year in college — it was like one of those magazine stories," she said with a chuckle. "It was a very romantic course — public administration."

She added, "He's utterly charming, you know? He was just a wonderful guy who got nicer the longer you knew him."

Dr. Menand was dean of Bradford College in England from 1956 to 1966, then joined the administration of President Lyndon B. Johnson working with the Office for Economic Opportunity on Upward Bound, a program that helped prepare economically disadvantaged high school students for college. Within two years, Dr. Menand's

moral compass led him away from Washington.

"He resigned from that because he found Johnson's policy in Vietnam so abhorrent that he couldn't work for the administration," said his son, a Harvard professor who lives in Cambridge.

Indeed, Dr. Menand found himself protesting policies set in motion by the president he had served.

"He took me to my first peace march in Washington," Nicholas Brock Menand of Hammonton, N.J., said of his father. "You wouldn't know it to look at him — he was a very distinguished looking man, very Ivy League — but he was very much a populist."

And yet, Dr. Menand's uncompromising adherence to values and political views never kept him from delighting in life, or being playful.

"I won't forget the last time I saw him, a few years ago," Gruber said. "The first thing he said when he saw me was, 'I'm worried your hair is cut too short. You're getting too conservative with that short hair.'"

"He embraced this idea of being a good man, so that you never have anything to regret," his wife said. "And you know, I don't think he had any bad memories."

In addition to his wife, two sons, and daughter, Dr. Menand leaves three grandsons and one granddaughter.

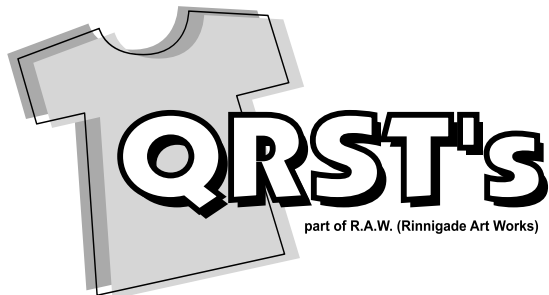
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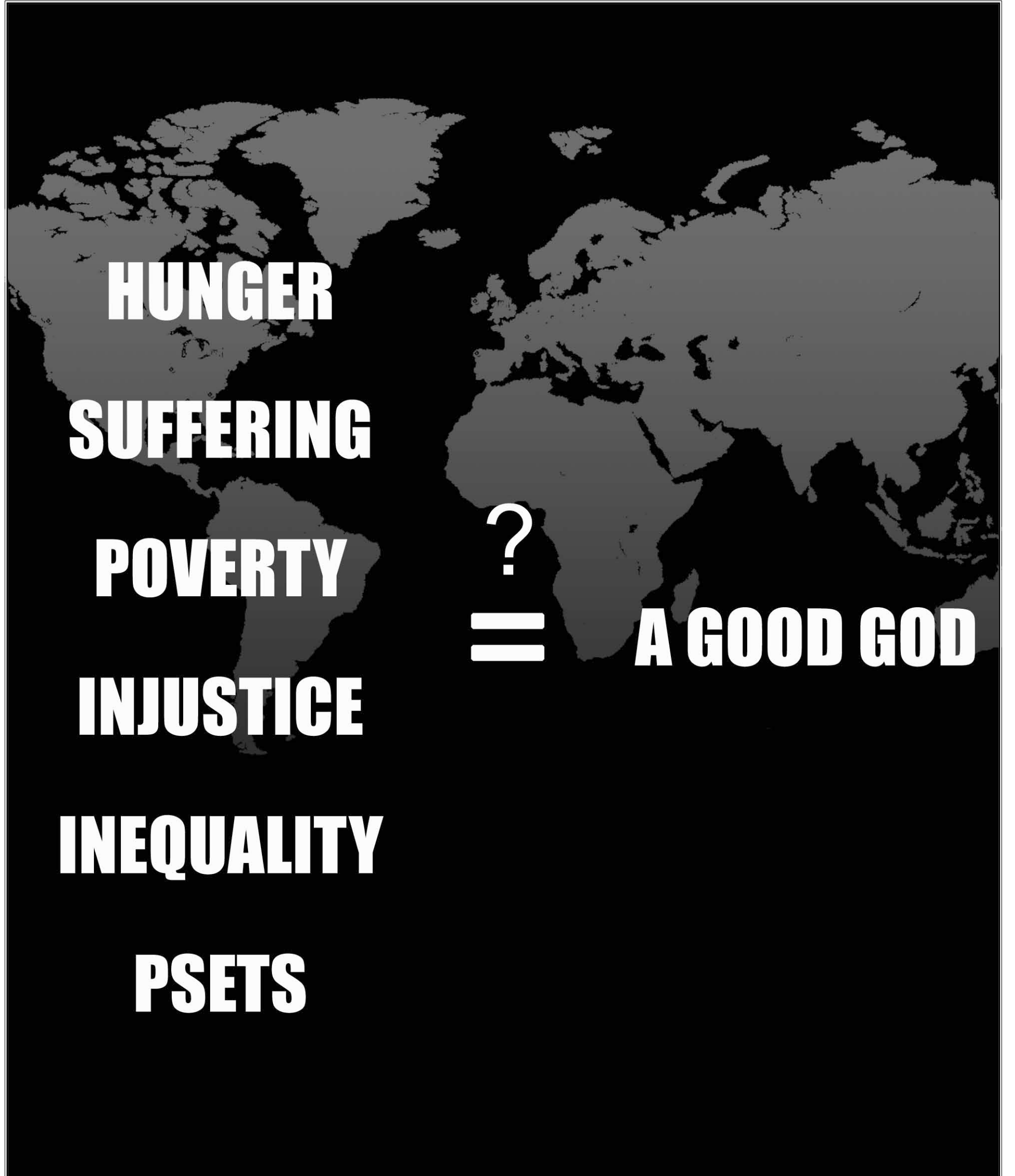
Actor Christopher Walken is presented with Hasty Pudding Theatricals' "Man of the Year" Award in a ceremony on Feb. 15 in New College Theatre at Harvard University. The presentation was followed by the Hasty Pudding Theatrical Club's presentation of "Fable Attraction."

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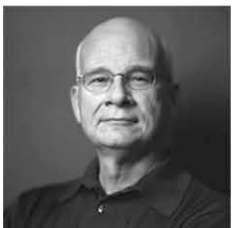
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SPORTS

Baseball Has Lost Focus: It's Time To Talk About Policy, Not Clemens

By Shreyes Seshasai
SPORTS EDITOR

Why is it that baseball fans care more about finding truth in the past than building trust for the future? Will accomplishing the former really help the latter, or is this constant questioning of history purely driven from the anger caused by one of our heroes (potentially) cheating?

After watching Roger Clemens testify before the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform last week, only one thing is clear to me: baseball and the media have both lost focus. The longer we continue diving deeper into the controversy, the longer baseball delays what it truly needs to do: earn back the trust of its fans.

Based on the information that has come out since the Mitchell Report was released, things are not looking good for Clemens. I'm not saying that I think Clemens used steroids. It's hard to know exactly what to believe. But to be honest, I don't really care. What Clemens and other ball players might or might not have done years ago is irrelevant to the integrity of players today.

As a fan, I really want to believe that Ryan Howard, Matt Holliday, Prince Fielder, and all of the other sluggers dominating today's game are not taking performance-enhancing drugs. How will uncovering old secrets about Clemens

help me trust these young players?

The only man who can win me over is Bud Selig. The commissioner has had time to review the recommendations made in the Mitchell Report, and it is about time he starts taking action. The players' union and the league have to collaborate on a drug policy that fans believe will actually work.

I understand it's hard to let go of the past. Seeing my childhood hero's name, Lenny Dykstra, appear in the Mitchell Report was not easy, and I admit the Phillies' 1993 run lost some of its luster. For the millions of fans who admired Clemens for his performance both on and off of the field, I can understand that it's difficult to entertain the notion that all this time he may have been cheating you out of legitimate baseball.

Regardless, it's time to move on. As Clemens said in his statement to the committee, "No matter what we discuss here today, I am never going to have my name restored."

Let's stop worrying about whether Clemens deserves to be in the Hall of Fame. (If Mark McGwire's poor showing this year is any indication of how voters will treat alleged steroid users, it may be hopeless for Clemens already.) Let's start worrying about how we can ensure that the integrity of the future of the game is protected.

Remember the summer of 1998? All of America was absorbed in the pursuit of one of the more glamorous records

in baseball, the single-season home run record. Over the summer, McGwire and Sammy Sosa would provide some of the most memorable moments in the history of the sport, bringing an unmatched level of excitement and interest to the game for that generation.

Fast-forwarding to this past summer, Barry Bonds was finishing a chase of his own, culminating in his 756th career home run that broke Hank Aaron's all-time record. What should have been the highlight of the summer was instead an awkward, controversial — and to some, meaningless — event that felt nothing like '98.

How many more moments like this is baseball going to lose? Every time a record is broken, will fans simply clap for a few minutes and then begin questioning the validity of the achievement?

Deciding how to acknowledge the accomplishments from the Steroids Era is important, but it is secondary to ensuring that future feats are not mired in the same shadow of doubt that people such as Clemens and Bonds have created. A stronger, more transparent drug policy with greater player education and cooperation may not solve this problem, but it's a start.

It may be a while before fans can feel as good as they felt watching baseball back in the day when everyone was ignorant of steroid use. But for the sake of the game, let's stop worrying about Clemens and start making progress where it actually counts.



AARON SAMPSON—THE TECH

Sophia L. Harrison '08 maneuvers between the uneven bars at the women's gymnastics meet on Feb. 16. Harrison finished first in the uneven bars with a score of 9.450 on her way to winning the all-around competition (36.725), followed by fellow senior Sarah N. Trowbridge '08 who placed second (35.950). The team finished first in the tri-meet against Rhode Island College and Boston University in what was Harrison and Trowbridge's final home match of their collegiate careers.



STEVE HOWLAND—THE TECH

Co-captain Balaji V. Sridhar '09 reaches for a shot in the squash team's final match of the year against Boston College. MIT participated in the College Squash Association Team Nationals this weekend, beating Kenyon College 7-2, losing to the University of California, Berkeley 3-6, and ending with an 8-1 victory over Boston College.

The Tech's Athlete of the Week: Timothy F. Pier '08

Timothy F. Pier '08 clinched an individual spot in the United States Collegiate Ski and Snowboard Association Eastern Regional Championship this weekend with his performance at the Boston College Carnival on Feb. 9-10. Pier entered the competition only a single point ahead of his nearest competitor, but secured his spot by finishing seventh in the slalom (1:35.35) and ninth on the second day (1:31.88).

Pier finished the regular season ranked 11th in the league to lead the Engineers. He competes in the Eastern Regional race at Waterville Valley this upcoming weekend with a chance to advance to the national championship by finishing as the top individual from a non-qualifying team.

The men's alpine skiing team finished the regular season ranked sixth in the MacConnell Division of the Eastern Collegiate Ski Conference, falling just short of qualifying for the regionals as a team. The women's team placed ninth.

—Shreyes Seshasai, Sports Editor

SCOREBOARD

Men's Basketball

Saturday, Feb. 16, 2008	
MIT (12-12, 3-8 NEWMAC ¹)	46
Worcester Polytechnic Institute (18-5, 9-1)	81

Women's Basketball

Saturday, Feb. 16, 2008	
MIT (12-11, 4-7)	54
Wellesley College (6-15, 3-8)	48

Men's Gymnastics

Saturday, Feb. 16, 2008	
Temple University (8-1)	339.450
Springfield College (1-2)	329.600
MIT (0-3)	311.800

Women's Gymnastics

Saturday, Feb. 16, 2008	
MIT (6-8)	180.775
Rhode Island College (1-10)	169.125
Boston University	139.425

Men's Ice Hockey

Saturday, Feb. 16, 2008	
MIT (12-3-1, 8-2-0 NECHA ² Conf. A East)	4
Westfield State College (8-6-2)	4

Women's Ice Hockey

Friday, Feb. 15, 2008	
MIT (1-15-1, 1-14-1 ECAC ³ East)	3
Plymouth State University (0-17-1, 0-15-1)	1
Saturday, Feb. 16, 2008	
MIT (1-15-2, 1-14-2)	2
Castleton State College (5-13-3, 4-9-3)	2

Squash

Friday, Feb. 15, 2008	
MIT	7
Kenyon College	2
Saturday, Feb. 16, 2008	
MIT	3
University of California, Berkeley	6
Sunday, Feb. 17, 2008	
MIT	8
Boston College	1

Men's Volleyball

Thursday, Feb. 14, 2008	
MIT (10-6, 6-2 NECVA NE ⁴)	1
Rivier College (9-6, 3-0)	3

Wrestling

Friday, Feb. 15, 2008	
U.S. Coast Guard Academy (3-12)	31
MIT (0-22)	18
Western New England College (5-9)	46
MIT (0-22)	6

UPCOMING HOME EVENTS

Tuesday, Feb. 19, 2008

Men's Volleyball vs. Emmanuel College 6 p.m., Rockwell Cage

Wednesday, Feb. 20, 2008

Men's Basketball vs. Clark University 7 p.m., Rockwell Cage
Men's Ice Hockey vs. Boston College 7 p.m., Johnson Ice Arena



NOAH SPIES

Julie C. Andren '10 competes in the shot put during the Coed Invitational at MIT on Feb. 16. Andren finished 11th in the event with a distance of 8.89 meters. The women's track and field team will compete in the New England Division III Indoor Track and Field Championships this weekend.

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

²NorthEast Collegiate Hockey Association

³Eastern College Athletic Conference

⁴North East Collegiate Volleyball Association New England Division