Students, Supporters Turn Out For Obama

Late on Monday Night, Thousands of People Attend Presidential Candidate's Rally

By Nick Bushak

On the eve of Super Tuesday, eager Bostonians stuffed themselves into crowded Silver Line buses. They followed signs held by Barack Obama volunteers titled “This way for change” to a long, winding line outside the Seaport World Trade Center.

Thousands came to Sena tor Barack H. Obama’s “Stand for Change” rally, held last night at the World Trade Center, many college age. Senator Edward M. Kennedy, Senator John F. Kerry, and Governor Deval L. Patrick, all of whom have endorsed Obama, made appearances at the event.

Attendees came from all around Boston to the rally, which began at 8 p.m. with speeches from state and local political figures. Obama himself did not take the stage until 11 p.m.

When Obama spoke, two words came up most often: “change” and “belief.” Trying to dismiss concerns that his caution, when applied to working as America’s commander in chief, would endanger the country, “I will keep you safe,” he said. He added that “I won’t hesitate to strike [against enemies] if necessary.”

Obama emphasized his desire to be a bipartisan leader, attracting the support of both Democrats and Republicans. “I’m changing reg istrations,” he said.

Kerry mentioned the world’s opinion of Obama as one of Obama’s strengths. He said “this man [Obama] is being watched by the world.”

While there were a few attacks on the Clinton campaign last night, there were plenty of digs at the Bush administration. Obama called the war in Iraq a “recruitment tool” for Al-Qaeda.

In a humorous aside, Obama talked about discovering that he was related to Dick Cheney. “That was embarrassing,” he said. “You know, when they do these genealogical surveys, you’re hoping that you’re related to someone cool!”

Perhaps as important as Obama’s speech was his supporters. Andrew Saperstone, a freshman Marketing and Communications major at Emerson College, attended the rally “hoping to solidify some things.” He said he was leaning towards Obama, but was still undecided.

Democratic Presidential candidate Barack Obama waves to an excited crowd during a rally last night at the World Trade Center in Boston.

Oversubscribed Biology Class Will Spill Into 4-370

Students in 7.013 will Fill MIT’s Largest Lecture Hall

By Michael McGraw-Herdeg

Although 659 people have pre-registered for Introductory Biology (7.013), only 566 seats are available in the 26-100 lecture hall where the subject will be taught. Students who cannot fit in 26-100 will still be able to see the lecture via a live video stream shown in 4-370. A course instructor and teaching assistants will be in the overflow room to answer students’ questions.

Tyler E. Jacks, one of the two lecturers for 7.013, said that he has taught the subject five or six times before, and that in the past it has attracted about 500 students.

One cause of the subject’s unusually high popularity may be that two other introductory biology classes, 7.014 and 7.015, will not be offered this spring. 7.014 is usually offered every other year. However, 7.015 would not be taught in the spring.

Another factor which may explain the increased enrollment in 7.013 is that the Department of Biology no longer gives credit for 7.012 to students who scored a 5 on the Advanced Placement Biology exam. The General Institute Requirements, MIT’s core curriculum, require a student to have credit for any one of the introductory biology classes 7.012, 7.013, 7.014, or 7.015.

About one-fourth of the Class of 2009 received AP credit that satisfied the GIR biology requirement. The arrest also announced in November 2007 that 7.015 would not be taught in the spring.

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**Some Residents Skeptical of Account of Mall Shooting**

By Catrin Einhorn and Monica Davey

TINLEY PARK, Ill. —

Relatives of the only survivor of a weekend shooting here that left five women dead inside a clothing store told a Kentucky newspaper that the women inside the shop had been bound and thrown into the back of their heads.

The mother of one of the victims said she was a 33-year-old part-time employee at the Lane Bryant store, was shot along with the rest. But the bullet went into her neck, missing vital organs, her mother told The Messenger, a newspaper in Madisonville, Ky., near where the mother lives.

The authorities in Tinley Park, a southwestern suburb of Chicago, would not comment on the description given by the family members and offered few details of the Sunday morning shooting, which they said was a robbery that turned deadly as a strip shopping. No arrests have been made in the case.

“There’s no miscommunication going on right now,” Sgt. T.J. Grady of the Tinley Park police said without elaborating during a short news conference on Monday.

**Turkey Strikes Towns in Kurdistan**

By Aliessa J. Rubin and Sabrina Tavernise

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By Julia Preston  
NEW YORK TIMES

WASHINGTON

After California ordered a switch to paper ballots from touch-screen voting machines to Tuesday's election, officials in 7,200-square-mile Riverside County discovered to decide the best way to pick up the ballots so they could be centrally counted on time.

They chose land rather than air, because the helicopters had been grounded by fog. But then they encountered another problem: 60,000 registered voters had fallen to fall at the polls.

"We wanted to do it or they could be too late," but the problems are always there," said Barbara Dunmore, a county registrar of voters.

As voters in 23 states head to polls or cast absentee ballots, the likely presidential party's candidate, the group of local election officials around the country are waiting and a array of unpredictable factors that might prevent some states from reporting final tallies until early Wednesday. Although no one is pre- dictions, they point to official officials acknowledge that they could happen.

So states are expecting a higher than usual turnout, which could increase bottlenecks in pre- election voting机器. The growing popularity of absentee voting, the delays because the ballots take more time to process and often arrive at the same time, have prolonged voting.

Voting experts have raised con- cerns that the new systems are too less touch-screen machines, which could make recounts impossible in elections in the future. And the rush by states to move up the primary and primary dates has shortened the amount of time voting officials have to hire and train poll workers.

In California, which has the high- est proportion of Hispanics among the 20 counties with paper-poll machines were told by the state in August to prepare for at least 48 percent more paper ballots. But those ballots will have to be counted at a central loc- using the same scanners that normally count the absentee ballots, voters who can not be enough machines to perform

dattle at individual polling places. Some absentee voters are expected to vote by mail, and many of them, voting officials say, have waited until the last moment to send their ballots. These ballots take longer to process than paper ballots because workers must open the enve- lopes, separate the contents and check for signatures, even before the ballot is fed into the counting machine.

Thirty states are excluding 15 of those with those voters Tuesday, now make it easier to vote or early absentee, drop- ping deadlines that such votes of concern for failure.

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tographs of the electorate — a strong turnout in Florida, the state with a big Hispanic population, is one of the most pressing concerns for homeowners here.

"Making breast feeding safe is an urgent need," Dr. Taha Taha, a breast-feeding expert, said. "Breast feeding accounts for up to 48 percent of HIV infections among infants in developing countries, researchers said.

The findings open the way for new prevention strategies in areas where infected mothers cannot breast-feed for a number of reasons. They could eventually help expand traditional traditions of breast-feeding and reluctance to use formula for fear of being stigmatized as being infected, the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said.

Veers Toward Elections

BOSTON

Italy seemed headed toward elections after the Senate president said Monday that he could not find enough support in Parliament to form a temporary government that would fix the nation's flawed electoral law. The failure to form an interim government is likely to turn a quick fix for the nation's political crisis — seemed a victory for Silvio Berlusconi, the nation's richest man, who has served two terms as prime minister and is aiming at a third. In the leading, the polls, and he and his allies on the center-right told the Senate president, Franco Marini, that they would meet early in the evening to decide whether to go to elections with the current law.

"It's difficult to say the best thing for the country is to immediately Italy a government legitimated by a popular vote," Berlusconi told reporters after the meeting with Marini. He said he hoped to win elections, then start negotiating about any changes.

Last week the nation's president, Giorgio Napolitano, asked Mari- si to form a coalition of parties for a government to make reforms in the electoral law.

There is wide consensus in Italy that the law, pushed through Par- liament by Berlusconi before the last elections in 2006, causes insta- bility by favoring small parties. The law uses a complex region-by-re- gion formula that is intended to reward political parties but instead has made it more difficult to form a clear majority in the upper house, the Senate.

Extending HIV Mothers' Drugs May Help Nursing Infants

By Lawrence K. Altman  
NEW YORK TIMES

Over recent years, giving an antiretroviral drug to a woman infected with the AIDS virus in labor and to her baby at birth has reduced the risk of transmitting the virus to the baby.

But a large part of the shortfall results from the normal decline in federal resources, and there is an economic downturn, along with the stimulus package that leaders of both parties support.
The headline of the article “MIT Arab Students Speak in Jerusalem, Promote Education,” which ran in The Tech, Jan. 30, 2008 issue, referred improperly to the nation of origin of one of the students who visited the Middle East, Rameez A. Qudsi. Qudsi was born in Pakistan and is not “Arab,” although he said he has an interest in the social and cultural issues of Arab culture, and he participated in the event as part of an Arab mentorship organization formed by the MIT Arab Students’ Organization.

**Opinion Policy**

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

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

Letters to the editor, columns, and editorial cartoons are written by individuals and represent the opinion of the author, not necessarily that of the newspaper. Electronic submissions are encouraged and should be sent to letters@the-tech.mit.edu. Hand-copied submissions should be addressed to The Tech, P.O. Box 379029, Cambridge, Mass. 02139-7029. All submissions are due by 4:30 p.m. two days before the date of publication.

Letters, columns, and editorial cartoons must bear the authors’ signatures, addresses, and phone numbers. Unsigned letters will not be accepted. The Tech reserves the right to edit or condense letters, shorter letters will be given higher priority. Once submitted, all letters become property of The Tech, and will not be returned. Letters, columns, and cartoons may also be posted on The Tech’s Web site and/or printed in any other format or medium now known or later that becomes known. The Tech makes no commitment to publish all the letters received.

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.

**To Reach Us**

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By Diana Jue

The Buenos Aires financial district, bustling metal rail blockades remain on the sidewalks near the banks, which are modern-day fortresses, outfitted in concrete and secured by guards. In public plazas, black gates surround statues of political figures to protect them from vandalism. Politically charged graffiti is littered throughout Avenida de Mayo, the street that connects Congress to Plaza de Mayo – Buenos Aires’ historical location of political protest. At dusk, carteños – who would otherwise be unemployed – pick through city trash bins in search of cardboard scraps to sell. At night, homeless individuals sleep in doorways of closed shops in the upper class Recoleta neighborhood.

These observations were remnants of the early 2000 Argentine economic crisis and subsequent riots that revealed a common theme in all the cities I visited: policies promoting market-driven development. These strategies include removing international trade restrictions, deregulation, privatization of state-owned businesses, and private sector management of natural resources. In many cases, international institutions like the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank, and the World Trade Organization play a large role in determining national economic policies.

Before studying abroad, I held a negative attitude toward international institutions and purely market-driven development. The IMF and the World Bank are predominately controlled by wealthy nations because the level of a nation’s financial contribution determines voting power. Market-driven development was unfair and only supportive of the existing wealthy class. Beginning my international studies in Buenos Aires, a city whose citizens are still recovering from crisis, definitely fueled my opinions.

IMF loans in the 1970s and 1980s required Argentina to open its economy to foreign investors. Although Argentina was in debt and often commodities caused debt and inflation, President Menem in 1989 continued these trade liberalization policies. As a result, GDP increased and unemployment tripled. To stop hyperinflation and preserve the currency’s value, the peso was pegged to the dollar. Argentina’s international debt grew through the 1990s, but the IMF continued lending to Argentina, even though it was clear that the country was insolvent. Argentina’s recession scared away investors and the government froze bank accounts when citizens wanted to take out their money.

I visited a soup kitchen of the Asamblea de Pampa, one of many neighborhood assemblages that discussed politics and practiced direct democracy during the crisis. Ricardo, one of the assembly’s founding members, shared his thoughts with us. He was somewhere between 50 and 60 years old, heavy set, and during our visit, particularly militant-looking in olive drab and a face that could not hide the struggles he faced in his poor community. Using a translator, he described the December 2001 riots.

Ricardo and his neighbors took to the streets, robbed supermarkets, blockaded a neighborhood set ablaze, and participated in deadly clashes with police. After the resignation of President Fernando de la Rúa, Argentina had five presidents in two weeks. Meanwhile, there was a serious lack of jobs and over half of Argentina’s population fell below the poverty line. “Poverty and hunger were everywhere, not just in shantytowns, but people who owned homes, the retired people,” said Ricardo. He recounted how the currency was devalued to less than one third of its original value and “money was useless.”

My Buenos Aires host mother blamed the IMF’s conditional loans. The Argentine program coordinator was fond of community-based anti-government movements that promoted a new, locally-based economic order. This tone continued in Bangalore, where one speaker railed against all international financial institutions for one and a half hours and gave us handouts entitled “A World without Money” – good than bad for everyone affected. Hopefully, development can do more well. Hopefully, development can do more development and development financing, as structural adjustment programs, which should be held accountable for developmental goals. The IMF’s market-driven development in 1992, the city of Shanghai was a literal city of lights. I sat on the deck of an evening boat cruise on the Huangpu River, where the view of the lit-up Pudong financial district – with the dynamic pink lights of the Pearl Tower – was absolutely breathtaking. Blue and yellow spotlights lined the elevated highways that ran alongside the downtown skyscrapers. Street vendors sold glowing spin tops and attachable tennis shoe wheels covered with LED lights. There was even an underwater tunnel that covered tourists in a psychedelic light show accompanied by trippy music (it’s worth going through once but definitely not twice).

Shanghai is China’s economic light, a model that has experienced exorbitant success. When the government authorized Shanghai’s market-driven development in 1992, the city of nearly 19 million quickly became a center of trade and finance. Last year it boasted a 12 percent growth in GDP and a $7,500 per capita GDP. The city represents the country’s nexus of a global economy.

I didn’t spend as much time here as I did in the other cities or hear any completely dissenting opinions (Chinese economists and researchers definitely censor themselves) or have the opportunity to see rural China. But after observing the city on my own, walking through crowded Linsong residential complexes, and along the sidewalks of tall skyscrapers, I thought, not too shabbily. Understandably, Shanghai has problems. However, of the four cities I visited, Shanghai was most able to keep up with the global economy and provided the most economic opportunities at all levels of society – at least for people whom I met and observed. Could the market be working for them?

As the end of this trip and now as I’m processing it, I know that anti-globalization is a wrong choice. Countries cannot develop in isolation, and there are moral issues like environmental degradation, which should be limited but realistically cannot completely stop. A moderate form of globalization may be the best – one in which free trade is allowed but safety nets for the poor are also provided by international institutions or donors. Reforms are needed in international financial institutions, which should be held accountable for failed projects. Middle-income countries like India should investigate other models of development and development financing, as well. Hopefully, development can do more good than bad for everyone affected.

Graffiti in Buenos Aires reads “Human rights were only violated in the past?”

Shanghai’s riverside, historical Bund area is lit up from new development.

By guards. In public plazas, black gates sur- round statues of political figures to protect them from vandalism. Politically charged graffiti is littered throughout Avenida de Mayo, the street that connects Congress to Plaza de Mayo – Buenos Aires’ historical location of political protest. At dusk, carteños – who would otherwise be unemployed – pick through city trash bins in search of cardboard scraps to sell. At night, homeless individuals sleep in doorways of closed shops in the upper class Recoleta neighborhood.

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

Solution on page 8.
ACROSS
1 Tiny tigers
5 Filled with wonder
9 Bewildered
14 Shrek, for one
15 Learning method
16 Emus' kin
17 Disembarked
18 Up in smoke
19 Boggy area
20 In deep space
23 Long in the tooth
24 Commercial blurbs
25 Have a lofty goal
29 Merry sounds
31 Harper Valley grp.
34 Sounds of anguish
35 Singular performances
36 Emerald Isle
37 Really in the sticks
39 Twilight times
41 Gravy base
42 Absolutely not!
43 Lipstick shade
44 Marianas island
45 Walked deliberately
46 Skater Babilonia

47 Shad delicacy
48 Not visible from the crow's nest
56 Bakery loaf
57 Current
58 City on seven hills
59 Too tubby
61 Had down pat
62 Fluttery poplar
63 Battle souvenir
64 Dispatched

DOWN
1 Fossil fuel
2 Citrus hybrid
3 Ship's jail
4 Adam's third son
5 Fancy sock
6 Courted
7 Sicilian spouter
8 Bambi's folks
9 Warship assemblage
10 Spring occurrences
11 Antitoxins
12 Piece of cake!
13 Blond shade
14 Trunk
22 Hindu's sir
25 Fossil resin
26 Vino from Verona
27 Took measured steps
28 Leads a brayer
29 Not so interesting
30 Trebek or Karras
31 BYU location
32 Having prongs
33 Gale or Previn
35 Plato's portico
36 Peeping Tom
38 Apples and oranges
39 Computer command
40 Vegetable plot
41 More readily
42 Mock playfully
43 Valerie Harper role
44 Peepers
45 Second to a prez
46 Crude shelters
47 Tale of adventure
48 Irritates
49 Type of defense
50 Oracle's sign
51 Salamander
52 Slithery squeezer
Simpson’s Lawyer Claims First Amendment Protection

Simpson, from Page 1

First Amendment. “People make these objects part of their identity. It’s a part of their personal expression,” said Dwyer, according to the AP.

Dwyer’s claim was bolstered by an affidavit from Rosalind W. Picard ScD ’91, Director of Affecitive Computing Research at the MIT Media Laboratory. In the affidavit, Picard wrote that wearable electronics—such as Simpson’s circuit board—are “commonplace in society” and “a method of self expression, fusing art and engineering.” The affidavit also says that schools are trying to “encourage girls … to undertake the study of electronics” and that one effort by a University of Colorado at Boulder professor “encourage[s] young women to create clothing-worn electronic technologies.”

Simpson’s attorney additionally argued that the device was not a hoax device because it consisted of “separate components” and the device was disconnected when Simpson left the terminal.

The district attorney has challenged the motion to dismiss, arguing in a petition that the device Simpson wore “would cause a person reasonably to believe that such device was an infernal machine.” (See the prosecution’s motion on page 8.)

Chapter 266 of Massachusetts Law, under which Simpson is being charged, requires prosecutors prove Simpson transported a “hoax device or hoax substance with the intent to cause anxiety, unrest, fear or personal discomfort to any person or group of persons.”

The arguments given by Simpson’s attorney and the district attorney concern whether Simpson’s light-up circuit board constitutes a “hoax device,” not whether Simpson intended to cause anxiety. Dwyer said in September that he firmly believes there was no evidence to support an intent to cause anxiety and that “there is not a crime here.” “It’s not a crime in Massachusetts to exercise bad judgment,” Dwyer said.

The Simpson case is filed under docket number 0705-CR-1905. A copy of Rosalind W. Picard’s affidavit is available on The Tech’s Web site at http://www-tech.mit.edu/V128/N1/simpson/.

Wednesday, February 6
Service at 5:15pm
MIT Chapel

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The importance of biology in everyday life makes this an important course,” said Jacks. He said the subject will prepare students to understand new developments in biology: “Stem cells, cloning, recombinant DNA technology, the genome revolution—all of these things that you read about in the newspaper every day.”

Jacks said that with two lecturers, two course instructors, and about a dozen teaching assistants, the subject should be ready to handle the extra students.

“It’s gonna’ be historic, but I think we’ll do fine,” he said.

Simpson’s Lawyer Claims First Amendment Protection

Wednesday, February 6
Service at 5:15pm
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The MIT Musical Theatre Guild premiered this past Friday their Independent Activities Period performance of Andrew Lippa’s “The Wild Party,” based on a 1920s poem by Joseph Moncure March of the same title. In “The Wild Party,” Queenie throws a party in order to get the best of her boyfriend, Burrs. The party degrades into an all out orgy and comes to a dramatic climax when Burrs walks in on Queenie and Black. “The Wild Party” will have three more performances: Feb. 7–9, at 8 p.m. in La Sala de Puerto Rico.

(counter-clockwise from left)
Mae (Nicolina A. Akraboff ’08) and Eddie (Darrell D. Cain ’08) sing about their wonderful life as a couple in the song “Two of a Kind.”
Queenie and Black (Carrie A. Lee ’10 and Matthew N. Stern ’08) stand back as the enraged Burrs (Matthew A. Ciborowski ’08) processes the scene.
Cast members perform “Good Heavens,” a musical within “The Wild Party,” composed by brothers and lovers Phil and Oscar (Carlos Cardenas ’09 and Dave Berger, not pictured).
Black (Matthew N. Stern ’08) kisses Queenie (Carrie A. Lee ’10) in an intense moment of passion and lust.

Photography by Ricardo Ramirez
The New York Times

February 5, 2008

MIT-Affiliated Research Center Builds an Energy-Saving City

By Andrew C. Revkin

In an ever more crowded world, facing environmental limits, the push is on to create entire communities with reduced needs for energy, water, land and other resources. The latest effort comes not in some green hub like Portland, Ore., but in the Persian Gulf, fueled as much by oil wealth — and the need to find post-petroleum business models — as environmental zeal.

Groundbreaking is scheduled for Saturday for Masdar City, a nearly self-contained mini-municipality designed for up to 50,000 people, rising from the desert next to Abu Dhabi’s international airport and intended as a hub for academic and corporate research on nonpolluting energy technologies.

The 2.3-square-mile community, set behind walls to divert hot desert winds and airport noise, will be car-free, according to the design by Foster + Partners, the London firm that has become a leading practitioner of energy-saving architecture.

The community, slightly smaller than the historic district of Venice, will have similar narrow pedestrian streets, but shaded by canopies made of photovoltaic panels. It will produce all of its own energy from sunlight.

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The Tech
Microsoft Research Lab Will Expand To Cambridge, Conduct Academic Research

By Katie Hafner
THE NEW YORK TIMES

As other high-technology companies cut back on their research laboratories, Microsoft continues to increase its ranks of free-rein thinkers.

The company, which has research laboratories in Redmond, Wash.; Beijing, Cambridge, England; Bangalore, India; and Silicon Valley, will announce plans on Monday to open a sixth laboratory, in Cambridge, Mass., in the Boston metropolitan area.

These are laboratories where people focus on science, not product development. To lead the new laboratory, the company has appointed one of its veteran researchers, Jennifer Tour Chayes. Chayes, 51, who has a doctorate in mathematical physics, said, “We believe that the long run, putting money into basic research will pay off, but you have to wait longer for it.”

Microsoft, beset by competitive pressures from companies like Google, sees first-rate research laboratories as more important than ever. The company, which made a $44.6 billion bid for Yahoo last week as one way to compete with Google, wants a set of laboratories in place that can develop business opportunities that will pay off well into the future.

“Essentially every other industrial lab I know is shrinking, with the exception of Google,” Chayes said. Since she joined the company in 1997, she said, Microsoft Research has grown eightfold to 800 researchers who hold doctorates.

Those research scientists are far outnumbered by the thousands of Microsoft engineers working in advanced development and direct product development.

“The outcome of basic research is insights, and what development people do is take those insights and create products with them,” Chayes said. “The two things are very different.”

Microsoft is adamant about retaining a pure research department reminiscent of the old Bell Laboratories, whose scientists were awarded six Nobel Prizes.

“Microsoft is probably the sole company left with a pure research department that still values basic research,” said Maria Klawe, a mathematician who is president of Harvey Mudd College.

Google employs 100 scientists in its research laboratories. Many employees are encouraged to spend 20 percent of their time on something they are passionate about that may not be directly related to their main project.

The new Microsoft laboratory, which will be next door to the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, is scheduled to open in July. Chayes will be joined at first by three other Microsoft scientists, including her husband, Christian Borgs, who is also a mathematician and who will be deputy managing director of the Boston laboratory.

Chayes will be one of the first women to direct a research laboratory run by an American corporation. She was a tenured professor of mathematics at the University of California, Los Angeles, when Microsoft hired her to conduct research. Chayes was skeptical, she said, and wondered why Microsoft would want a mathematician whose work might not pay off for many decades.

But the company promised her that she would have full academic freedom and support for unconventional work.

Chayes has since built her group in Redmond, called the Theory Group, into one of the most eminent research groups on or off a university campus. “Anyone who’s anyone in theoretical computer science visits her laboratory,” said Lenore Blum, Ph.D. ’88, a computer science professor at Carnegie Mellon University.

Richard F. Rashid, a former Carnegie Mellon computer scientist who is senior vice president of research at Microsoft, said Chayes’ work is valuable.

“If you look at her research, it’s very theoretical,” said Rashid, who holds a doctorate in computer science. At the same time, he said, two areas of her expertise have proved useful for Microsoft.

The work she performed in developing simple models of certain liquids and solids turned out to be useful in the study of random, self-engineered networks like the Internet. And some of Chayes’ insights into theoretical computer science have recently led to the development of some exceedingly fast networking algorithms.

Over the years, Chayes has been courted by other research laboratories, including Google’s, but she says she remains content at Microsoft. The freedom it offers. Unlike other companies with intellectual property in interests to protect, she said, Microsoft does not require internal peer publication review of academic papers written by its researchers.

Chayes, who works with groups that help bring more young women into the sciences, said she hopes to serve as a role model for young women considering a career in computer science or math, two fields that have long suffered a dearth of women.
MIT Professors, Christensen Talk ‘Jumper’

By Dennis Overbye
THE NEW YORK TIMES

In a battle waged with popcorn, lightbulbs, chalk and star power, science and art squared off in a lecture hall at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology one recent evening.

On one side of a vaunted cultural divide were David Farhi and Max Tegmark, directors of the coming movie “Jumper.” About a young man who discovers he can transport himself anywhere he wants just by thinking about it, and Hayden Christensen, who began filming its star, Ewan McGregor.

On the other were a pair of the institute’s physics professors, Edward Farhi and Max Tegmark, experts on the type of physics the movie was primarily concerned with. Hayden also had a strong interest in physics.

“The evening was the brainchild of Warren Betts, a veteran Hollywood publicist who has helped promote a number of movies with scientific or technological themes, including “Apollo 13.” Hollywood has gotten much smarter about bringing scientists into its movies, said Betts, who had gotten excited after a Caltech physicist told him that teleportation was a topic that could be explored.

“I was just a little groupy,” Christensen said.

The evening was for MIT students who wanted to hear for hours to jam into a giant lecture hall known as Room 26-100 and who proved that future scientists and engineers could be just as rowdy and star-struck as the crowds outside the MTV studios in Times Square.

“I guess I wasn’t expecting such a lively group,” Christensen said.

The movie was centered around Dr. Alan Farhi, an expert on quantum computers, and Tegmark, a cosmologist, as they tried to get to know the reality behind a film, but that it was not always so easy. One professor he approached for advice about “Jumper” threw him out of his office, he said. He went on that experience is a big part of the appeal of the film.

The movie, which stars McGregor as a kind of quantum fog of possibility that could do to help the movie makers. Another use is in quantum computing, which could exploit the ability of quantum teleporters.

Farhi confessed to being nervous. “We’re about to see a couple of MIT professors rip me to shreds,” he said. “I hope they appreciate that I tried to reflect the physics of the planet we live on.”

Liman, who directed “The Bourne Identity,” and “Mr. and Mrs. Smith,” said he had been a “physics prodigy” in high school, which had gotten him into Brown University despite a checkered adolescence. He never took a physics class in college, however. “Being good at it made it a lot easier to do a bunch of other things,” he said.

He said he had fallen in love with the “Jumper” script — adapted by David S. Goyer, Jim Uhls and Simon Kinberg from a series of young adult novels by Steven Gould — because it’s a science fiction story. He said he had spent a lot of time trying to figure out how to do it.

“Nothing complicated is found to be more complicated,” he said. “I have gotten excited after a Caltech physicist told him that teleportation was a topic that could be explored.

“I guess I wasn’t expecting such a lively group,” Christensen said.

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February 5, 2008

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The Giants, however, wouldn’t quit. Eli Manning led an inspiring drive, using his feet to avoid defenders and making the big play when it mattered. His thirteen yard floater to Plaxico Burress in the corner of the end zone secured the lead — and eventually the win — for the Giants.

The Patriots failed to capitalize on a chance to make history, and their loss was the Giants’ gain. For Eli Manning, a Super Bowl Most Valuable Player award to match his brother’s is only secondary to the ultimate prize of winning the championship. The confidence Manning showed in making big plays at big times should finally silence his critics (myself included) who before didn’t think he had the poise or skill to perform under pressure.

The other story of the night was the Giants defense. Defensive coordinator Steve Spagnuolo’s defense put pressure on Brady all night, forcing rushed decisions and bad throws. It’s no surprise that Spagnuolo trained under the direction of Jim Johnson, the Eagles defensive coordinator who is famous for his unstructured and exotic blitz packages. Johnson’s Eagles defense followed a similar game plan against the Patriots in week 12 this season, letting Patriots wide receiver Wes Welker beat them from the slot all night while preventing Randy Moss from making the big play.

While the loss is disappointing, the one thing that Patriots fans can take away from the game is that the team isn’t looking to get any worse. While key members of their defense are getting old, the core team will return and only be hungrier for perfection.

The Giants restrict the Patriots offense to 14 points by pressuring Brady.
Super Bowl MVP Eli Manning, Giants End Patriots' Perfect Run

By Shreyes Seshasai

---

In last week's issue of The Tech, I wrote that Super Bowl XLII would be the “coronation of the greatest football team in history... Patriots win, again, no-contest. New England is better in every facet of the game.” Well, clearly I was wrong.

If you knew me personally, you would have been shocked by what I wrote last week. I’ve cheered adamantly, often without restraint, against the Patriots ever since they beat the Philadelphia Eagles in the Super Bowl three years ago. I’ve worn my Brian Westbrook jersey into Gillette Stadium, complained every time the Pats made a brilliant personal decision, and joined the millions of fans asking for a better explanation of the outcome of Spygate.

But last week, feeling that I should start using reason when judging the Patriots, I suppressed my hatred and praised the Patriots for what they’ve become: the best team in the league, and perhaps the greatest team of all-time.

Don’t worry fellow Eagles fans — I’ll never make that mistake again.

According to Nielsen Media Research, 97.5 million people tuned in to watch the game Sunday night, making it the second most watched TV show in history. While most of those people were disappointed by the slow, score-less first three quarters, the ending was certainly not short of drama.

Patriots quarterback Tom Brady led his offense down the field for a go-ahead touchdown with only 2:42 remaining. The short pass to wide receiver Randy Moss that looked so easy was meant to be a fitting end to a year where both players set all-time records for touchdowns in a season.

Since the Patriots still had three finds to give, they angrily fouled the inbounds pass and lowered the clock to 1:35. The Patriots’ next three plays resulted in only 1.2 seconds to go. The Engineers easily inbounded the ball and held on for the win.

Samua A. Mahjub G and Alice S. Vith ‘09 each scored eight points for MIT as Sally W. Simpson ’10, Kelsey C. Cappelle ’11, and Soo Hoo each finished with seven points. Cappelle led the Engineers with 10 rebounds to closing the gap to one on three different occasions. With around six minutes left in the game, Kimberly E. Soo Hoo ’08 drained a three-pointer to give the Engineers the lead. After Coast Guard evened the contest at 41, MIT went ahead again with 2:20 left to play on consecutive baskets off of Bears’ turnovers.

The Bears came back to tie the score with a pair of lay-ups, learning 1:05 on the clock. Each side had a chance to take the lead until a Coast Guard turnover gave MIT the ball with 25 seconds left. Soo Hoo, MIT’s all-time career assists leader, found Yuan for the eventual game-winning shot, prompting a timeout by the Bears.

With 7.2 seconds left on the clock, the Bears still had time for another shot. Since the Engineers still had three fouls to give, they angrily fouled the inbounds pass and lowered the clock to 1:35. The Patriots’ next three plays resulted in only 1.2 seconds to go. The Engineers easily inbounded the ball and held on for the win.

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---

Stephen A. Morton ’10 takes his first attempt in the finals of the long jump competition. Morton went on to win the competition with a jump of 6.92 meters (22’ 8.5”). The MIT men’s track and field team destroyed the competition this past Saturday, Feb. 2, scoring 240 points to best Tufts University (107 points), Springfield College (86), Bowdoin College (70), and Colby College (51).

---

The Tech’s Athlete of the Week:

Joseph B. Silverman ’10

MIT wrestler Joseph B. Silverman ’10 has been impressive all season for the Engineers, but his performance in January 26’s quad meet will be one to remember. In front of his home crowd, Silverman defeated Bridgewater State University’s James Quinlan, the top ranked wrestler in New England and seventh ranked Division III wrestler in the nation at 184 pounds. The 4-0 decision was one of three victories on the day for Silverman, bringing his overall individual record to 21-4-0. Silverman, bringing his overall individual record to 21-4-0 decision was one of three victories on the day for MIT’s top ranked wrestler in New England and seventh ranked wrestler in the U.S.

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The Drexel InterView

INTERESTING PEOPLE. INTERESTING TALK.

by Mindy Brauer

A base runner by Clara J. Yuan ’09 with 7.2 seconds on the clock helped lift MIT to a 47-45 victory over the U.S. Coast Guard Academy in a New England Women’s and Men’s Athletic Conference women’s basketball game on Saturday. With the win, the Engineers improved to 9-9 on the year and 2-5 in conference play, while the Bears (14-3), ranked in the NEWMAC, suffered its first NEWMAC loss of the season.

Coast Guard came out strong, building a 14-5 lead after only seven minutes with Melissa Martiremi scoring the first 11 points for Coast Guard. MIT countered with a 13-5 run, and the Bears went on to win the game, 25-20.

MIT opened the second half well, finishing with a 21-7 run to take a 42-23 lead with 14:20 left in the game. With 7.2 seconds left on the clock, the Bears still had time for another go-ahead shot, but the Engineers’ defense did not allow the Bears to score, and the Engineers held on for the win.

Samua A. Mahjub G and Alice S. Vith ’09 each scored eight points for MIT as Sally W. Simpson ’10, Kelsey C. Cappelle ’11, and Soo Hoo each finished with seven points. Cappelle led the Engineers with 10 rebounds to go along with four assists while Soo Hoo registered a game-high eight assists. Cheryl M. Ewino ’09 gathered six boards and Yuan impressed on defense, snuggling four steals.

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OPEN HOUSE

Tuesday, February 12

4 to 6pm

Grier Room (34-401B)

Explore opportunities

Meet returning interns

Refreshments will be served

Wednesday, February 13

7-9pm

Grier Room (34-401B)

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Upcoming Home Events

Tuesday, Feb. 5, 2008

Men’s Volleyball vs. Endicott College

7 p.m., Rockwell Cage

Wednesday, Feb. 6, 2008

Men’s Ice Hockey vs. Western State College

8 p.m., Johnson Ice Arena