1,554 Accepted Into Class of 2012; Admit Rate is Lowest Ever

By Arkajit Dey

MIT released admissions decisions for the class of 2012 on Saturday, May 15. A record-low 11.6 percent of 13,396 applicants were admitted. This year’s round of admissions saw an increase in applications from women, under-represented minorities, and international students, said Stuart Schmill ’86, interim director of admissions. There was an overall 8 percent increase in the number of applications from 12,443 last year.

The low admit rate follows an early action stage that saw a two percent increase in early admittees. “We still are looking to enroll no more than a third of the class from early action stage that saw a two percent increase in early admittees,” said Schmill. “We are more attractive than ever,” added Schmill.

The admit rate is an overall 8 percent increase from last year. Last year, MIT released admission decisions on May 15. “We should be more attractive than ever this year,” said Schmill.

An increase of about a hundred from last year means that 1,554 students who enroll, “will be unpredictable on yield,” the number of admitted students entering early,” said Schmill. Thus the students we admitted early.”

“We are more attractive than ever,” said Schmill. “So, AEPhi, the new sorority will be active in the fall. New sorority is being set up to help new students. MIT is trying to make sure that our students are able to join a sorority. Alpha Epsilon Phi, participate in formal recruitment, Guo said. According to Guo, the new sorority will be recruiting for membership in Panhel outside of a formal call for applications, but membership numbers in MIT’s current sororities have caused a “lender of last resort” program to be available,” said Secretary Margaret Spellings, testifying before the House Committee on Education and Labor. Although a “small number” of students would be able to enroll, “our students have been able to secure housing.”

The federal education secretary told congressional lawmakers on Friday that there was a significant mismatch in credit market conditions and collecting information from colleges to find out whether their students had been unable to borrow. She said that, in the case of the direct loan program, which students borrow directly from the government, it was difficult to double the amount of new loans to students without taking into account the fact that the government could take back the payments. The federal government has not yet decided whether to make the direct loan program permanent.

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Georgian On Death Row Rebuffed By State’s High Court

By Brenda Goodman 

WASHINGTON

A narrowly divided Georgia Supreme Court declined Monday to order a new trial for a man sentenced to death in the 1989 murder of an off-duty Savannah police officer, despite recantations by 7 of 9 witnesses who originally testified against him.

The court, in a 4-3 decision written by Justice Harold Melton, held that sworn testimony at the trial was more important than the later recantations, noting that some of the witnesses had said only that they no longer felt able to identify the gunman.

“We simply cannot disregard the jury’s verdict in this case,” the court said.

The dissent, written by Chief Justice Leah Ward Sears, called the court “overly rigid” in its consideration of new evidence in support of a retrial and said it had failed to allow “an adequate inquiry into the fundamental question, which is whether or not an innocent person might have been convicted or even, as in this case, might be put to death.”

Center to Study Health-Race Link

By Gardner Harris

NEW ORLEANS

Drugs to treat hypertension and diabetes are substantially less effective in blacks than they are in whites, one of the many mysteries involving the interaction between health and race that the National Institutes of Health hopes to unravel at a new research center.

The Center for Genomics and Health Disparities will be led by Charles N. Nkrumah, former director of the National Human Genome Center at Howard University. Born in Nigeria and trained at the University of Alabama at Birmingham, Nkrumah is a genetic epidemiologist who projects his work in Africa, China and the United States, including the Africa America Diabetes Mellitus Study, the Genetics of Obesity in Blacks Study and others.

“Understanding the role of genetics in health disparities is critical to combating the epidemics of diabetes and heart disease,” Liu Junning, a liberal politician who has called for holding the Olympic Games this summer.

But to many Tibetans and their sympathizers, the weeklong uprising against Chinese rule reflects years of simmering resentment over Beijing’s interference in Buddhist religious life, tightening political control, and the destruction of the environment across the Himalayan territory the Tibetans consider sacred.

If that move toward a more normal assessment of risk persists, it could help drive down interest rates on home loans in the coming days. Meanwhile, the broad Standard & Poor’s 500-stock index closed down less than 1 percent, recovering much of its losses from early in the day and backing a strong downdraft from Europe and Asia.

Specialists say their biggest worry now is whether the economy is already so weak it will soon be in a recession. Far more fundamental and troubling is the health of the financial system that greases the wheels of capitalism.

“Recessions come and go — that is something investors can deal with,” said Marc D. Stern, chief investment officer at Bensinger Trust, an investment firm in New York. “The bigger issue is Can our financial system be restored to a sense of normality?”

Stern said he was encouraged by the Fed’s response to the problems at Bear Stearns. In addition to facilitating the firm’s sale to JPMorgan, the central bank also started directly lending to financial firms, something it has not taken on since the Depression of the 1930s.

Simmering Resentments Led To Tibetan Backlash at China

By Jim Yardley

NEW YORK TIMES

Chinese leaders have blamed “splitter” led by the exiled Dalai Lama for sparking violent protests in Tibet and orchestrating a public relations sneak attack on the Communist Party at a government-backed Olympics.

But to many Tibetans and their sympathizers, the weeklong uprising against Chinese rule reflects years of simmering resentment over Beijing’s interference in Buddhist religious life, tightening political control, and the destruction of the environment across the Himalayan territory the Tibetans consider sacred.

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By Steven Lee Myers

WASHINGTON

President Bush on Monday wel-

come the Federal Reserve’s sweep-

ing decision in the nation’s finan-

cial markets as his administration

faces the challenges caused by the

war in Iraq, even as the esca-

cement of the takeover of Bear Stearns by

Raymond James reflected the White

House’s desire to deflect attention

from its other top priorities.

After a weekend with his aides,

President Bush was on Monday
to take up the issue of the fed-

teral deficit, with a speech that

was to be delivered to the econ-
nomists and leaders gathered for

the annual meeting of the Wall

Street Journal’s chief economist,

was to be delivered to the econ-
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Opinion

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

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I spent eight hours of my week in the under-graduate chemistry labs on the fourth floor of Building 4. If you are not Course 5, 10 with a minor in 5, or premed, I will now share with you a little secret: the labs are disgusting. The sinks are covered with a thick layer of rust and grime, and signage posted over the sa- bins warn students not to drink from the fau- cets. I don’t know why the staff members say I need a sign — even if you offered me all of Bill Gates’s assets, you still couldn’t get me to drink from one of those sinks.

Chemicals are stored in hoods that either don’t work, or have gas knobs that get stuck in the on position when you try to turn them, forcing you to go get Chuck, the stockroom manager, so he can turn off the nitrous oxide.

The hot plates have two settings: off, and hot, which makes for an interesting overnight heated reaction. We still titrate by hand, and the UV/VIS spectrometer often measure negative protein concentron (in relation to the tubes). My lab partners and I have to repeat experiments several times because the spectrometer gives spur- rous readings that we can’t even speculate as to our experimental error.

Last semester, during one of the required lab classes, it took me about seven minutes to rotate evaporate two milliliters of dichloromethane out of a 10 mL round bottom flask. For those of you who aren’t chemistry majors, that’s an inordinate amount of time. And it’s not that I didn’t know how to rotate; I spent the entire previous sum- mer learning the ins and outs of these simple ma- chines. Keep in mind that twenty people had to do this and there were only three rotary evapora- tors available.

My guess is that the labs haven’t been up- dated since the 1970s, but we still use an IR Spec- trophotometer that requires a little market pen to trace out the spectrum. That’s right, it doesn’t have a printer. Frequently, the film tip becomes dry and I have to channel my ancestors to fig- ure out to insert the new pen. I’m a child of the new millennium and am not trained to fiddle with such archaic machinery.

Perhaps my favorite part of the labs is the scale room. I sized a weight boat a couple of weeks ago and then transferred some powder using a scoopula 0.67g, the scale said. Great, except I definitely transferred about 5 g of ma- terial, collected some more in the scoopula and placed it in the weigh boat with the other stuff just to see what the range of results of the scale read negative 0.2 g. Good to know we’re getting accurate measurements, when someone profes- sor grades us on our results that we were happy with.

I complain about these things not because I think you want to know them, but because I think you ought to know where MIT’s money is not going. “Where is it going?” you ask. Well, community picnics and holiday hot chocolate gatherings, to cite two examples.

I am saddened and discouraged by the lack of attention to undergraduate needs on this campus. We are an institute of higher learning, and how am I supposed to learn if I’m always getting negative product yields? As one chem- istry major said, “If we can’t get As because of our negative yields, at least we could get a No- bel for creating antimatter in that scale room.”

I hope so. But, then again, I wouldn’t trust any results that come out of that dump.

MIT, I have but one request: please show the chemistry undergraduate students, TAM, and professors a little love. And if that’s too much, then cancel the next community picnic and buy us some new scales.
ACROSS
1 Lead actor 36 Upped cash 67 Extravagant speech
2 Metal fastener 40 Cupbearer of the gods 30 Yellow-fever mosquito
3 Nickel or dime 41 Conger catchers 32 Hacks
4 Abate 42 Code of silence 33 Good looks
5 Walled city near Madrid 45 Unit of loudness 34 Bond’s alma mater
6 “The King and I” heroine 46 Mauna __ volcano 35 Complexion woe
7 Young lice 49 Danson of “Becker” 36 Upped cash
8 Unvoiced 50 Attorney’s org. 41 Conger catchers
9 G-men 52 Grumpy characters 43 __ kwon do
10 Upped cash 53 SSS designation 44 Spirit away
11 Solid ground 54 Upped cash 46 Teton Sioux
12 Wallach of “The Magnificent Seven” 55 SSS designation 47 Satellite of Uranus
13 Young lice 59 SSS designation 48 Concordance
14 Univocid 60 City on the Mohawk 49 Danson of “Becker”
15 G-men 63 Center 50 Attorney’s org.
16 “The King and I” heroine 64 Bond’s alma mater 51 Perfume oil
17 Young lice 65 Sp. maiden 52 Grumpy characters
18 Univocid 66 Prevailing tide 53 SSS designation
19 G-men 67 Extravagant speech 54 Bond’s alma mater
20 Upped cash 68 Prevailing tide 55 SSS designation
21 Hitchhike 69 Prevailing tide 56 Put on the payroll
22 That man 70 Prevailing tide 57 MBA course
23 Solid ground 71 Prevailing tide 58 Dune material
24 Wallach of “The Magnificent Seven” 72 Prevailing tide 59 SSS designation
25 Dockworkers’ org. 73 Prevailing tide 60 City on the Mohawk
26 Those elected 74 Prevailing tide 61 Center
27 Links grp. 75 Prevailing tide 62 Bell sound
28 31 Show hosts 76 Prevailing tide 63 Leslie of “Lili”
29 Show hosts 77 Prevailing tide 64 Bond’s alma mater
30 Good looks 78 Prevailing tide 65 Sp. maiden
31 Show hosts 79 Prevailing tide 66 Prevailing tide
32 Hacks 80 Prevailing tide 67 Extravagant speech
33 Good looks 81 Prevailing tide 68 Prevailing tide
34 Bond’s alma mater 82 Prevailing tide 69 Prevailing tide
35 Complexion woe 83 Prevailing tide 70 Prevailing tide
36 Upped cash 84 Prevailing tide 71 Prevailing tide
37 Upped cash 85 Prevailing tide 72 Prevailing tide
38 Upped cash 86 Prevailing tide 73 Prevailing tide
39 Upped cash 87 Prevailing tide 74 Prevailing tide
40 Cupbearer of the gods 88 Prevailing tide 75 Prevailing tide
41 Conger catchers 89 Prevailing tide 76 Prevailing tide
42 Code of silence 90 Prevailing tide 77 Prevailing tide
43 __ kwon do 91 Prevailing tide 78 Prevailing tide
44 Spirit away 92 Prevailing tide 79 Prevailing tide
45 Unit of loudness 93 Prevailing tide 80 Prevailing tide

SUDOKU 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 11.

Remember, this is how Blobbles works: you send me a caption, and I make a drawing out of it. blobbles@mit.edu
Doonesbury

BY GARRY TRUDEAU

Dilbert®

by Scott Adams

Steal My Comic

by Michael Ciuffo

ACROSS
1. West of Hollywood
2. 24 Longley and Bosan
26. Newspaper section of old, for short
28. Part 2 of quiq
35. __ Dawn Chong
36. PC command
37. TV teasers
38. Sea eagles
40. Blackcomb
43. Brit’s streetcar
44. Played a part
46. __ the night before..."
48. PR patrons
49. Part 3 of quiq
53. Butter substitute
54. Bigfoot’s shoe size
55. Young salmon
58. Evaluation
60. Pampas lasso
64. Conserve with oil
66. End of quiq
68. __ of Liberty
69. Still part of a river
70. Shoshone
71. Unruffled
72. Sutherland movie
73. Old-time cowboy Tom
74. Claudius’ successor
75. Attracted
76. Hideous
77. Unit of work
78. Relaxed
79. Lentil dish
80. Fatty tissue components
81. Medium-size sofa
82. Ciod chopper
83. Housing grp.
84. Option
85. Pot starter
86. “The __ Not Taken”
87. Small drinks
88. Calla Lily, e.g.
89. Small, New World monkey
90. Cracker
91. Small dog
92. Relax
93. Faty tissue components
94. Medium-size sofa
95. Ciod chopper
96. Housing grp.
97. Option
98. Pot starter
99. “The __ Not Taken”
100. Small drinks
101. Calla Lily, e.g.
102. Small, New World monkey
103. Cracker
104. Small dog

DOWN
1. Vegetarian taboo
2. Swedish rock group
3. Jet black
4. Some baseball stats
5. On the mark
6. Clingy
7. Recognized
8. Scott novel
9. United
10. Justice setting
11. Culture medium
12. 42 Relax
13. Attracted
14. Hideous
15. Unit of work
16. Casual talk
17. Highest level
18. Mountain nymph
20. Slow, in music
21. Rad!
22. Welsh dog
23. At full speed
24. Chinese menu notation
25. Miss in Guadalajara
26. Sugar apple
27. Medium-size sofa
28. Ciod chopper
29. Housing grp.
30. Option
31. Pot starter
32. “The __ Not Taken”
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Bonus Puzzle

Solution, page 9

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11. Culture medium
12. 42 Relax
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15. Unit of work
16. Casual talk
17. Highest level
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20. Slow, in music
21. Rad!
22. Welsh dog
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March 18, 2008

CONICS * FUN PAGES

The Tech

Page 7

www.phdcomics.com
Schmill: Accepted Students Are A ‘Really, Really Talented Class’

were about the same as in previous years,” said Schmill. Schmill credited those increases to “better identification and more recruitment” and said there could be a possible “magnet effect” whereby high-caliber students would be attracted by the opportunity to attend the same school as their peers. He also noted that “everyone we admitted was a superstar in some way” and those identified as “stars” in the e-mail simply “had an outlet to demonstrate their achievement.” Nonetheless, “more students stand out” these days, said Schmill, since “there are more opportunities” like science fairs.

Although the number of female applicants increased by 12 percent, the percentage of admitted students who were female remained at last year’s level of 48 percent (747 students). As in previous years, there was a higher female than male admission rate, which Schmill attributes to female applicants being “more self-selecting.” The higher rate “doesn’t necessarily mean that it’s easier to get in if you’re a woman,” said Schmill. There were also increases of 13 percent and 12 percent respectively of under-represented minorities and international applicants.

Reflecting on this year’s admissions process, Schmill highlighted the “momentum” delivered by the Web site and student blogs which have had a substantial effect. The “broadness of the experience” of students at MIT is a “well-kept secret,” said Schmill, adding that he wants students to be able to see “what MIT is really like.” Schmill said “one of the questions that we ask ourselves in our committee is: ‘What will the student bring to the community?’” Schmill said he can’t recall the selection process ever being as hard as it was this year. “Some of the students that we weren’t able to admit were off the charts,” said Schmill. This is a “really, really talented class,” he added.

The target size for the class of 2012 is 1,040, slightly below the 1,069 enrolled in the class of 2011, said Schmill. Until “W1 comes online” and dormitory space expands, “[we can’t] actually increase the class size,” he said. But Schmill looked forward to being able to admit more students, saying “if the world needs more scientists and engineers, then we should train more.”

Michael McGrew-Hendig contributed to the reporting of this article.

Schmill: Accepted Students Are A ‘Really, Really Talented Class’

Admissions, from Page 1

MIT Admissions History

This table gives a snapshot of MIT’s recent undergraduate admissions statistics. This year, MIT saw an increase of nearly a thousand applications as the admit rate fell by 0.7 percent.

Michael McGrew-Hendig contributed to the reporting of this article.

We want you in our sheets.

mit.mit.edu

Admissions Convocation 2008

March 21, 2008

Deadline extended!
Women’s Colleges Struggle To Adjust To Transsexual Students

By Alissa Quart

I was 5, I told my parents not to cor-
tact people when strangers thought
I was a boy. I was never a girl, re-
ding to her, and she encouraged him
to explore them further. For most of
high school, Rey spent hours online
reading about transgendered people
and their lives. “The Internet is the
best thing for trans people,” he said.

In his senior year, he took on
the name Rey. At 17, he finally felt ready
to come out as trans to his family,
who according to Rey struggled to
understand his new identity. Around
that time, he also visited a clinic in
Manhattan, hoping to start hormone
therapy. He was told that unless
he wanted his parents involved in the
process, he’d have to wait until he
was 18. In the meantime, Rey began
to apply to colleges. He wanted to go
to a “hippie school,” as he put it, yet
he felt pressure to choose a school
that was “transgender-friendly.”

At 18, Rey is part of a growing
population of transgender students at
the nation’s colleges and universities.
While still a rarity, young men who
become men in college, also
known as transmen or transmasculine,
have grown in number over the last
10 years. According to Brett-Gurley
Janicek Beemyn, director of the
Stonewall Center at the University
of Massachusetts, Amherst, who has
studied trans students on college cam-
puses, adults who wished to transi-
tion historically did so in middle age.
Today a larger percentage of transi-
tions occur in adolescence or young
adulthood. The National Center for
Transgender Equality estimates that
between a quarter of a percent and
1 percent of the U.S. population is
transgender — up to three million
Americans — though other estimates
are lower and precise figures are dif-
ficult to come by. Still, the growing
number of young people who transi-
tion when they are teenagers or very
young adults has placed a new pres-
sure on colleges, especially women’s
colleges, to accommodate them.
How do I make an appointment at the MIT Mental Health Service?

If you wish to make an appointment at the MIT Medical mental health service, call 3-2916. The receptionist will schedule you for an intake phone call. This is a 15-minute phone call during which an intake clinician will establish the general problem and its urgency, as well as gather information that will help match you with the clinician who will be the most helpful to you.

The clinician will then schedule you for an initial hour long appointment. If you don’t have the privacy for a phone call, you can choose to come to the mental health service (3rd floor of MIT Medical, building E23) for your intake interview.

If you cannot wait, there are walk-in hours every afternoon, Monday–Friday from 2 pm to 4pm. If you come during walk-in hours, you will be seen, although there may be a wait. Appropriate follow-up will be arranged at that walk-in visit. This can include being scheduled for an intake appointment.

What should I expect at my first visit?

During the first visit, you will talk with a clinician about the concerns that prompted you to make the appointment. The clinician will also take a history, which will involve asking some questions about your family, childhood, and substance use. Usually the session will end with some feedback and suggestions about the best treatment. Sometimes a recommendation is made for treatment outside of the medical center; sometimes a recommendation is made to consider medication.

Does it cost anything to use the mental health service at MIT Medical?

For graduate and undergraduate students, there is no charge for visits to the mental health service at MIT Medical.
Claerbout's Art Now On Display At MIT's List Visual Arts Center

By Mark Feeney

David Claerbout is a Belgian artist in his late 30s. Nationality is rarely determining as regards art. Jean-Luc Godard and Paul Klee, two of the freest-floating sensibilities in 20th-century culture, were born in Switzerland, for goodness' sake. But in Claerbout's case it's telling that he should come from such an in-between place as France, not the Netherlands, but a country that draws on both for an identity that's distinct itself yet elusive.

Claerbout creates wall-filling images that incorporate elements of video and still photography. Think of them as moving stills—or frozen videos. (having, actually, since all of them do move, though in some cases at a barely glacial pace.)

Claerbout's self-titled show, which runs at MIT's List Visual Arts Center through April 6, consists of seven such works. They range from "Bordeaux Piece," which is clearly a video, albeit with a notable durational twist, to "Vietnam, 1967, near Duc Pho (Reconstruction after Hiroshi Minami)," which only very close observation reveals to be something other than a standard photograph. Both are in color, as is one other work. The remaining four are in black and white. Not that it matters much to Claerbout. Appearance, for him, is mainly a means to pondering much different ends: the passage of time and ordering of space.

The images in the show are projections, which means each one (or at least his shadow) can become part of them, too. To the extent this is possible within two dimensions, the viewer enters into the space of the images. This is fitting, insofar as interaction—not just between time and space, but also stasis and motion, appropriated and original, past and present—is central to Claerbout's enterprise.

Often he'll take the still portion of one of his works from a preexisting photograph and integrate a video image within the preexisting image. The most memorable instance of this is "Kindergarten Antonio Sant'Eia, 1932." A group of children, frozen in time, play in a schoolyard while the leaves on a pair of saplings Claerbout has added gently flutter.

The effect this blurring of origin has is consciously defamiliar- ary. There's nothing glossy about Claerbout's art. And a reversal to the highly animated happiness of a Chinese family playing ball with the stark building complex around them.

Still, it's an arm's-length embrace Claerbout extends. Although he neither photographed nor projects his images from behind screens it can almost feel as though he did. There's a remoteness to his work, as of life lived slightly underwater. We're not watching as voyeurs, but as a further removal—as if over a voyuer's shoulder. Has Claerbout's concern with how space holds us created a further space of its own?

solution to crossword

solution to sudoku

Scraping below the Surface: Material Metastability Enables Engineering Solutions

Prof. Krystyn J. Van Vliet

Thomas Lord Assistant Professor
Department of Materials Science and Engineering, MIT

Coupling between the chemical and mechanical states of materials enables applications such as actuators and transducers, defines the environmental susceptibility of mechanical stiffness and strength, and facilitates all biological processes in cells including adhesion to extracellular matrix, migration, and differentiation. The Van Vliet Laboratory for Material Chemomechanics studies this chemomechanical coupling in a range of material systems including superhard metal alloys, nanoscale amorphous oxides, synthetic polymer thin films, and living mammalian cells and microbes. Prof. Van Vliet will discuss recent progress in the nanoscale experiments and computational simulation of three such material systems, and share what her group has learned about the challenges of modeling and understanding material behavior at surfaces and interfaces that are far from equilibrium.

Daily Meditation
“For none is self-sufficiency any longer possible, inasmuch as political ties unite all peoples and nations, and the bonds of trade and industry, of agriculture and education, are being strengthened every day. Hence the unity of all mankind can in this day be achieved.” —Abdu ‘l-Baha (1844-1921)

MIT Blackjack

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Spring 2008 Wulff Lecture

Tuesday, March 18, 2008
4:30–5:30 pm
Room 6-120
Reception to follow in Chishman Room, 6-104.

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Page 11
THE TECH

COURSE III M.S.E.
IM IN UR ROOM, READIN UR Tech
credit markets may make it more difficult for students and their families to find willing lenders. Investors have proved reluctant to buy securities backed by student debts, making it more difficult for lenders to raise the capital they need to make loans. “I hope we’re not waiting for a problem to develop,” said Representative George Miller, Democrat of California and chairman of the House committee. “We have been forewarned.”

Mr. Miller pressed Ms. Spellings to specify the steps she had taken to ready the federal government to make sure loans would be available to students, should banks and other private lenders be unable to meet demand. “I’m asking whether or not you have asked the operational question,” Mr. Miller said, adding, “Have you sat down with the Treasury Department” and asked whether money could be made quickly available for the loans of last resort?

Ms. Spellings responded that the department would be ready. Representative Howard P. McKeon of California, the senior Republican on the committee, said market conditions were only one obstacle facing lenders. Recent cuts to federal subsidy payments to lenders might help to create a “perfect storm” blocking access to loans, he said. “There are real questions about whether loan providers will continue to participate in the federal loan program as a result of the cuts,” Mr. McKeon said. Mr. McKeon also said that in its effort to respond to the credit crisis, the government should not “favor one loan program or the other,” a reference to the direct-loan program, which Ms. Spellings had said could expand. Some Republicans have been strong critics of the direct-loan program, saying private lenders do a better job at serving students. But its advocates say it has been held back by lawmakers and regulators from offering more competitive rates and benefits.

Financial analysts have said it is too early to know how market turmoil will play out because most students will be applying for loans in earnest over the summer to pay for the fall semester. While Ms. Spellings said she had so far not heard from colleges that had observed problems firsthand, a later witness at the hearing, Paul Wozniak, managing director at UBS Securities, offered a darker assessment. “The burden on this marketplace is significant and real and is unlikely to correct itself to avoid having an impact on access to loans,” Mr. Wozniak said.

Senator Edward M. Kennedy, Democrat of Massachusetts and chairman of the Senate education committee, plans to hold a hearing on student loans on Monday in his home state.
2008 NCAA Tournament Men's Bracket

The Tech's Sports Department's Picks

Feel like arguing our picks? Email sports@the-tech.mit.edu
The Tech
March 18, 2008
Page 15

**Sports**

**Women’s Tennis Over Tough Colby College**

By Jennifer A. Rees

The women’s tennis team returned home from Colby College on Saturday with a 7-2 win, bringing its overall season record to 10-3. The team’s national ranking rose from 23rd to 20th in the country.

The match began with the doubles teams taking the courts. Mariann Nathan Hoover ’08 and Leslie A. Hansen ’10 finished with a decisive win, 8-1. Elizabeth A. De- neys ’11 and Ania K. McCree ’10 quickly followed with an 8-4 win, giving MIT an early 2-0 lead.

Emily J. Ousterlitz ’10 and Katherine M. Smyth ’10 finished their exhibition match with an 8-3 win, leaving Karina N. Pikhart ’09 and Melissa A. Makhni ’11 battling the entire way.

In the singles matches, Jennifer A. Rees ’11 won 8-3 and Sonya Makihi ’11 battled the entire way but lost 8-4. Makihi did however provide one of the best fist pumps of the day, rallying that of team captain Hoover, who is well known for them among the team.

**Things to Think About When Choosing Teams:**

**Free-Throws, Hotness**

NCAA Bracket, from Page 16

Mason. We’ve got a #12 seed, but they’ve got Mason! We do it anyway. 7b. Notre Dame lost as a #6 seed last year. They’ve learned their lesson. 7c. Winthrop beat Notre Dame as an #11 seed last year. Two upsets in two years, really?

8. Free-throw shooting matters. Just watch any close game from last year. Memphis is throwing away points by shooting only 59.6% on free throws, and it’ll come back to bite them, eventually.

9. Louisville’s the best #3 seed in the tournament, enough to ignore tip #5.

10. Don’t listen to “Bracketology” experts online. Then you can’t really take credit for your victory, right?


12. Ignore what people say about teams’ record versus the #1 in the Ratings Percentage Index (RPI) rankings. It’s just a statistic. That analysis makes people think you can’t figure it out on your own. People have a vague idea with RPI in.

13. Don’t ever consider a team’s record on its own, it’s all about whom they played. Example: #14 UC Irvine (22-15) won’t beat #3 Stanford (26-7).

14. When in doubt, look at the teams’ conference. Default to the Big East, which was the best conference this year, followed closely by the Pac-10. When in doubt, go against the Big Ten.

15. Don’t discount Xavier for losing twice to Saint Joseph’s this month. Sometimes a team just figures out the other team.

16. Home court advantage can matter, and hence, advantage to a couple of #16 seeds: South Alabama playing in Birmingham, and Davidson playing in Raleigh.

17. Pick the favorite, cheer for the underdog. Either way, you can’t lose. (OK, so this is in contradiction to tip #1. How about we define this kind of losing to “you won’t feel badly”, and the real kind from #1 as “you’re going to lose money.”)

18. Don’t get cocky early. Remember, points from the first round are (usually) insignificant. The final four, and eventual champions are 50 in 19. And finally, go Bruins! See page 14 for The Tech’s projected bracket, along with an empty one for you to fill out on your own.

**Figure Skating Programs Include Ice Dance, Soloists, and Classical Music**

Figure Skating, from Page 16

MIT’s Theater on Ice team in the first year of its existence. Team members included Ouyang, Aubrey L. Samson ’10, Holmbeck, Jingyi “Cynthia” Tang ’09, Dave Wentzlaff G, Diana S. Cheng ’06, Helen Xia ’09, Eisenstein, Kachina C. Gosselin ’10, Patricia Lee, Fakhraldeen, and Victoria Lee. Their program to Fantasia’s “Soccer’s Apprentice,” which they plan on performing at the International Theater on Ice competition in June, featured the themes of slow movements, growth, and repetition.

Two group ice dance numbers, the Canasta Tango and Willow Waltz, also featured club performers. They were directed by group lesson instructors Alpert, Horwich, and Alex Landman.

Club soloists included Tang, who skated to Vann Tiersen’s “Les Jours Tristes” and Wentzlaff, who skated to the Russian folk song “Korseni,” Gosselin skated to a Celtic piece, followed by Cheng skating to LeeAnn Rimes’ “Looking Through Your Eyes.”

Hillary Lang skated to “The Bartle” from the soundtrack of The Chronicles of Narnia, Diane M. Brancario ’90 skated to Evanescence’s “Bring Me to Life,” Kristina K. Brown ’09 skated to “Happy Feet,” and Eisenstein skated to Ar- cade Fire’s “Neighborhood Flirt.”

Cheng and Mickey Barry skated their pairs program to music from Hitchikoki’s Guide to the Galaxy, Cars, and “Radar Love.” In addition, Samost skated to George Gershwin’s “Rhapsody in Blue,” and Gillian M. Grogan ’10 and Jane Codman skated to music by Vivaldi.

Among the cast of guests were 2007 Senior Nationals competitor Margaret Wang, the Skating Club of Boston’s Art! theater on ice team, and 2008 US National Intermediate silver medalists Susan Enright and Michael Brantman.
**Exhibition Featuring Local, Club Skaters**

**MIT Figure Skating Club Holds Annual**

**Men's Volleyball Defeats Division Rival Rivier in Strong Comeback**

**Why was this Match of the Week?**

MIT defeated Rivier in the strong game between the MIT and Rivier. The Engineers won by a score of 3-1.

---

**Match of the Week**

**Men's Volleyball Defeats Division Rival Rivier in Strong Comeback**

**By Mindy Brauer**

Victories over Baruch College and nationally-ranked No. 13 Rivier College helped the No. 13 MIT men's volleyball team surpass the 20-win mark for the fourth year in a row as its record improved to 21-10. The Engineers held off Baruch (32-30, 30-25, 30-27) and then outlasted Rivier (23-30, 27-30, 31-29, 30-13, 15-13) in the deciding set to secure their third straight win.

**MIT def. Baruch**

Pravin Pamidimukkala ‘08 paced MIT with 17 kills to go along with seven blocks, five digs, and two aces. T. Scott Polom ‘09 tallied seven blocks, six kills, five digs, and two aces as Kenneth K. Rosche ‘08 contributed 11 kills and three blocks. Michael Demyten- aere ‘10 totalled eight kills and five blocks while Garrett L. Wuthier ‘11 notched six kills and four assists. Ryan G. Dean ‘08 continued his impressive performance with 35 assists, eight digs, and four blocks as Matthew Ng ‘08 collected a team-high ten digs. Eugene Jang ‘09 bolstered the Engineers' efforts serving with a pair of aces.

**By Diana S. Cheng**

**By Shreyes Seshasai**

**Shreyes Seshasai**

The men’s and women's track and field teams sent three athletes to the 2008 NCAA Division III Track and Field Indoor Championships last weekend at Ohio Northern University. All three athletes performed exceptionally, representing MIT well by each earning All-American accolades.

Amy R. Magnuson ‘10 finished second in the 55-meter hurdles to put the finishing touch on her impressive indoor season. After running 8.19 seconds, Magnuson beat her own MIT record in the prelims with a time of 8.07 seconds.

Stephen A. Morton ‘10 earned All-American honors for his eight-place finish in the long jump, reaching a distance of 22.975. In his other event, Morton failed to place and it probably won’t be you.

1. Don’t pick a #16 seed to win.
2. Pick all the right upsets wisely. Sure, it’s cool to claim a huge upset in the first round, but you don’t want to unnecessarily take a potential final four team.
3. “What have you done for me recently?” Look for teams on hot streaks. Example: Arkansas’ late run in the SEC tournament should give them an edge over struggling Indiana.
4. If you must insist on a #12 over a 5, use tip #5 and choose Temple over Michigan State.
5. Fight the urge, don’t pick George Mason in the triple jump. Omari S. Stephens ‘08, also a Tech photographer, earned All-American honors as well, clearing 15’ 9” 7/10” on his way to eighth place in the pole vault.

**Magnuson, Morton, Stephens Achieve All-American Status at DIII Nationals**

The men and women’s track and field teams sent three athletes to the 2008 NCAA Division III Track and Field Indoor Championships last weekend at Ohio Northern University. All three athletes performed exceptionally, representing MIT well by each earning All-American accolades.

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**MIT Figure Skating Club Holds Annual Exhibition Featuring Local, Club Skaters**

The MIT Figure Skating Club held its annual exhibition last Saturday, with twelve guest programs and twenty-seven club skaters participating. The show was coordinated by Trish Flem- ing of the MIT En- terprise Forum, Saja A. Fakhraldeen ’09, and group les- son instructor Susan Aplet. Esther Horwich ’77 was the show’s emcee and Wellesley College alumna Amy Mosman produced the show.


Wellness student Anne Goldberg choreographed and directed blocks while Garrett L. Wuthier ‘11 notched six kills and four assists. Ryan G. Dean ‘08 continued his impressive performance with 35 assists, eight digs, and four blocks as Matthew Ng ‘08 collected a team-high ten digs. Eugene Jang ‘09 bolstered the Engineers' efforts serving with a pair of aces.

**Why was this Match of the Week?**

MIT delivered when it mattered against division leader Rivier, coming back from two games down. The team squeezed out a 31-29 victory in the third game and a 15-13 win in the decisive fifth game to defeat Rivier.

**Men's Tennis vs. Emerson College**

**Wednesday, March 19, 2008**

Baseball vs. Wentworth Institute of Technology

**3:30 p.m.**

Softball vs. Babson College

**4:00 p.m.**

Men's Volleyball vs. Harvard University

**7:00 p.m.**

Rockwell Cage

**Thursday, March 20, 2008**

Softball vs. Brandeis University

**3:00 p.m.**

Briggs Field

**Upcoming Home Events**