Interim Leader Stu Schmill Will Be Next Dean of Admissions

By Marissa Vogt

The next dean of admissions will be Stuart Schmill ’86. Schmill has served as the interim director of admissions since Martin Jones’s abrupt resignation last April.

Dean for Undergraduate Education Daniel E. Hastings PhD ’80 made the announcement Monday during spring break. Schmill was one of the three candidates recommend- ed to Hastings by a search committee and was the only candidate internal to MIT.

President Emeritus Paul E. Gray ’54, who chaired that committee, said that he was “delighted” with Hastings’s choice.

Schmill has worked in the Admissions Office since 2002 but is relatively inexperienced in the field when compared to the other two short-listed candidates. Hastings and members of the search committee declined to identify the other can- didates, but have said that the two finalists were nationally respected leaders from highly competitive peer institutions.

Members of the committee, in- cluding Gray, had said before the announcement that the job should be held by someone who understands the Institute’s culture. Schmill has more than a decade of experience at MIT, working as the head crew coach, the director of the Parents As- sociation, and the director of the Ed- ucational Council. “It’s in his DNA,” Gray said.

Despite Schmill’s relative inexpe- rience in admissions, he seems to be doing a fine job in his current role this year, with Schmill as interim di- rector, MIT received a record num- ber of applications for freshman admission and had a record-low ac- ceptance rate. Additionally, during Schmill’s six years in admissions he has presented at national and re- gional conferences and is currently the co-president of a regional admiss- ions network.

Schmill’s diverse experience working in industry and at the Insti- tute gave him an advantage over the other candidates, he said. “I think Schmill, Page 21

Spammers Compromise MIT Users’ Accounts Using Phishing E-Mails

By Arkajit Dey

Throughout March, spammers sent a wave of fraudulent e-mail messages claiming to be the “MIT Webmail” and requesting re- cipients to “confirm” their accounts by replying with their passwords. About a half-dozen people have sent their passwords to the attackers after each e-mail, said Jeffrey I. Schiller ’79, MIT Network Manager.

Victims sent their passwords to foreign locations including Hong Kong, and, Schiller Attacks in which e-mail recipients are tricked into re- vealing their password, called “phish- ing,” have hit MIT with increasing frequency. “It’s been building up to a crescendo,” Schiller said.

About 20,000 people receive each wave of phishing messages, Schiller said.

Phishing “hasn’t really been an is- sue for us until recently,” said Schiller. “MIT is not a bank or a credit card service,” Schiller said. Authenticated e-mail, — is easy for spammers to abuse, — is considered more trustworthy and is harder to send. “We try really hard to keep the spammers off!” of authentic e-mail, Schiller said.

To prevent future abuse of the Webmail system, MIT has limited accounts a valuable commodity. Mail sent to a college is more likely to be received than it is mail sent from a compromised computer in a network of robots.

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Phishing, Page 17

MIT and Other Universities Funded Disease Research Using Tobacco Company Money

By Stephen Smith

The nation’s largest cigarette manufac- turer has paid for scientific research at four Massachusetts universities since 2000, a practice that critics of the tobacco industry liken to the Ma- fia underwriting crime fighting.

Philip Morris USA, which makes Marlboro and other top-selling ciga- rette lines, gave grants to scientists at Boston University, Harvard Uni- versity, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and the University of Massachusetts, company spokesperson David M. Sylvia said Friday.

The research supported by the company touched on conditions such as heart disease and cancer that are linked to smoking. The grants were given by the Philip Morris External Research Program were not used to develop new tobacco products or refine existing brands, but they may have helped the company rehabilitate its public image.

When accepting Philip Morris money, the researchers had to prom- ise to disclose the source of their funding in scientific publications, Sylvia said, and the company, in turn, promised not to meddle in the research.

Still, industry foes said research paid for by tobacco companies is irredeemably compromised.

"Taking money from the tobacco industry to conduct scientific re- search is bad enough. To receive money from a company that has a record of fraud and deceit, that's a step too far," said Robert Proctor, a science historian at Stanford University.

Funding, Page 18

In Short

The East Lot food trucks will move to their new location today — Carleton St. on the eastern side of MIT Medical — due to construc- tion on the new building housing the Koch Institute for Integrative Cancer Research.

Spring Weekend Concert tickets are available beginning today for presale at http://tech.mit.edu/spring. The $10 presale tickets are limited to the first 500 MIT students. This year’s opener is Howie Day and the main act is Third Eye Blind.

MassCPR. See annual CPR certification class offered by MIT-EMS, will take place Thursday, April 3. There will be two four-hour ses- sions, starting at 1 p.m. and 6 p.m., in La Sala de Puerto Rico. The class is free for MIT undergraduates and $5 for all others, payable at the door. To pre-register, visit http://ems.mit. edu/heartsafe.
In Gaza, Hamas' Insults to Jews Complex, Pervasive, Fierce
By Mary Williams Walsh

The Social Security system is chocking on paperwork and spending millions of dollars a year screening dubious applications for disability benefits, according to lawsuits filed by whistleblowers.

Insurance companies are the source of the problem, the lawsuits say. The insurers are forcing many people who file disability claims with them to also apply to Social Security — even people who clearly do not qualify for the government program.

The Social Security Administration defines “disabled” much more stringently than the insurers generally do, so it rejects most of the applications, at least initially. Often, the insurers then tell their claimants to appeal, the lawsuits say, raising the cost.

The insurers say that requiring a Social Security assessment is a standard practice and that there is nothing wrong with it. The policies they sell allow them to coordinate their benefit payments with others to make sure no one is paid twice or more. If, however, a disabled person can get benefits from somewhere else — like work compensation — the Social Security system can deny benefits. The insurers then tell their claimants to appeal, the lawsuits say, raising the cost.

The Social Security Administration has been criticized for its slow and inefficient handling of disability claims. The system is not an active participant in the appeals process, and a law judge has more than doubled the time it takes to hear a case.

While the plan is unlikely to get anywhere, even before its first appearance in an official policy document and may go nowhere in a partisan election year, it echoes many of the seemingly subtle and yet profound changes that Wall Street has been longing for all along.

One change Wall Street wants is for regulators to shift from policing the industry with hard and fast rules — do this, don’t do that — to using looser “principles” that might be open to interpretation. Another is to modernize the hodgepodge of state and federal regulations that sometimes overlap and conflict with one another.

Paulson’s plan would take a step toward both of these changes by consolidating banking and insurance regulators and potentially merging the Securities and Exchange Commission with the Commodity Futures Trading Commission, then stripping the combined entity of much of its regulatory authority.

“The world became homogenized, but the regulatory structure stayed within the same straightjacket,” a provisions of the approach says it is even more efficient.

They point to the meteoric rise of London as a global financial center, which has fueled worries that the New York might one day lose its title as the world capital of capital. The Financial Services Authority, Britain’s main financial regulator, relies on principles rather than rules.

Wall Street Lobbying for Looser Oversight, Despite Loan Woes
By by Adam Nossiter

In the past, Wall Street’s banks were known for their conservative approach to regulation. But now, in the aftermath of the financial crisis, the industry is pushing for a more lenient approach, even though it still faces a large number of pending lawsuits.

Despite the increasing rancor of the campaign, Clinton says she is staying in the race, and the race is on for Democrats — as well as a fight in 1968, and one in 1976 for Richard Nixon, who went on to lose in November.

But a year after a celebratory City Hall kickoff, there have been no cranes and no Parisian boulevards. A modest paved walking path behind a derelict old market building is held up as a marquee accomplishment of the yet-to-be-realized plan.

The city’s promises should not be consigned to the municipal filing cabinet, along with their predecessors. On their one-year anniversary, the designated “zones” have hardly budged.

Wall Street has long been an architect of its own regulatory system. But in recent years, the industry has faced increased scrutiny and regulation from government agencies.

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Cleric’s Order to End Fighting Creates Fragile Peace in Iraq

By James Glanz

FAIRLESS HILLS, PA.

Ministers with the Mahdi Army, the followers of the Shi'ite cleric Moqtada al-Sadr, mostly vanished from the streets of Basra on Monday, a day after he ordered them to lay down their arms and also insisted that the Iraqi government grant a general amnesty for his followers and make other demands.

Iraqi army and police forces immediately moved into Basra neighborhoods abandoned by the Mahdi Army, which is the armed wing of al-Sadr’s political movement, setting up checkpoints and searching for roadside bombs.

As helicopters continued buzzing overhead, shops began to reopen, and residents ventured out into the streets. The southern Iraqi city had been a battleground since Prime Minister Nouri Kamal al-Maliki ordered federal forces to begin an assault on the city a week ago.

For al-Maliki, who had vowed that he would see the Basra campaign through to a military victory, the negotiated outcome was seen as a serious blow to his leadership.

The uncertainty over al-Sadr’s statements were underlined at a news briefing in Baghdad on Monday, where Ali al-Dabbagh, a government spokesman, dodged questions about whether al-Maliki would honor al-Sadr’s demands.

When asked if the government would release Mahdi Army detainees who have not been accused of a crime, for instance, al-Dabbagh said there had long been plans to let some of them go.

He said the government would “look into” al-Sadr’s concerns.

Al-Maliki had said the operation in Basra was meant only to root out criminals, rather than any particular political or military group. But nearly all the fighting involved the Mahdi Army, which gave up little or no ground and essentially fought the federal forces to a standoff.

The streets remained extremely tense on Monday in both Basra and Baghdad.

Democratic Candidates Hit the Campaign Trail in Pennsylvania

By Katharine Q. Seelye

HARRISBURG, PA.

The Democratic campaign took on the feel of the early voting states on Monday, back when the candidates’ buses would crisscross paths in a single state. Sens. Hillary Rodham Clinton and Barack Obama were both in eastern Pennsylvania courting voters, on a day in which Obama gained a superdelegate.

Sen. Amy Klobuchar, D-Minn., announced her support for Obama in a conference call with reporters, describing him as “a new kind of leader — he speaks with a different voice,” a conference call with reporters, de-

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Several years ago, when I first heard that the best-selling book "Bring Down the House" would be made into a Hollywood movie, I was beyond excited. However, now that '21' is out, so how much work I try to rationalize the casting decisions behind this film, I remain outraged as an Asian. I will attempt to explain why Hollywood'sproduction process behind this film is offensive, why over 600 members on a Facebook group have called for its boycott, and why several prominent newspapers and blogs have criticized this movie, with one writer even calling it "ruining Asian Americans to the back of the bus." Some background information may be introduced. First, the real-life team, which this non-fiction book and inspired film were based on, the team that actually forced by the Actor's Equity Union to use White actresses to play the Asian female protagonist. An example, decades ago Broadway initially used White actresses to play the Asian female protagonist in "Miss Saigon," until they were eventually forced by the Actor's Equity Union to use Asian actresses.

The two strongest defenses I have read for this offensive casting are the cause: namely, the young, foolish, and weighty. Primarily non-white, either Asian or Middle Eastern, these were the kids the cases were accused to seeing bet a thousand bucks a hand. Like many on the team, Kevin Lewis was part Asian, and I would pass as the child of a rich Chinese or Japanese executive...". White 20-year-olds with $2 million bankrolls stand out, explans Andy Taylor, one of Lewis' teammates.

Third, before seeing any auditions, the moviestudio had initially wanted to write out all of these Asian American males in the cast. In a 2005 Zevi interview, here is what the book's author, Ken Mezekh said: "The stereotypical Hollywood casting process—that most of the actual black-jack team was composed of Asian males, a studio executive involved in the casting said that most of the film's action is of scenes that could pass as the child of a rich Chinese or Japanese metastasizing, its boycott, and why several prominent news-letters were given higher priority. Once submitted, all letters become board choosing to publish their disagreement with the editorial.

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By Hsin-Yu Tsai

The residents of Green Hall were recently informed that Green Hall, opened in 1983 in honor of Ida Flansburgh Green, a major MIT benefactor and advocate of graduate studies for women, would no longer function as a graduate women’s dormitory. As a resident and transition coordinator of Green Hall, I would like to share the perspective from Green Hall residents on how the MIT administration has handled this matter.

The transition plan

On Jan. 15, with half of our residents out of town, three housing officers came to our dorm to announce the decision to convert Green Hall from a graduate women’s dorm to an undergraduate sorority house. It is true that we are a small community with only 30 residents remaining here this fall, but that does not mean we should not be afforded at least a baseline level of consideration. The decision had been made without any input from Green Hall residents, the house master, nor the GSC (it was raised for about 30 seconds at a Housing Strategy Group meeting as the question “What happens to Green when NW35 opens?” — with no discussion). The housing contracts we signed and the continuing status we currently possess have not provided us any protection nor any guarantee during this transition process. (Detailed transition plans were reported in the Feb. 12 issue of The Tech.)

The true reasons

The official reasons we were given for this decision was the absence of a graduate community in Ashdown moves over to NW35. However, Green Hall residents were not given the opportunity to be involved in the planning for New Ashdown nor the option to transition with the Ashdown community. The true reason for swapping the Kappa Alpha Theta sorority with Green Hall residents with only five months notice is to provide the KAT sorority with the house they need, to end senior siege, and to preserve a female-only graduate housing option. Everyone in this decision was taken into consideration, except the graduate residents in Green Hall.

Disappointing responses from MIT housing

After the dorm dinner, we contacted the GSC and our officers tried to negotiate with housing, but all proposed alternatives were rejected: no mid-August move-out, no seniority in housing lotteries, no NW35 tours, and no Green Hall option for those with continuing status who are graduating soon. On Jan. 24, an official survey of resident’s housing preferences was distributed by the Housing Office at our officers’ request, but there was no option to remain in Green Hall and no option to move out later than June 30th. “If you feel that moving in June is a problem for you, please let us know that you’d prefer to move now and we will facilitate that,” said one of the e-mails from housing. As Henry Ford once quipped about the Model T, “You can paint it any color, so long as it’s black.”

Meeting with the deans

We conducted an internal survey of residents’ preferences and showed that more than 20 residents wanted to continue graduate lives in the close and friendly female community that they had formed. “This community could not be replaced or reformed in the S&P female dormitory due to the stark contrast between isolated apartment designs and Green Hall’s dormitory design,” said one of the residents who moved from Sidney-Pacific.

On Jan. 28 we wrote to Steven R. Lerman, ’72 and Larry G. Benedict, the Dean for Graduate Students and Student Life, respectively) of Course 6 (GW6), I cannot fully express my disappointment. MIT makes such an effort to be an inclusive place for women, but cannot ensure the rights of 30 women to continue living in a community that they have worked hard to create. Some residents have stated that if our relatively low rent is the problem, then they would prefer a rent increase rather than being forced to leave Green Hall. At least three residents (20% of the continuing PhD candidates) in Green Hall have seriously considered leaving MIT without a PhD, and many complained about the additional stress imposed on their graduate studies.

Our graduate student community is being destroyed, but no official apology has ever been made; this decision making pattern with no student input and last minute notice continues repeating itself. We sincerely hope that the administrative authorities can seriously address this recurring pattern and work with the GSC to effectively ensure student input in future decision processes.

Hsin-Yu Tsai, a Green Hall resident, is a graduate student in the Department of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science and a transition coordinator for Green Hall.

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By Michael T. Lin

I’m going to miss spring break. I realize that’s true for all but the most anxious among us, but after such a long and lustrous on-campus vacation, telling myself to return to the academic schedule is like asking Robin-son Crasoe to vacation in the Bahamas. He’ll do it, but don’t expect him to leap for joy at the opportunity. Especially not after he’s had a week to get used to sitting at home eating processed snack foods and leftover pizza in front of a perpetual YouTube header.

There’s a reason why the answer to “How was your break?” is, almost without fail, “short.” I’m going to operate under the as- sumption that it’s because time flies when you’re having fun, but it’s also entirely pos- sible that the less social among us move so little from our chairs that time dilation works backwards. (I’m still amazed that I’m at a school where I can use jokes like that and have readers understand my blathering.) As one of the few that remained on-campus over spring break, I can say with confidence that even in the ghost town that the MIT campus be- came last week, there were still fun people to do fun things with. Certain anticipated video game and film releases have a way of keeping geeks properly occupied, while those ahead of the time-management curve have been dutifully chiseling away at the home- work assigned over vacation. There should be plenty about to keep a person occupied — until one takes into account the effect of too much free time on the human mind.

I’d hope there are at least a few of you out there who are familiar with the productivity Twilight Zone — not enough motivation to do anything produc- tive and not enough interest to do anything frivolous. The hours of the day waste away as you sit in your room, feeling sorry for the cow whose jerky you’re nibbling as you stare out the window…

By Christina Kang

Women, how many cows are you worth? Men, how many cows would you be willing to pay as a dowry for your wife? Two? Three? How about forty? How many of your wife’s ex- tended family members would you be willing to support? My last day in Kenya, I was invited to have tea with the directors, chairmen, and head staff of the Association for the Physically Disabled of Kenya (APDK). They invited me to hear about my accomplishments during the week, what I hoped to do with the information and media I had obtained, a reflection of my visit, and my personal future plans. The issue of gender arose as we spoke about my desire to visit, and my personal future plans. The issue of supporting the woman’s extended family, the rest of their lives and the responsibility of being an economic investment. So much relied on the marriage that divorce was unthinkable or monetary) serves as a promise and a type of security that the less social among us move so

what might be wrong with you that you can’t think of anything to do with all the resources at hand. Or perhaps that was just me.

For those of you who know what I’m talk- ing about, I’d be more than happy to offer some advice to help prevent falling into this maelstrom of despair, if only I knew what to do about it myself. I’m hoping that I will eventually rediscover the drive that once fu- eled my part-scholastic, part-monastic exist- ence and channel it into an attention span worth speaking of. Until then, here I sit, gorg- ing myself on the snack that smiles back and contemplating how much messier my side of the room can get before it interferes intoler- ably with my capacity to function. Best of luck to those of you ailing in kind, and please — let me know if you solve your problem be- fore I do.

So, What Do You Want To Do?

The hours of the day waste away as you sit in your room, feeling sorry for the cow whose jerky you’re nibbling as you stare out the window…

Through My Eyes

How Many Cows Are You Worth?

 UNCERTAINTY is a normal part of finding one’s way. Anxiety and self-doubt are common reactions to stress. MIT Mental Health is here for you.

Talk with us.
Steal My Comic

There is a hilarious punch line in the third frame of this comic.

Made you look!

The Daily Blunderbuss

ACROSS
1 Heroin, to addicts
5 Occurs
15 “Drowning ___”
16 Noble Italian musical style
17 Hebrew month
18 Comics’ superhero group
19 Tell
21 Shooter’s ammo
22 Turkish title
23 Big name in mini motor homes
24 Witty remark
25 Long ride?
26 Mr. Humperdinck
28 Nutty pie
29 Dinner enders
30 John Travolta musical
31 Tropical cuskiness
32 Spur on
33 Willowy
36 Cyrano de ___
40 Stacks
41 Mask
42 Commoutions
43 Snapple sign word
44 Original
45 Strike sharply
46 “Promised Land” author Abba
47 Revolve
48 Voters
51 Conscious selves
52 Wizard
53 Mailed
54 Some Manhattanites
55 Woods rooter?

DOWN
1 Felt the pinch
2 Opium derivative
3 Digital alternatives
4 Junk vending events?
5 Lug
6 Go ___ (freak out)
7 What finders are
8 Actor Borgnine
9 Pulled up a chair to
10 Trident shaped letters
11 Allow to
12 Coffee bean variety
13 Movie theaters
14 No-brainner
20 Knacks
24 New York team
25 Radio news pioneer
27 Soft, French cheese
28 Offspring
30 Sounds from the pound
32 Legendary soccer player
33 Enough!
34 Larg sweet onion
35 Runaway brides
36 Shady reputation
37 Pillager
38 Organic solvent
39 Holm of “All about Eve”
41 Burst into flames
43 Ancient Greek coins
46 Customary extras, briefly
47 Roman patrician clan
49 Singer Stevens
50 Long-time seafarer

Solution, page 18
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April 1, 2008 The Tech Page 9

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an innovative new program for undergraduates:

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Beginning in Fall 2008, Course 15 will offer two minors, the Minor in Management and the new Minor in Management Science. The curriculum for the new minor comprises:

- 6.041 Probabilistic Systems Analysis
- 14.01 Principles of Microeconomics
- 15.053 Optimization Methods in Management Science
- 15.075 Statistical Thinking and Data Analysis

Plus two elective subjects (some restrictions apply)

Applications for both minors will be accepted on a rolling basis. Students who apply on or before Drop Date (Thursday, April 24) will receive Sloan student priority for bidding on subjects as described on the departmental web site (see below).

To learn more:
- Attend the Course 15 Open House on Tuesday, April 15, from 4:00 to 5:30 PM in 10-105 (Bush Room)
- Visit http://mitsloan.mit.edu/undergrad

Questions?
Send email to ugprogram@sloan.mit.edu
April 1, 2008

The Tech

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UA and Class Council Election Candidates
For 2008-2009 Year

Undergraduate Association Candidates

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Running Mate</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>President/VP</td>
<td>Akash A. Chandravaraka '09</td>
<td>Amanda J. Maguire '09</td>
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<td>Jason C. Forte '09</td>
<td>Brittany A. Holland-Marcus '10</td>
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<td>Bradley H. Gampel '09</td>
<td>Willard J. Johnson '09</td>
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<td>Noah S. Jessop '09</td>
<td>Michael A. Bennie '10</td>
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2009 Class Council Candidates

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<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>President</td>
<td>Vivian Tang</td>
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<tr>
<td>Vice President</td>
<td>Deepa Mokshagundam</td>
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<td>Secretary</td>
<td>Ting Ting Luo</td>
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<tr>
<td>Treasurer</td>
<td>Angela L. Cantu</td>
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<tr>
<td>Social Chair</td>
<td>Anushri N. Khan &amp; Tzu P. Srivastava</td>
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<td>Jady Ho &amp; Christine Y. Yen</td>
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2010 Class Council Candidates

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<tr>
<th>Position</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>President</td>
<td>Jason A. Scott (Running with Laura H. Han)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Vice President</td>
<td>Xun Hou</td>
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<tr>
<td>Secretary</td>
<td>Laura H. Han (Running with Jason A. Scott)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Treasurer</td>
<td>Phillip Kim</td>
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<tr>
<td>Publicity</td>
<td>Omoboye A. Olutunji</td>
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<tr>
<td>Secretary</td>
<td>Crystal Mao &amp; Tiffany Chu</td>
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<tr>
<td>Treasurer</td>
<td>Wen Y. Tang</td>
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<td>Social Chair</td>
<td>Thomas W. Hay &amp; Steven H. Hong</td>
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2011 Class Council Candidates

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<tr>
<th>Position</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>President</td>
<td>Aashut Bhagi</td>
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<tr>
<td>Vice President</td>
<td>Ian P. Tracy (Running with Michael J. Meyer)</td>
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<td>Treasurer</td>
<td>Bus Turbalin</td>
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<td>Secretary</td>
<td>Michael J. Meyer (Running with Ian P. Tracy)</td>
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<td>Sivakami Sambasivan</td>
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<td>Secretary</td>
<td>Kevin A. Rastagi</td>
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<td>Treasurer</td>
<td>Shreema Bhalla &amp; May Liu</td>
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<tr>
<td>Social Chair</td>
<td>Emma M. Rosen &amp; Yu Zhao</td>
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Get in the press

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This space donated by The Tech

Source: Ainsley K. Braun ’10, UA election commission member

The Tech
Tech Staffers Share Their Spring Break Moments

The staff of The Tech traveled near and far to get their kicks for Spring Break 2008. Excerpts from their submissions are below.

1) Clare Bayley ’10 stands along the pedestrian sidewalk on the north end of the Golden Gate Bridge in San Francisco, CA on Sunday, March 23.

2) Two individuals are seen on a footbridge in Central Park in New York, NY on Wednesday, March 26.


4) New Orleans’ Bourbon Street is seen at dusk on Tuesday, March 25.

5) Downtown San Francisco is seen across the San Francisco Bay from the northeast summit of the Twin Peaks Natural Area on Sunday, March 23 in this digitally-stitched panorama comprised of 21 photographs.

6) Sandwiched between the Van Gogh Museum and the Rijksmuseum in Amsterdam, The Netherlands, the “I amsterdam” sign is a popular photographic location, even with the week’s rainy and chilly weather.

7) Teams 61 “The Shifters,” 97 “The Cow” (Sponsored by MIT), and 1153 “The RoboRebels” compete in the semifinals of the For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology (FIRST) robotics competition.

8) One of New Orleans’ many jazz bands performs in Jackson Square in the French Quarter on Sunday, March 23.

DaviD M. TeMpleTon—The Tech
Spring Break Moments

On the summit of the Twin Peaks Natural Area on Sunday, March 23 in San Francisco, a digitally-stitched panorama comprised of 21 photographs was created to capture the moment.

Sandwiched between the Van Gogh Museum and the Rijksmuseum in Amsterdam, The Netherlands, the "I amsterdam" sign is a popular photographic spot, even with the week’s rainy and chilly weather.

Teams (left to right) 61 “The Shifters,” 97 “The Cow” (Sponsored by MIT), and 1153 “The RoboRebels” compete in the semifinals of the For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology (FIRST) robotics competition. High school students from all over New England descended on Boston University’s Agganis Arena last Saturday, March 29 for the regional championship.

New Orleans’ many jazz bands perform in Jackson Square in the French Quarter on Sunday, March 23.
The New York Times

By Colin Moynihan

For Users of TXTmob, System Employed by Protesters

Although the service, called TXTmob, was widely used by demonstrators, reporters and possibly even police officers, little was known about its inventors. Last month, however, the New York City Law Department released Autonomy, that allowed users to form networks and transmit messages via TXTmob during the convention, and have been consolidated in Federal District Court in Manhattan. About 1,300 people were arrested and charged, but 90 percent of them ultimately walked away from court without pleading guilty or being convicted.

Many people complained that they were arrested unjustly, and a State Supreme Court justice chastised the city after hundreds of people were held by the police for more than 24 hours without a hearing. The police commissioner, Raymond W. Kelly, has called the convention a success for his department, which he credited with preventing major disruptions during a turbulent week. He has countered complaints about police tactics by saying that nearly a million people peacefully expressed their political opinions, while the convention and the city functioned smoothly.

Mr. Hirsch said that he wrote the TXTmob code over about two weeks. After a trial run in Boston during the Democratic National Convention, the service was in wide use during the Republican convention in New York. Hundreds of people went to the TXTmob Web site and joined user groups at no charge.

As a result, when members of the War Resisters League were arrested after starting to march up Broadway, or when Republican delegates attended a performance of "The Lion King" on West 42nd Street, a server under a desk in Cambridge, Mass., transmitted messages detailing the action, often while scenes on the streets were still unfolding.

Messages were exchanged by self-organized first-aid volunteers, demonstrators urging each other on and even by people in far-flung cities who simply wanted to trade thoughts or opinions with those on the streets of New York. Reporters began monitoring the messages too, looking for word of breaking news and rushing to spots where mass arrests were said to be taking place.

And Mr. Hirsch said he thought it likely that police officers were among those receiving TXTmob messages on their phones.

It is difficult to know for sure who received messages, but an examination of police surveillance documents prepared in 2003 and 2004, and unsealed by a federal magistrate last year, makes it clear that the authorities were aware of TXTmob at least a month before the Republican convention began.

A document marked "NYPD SECRET" and dated July 26, 2004, included the address of the TXTmob Web site and stated, "It is anticipated that text messaging is one of several different communications systems that will be utilized to organize the upcoming RNC protests."

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Solution to Sudoku

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Next stop on the road to choosing a major

School of Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences
Open House
Tuesday, 8 April 2008
La Sala de Puerto Rico
2nd floor, Student Center
12:00-2:00 PM

Featuring Eight Local College Gospel Groups

Gospel Fest
Saturday April 5th, 2008 @ La Sala
7:00pm, doors open at 6:30pm

Price: MIT: $5 ($7 @ door) Non-MIT: $10 ($12 @ door)
Buy Tickets: 10a-4p: Mon/Tues (Lobby 10), Wed/Thur/Fri (Student Center)
Sponsored By: MIT Gospel Choir, MIT UCF, UA Finboard, LEP, SAO Office, Arts@MIT

http://web.mit.edu/gospelfest/

Wheaton Voices United
To Jam
Northeastern University
JDOAAI Unity
Gospel Ensemble
Tufts University
Third Day
Gospel Choir
Boston University
Inner Strength
Gospel Choir
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Author of The Way Things Work

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Sponsored by The School of Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences | The School of Science
The School of Engineering | The School of Architecture and Planning

Tuesday, 1 April 2008, 6:30PM
Kirsch Auditorium, Bldg 32-123
Stata Center, MIT
Coop Student Board of Directors
Election Update

The following student Coop members are candidates for the Board of Directors for the 2008-2009 academic year.

**MIT Undergraduate Students:**
- Karlen Ruleman 2009
- Christopher Whitfield 2009

**MIT Graduate Students:**
- Loreena Lee-Houghton 2011
- Tanguy Chau 2010
- Alex Hamilton Chan 2011
- Paul K. Romano 2011

**Harvard Undergraduate Students:**
- Patrick Brennan 2011
- Tami Kim 2011
- George Thampy 2010
- Matthew Zehnder 2011

**Harvard Graduate Students:**
- Aaron Chadbourne 2011
- Ari Bloom 2009
- Luke Fucarile 2009

Support Your Candidate(s) VOTE ONLINE at:

**www.thecoop.com**

March 31 Through April 12
Researchers Claim Money Had No Strings Attached

Funding, from Page 1

search is like the DA taking money from the Mafia to conduct investigations of crime,” said Gregory Con- nolly, a Harvard School of Public Health professor and former director of the Massachusetts Tobacco Con- trol Program.

University scientists first came under withering attack for taking money from Big Tobacco in the 1990s, when their work was seen as buttressing industry claims that cig- arettes were not harmful. The tenor of industry-funded research changed after the companies acknowledged — in a landmark settlement in 1998 — that their products were lethal.

“Their interest now is to try to convince the public that they are truly concerned companies and that they care enough to fund important research at reputable institutions,” said Dr. Michael Siegel, a Boston University School of Public Health researcher who has extensively studied the tobacco industry. “And, they’re using the good name of these institutions to try to bolster their own scientific and public credibility.”

BU’s acceptance of research grants from Philip Morris was first disclosed Thursday in the Daily Free Press, a student newspaper at the university.

In a statement issued Friday even- ing, the provost of BU’s medical campus, Dr. Karen Antman, said the school had received $3.99 million from Philip Morris during the past decade and devoted it to the study of tobacco-related diseases.

“We adhere to the highest ethi- cal conduct in research and pursue funding from a variety of sources for unrestricted medical research,” Antman said in the statement. “Our research is conducted and the results are assessed against the standard benchmarks that apply to any re- search.”

Philip Morris would not disclose how much money in total it distrib- uted through the External Research Program from 2000 through last year, when it was ended. Nor would the company specify the amounts given to Massachusetts scientists.

Worldwide, about 470 research projects were underwritten by the company, Sylvia said, resulting in more than 1,000 publications in journals that subject papers to peer scrutiny, such as the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences.

Philip Morris recruited a scient- ific advisory board to review re- search proposals. Sylvia said, plac- ing an emphasis on projects related to how smoking causes cancer, heart disease, and respiratory ailments.

“Obviously, cigarettes are a prod- uct that adds an enormous vari- ous disease,” Sylvia said. “Our goal is to try to reduce the harm associ- ated with cigarettes. We felt there needed to be additional research in these various areas to better help us in our effort to reduce the harm re- lated to smoking.”

The company provided three exam- ples of Massachusetts researchers it supported. In two of those cases, the recipients were junior scientists — known as post-doctoral research- ers — who often find it difficult to win highly competitive grants from the federal government or other ma- jor sources of research support.

One of them said he was happy to get the funding for his work on computer modeling of potential treatments for cardiovascular dis- ease.

“There were no strings at- tached in the application process I had no qualms in applying for this funding,” Rami A. Tzafriri, of MIT, said in an e-mail. “In retrospect I can say that the process was very professional and friendly and that under similar circumstances I would apply for such funding again. Funding for research is essential, but unfortunately scarce. So any source that does not compromise my inde- pendence is welcome.”

MIT officials declined to com- ment about their researchers’ accep- tance of Philip Morris money.

At BU, one recipient, Dr. Doug- las Faller, is a longtime professor and director of the BU Cancer Cen- ter. According to a document detail- ing work at the university’s Women’s Health Interdisciplinary Research Center, Faller received $268,759 from Philip Morris to investigate a cancer drug.

Reached at his home late Friday, Faller deferred to university officials for comment.

At Harvard Medical School, re- searchers were ordered to stop pur- suing tobacco-industry grants in July 2004. “The policy did, however, allow those few researchers who had ongoing projects funded by those entities to complete them,” Margaret Dale, dean for faculty and research integrity at Harvard Medical School, said in a statement released Friday by a university spokesman.

When the school issued its pol- icy, administrators acknowledged that grant money can be hard to turn down. But “in light of the harm that has been caused by the tobacco industry and its products, and considering [Harvard Medical School’s] mis- sion as a leader in teaching, research and patient care,” the only accept- able course was to ban the tobacco grants, the Harvard administrators wrote.

A UMass Medical School spokes- woman said that the school does not currently have any research support- ed by tobacco companies and that it had accepted “no more than $1 million from the industry over the past decade. By comparison, she said, the medical school estimates it received a total of $1.3 billion in research dollars during that period.”

The Tufts University School of Medicine received no Philip Morris grants, but a school spokesman said that one laboratory there had received a grant in 2006 from a to- bacco company.
April 1, 2008

The Tech
Page 19

Course III Freshman Open House

Thursday, April 3, 2008
12:00 – 2:00
Chipman Room (6-104)

Meet the Course III faculty, undergraduate advisors, and students. View lab demos. Hear from alums who are currently working in industry or enrolled in graduate school.

...and have some pizza!

Door prizes as well!

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Free tickets for MIT students!

BOSTON SECESSION

presents Justina Golden and The Amiable Consort

Friday, April 11, 2008 at 8:00 pm
Gordon Chapel, Old South Church
645 Boylston Street, Boston, MA

Specializing in Hildegard von Bingen and solo and multi-part chant, this early music ensemble presents deeply moving performances of exceptional quality, imbued with a rare accessibility both for those in the know and those who are new to this music.
http://www.bostonsecession.org

BOSTON CHAMBER MUSIC SOCIETY

Sunday, April 27, 2008 at 7:30 pm
Sanders Theater, Harvard University
45 Quincy Street, Cambridge, MA

Prokofiev Sonata for Two Violins, Op. 56
Brahms Violin Sonata in E-flat major, Op. 120, No. 2
Dvorak Piano Quintet in A major, Op. 81

Irina Muresanu and Lily Francis, violins
Marcus Thompson, viola
Wilhelmina Smith, cello
Randall Hodgkinson, piano

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2 tickets per MIT student ID

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Application deadline:
April 4, 2008

Contact:
Susan Cohen
cohen@media.mit.edu

Application:

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Sunday, April 27, 2008 at 7:30 pm
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Prokofiev Sonata for Two Violins, Op. 56
Brahms Violin Sonata in E-flat major, Op. 120, No. 2
Dvorak Piano Quintet in A major, Op. 81

Irina Muresanu and Lily Francis, violins
Marcus Thompson, viola
Wilhelmina Smith, cello
Randall Hodgkinson, piano

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Former Educational Council Director Is New Admissions Dean

Schmill, from Page 1

my [career] path has been even more helpful,” Schmill said. Schmill said that his experience as the head crew coach, when he spent 20 hours per week with students, gave him a deeper insight into the students at MIT and what type of students the Institute should admit. His positions with the Alumni Office and Educational Council gave him further experience working with students and their parents, he said.

Hastings said that Schmill was chosen in part because “he had a very good vision and deep, deep understanding of the MIT culture and the kind of things we need to do to move us forward.” Hastings also said that he was pleased with Schmill’s performance as interim director. He said that, rather than serving just as a “bench warmer” during the past year, Schmill was willing to pilot new experiments.

Schmill “thinks analytically, which is, for an MIT person, what you’d expect” and “uses data in a thoughtful way,” said Hastings.

The Tech reported before spring break that the job had been offered to one of the three finalists and that an announcement would be coming in the following days. Hastings declined to say whether the delay was because he had offered the job to one of the other candidates, who had turned it down, before choosing Schmill. “I went through an iterative process and a lot of debate in making a decision. Hastings said, and “after some negotiation [Schmill] ultimately accepted the job.”

“I’ve always thought [Schmill] was a great person for the job,” Hastings said, and one of the benefits of the search process was to gain an external reference point for comparison with Schmill and his qualifications. Hastings said that he was pleased that Schmill would be able to continue leading the staff in the Admissions Office because “they’re clearly very attached to him.”

Schmill will be the first MIT alumnus to lead the Admissions Office since Peter H. Richardson ’48, who served as director of admissions from 1972 to 1984. Richardson was the director when Schmill was admitted, and “every time I see him I like to thank him,” said Schmill.

Richardson said that he had met Schmill before and was even invited to observe the early action admissions process last fall. Having an MIT alumnus is not essential to the job, Richardson said, although he added that his own experiences as a freshman helped him understand the types of transitions that students go through when first coming to the Institute. “I’m terribly pleased that Steve got the job,” Richardson said.

As the new dean of admissions, Schmill will have to face challenges such as recent increases in financial aid by some of MIT’s peer institutions, an increased focus in science and engineering from competitors, and an expected decline in the number of high school students. The new dean will therefore have to both maintain and enhance the quality of students admitted, Hastings told The Tech in the week before the announcement was made.

Despite the challenges, Schmill sounds optimistic. “Those are just changes in the landscape,” he said. “I think MIT is as relevant as ever” and that the problems the world is facing, including global climate change, “require MIT students and the analytical teachings we offer.”

Schmill said last Monday that he was “really honored” and “quite thrilled” at his appointment. “I absolutely love this job,” he said. “I’ve had enormous fun over this past year.”

LEGAL COUNSEL
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UK & Ireland Fellowships
April 4, 2008 at 3:30pm in 3-133
web.mit.edu/scholarships
Memphis Starts Making Free-Throws, Earns Final Four Birth

March Madness, from Page 24

It wasn’t just that most of the top seeds ended up winning, but the dominating way in which they won made many of the games dull enough to change the channel.

Sure, Louisville “upset” Tennessee, but looking closely at how the Cardinal’s full-court press pressed a Volunteer team without a serious guard, it’s no surprise the margin of victory was as large as it was.

This is not to say that the top four teams don’t deserve to be where they are now, but a little more parity wouldn’t hurt, would it?

Road to the Final Four

The top seeded University of North Carolina Tar Heels were finally challenged by Louisville in the Elite Eight. The Cardinals made a run to tie the game at 59 midway through the second half before Tar Heels forward Tyler Hansbrough stepped up to take control of the game. Now the Tar Heels will venture out of North Carolina for the first time this tournament to represent the East regional in San Antonio.

Kansas University appeared on paper to have the easiest road through the first four rounds of the tournament. The Jayhawks beat the 16th, 8th, 12th, and 10th seeds in the tumultuous Midwest Region, but the final game against 10th seeded Davidson was certainly no walk-through. Drawing playful comparisons to the mythical David vs. Goliath, the Cinderella team of the year nearly became the first tenth seed to ever make the Final Four, but a last second three pointer clanked wide left and Kansas survived 59-57.

As hard as it was to see the underdog Davidson lose, it is even harder when one realizes how many opportunities the team missed along the way. Scoring just two points in the first six minutes of the game, and six points in the last seven, it’s unclear whether the team was hot with nerves, fatigue, or both. Guard Stephen Curry went cold from three point range in the second half, though that should take nothing away from his inspired performance during the entire tournament.

Memphis University looked dominant against the Texas Longhorns to earn their first trip to the Final Four in 23 years, after losing in the Elite Eight the past two years. The greatest difference between today’s Memphis Tigers and the one that many doubted a week ago: free-throw shooting. The Tigers appear to have overcome their greatest weakness, going 30-36 against Texas and 26-35 against Michigan State University, both well above their season average of 59.2 percent. Compare this to their close second round match-up against Mississippi State University, where they shot 46.9 percent from the line and edged out a win 77-74.

While this improvement certainly isn’t the only aspect of Memphis’ game that led them to win the South Region, it will be a main factor in their next game against UCLA. The Bruins’ defense is one of the best in the country, and the Tigers will need every free point from the foul line to get.

UCLA itself had the most troubled road to the Final Four of the four top seeds. They survived a scare against Texas A&M in the second round, and a weak second half almost cost the Bruins against Western Kentucky University. The team nevertheless finds itself in the Final Four for the third year in a row, and is feeling good after dismantling a solid Xavier team. As long as it scores enough to keep up with the talented Memphis offense, UCLA hopes to find itself in the title game for the second time in three years.

Final Four — San Antonio, TX

1 Memphis vs. 8 UCLA, April 5, 4:07 p.m.

1 North Carolina vs. 9 Kansas, April 5, 8:47 p.m.

Nole’s Walk-off Single Gives MIT the Victory

Baseball, from Page 24

With six runs in the top of the fourth. Two MIT errors proved costly during the inning while Babson’s Corey Higfield, Andrew Nunez, and Steve Tahmoush provided the offense with run-scoring hits.

MIT answered with two more runs in the bottom of the fourth and added another run in the fifth off a single to left field by Stewart J. Park ’16. Park set up one of MIT’s runs in the fourth with one of three stolen bases in the game.

Babson’s Matt Delaney homered to left center to lead off the sixth to reduce the lead to two, and the team tied the game in the seventh with a single to left field by Tahmoush. After an explosive first nine innings, the offense disappeared on both sides for the next three frames.

The deciding blow came in the top of the 11th, Babson made a significant push to win the game. Nodule’s RBI double to left field was driven in by Babson’s Peter O’Toole doubled later and enabled Steven M. Nunez ’09 to race home from second and tie the game.

As hard as it was to see the underdog Babson suffer the blowout, Babson made the most of its second at-bat. They became the Cinderella team of the year and earned their first trip to the Final Four with nerves, fatigue, or both. Guard Stephen Curry went cold from three point range in the second half, though that should take nothing away from his inspired performance during the entire tournament.

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Final Four — San Antonio, TX

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By Shreyes Seshasai

March Madness Not Mad Enough As All Top Seeds Dominate

By Mindy Brauer

By James Kramer

The MIT men’s gymnastics team kicked off its postseason push with a fifth-place finish at the USA Gymnastics National Championship last weekend at Springfield College.

Joshua S. Cohen ’08, the Engineers’ lone representative in the individual competition, claimed seventh in the still rings with a score of 13.400. The U.S. Naval Academy came away with the team title after compiling a mark of 339.300. The College of William and Mary placed second (338.450), followed by the U.S. Air Force Academy (335.100), the host Force Academy (338.450), followed by the U.S. Air Force Academy (335.100), the host (338.450), followed by the U.S. Air Force Academy (335.100), the host (338.450), followed by the U.S. Air Force Academy (335.100), the host.

As a team, the Engineers finished fourth on the rings with a total of 54.950. Coblenz paced the squad with a tally of 13.000, as S. Caldwell ’09 (77.500) wrapped up the contingent.

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