66 Percent Accept MIT's Offer Of Admission; May Admit Off Waitlist

By Arkarjit Dey

Two-thirds of the 1,554 students admitted to the Class of 2012 have accepted MIT’s offer of admission. This year’s 66 percent yield is the third highest in MIT’s history, and only a slight drop from last year’s record high 69 percent yield.

For the third year in a row, MIT will accept some students off its waitlist. “We’re in committee and we’re making decisions,” said Stuart Schmill ’86, Dean of Admissions, and Policy.

“We’re making decisions,” said Schmill, “and we’re going to the students and ‘we don’t know’ exactly what to expect. The target class size, which is limited by the availability of housing, is 1,040 students, said Schmill. This is a slight decrease from the 1,069 students enrolled in the class of 2011.

Currently, 1,031 students have accepted admission offers, but that expectation will be met. As the 2011 classes, respectively. While waiting for replies, “we’ll still keep some number of students on the waitlist,” said Schmill, since other schools will also be going to theirs and “we don’t know” exactly what to expect.

Regarding waitlist admissions. They expect to send out offers to “approximately thirty-five students” within the week. MIT admitted 40 and 20 waitlisted students for the 2010 and 2011 classes, respectively. While waiting for replies, “we’ll still keep some number of students on the waitlist,” said Schmill, since other schools will also be going to theirs and “we don’t know” exactly what to expect.

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**China to Resume Talks With Tibetans, Dalai Lama Says**

By Somini Sengupta

The Dalai Lama said Monday that formal talks between his envoys and their Chinese counterparts were expected to resume in June, even as Chinese officials kept up their public denunciations of the Tibetan spiritual leader.

For the last two months, the Dalai Lama has witnessed from his perch here in exile a historic outbreak of protest in his homeland, but he has been blocked by officials in Beijing for trying to split the nation and was even denied as a “wolf in monk’s clothing.” All the while, he has exhorted his followers to follow the news media that he is neither for the independence of Tibet nor against China’s hosting of the Olympic Games.

“The time has come for the Chinese government to conduct a thorough realistic review,” he said in an interview: “They have poured in billions. But they have failed to bring satisfaction to Tibetans. They have to find out what’s wrong.”

Asked repeatedly whether he expected China to negotiate in good faith, or engage in talks simply in an effort to deflect mounting international criticism before the Beijing Olympics, the Dalai Lama demurred: “Too early to say,” he said.

**Hundreds Arrested in U.S. Sweep Of Kosher Meat Plant**

By Susan Saunby

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL

In a workplace immigration raid Friday, federal agents swept into a kosher meat plant on Monday in Postville, Iowa, and ar rested more than 300 workers. The agents said the workers were suspected to be in the United States illegally or to have participated in identity theft and the fraudul eny of Social Security numbers.

A spokesman for Immigration and Customs Enforcement would not say how many people had been rounded up beyond the initial 300 or whether the management and owners of the plant, AgriProcessors, would face criminal charges.

The plant had 900 to 950 people and is America’s largest producer of meat that is glatt kosher, widely regarded as the highest standard of cleanliness.

The plant shut temporarily.

The agents set up a perimeter around the 60-acre plant, in north eastern Iowa, and entered on the morning shift, carrying out two search warrants, federal authorities said.

**For HSBC, Asia Offsets Loan Problems in U.S.**

By Julia Wileigler

LONDON

HSBC Holdings, Europe’s biggest bank, said on Monday that a recession in the United States was “increasingly likely” because the housing market would continue to deteriorate into next year.

The London-based bank put aside $3.2 billion for bad loans in the United States in the first quarter, in line with its expectations, and said that the consumer finance business in America “remains challenging” because of the credit crisis.

HSBC reported higher profit in the first quarter from the same period a year ago as its Asian business more than offset declining earnings in the United States.

“Emerging markets have held up for them but inflation is a risk, particularly in high interest rate markets, and the thing we’re paying close attention to is them not calling an end to the U.S. situation,” an analyst at Pan mure Gordon in London, Sandy Chen, said.

**McCain Asserts Greenhouse Gas Emissions Must Be Capped**

By Elizabeth Bumiller and John M. Broder

Sen. John McCain sought to dis tinguish himself from President Bush on Monday as he called for a mandatory limit on greenhouse gas emissions in the United States.

McCain, in a speech at a power company, also pledged to work with the European Union to diplomatically engage China and India, two of the world’s biggest polluters, if the nations refuse to participate in an international agreement to slow global warming.

In the prepared text of his speech, e-mailed to reporters on Sunday night and Monday morning, McCain went so far as to call for punitive tariffs against China and India if they evaded international on emissions, but he omitted the threat in his del ivered remarks. Aides said he had dec ided to soften his language because he thought they could be misinterpreted as being opposed to free trade, a conten tious of his campaign and Republican orthodoxy.

But he took a direct shot at Bush: “I will not shirk the mantle of lead ing in the United States and I will not pal tope to what I think is the pres ident’s failed energy policy.”

McCain said he would support a cap and trade system in which power plants and other polluters would face lev els on greenhouse gases by either reducing emissions on their own or buying credits from more efficient producers.

McCain’s plan’s break with the Bush administration means that the three main presidential candidates have em braced swifter action to fight global warming.

Sen. Barack Obama of Illinois and Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton of New York, criti cized the McCain plan as too timid. Leaders of a number of environmental groups were also sharply critical and noted past presidential votes against in ceptives for energy conservation and alternative energy sources like wind and solar power.

**Powerful Quake in Western China Kills Thousands**

By Jake Hooker and Jim Yardley

THE NEW YORK TIMES

A powerful earthquake struck Western China on Monday, toppling thousands of homes, factories and offices, trapping students in schools, and killing at least 10,000 people, the country’s worst natural disaster in three decades.

The quake, which was estimated preliminarily to have had a magni tude of 7.9, ravaged a mountainous region outside Chengdu, capital of Sichuan province, just after lunchtime Monday, destroying 80 percent of structures in some of the towns and small cities near its epicenter, Chinese officials said. Its tremors were felt as far away as Vietnam and set off another, smaller quake in the outskirts of Beijing, 900 miles away.

Landslides, landslides and fallen mobile phone towers left much of the affected area cut off from the outside world and limited information about the damage. But snapshots of concentrated destruction suggest ed that the death toll that could rise markedly as rescuers reach the most heavily damaged areas.

In the town of Juyuan, south of the epicenter in the city of Wench an, a middle school collapsed, topp ping 900 students in the rubble and setting off a frantic search for survi vors that stretched through the night.

Two chemical factories in Shifang were destroyed, spilling 8 tons of toxic, liquid ammonia, officials told Chinese state media.

The destruction of a steam turbine factory in the city of Mianzhu left several thousand people, the Xinhua News Agency reported Tuesday morning.

The quake was China’s biggest natural disaster since another earth quake leveled the city of Tangshan in eastern China in 1976, leaving 240,000 people dead and posing a severe challenge to the ruling Com munist Party, which initially tried to cover up the devastation.

This time, officials mobilized some 50,000 soldiers to help with rescue efforts, state media said. Prime Minister Wen Jiabao flew to the scene and was shown coordinat ing disaster response teams from the cabinet of his job.

The prime minister was later shown on national television stand ing outside the heavily damaged Traditional Medicine Hospital in the city of Dujiangyan, shouting en couragement at people trapped in its ruins.

“Hang on a bit longer. The troops are rescuing you,” he said. “As long as there is the slightest hope, we will never relax our efforts.”

The quake was the latest in a series of events that have disrupted China’s planning for the Olympics Games in August, including widespread unrest among the country’s ethnic Tibetan population, which lives in large numbers in the same region as Sichuan province where the earthquake struck.

The powerful initial quake struck at 2:28 p.m. local time — 2:28 a.m. Eastern time — near Wenchuan County, according to China’s State Seismological Bureau. Most of the heavy damage appeared to be con centrated in nearby towns, which by Chinese standards are not heavily populated. Chengdu, the largest city in the area with a population of about 10 million, is located about 60 miles away, and did not appear to have suf fered major damage or heavy casual ties.

**Situation for Noon Eastern Daylight Time, Tuesday, May 13, 2008**

According to the National Hurricane Center, an area of low pressure is expected to form over the eastern Caribbean Sea later today. This system will move west-northwestward across the eastern Caribbean Sea and could attain tropical storm status by Thursday.

The system is then expected to move generally westward and then west-northwestward into the eastern tropical Atlantic Ocean. It is also possible for this system to become a tropical depression or tropical storm later this week. The joint Typhoon Warning Center is monitoring this system as Tropical Depression Nine-E.

**Hurricane Season**

The 2008 Atlantic Hurricane Season will begin on June 1 and will conclude on November 30. This time period is referred to as the “official” hurricane season because it coincides with the peak of the hurricane season in the region.

In the Atlantic Ocean, hurricanes are most common during the months of July, August, and September. This is because the warmest water temperatures and the most favorable weather conditions occur during this time.

**Annual Hurricane Summary**

In 2007, there were a total of 16 named storms, including 7 hurricanes and 2 major hurricanes. The season was considered to be average, as the historical average is 11 named storms per year.

The most significant event of the season was Hurricane Katrina, which caused widespread destruction and loss of life in the Gulf Coast area. Other notable storms included Hurricane Ike, which hit the Caribbean and Gulf of Mexico, and Hurricane Franklin, which caused flooding and damage in the southeastern United States.

**Future Projections**

Scientists and researchers continue to study and model the factors that contribute to the formation and behavior of hurricanes. This information is used to improve forecasting and preparedness strategies for future hurricane seasons.

**Resources**

The National Hurricane Center provides daily updates on the status of Atlantic hurricanes and tropical storms. They also provide information on the potential impact of these storms on coastal communities.

For more information, visit the National Hurricane Center website at https://www.nhc.noaa.gov/
occasionally uncomfortable conscience of the official system of racial preference. Whenever the court is necessary for the court to win the case, the court officials, are not required to divest themselves of their stock or to disqualify any justice. The government of South Africa has been divided into the two nations whose only relations in the ordinary scene of cooperation between them and the UN have only been through the court. It remains to be seen whether the court will continue to work with its partner, issue by issue. But the duration of the two parties' inability to act as a single justice on Monday.

Sharif said the party would not join the government and would continue to work with its partner, issue by issue. But the duration of the two parties' inability to act as a single justice on Monday.

Several months later, said Ashtar Assaf Ali, a senior legal advisor to Sharif. A confidant to Sharif, Naseer Ali Khan, who is among the ministers who are expected to meet soon, described relations between the two parties as "cool." Complications were reported on being confirmed in the future. "We make a promise to the nation, we could not fulfill it, so we are putting the court in the..."

Sharif said the party would not join the government and would continue to work with its partner, issue by issue. But the duration of the two parties' inability to act as a single justice on Monday.

In a statement after Sharif's news conference, the Pakistan Peoples Party said it had "no differences" with its coalition partner over the restoration of the Musharraf. "The only point of disagreement is the method of restoration," said Sherry Rehman, central information secretary of the party. Rehman said that the Pakistan Peoples Party would try to resolve the issue "amicably" and that the government would not open the doors of the Pakistan Muslim League-N would not be filled.

The vote on the fate over the judges involved the future of Musharraf, regarded by the Bush administration as a strong ally in the campaign against terrorism. Musharraf served as army chief, by the army, but as a..."

Sharif said he would immediately file nominating papers to run for parliament in a by-election in June. A seat in parliament would give Sharif, who is twice prime minister in the 1990s, the potential to become a much more influential voice in the existe...
Tibet Only the Tip of the Iceberg

The given editorial refrain the past few weeks is a palpable blow to the summer Olympics in Beijing approach, thought and photographs (http://news.mit.edu/10) found in a German archive could spark further discussion about possible parallels between China today and Nazi Germany. The photograph, found in a German archive, is of the English national football team giving the Nazi salute in Berlin’s Olympic Stadium in May 1938. The picture was published widely in Britain amidst the recent controversy in the UK over the capitalization of the British Olympic Committee to China’s demand that British athletes sign a pledge promising not to criticize the government or human rights record.

While the front of the recent protests has been on the Tibetans, whose plight is truly pitiable, there are others who have grievances against China — Uighur Muslims whose marriages and unauthorized pregnancies are forcibly terminated. Forced harvesting of organs from political prisoners and others in state custody has also occurred for a long time. After fasting for 57 days, Tibetan monk Tenzin very may have the result of the impending Olympics internationalized the serious scrutiny of its human rights abuses.

Additionally, according to a recent Penta- gon study, the CHINA ARMY is around 10,000 miles pointed at Taiwan, whose inhabitants claim as their brethren, an assertion bizarrely made by the US military joint commanders. And can we forget the 1989 Tiananmen Square incident? Concerns about the photo of a man standing in front of a tank?

Few educated in China’s schools will know anything about that incident.

Then there are the forced abortions and infanticide stemming from China’s one-child policy. Chinese oil money is also prolonging the problem of drug addiction.

Many of these problems cannot be dis- missed as weak communist anachronisms who are happening now or have happened recently. Tibet is merely one item in a long list of topics which merit further exploration, particularly for the benefit of our Chinese stu- dent friends. There is much to learn from the diligent smuggling out of China by foreign media of facts and history which the Communist government has long suppressed inside China — even though we Americans are ultimately re- sponsible for the corruption at the heart of the Falun Gong sect freely advocate and claim as their brethren, an assertion bizarrely made by the US military joint commanders.

The distinction between a people and its government has long been recognized. It is important to understand that the Chinese government may not be readily comprehended by those who grew up as fervently nationalistic a society as the Chinese. We make that distinction because an uneducated government cannot truly reflect the will and the sentiment of those governed. As a contrasting example, even though we Americans are ultimately re- sponsible for the corruption at the heart of our government via the ballot box, we are comfortable reproaching our government’s inefficiency. The general public is offended that Seacrest was worth getting worked up about, and yet we were clearly worked up enough about him to come up with a $700-word article which, sadly, was completely devoid of any fact-based theory about the subject.

Still, thank you for proving that when it comes to Ryan Seacrest, people who go so far as to petrify him from high atop their pedestals are in the midst of misplaced superiority complex, proving that as talismans as they are, they must be able to come up with a more informative, enlightening, and objective article about the subject.

What’s more denigrating — a cartoon that is published widely in Britain amidst the recent controversy over the coming of the Christ? Can Catholics openly practice their beliefs? Can the media talk can- /

To be sure, there are elections in China, but the serious opposition to the Communist Party is merely a farce. No amount of material wealth can fill Chi- na’s gaping moral defect.

Such criticisms are directed not at the Chi- nese people, but at the Chinese government. The difference between a people and its government may not be readily comprehended by those who grew up as fervently nationalistic a society as the Chinese. We make that distinction because an uneducated government cannot truly reflect the will and the sentiment of those governed. As a contrasting example, even though we Americans are ultimately re- sponsible for the corruption at the heart of our government via the ballot box, we are comfortable reproaching our government’s inefficiency. The general public is offended that Seacrest was worth getting worked up about, and yet we were clearly worked up enough about him to come up with a $700-word article which, sadly, was completely devoid of any fact-based theory about the subject.

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Mr. Lin, as a big American Idol and Seacrest fan, I can’t help but point to you that you have a small talent-quota suf- ficiency. The pressure to remain popular at the expense of talent is far too high for talent ratios like myself.

Concisedly, you really should have been able to come up with a more informative, enlightening, and objective article about the subject. You also tended to contradict your- self, especially when you wrote that you didn’t feel that Seacrest was worth getting worked up about, and yet you were clearly worked up enough about him to come up with a $700-word article which, sadly, was completely devoid of any fact-based theory about the subject.

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Stop Spying on Freshmen

Ana-Maria Piso
and Tom Kennedy

The Inter-Fraternity Council recruitment rules this year include mandatory use of the Clearinghouse system. Clearinghouse is an online system that fraternity members use to track freshmen through Rush week. Whenever a freshman goes to a fraternity, his name is entered into a Web site. Other fraternities can go to the Web site and search for freshmen; they can see what event any particular freshman is attending and view what events that person has been to that week.

Fraternities collude to keep tabs on freshmen and record their movements; Clearinghouse is a cooperative spying network.

When the modern Clearinghouse system was introduced in 2005, freshmen likened it to “Big Brother” (see “Clearinghouse Worth Missing”, September 13, 2005 in The Tech). This negative response might be why freshmen are now deliberately kept in the dark about Clearinghouse. In Rush 2005, Clearinghouse computers were required to be at the front entrance of each fraternity and freshmen could see that they were being entered into the system; the IFC has since become wiser and last year fraternities were encouraged to keep their Clearinghouse maintenance hidden in a back room. Despite this, all freshmen are entered by default into a system they do not even know exists — and they have to proactively request to be withdrawn if they so choose.

The Inter-Fraternity Council has made several excuses for Clearinghouse. They have claimed that freshmen need to be tracked for liability purposes — but only men are entered into the system, not women attending fraternity rush events. Perhaps the IFC believes that no one will care if an accident happens to a woman. They have argued that the IFC needs a way to make sure freshmen are brought back from trips on time — which does not explain why the names of freshmen going on these trips should be accessible to other fraternities and not to IFC executives only.

No excuse offered stands up to scrutiny. At IFC meetings this term, fraternities have finally been willing to admit it: the purpose of Clearinghouse is to spy. Fraternities use Clearinghouse to see which freshmen are being courted by other houses so that they can target those freshmen — or abandon them. So don’t worry: freshmen — or abandon them. So don’t worry: freshmen aren’t all for your own good.

We, at the Number Six Club, think that spying is simply unethical — and we are not the only IFC member to think so. We certainly never intend to use the data we have access to. We also do not want to help enable the spying that goes on. This term we informed the IFC that we will not sign any rules that force us to spy on freshmen. The response: a motion is now going before the IFC that any fraternity that fails to agree to all of the rules including Clearinghouse will be banned from recruitment during Rush week.

If a fraternity wants to keep track of who has been to their house that is their privilege. If a fraternity wants to share that information with other fraternities, no one has the right to stop them. However, no fraternity has the authority to force others into spying for them.

Martin F. Holmes ‘08 and Ali S. Wyne ‘08

An Open Letter to the Incoming UAP/VP

Dear Noah and Mike:

Congratulations on your victory! Your candidacy has sparked tremendous interest: Voter turnout was up by 13 percent this year, with 2,088 votes cast. Over half of the student body turned out by 13 percent this year.

You will lead a student population that is more engaged and active than ever before. The most important members of the administration, including the Interfraternity Council, the Panhellenic Council, the Senate, and the Corporation, are ready to take advantage of this rare opportunity.

This negative response might be why freshmen are now deliberately kept in the dark about Clearinghouse. In Rush 2005, Clearinghouse computers were required to be at the front entrance of each fraternity and freshmen could see that they were being entered into the system; the IFC has since become wiser and last year fraternities were encouraged to keep their Clearinghouse maintenance hidden in a back room. Despite this, all freshmen are entered by default into a system they do not even know exists — and they have to proactively request to be withdrawn if they so choose.

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When we came into office, we were so eager to demonstrate concrete progress that we undertook several scattered initiatives without establishing a broad framework in which they could coexist. We are focused on high-level, strategic priorities, delegating specific projects to Senators and your committee chairs.

Senators are the UA’s most public face. If they do not feel invested in the organization, the UA will likely be perceived as ineffectual even if it is registering many accomplishments. In our time here, we have seen many individuals who came to Senate with incredible ideas and energy only to grow frustrated with its bureaucracy and inefficiency.

Remember the three Cs: communication, coordination, and commitment. More often than not, poor (or, in far too many cases, absent) communication is at the root of theUA’s problems.

We have many reasons to be frustrated with the administration. However, we share some of the burden for moving forward. We need to do a better job of understanding administrative perspectives in good faith and communicating our own perspectives without adopting a presumptuous tone.

Administrators have told us that they do not share their personal viewpoints because they are afraid that students will misquote them, initiate rumors, or use those statements as a basis for criticizing the administration; there is certainly some truth to this claim. That being said, it is difficult to redress this state of affairs if we are neither given access to the channels in which high-level strategic decisions are made nor provided the rationales for crucial decisions even after submitting repeated requests. The Task Force offers a promising way out of this chicken-and-egg problem. Do not neglect to take advantage of this rare opportunity.

Keep up the good fight, guys! This year can be the most transformative one that the UA and the students who they represent have had in quite some time. Carpe diem!

Martin F. Holmes ‘08 and Ali S. Wyne ‘08 are the outgoing President and Vice-President of the Undergraduate Association.
By Michael Lin

STAFF COLUMNIST

Oh, Summer... so long have I longed for your kind and merciful embrace. For two semesters, I have quested through the academic labyrinth. I have endured perpetual confusion and ceaseless frustration, hoping to find you around every corner, only to find another serpentine passageway in my path. Now that I have traveled so far through this dim dungeon, the glimmer of your reward shines clearer even in my tired eyes, but one more challenge lies between you and me. The Minotaur of finals week stands ominously before me, offering one last, fateful chance to strike me down. Yet as worn as I am, I prepare to stand tall and slay it with the last of my energy, if only so I may crawl from beneath its corpse and find myself at your feet, bloody and bruised, yet ready for you to lift my spirits.

I have oft wondered why you choose to elude me, Summer. There have been so many times when I thought I could feel your presence, when the sky and air seemed to taste of you, when your golden beams were happy to soothe my aching flesh. Then a week, a day, would pass before you fled from me once more, and the chill of a Bosphoran (excuse me, Cantabrigian) winter would blow through my veins again. Why did you taint me so cruelly, Summer? Why are you so mercurial? Why would you warm me with your sunny glow, then allow me to sweating so that you would blow through my veins again? Why would you warm me with your sunny glow, then allow the sky and air to taste of you, when your golden beams were happy to soothe my aching flesh, then a week, a day, would pass before you fled from me once more, and the chill of a Bosphoran winter would blow through my veins again? Why did you taint me so cruelly, Summer? Why are you so mercurial? Why would you warm me with your sunny glow, then allow me to sweating so that you would blow through my veins again? Why would you warm me with your sunny glow, then allow me to sweating so that you would blow through my veins again?

In the years of our youth, we spent endless days on frivolous pastimes; climbing trees, riding bicycles, being thoroughly sparked at Little League baseball. Alas, as adolescence took me over, we took shelter in the air conditioning of my study, basking in the laziness afforded by a long and luxurious vacation. But, no longer. Now, in our near-adulthood (Holy Hannah, I am five months away from being twenty), with you comes the promise of more labor, a greater labor, a higher labor, one Hercules himself would have shirked from. I speak of the opportunity for self-improvement, although the cleaning of my room could probably apply as well. A job, an internship, a chance to travel. Such is the way of romance, one of incredible possibilities and unpredictable surprises. I welcome your embrace, Summer, if only with some apprehension. Do we have your heart, you will. Just try not to get too touchy-feely, okay? Your sister Autumn was there when I was born, and I’d hate for her to get jealous.

By Diana Jue

STAFF COLUMNIST

Throughout the semester I’ve addressed a number of topics such as poverty, sustainability, culture, trade, politics, and activism. However, I’ve overlooked specific examples that require last minute mentioning. First are the retaken factories of Buenos Aires, where workers began operating factories that were closed by their owners after the economic crisis. The workers’ slogan was “Resist, occupy, produce.” These factories were formed by residents of low-income Buenos Aires neighborhoods, those retaken factories bore the brunt of Chairman Mao’s Cultural Revolution in the 1960s. Because she lost her educational opportunities, she was employed to work at a factory in the Buenos Aires neighbor- hood of Chilavert.

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It’s a Big, Big World

Little Me, Big World?

By Michael Lin

STAFF COLUMNIST

On my first day of my trip to Buenos Aires, I befriended a Tongji University student, Betty, and asked her what she thought about Mao. She replied that all she learned about the Cultural Revolution was that it was Mao’s “mistake.” Then she pointed to a giant statue of Mao located at the campus’ entrance and said, “Everybody says he was a great man.” Even from our lecturers and guest speakers, it was difficult to take stances. If I didn’t do it, I fear that the students taught me about real life in their respective interesting circumstances. Their authentic perspectives taught me about real life in their respective interests.

Since I had free weekends, I spent a lot of time wandering around. Get out of the books and try learning from experiences.

To get out of the books and try learning from experiences.

If we live in a small world with big problems, then how do we respond, if at all? We need to ask if we consider ourselves global citizens. If we are, then what are our responsibilities? Do we see everybody else living on this little planet as fellow citizens as well? For example, our small contributions to global warming by driving unnecessarily will aggregate and affect vulnerable slum dwellers in India. The corn that we essentially put into our gas tanks could feed the mouths of people experiencing food crises in Egypt, Haiti, Thailand, and other countries. What we consume may deplete natural resources that are essential for some of our fellow citizens’ survival.

As we learn to live together, an understanding of global citizenship, charity and compassion, although important, need not be the only motivations that drive us to aid one another. Sheer respect and responsibility as co-citizens sharing the world is enough. Each of us can independently contribute toward big solutions. This lifestyle requires us to embrace, Summer, if only with some apprehension, the way of romance, one of incredible possibilities and unpredictable surprises. I welcome your embrace, Summer, if only with some apprehension. Do we have your heart, you will. Just try not to get too touchy-feely, okay? Your sister Autumn was there when I was born, and I’d hate for her to get jealous.

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As we learn to live together, an understanding of global citizenship, charity and compassion, although important, need not be the only motivations that drive us to aid one another. Sheer respect and responsibility as co-citizens sharing the world is enough. Each of us can independently contribute toward big solutions. This lifestyle requires us to embrace, Summer, if only with some apprehension, the way of romance, one of incredible possibilities and unpredictable surprises. I welcome your embrace, Summer, if only with some apprehension. Do we have your heart, you will. Just try not to get too touchy-feely, okay? Your sister Autumn was there when I was born, and I’d hate for her to get jealous.

It’s a Big, Big World

Little Me, Big World?

By Diana Jue

STAFF COLUMNIST

Throughout the semester I’ve addressed a number of topics such as poverty, sustainability, culture, trade, politics, and activism. However, I’ve overlooked specific examples that require last minute mentioning. First are the retaken factories of Buenos Aires, where workers began operating factories that were closed by their owners after the economic crisis. The workers’ slogan was “Resist, occupy, produce.” These factories were formed by residents of low-income Buenos Aires neighborhoods, those retaken factories bore the brunt of Chairman Mao’s Cultural Revolution in the 1960s. Because she lost her educational opportunities, she was employed to work at a factory in the Buenos Aires neighborhood of Chilavert.

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COMICS FUN PAGES

Steal My Comic

by Michael Ciuffo

The Daily Blunderbluss

by Ben Peters

Blobbles

by Jason Chan

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

blobbles@mit.edu

Punchline:

Maybe we need more cartoonists...

Comics@the-tech.mit.edu
The Panhellenic Association is pleased to announce the arrival of Pi Beta Phi

Pi Beta Phi
Will be joining the Greek community in September 2008.

Learn more about Pi Beta Phi Fraternity for Women
www.pibetaphi.org

For additional information
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Dear Reader,

The most fundamental concern of the MIT community must, of necessity, be its own health. If we are to maintain this essential component of the university, we must first understand the system, what works, and what needs improvement.

The purpose of this special section of The Tech is to explore the wide range of health issues at MIT, mental health chief among them.

In these pages, we have invited campus opinion leaders to explain how their projects and programs contribute to the landscape of health at the Institute. An anonymous student columnist who used MIT Mental Health Services for the first time this year describes how taking the first step—asking for help—was the best decision of a school year, and how friends reacted when they found out. Additionally, two health educators give advice on simple ways to add wellness to your lifestyle.

Other columnists explain how health affects the life of MIT community members. In one column, the Graduate Student Council describes a new dental plan that will serve graduate students who have, for a year, had no coverage.

We have also reported on the issues that profoundly affect the well-being of those in our community, from a new alcohol training program to the rapidly growing MIT ambulance service. Elsewhere in the news section, The Tech explores how, in one interpretation, MIT’s suicide rate is below the national average for college-age students; but in another, it’s twice as high as the average for college students. And we explain how the free services that Mental Health Services provides help people who feel depressed, need motivation, or just want someone to talk to.

We hope that this section’s news stories, columns, and viewpoints will help improve your understanding of health in the community.

Angeline Wang  
Contributing Editor, The Tech
associate NewS editor
By Emily Prentice

Featured in New Prevention Program

In the spring of 2007, the undergraduate students at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) were introduced to the new student health program. This program, which includes mental health services, has been integrated into the existing Brief Alcohol Screening and Intervention (BASI) and other health programs. The student health program was developed in partnership with the Mental Health Services (MHS) and the Community Health Research Institute (CHRiSTiNA). The program is designed to help students who are struggling with alcohol or other drug issues.

The program begins with a survey that students take online. The survey assesses their alcohol use and identifies those who are at high risk for alcohol-related problems. Students who score high on the survey are then referred to the MHS for further evaluation and treatment.

The program includes both individual and group therapy sessions. Students who participate in individual therapy sessions meet with a counselor who helps them explore their thoughts and feelings about their alcohol use. Group therapy sessions are led by a therapist and focus on helping students develop coping skills and support each other.

The program also includes a peer support network. Students who are participating in the program are encouraged to help their peers who may be struggling with alcohol or other drug issues. This peer support network is designed to provide students with a sense of community and to help them feel less isolated.

The program is funded by a grant from the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (NIAAA). The grant is designed to help students who are struggling with alcohol-related problems.

The program has been well received by students and faculty. A survey of students who participated in the program found that 94% of students reported that the program helped them to develop healthy coping skills. Additionally, 83% of students reported that they were more likely to seek help for alcohol-related problems in the future.

In conclusion, the new student health program at MIT is an important step in providing students with the support they need to overcome alcohol-related problems. The program is designed to be flexible and responsive to the needs of individual students, and it provides students with a range of options for treatment and support.

By Shreyes Seshasai

by Emily Prentice

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By Emily Prentice
Five years ago, if you called on campus for an ambulance, the MIT Police would show up. The officers dispatched to help did not have to be fully-licensed mental health professionals, but they still carried badges. These police EMS might take you to the hospital, but they might also write you up afterwards.

"There’s absolutely a conflict of interest between policing and taking care of people," said Nicolas A. Wyhs ’05, one of the founding members of MIT Emergency Medical Services, a student-run operation that started in 2002 to take over the Institute’s emergency medical response service from the MIT Police.

Nowadays, only staff students staff the ambulance. Their mission is unambiguous: Get patients to the help they need fast. No judging, no hassle, and certainly no gossip about it a week later.

These 79 trained and licensed EMSs, mostly undergraduates, are ready to take calls at any hour of the day. In an academic year, they answer over 700 emergencies, spending nearly 20,000 hours on duty in three revolving shifts. With funding from the Institute and the Association of Alumni, they buy their own supplies, and they schedule their own training. Men and women, once every one, or student on duty to the law. Student EMSs are concerned only with a patient’s well-being. Potent privacy codes prevent them from discussing details with anyone not directly involved with the patient’s care.

The difference between a police-staffed ambulance and a student-staffed professional ambulance is something that every one, or student on duty to the law, students need to take to the ambulance, they risked ruffled-up discipline action.

With strong support on campus for confidential medical transfer, the EMTs began laying the groundwork for a student takeover of the ambulance service. They arranged the first emergency medicine class for Independent Activities Period 2001 to build up a team of student EMTs.

In the meantime, Samuel A. Schweigart Ph.D ’05 and Wyhs helped make pitches to deans and other administrators.

“It took a lot of convincing,” Wyhs said. “I and I gave at least 20 presentations. We were lucky that there were some people that were really for it.”

Among those enthusiastic about EMSs were Dean for Student Life Larry G. Benedict, who offered the group funding from the Division of Student Life, and then MIT Police Chief John DiFava. William M. Kelty, director of MIT Medical, also gave his support. “We all felt strongly about student empowerment and that a student run service would have a lot of credibility with our students,” Benedict said.

A lot of the work in the beginning involved reassuring that there wouldn’t be any shenanigans. “We had to instill confidence in the administration that we weren’t just a bunch of cowards, that we weren’t going to just jump at the wheel of this moving death trap,” Wyhs said.

The police officers themselves were supportive of the student-run ambulance, DiFava said. They recognized the awkwardness in serving both as first responders and a student service.

“I had problems with the MIT Police doing [ambulance work],” DiFava said. “It’s a model that I’ve never heard of before... you have cops and they’re doing police stuff and they’re also running the ambulance.” And overtime pay for serving as an EMT was hours away — a mere $55 per hour bonus on top of their wage, according to an old Tech article.

By summer 2002, Kelty, Wyhs, and Schweigart had hammered out an agreement with MIT’s administration and the campus police. Starting in the United States have considered committing suicide, and 1 percent of them will do it. This has borne out over time, fully-staffed operation.

MIT EMS has averaged 11.6 suicides per 100,000 persons since 1964 and 10 suicides per 100,000 since 2002.

The figures show little concern. “Suicide is just one way for people to express discomfort,” said Siegel. “We need to identify and address the causes of suicides.”

In 1999, MIT then-President Charles M. Vest established a Mental Health Task Force to revamp MIT’s mental health programs. The task force was not meant to target suicide in particular — rather, it aimed to discover how Mental Health Services could improve the overall well-being of students and meet their needs.

Today, students who spoke to The Tech did not seem too concerned about suicides on campus. Yoona Sharma G said he has never heard of a suicide since his arrival at MIT four years ago. (At least four members of the MIT community kill themselves each year.)

Diana Wong ’08 said that despite the recent crimes that have come from incidents of suicide at MIT, the issue is not particularly worrisome.

Both Abdelaziz M. Abouali ’10 and Brianne M. Holbeck ’08 said they felt MIT Medical adequately addressed the issue of suicide.

Grad student culture is different. Because graduate students may be more isolated and have a longer life span than undergraduates, Mental Health Services once asked graduate students to take an online survey based on one developed at Emory University. Students whose surveys indicated high levels of depression were referred to a psychologist or a contact a doctor via e-mail. About 2 percent of percent of students, most of whom had little contact with the service, received such requests, and most completely made contact with the department, Siegel said.

Mental health screening surveys of incoming students were not adminis-

"It’s a model that I’ve never heard of before... you have cops and they’re doing police stuff and they’re also running the ambulance.” And overtime pay for serving as an EMT was hours away — a mere $55 per hour bonus on top of their wage, according to an old Tech article.

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Thirty Years Later, Nightline Is Still Here to Listen at x3-8800

By Nick Bushak

Nightline, one of MIT’s peer listening services, was established 30 years ago. It is a confidential hotline that provides a safe, non-judgmental space for students to discuss personal concerns and receive immediate support. The service is available 24/7 and is staffed by trained student volunteers who are there to listen without judgment.

Nightline’s success can be attributed to its juicy secret: people call because they want to talk. The hotline is available to anyone, and the staff speaks to all kinds of people, from those looking to vent their frustrations to those seeking guidance during times of crisis.

According to a 2003 Tech article, Nightline was first established in 1978 and has been in operation since then. In 2006, Nightline surveyed students and found that the total response rate was 28 percent with 876 respondents. The survey was organized by the American College Health Association (ACHA-NCHA) and was sent to MIT students in March 2006. Of the students invited to take the survey, the service was used by those who answered the survey.

Nightline’s callers can talk about anything, and the staff is trained to listen without judgment. The service is completely anonymous, and callers are not required to reveal anything about their identities. The location of Nightline’s headquarters is kept under wraps (though has been previously published by The Tech), although the coordinator describes its anonymity. The headquarters includes a bathroom, a shower, some beds, some computers, and several books used for informational calls.

Nightline currently has 27 volunteer staffs. Staffs choose to do three days a month to spend the night at Nightline’s headquarters. In general, Nightline staffs volunteer because they view the position as a service to the MIT community. One staff said that he joined Nightline because he “wanted to help people.” The interview coordinator joined Nightline because “I’ve been there.” “I’ve been in a place that I need someone to talk to, I need someone to vent.”

Students can join Nightline’s staff by calling Nightline during regular hours at night and scheduling an interview. If accepted, students are trained for five weeks by a group of student volunteer trainers. New staffers learn “listening style” and how to handle crises, according to the coordinator. “Staffing has been strong in recent years,” said Randall. But, according to the student coordinator, “We’re always looking for new Nightline staffers.”

Those who man the phones have no anonymous Nightline to call. Instead, Student Support Services holds weekly support groups for staff.

Health Impediments to Academic Performance at MIT

The graph shows the top reported health impediments to MIT students’ academic performance. These results are from the National College Health Assessment survey conducted by the American College Health Association. The ACHA-NCHA survey was sent to MIT students in March 2006. Of the students invited to take the survey, the total response rate was 28 percent with 876 respondents.

Additionally, women and freshmen were more likely to respond. Given the response rate and bias, the results “should be interpreted with caution,” according to information provided by Mandy D. Smith, researcher analyst in the Office of the Provost.
Mental Health Services Are Free for MIT Community

Mental Health Services help the student if the student cannot find a comfortable place to talk on the phone. If a student is not comfortable, they can also be done in person.

There are a number of different ways in which a student can come to see a MHS. Students can go to MHS in person. The rest were referred by friends at Student Support Services, other staff at MIT, or former students at MHS.

Since 2001, Mental Health Services at MIT has had a walk-in hours on weekdays for students seeking help. Additional full-time psychiatrists, social workers, and staff, and student specialists have been added over the past five years to accommodate a greater volume of students.

While the number of students using MHS has increased, some students have expressed concern about going into Medical. “I think it’s kind of a taboo,” said one of the students at MIT’s Medical School. “Some of us are still going in to Medical. ‘I think it’s kind of a taboo,’ said one of the students at MIT’s Medical School.

There are various reasons why a student might choose to go to MHS. Students may choose to go to MHS because they need help with a mental health issue. Other students may choose to go to MHS because they need help with a physical health issue. Some students may choose to go to MHS because they need help with a drug or alcohol problem. Some students may choose to go to MHS because they need help with a sexual health issue.

Medical withdrawal has been mentioned as a reason for going to MHS. Students may choose to go to MHS because they need help with a medical issue. Some students may choose to go to MHS because they need help with a physical health issue. Some students may choose to go to MHS because they need help with a drug or alcohol problem. Some students may choose to go to MHS because they need help with a sexual health issue.

MHS does not hold medical records on students who are not enrolled at MIT. MIT students who are not enrolled at MIT may need medical advice or counseling. Students who are not enrolled at MIT may need help with a mental health issue. Other students may choose to go to MHS because they need help with a physical health issue. Some students may choose to go to MHS because they need help with a drug or alcohol problem. Some students may choose to go to MHS because they need help with a sexual health issue.

Withdrawing from MIT

MHS also sees students who are withdrawing from MIT. Students may choose to go to MHS because they need help with a mental health issue. Other students may choose to go to MHS because they need help with a physical health issue. Some students may choose to go to MHS because they need help with a drug or alcohol problem. Some students may choose to go to MHS because they need help with a sexual health issue.

While Mental Health Services does not control a student’s academic situation at MIT, Student Support Services will frequently work with MHS.

Who works at MIT?

Students who are asked to withdraw because of academic reasons may also involve Mental Health Services. Mental Health Services provides up to 15 sessions. If a student needs help with a mental health issue, they may also choose to go to MHS.

Use of MIT Mental Health Service, 2006–2007

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<th>No. People</th>
<th>Total No. Visits</th>
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Statistics only include those officially registered with Mental Health Services. For example, they do not include those who take part in support groups or one-time consultations.

For Student EMTs, Medicine Isn’t the Harder Part of the Job

MIT-EMS, from Page H3

In July, student EMTs began riding along with the police on calls. “It was a lot of fun, but it was really intense,” said Senior Richard Ramirez.

The day before the first ambulance call, the police began to allow students to respond to calls by themselves. At that time, the police would choose the calls they took. “We were not the minority then they might say ‘Okay, you guys take this,’” said Ramirez.

There is a long line of students who want to be EMTs, said Ramirez. “You have a lot of people who want to be EMTs,” said Ramirez.

EMTs at MIT

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Who works at MIT?

Although most MHS clinicians are not MIT alumni, they have worked to become familiar with the Institute’s culture.

Staff members regularly meet with prospective EMTs, including the Student Health Advisor, Counseling, Mental Health, and Nightline.

Sometimes they talk with groups that are not medically related, such as the Chinese Students Association, Siegel said.

The Random Hall invited me to dinner,” recalled Siegel. “Talking with students in residence halls is interesting.

Frequently, the staff also meets in small teams to share information about different aspects of MHS that could help them treat students.

Some students leave for medical reasons. Problems with physical or mental health can cause a student to leave MIT. A situation called a medical withdrawal.

A world apart from the classroom

Both Wilder and Villa-Uribe emphasize that the ambulance is a world apart from the classroom. “It was a lot of fun, but it was really intense,” said Senior Richard Ramirez.

While EMTs, by law, are not allowed to talk about their patients in public, they are asked to talk about them. “We have no complaints…not one patient complaint ever,” said Maryanne Kirkbride, clinical director for campus life at MIT. Instead, they routinely mail Kirkbride letters of their appreciation.

One such letter reads: “I’m writing to say that my experience with MIT’s EMTs was…like being a breath of fresh air, after the way I’d been treated by some people.” They were professional and serious and careful and respectful, but also fun and enthusiastic, they really could not have been better.”
In the fall, it reached the point where I would spend hours sitting in my room, doing nothing but thinking. The work would be on my desk in front of me, but my hands would be at my sides as my mind raced through worries and thoughts about what I knew I needed help. But I didn’t reach the point where I didn’t want to have my life continuing in that way. I read online that MIT Medical’s Mental Health Services (MHS) could help people make healthier lifestyle choices. I went in. After filling out a short form, I was able to see a psychiatrist. We spoke for almost an hour and decided that setting up a time for us to talk more regularly might help me work through some of these problems. That was eight months ago, and after meeting roughly every other week since, things have changed. I no longer have the time to worry about anything else.

In reflecting back, I can now see some of the root causes of the issues. Like I said at the start of this piece, I think my problem was one of high expectations. Growing up, I succeeded in most of what I set out to do. It was easier for me to make students, parents, or spouses understand how to use MIT Medical — something that graduate employees might delay getting care because of what they thought was a combination of nausea, headache, and other symptoms that arise when a cold is combined with the flu. But we should not rest on our laurels. The care is slow; the doctors misdiagnose conditions, not cumulative ones. While Urgent Care is not a quick fix for any medical problem, regardless of negative stories. And while Urgent Care is not a quick fix for any medical problem, regardless of negative stories. And while Urgent Care is not a quick fix for any medical problem, regardless of negative stories.

We have made progress, but we have more work to do. There is still much to be done in order for us to overcome some of the obstacles that may be preventing students from using MIT Medical. We have made progress, but we have more work to do. There is still much to be done in order for us to overcome some of the obstacles that may be preventing students from using MIT Medical. We have made progress, but we have more work to do. There is still much to be done in order for us to overcome some of the obstacles that may be preventing students from using MIT Medical.

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Since coming to MIT Mental Health in 2002, I have been impressed by the resilience of MIT students. Resilience is most often defined as a “dynamic process that individuals adapt to difficult or stressful behavioral adaptation when they encounter significant adversity or trauma” (Lutcher, Cicchetti, & Becker, 2000). Students here have an amazing capacity to recognize their personal difficulties and work toward changing things. Even when things seem quite bleak, MIT students persevere in finding ways to solve problems creatively.

The college years are the time when people make the lethargy in going to Class 108 and the urge to run away from study signposts in living ways to live it. In this process, they discover much about themselves that is true and much that is untrue, what can be realized and what cannot. Students discover much about the world that is different than expected — one where past accomplishment and potential does not always lead to success or fulfillment. There are many opportunities to be jubi- lant, and there are plenty of times when only anxiety and sadness seem prominent.

Many times the emotional well-being of MIT students is compromised by their own expectations and others’ expectations for them. MIT students are very, very hard on themselves. This puts MIT students at risk of being self-critical. It is important that faculty, staff, and administrators understand this so that we do not compound students’ propensity for self-criticism.

For students, it is important to recognize when you are not doing well and to begin to learn different, more tolerant and flex- ible perspectives. Here the goal is not to lower expectations for you- self, but to have expecta- tions that reflect the complexity of the life situation you are in. A conversation with a mental health clinician can help a student un- derstand more about thoughts, feelings, and motivations. It can help someone get back on track. It can help a person rediscover unique ways to cope when facing difficulties, and to develop new approaches to deal with them.

Alan E. Siegel is the chief of Mental Health Services at MIT Medical and assistant clinical professor of psychology in the Department of Psychiatry at Harvard Medical School. He can be reached at sens@mit.edu.
VIEWPOINTS

What do you think?

What are your thoughts on MIT Medical and the health and mental health services it provides?

Salman A. Aldukheil '10

I went once because I jammed my eye. They were very helpful in scheduling an appointment, and everybody was nice.”

Steven T. Lynch '10

“I’ve had friends that have gone to Medical and they don’t help or they tell them something that they know a lot of depressed people that simply do not feel comfortable going to MIT Mental [Health] because they don’t know the people and it’s just uncomfortable. I think MIT is working on getting liaisons in living groups, which could work.”

Joseph P. Diaz '10

“I think they provide fair services for anybody who needs help. It has been fairly quick and easy with friendly staff and comprehensive services.”

Elizabeth H. Belloccio '10

The services are very adequate but sometimes a lot of people don’t know they are there. I felt intimidated in going the first time. They are not as approachable as they could be, but once I was there it was a good experience.”

Nur M. Shahin ‘10

“I have only been to MIT Medical a few times. Technically, I have a primary care physician [who] I have seen once freshman year. … MedLinks are sometimes more useful than MIT health services.”

Kyle M. Knoblock '11

“I don’t have familiarity with the services. The one time I went, the service was great. I was in and out in an hour with a diagnosis and everything.”

Caroline E. Rubin ’08

“I’ve heard from friends that they just try to give you drugs and make you leave.”

Karishma Rahman ’11

“One of my friends went to Mental [Health] because she was having a hard time and there were several deaths in her family. They were very helpful and made sure to set up follow-up meetings. I also had a friend with sleep disorders, and they set up a sleeping study for her and got her the medication she needed.”

Anjan Soumyanarayanan G

“My one complaint is that MIT does not provide dental services.”

Ryan S. Hodgson ’11

“I think it is definitely important to have mental services especially at MIT with all the stress. I’m glad it exists.”

Jesse Lopez ’08

“I think there is a stigma about MIT Mental [Health] because if you go they might think you’re crazy. However, for the last four years they have made it more friendly and accessible. I think the publicity is good. MIT confuses depression for being overworked. Professors and mental health services should work together to achieve a good balance between work and fun. People seem happier at other campuses.”

Margarita N. Trevino-Garrido ’11

“What I’ve heard is that MIT Medical is not very knowledgeable. I asked about a dental service once and they were not able to answer. I have heard from people that you can have to wait a long time. My friend had a concussion and had to wait an hour. My opinion on Mental [Health] is that it is not confidential enough because they take whatever you tell them too seriously. They should not tell people in your academic department about your problems.”

Reporting by Andrea Robbins

Knowing When to Ask for Help

Anonymous, from Page H8

Telling my friends was one of the hardest things I have done at MIT, but the result was unexpected. While I’m sure their perception of me has changed, part of me seems to be in a positive way. Sure there may be some negativity that people hold toward the notion of mental health, but what I received instead was more respect for being able to actually go and seek help.

Time with my psychiatrist has also taught me to dismiss the preconceived notions of therapy I had. I didn’t have to lie down on a couch and be scrutinized. I wasn’t kicked out after an hour because “time’s up.” I didn’t have to repeat things over and over again, because she did, in fact, listen and take note of everything I said.

The reasons for going to visit Mental Health Services can be quite varied. You can treat an experience as anecdotal, but looking back, what surprised me the most was that the concerns that were driving me insane, literally, did not seem to be unique.

I was worried about my obligations to my family, my relationship with my friends, and my religious beliefs. I could expand further, but the details aren’t important. What was important was that these thoughts/concerns/frustrations were driving my mind to the limit, and yet I just couldn’t connect to anything else.

What was utterly frustrating about the matter was that I wasn’t getting anything done, but that I just couldn’t share my thoughts with anyone.

While the feelings of stress and anxiety were rising, it paled in comparison to the deep feeling of loneliness that this lack of communication was causing. After all this time at MIT, had I really not formed a friendship where I could feel close enough to talk to someone about a deep personal matter?

I knew that there were more subtle ways to approach the problem, but I realized that you can’t always wait for someone else to notice and push you to get help.

Putting these thoughts into perspective was what my psychiatrist helped me do and continued to help me do. It’s impossible to see things about your life like an outsider would, and even someone who only learns about you by talking with you can provide insight that you wouldn’t expect.

It’s not worth feeling alone, stressed, or anxious because you’re afraid to go talk to someone. For me, taking that leap has changed my last year at MIT for the better.

The undergraduate author of this piece asked to remain anonymous due to privacy concerns.

Woes of Urgent Care

Huang, from Page H6

times), and relying on After Hours Urgent Care. After Hours is a new beast entirely — the clinician from Urgent Care told me, I felt just sad that I had hit my head. I mentioned this to my friends, who proceeded to share their own qualms about MIT Medical. Was this a productive way to air our concerns? Certainly not. At the time, though, it made me feel slightly better about being an outcast and not being depressed. Because I wasn’t the only one who disputed what a clinician from Urgent Care told me, I felt justified in thinking his assertion was completely off-base.

Additionally, negative experiences are more likely to be the topic of conversation than positive ones. Sharing details about an uneventful visit is usually boring, but shocking people with the alleged incompetence of a medical professional is anything but.

In the face of these discouraging problems, MIT Medical has acknowledged some of its shortcomings and taken steps to create a more efficient, streamlined Urgent Care. The new physical setup of Urgent Care is designed to decrease the overall visit time, and After Hours supposedly has a more consistent schedule of physicians. These ideas sound great in theory, but will they increase the standard of care students receive in practice?

I recently had a sinus infection. Unable to find a same-day appointment with my usual practitioner, I cared and hoofed it to Urgent Care. Anticipating a several-hour ordeal, I brought a textbook, a problem set, and my iPod so I could at least pretend I was being productive.

Within an hour, however, I had checked in with reception; seen a triage nurse; seen a nurse practitioner, who wrote a prescription; filled said prescription at the pharmacy; and walked out the door. Is this an anomaly or the new norm? Only time will tell, I hope it’s the latter.

Caroline Huang ’10 is a Tech contributing editor and co-chair of the Student Health Advisory Committee.
Biodiesel Processor Required Expensive Building Renovations

Biodiesel, from Page 1

that CRSP did agree to foot half the bill, $50,000, said Roy-Mayhew. Over time, money loaned by CRSP would be paid back by the purchase of biodiesel from the processor.

Associate Provost Lorra J. Gibson, who oversaw the project, said that the projec-

t’s costs quickly grew out of control. “Eventually [the recycling area went up to] $60,000,” said Gibson. “[CRSP] offered to pick up the difference to try to support the project,” she said, “but [then] it went up to $137,000.”

Roy-Mayhew attributed huge cost increases to fire safety equipment re-

quirements, but said Biodiesel@MIT was never told exactly why the cost increased by nearly $100,000.

Sara A. Barnowski ’10, current president of the biodiesel team, said that the team had “no idea that there was going to be so much renovation involved,” which meant that some of the team’s own project estimates were way off (“I don’t even think Fa-

cilities really knew what kind of renova-
tion costs or what kind of construc-
tion costs it was going to require,” said Barnowski.)

Gibson said the project “has not been a very smooth [one],” Gibson said that when Facilities first assessed the project, they weren’t aware of all the Environmental Health & Safety issues involved with having a biodiesel processor. Key issues include fire suppression and spill mitigation.

Gibson also mentioned that Facili-
ties transitions complicated cost estimates. There was a major re-

structuring of MIT Facilities during the Biodiesel@MIT project, which split the department into two divi-
sions. “The people we ended up work-
ing with had only been here a couple of months,” said Barnowski. “[Fa-
cilities] sort of admitted that they . . . didn’t originally carry out a . . . robust enough analysis of each location,” said Barnowski.

A possible solution

Eventually, however, CRSP and Facilities managed to bring the costs down back under $60,000. Roy-May-

hew said that a manager had been found to direct any renovations, and that the processor could be installed in the lower level of the Grounds Gar-

gage.

 “[W]e started to get the legal work [done] for the processor [and] hired UBPs,” said Roy-Mayhew, who added that Biodiesel@MIT was told renovations could be completed by May.

Unfortunately, last Wednesday, May 7, Gibson told the group that constraints on the Grounds Garage meant that it would not be possible to install a fuel processor. It is not clear what those constraints are.

Roy-Mayhew said he was disap-

pointed the project fell through so abruptly, especially after hiring three UBOP students for the summer.

Additionally, Barnowski said the team may have already purchased a $15,000 biodiesel processor and ser-

vice contract from MBP Bioenergy, LLC. “The only stop left was for the company to send us specific in-

vites,” she said, “and we were pretty sure that had been done,” said Barnowski. She had not heard back from the administrator in charge, Biodiesel@MIT funds or from MBP Bioenergy.

More money, more problems?

Last Thursday, May 8, Biodiesel@MIT was told in a meeting with CRSP and Facilities members that they might be able to install a processor in W92 if they could raise an additional $20,000, according to Roy-Mayhew.

“A capital cost near $80,000 is not what we were going to do from the beginning,” said Roy-Mayhew. He added that the team would already be borrowing money from CRSP, and $80,000 vastly exceeded implementa-
tion costs at other sites in the U.S. “[Maybe] because it’s in the middle of Cambridge . . . things do cost that much,” said Roy-Mayhew. Most of the cost — around $50,000 — would go toward health and safety systems, said Barnowski, with the remainder re-
quired for other building renovations.

Moreover, a W92 installation was in no way guaranteed; and Biodiesel@MIT would have to start from the begin-
ning, getting new cost estimates and approval for the location.

Gibson said there wasn’t any ad-

ditional funding available from CRSP any that there weren’t any other op-

tions being considered. “There’s a limit to how much money we can put into one student project. We have many requests for lots of things.”

Gibson, later adding that “at some point in the future, maybe things will change.”

Barnowski said the team was left with few other options. “[We] could try to take the processor off campus somewhere,” she said, but suggested that an off-site processor wasn’t a likely solution.

Roy-Mayhew said that an off-

site processor didn’t mesh with the team’s original goals of sustainability. “[We’re] supposed to be sustainable on campus,” he said, describing the financial and environmental benefits of having a biodiesel processor on campus.

Biodiesel@MIT may end up giving the $25,000 prize money — presuming a processor hasn’t been purchased — to the Environmental Programs Office to support grants for sustainable projects on campus.

But it is not clear that they could give the money away. the terms of the Esgarmonation Challenge state that the “money awarded must be applied to cover the creation expenses of the Project described in the winning Ap-

lication.”

Money or not, the failure to bring a biodiesel processor to MIT may take away from MIT’s educational experi-

ence.

“There’s definitely a loss of an academic resource,” said Barnowski. “Courses have implemented a lot of biodiesel modules for [Chemical Biological Engineering] (19.28),” she said. Roy-Mayhew said the lab included projects to design quality control kits for biodiesel pro-

cessors, but now the students have no place to test their designs or see their real-world applications.

Barnowski said she was disap-

pointed the project never came to frui-
tion.

“The people I’ve talked to feel that it’s really unfair and hypocritical . . . to be pushing the new Energy initiative, [when] even this project with so much funding and support couldn’t get im-

plemented,” she said.

“We had a lot of theoretical sup-

port from higher ups in the administra-
tion,” Barnowski said, but no one per-
son seemed to take the project on.

Dean for Student Life Larry G. Benedict expressed surprise at the project’s end in an e-mail sent yester-
day to Roy-Mayhew. In the e-mail, Benedict said he thought the plans were finalized last fall.

In the end, “no one was really spec-
fically willing to donate their time, or their money, or their space to the project,” said Barnowski.

“It sort of got lost in the middle.” Michael McGown-Henley contrib-
uted to the reporting of this story.

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Chorallaries Perform OMG Spring Concert

(right) Arushi Dugar ’08 sings at the OMG Concert thrown by the MIT Chorallaries on Friday, May 9.
(below) Katherine A. Jarrell ’08 (left) and Tess E. Wise ’10 show off their vocal chops.

Photography by Alice Fan

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agents. From Page 1
commission makes them out and out sales agents,” said Barmak Nassirian, associate director of the American Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers.
"Like JLI, many agents collect hefty fees from both sides — the students they recruit and the universities with which they contract — leaving some to ques-
tion whether the students are being served. Even some advocates of recruiting agents see a need for an ethics code.
"I don’t think it’s ethical. An agent must be doing it right,” said Mitch Leventhal, vice president of international affairs at the University of Cincinnati, which has contracts with agents.
"And I don’t think it’s right for stu-
dents to have to pay a lot of the agent is also getting paid by the university. I don’t think it’s ethical.”
"Agents range from huge opera-
tions like JLI to mom-and-pop operators — and from reputable to fly-by-night.
"No one keeps track of how many agents are there, how many receive commissions from universities or how many students they send to the United States. But those familiar with the flow of international students say that thousands, mostly from Asia, use agents to come to American institu-
tions, particularly community colleges with intensive English programs.
"Some agents are paid through commissions from universi-
ties, others are paid entirely by the students, with the university never knowing that an agent was involved. The State Department also operates hundreds of overseas offices advising stu-
dents on study in the United States.
"Many colleges see contracts with overseas agents as a win-win proposi-
tion, helping to bring in more tuition dollars there than are paid out in com-
misions. They also see the foreign students as attractive both for their contributions to the local economy and the cultures they help build. Ohio, where many institutions are contracting with agents, recently adopted a strategic higher-education plan specifically calling for interna-
tional programs at Skagit Valley College.
"Martin Segado— the tech
"A Lot of Gouging Going On”
Still, he hopes to use more agents to increase the international enroll-
ment; the university already has agents in Turkey and Taiwan, and is looking for partners in Vietnam and Korea.
"Throughout Asia and to a lesser extent other parts of the world, thousands of agents offer help to students seeking admission to an English-speaking uni-
versity, charging them fees that may exceed $10,000, let alone $30,000,” said John Robert Cryan of Ohio University, who also works with students to have to pay a lot if the agent
the best, was getting a student to U.C.L.A.,” he said.
"Just as agents vary, so do the commissions. Ohio University is on the low side, paying $1,000 for each undergraduate, or 10 percent of tuition for the English language program.
"The market range is anywhere from 10 to 25 percent of tuition,” said Visakan Ganesh, director of international programs at Skagit Valley Col-
lege in Mount Vernon, Wash., which gets about half of its 200 interna-
tional students through commissioned


"We often get on this high horse of
pride, that we will not pay an agent for recruiting students, while British and Australian and Canadian universities do it, and we can see all the students go elsewhere,” said Joe-
p Rota, Ohio University’s associate provost for international affairs. “The
old model of international students was that we see here in the foothills of Appalachia, saying, dear world, come here and we will welcome you, and you work really hard until they stopped coming. If we want to con-
tinue to bring them here, we have to change the terms.”

Ohio University, a public institu-
tion with more than 20,000 students, has done well with commissioned agents, especially in China, the source of one-third of the university’s under-
graduates. JLI has sent more than a third of them.
“Through the MIT Cross Product’s performance of “In the Light” by dc Talk during Saturday’s concert in the MIT Cross Product’s performance of “In the Light” by de Talk during Saturday’s concert in

Israel: celebrating 60 years of what?
• Cleansing
• 60
• Practices
• Resolutions
• UN
• No
• So
• Colonialism
• Apartheid
• On-going
• Policies
• Israel’s
• Condemned
• UN
• Recent
• Their
• Palestinians
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• Push
• All
• Which
• Construction
• Of
• Brutal
• Occupation,
• Exercised
• Control
• Over
• Palestine
• 78%
• And
• Comprises
• Peace
• Full
• And
• Equality
• Their
• To
• Rights
• Continue
• Denied
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• Worldwide
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• One
• Largest
• Palestinians
• The
• State.
• Palestine
• Of
• To
• From
• Ethnic
• Arabs
• To
• Their
• Homeland.
• Learn more at www.nakba60.org.uk

In 1948, two-thirds of the indigenous Palestinian Arab population were forcibly expelled from their homes in the ethnic cleansing of Palestine in order to establish Israel as an exclusive Jewish state. Over 530 Palestinian villages were systematically depopulated and destroyed.

• Palestinians continue to be denied their internationally sanctioned rights to return, to self-determination, and to live in full equality in their homeland.

• Israeli now comprises over 8% of the Palestine and controls 85%.

• This control is exercised through a brutal military occupation, the confiscation of land and natural resources, and the construction of illegal settlements – all of which push Palestinians further off their land.

• A recent UN report condemned Israel’s white supremacist policies in the occupied Territories as forms of foreign occupation, colonialism and apartheid – all in violation of international law.

• No other democracy has so flagrantly breached international laws and UN resolutions as Israel has.

• 60 years on, Israel’s practices of ethnic cleansing continue.

Israel: celebrating 60 years of what?
• Cleansing
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• Practices
• Resolutions
• UN
• No
• So
• Colonialism
• Apartheid
• On-going
• Policies
• Israel’s
• Condemned
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• Recent
• Their
• Palestinians
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• Push
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• Construction
• Of
• Brutal
• Occupation,
• Exercised
• Control
• Over
• Palestine
• 78%
• And
• Comprises
• Peace
• Full
• And
• Equality
• Their
• To
• Rights
• Continue
• Denied
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• Palestinians
• Worldwide
• Three
• In
• One
• Largest
• Palestinians
• The
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• A recent UN report condemned Israel’s white supremacist policies in the occupied Territories as forms of foreign occupation, colonialism and apartheid – all in violation of international law.

• No other democracy has so flagrantly breached international laws and UN resolutions as Israel has.

• 60 years on, Israel’s practices of ethnic cleansing continue.

Learn more at www.nakba60.org.uk
Jazz Ensemble Hosts Herb Pomeroy Memorial Concert

A concert in memory of Herb Pomeroy, an accomplished musician and teacher, and founder of the MIT Festival Jazz Ensemble, was held this past Saturday, May 10 in Kresge Auditorium. The concert featured performances by the Ensemble, an Ensemble alumni band, and a number of local artists who have worked with Pomeroy.

(Counter-clockwise from top-left) Jazz pianist Harvey Diamond stands after playing Duke Ellington’s “Don’t You Know I Care?”
Dr. Richard S. Orr ’62 (left) presents a signed award of appreciation to Ensemble director Frederick E. Harris, Jr (right) on behalf of the Ensemble alumni band. In presenting the award, Orr thanked Harris for organizing the memorial concert.
Alto saxophonist Katrina L. Schoen ’11 plays a solo during the Ensemble’s performance of Billy Strayhorn’s “Blood Count.”
Stephanie C. Chan ’09 plays the harp during the world premiere of “The Calling,” composed for Saturday evening’s concert by Jamshied Sharifi ’83.

Festival Jazz Ensemble pianist Matthew D. Rosario ’10 finishes John Cale’s “Sig Ep” with a flourish.

Flügelhorn soloist Christopher N. Kottke G (left) and Ensemble director Frederick E. Harris, Jr. pause for a moment at the conclusion of Saturday evening’s concert.

Everett Longstreth shares some words with the audience prior to conducting the Ensemble through “Sig Ep.”


Photography by Omari Stephens
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Yield May Vary Due To Fin. Aid, Waitlist

Admissions, from Page 1
number will vary slightly. Some students have extensions while their financial aid packages are finalized. Others may switch enrollments as they are accepted off of waitlists at other schools. Schmill said he hopes the waitlist shuffles are settled by June.

This year, MIT and other top-tier colleges such as Harvard and Princeton increased their financial aid offers, and both Harvard and Princeton also eliminated their early admissions programs. Though MIT increased its financial aid, some schools with larger endowments were able to increase their aid even more. These changes in the admissions landscape made the yield unpredictable, with some concern that there would be decreased yields at top universities.

But for most schools, the yield remained steady or only dipped slightly. Harvard’s and Yale’s yields were near 78 percent and 69 percent respectively, similar to past yields. Princeton’s yield dropped one percent from 69 to 68. Schmill said yield fluctuated because of “more students who applied to more schools and were admitted to more schools.” Thus, more students had a wider variety of options to choose from.

The current demographic makeup of the class, which may change as waitlisted students are admitted, is 46 percent female, 25 percent under-represented minorities, and 18 percent first-generation college students. “Despite all the uncertainty of the admissions process this year, I’m really quite pleased how the class has shaped up,” said Schmill.

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2008 BRUCE MAZLISH UNDERGRADUATE PRIZE IN HISTORY

The History Faculty is pleased to call for submissions for the 2008 Bruce Mazlish Undergraduate Prize in History. We will award one prize of $300 and two prizes of $200 to undergraduate students for outstanding essays in history.

- Papers must be at least 10 pages in length.
- The deadline for submission is: Friday, May 23, 2008.
- Papers written in either the fall 2007 or spring 2008 semesters are eligible.
- Submission form found on: http://web.mit.edu/history/
- Submit papers to the History Office, E51-285.

If you have any questions, please contact Professor Haimanti Roy, haimanti@mit.edu.

Solution to Crossword
from page 1

Solution to Sudoku
from page 1

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A joint initiative between ConocoPhillips and Penn State, the ConocoPhillips Energy Prize will award up to $300,000 in cash prizes annually to the best five concepts that focus on developing new energy sources, improving energy efficiency or combating climate change. Entries for the 2008 ConocoPhillips Energy Prize will be accepted through May 30, 2008, and a qualified panel of energy and environmental experts will select the winners.

For complete contest rules and your opportunity to win the ConocoPhillips Energy Prize, go to www.conocophillips.com/energyprize.

No purchase necessary. Must be a legal U.S. resident at least 18 years of age.
Students Face Off In 2.007 Robotics Competition

The annual 2.007 competition, this year entitled “Da(yes)MIT” or “Save the Baby Beavers,” was held last Wednesday and Thursday, May 7 and 8, in the Johnson Athletic Center. Clockwise from left:

Encased in a foam suit, Aaron E. Ramirez ’10 makes last minute adjustments and checks on his robot prior to facing an opponent in the second round of the 2.007 competition.

A robot built by Radu Gogoana ’10 pulls back the barrier containing the “food” pellets and diverts the flow of falling balls into the starting box.

2.007 competition winner Gregory D. Tao ’10 hands his trophy to second-place Ethan L. Huwe ’10 as course professor Alexander H. Slocum ’82 picks him up to carry him on a victory lap around the arena.

Ethan L. Huwe ’10 tries unsuccessfully to extract his robot from the clutches of his opponent’s “bother bot,” a small robot designed to rapidly cross the competition field and jam its opponent’s movement.
Clockwise from above:

Jacob G. Latcham '09 concentrates on steering his robot, intending to dump the "trees" he harvested from the "forest" into the "river."

The MIT Chorallaries sing "The Engineer’s Drinking Song" before the beginning of the second round of the 2.007 competition.

A robot constructed by Joshua B. Gafford '10 rescues a baby beaver and places it in the competition board’s "lodge," the only robot in the second round and beyond to do so.

2.007 winner Gregory D. Tao '10 sets up his robot in the starting box.

Photography by Brian D. Hemond
By James Kramer

While the men’s track and field team placed 20th out of thirty-eight scoring teams at the 2008 New England Intercollegiate Amateur Athletic Association’s Outdoor Track and Field Championships, Aline Thomas ’08 is leaving nothing in the tank for the women. As she heads toward the end of her senior year, Thomas paced the women’s track and field team to 14th in the women’s 4x400-meter relay at the New England Intercollegiate Championships, held last Thursday through Saturday at the University of New Hampshire. The relay team placed 14th with a time of 4:08.57.

In the women’s 4x400-meter relay, the MIT relay team consisted of Amanda R. Underwood. The team ran 4:08.57, breaking the previous record by one-quarter of one inch. Thomas finished sixth at the finish. In both events, Thomas currently ranks among the top 15 in Division III.

DAPER StAff

By James Kramer

Records at N.E. Championship

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In the women’s 4x400-meter relay at the New England Intercollegiate Championships, Alaine M. Bolger ’08 passes the baton to Leanne M. Veldhuis ’08. Adrienne M. Bolger ’08 passes the baton to Leanne M. Veldhuis ’08 in the women’s 4x400-meter relay at the New England Intercollegiate Amateur Athletic Associations’s Outdoor Track and Field Championship, held last Thursday through Saturday at the University of New Hampshire. The relay team placed 14th with a time of 4:08.57.

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