Bertucci’s Dismisses Two of MIT’s Offers To Accept TechCASH

By Ryan Ko

Bertucci’s has declined two offers from MIT within the past two months to accept TechCASH at its popular location in Central Square, according to Undergraduate Association Dining Committee Chair Christopher K. Hoffman ’08.

A campus-wide survey conducted by the UA in the first week of November 2007 initially suggested Bertucci’s as one of two restaurants to be approached by MIT regarding TechCASH. According to Hoffman, Bertucci’s was the “overwhelming favorite” in the survey, with around 20 percent of students voting for it. The runner-up was the Pour House Bar and Grill in Boston, a popular restaurant for students.

Director of Enterprise Services John M. McDonald initially approached Bertucci’s over winter vacation with a standard TechCASH offer — similar to those presented to other off-campus vendors. According to Hoffman, the offer involves the purchasing of an additional card reader similar to a credit card reader, as well as the use of a phone line or internet connection. MIT would also charge a per-use fee, according to McDonald. “We typically negotiate with each vendor [the contract] and the fee used to cover the costs of our TechCASH system,” he said.

Bertucci’s declined both MIT’s initial offer and a second, improved offer, said Hoffman. Regarding the per-transaction fee in the second offer, Director of Campus Dining Richard D. Berlin III said, “We went as low as we could ever go.”

Bertucci’s was unavailable for comment.

“The fee wasn’t as much a stumbling block with Bertucci’s as the nights of operation,” said McDonald. “Bertucci’s busiest nights, according to McDonald, are on Friday and Saturday nights. The UA survey was to identify dining options for students on nights when campus dining is unavailable, said Hoffman. “Our House is a very popular option for students on Saturday night because of its half-price burger promotion.”

On Feb. 3, Hoffman asked the UA Senate and UA Dining Committee via e-mail to solicit letters from their respective constituencies asking Bertucci’s to accept TechCASH. Hoffman has since compiled several e-mail messages from the students, as well as from the general public, supporting the need for a more diverse dining option in Central Square.

MIT Discusses Community Impact At Cambridge Town Gown Meeting

By Emily Prentice

On Tuesday night, MIT met with the Cambridge Planning Board to report on its relationship with the Cambridge community, including the status of past and pending building projects. leashley University, Harvard University, and Cambridge College also presented at the public meeting, which evaluates the institutions’ impacts on the community.

The updates on the state of construction at MIT were provided by Richard L. Amster, Jr., the director of Facilities Planning and Construction. MIT’s major upcoming project is the Koch Institute for Integrative Cancer Research. Amster said that MIT “plans to break ground next month.”

The site for the building is at the intersection of Main St. and Ames St., on part of the current location of the East parking lot.

New parking will be provided by the Sloan School expansion, where an underground parking lot will include 425 parking spaces. The Sloan School will also receive an additional 207,000 gross square feet for classrooms. The Sloan expansion is expected to be finished in 2010.

The report also included information about the construction of New Ashdown (NB-535), the new graduate dormitory to be located at the corner of Pacific St. and Albany St. New Ashdown, which which will include 550 beds, will be completed in time for the Fall 2008 semester.

The current Ashdown House, at 305 Memorial Dr., will be transm...
U.S. Agrees to Produce Data On Iran's Nuclear Ambitions

By David E. Sanger and Elaine Sciolino

WASHINGTON—The Bush administration has agreed to turn over to international inspectors intelligence data it has collected that it says proves Iran worked on developing a nuclear weapon until a little more than four years ago, according to American and foreign diplomats.

The decision reverses the United States’ longstanding refusal to share the data with the international inspection agency.

The administration acted as the International Atomic Energy Agency on Thursday that the outlook for the economy had worsened as both sides had declared deadlocked in their efforts to mediate Iran’s nuclear dispute.

Alireza Naderi, the chairman of the Fed, warned that if the Senate does not reverse its decision, it could lead to a major economic downturn.

"There will be a recession if we continue to hold on to this moratorium," Mr. Naderi said.

The administration also said it had warned the United Nations that it would not support a resolution that would have authorized a limited military strike against Iran.

"We have informed the United Nations that we will not support any resolution that would authorize a military strike," a State Department official said.

The administration said it had also reiterated its commitment to keeping sanctions in place against Iran.

"We remain committed to maintaining sanctions against Iran as long as the regime does not comply with its international obligations," the official said.

The administration also said it had reached out to European countries to discuss ways to strengthen sanctions against Iran.

"We have reached out to our European partners to discuss ways to strengthen sanctions against Iran," the official said.

The administration also said it had told Iran that it would be willing to negotiate on a variety of issues, including nuclear non-proliferation and human rights.

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The administration also said it had agreed to a request by the International Atomic Energy Agency to allow inspectors to visit the Parchin military base in Iran.

"We have agreed to a request by the International Atomic Energy Agency to allow inspectors to visit the Parchin military base in Iran," the official said.

The administration also said it had told Iran that it was willing to consider a moratorium on the construction of a nuclear facility at the Parchin site.

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The administration also said it had told Iran that it would be willing to consider lifting some sanctions if Iran takes steps to comply with its international obligations.

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Kenyan Split on Ethnic Lites Even Though Violence Declining
By Jeffrey Gettleman

The military will try to shoot down any tipped anti-satellite weapon, said Russia's ambassador to the United Nations, Vitaly Churkin. "We will have to retarget our missiles on the objects that we think are threatening our national interests," he said.

The tank is believed to be sturdy enough to survive re-entry, based on studies of the tank that fell to earth in 2003. The sensors and weapons in the operation, modified from anti-aircraft missile technology for use as a shot at incoming missiles and installed on satellites, might have been used in secretly careful controlled tests. This time, the target is not an incoming warhead on a dummy test target, but a doomed experimental satellite that is closer to the size of a tank and weighing 5,000 pounds. It died shortly after being launched in December and is thought to have run out of hydrazine, a fuel that officials said could burn the engines and even deadly in extended doses. The task is believed to be sturdy enough to survive re-entry, based on studies of the tank that fell to earth after the Columbia shuttle disaster in 2003.

The military and NASA have calculated that the best opportunity to shoot down the satellite with an interceptor missile is just before it re-enters the atmosphere and starts to tumble and break apart on a random path, an opportunity that begins to fade at three to five minutes for eight days. At that point, the debris could start to drift outside the shield.

In many ways, the task resembles those of the Reagan administration, in the attempt to shoot down a satellite and a ballistic missile, officials said.

Hezbollah Threatens New Attacks On Israeli Targets After Leader's Death
By Robert F. Worth

The House broke for a week's recess Thursday without renewing terrorism surveillance authority only to renew it on Friday, adding it to Bush's list of vetoes. He, the Speaker of the House, and then Vice President Cheney met to discuss the bill, and they agreed that it should be extended. But Bush vetoed the bill, saying he would not sign it because he did not agree with its provisions.

Putin Speaks of Future

The United Nations and Western powers are pushing for a political compromise, and President Bush and the United Nations secretariat in Beirut tried to deliver a message to Kenya's leaders. On Thursday, officials here said that Kenya government and opposition leaders agreed in part of a fresh ethnic and political violence, hundreds of thousands of people have been forced to flee their homes, and many are now resetting in ethnically mixed towns. Luos have gone back to Luo land, Kikuyus to Kikuyu land, Kam- bahas to Kamba land and Kisiis to Ki- siis land. Even some of the packed refugee camps have divided along ethnic lines. The bloodletting across the country that has left more than 1,100 people killed, with the election results remained unannounced overnight. But the campaign has deepened the split among ethnic groups.

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Opinion

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

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

Letters to the editor, columns, and editorial cartoons are written by individuals and represent the opinion of the author, not necessarily that of the newspaper. Electronic submissions are encouraged and should be sent to letters@the-tech.mit.edu. Hand copy submissions should be addressed to The Tech, P.O. Box 397029, Cambridge, Mass. 02139-7029, or sent by interdepartmental mail to Room W20-483. All submissions are due by 4:30 p.m. two days before the date of publication.

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

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

To Reach Us

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Manisha Padi and Ying Yang

It's Valentine's Day! People are in love, chocolate boxes line the streets, and all you see is pink and red (not that we're complaining! Yet, it isn't all fun and games. For many of us not so caught up in the rush, this is a dreaded time filled with forced reflection on both single-hood and the dreary rut of long-distance couple-dom. So how can we here at Figuring Out Fashion be of any help? Well, there's really only one way to cure the Valentine blues — a makeover! After doing some exploring, we came up with an affordable plan to reinvent your look and spirit this weekend.

The first thing to tackle is the task of getting newer, better, and cuter clothes. We found one thing we liked right away — sales! This is the best time for prices on winter clothes, and since it's still freezing outside, why not take advantage of it? Spring is closing in on us too, so remember to stock up on discounted winter short sleeves that won't be missed during the season. Try the CambridgeGate Galleria, the Prudential Center, Downtown Crossing, and Newbury Street for some splurging. And please don't claim that shopping is a waste of time! This is totally multitasking (shopping burns 160 calories per hour for a 150 pound person and even more if you try on clothes). Go ahead and choose whatever stores suit your price range and personal style, but these looking to reap the rewards need to branch out. Hangers don't go for clothes, and sometimes a piece that looks awkward on the rack will look great when you try it on. Since trying on clothes is free, go ahead and explore as many looks as you can.

For accessories, girls should head to So Good Jewelry. The selection is endless and prices are very reasonable. Cute purses and accessories such as clutches, belts, long necklaces, and earrings can be found at Aldo Accessories and Wet Seal. If you have some patience, try digging through accessory racks at Filene’s Basement and Marshall’s because there are definitely many high-end brand bargains for both guys and girls. Another great deal is everything cute for low prices of course Target, and access is surprisingly easy. Take the red line to the Andrew T stop and walk over the bridge or take the available shuttle.

Now that you got your physical appearance taken care of, you need to worry about your health and wellness. What's the point of having new clothes if you don't have the confidence and glowing features to pull them off? Look in coupon books for massages, salon treatments, haircuts, and nail care. Go out to the spa and treat yourself! Both guys and girls should definitely venture out to Sephora, where we got our makeup done by the attendants and sprayed ourselves with perfume and cologne. Don't forget to exercise too; there are free regular swimming and PE classes, as well as the rest of the Z-Center for you to use.

Once you have a new outfit and have taken care of yourself, it's time to go out and have some fun. Check your coupon books for discounts at nice restaurants and then head to Ryles for jazz and salsa (18 and 19+ depending on the night). Going to a museum, like the Boston Museum of Science or the Museum of Fine Arts (which are both free) is also something fun to do. A classic outing can be to the movies, a concert, a sports game, or even bowling. Let's face it; if you're like us, anything is more exciting than the usual Friday night of a movie and maybe see some Guitar Hero (if you're lucky). You can always meet a potential boyfriend/girlfriend while you are out having fun, but if you copy yourself up in your room, you'll never have a chance to meet that special someone.

We hope this gives you all the tools and inspiration you need to get out there and make a change for the better — it surely helped us!

Suggestions or comments about fashion at MIT? E-mail fashion@tech.mit.edu.

Dearest Tat's,

Don't get it. We started this really cool advice column, but no one wants to write in! Are we trying too hard to be cool? Would we be cooler if we weren't trying so hard? Is being cool some sort of paradox? Is being cool some sort of paradox? Is being cool some sort of paradox? Is being cool some sort of paradox?

Dear Tat's,

You've confused here and rightfully so. See, when people talk about being so cool it seems effortless, they're referring to an illusion. It's not about trying to be cool — it's about trying to seem like you're not trying. Did that make sense? No! Here, let me formulate coolness.

Coolness is a function of two parameters: amount of trying (effort) and badass-ness (innate coolness) A person's coolness, defined in units of Raw, can be described as a function of trying and badass-ness. For every person, badass-ness is a constant, usually defined from 1-10 (yes, know, www.hotscore.com scale). It's something you can't change, so accept it. As a point of reference, Steve McQueen (translation for undergrads: Zac Efron) is a 10, Dean Martin (Hillary Duff) is an 8, and Tom Selleck with a moustache (Hamish Mustache) is a solid 9.

Trying, on the other hand, is more akin to a distorted wave function with several minima and maxima. The amount of effort you put into being cool directly affects your coolness, but unfortunately in ways you might not expect. Though the art of being cool is a bit of a black box, I've managed to crudely plot the coolness function. Let us now examine the coolness space in all its glory.

Several features immediately come to our attention. The local minima at (A) shows that sometimes it's better not to try at all if you're not willing to get with the program. (B) demonstrates the appropriate level of trying for most people. At this level one should mind one's appearance, know a funny anecdote, and be able to mix a martini! (C) illustrates the pits of trying too hard. A person's descent to (C) usually correlates with excessive use of hair product and collar flipping. For yourself, if you are taking steps to look cool, sometimes trying unbelievably hard results in an unexpected boost in coolness at (D). Michael Cera of Arrested Development and Jony Eames best exemplifies this phenomenon. For most people, the best cool results are achieved by aiming for the (B) maxima. There is an exception though: Should one's innate coolness reach the critical "Tom Selleck with a moustache" inflection point (D), then optimal coolness is achieved by not trying at all. This is the pinnacle of effortless cool, and few people outside of the Rat Pack have ever reached its summits. For those curious about the range of coolness, note that one man and one man alone occupies the epitome of coolness: Steve McQueen. At the brutal depths of uncool, there are so many people — including this Tat, for even bothering to formulate a function for cool.

Happy Trying,

—Tat Charles Ian G

Seriously people, write in with your questions to AskATAtech@mit.edu. You don't want grad students giving themselves advice for another week.

Steve McQueen

1 Take It Like A Man, “Dragonette (Felix Cartal remix)”
2 Erode Attack, “Boys Noize”
3 Daft Punk, “Around The World”
4 A Cause des Garçons, “Yelle (Tepr Remix)”
5 Justice, “D.A.N.C.E.”

The French kids are dominating the scene! DJ Name: DJ Xylo Show Style: live mixed bangin’ electro Time: Friday 9-10 p.m. “An arsenal of sonic crack rocks are fully loaded in our pipes of aural destruction, so get those lighters ready. Yet do not be alarmed dear friends, for with our acoustic addiction you are never chasing the first high, you just keep flying higher!” You can tune in at 88.1 FM or listen online at wmbr.org. If you’re interested in joining, contact us at membership@wmbr.org.

WMBR Top 5 Songs to Robot Dance to

“Who gives a $#!+ as long as they see my electron beam?”

—Unknown

“Who gives a $#!+ as long as they see my electron beam?”

—Unknown

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**ARTS**

**CONCERT REVIEW**

**The Chan Marshall Musical Revue**

By Sarah Dupuis

The Orpheum

Thursday, Feb. 7, 2008

E
tilier tonight, seated at The Orpheum, I couldn’t help but think of an old Tooth. Ceramic artistry, an assembly of installation of the Web series featured the author sitting at a desk writing a letter, which quickly became an adventure. I thought Cat Pow-

**STILL, Love, Sarah**

er, shut up love, drew*

* I was even closer to telling her to be quiet. Her sound was on all evening, and the spooky tumbly deadgirl of her Dirty Delta Blues is an unassailable even her most melancholic origins so that they went straight along with the show numbers of her new covers record. Jukebox. The music was great, no problems there, other than slight disappoint-

**Where are the mood swings? Why is she so happy and friendly? who are you? Cat Power**

By Preaveen Rathinavelu

Blue State

Written and Directed by Marshall Lewis

Starring Breckin Meyer and Anna Paquin

D/W Released Feb. 12

M
glewley’s Blue State is a romantic comedy that misses the mark completely. It is neither romantic nor funny and features a horrible premise.

**MOVIE REVIEW**

**Something New in Romanian Film**

**Much More Than an Abortion Movie**

By Praveen Rathinavelu

4 Months, 3 Weeks, and 2 Days

Written and Directed by Cristian Mungiu

Starring Ana Matei and Laura Vasiliu

Not Rated

Now Playing in Limited Release

T
t these days, even when its subject is abor-

**MOVIE REVIEW**

**Stupid Premise and Bad Writing**

**You Have Better Things To Do Than Visit Blue State**

By Alice Macdonald

Blue State

Written and Directed by Marshall Lewis

Starring Breckin Meyer and Anna Paquin

D/W Released Feb. 12

M arshall Lewis’s Blue State is a romantic comedy that misses the mark completely. It is neither romantic nor funny and features a horrible premise.

Here are some of the film’s major flaws:

1. Clarity: The film’s arcs and subplots are arranged like a painting and its depiction of Othilia enveloped by other dinner guests is witty, claustraphobic, and powerful.

2. The performances in “4 Months” are so bland; globally they do not go with or without notice. Every character, no matter how interesting or ceable — and the perfor-

3. In the altered world he creates, he puts up his con-

4. Who are you, Cat Power? Why is she so smil-

5. I wonder if they end up together? This is not a

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The Error of Our Ways

Predictively Irrational! Highlighted Oddities of Human Decision Making

By Rosa Cao

Predictively Irrational: The Hidden Forces That Shape Our Decisions
By Dan Ariely
Published: HarperCollins Available Feb. 19
www.predictivelyirrational.com

Perhaps the greatest disappointment is that much of what is offered up in this new book is not exactly news.

Ariely strawberries a straw man when he writes “I have described experiments that I hoped would be surprising and illuminating, because they refuted the common assumption that we are all fundamentally rational.” Nowhere does he define what he means by rationality in this context. Is it the ability to think of something as a true or false, or just an example of an old fogey griping about our degenerate age? There are worse examples of carelessness, if not outright chauvinism.

In fact, the real Ariely didn’t really mean that there is less institutionalized abstract trust of the kind that fosters efficient business transactions among strangers. Or perhaps he really didn’t mean that there is less trust, period, between people in these societies.

In his eagerness to offer easy answers and neat summaries, Ariely glosses over the complications and subtleties of the material. It’s a disservice to his readers.

February 15, 2008

BOOK REVIEW

The Tech

ARTS

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Concert Review

Languid Songs for Languid Lovers

Weathered and Wistful Performers at the MFA

By Balaji Mani

Karen Ann and Britta Phillips
Museum of Fine Arts
Thursday, Feb. 7, 2008

After a week’s double bill at the Museum of Fine Arts brought to the stage two seemingly different artists, yet equally brilliant performers, I’d never witness such a diversity of styles and musical experimentation.

French and American musicians, English and American, Irish and American, all brought their unique forms of music. Mary and her band, the much-loved group, the Boston-based Mary, brought the noise to the stage and to the people. Mary and her band, the much-loved group, the Boston-based Mary, brought the noise to the stage and to the people.

During Karen Ann’s last visit to Boston, she brought along Jason Hart on keyboards and Mark Sumnow to guitar. The group came back out for an encore, which was a little bit unexpected, but it was a nice surprise.

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Karen Ann and Britta’s set

Dean Wareham and Phillips opened the show with a de facto rock band, Luaka Bop, releasing their second LP, Back Numbers. Last year they opened with a white-wash of sonic mania, a song aptly titled “Snowstorm.” Wareham and Phillips traded lead vocals throughout the set, punctuated by the moods of the changing audience.

The group came back out for an encore, which was a little bit unexpected, but it was a nice surprise.

On the records, Karen Ann sounds distant, sweet, and reassuring. As a female songwriter, her voice is at times darkly comedic. “Na N’ Je,” for example, is a subtle and well-crafted song, with an acoustic Guitar solo. At one point his knees buckled under the strain of playing, and he crouched to the ground, never straying from the bass.

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The group came back out for an encore, which was a little bit unexpected, but it was a nice surprise.

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Karen Ann and Britta’s set

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### Pseudoscience

by Daniel Klein-Marcuschamer

**Figure 26.** The plot shows the probability of finding students working a certain number of hours per day, according to the lab they work at. Note that the working day refers to actual work and, therefore, procrastination is not taken into account. We suggest that the distribution could be derived by assuming that grad students behave as independently moving particles in a confined volume (i.e. the lab premises). As the pressure increases (e.g. from a competing lab or an advisor), so does the probability of finding students with long working days, and the shape of the curve changes accordingly. The result is a (Maxwell-Boltzmann) distribution in which students with more energy (intrinsic or not) also work longer days. Similar derivations have been obtained by McMullen J., Papageorge A, and Loewer V, Proceedings of the 152nd Muddy Charles Symposium, Cambridge, Jan. 2008.

### Steal My Comic

by Michael Ciuffo

---

The Tech congratulates Uno, the first beagle to win best in show at the Westminster Dog Show!
ACROSS
1 Rules of conduct __________ 95 Game similar to keno
10 Activist 14 Spanish river __________ 15 City in Provence 16 _Stanley Gardner __________ 17 Judgment call?
20 John Jacob and Mary __________ 21 Highlands hat __________ 22 5th or Lex. __________ 23 Minuscule __________ 24 Black, but not blue __________ 25 Philippine island __________ 26 28 Gi’s garb __________ 28 29 “It Happened One Night” __________ 31 Tiny arachnid __________ 32 Arcade pioneer __________ 33 34 Grabs __________ 35 Judgment call?
36 Judgment call?
39 Shaving foam __________ 40 Refuse __________ 41 Punt del ___ __________ 42 Burstyn or Bankin __________ 44 Handle clumsily __________ 47 Cubic meter __________ 49 Massive ref. work __________ 50 Big Apple restaurateur __________ 52 Homily topic __________ 53 Carte preceder __________ 54 Oater bar __________ 55 Judgment call? __________ 56 Judgment call? __________ 57 Turn-downs __________ 58 Deserve __________ 59 Work safety grp. __________ 60 Turn-downs __________ 61 Deserve __________ 62 Oh, yeah __________ 63 Old dagger __________ 64 Spooled kids __________ 65 Tail of a lob? __________
67 Did you get my e-mail?
68 Uh, which account did you send it to?
69 It’s a really well-written paper. You did a terrific job.
70 I have a work e-mail, a personal e-mail, an online shopping e-mail, my department issued e-mail, my instant message e-mail...
71 I like to keep things separated. It maintains the illusion I’m in control of my lives.

DOWN
1 Smoothly, in music __________ 2 Mistreated __________ 3 Gets off a letter __________ 4 Wise lawyer __________ 5 Prolonged barks __________ 6 Time-line segment __________ 7 Capp and Capone __________ 8 Gods’ beverage __________ 9 Workplace safety grp. __________ 10 Word with Bingle __________ 11 Drum __________ 12 Form a labor union __________ 13 Night fights __________ 14 Test out __________ 15 Elec. measure __________ 16 Delhi garb __________ 17 Letter __________ 18 Anabaptist sect __________ 19 Core group __________ 20 Man from Manchuria __________ 21 Big Apple restaurateur __________ 22 Son of Jacob __________ 23 PGA prop __________ 24 Snaky turn __________ 25 Skillet material __________ 26 One who showed up __________ 27 Sitcom __________ 28 Author __________ 29 Instructional sessions __________ 30 Repair-shop car __________ 31 Writer __________ 32 Son of Jacob __________ 33 PGA prop __________ 34 Snaky turn __________ 35 Skillet material __________ 36 One who showed up __________ 37 Sitcom __________ 38 Author __________ 39 Instructional sessions __________ 40 Repair-shop car __________ 41 Writer __________ 42 Son of Jacob __________ 43 PGA prop __________ 44 Snaky turn __________ 45 Skillet material __________ 46 One who showed up __________ 47 Sitcom __________ 48 Author __________ 49 Instructional sessions __________ 50 Repair-shop car __________ 51 Writer __________ 52 Son of Jacob __________ 53 PGA prop __________ 54 Snaky turn __________ 55 Skillet material __________ 56 One who showed up __________ 57 Sitcom __________ 58 Author __________ 59 Instructional sessions __________

ACROSS
1 Piled higher and deeper __________ 2 Piled higher and deeper __________

Dilbert® by Scott Adams
Researchers Locate Distant Solar System That Resembles Ours

By Dennis Overbye

Astronomers said Wednesday that they had found a miniature version of our own solar system 5,000 light years across the galaxy — the first planetary system that really looks like our own, with outer giant planets and room for smaller inner planets.

“It looks like a scale model of our solar system,” said Dr. Scott Gaudi, an assistant professor of astronomy at Ohio State University. Gaudi led an international team of 69 professional and amateur astronomers who announced the discovery in a news conference with reporters.

Their results are being published Friday in the journal Science.

The discovery, they said, means that our solar system may be more typical of planetary systems across the universe than had been thought.

In the newly discovered system, a planet about two-thirds of the mass of Jupiter and another about 90 percent of the mass of Saturn are orbiting a reddish star at about half the distances that Jupiter and Saturn circle our own Sun. The star is about half the mass of the Sun.

Neither of the two giant planets is a likely abode for life as we know it. But Gaudi said, warm rocky planets — “suitable for life” — could exist undetected in the inner parts of the system.

“This could be a near solar system analogue,” he said.

Dr. Sara Seager, a theorist at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology who was not part of the team, said that “right now in exoplanets we are on an inexorable path to finding other Earths.” Seager praised the discovery as “a big step in finding out if our planetary system is alone.”

Since 1995, around 250 planets outside the solar system, or exoplanets, have been discovered. But few of them are in systems that even faintly resemble our own. In many cases, giant Jupiter-like planets are whirling around in orbits smaller than that of Mercury. But are these typical of the universe?

Almost all of those planets were discovered by the so-called wobble method, in which astronomers measure the gravitational tug of planets on their parent star as they whir around it. This technique is most sensitive to massive planets close to their stars.

The new discovery was made by a different technique that favors planets more distant from their star. It is based on a trick of Einsteinian gravity called microlensing. If, in the ceaseless shifting of the stars, two of them should become almost perfectly aligned with Earth, the gravity of the nearer star can bend and magnify the light from the more distant one, causing it to get much brighter for a few days.

If the alignment is perfect, any big planets attending the nearer star will get into the act, adding their own little bumps to the more distant starlight.

That is exactly what started happening on March 28, 2006, when a star 5,000 light years away in the constellation Scorpius began to pass in front of one 21,000 light years more distant, causing it to flash. That was picked up by the Optical Gravitational Lensing Experiment, or Ogle, a worldwide collaboration of observ- ers who keep watch for such events.

On the next 10 days, as Andrew P. Gould, a professor of mathematical and physical sciences at Ohio State, said, “This could be a true solar system analogue,” he said.

“Other Earths” could exist undetected in the inner parts of the system. “This could be a true solar system analogue,” he said.

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Among those who provided crucial data and appeared as lead authors of the paper in Science were a pair of amateur astronomers from Auckland, New Zealand, Jennie Mc- Cuin and Grant Christie, both members of a group called the Micro- lensing Follow-Up Network, or MicroFUN.

Somewhat to the experimenters’ surprise, clever manipulation they were able to dig out of the data not just the masses of the interloper star and its two planets, but also rough estimates of their orbits, confirming the similarity to our own sys- tem. David P. Bennett, an assistant professor of astrophysics at the Uni- versity of Notre Dame, said, “This event has taught us that we were able to learn more about these planets than we thought possible.”

As a result, microlensing is poised to become a major new tool in the planet hunter’s arsenal, “a new flavor of the month,” Seager said.

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Mariachi Internacional del Tecnológico serenades President Susan Hockfield for Valentine’s Day.

Digital Evolution
Craig R. Barrett
Chairman, Intel Corporation
February 20, 2008 • 2:00 – 3:00PM
Wing Auditorium, Tang Center, Building E-51

China in Development

- Documentary Screening
  China through the Lens of a Film Maker Showing <Villages> and <The Graduates>
  Saturday 2/16 & Sunday 2/17
  4pm and 9pm, Room 6-120

- Keynote Speakers Night
  Conversations with Business Leaders in China and "Jet Li"
  Monday 2/18, 6:00PM
  Wing Auditorium
  (Tang Center, Bldg E-51)

- Campus Fair
  MIT Activities, Kodak "China in Development" Photo Competition Display
  Tuesday 2/19, 12:00PM–4:00PM
  Mezzanine Lounge & Twenty Chimey

- Cultural Exchange Panel
  Cambridge Meets Beijing, Discussions among MIT, Tsinghua, & Beijing University
  Tuesday 2/19 7:00PM – 8:30PM
  Bush Room (10-105)

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Town Gown, from Page 1

formed into a new undergraduate dormitory. According to Amster, “we didn’t anticipate that it was going to be a renovation.” The plans for that project are still in the first stages. “We’re going to go out and procure a builder and architect,” said Amster. Ashdown is expected to re-open for students in two years.

Each of the universities’ representatives talked about their plans to decrease the impact on the environment by reducing energy use. The universities referred several times to the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Green Building Rating System, administered by the non-profit U.S. Green Building Council. The LEED system rates buildings on a standardized scale, based on “sustainable site development, water savings, energy efficiency, materials and resources selection, and indoor environmental quality,” according to the USGBC Web site.

The Brain and Cognitive Sciences Building, which is three years old, received the LEED silver rating, according to Amster. New Ashdown is expected to “get LEED silver,” according to Amster. One of the peculiar energy challenges faced by MIT involves the fact that laboratories “require five to ten times the air changes of normal office buildings,” he said.

Amster stated that another challenge for MIT is the competitive nature of research. “We have to be flexible and quick so that once we find a researcher and a need, we need to move quickly to find a lab for them,” he said. Amster said buildings with large floors instead of towers facilitate interdisciplinary collaborative research.

Steven C. Marsh, the managing director of real estate at the MIT Investment Management Company, presented on MIT’s real estate ventures in Cambridge. According to Marsh, the Investment Company has “become a little more defensive in the last year and a half,” and sold some of their holdings in Cambridge, such as the Hotel@MIT, which is now called Le Méridien. MIT, like the other universities, is focusing on improving street-level retail stores. Some recent retail additions to the MIT community include Citibank and the restaurants Sebastian’s and Cosi. MIT and the City of Cambridge collaborated in 2007 on the Central Square Theatre, a new black-box theatre being built that will house two professional theatre groups. MIT owned the land and was the site developer for the project, according to a May 2007 MIT News Office article. Marsh said that the theatre project, combined with the increased retail presence, will “add some vitality” to the community.

According to Marsh, the Investment Management Company is “busy preparing some of our properties for lease.” These include 640 Memorial Dr. (which is currently leased to Millennium Pharmaceuticals) and 1 Broadway. Last year, 1 Broadway was damaged in a severe fire caused by the explosion of an NSTAR transformer. It has taken an entire year for the permanent power to be replaced in the building and now the Investment Management Company is “thinking about streetscape and façade” to improve the appearance of the building, said Marsh.

Although the MIT Investment Management Company is decreasing its holdings in Cambridge now, it will “continue to pursue Cambridge investments over time,” said Marsh. MIT’s presentation to the Cambridge Board was well received by both the members of the Board and the Cambridge residents who were present. The Board did not raise any complaints to the MIT presenters, but they did bring up complaints about Harvard and Lesley.
It's Election Season at the Coop, too!

Now accepting applications from MIT undergraduate and graduate students to serve on the Board of Directors during the 2008-09 academic year!

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Good luck on the campaign trail!
All Subway Employees Undergo Week-Long Sandwich Training

Subway, from Page 1

It was suggested that a manager stay on site 24/7 to ensure that there would be someone in charge at all times. Hoffman said, “Students complained that employees weren’t as friendly as the customers expected them to be.” One particular complaint — sometimes employees would socialize instead of working and fail to realize the presence of a customer — was addressed by the installation of at least two video cameras over winter break, according to Holmes. Subway owner Aymen Rajeh assured that he would “replace the current employees if they continue to have problems,” said Holmes.

According to Richard D Berlin III, director of Campus Dining, the friction between Subway and its customers is also partially due to students’ lack of preparation at the counter. Due to Subway’s highly customized sandwiches, ordering often takes longer than at other fast-food restaurants, especially during the lunch and dinner hours.

Berlin said, “People can help by knowing what they want.” Rajeh echoed this sentiment, saying, “We appreciate it is of MIT’s business, said Holmes. Rajeh agreed: “Subway works with a lot of student organizations, and we’re always happy to help.”

Already, the Subway at MIT has a higher daily volume of customers than any other in the greater Boston area. However, their prices match the standard rates for Subway restaurants nationwide. Rajeh admitted that establishing a Subway in a new environment required a trial period, during which the restaurant learned MIT’s preferences. He said, “In any new neighborhood, we have a learning curve.”

The other restaurants in Lobdell, such as Shinkansen and Sepal, have implemented an efficient system of taking orders and preparing food — something Subway hopes to achieve with the help of the student body, according to Rajeh. This includes the recent implementation of Tech-CASH at the Subway located at the intersection of Beacon St. and Massachusetts Ave. However, their prices match the standard rates for Subway restaurants nationwide. Rajeh continues to exchange communication to ensure that Subway smoothly integrates into the MIT community.

Solution to Sudoku

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Feb 22nd, 2008
Kresge Auditorium
6:30 - 8:00 PM

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All proceeds will go to the Eugene Bell Foundation, which treats TB patients in North Korea.

Food provided
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32-123

Friday & Saturday
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Tickets -$5 Students
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School Put Into Effect Security Plan Designed for Such A Crisis

Shooting, from Page 1

campus, which sits in a snow-topped, rural community 65 miles due west of Chicago, said three weapons were found with the man’s body — two handguns, including a Glock, and the shotgun. He had ammunition left over, the police here said.

The gunman had been a graduate student at the university in 2007 but was no longer enrolled, Peters said.

Desiree Smith, one of the public university’s more than 25,000 students, said she saw students fall down around her as the gunman opened fire. She tried to crawl away, she told a local television station, CLTV, thinking she was going to die, then wondered if she should play dead before getting up to run out of the classroom.

Smith said the gunman was wearing a black beanie cap or ski cap. She said he aimed, right off, for one person — the classroom instructor.

Other students told of a chaotic scene in which panicked students dropped to the floor, the blood of victims spattering on those who escaped injury.

“This thing started and ended within a matter of seconds,” said Donald Grady, the chief of police at the university.

The class in Cole Hall had been an introductory offering, and most of the 162 students registered for the course had likely been freshmen or sophomores, said Jonathan Berg, chairman of the department of geology and environmental geo sciences.

Berg, who was about two blocks away from Cole Hall in his office when the shooting began, ran over and found injured students sitting on sidewalks outside waiting for ambulances. Some had bandages on their heads, he said.

Berg said an instructor and a teaching assistant were inside the classroom along with students; he said he believed the instructor had been wounded, but not seriously.

In the moments after the shooting, university officials put into action a detailed security plan created for just such an incident, Peters said. Many universities and colleges around the country designed elaborate lock-down and notification plans in the days and weeks after a student at Virginia Tech killed 32 people on that Blacksburg campus, the worst shooting rampage in modern American history.

“This is a tragedy,” Peters said. “But from all indications we did everything we could when we found out.”

Shots rang out inside Cole Hall shortly after 3 p.m. (Central Standard Time), Peters said. At 3:07 p.m., the campus was ordered into a lock-down, he said. At 3:20 p.m., he said, the university posted an alert on its Web site, through its e-mail system, and through another campus alarm system. “There has been a report of a possible gunman on campus. Get to a safe area and take precautions until given the all clear. Avoid the King Commons and all buildings in that vicinity.”

By 4 p.m., Peters said, the police had determined that there was only one gunman, now dead, and issued another message to students at 4:14 p.m. “Campus police report that the immediate danger has passed. The gunman is no longer a threat.”

The authorities here canceled classes for the rest of the evening and Friday. Counselors had been called in, they said, and counseling was already being offered in every dormitory. By 7 p.m., university officials put into effect a detailed security plan created for just such an incident, Peters said, adding that even with elaborate plans, it might be impossible to entirely prevent such violence.

Students here had heard of threats at the school late last year, a fact that left some wondering whether there might be some connection to what had happened on Thursday. Last December, university officials canceled classes for a day during final exams after someone scrawled threats in a dormitory bathroom, including a reference to the Virginia Tech massacre and a racial slur.

The police here said on Thursday that they had no reason to suspect a connection.

Chattled in 1895, Northern Illinois University has more than 25,000 enrolled students, 91 percent of them from inside the state of Illinois.

In Springfield, Gov. Rod R. Blagojevich declared a state of emergency after the shootings, offering state relief for expenses and the state emergency management agency to offer help.

“The state of Illinois will provide whatever assistance and support is necessary to university staff and students, and to local officials,” Blagojevich said.

Here, officials and students said they had yet to even start to come to terms with all they had seen.

Outside the dormitories on Thursday evening, it looked like the last day of school. Students streamed out of dorms carrying backpacks and luggage. A caravan of parents made its way onto campus to meet them, and many waited for their children in dorms.

“You think it’s going to happen at your university and you certainly don’t think it’s going to happen in your department to people you know,” Berg said.

Letters to the Editor

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Tell us what you think.

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Give a damn?
Pho•to•jour•nal•ism ($n$):
1. journalism in which written copy is subordinate to pictorial presentation of news stories
2. publishing photos in The Tech while enjoying high-end photographic equipment, exclusive developing facilities, free dinners, and good company

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Suns Acquire Shaq, Lakers Obtain Gasol To Stay Competitive

NBA, from Page 20

guard Devin Harris and Jerry Stackhouse. The Mavericks have all the parts they need to make a title run right now, and I expect them to do well in the playoffs.

The Phoenix Suns pulled off a massive trade to bolster their title hopes last week. While NBA fans have enjoyed the Suns’ entertaining play for the last few years, the franchise has not won the Western Conference title since 1993. Consequently, the front-office decided to trade away one of its stars, Shawn Marion, in a package for superstar Shaquille O’Neal. It remains to be seen whether this trade will propel the Suns to a title, but one thing’s for sure though — watching Steve Nash and the Suns come playoff time will be exciting.

The Los Angeles Lakers also made a big move before the trading deadline. Their deal was more of a steal though, getting the talented Spaniard Pau Gasol from the Memphis Grizzlies for next to nothing. With Gasol, this team is now one of the best in the West. Kobe Bryant is playing well enough to finally earn his long-overdue first Most Valuable Player award, and the Lakers bench is arguably the best across the league.

There are several other quality teams in the West. New Orleans has been brilliant, led by this year’s best point guard Chris Paul (sorry Steve Nash). Paul and the Hornets should be a tough match for anyone in the playoffs (if they get there). The Utah Jazz also have a young stud at point guard, Deron Williams. While they have played brilliantly in spurts, they still lack a few essential pieces to go all the way.

The Denver Nuggets aren’t top contenders, but they can still be a factor in the playoffs with Allen Iverson and Carmelo Anthony leading the way. Baron Davis has played superbly for the Golden State Warriors, but don’t expect a repeat of last year’s playoff run when they knocked off top-seeded Dallas. The Houston Rockets continue to be a quality team but they just haven’t improved enough to be a serious contender.

It remains to be seen how the West will be won, but as a fan, it sure does make for compelling viewing.
**Sports**

**Game of the Week: Youth Leads Men's Ice Hockey Over Endicott**

*By Jeff Lemieux*  
*Staff Writer*

In a battle for supremacy in the Northeast Collegiate Hockey Association Conference East Division, MIT's freshmen contingent proved to be the difference, as the men's ice hockey team slipped past Endicott College 2-1 on Saturday night. Defenseman Nicholas D. Sider '11 assisted on the game-tying goal before fellow freshman Cory E. Phinney '11 netted the winner, while rookie goaltender Stephen L. Yablonski '11 stopped 26 shots to earn the victory. The Gulls took the lead early when Chris Garofalo scored his 13th goal of the season. Their lead did not last long however, as the Engineers scored two quick-fire goals to take the lead midway through the opening period. Nicholas R. Lallouz '09 scored the equalizer, notching his team-leading 19th goal of the season with Sider providing the lone assist. Michael C. Kuzlovski '08 and Dustin P. Kendrick '10 then assisted Phinney on the game-winning goal just minutes later. The rest of the contest belonged to the goaltenders, with Yablonski and Endicott's Josh Provost turning away all shots to keep the score at 2-1. Provost made 37 saves to keep the Gulls within striking distance, but Yablonski shut the door to lower his season goals against average to 1.43.

The Engineers' record improved to 12-3-0 overall and 8-2-0 in the division with the win, solidifying its place atop the standings. Endicott concluded its regular season schedule with records of 10-10-1 and 5-4-0.

MIT finishes up conference play this Saturday at Westfield State College, followed by a tough match-up at home against Division I opponent Boston College. The game will provide good preparation for the Engineers going into the NECHA playoffs, which begin the last week of February.

**Figure Skating Club Dances Into Sixth Place as Samost Earns Silver**

*By Diana S. Cheng*  
*Staff Writer*

The MIT Figure Skating Club team tied for sixth place with Pennsylvania State University at the Boston University Eastern Intercollegiate Figure Skating Competition, held on Feb. 9-10 at the Walter Brown Arena. MIT finished with 13 points, with several skaters finishing in the top five in free skate and solo dance events to contribute to the point total.

Captain Aubrey L. Samost '10 led the team with three medals. In the Novice Dance event, her partner earned her a silver medal as she finished second in a field of eleven skaters. She placed third in Intermedi ate Dance, with her performance the “Hickory Houndown” and in the Novice Free Skate, skaring to a George Gershwin medley. Her free skate featured a double salchow/Axel jump sequence, double jumps, and a layback spin.

Kristina K. Brown '10 contributed two points with her two fifth place finishes in Novice Dance and Pre-juvenile Free Skate. Her free skate to music from Disney’s Happy Feet included a circular step sequence, Latz jump, and a camel-change-upright spin.

Kachi C. Gosselin '10 and Tang finished first time in competition, Kachi C. Gosselin '10 and Tang finished sixth and seventh in the Preliminary Free skate event, respectively. Their programs included five jumping elements and two spins.

Dartmouth University won the competition with 130.5 points total, followed by Cornell University (72 points), Boston University (68.5 points), and the University of Delaware (66 points). Boston College placed fifth with 16 points.

The next fastest-paced competition will take place at the University of Delaware the first weekend in March.

**Scoreboard**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Men's Basketball</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday, Feb. 13, 2008</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Babson College (10-13, 5-1 NEWMAC)*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MIT (12-11, 3-7)</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Women's Basketball</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday, Feb. 11, 2008</td>
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<tr>
<td>Newbury College (2-19)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MIT (10-11)</td>
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</tbody>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday, Feb. 12, 2008</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brown University (5-9)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MIT (2-11)</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>MIT (11-11, 3-7)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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*New England Women's and Men's Athletic Conference

**Upcoming Home Events**

Friday, Feb. 15, 2008  
Wrestling vs. Western New England College, U.S. Coast Guard Academy  6 p.m., duPont Athletic Center

Saturday, Feb. 16, 2008  
Men's Track and Field Cord Invitational  12 p.m., Johnson-Athletic Center  
Women's Track and Field Cord Invitational  12 p.m., Johnson-Athletic Center  
Women's Gymnastics vs. Rhode Island College, Boston University  1 p.m., duPont Gymnasium  
Squash vs. University of California, Berkeley  4:30 p.m., Ziegler Center

**Spurs, Suns Striving for Supremacy Amid Struggle Atop Western Conference**

*By Dennis L. Ram dass*  
*Columnist*

The NBA's Western Conference is having one of its most competitive seasons in recent years. Don't believe me? Just look at the frequency of last changes in the standings or the constant jostling for position in various power rankings across the press. The term “wild, wild west” has never been more applicable, but let's try to make the picture a little clearer.

The are four elite teams in the West: the San Antonio Spurs, Phoenix Suns, Dallas Mavericks and Los Angeles Lakers. While each of these teams has stood out from the rest of the conference, none of them has been able to establish undisputed ascendency over the others. The San Antonio Spurs, last year's champions, are a modern day basketball dynasty, having won three of the past five NBA titles. The Spurs haven't exactly turned heads with their play thus far, prompting some NBA pundits to proclaim their decline. San Antonio will take its game to another level over the second half of the season, as the team always seems to do. As long as the Big Three of Tim Duncan, Tony Parker and Manu Ginobili are healthy, the Spurs will remain the team to beat in the playoffs. The team is seeking to win back-to-back championships for the first time in franchise history.

The division rival Dallas Mavericks should have something to say about the Spurs' quest to repeat. Their meltdown in the playoffs last year, coupled with a drop-off in regular season performance compared to last year, has many skeptical about their title chances. Dallas fans, however, look at the positives from the first half of the season — Dirk Nowitzki's improved passing game, Devin Harris's all-around improvement, and the productivity off the bench.

The Dallas front-office should re sist pulling the trigger on any trade for All-Star Jason Kidd that involves giving up their talented, young point guard Kimberly E. Seara '08 takes the ball down the court against Jill Walsh of Babson College on Senior Night last Wednesday, the final home game of her career. The Engineers jumped out to a large lead early and held on in the final five minutes to win 52-49.