Removing Pass/NR

Improved Freshman Grades, CUP Reports

By Angeline Wang

Freshman grades have improved since the change from pass/no record grading to A/B/C/no record grading in the spring term, according to a report released last month by the Committee on the Undergraduate Program. But sophomore grade point averages for both fall and spring terms have remained constant since the change.

The report, which will be presented at tomorrow’s faculty meeting, recommends that the sophomore exploratory option be made permanent and that the system which flags poor academic performance during the fifth week of the freshman term be expanded to include upperclassmen.

The change to A/B/C/no record grading and the addition of the sophomore exploratory option “have provided a gradual transition from pass/no record to a student’s first term at MIT to full grades in the junior year, and this gradual transition has worked to the benefit of the majority of our students,” Professor Dennis M. Freeman PhD ’86, chair of the CUP, said in an e-mail.


Freshman grades improve with A/B/C/no record in spring

The change to A/B/C/no record grading for the freshman spring term began in academic years 2002-03. In September 2000, a subcommittee of CUP released a report that said pass/no record grading relieved the anxiety and pressure associated with the first year and let students explore extracurricular activities. The committee proposed A/B/C/no record grading for the spring term to help prepare students to receive grades in the sophomore year.

The new grading system was controversial. Some community members worried that the end of spring term pass/no record would not provide students adequate time to adjust to the academic rigor of MIT and would hurt participation in student activities.

While the 2008 CUP report says the change to A/B/C/no record in spring term pass/no record would not provide students adequate time to adjust to the academic rigor of MIT and would hurt participation in student activities.

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The change to A/B/C/no record grading, the committee states, will provide students with a “true measure of their academic progress.”

For the next two years, 57 future residents of W1 will live together in NW35

By Elijah Jordan Turner

For the Next Two Years, 57 Future Residents of W1 Will Live Together in NW35

The founders group will meet with the Class of 2010 and a challenge to participate in events. The committee focused on making sure that the Class of 2010 would be included in the benefit of the majority of our students.” Professor Dennis M. Freeman PhD ’86, chair of the CUP, said in an e-mail.

By Lulu Wang

A streamlined Brass Rat, featuring clear lettering and winks at Harry Potter and last year’s fire truck hack, was the star at a ceremony last night in Kresge Auditorium where the 2010 Ring Committee presented their design.

The class shank features a NASA space shuttle, a spiral galaxy, and the mythical three-headed dog Kerberos guarding the key to the Institute. The seal shank is anchored by an owl whose eyes spell out “punt” and “tool” and whose wings make out the Class of 2010.

MIT to Select Founders Group for W1

By Elijah Jordan Turner

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New Kennedy Artifacts Unlocked
By Benötzig

Silicon Valley Losing Mid-Wage Jobs
By John Markoff

Musharraf Receives Strong Rebuke in Pakistani Elections
By David Rohde

Facing Reckonings, Clinton and Obama Push Populist Projects
By John M. Broder and Jeff Zeleny

### Sunny Today But

#### Wet Pattern to Continue

**By Cégeon J. Chán**

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**Situation for Noon Eastern Standard Time, Tuesday, February 19, 2008**

**Extended Forecast**

Today: Mostly sunny with highs in the mid 40°F (°C). Winds 15-25 mph.

Tonight: Clear. Lows in the mid 20°F (-5°C).

Tomorrow: Mostly cloudy. Highs in the mid 30°F (-1°C).

Thursaday: Sunny and cold. Highs in the upper 20°F (-6°C).

Friday: Mostly cloudy. Snow likely. Highs in the mid 30°F (-1°C).

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The Kennedy assassination — a defining moment in American history and a never-ending topic of debate among conspiracy theorists — re-entered the spotlight for a moment Monday, after the Dallas district attorney released the contents of a safe that had been secret for more than 40 years.

Inside the clothing worn by Lee Harvey Oswald, a small, tooled leather holster belonging to his killer, Jack Ruby, and piles of typed, old, cradling documents. But nothing in the cache was likely to settle the longstanding dispute over President John F. Kennedy’s death. But the not-terribly-lifelike dialogue reads like a movie script — and may well have been. For example, Ruby responds to Oswald’s suggestion that they kill the president by saying, “But that wouldn’t be patriotic.”

### Musharraf Receives Strong Rebuke in Pakistani Elections

They arrived in small groups over the course of the day, defying religious militants who say Pakistan’s secular women should not be allowed to vote.

“We were thinking about not coming,” said Huma Shaker, 22, a college student who was visibly relieved after casting her ballot here Monday. “People are afraid of bombings, bombers’ suicide.”

Despite the deployment of 60,000 soldiers and police officers in Pakistan’s embattled North-West Frontier Province, threats from militants appear to have prevented thousands of women from casting their ballots there Monday, according to Pakistan election officials.

Over the past year, religious militants have made continuous headway in the province, carrying out suicide attacks and intimidating moderates. Election monitors in six polling stations specifically for women in Peshawar, the provincial capital, said 523 of 6,431 registered women had cast their ballots as of late Monday afternoon, a turnout of roughly 8 percent. Turnout among men was estimated at 20 percent across the province, low but still more than twice the estimated women’s level.

On Sunday night, militants posted signs in towns outside Peshawar warning candidates not to bring their female supporters to ballot booths. On Monday morning, elders in the Mattan district, just south of Peshawar, pulled 30 polling stations for women, according to local journalism.

In Peshawar, election officials said they believed some families had barred women from journeying to the polls out of fear they would be attacked.

“Some families stop the women,” said Naheed Begum, an election worker who said 72 of 1,500 women registered to vote in her polling station had actually cast ballots.

Urban voter turnout is often significantly lower than rural turnout in Pakistani elections. But election officials said they believed that a series of recent attacks — including an election rally suicide bombing that killed 47 people Saturday — had discouraged voters, male and female, from journeying to the polls.

Overall turnout in the province appeared to be roughly half of what it was during the country’s last national elections in 2002. Over the last year, the province has suffered attacks from Pakistani and foreign militants based in the adjoining Federally Administered Tribal Areas, a lawless strip of territory along the Pakistan-Afghanistan border.

The turnover in Peshawar, female voters and poll workers criticized the government. According to recent public opinion polls, religious extremists have grown increasingly unpopular in Pakistan as suicide bombings have increased.

Nasa Zhali, 37, a zoology pro-fessor who was working at a polling station, said Islam guaranteed wom-en the right to vote. Zhali, who is religiously observant, wears a black veil that covers her face except for her eyes — an unusual sight in Paki-stan, a religiously moderate society. Counting election results Wednesday night, she said militants were grossly misinterpreting her faith.

“These are terrorists. Our religion gives completely the right to vote to women.”

### Facing Reckonings, Clinton and Obama Push Populist Projects

Sess. Hillary Rodham Clinton, D-N.Y., and Barack Obama, D-Ill., intimated their populist appeals on Monday, responding to widespread economic apprehensions and the Democratic Party further from the business-friendly posture once championed by Bill Clinton.

Hillary Clinton, speaking on the eve of the Wisconsin primary but looking forward to primaries in Ohio and Texas on March 4, issued a 12-page compendium of her economic policies that emphasizes programs aiding families struck by high oil prices, home foreclosures, costly student loans and soaring health care premiums.

In public appearances here and in her economic booklet, she took aim at hedge fund managers, oil com-panies, profit, drug company subsidies and trade agreements that she says enrichment companies to export jobs.

Clinton told an audience that the Wisconsin primary and subsequent contests were “a chance for all of you here to help take our country back.”

Urban tax breaks for the mad-dle class, not for the wealthy and the well-connected,” she said Monday morning at St. Norbert College in De Pere, Wis. “We’re going to rein in the special interests and get the $55 billion in giveaways and subsidies that we’ve gotten under Republicans back into your pockets.”

Clinton referred to the “two oilmen in the White House” andrepeat-ed her call for a windfall-profits tax on the oil industry to finance a $50 billion program to develop alternate energy sources and create “green jobs.”

Campaigning in Ohio before fly-ing to Wisconsin for an election eve-ry rally, Obama said the wealth made “made out like bandits” under the Bush administration and called for tax breaks for companies that move jobs overseas.

“The last year alone,” Obama said, “oil plants have closed in this state. And yet, year after year, politi-cians in Washington sign trade agree-ments that are riddled with perks for big corporations but have absolutely no protections for American work-ers. It’s bad for our economy; it’s bad for our country.”

The two candidates’ tone was driven in part by the prospect of a repetition, which has in recent weeks shifted the focus of the presidential contest from war and terrorism to concerns much closer to home: jobs, foreclosures, energy and health care costs.
In Independence, Kosovo Finds Mix of Recognition, Rejection

By Nicholas Kulish and C.J. Chivers

Princeton to Offer Entering Students A Year Abroad Doing Social Service

By Karen A. Arenson

Kosovo won the recognition of the United Nations, the European Union, and most European allies on Monday, while careful to avoid the image of disengagement from Serbia, Russia and a disparate mix of states over the world that face their own internal challenges and hard times.

One day after the tiny Balkan province cast its lot with Europe, the rest of the world had its chance to choose sides. While some countries had made official statements, and others had made clear their position, of necessity, that did not lessen the drama of what an independent Kosovo would be welcomed into the fold or rejected.

Still, European powers, including France, Germany and Britain, along with the United States, officially recognized Kosovo, even as officials took pains to point out that it should not serve as an invitation or precedent for other groups hoping for separatist independence. That is because of one big unknown remains whether Kosovo’s declaration could redefine conflicts elsewhere, including in ethnically di

VOICES FROM KOSOVO

voices from Kosovo. Theirs was a work of reconstruction and readjustment, not of war.

After years of living under the threat of constant violence, residents of Kosovo find it hard to believe that they’ve finally achieved independence. They are still trying to come to terms with the past and to build a future for their children.

The road to independence was long and hard, but the people of Kosovo are now free to chart their own destiny. They are determined to make the most of their newfound freedom. The future of Kosovo is uncertain, but the people are determined to make the best of it.

Middle-Age Suicide Rate Increase Leaves Health Experts at a Loss

By Patricia Cohen

Shannon Neal can instantly tell you the best night of her life: Tues-
day, Dec. 18, 2007. Neal, a 34-year-old H manufactur ing
debutante ball. Her father, Steven Neal, was chairman and politi
columnist for The Chicago Sun-Times, was in his tax, white gloves and chauffeur-driven limousine when he took a little bow, she said, and then stepped out of the limousine and into it if the dance floor as they laughed and flew.

Just a few weeks later, Steven Neal parked his car in his garage, turned on the radio, and then turned off the world. In nearly every other age group. (All figures are adjusted for population.)

The New York Times

Pakistanis Oust Musharraf’s Party

Pakistanis Oust Musharraf’s Party

By Carlotta Sall

Pakistan drafted a crucial defeat for Prime Minister Musharraf in a parliamentary vote Monday, in what government and opposi
tion officials said was a firm rejection of his policies since 2001 and that could see him lose grip on power.

Almost all the leading figures in the Pakistan Muslim League-O, the party that has governed for the last five years under Musharraf, lost their seats in the vote and the new government includes parliament and six ministers.

The vote results were interpreted here as a repudiation of Musharraf as well as the Bush administration, which has staunchly backed Musharraf for more than six years as its best bet in the campaign against the Islamic militants in Pakistan. U.S. officials will have little choice now but to seek alternative allies from among the new political forces emerging from the vote.

Pakistanis Oust Musharraf’s Party

By Joe Lapierre

In one-hour news conference on Monday that neither he used the word “crisis” to describe the situation, Musharraf’s aides say Pakistan has not yet fully identifie

Petitjean apologized for using HGH

In a one-hour news conference on Monday that neither he used the word “crisis” to describe the situation, Musharraf’s aides say Pakistan has not yet fully identified the extent of the problem. Musharraf has said he will not run for re-election in presidential elections next year, but he has not spoken recently with Roger Clemens, his friend, former teammate and now awkward rival.

When President George Bush stood beside Sen. John Mc

Kosovo...
Opinion

Letters To The Editor

The Feb. 12, 2008 article “Green Hall Residents Will Leave In Fall and Thetas Will Move In” incorrectly stated that fewer beds will be available to undergraduates in fall 2008 after Senior Sense ends. In fact, the same number of beds will be available. Though 103 fewer beds in graduate dormitories will be offered to undergraduates, Green Hall will provide housing for 46 Kappas and 26 Theta members, and 64 and 78 spaces have been reserved in new graduate dormitory NW35 for students who will eventually occupy W1 when it becomes an undergraduate residence.

In spite of all this, MIT is yet to join Stanford University in joining the Bay Area California Institute of Technology, Berkeley, the National Academies of Engineering and Science, and five MIT Faculty Nobel laureates in promoting policies to compete to participate in a televised science debate. MIT will be able to participate in this debate in this matter. Our institution is universally recognised as the premier science and engineering university in the world. Hence, this failure adds credibility to a movement yet to gain traction outside the science community. I hope that in the coming months President Hockfield, the faculty, and students formally express their sup- port for the idea.

Since my graduation in June, MIT has made plenty of headlines: fraudulent staff, incorrect reporting of SAT scores, and jokes at the airport. Perhaps it’s time that we give MIT a positive contribution to the national news.

Brian A. Wil ‘07

You Zhou

As we students enjoy a passing resemblance to having lives and would be delighted to contribute meaningfully to MIT’s decisions regarding how student life— that is to say, housing and living— should be run. Many students were concerned about the loss of tradition, and then-undergraduate Association President Sankaran said that “the students in Senior House and East Campus weren’t consulted in this decision at all” (The Tech, Nov. 8, 1994). According to Sankaran, then-Senior Associate Director of Residencelifeindy G said he would not want student input after the proposal has been accepted. However, many graduate students have said they “would like to be involved in the decision making process” and graduate students feel that they were “left out of the process altogether” (The Tech, Oct. 28, 2006). It is true that graduate students were not involved in the initial decision making process and that they were not consulted by the administration later met with graduate students. Nonetheless, students were convinced otherwise (The Tech, March 23, 2001), a decision that made students feel that they did not have a say in the matter.

In 2008, MIT informed Green Hall graduate residents that they would have to move out of Green Hall and to plan the move of Green Hall dormitory residents to a new graduate dorm to replace Ashdown House, some dorms would become conference houses and other dorms would be turned into conference houses and “residence houses” (The Tech, March 9, 2004). In 2008, MIT informed Green Hall graduate residents that they would have to move out of Green Hall and to plan the move of Green Hall dormitory residents to a new graduate dorm to replace Ashdown House, some dorms would become conference houses and “residence houses” (The Tech, March 9, 2004).

In 2006, when MIT planned to construct a new graduate dorm to replace Ashdown House, some students expressed anger that they had been left in the dark for several months and had not been asked for input before the dorm opened in 2006. Later, administrators agreed to receive more student input. All students were not even notified (The Tech, Feb. 26, 1996).

In 1998, the announcement that all fresh- men would be housed in East Campus starting in 2001 “came as a surprise” to Duane H. Dreger ‘99, then-president of the Interfraternity Council (The Tech, Aug. 26, 1998). In 2006, several letters to the editor of The Tech highlighted the importance of student input. Stone College students were convinced otherwise (The Tech, March 23, 2001).

In 2004, a summer housing task force pro- posed dividing undergraduate dormitories into “conference houses” and “residence houses”; students would be kicked out of the former for the summer to make way for visitors. For stu- dents, the decision was “very advanced” (The Tech, Nov. 8, 1994).

In 1995, the Strategic Housing Planning Committee recommended Ashdown House be converted to undergraduate housing and its residents be moved to a new dorm at the end of the year. Although the dorm was available for temporary housing for Orientation week, and heavy con- struction near the end of term began at 7:30 a.m. Students were not even notified (The Tech, Feb. 26, 1996).

In 2007, rumors surfaced that Burton-Con- nor’s kitchens would be removed and replaced with underground rooms. Though the admin- istration promised that rumors were baseless, wary undergraduates, aware of what had come to pass about NW35, started petitions and bills in the US Senate, describing the kitchens as “idi- omatic points” of community (The Tech, March 6, 2007).

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If a secondary theme can be perceived un- der the astounding profusion of poor decision-making, it is a sense of how society’s way of perceiving its individual experiences.

Whether it is a stochastic-turing awareness of engaging students in fruitful discussion, a long- ing to join the academy, or an inscrutable smugness at the airport, perhaps it’s time that we give MIT a positive contribution to the national news.

Zhou is a member of the Class of 2007 and a current graduate student.

Letters To The Editor

The Tech’s telephone number is (617) 253-1541. E-mail is the easiest way to reach us. You can leave your name and phone number on a voice-mail message or e-mail us at thetech@technote.org. Letters to the editor should be sent to letters@the-tech.mit.edu. Please send press releases requests, coverage, and information about errors that call for correction to news@the-tech.mit.edu. The Tech can be found on the World Wide Web at http://www.the-tech.mit.edu.
My host family and I spent an evening playing with a digital camera and projecting photos on our television. Shown here, my host sister is dressed in Western clothing.

By Michael Lin

February 19, 2008

There are an awful lot of student organizations available at MIT, but for a school as unusual as ours, they start to seem a little boisterous. I suppose I really don’t need an authority on student clubs here, since the only thing I’m a card-carrying member of is Blockbuster, but even so, I can’t help but feel like we could be more directive and less objectionable — no offense meant to the Twiddlytows group.

After all, prospective engineers seem to be becoming less and less conscious of the strength of our educational program and more and more focused by the strength of our culture. We are perceived as so bizarre that we get credit for originality that isn’t ours. The only way I would classify a person as being a part of the “scene” would be to pass a pair of prospective students in Lobby 7 who seemed convinced that “The Vagina Monologue” was an MIT-born show. (It’s not.) This begs the question: why aren’t we doing more to distinguish ourselves from other top-tier schools? In a sense, I mean, besides looking at the floors of all our new architecture and putting cop cars and cows atop the old architecture, am I well-aware that no school in the galaxy could hold a candle up to us — but for some reason or another, we haven’t been able to convince everyone else.

Once I spoke with a woman who had a choice between MIT and another school. MIT sent her a Valentine’s Day card, the other school didn’t. These images which school she decided to attend. Bearing that in mind, in the same spirit of caring and compassion for the individual, I think we could afford a few more clubs and student groups of the sort that will illustrate both how much our students’ needs matter to us as well how unique we are. As a matter of fact, I already have a few possible ideas for new clubs here.

In keeping with MIT’s stirring reputation as a haven for geeks and nerds, I wouldn’t say no to a “Nobel Laureate Trading Card Game” — after all, considering how many of our alumni have won Nobel prizes, one might argue we deserve such a club more than anyone else. (Harvard may have more Nobel laureates than we do, but they are as dedicated to trading baseball cards as we are? I don’t think so.)

Or what about a Noise “Scratching” Anonymous organization to help people with a tragic and slightly off-putting addiction? Say all you want about “It was a scratch, not a pick!” — we can’t have such a club any more than anyone else. (Harvard may have more Nobel laureates than we do, but they are as dedicated to trading baseball cards as we are? I don’t think so.)

Perhaps most important would be the Video Game Injuries Clinic. Aside from the usual sprains and catches in steel medication, the clinic’s services will probably begin to in-finge on the borders of the field of traditional sports medicine, icing down hands and feet, and stocking plenty of knee and elbow braces. I love Nintendo as much as the next person, but the advent of the Wii has overstretched the evening prospect of crippling more geeks than it creates. Don’t even get me started on those among Dance Dance Revolution players burdened with an overabundance of confidence in their own coordination.

That was just a taste of the possibilities for proving the life of those already here, reaching out to those who have not yet been assimilated, and ensuring that the Institute’s place as one of the most culturally distinct institutions on the planet. We may not be as high-class as some other colleges — but that’s what makes us special.

The Nobel Laureate Trading Card Game is not an actual card game, so be aware that any attempt to find it will end in considerable laughter at your expense. Invest it, however, and you get a cookie.
Crossword Puzzle

ACROSS
1. Naval engineer
2. Angel’s prop
3. CPR specialist
4. Imbue with spiritual awareness
5. Banned spray
6. Old card game
7. Aiming high
8. Fla. neighbor
9. Compere
10. Ecuador’s capital
11. CPR specialist
12. Aiming high
13. Old card game
14. Banned spray
15. Very rare event
16. Aiming high
17. Old card game
18. Saudi Arabian city
19. Very rare event
20. Old card game
21. Aiming high
22. Old card game
23. Very rare event
24. Old card game
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DOWN
1. C crop
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5. C crop
6. C crop
7. C crop
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9. C crop
10. C crop
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30. C crop

Instructions: Fill in the grid so that each column, row, and 3 by 3 grid contains exactly one of each of the digits 1 through 9.
Solution on page 10.

Sudoku

© Puzzles by Pappocom

9 3
2 5
8 6
4
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2 8 3
4
5
9 3
5
3
7
9
1
5

Solution tips and computer program at http://www.sudokucup.com
Blobbles is the comic where you, yes you, make the titles! If you want a comic made out of your title, send a short caption to blobbles@tech.mit.edu. With a little bit of luck, you may very well see your title being acted out in the next edition of The Tech by cute little blobbles!
Students May Find Twenty ‘10’s Hidden In 2010 Class Ring

Students at the ring premiere received the design warmly. “Our ring will be very fun to look at in the future, from counting the ‘10’s in class to agreeing with the ‘IHTFP’ in the skyline,” said Catherine Melnikow ’10.

Headed by Laura E. Aust, the committee consists of Mani, Adam M. Blackwau, Arina H. Reynolds, Claire J. Maximal, Diaz, Kimberly A. Brink, Nicholas A. Souza, Ritu Tendon, Raymond R. Ma, and Emily J. Onufer.

Although gold prices have increased by about 50 percent in the past year, the price of this year’s Brass Rat was not affected by the gold price increase. “The price of the ring is under contract, so it was determined beforehand. Next year’s ring will be impacted though,” said Nancy Whooley, a Balfour representative.

A 14-karat Brass Rat costs about 10 percent more compared with last year’s prices.

More information about the ring can be found online at http://web.mit.edu/2010ringcomm/.
TECHNOLOGY ASSOCIATE INTERNSHIPS

Resume Drop Deadline - TODAY

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that the change to A/B/C/no record grading has reduced failing performance (D’s or F’s) for freshmen in both semesters (see graphics on page 11), the cause of the improvement is unclear.

Freshmen may be doing better because they anticipate spring term A/B/C/no record grading. The change may also be linked to other changes in the freshman experience — most notably, the requirement since fall 2001 that freshmen live in dormitories.

While freshman grades have improved, sophomore GPAs have remained constant at around 4.2. The report says that the A/B/C/no record change has helped accomplished their original goal of helping students to transition into the sophomore year.

In an e-mail, Freeman said he was concerned about some of his committee's numerical results appearing in a newspaper article. "MIT never released permanent grades (such as average GPAs) for audiences outside MIT," Freeman said. "The reasons for this are obvious: MIT grades are not comparable and should not be compared to grades at other institutions. The CUP report is intended for the MIT community and access to its report is restricted to the MIT community."

The change in grading policy not only affected students' GPAs but also the classes freshmen took in the spring. The 2000 CUP subcontract found that freshmen were eager to take academic subjects for which they lacked qualifications, in particular Thermodynamics & Kinetics (5.60), Structure & Interpretation of Computer Programs (6.001), Circuits & Electronics (6.011) and Mechanics and Materials I (2.001).

According to the 2000 report, fewer freshmen have enrolled in 5.602 and 5.603 since the change to A/B/C/no record. "It is the sense of the Chemistry faculty that the changes to freshman grading are the main reason that freshman enrollment in 5.60 has declined, and they view this as a threat of a downward change," the report says.

Although fewer freshmen are taking some difficult courses, more students are choosing to leave behind their "pass/fail" grades altogether; the number of students electing sophomore standing has increased dramatically since the change to A/B/C/no record grading.

According to the report, between 23 and 26 students elected sophomore standing before the grading change; an average of 167 students elected sophomore standing after the change.

Letters grades for MIT freshmen were first eliminated a plain/fail policy adopted as an experiment in 1968. This policy was changed to pass/no record and made permanent by the faculty in 1971.

CUP recommends permanent exploratory option

The sophomore exploratory option, a five-year experiment of the CUP, began the year after A/B/C/no record was adopted. Sophomores can declare one subject per semester "exploratory" and change its status to "satisfactory" — effectively holding their grade in the subject — any time before the next semester.

The report recommends that the sophomore exploratory experiment be made a permanent option beginning in fall 2008.

According to the report, 25-30 percent of sophomores designated a subject as exploratory each semester between fall 2003 and spring 2007. This figure rose only slightly to 35 percent in fall 2008. The Sophomore Exploratory Option is well used and valued as a means to try ambitious subjects (both in the major and in potential minors and majors) without having to worry about possible negative effects on grades," Freeman said in an e-mail.

According to a survey conducted by the Teaching and Learning Laboratory in March 2005, 65 percent of surveyed students did choose to designate a subject as exploratory because it would not hurt their GPA if they did poorly, however, 75 percent of respondents would have still taken the subject had it not been exploratory. Moreover, only 36 percent felt it was related to their interest in a minor or second degree, and only 11 percent went on to change their major between sophomore and junior years.

Declaring a subject exploratory costs nothing and can only help one's academic record. So why do two-thirds of undergraduates not bother to do it? The CUP report suggests that one answer is poor communication about the benefits.

The report recommends that MIT expand its fifth-week flag system to include undergraduates "as part of a robust and holistic advising system." The system, first presented to the faculty in spring 1995, is meant to identify poor academic performance early in the semester so that freshmen can successfully seek help early in the term.

The Office of the Dean for Undergraduate Education is working on a plan to expand the system through MIT's Student Information Systems, according to Freeman. The fifth-week flag system is currently administered for freshmen by the Office of Undergraduate Advising and Academic Programming. Since 2000, the UAAP has built a database containing over 3,000 flags and has followed up more aggressively with flagged freshmen, according to the CUP report.

The report says that changes at MIT have led to more flagged students recovering their grades. The average recovery rate for academic year 2000-01 was 53.5 percent; the recovery rate for 2005-06 was 71.55 percent.

The percentage of D’s and F’s received by freshmen has generally dropped in the past few years, while the percentage received by sophomores has stayed constant. In 2004, grading for freshmen during the spring term changed from pass/no record to A/B/C/no record.

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W1 Founders Group
Will Examine Yale, Stanford Dormitories

Applications for this founders group were originally due tomorrow, but the deadline was extended to Monday, Feb. 25. Students may pick up an application at a meeting to be held in the W1 Hilszster Room on Thursday, Feb. 21 at 6 p.m. or by e-mailing w1foundersgroup@mit.edu. The application process for the other residents will come later.

Only about a dozen students went to a planning meeting on Feb. 11; another meeting for those interested in being part of the founders group will be held this Thursday. The deadline was set early because architects of the W1 project will visit campus on March 14, Associate Dean for Residential Life Donna M. Denoncourt told the Dormitory Council at its Feb. 13 meeting.

The price of housing for the fifty undergraduates living in NW35 next year has not been confirmed, but Flynn and Carroll said that they hoped the prices would be competitive with other undergraduate dorms. “No one should be priced out [of the founders group],” Flynn said.

Graduate students will pay $1,078, $1,024, or $960 per month to rent rooms with the same layout as those reserved for undergraduates, according to the Housing Web site.

When W1 reopens in about 2010, it will be the largest undergraduate dormitory, offering approximately 400 residents.

David Nawi, 2/15/2007

Nature is God’s Will and is its expression in and through the contingent world…. It is endowed with a power whose reality men of learning fail to grasp.

--Bahá’u’lláh

MIT Bahá’í Association

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Good luck on the campaign trail!
P/T Project Openings

Web Content Editor – Site Designer (nontechnical)

Optoacoustic Device Designer (technical)
We’re filing a provisional patent application on a personal-safety device (the Sonic Flashlight) that can disorient animal or human aggressors. How much brighter and louder could—or should—we make it?
$16–$18/hr (starting); 3–10 hr/wk as your schedule permits.

Our venture partnership grew out of a project by the MIT Crime Club. We became the primary Fall 2007 study case for Sloan seminar SEM.089, Starting Up New Technology-Based Business Enterprises at MIT.

E-mail us for details or visit our open house Wed., Feb. 20, 6:00–8:00 pm Stratton Student Ctr. lounge next to Room 301 –pizza & refreshments–
Menand Remembered as Passionate, Political Professor

Dr. Menand joined the MIT administration in 1968 as assistant to the provost and later served as special assistant to the provost until retiring in 1988. At a school known for producing top-notch engineers, mathematicians, and scientists, he emphasized the ripple effect that his students’ work would have on society.

“Louis himself was a humanist’s humanist,” said Charles H. Stewart III, head of MIT’s political science department. “What Louis worried most about was that MIT had a soul and a social conscience. He was great at teaching undergraduates because he knew that they wanted to make a difference in the world and make it a better place. … He challenged students in very effective ways to think about the linkages, what was happening in their lives with science and technology, and how that relates to politics and government and human rights.”

Philip S. Khoury, associate provost and history professor at MIT, said, “He was always conscious about the moral fiber of MIT — how do you keep this remarkable culture we’ve got together and not let it unravell?”

Stepping off campus, Dr. Menand could shrug off his professorial demeanor and slip into his other passions for music and nature.

“In every intellectual endeavor he was all about reason,” his son said, “and yet he had this enormous love for opera, which is all about irrational desire.”

And at his house on Moose Mountain, Dr. Menand was content to be still and listen to the sounds emerging from the panorama of nature.

“He loved the place that we had in New Hampshire mainly because of the view of the mountains. He was a mountain person,” said his daughter, Constance Margowsky of Somersworth, N.H. “He just spent hours gazing out at the mountains, and I would sit there gazing with him.”

The respite afforded by the rural retreat may have reminded Dr. Menand of his childhood, his family said. He was born in Menands, N.Y., a village north of Albany that is named for his great-grandfather, Brock Menand of Hammonton, N.J., where he met Kay Shults, and at Vassar College in Poughkeepsie, N.Y., where he met Kay Shults, whom he married in 1949.

“I took a course from him my senior year in college — it was like one of those magazine stories,” she said with a chuckle. “It was a very romantic course — public administration.”

She added, “He’s utterly charming, you know. He was just a wonderful guy who got nicer the longer you knew him.”

Dr. Menand was dean of Bradford College in England from 1956 to 1966, then joined the administration of President Lyndon B. Johnson, working with the Office for Economic Opportunity on Upward Bound. A program that helped prepare economically disadvantaged high school students for college. Within two years, Dr. Menand’s moral compass led him away from Washington.

“He resigned from that because he found Johnson’s policy in Vietnam so abhorrent that he couldn’t work for the administration,” said his son, a Harvard professor who lives in Cambridge.

Indeed, Dr. Menand found himself protesting policies set in motion by the president he had served.

“He took me to my first peace march in Washington,” Nicholas Brock Menand of Hamilton, N.J., said of his father. “You wouldn’t know it to look at him — he was a very distinguished looking man, very Ivy League — but he was very much a populist.”

And yet, Dr. Menand’s unassuming adherence to values and political views never kept him from delighting in life, or being playful. “I won’t forget the last time I saw him, a few years ago,” Gruber said. “The first thing he said when he saw me was, ‘I’m worried your hair is cut too short. You’re getting too conservative with that short hair.’”

“He embraced this idea of being a good man, so that you never have anything to regret,” his wife said. “And you know, I don’t think he had any bad memories.”

In addition to his wife, two sons, and daughter, Dr. Menand leaves three grandsons and one granddaughter.

A service at MIT will be announced.

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Ramya Sankar—The Tech

Actor Christopher Walken is presented with Hasty Pudding Theatricals’ “Man of the Year” Award in a ceremony on Feb. 15 in New College Theatre at Harvard University. The presentation was followed by the Hasty Pudding Theatrical Club’s presentation of “Fable Attraction.”

The last challenge of a socially conscious society?

Depression strikes millions—indecisively. Depression is simply a suppression of brain activity that makes life unbearable. And even though depression is reputation-damaging, why not just drag oneself along or eventually seek relief through suicide? First, there’s the lack of awareness of depression—so an illness and as the threat that it can to each and every one of us. It’s the disease where we say, “Suicide? You know, the mental illness. It’s like to societally face depression. To know it’s on, I don’t see a solution. And it’s a challenge that’s long overdue. It’s taken too many of us already.”


This space donated by The Tech
How could a good God allow suffering?

Dr. TIM KELLER, Author and Speaker
Tuesday, February 26th
7 PM in 26-100

Tim Keller, Speaker
Founder, Redeemer Presbyterian Church
Author, The Reason for God
SCOREBOARD

Men's Basketball
Saturday, Feb. 16, 2008
MIT (12-12, 3-8 NEWMAC*) 46
Worcester Polytechnic Institute (18-5, 9-1) 81

Women's Basketball
Saturday, Feb. 16, 2008
MIT (12-11, 4-7) 54
Wellesley College (6-15, 5-8) 48

Men's Gymnastics
Saturday, Feb. 16, 2008
Temple University (8-1) 339.450
Springfield College (1-2) 329.600
MIT (0-3) 311.800

Women's Gymnastics
Saturday, Feb. 16, 2008
MIT (6-8) 180.775
Rhode Island College (1-10) 169.125
Boston University 139.423

Men's Ice Hockey
Saturday, Feb. 16, 2008
MIT (12-3-1, 8-2-0 NECHA Conf. A East) 3
Westfield State College (8-6-2) 1

Women's Ice Hockey
Saturday, Feb. 16, 2008
MIT (1-15-2, 1-14-2) 2
Castleton State College (5-13-3, 4-9-3) 2

Men's Squash
Friday, Feb. 15, 2008
MIT 7
Kenyon College 2

Saturday, Feb. 16, 2008
University of California, Berkeley 6

Sunday, Feb. 17, 2008
MIT 8
Boston College

Men's Volleyball
Thursday, Feb. 14, 2008
After winning 3-0 over Emmanuel College, the Engineers swept Springfield College (0-22) 3-0, Castleton State College (5-13-3, 4-9-3) 3-0, and MIT (10-6, 6-2 NECV A NE) 3-0.

Women's Volleyball
Thursday, Feb. 14, 2008
MIT (10-6, 6-2 NECHA NE) 3
Rivier College (9-6, 3-4) 1

Wrestling
Friday, Feb. 15, 2008
U.S. Coast Guard Academy (3-12) 31
Western New England College (5-9) 46
MIT (0-22) 6

UPCOMING HOME EVENTS
Tuesday, Feb. 19, 2008
Men's Volleyball vs. Emmanuel College 6 p.m., Rockwell Cage

Wednesday, Feb. 20, 2008
Men's Basketball vs. Clark University 7 p.m., Rockwell Cage
Men's Ice Hockey vs. Boston College 7 p.m., Johnson Ice Arena

SPORTS

Baseball Has Lost Focus: It's Time To Talk About Policy, Not Clemens

By Shreyes Seshasai

Why is it that baseball fans care more about finding truth in the past than building trust for the future? Will accomplish- ing the former really help the latter, or is this constant questioning of honesty purely driven from the anger caused by one of our heroes (potentially) cheating?

After watching Roger Clemens testify before the House Committee on Over- sight and Government Reform last week, only one thing is clear to me: baseball and the media have both lost focus. The longer we continue diving deeper into the controversy, the longer baseball delays what it truly needs to do: earn back the trust of its fans.

Based on the information that has come out since the Mitchell Report was released, things are not looking good for Clemens. I’m not saying that I think Cle- mens used steroids. It’s hard to know ex- actly what to believe. But to be honest, I don’t really care. What Clemens and other ball players might or might not have done years ago is irrelevant to the integrity of players today.

As a fan, I really want to believe that Ryan Howard, Matt Holliday, Prince Fielder, and all of the other sluggers dominating today’s game are not taking performance-enhancing drugs. How will uncovering old secrets about Clemens help me trust these young players?

The only man who can win me over is Bud Selig. The commissioner has had time to review the recommendations made in the Mitchell Report, and it is about time he starts taking action. The players’ union and the league have to col- laborate on a drug policy that fans believe will actually work. I understand it’s hard to let go of the past. Seeing my childhood hero’s name, Lenny Dykstra, appear in the Mitchell Report was not easy, and I admit the Phillips’ 1993 run last season was last. For the millions of fans who admired Clemens for his perfor- mance both on and off of the field, I can understand that it’s difficult to entertain the notion that all this time he may have been cheating you out of legitimate baseball.

Regardless, it’s time to move on. As Clemens said in his statement to the com- mittee, “No matter what we discuss here today, I am never going to have my name restored.” Let’s stop worrying about whether Clemens deserves to be in the Hall of Fame. If Mark McGwire’s poor showing this year is any indication of how voters will treat alleged steroid users, it may be too late for Clemens. Let’s start worrying about how we can ensure that the integrity of the future of the game is protected.

Remember the summer of 1998? All of America was absorbed in the pursuit of one of the most memorable records in baseball, the single-season home run record. Over the summer, McGwire and Sammy Sosa would provide some of the most memorable moments in the history of the sport, bringing an unmatched level of excitement and interest to the game for that generation.

Fast-forwarding to this past summer, Barry Bonds was finishing a chase of his own, culminating in his 756th career home run that broke Hank Aaron’s all-time re- cord. What should have been the highlight of the summer was instead an awkward, bittersweet final record — one that’s meaningless — event that felt nothing like ‘98.

How many more moments like this is baseball going to lose? Every time a re- cord is broken, will fans simply clap for a few minutes and then begin questioning the validity of the achievement?

Deciding how to acknowledge the ac- complishments from the Steroids Era is important, but it is secondary to ensuring that future fans are not mired in the same shadow of doubt that people such as Cle- mens and Bonds have created. A stronger, more transparent drug policy with greater player education and cooperation may not solve this problem, but it’s a start.

It may be a while before fans can feel as good as they felt watching baseball back in the day when everyone was igno- rant of steroid use. But for the sake of the game, let’s stop worrying about Clemens and start making progress where it actu- ally counts.

—Shreyes Seshasai, Sports Editor

The Tech’s Athlete of the Week: Timothy F. Pier ’08

Timothy F. Pier ’08 clinched an individual spot in the United States Collegiate Ski and Snowboard Association Eastern Regional Champi- onship this weekend, loosing Kenyon College 7-2. Lorenzing to the University of California, Berkeley 3-6, and ending with an 8-1 victory over Boston College.

Sophia L. Harrison ‘08 maneuvers between the uneven bars at the women’s gymnastics meet on Feb. 16. Harrison finished first in the uneven bars with a score of 9.450 on her way to winning the all-around competition (38.725), followed by fellow senior Sar- ah N. Trowbridge ‘08 who placed second (35.950).

Pier entered the competition only a single point behind of his nearest competitor, but secured his spot by finishing sev- enth in the slalom (1:35.35) and ninth on the second day (1:31.88).

Pier finished the regular season ranked 11th in the league to lead the Engineers. He competes in the Eastern Regional race at Waterville Valley this upcoming weekend with a chance to advance to the national championship by finishing as the top individual from a non-qualifying team.

The men’s alpine skiing team finished the regular season ranked sixth in the MacConnell Division of the Eastern Collegiate Ski Confer- ence, falling just short of qualifying for the regionals as a team.

The women’s team placed ninth.

—Shreyes Seshasai, Sports Editor

Ultra Made for the back. Co-captain Balaji V. Sridhar ’09 reaches for a shot in the squash team’s final match of the year against Boston College. MIT participated in the College Squash Association Team Nationals this weekend, loosing Kenyon College 7-2. Lorenzing to the University of California, Berkeley 3-6, and ending with an 8-1 victory over Boston College.