

## Students Form New Dining Comm.

By Emily Prentice  
STAFF REPORTER

The Undergraduate Association Senate passed legislation on Monday night creating a new UA Dining Proposal Committee charged with recommending “a comprehensive program that meets the needs of the MIT community,” according to the bill. The new committee will consist entirely of students and will develop a dining proposal at the same time the Blue Ribbon Committee on Dining, charged by the MIT administration with re-envisioning dining at MIT, aims to develop its own.

The UA Senate also passed legislation requiring that the Blue Ribbon Committee on Dining release raw data from a student dining survey collected by its consultant, Envision Strategies, “for the purpose of allowing independent analysis.” The data is currently only available in summary form.

In response to this bill, the Blue Ribbon Committee on Dining met on Thursday night and agreed to submit a recommendation to Dean for Stu-

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PERRY HUNG—THE TECH

**Institute Professor and Associate Provost for Faculty Equity Barbara H. Liskov of the Electrical Engineering and Computer Science Department won the 2009 Association for Computing Machinery's A.M. Turing Award, one of the highest honors in computer science, for her work on the theory of programming languages and system design. Liskov was the first woman to earn a computer science PhD in the U.S.**

## Men's Basketball Cements Legacy with Historic Run

By Caroline Huang  
CONTRIBUTING EDITOR

Four years ago, MIT basketball players planned to make history. This year, they made it.

When James M. “Jimmy” Bartolotta '09, Willard J. “Billy” Johnson

'09, and Bradley H. Gampel '09 entered MIT in the fall of 2005, the MIT men's basketball team had an ambitious goal in mind: “We committed to each other that we would

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## Amherst Alley Steam Leak to Be Repaired This Summer

A steam leak under Amherst Alley between Burton-Conner and the tennis bubble will be repaired this summer, but until then, steel plates will remain in the road covering the site of the leak.

Work began in the area to fix “what we thought was a relatively minor leak,” but turned out to be a break in the pipe's insulation jacket, said Randall D. Preston, Director of Utilities for Facilities. It was a “bigger problem than we originally thought,” he said.

Preston said that the problems have not affected the heat or hot water services the steam provides.

The repair work would take about two months to complete and would cost about \$300,000.

There are two options for the repair, Preston said. Facilities could replace the piping in the trench, or they could re-route that section of steam pipe.

Preston said that Facilities would probably have to replace sections of piping to the west of Burton-Conner in the future, but that there are no definitive plans to do so. They have not yet determined what will be replaced when.

Amherst Alley is the extension of Amherst Street west of Massachusetts Avenue in front of dorm row.

—John A. Hawkinson

## In Short

¶ PE Registration is open for Quarter 4 Classes at <http://www.mitpe.com/> through March 18. Classes fill on a first-come first-serve basis. Graduate students may register beginning March 16. Classes begin on April 1.

¶ A woman was robbed Wednesday evening at the Bank of America ATM at Vassar St. and Massachusetts Ave.

The suspect was unarmed and described as a tall, thin white male in his late teens or early twenties.

¶ Lost your bike? Was it outside the Student Center when new racks were installed? You can retrieve your bike by bringing your MIT ID to 290 Albany Street on March 13, March 20, or March 27 between 10:00 a.m. and 2:30 p.m.

## MIT Libraries Lays Off Staff, Plans to Close Two Branches

By Arkajit Dey  
NEWS AND FEATURES DIRECTOR

Facing Institute-mandated budget cuts, the MIT Libraries are planning to close two branch libraries, Lindgren Library, which serves the Earth, Atmospheric, and Planetary Sciences Department, and the Aeronautics and Astronautics Library. Some staff have received advance notice of layoffs or hour reductions that will take effect at the end of the fiscal year.

According to a Libraries staffer who asked to remain anonymous for lack of explicit permission to speak with the press, around 15 to 20 MIT Libraries staff members may be affected by the budget cuts: six people are to be laid off and the others face diminished hours or pay. The layoffs were not limited to just the closing libraries, but also affected the Institute Archives, Acquisitions and Licensing Services and Rotch Library. Some staffers were offered transfers to other libraries.

The source also said that there would be other cuts in the MIT Libraries' budget as they face an Institute-mandated eighteen percent budget cut over the next three years, six percent each year.

MIT has publicly announced that it aims to cut the overall Institute budget by 15 percent.

In an e-mail to *The Tech*, Heather Denny, the MIT Libraries Communications Officer, said “the Libraries are facing budget reductions as part of the Institute-wide mandate to reduce General Institute Budget expenditures” in the next fiscal year.

Ann Wolpert, Director of Libraries, could not be reached for comment before this article's publication date. And saying it was “premature to issue a statement,” Denny was also unable to give specific details and could not confirm the layoffs.

Ian A. Waitz, Course XVI Department Head, met with Wolpert and Steven Gass, the Libraries' Director of Public Services, yesterday morning to discuss the possibility that the Aero-Astro library would be closed.

As he learned in the discussion, Waitz said the two libraries, Aero-Astro and Lindgren, were identified as “having very low people per hour rate” and therefore the Libraries are “trying to identify other ways” to offer those services.

At yesterday's meeting, Waitz said he shared his view about what “critical services” students needed, while the Libraries talked about the resource constraints they were facing. “There

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## Bringing a Bit of MIT to Space

Astronaut Greg Chamitoff Discusses Half a Year on the International Space Station

By Ramya Sankar  
CONTRIBUTING EDITOR

Space, at first glance, was “hard to look at,” said Greg E. Chamitoff PhD '92. Exciting as it may have been to travel out of this world and fulfill a childhood dream to become an astronaut, “when you first get up there you are not feeling good so it is hard to look at it at first,” he said.

Once he settled into the new environment, the view of Earth outside the window became clearer: “You know what it looks like — you've seen it in science fiction movies, pretty darn good rendering of it — but it's confirmation that this is really the way the world is.”

And, beyond that, he said, “You realize how vulnerable [the Earth] is at the same time. You see it by itself, just like you are floating by yourself.”

The Course 16 PhD alumnus returned from half a year aboard the International Space Station in mid-December, 2008. On a visit to MIT this week, he recounted his experience on the Space Station working as a flight engineer and NASA science officer alongside partners from Russia and Japan.

Aboard the Space Station, Chamitoff worked on several projects, including one that aims to allow satellites to autonomously avoid collisions. The project utilized special test satellites designed by the MIT Space Systems Laboratory.

Life in space was not all work and



COURTESY OF NASA

**Astronaut Gregory E. Chamitoff PhD '92 poses with a picture of MIT's Aeronautics and Astronautics Department aboard the International Space Station during his time in orbit last year.**

no play: an avid chess player, Chamitoff took aboard with him a chessboard on which he used Velcro to attach pieces. He started playing a game against the various control centers.

“It was a disadvantage to [the control centers] because they couldn't coordinate [with each other] but if they lost

Chamitoff, Page 16

We've gotten thinner! Starting with this issue, *The Tech* is printed by Mass Web Printing Company.

The printed portion of the page has not changed size, but the margins have decreased.

If you notice anything amiss in the printing or delivery of your newspaper, write to [general@tech.mit.edu](mailto:general@tech.mit.edu).

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# WORLD & NATION

## Senior Aide to Saddam Hussein Sentenced to 15 Years

By Marc Santora  
THE NEW YORK TIMES

BAGHDAD

Tariq Aziz, the senior aide to Saddam Hussein who gained international renown as the public face of Iraq during the Persian Gulf War in 1991, was sentenced to 15 years in prison on Wednesday for crimes against humanity.

Two of Saddam's half brothers, Watban Ibrahim al-Hassan and Sabawi Ibrahim al-Hassan, were sentenced to death in the same case, the 1992 executions of 42 Baghdad merchants accused of speculating on the price of food while the country was under severe international sanctions after its invasion of neighboring Kuwait.

It is the second verdict to be issued in a case involving Aziz, 73. Earlier this month he was acquitted on charges of ordering a brutal crackdown against Shiite protesters after the assassination of a revered cleric. He still faces charges in a third trial involving a massacre of Kurds in 1983.

In the Gulf War, he rejected a last-minute overture from President George H.W. Bush for talks, citing what he called the American leader's humiliating tone.

## Value of Suing Over 9/11 Deaths Is Still Unsettled

By Benjamin Weiser  
THE NEW YORK TIMES

More than seven years after the 9/11 terror attacks, a new court report suggests that the small minority who went their own way and sued made out better financially than those who received awards from the special fund to compensate survivors and victims' families.

With respect to the lawsuits, 93 of the 96 claims have been settled, for an average of \$5 million, or more than twice the average payment from the special fund.

But calculating cost and benefit is never easy when lives are involved. If anything, the report, released last week by U.S. District Judge Alvin K. Hellerstein of the Southern District of New York, who has overseen the lawsuits, refocuses attention on the variety of goals money, answers, justice, peace of mind that survivors and the relatives of those who died had to weigh in the wake of an overwhelming loss. Many families chose the fund because it offered a relatively quick resolution — the process was completed within 33 months. A vast majority sought compensation from the fund, which paid out more than \$7 billion to survivors of 2,880 people who were killed and to thousands of others who were injured.

## Europe Slow on Economy, Some Say

By Nelson D. Schwartz  
THE NEW YORK TIMES

PARIS

As the evidence of economic pain mounts in Europe, a growing number of analysts say the Continent's leaders are reacting too slowly.

On Wednesday, President Barack Obama and Treasury Secretary Timothy F. Geithner seemed to add their voices to the chorus of private economists, turning up the heat on their European counterparts before this weekend's meeting of finance officials from the 20 most industrialized nations.

"I think it's very important for the American people to understand that as aggressive as the actions we are taking have been so far, it's very important to make sure that other countries are moving in the same direction, because the global economy is all tied together," Obama said.

Geithner added, "Everything we do in the United States will be more effective if we have the world moving with us." So far, those pleas have fallen on deaf ears. European leaders have been unwilling to ante up American-size stimulus packages and the institutions of Europe have proven ill-suited to implement the kind of fiscal policies that the Bank of England has put into place.

## Investors See Glimmer of Hope, Send Shares Higher

By Steve Lohr and Jack Healy  
THE NEW YORK TIMES

NEW YORK

A few clues that the U.S. economy's downward spiral might be slowing galvanized Wall Street on Thursday and sent the stock market soaring for the second time this week.

Investors searching for relief from a relentless march of bad economic news found wisps of hope in developments that, not many months ago, would have been regarded as alarming. The news, by and large, was bad — just not quite as bad as feared.

General Electric, the blue-chip corporation, was stripped of its triple-A credit rating, an emblem of business prowess it proudly held since 1956. But its rating fell just one notch, less than some analysts predicted. Shares of GE soared 13 percent.

The Commerce Department reported that retail sales fell slightly in February — again, less than forecast. And the head of the beleaguered Bank of America said the lender probably would not need more government money but other banks might.

Less-bad was good enough. The Dow Jones industrial average jumped

239.66 points, or 3.46 percent, to 7,170.06, while the Standard & Poor's 500-stock index leaped 29.38 points, or 4.07 percent, to 750.74.

Since Monday, when the market fell to its lowest point in 12 years, stock indexes have soared roughly 10 percent, their best run since November. But few experts were willing to call an end to the bear market, which has cut the Dow in half since its peak October 2007.

Indeed, many analysts predicted that this rally, like others before it, will fizzle before the market stages a lasting recovery. Economists cautioned that the economy was not about to turn a corner anytime soon, even though the numbers suggested that consumers were not entirely in a bunker mentality.

But some saw signs of a subtle shift in investor psychology, a willingness to believe, even for a few days, that Wall Street's worst fears might be overblown.

"When the markets have been battered as much as they have, any little shred of positive news is greeted with great cheer," said Marc D. Stern, chief investment officer at Bessemer Trust, an investment firm

in New York.

The stock market, Stern said, seems to be entering a new phase, in which investors reconsider their despairing views about the economy and corporate profits. He said the market could fall again, though he does not expect as many "sharp free falls." Usually the stock market starts trending higher before the economy recovers.

News that the ratings agency Standard & Poor's cut GE's credit rating one notch calmed fears that the giant company would be toppled by the potential losses in its finance arm. GE, the report concluded, is not a deeply troubled bank in disguise. "We believe," it said, "that GE's cash generation capabilities remain fundamentally strong — even in the face of enormous global economic headwinds."

Bank of America rose 19 percent. Other financial shares also rose. The S&P 500 Financial Index rallied 10 percent, bringing its gain for the week to 33 percent.

Stocks opened lower, reflecting early weakness in overseas markets, but by 10 a.m. the market was in positive territory.

## Obama's Afghan Plan Focuses On Pakistan Aid to Militants

By Helene Cooper and Thom Shanker  
THE NEW YORK TIMES

WASHINGTON

The emerging outlines of President Barack Obama's plan for Afghanistan include proposals to shift more U.S. efforts toward problems in neighboring Pakistan and to seek some kind of political reconciliation with the vast majority of insurgents in the region, according to administration officials.

The plan reflects in part a conclusion within the administration that most of the insurgent foot soldiers in Afghanistan and Pakistan are "reconcilable" and can be pried away from the hard-core organizations of the Taliban and al-Qaida. At least 70 percent of the insurgents, and possibly more, can be encouraged to lay down their arms with the proper incentives, administration officials

have said.

A strategic review nearing completion is being carried out by a team of high-ranking administration officials whose recommendations will be subject to Obama's approval. After seven years of a U.S.-led war effort in Afghanistan, officials involved in the review say that the military to date has succeeded primarily in driving the most hard-core Taliban and other extremist militants out of Afghanistan and into western Pakistan, including the mountainous tribal areas and the city of Quetta.

To put more pressure on those Pakistani sanctuaries, U.S. and Pakistani officials said they expected the plan to recommend at least a continuation of what amounts to a covert war carried out by the CIA inside Pakistan, using drone aircraft for missile strikes on insurgent hide-outs.

The plan will also call for an in-

crease in military and financial aid to Pakistan, though there was still a debate on just how much additional aid should be provided, the officials said.

One senior Obama official said the military aid to Pakistan would be aimed at trying to get its army to focus more on counterinsurgency and less on its long-running feud with India.

Administration officials said Obama would probably announce his finding late next week or the week after, in advance of an international conference on Afghanistan that is scheduled for the end of the month in The Hague. Drafts of the final strategy are expected to be reviewed by a Cabinet-level panel of Obama's national security team next week. A senior Pentagon official said the review would set out specific goals over the next three to five years.

# WEATHER

## Rite of Spring

By Brian H Tang  
STAFF METEOROLOGIST

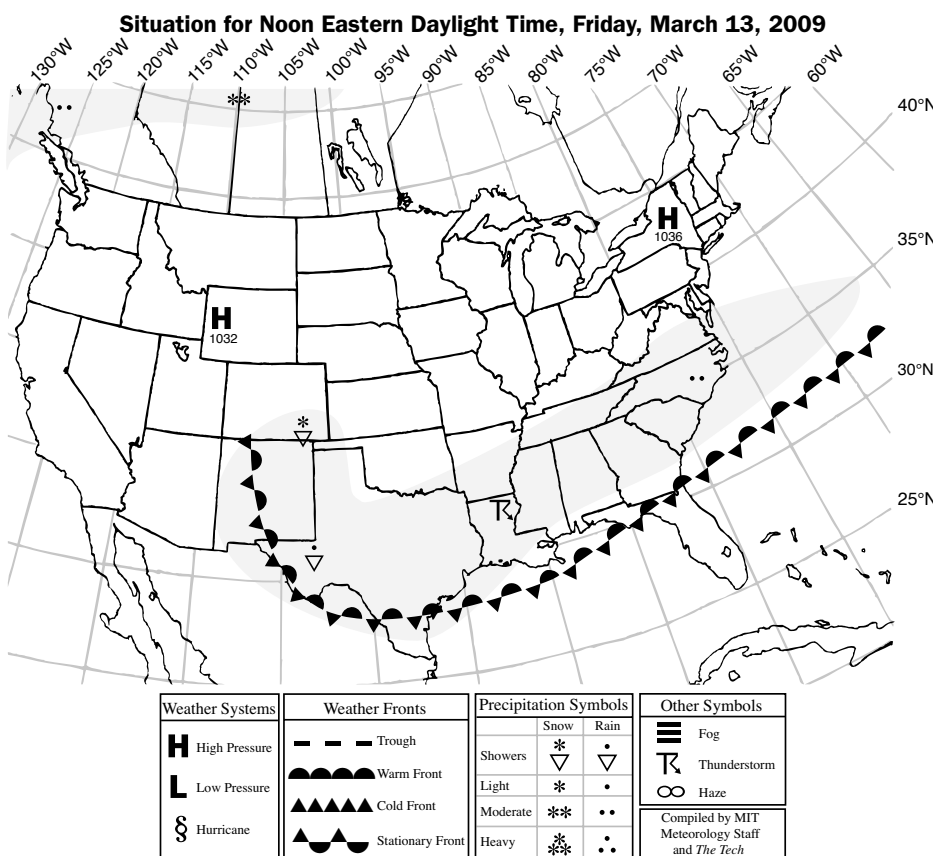
While our weather in New England can be cruel at times, Mother Nature's most impressive display of sound and fury is reserved for the Midwest during the spring months. This time of year, the jet stream begins its slow drift northward, sending storms through the Rockies into the nation's heartland. Particularly strong storms are able to tap in to plentiful amounts of warm, moist air from the Gulf of Mexico, sending a torrent of energy laden air out ahead of the storm.

Meanwhile, winter's icy remnants surge in on the backside of the storm, producing a very sharp boundary called a front. The cold, dense air forces the warm, moist air out ahead of the front up into the atmosphere where it becomes unstable and accelerates upwards, yielding severe thunderstorms. The frequency and intensity with which this process happens makes the Midwest the most prone region to severe weather in the world.

If the temperature aloft is very cold, one then gets impressive hailstones up to the size of softballs. If the winds are strong aloft, these winds can be transported down to the surface in the form of damaging microbursts. If the winds change very quickly with height, the spin or "helicity" can concentrate and tilt into a violent tornado. Any of these can have devastating consequences, but it is easy to forget flash flooding and lightning produces far more deaths than hail, microbursts, and tornadoes combined.

### Extended Forecast

**Today:** Mostly sunny and chilly. High 37°F (3°C).  
**Tonight:** Clear. Low 29°F (-2°C).  
**Tomorrow:** Sunny and warmer. High 49°F (9°C).  
**Tomorrow night:** Clear. Low 35°F (2°C).  
**Sunday:** Sunny and mild. High 53°F (12°C).  
**Sunday night:** Mostly cloudy. Low 30°F (-1°C).



# U.S. Tries to Ease Tensions in Pakistan

By Jane Perlez  
THE NEW YORK TIMES

RAIWIND, PAKISTAN

In an effort to defuse the Pakistani political crisis, the U.S. ambassador, Anne W. Patterson, traveled to see the opposition leader Nawaz Sharif on Thursday morning and urged him to reconcile with Pakistan's president, Sharif said.

Later on Thursday, the Obama administration's special envoy to Pakistan, Richard C. Holbrooke, spoke by video conference call to Pakistan's president, Asif Ali Zardari, Zardari's office announced.

The involvement of two senior U.S. officials prompted speculation here that the United States was trying to broker a deal that would ease the standoff between the rivals and end the potential for violence as a coalition of opposition and citizens' groups prepared for a march that Zardari's government had banned.

The Obama administration apparently fears that the rising tensions between the politicians could further derail Pakistan's efforts to quell a growing insurgency by al-Qaida and the Taliban.

Sharif, who plans to appear at anti-government rallies this weekend, said he told the envoy that the ball was in Zardari's court. "We went out of our way to show patience, tolerance, despite the broken promises of Mr. Zardari," Sharif said. "All of a sudden, they struck, they delivered a very heavy blow; it was like you stab someone in the back."

Sharif made several demands of Zardari: Remove the federal rule imposed on his home base of Punjab province in late February; rescind the judicial ruling that denied Sharif and his brother the right to stand for elections; and restore an independent judiciary.

The government has said it acted to restore law and order and subdue Sharif, whom it accused of trying to foment revolution and court Islamists to buttress his power. Sharif's supporters accuse the government of suppressing dissent.

On Wednesday night, Holbrooke spoke by telephone to Prime Minister Yousaf Raza Gillani, who has distanced himself from Zardari, and said that federal rule of the provincial assembly in Punjab should end quickly.

The government crackdown against protesters continued Thursday as hundreds of police in riot gear used batons against lawyers and protesters outside the high court in Karachi. More than a dozen lawyers were arrested, including a leader of the movement, Munir Malik, who was imprisoned during the military rule of General Pervez Musharraf, and a leader of Jamat-e-Islami, a right wing Islamic party that supports the lawyers.

Later, police in Karachi took the keys of the buses and vans lined up at a toll plaza for a long march that is planned to wind its way from different directions in Pakistan and converge on Islamabad on Monday. Lawyers dressed in black suits and white shirts scuffled with police at the toll, and several were dragged into police vans.

The government led by Zardari imposed a law in the two most populous provinces, Sindh and Punjab, which prohibits the gathering of more than four people.

Police have arrested hundreds of political workers of Sharif's party, and are holding them in jail, apparently until the march is over.

# In Powerhouse India, Child Hunger Abounds

By Somini Sengupta  
THE NEW YORK TIMES

NEW DELHI

Small, sick, listless children have long been India's scourge — "a national shame," in the words of its prime minister, Manmohan Singh.

But even after a decade of galloping economic growth, child malnutrition rates remain worse here than in many sub-Saharan African countries, and they stand out as a paradox in a proud democracy.

China, that other Asian economic powerhouse, sharply reduced child malnutrition, and now just 7 percent of its children under 5 are underweight, a critical gauge of malnutrition. In India, by contrast, despite robust growth and good government intentions, the comparable number is 42.5 percent. Malnutrition makes children more prone to illness and stunts physical and intellectual growth for a lifetime.

The reasons defy simple explanations. Economists and public health experts say stubborn malnutrition rates point to a central failing in this democracy of the poor. Amartya Sen, the Nobel prize-winning econo-

mist, lamented that hunger was not enough of a political priority here. India's public expenditure on health remains low, and in some places, financing for child nutrition programs remains unspent.

While India runs the largest child feeding program in the world, experts agree it is inadequately designed, and has made barely a dent in the ranks of sick children in the past 10 years.

The \$1.3 billion Integrated Child Development Services program, India's primary effort to combat malnutrition, finances a network of soup kitchens in urban slums and villages.

But most experts agree that providing adequate nutrition to pregnant women and children under 2 years old is crucial — and the Indian program has not homed in on them adequately. Nor has it succeeded in sufficiently changing child feeding and hygiene practices. Many women here remain in ill health and are ill-fed; they are prone to giving birth to low-weight babies and tend not to be aware of how best to feed them.

A tour of Jahangirpuri, a slum in

this richest of Indian cities, put the challenge on stark display. Shortly after daybreak, in a rented room along a narrow alley, an all-female crew prepared giant vats of savory rice and lentil porridge.

Purnima Menon, a public health researcher with the International Food Policy Research Institute, was relieved to see it was not just starch; there were even flecks of carrots thrown in. The porridge was loaded onto bicycle carts and ferried to nurseries that vet and help at-risk children and their mothers throughout the neighborhood.

A World Food Program report last month noted that India remained home to more than a fourth of the world's hungry, 230 million people in all. It also found anemia to be on the rise among rural women of child-bearing age in eight states across India. Indian women are often the last to eat in their homes and often unlikely to eat well or rest during pregnancy.

Menon's institute, based in Washington, recently ranked India below two dozen sub-Saharan countries on its Global Hunger Index.

# In Interview, Gop Chairman Strays From Party on Abortion

By Adam Nagourney  
THE NEW YORK TIMES

WASHINGTON

This was supposed to be the week that Michael Steele, the beleaguered new national Republican Party chairman, got his groove on, as he might put it: From filling vacancies left by the mass-firing he conducted upon taking office to issuing 100-day plans on how to make the Republican Party competitive on everything from fund-raising to the Internet.

But no.

On Thursday Steele found himself yet again explaining what he had meant to say, this time after a lively interview with GQ in which he seemed to suggest, among other things, that women should have the right to decide whether to have an abortion. "I think that's an individual choice," he said.

A moment later, he appeared to clarify his remarks, saying that abortion policy should be decided by the states. "The states should make that choice," he said. "That's what the choice is. The individual choice rests in the states. Let them decide." After the interview appeared online on

Thursday, he issued a statement seeking to make clear that he is an opponent of abortion rights.

The interview — in which Steele also appeared to stray from the view of many conservatives on homosexuality while offering a steady patter of edgy jokes and irreverent observations — rippled through Republican circles as soon as it was posted on GQ's Web site Thursday morning. If the interview, conducted several weeks ago, fueled the existing concern among party leaders, it was hardly a surprise after four weeks in which Steele had left many Republicans anxious about their new chairman. He had tangled with Rush Limbaugh, the conservative talk show host, and become the target of mirthful parodies by Jon Stewart, Stephen Colbert and "Saturday Night Live" over his call to apply the party's principles to "urban-suburban hip-hop settings."

It appears highly unlikely that there would be any serious move to recall Steele, who is barely two months into a two-year job. The political repercussions of replacing the party's first African-American chairman would be

too severe, several Republican leaders said, and there are no obvious candidates ready to take the job.

Nonetheless, there were expressions of anguish over what many Republicans described as Steele's growing pains as he takes on the role of leader of a party struggling to find its way after its defeat in the November elections. This latest episode seems likely to further diminish his conservative credentials, undercutting his ability to present his case for his party and raise money.

"I think the job of chairman is to elect Republicans and beat Democrats," said Chip Saltsman of Tennessee, who was one of Steele's opponents for the job. "If anything, what Michael did was get away from the primary directive of being chairman. Right now, it's a turbulent time for him and everybody is coming at him."

Steele declined a request for an interview. His aides dismissed the latest problems, and said they would be overtaken in the days ahead as he names top aides and begins talking about what he is doing to move forward.

# Pope Admits Online News Can Provide Aid

By Rachel Donadio

THE NEW YORK TIMES

MADRID, SPAIN

The letter released Thursday in which Pope Benedict XVI admitted that the Vatican had made "mistakes" in handling the case of a Holocaust-denying bishop was unprecedented in its directness, its humanity and its acknowledgment of papal fallibility.

But it also contained two sentences unique in the annals of church history.

"I have been told that consulting the information available on the Internet would have made it possible to perceive the problem early on," Benedict wrote. "I have learned the lesson that in the future in the Holy See we will have to pay greater attention to that source of news."

In other words: "Note to the Roman Curia: try Google."

The Vatican, a 2,000-year-old monarchy built on the ruins of the Roman Empire and run by octogenarians, has officially recognized the demands of the 24-hour news cycle.

In his disarmingly human letter, Benedict acknowledged the "avalanche of protests" elicited after he revoked the excommunication of four schismatic bishops in January, including Richard Williamson, who in a television interview broadcast a few days earlier — and widely available online — had denied the existence of the Nazi gas chambers.

In his letter, the pope also defended his decision to revoke the excommunications of the bishops, who belong to the ultraconservative Society of St. Pius X, founded in opposition to the liberalizing reforms of the Second Vatican Council of the mid-1960s.

He also said that the group must accept the teachings of Vatican II. "The church's teaching authority cannot be frozen in the year 1962 — this must be quite clear to the Society," he wrote.

On Thursday, the Society of St. Pius X said it was ready to begin the doctrinal debates necessary for its return to full communion with the church. It conveyed the news in an e-mail message, in Latin, which instructed recipients "Ite ed vide," or go and look, at its Web site, of course.

# Iraqi Shoe Thrower Is Sentenced to 3 Years

By Riyadh Mohammed and Anwar J. Ali

THE NEW YORK TIMES

BAGHDAD

An Iraqi journalist who gained acclaim for hurling his shoes at President George W. Bush during a news conference here in December was sentenced to three years in jail on Thursday as distraught family members and supporters wept outside the courtroom.

Although views differed among Iraqi journalists and observers about whether the sentence was merited, there was the sense that his gesture, which made headlines around the world, would be burned into the Iraqi narrative of the American occupation.

The lawyer who led al-Zaidi's defense team, Dhiya al-Saadi, said the decision would be appealed to the Court of Cassation, Iraq's highest court. Some experts said they expected that the government would pardon him after he had served part of his sentence.

# Plastic or Paper? Maybe Neither

By David Abel

THE BOSTON GLOBE

Environmental officials and the owners of hundreds of supermarkets throughout the state were expected to sign an agreement Thursday to reduce by a third the plastic and paper bags the grocers distribute in Massachusetts.

The pact would mark the first statewide effort to control the billions of bags that end up as litter everywhere from tree branches to beach fronts.

The five-year plan, devised as state lawmakers and municipalities have proposed bans or charges for the disposable bags, aims to cut the number of bags provided at supermarkets and grocery stores from the estimated 1.5 billion a year today to 1 billion a year in 2013. The reductions will come from a combination of incentives for customers to recycle old bags and from closer state scrutiny of bag purchases by supermarkets.

"We think this is the right way to go about reducing the number of bags, because charging for them would be a regressive tax and banning them would create a burden for many of our customers," said Christopher Flynn, president of the Massachusetts Food Association, which represents more than 500 supermarkets and independent grocery stores in the state. "We see this as a start."

But environmental groups and lawmakers who favor more sweeping action argued that the voluntary reduction is not enforceable and leaves a massive number of plastic bags still flowing out of supermarkets.

# U.S. Household Wealth Falls by Trillions

By Vikas Bajaj

THE NEW YORK TIMES

In the last few months, most Americans have felt poorer. Now they have the numbers to prove it.

The Federal Reserve reported Thursday that households lost \$5.1 trillion, or 9 percent, of their wealth in the last three months of 2008, the most ever lost in a single quarter in the 57-year history of record-keeping by the central bank. For the full year, household wealth dropped \$11.1 trillion, or about 18 percent. Though the numbers do not yet reflect it, the decline in the stock market so far this year has probably erased trillions more in the country's collective net worth.

The next biggest annual decline in wealth came in 2002, when household net worth fell 3 percent after the collapse of the technology bubble. The most recent loss of wealth is staggering and will likely put further pressure on the economy because many people will have to spend less and save more.

Most of the wealth was lost in the holdings of financial assets like stocks, which tumbled at the end of last year. The Standard & Poor's 500-stock index, for instance, fell 23 percent in the fourth quarter. The value of residential real estate, which is the biggest asset for most families, fell much less by comparison — \$870 billion, or about 4 percent.

# OPINION



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## Corrections

An article in Tuesday's issue about Sunday's Undergraduate Association presidential debate misattributed some quotes from Raez Lorgat '12 and Benjamin J. Agre '12. Agre, not Lorgat, said "People should not be forced to eat." Lorgat, not Agre, said "We believe we have more time and more energy."

That same article wrote that Noah S. Jessop '09 claimed the candidates did not fully understand the role of the UA president. He actually said that some, not all, candidates did not fully understand the role.

Due to an editing error, Tuesday's article about the MIT Energy Conference incorrectly stated that the Honorable Jay Inslee represents Washington D.C. in the U.S. House of Representatives. He actually represents the 1st congressional district of Washington State.

## Bennie and Delano: the Safe Bet

The Undergraduate Association stands at a crossroads. This year, the organization has struggled with its own identity and concerns about its effectiveness amidst a seeming leadership vacuum in the Presidency. What successes the organization has seen are a credit to the work of Mike Bennie '10 and Maggie Delano '10. Their demonstrated dedication, strong relationships with active student leaders, and unequalled insight into improving the organization, make them the most likely to lead the UA into stable footing.

This past year will be remembered for public foul-ups in dining reform, an inability to effectively overcome administrative heel-dragging on the important issue of student engagement, and a lack of initiative from a young and inexperienced Senate.

But the UA is beginning to rebound. Senate has found its stride, the UA's top leaders are making progress on policy initiatives, and morale is improving. The UA needs leaders to continue this trend, repairing the organization from the inside and making it better at student advocacy.

Next week, undergraduates will choose from among a diverse set of choices for the officers that will assume this responsibility.

Benjamin J. Agre '12 and Raez Lorgat '12 have campaigned on constructing technological solutions to fix systematic problems in the UA. This naïve approach will not work alone without fixing the underlying social problems. Agre and Lorgat do not yet have the leadership skills and experience needed to inspire confidence in students. They have good ideas, and they should try to use them in the UA Senate or by seeking an appointment to the UA's Chief of Information Technology position.

Ryan W. Jackson '10 and Thomas W. Hay '10, proud alumni of the Freshman Leadership Program, ground their plans in the strength of their existing social network. This approach should trouble members of the community who do not already know Jackson and Hay. The pair demonstrates enthusiasm and has supplied a few good, specific ideas, but they have not shown the knowledge and experience needed to run the UA. Their goal of a more unified and spirited student body is laudable — but their concrete policy goals fall short.

Michael A. Bennie '10 and Margaret K. Delano '10 are battle-hardened UA leaders who have, at times, single-handedly held together the organization through their own personal example. As insiders, the pair understands the structure, process, strengths, and weaknesses of the UA. They have gathered nearly unanimous approval from existing UA members — a testament that they can lead in difficult situations.

In addition, the pair already has extensive ties to the MIT administration; if they win, they will enjoy a fast transition that

will give them more time to be effective in office. The ticket has shown a strong command of the pressing current issues. We view them as a safe bet, the most reliable leaders during a time of instability and regrowth.

If the UA is weak two years in a row, undergraduate leaders will lose credibility with students and the administration. The ideas of the Bennie/Delano platform are not revolutionary — and we hope that despite their experience they will be able to challenge the norm. But their consistency is a cornerstone vital to rebuilding the trust that the students place in their representatives.

This brings us to perhaps the most interesting development in this race; Abdulaziz Albahar '10 and Tefwik Cassis '10, running as write-in candidates. This pair of extraordinarily well-matched, forward-thinking student leaders provides an impressive alternative to the official candidates. They lack formal experience in the UA, but they stress that they have strong relationships with some members of the MIT administration. They have presented an ambitious set of novel and exciting goals for the organization to tackle under their administration.

The pair, disappointed by the platforms and performance of the other three tickets, decided late in the election cycle to seek the UA Presidency. Both juniors hail from Baker and have been friends since freshman year, but beyond that the similarities disappear. Albahar's experience as an effective former Baker president demonstrates that he can build coalitions and get things done. Cassis, a newcomer to student government, shows an impressive level of foresight and nuanced thinking. Together, they offer the most impressive list of new ideas for the UA.

Although we are impressed by their ideas and determination, *The Tech* cannot endorse this ticket. Neither candidate has experience inside the UA, and the pair would need to play catch-up to seize the reins of this unwieldy body. Without existing relationships within the UA, Albahar and Cassis will find it difficult to use the system to implement their policies. And their entry into the race as write-ins seems to belie to the very foresight and thoughtfulness that so impressed us in their discourse. The duo could well serve as strong leaders of the UA — perhaps even the strongest. But their ticket represents a risky bet that we are not quite prepared to make.

Among the four tickets, two — Bennie/Delano and Albahar/Cassis — have clearly set themselves apart as the strongest and most capable leaders in this race. Albahar and Cassis could accomplish great things with the job. Nevertheless, Bennie and Delano are the best bet for the next year's UA because of their dedication to duty, strength of character, existing relationships, and deep understanding of the UA's operations.

## Letters To The Editor

### Tech Overlooked Historic MIT Basketball Run

This year, the MIT men's basketball team won the NEWMAC tournament championship and advanced to the NCAA Division III Tournament for the first time in MIT history. Hundreds of MIT students, faculty, staff, and alumni traveled to Worcester and Rhode Island to support the team,

including President Hockfield. But last Friday's *Tech* barely mentioned the team in a tiny, one inch news blurb below the fold of the front page, and Tuesday's *Tech* had a small headline referring to the sports page. The MIT basketball team was featured in the *New York Times*, the *Denver Post*, the *Boston Herald*, ESPN.com's *Page 2*, ESPN's *SportsCenter*, NECN, and other news outlets, but our own *Tech* couldn't give them a front page article with a picture? *The Tech* fundamentally misunderstood the achievement of the MIT basketball program as being separate from student

life, public relations, admissions, and other topics it regularly reports on. The publicity surrounding the team by national and local news media has incalculable benefits for the school in terms of strengthening alumni relations and attracting top-notch students. Perhaps *The Tech* needs to reassess how it views the achievements of its student-athletes. Then again, maybe I'm overlooking the importance of how nothing's changed with the Sophomore Standing numbers.

Iman Kandil '09  
Sarah O. Bashadi G

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# Toward a Better Dining System

## Why the UA Senate Has Formed an Alternative to the Blue Ribbon Dining Committee

Paul Baranay, Richard A. Dahan,  
and Daniel D. Hawkins

As many of you are surely aware, the future of MIT's dining system has become a subject of great controversy on campus, especially for undergraduates. In this letter, we hope to inform you of what the Undergraduate Association has been doing to ensure that student input is properly considered before decisions are made.

The Blue Ribbon Committee on Dining (BRC), an Institute Committee consisting of students, faculty, and administrators, was created in October 2007 to investigate the state of dining at MIT and recommend improvements. The BRC has been tasked to produce a final set of recommendations by the end of April. Over the past several months, the Undergraduate Association has made multiple requests for greater transparency and accountability from the Blue Ribbon Committee. While the BRC has made great strides, it seems that the BRC's desire to move forward has turned the committee's focus away from transparency and fair process.

Student leaders have expressed concern

that the committee's student membership is not adequately representative of all dining preferences. Others were disconcerted to hear that the report written by the Blue Ribbon Committee's hired consulting firm was significantly altered by administrators before it reached the committee. In spite of these grievances, the BRC recently closed its membership, asserting that no student members will be added — not even to fill seats vacated last year by graduating members of the Class of 2008. Moreover, the committee still has not released the original version of the consultant's report for comparison. As a result of these decisions, many fear that the BRC's final recommendations will not sufficiently incorporate student preferences.

Acting on these concerns, the UA Senate voted on Monday to form the Dining Proposal Committee (DPC). This committee, which will be composed of undergraduate students who represent the broad variety of dining styles on campus, will be charged with formulating a comprehensive dining program that meets the needs of the MIT community. Additionally, the UA hopes that the student members of the BRC will be open to working with the DPC. The Dining Proposal Committee's report will be submitted to the UA Senate for delibera-

tion in mid-April and will reach the desks of administrators, alongside the Blue Ribbon Committee's final recommendations, at the end of April.

A reasonable set of recommendations requires informed conclusions about students' habits and preferences. For this purpose, the Blue Ribbon Committee conducted an extensive survey of dining habits on campus last year. Student representatives have made repeated requests for the survey data to be released for public review, but the BRC's leadership has consistently refused. Frustrated by this lack of transparency, the UA Senate unanimously passed a resolution on Monday that calls on senior administrators to authorize the release of the survey data to the MIT community for independent analysis. According to the text of the resolution, a failure to release the data would be considered a "fundamental breach of trust on the part of the administration, which has continually promised increased transparency." UA Vice President Mike Bennie is currently commu-

nicating this perspective in discussions with administrators.

As prospective undergraduates, we were drawn to MIT because of its reputation for being honest, open, and willing to help. According to its mission statement, the Institute is "committed to generating, disseminating, and preserving knowledge." This commitment is central to the identity of the Institute, and we hope it will guide the administration in all of its future dealings

with students.

If you have questions about this or any other issue affecting undergraduates at MIT, you can always approach your living group's Senator. If you are interested in serving on the Dining Proposal Committee, please fill out the application on the Nomination Committee's website at <http://ua.mit.edu/dining.html>.

Paul Baranay '11 is the chair of the UA Nominations Committee. Richard A. Dahan '12 is a UA Senator representing New House. Daniel D. Hawkins '12 is a UA Senator representing Simmons Hall.

*A reasonable set of recommendations requires informed conclusions about students' habits and preferences.*

# The Death and Life of Great American Newspapers

## The Sad State of Print Journalism Today

Gary Shu

The *Rocky Mountain News* closed down on Feb. 27th, 2008, just 55 days short of its 150th anniversary. Having lost \$16 million dollars last year and unable to find a buyer, the *News's* owner decided to shut it down instead of letting it limp on with mounting losses.

The gloomy tale of Denver's newspaper is alleviated by the fact that as one of the few remaining two-daily-newspaper cities in the United States, Denver will still have daily local journalism from the *Denver Post*.

The same can't be said of San Francisco, where the owners of that city's only daily paper, the *San Francisco Chronicle*, has warned of massive layoffs and bankruptcy. Separately, the Tribune Company, owners of the *Chicago Tribune* and the *Los Angeles Times*, filed for bankruptcy last year. Seattle is about to lose the print edition of its 148 year-old *Post-Intelligencer*.

We may be witnessing end times for the traditional concept of the daily print newspaper. In our 24-hour news cycle, internet-obsessed world, there has been much gnashing of teeth in trying to figure out a new, viable business model for print journalism in order to compete with fast and loose blogs. The new business proposals have demonstrated just how desperate newspaper owners are since the wave of consolidation that swept through newspaper for the last twenty years failed.

One idea is that papers could be supported by foundations as purely non-profit entities, a public trust in every spirit of the word. This is a little starry-eyed and a successful result would still be a smaller newspaper industry lacking in local coverage.

Attempts to charge for online content, like the *New York Times's* TimesSelect or *The*

*Economist*, have mostly failed. One way then of "monetizing eyeballs" is for online users to submit "micropayments" for their stories, where individual articles would cost 20 cents. Such a concept is a worthy experiment, but the resulting revenue likely will fall short of the cash flows that supported yesterday's news organizations.

Rather than make uninformed recommendations about the financing of the newspaper business, I will offer a few observations about an area I am more familiar with: the product the papers put out.

My biggest criteria for what makes a good newspaper is that it provides you with a view of the current state of the world that is less filtered and more complete than other information outlets. A good newspaper should be able to give a relatively uninformed, time-deficient reader a balanced and true summary of that beyond one's home and office.

With that, I present Exhibit A of what is currently ailing the newspaper industry: the *Washington Post*.

(Note that the *Post* does a few things well. Its investigative pieces are still among the best, as we all saw with its series on the mistreatment of Iraq veterans at Walter Reed Hospital. The *Post* also handles Beltway politics with aplomb, though their competitive advantage is being chipped away by the likes of Politico and others.)

(Finally, I have learned far more about the suburban DC area than I would like to know through its relentless lifestyle and human interest stories on its residents.)

There are many issues with the *Washing-*

*ton Post*; if you learned about China exclusively through its reportage, you would be forgiven for thinking the entire country was one big protest on top of an environmental disaster surrounded by armed soldiers. I will try to illuminate some of the other problems with the paper with the representative examples.

First, an article should explain a phenomenon as fully as it can. This is especially true of articles on scientific breakthroughs. A piece on slow light ("Putting the Brakes on Light Speed", Jan. 17 2007) had little description for this scientific phenomenon beyond "shoot light down tubes of heated cesium." As someone who spent three years doing research in optoelectronics, I could have understood a basic explanation if provided one. But there was none. The article does little except report on the existence of a scientific breakthrough.

Second, a basic principle of good journalism is that the reporting be accurate with sound conclusions. This is not the case with a recent article on homebuyers purchasing smaller homes ("Seeking a Smaller Footprint", Jan. 24, 2009). Using a single statistic about smaller homes being sold and a bevy of "green housing" examples from a developer, the reporter draws the conclusion that buyers are interested in reducing their home sizes and be green. This is done with nary a consideration of how important the economy might be and it lacks a single anecdote from an actual home buyer about what they are considering when they buy.

Finally, a paper should not be overtly

*This is the paper that broke the Watergate scandal and took down a sitting President. Katharine Graham would turn in her grave to see what her august newspaper has become.*

# UA Update

## March 9, 2009 Senate Meeting

*UA Update is a new column written by members of the Undergraduate Association. The column, which reports on the latest developments from the UA Senate and Executive Committee, will run weekly.*

Before the Discussion Session last Monday, Senate hosted a town hall featuring guest speakers Donna Denoncourt, an Associate Dean in Residential Life and chair of the Blue Ribbon Committee on Dining, and Suzanne Flynn, Housemaster of the Phoenix Group. Denoncourt began the conversation by talking about the process to date of Blue Ribbon, highlighting the failure of the initial report from the consultants to meet the administration's standards due to a lack of content, the creation of a website with meeting summaries to date, and the upcoming two week feedback period for gathering student opinions on the committee's report. She mentioned that a minimum nutritional fee, the removal of existing kitchen facilities, and "not requiring a meal plan for those dorms without dining halls" as "off the table." After opening the

conversation up to get feedback from those present, Senators and attendees expressed concerns over the first draft of the consultant's report not being released, the short timeline in the remaining process for the committee—especially concerning the feedback period, and the reluctance to increase membership, and Denoncourt and Flynn promised to take these matters before both the Blue Ribbon Committee and Dean Colombo.

The first order of business during Senate Discussion Session regarded the possibility of a student alliance with the Service and Employees International Union, which represents about 550 of the property service workers at MIT. Senators discussed whether students and union members actually had common goals and what level of support would be appropriate, but no resolution or bill was proposed or voted on. Discussion then moved to the issues surrounding dining and the Blue Ribbon Committee, and the bylaws were suspended to entertain new business regarding the creation of an opposing

committee. After debating whether the new committee should compete with or make recommendations to the Blue Ribbon Committee, Senate passed the Bill to Create the Dining Proposal Committee to create an independent report reflecting student wishes. Representatives for the committee will be nominated by the UA Nominations Committee and approved by Senate. Additionally, Senate passed the Resolution to Demand Meal Plan Study Data, mandating the MIT administration to authorize the release of the data collected by the Blue Ribbon survey to aid the Dining Proposal Committee in the construction of its report.

A joint resolution was also passed by the UA and the GSC to support the idea of moving a student holiday to the date of the fall career fair. The final piece of legislation passed last Monday allotted the MIT Quiz Bowl team \$1000 to assist their efforts to attend the two national championship tournaments.

—Elizabeth A. Denys '10 is the UA Public Relations Chair

## ARTS

## CONCERT REVIEW

*Punk Rock and Folk, All Rolled into One**Eleni Mandell Is on 'Fire'*

By S. Balaji Mani  
ARTS EDITOR

Eleni Mandell  
TT the Bear's Place  
March 8, 2009

Girl power incarnate Eleni Mandell is currently on tour promoting her latest record, *Artificial Fire*. Stopping in Cambridge last Sunday, Mandell and her band provided an energetic performance and stayed true to the intricacies of their studio recordings.

As a quick nod to her previous album, *Miracle of Five*, Mandell opened with the old favorite "My Twin." The slower paced but emotionally intense ballad featured Mandell's entire vocal range. It was exciting to see her band interpret the older song after working on a more rock-influenced and heavy work like *Artificial Fire*.

Ryan Feves (bass) had played on Mandell's previous albums, and continued to be a musical driving force despite his subdued and meek stage presence. *Artificial Fire*'s scintillating guitar riffs were furnished by Jeremy Drake (guitar), who nailed each and every one of them note for note during the live performance. Drake successfully converted the studio-recorded textured horns of "My Twin" into flexible guitar passages. Though Kevin Fitzgerald drummed on the album and on most of the tour dates, his obligation to tour with Circle Jerks allowed DJ Bonebrake an opportunity to fill in on drums (Bonebrake had worked on Mandell's earlier albums, as well).

The band had obviously rehearsed enough with Bonebrake, and his imitation of Fitzgerald's well-composed rhythms was superb, especially on the complicated hi-hat stuttering found on the atmospheric tune "I Love Planet Earth." This song followed a gentle performance of "Front Door," and included the same segue that is found on the album: Drake resorts to his guitar effects to provide a spacey whirlwind of feedback to seamlessly tie the loose ends of each song together.

Mandell included a decent number of faster



S. BALAJI MANI—THE TECH

Los Angeles artist Eleni Mandell played new material from *Artificial Fire* at TT the Bear's Place in Cambridge on Sunday.

songs, managing to convey the punk-rock demeanor she'd adopted for the new record. The brash and bold "Cracked" drove some people to dance and others to marvel and Mandell's rock star pose. Leaning back while strumming lazily at her guitar, she evoked at once Kim Gordon and PJ Harvey (her black lace dress and purple tights cemented the resemblance). "Little Foot" and "Bigger Burn," both occurring early in the set, got the energy in the room flowing and allowed Drake to break out of his shell and dance around on stage.

The rest of the set contained more material from *Artificial Fire*, except for the crowd favorite "Pauline," from Mandell's earlier album *Thrill*. Though it's considered a much racier and dirtier track ("a cheatin' song") than most of Mandell's catalog, there was no ounce of irony

as she admitted to the innocent Pauline, "your man got down/and your man told me/let's go, let's go, let's go." Though she wasn't playing for a full house, Mandell was in good spirits and clearly happy to perform for those who came to the show. She even publicly recognized that she was "talking more than usual," and she often led the audience into a song with a quip or short anecdote. Before "It Wasn't the Time (It Was the Color)" Mandell took a moment to talk about her native Los Angeles, which highlighted a disagreement between her and Bonebrake (another LA native) over the "beauty of concrete." She introduced the song as a story about vivid, colorful memories from her youth combined with the gooey gossip of her first crush ("he kissed me that day / by the pizza place").

Beyond Mandell's command of the stage

(even if it was, admittedly, a small venue) was her ability to keep her voice authentic in the live setting. Small clubs typically deliver mediocre sound, but the band was able to play hard while allowing Mandell's voice to soar above the mix. Her ability to avoid losing her voice in the sonic collage of her backing band connected with the sparse audience and proved that she was a capable vocalist with style.

The band closed with "Two Faces," but Mandell came back to play a solo song, "Salt Truck," which was a personal request of an eager fan. Assuring that she hadn't forgotten the old song, Mandell calmly closed the night enveloping the room with her conversational lyrics, making for a great evening and cementing her integrity as an artist who can sing as sweetly or as menacingly as she wants.

## CONCERT REVIEW

*Video Game Orchestra**A Gamer's Nostalgic Delight*

By Danbee Kim  
STAFF WRITER

Video Game Orchestra  
Berklee Performance Center  
March 5, 2009

Video game music is familiar. It's even more familiar when a dark screen flashes the large bulky letters at the same time, or when it's associated with its mascot, Sonic the Hedgehog. But instead of sitting in front of a television watching an pixelated blue hedgehog in snazzy red sneakers run into gold rings, I'm sitting in a dark concert hall watching a 40-piece orchestra, a rock band, and a chamber choir perform music from not only *Sonic the Hedgehog*, but also *Donkey Kong*, *Silent Hill*, *Myst*, *Metal Gear Solid*, and *Final Fantasy*, just to name a few.

Last Thursday night, Berklee College of Music hosted an audience that ranged from moms and dads with small children to local college students to dread-locked thirty-somethings in Grateful Dead t-shirts. The sold-out show, hosted at the Berklee Performance Center, was a mix of demographics all brought together by a common love: video games. And it was this crowd that, upon the request of producer and musical director Shota Nakama, yelled the opening sounds of every Sonic game — "SEGGGGGAAAAAAA!"

The Video Game Orchestra was put together by Shota Nakama, an alumnus of Berklee College who works as a developer at the MIT GAMBIT Game Lab. He and co-director Kari Juusela, Dean of Berklee's Writing Division, worked with a number of video game composers in order to arrange and perform these songs with a live orchestra. Nakama and Juusela were both present at the performance; in fact, Nakama played in the rock band on guitar. Even more exciting was the fact that a number of the composers themselves were also present. They all seemed surprised when asked to come to the stage and say a few words

before their songs, and unfortunately the audience didn't really get any juicy behind-the-scenes details about the music itself.

The performance began with the epic "Bombing Mission" from *Final Fantasy VII*, followed by "Theme of Laura" from *Silent Hill 2*, another driving combination of traditional orchestra and more edgy rock instrumentations. After a deep dive into the past with medleys of *Sonic the Hedgehog 2* and *Donkey Kong Country* (those catchy jungle drums are forever tied to the game in my mind), we returned to more plot-driven action with a stirring performance of "Snake Eater" from *Metal Gear Solid 3: Snake Eater*. The vocalist, Rio Hara, gave a performance that was almost a perfect match to the style and tonality of the original; I could close my eyes and imagine I was playing the video game, hearing the music as I'd originally heard it.

After pieces from *Chrono Cross* ("Time's Scar" and "Radical Dreamers") and "The End Begins" from *God of War 2*, conductor Yohei Sato took a quick break to let guest conductor Keith Zizza take the stage for the performance of a medley from the computer game *Caesar IV*. The music was appropriately sweeping and dramatic for a game set in ancient Rome, but I was ready to get back to the more up-tempo and driving sounds of action games.

The rest of the evening was filled with evocative and immersive music from *Brothers in Arms*, *Advent Rising*, and *Myst*, interspersed with

more *Final Fantasy*. But ever since getting my hands on a program, I was waiting for the last piece, a song easily considered one of the best-known pieces of video game music: the theme music of Cloud's final confrontation with Sephiroth, the "One Winged Angel". Originally written as a stylistic fusion of Igor Stravinsky and Jimi Hendrix, the Video Game Orchestra played their last piece with gusto, style, and infectious musical pleasure.

The night was a pleasant reminder of the days when spending hours at a video game was even feasible — hearing the music live

was an excellent way of remembering and recapturing my gamer days in a compressed fashion. The concert dragged just a little; small speeches were made between numbers, and while the Video Game Orchestra and the composers are excellent and skilled musicians, not all the speakers had quite the right stage presence to garner the audience's attention. But no wrong can be said of the musical performance — these excellent musicians, recruited not only from Berklee but also from the New England Conservatory, swept me off my feet and into the land of video games.



RAMYA SANKAR—THE TECH

The Video Game Orchestra plays a *Donkey Kong Country* medley at The Berklee Performance Center on Thursday, March 5 in Boston. This was the first performance of its kind — an orchestra playing popular video game compositions — at the BPC.

## MOVIE REVIEW ★★½ / 4

# Watchmen Simplifies, Distorts Original Novel

## Perhaps Not Worth the Watch

By Sun Kim

*Watchmen*

Directed by Zack Snyder

Written by David Hayter &amp; Alex Tse

Starring Jackie Earle Haley &amp; Billy Crudup

Rated R

Now Playing

There is a scene in *Watchmen*, directed by Zack Snyder (*Dawn of the Dead*, 300), when Laurie Jupiter, the crime-fighting heroine of the story, pounds against an ornate glass structure in anguish at a horrific revelation, screaming “No!” with each impact. I too exclaimed “No!” in my mind while putting my face into my palms several times during the course of the 2 hour, 43 minute film.

I have to admit that I had high hopes for the movie, having read the graphic novel of the same name, written by Alan Moore (V for Vendetta, From Hell) and drawn by David Gibbons. Although I do not have the knowledge or passion of a *Watchmen* fanboy, I enjoyed the novel's themes of unequivocal truth and the inquiry of human nature. The film, however, oversimplifies the complexities of the graphic novel, and instead, devolves it into a visual and aural exploitation with little intellectual weight.

The Watchmen are a group of masked vigilantes, who take after their predecessors, the Minutemen. In the opening credits, a photographic montage illustrates the Minutemen's triumphs and downfalls, all set to a familiar Bob Dylan tune. At its surface, *Watchmen* is a murder mystery; someone has killed Edward Blake, a right-wing militant vigilante and government agent who serves with both the Minutemen and the Watchmen. The backdrop is 1985 Cold War America. The peril of nuclear annihilation is imminent with the USA pitted against the USSR. America has an ace in the hole with Dr. Jon Osterman, a.k.a. Dr. Manhattan, after a freak accident gives him the ability of atomic manipulation.

In the film's exposition, many of the scenes mirror the novel with shots very close to the panels themselves. We find out that this masked vigilantism causes a police strike about a decade before, and public pandemonium ensues. A federal law forces the superheroes (which is a misnomer, since only Dr. Manhattan has true superpowers) to stop their acts. The Watchmen reveal their identities, except for a curious character named Rorschach — a renegade crime fighter with a mask that reflects his name. The well-acted Rorschach believes there is no higher virtue than justice. He notifies the other Watchmen; Night Owl (a middle-aged Daniel

Dreiberg), Silk Spectre II (Laurie Juspezyk), and Ozymandias (self-made billionaire Adrian Veidt) of a potential “masked killer.” The plot twists and turns; starting in New York City, then to Mars, a maximum security prison, Antarctica, and eventually ending in a small newspaper office.

The film lost me about a third of the way, despite a few good performances. The majority of the characters are physically well-cast, especially Rorschach. He is played by a strong Jackie Earle Haley, evoking a Dirty Harry or Travis Bickle character. Manhattan, Blake, Dreiberg, and Jupiter seem to be taken right out of the novel with fairly comparable dispositions.

However, the weak link is Adrian Veidt, played by Mathew Goode, who seems to be too thin, too effeminate, and too creepy to be the driving force behind the conflict at hand. His character is not only portrayed poorly, but his storyline also deviates from the original. It is this weakness that caused me to pound my face into my hands since the conclusion of the plot hinges upon Ozymandias' story. The director also takes several artistic liberties to make the violent scenes in the novel especially gruesome, including the cleaving of foreheads, the sawing of arms, and the tearing of skin in painful detail.

The ears were also assaulted during the movie; I burst into laughter during a rather intimate scene when Leonard Cohen's “Hallelujah” played in the background. Several of the popular songs in the film are referenced in the novel; however, I had difficulty reconciling the fact that even though there were many scenes that mirrored the panels exactly, there were many scenes that were grotesquely incorrect. This inconsistency frustrated my viewing experience, along with the blatant manipulation of emotions reflected in the musical cues.

*Watchmen*, as a graphic novel, contains parallel plots, excerpts in between chapters, a comic strip within a comic strip, aliens (kind of), and a greater nuance of human character: aspects that would have been difficult to replicate on film. However, thematic elements have been the reason for the novel's high praise. The qualms posed by Rorschach's unwavering dedication for truth, Dr. Manhattan's Just God/Apathetic God presentation, or even the value of sacrificing few for the benefit of many, are all cheapened by the film. Beyond the physical representation of most of the scenes, the film fails to embody the themes and intellectual impact of the graphic novel. So, who will watch *Watchmen*? Hopefully, not you.



CLAY ENOS—WARNER BROS. PICTURES

Malin Akerman as Silk Spectre II in Warner Bros. Pictures' action-adventure film *Watchmen*.

## CONCERT REVIEW

# Phamily Reunion

## Comeback Weekend Delivers, Promises More

By S. Balaji Mani

ARTS EDITOR

*Phish*

Hampton Coliseum, Hampton, VA

March 6-8, 2009

The four and a half years of waiting are over: Phish is back. Better yet, they sound good; I mean *really* good. Phish's farewell tour in 2004 exposed a band at its absolute worst. As drummer Jon Fishman (whose surname inspired the group moniker) later admitted, their final concert in Coventry, Vermont was one of the “greatest train wrecks in live music history.” Pianist Summer McConnell wrote a letter to fans last summer hinting at a reunion, and last October Phish uploaded a video to their website making a reunion official with a run of three shows at Hampton Coliseum in Virginia, a prized venue of the band.

Last Friday, Phish took the stage at 8 PM. Guitarist Trey Anastasio strummed the opening chords to “Fluffhead” (a song that hadn't been played in nine years), and the crowd exploded into cheers and applause (the opening song was an issue of hot debate amongst fans for months). The band, reaching their live performance peak in the mid-90s, used to rehearse relentlessly in order to execute the precise and difficult passages commonly found in their

catalog of hundreds of songs. Family life and burn-out contributed to a much looser rehearsal ethic, which most fans agree led to a decline in their highly-acclaimed performing ability. This time around, Phish intends to be more committed to the discipline of practicing in order to regain the momentum they had over a decade ago.

And they're definitely headed in that direction. It is, however, a gradual climb back to the top. The first Hampton show was an epic display of Phish's commitment to their fans and their music. The set was peppered with live favorites like “Divided Sky,” “Chalkdust Torture,” “Stash,” and “Tweezer.” Known for their penchant for long improvisational passages, Phish kept their jamming tight and focused, in stark contrast to the meandering and uninspired solos found throughout the 2004 tour. While the aforementioned songs contained successful jam sections, other songs may still need a little work. It has, after all, been a long time since these guys have played together. A much anticipated tune, “You Enjoy Myself,” began too abruptly — bassist Mike Gordon began

on the wrong beat, and in the wrong key — and frontman Anastasio decided to stop and restart the song. So they're a little rusty, but we'll give them a break — Anastasio quickly joked that it wouldn't be “like the last time we restarted it,” referring to their notoriously less-than-perfect performance of the song at their final concert. Gordon's short but beautiful bass solo during the bridge more than made up for the mistake.

Another long jam, “David Bowie,” also began with Anastasio playing in the wrong key, but he quickly modulated up to the right chords. Lyrical flubs and other missed notes appeared all throughout the set. In addition, the vocal harmonies in “Water In the Sky” weren't listenable at times (though none of the band members are hailed for their singing ability, per se). However, what we did hear was the boys warming up and getting stronger as the night went on. As the weekend progressed, the band became increasingly tighter as well as more confident. McConnell was at the top of his game the whole time, and much louder in the mix. Anastasio opened up little by little after

each set, reaching a scorching high by night three.

Sunday's show was an absolute success, and it had finally become clear that Phish was on its way back to reclaim their title as one of the greatest American live acts. Over the three-day period the group played more than ninety songs, with a different set list each night. While the weekend was a celebration of Phish's great past, it was also a promise of their return. Word is out that they'll be in the studio recording a new album, and they even debuted a new song, “Backwards Down the Number Line,” on their first night back. I'm expecting more attention to their older material this summer (tunes like “The Mango Song,” “Vultures,” and “Axilla” were absent from the sets) in addition to a good dose of more pop-oriented, catchier new songs. You'll have to be patient and wait for the summer tour to hear more Phish — but if you can't wait to listen to what the new and improved Phish sounds like, head to <http://livephish.com> and treat yourself to a free download of the Hampton shows!

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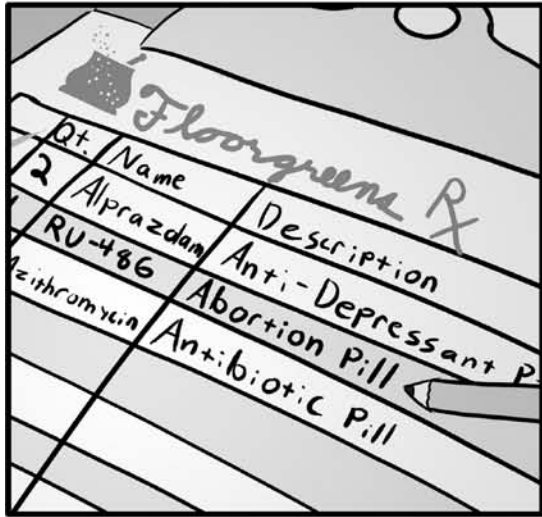
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James Dennis Leary, Esq.  
321-544-0012

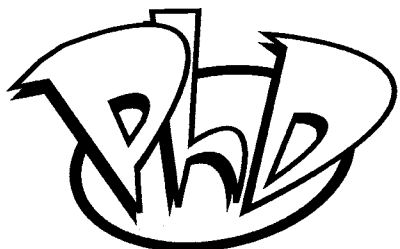
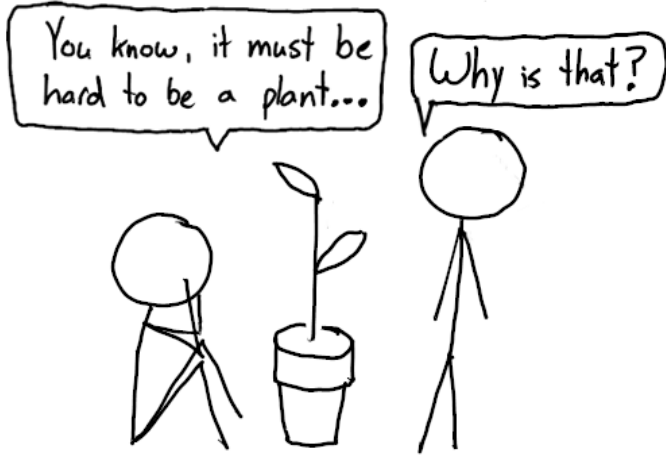
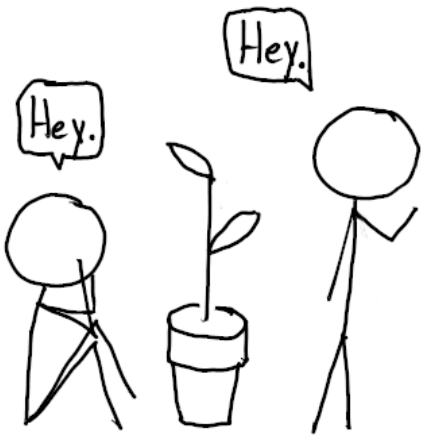
## Steal My Comic

by Michael Ciuffo



## The Daily Blunderbuss

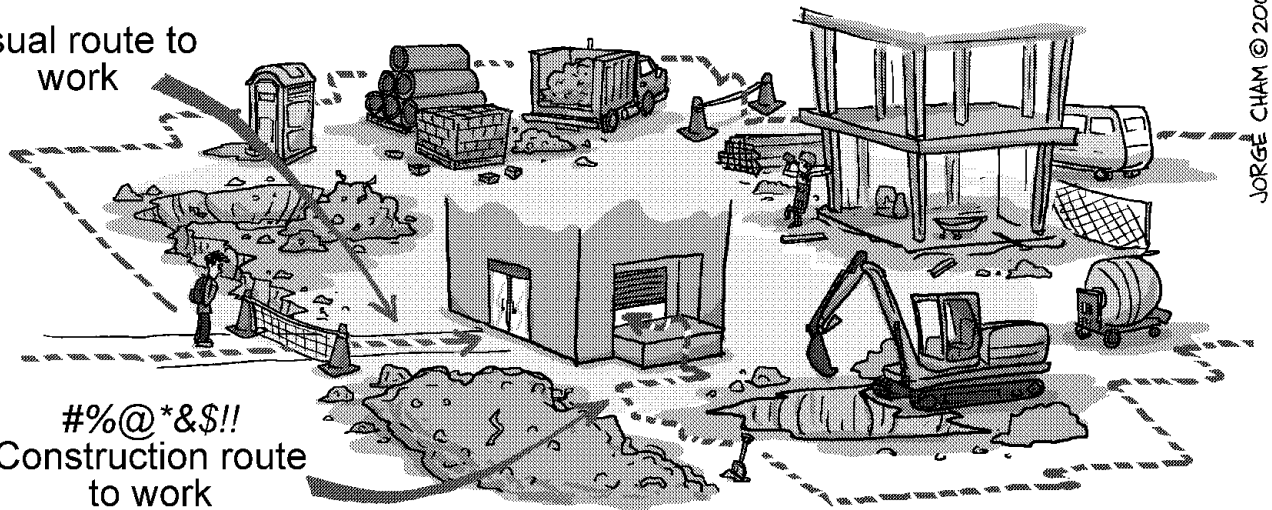
by Ben Peters



PILED HIGHER AND DEEPER

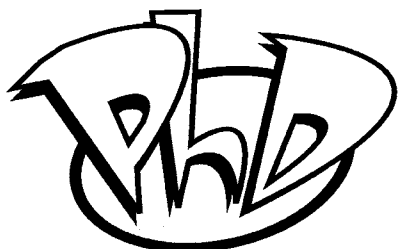


Usual route to work

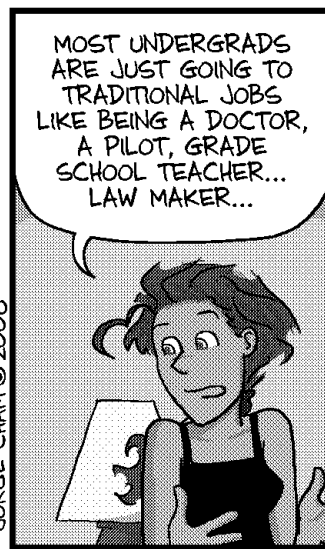


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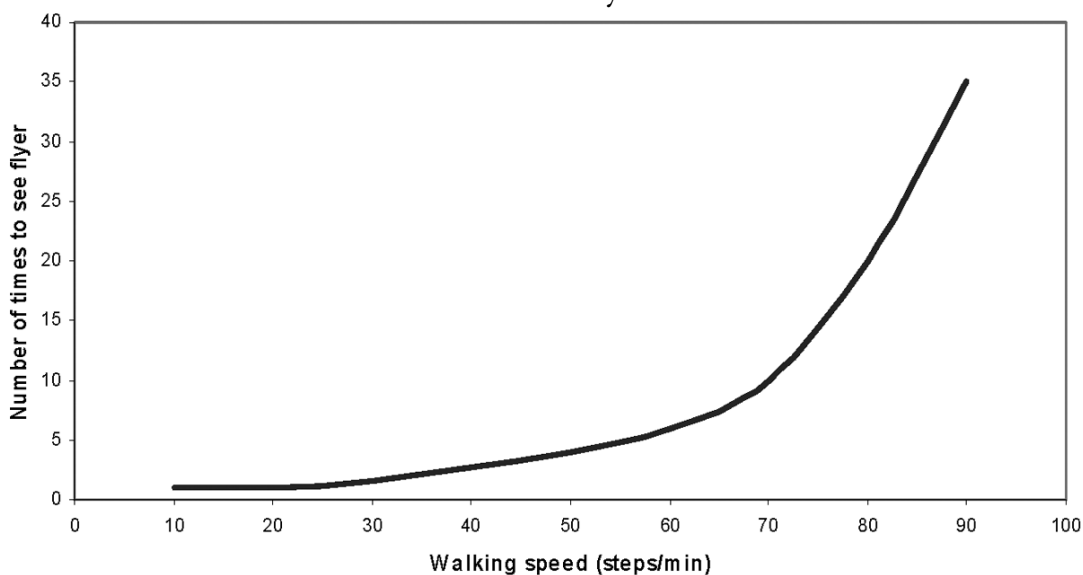
# Doonesbury

BY GARRY TRUDEAU

# Dilbert® by Scott Adams

## Pseudoscience

by Daniel Klein-Marcuschamer



**Figure 52.** The plot shows the number of times an individual must see the same flyer before gathering enough information to attend an event. As shown, this value depends on the individual's walking speed. Those who walk slowly are, therefore, more likely to attend events that they are not particularly interested in compared to individuals who walk hastily. This trend in turn suggests that there must be a correlation between the average walking speed of a person and the relevance of the questions the person asks during seminars, though this remains unproven. It also explains why the same flyer must be posted as many times as possible if one is to entice the fast-walking, overachieving crowds. (Visit <http://pseudocomic.blogspot.com> for more Pseudoscience).

## su | do | ku

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 12.

© Puzzles by Pappocom

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

Solution, tips, and computer program at <http://www.sudoku.com>

# Crossword Puzzle

Solution, page 12

**ACROSS**

- 1 Customary
- 6 High-five sound
- 10 Monopoly fee
- 14 Tot tender
- 15 One of Henry VIII's six
- 16 Big times
- 17 Sweet job at the fair?
- 19 Speak like Sylvester
- 20 College URL ending
- 21 Byrnes or Hall
- 22 Swoons
- 24 Become extinct
- 27 Scourge
- 28 Candy-flavored java?
- 34 Sudden outpouring
- 37 Superman's pal Jimmy
- 38 Kennel sound
- 39 Stable staple
- 40 Miserly failing
- 41 Tony Blair, for one
- 42 Appendage
- 43 Get on
- 44 Glances
- 45 Imperfect chocolates?
- 48 Sibilant sound
- 49 Small samples
- 53 Former Belgian airline

- 56 Manhattan sch.
- 58 Dos Passos novel
- 59 Swiss artist Paul
- 60 Clues for candymakers?
- 64 Work for
- 65 Equally divided
- 66 Zodiac sign
- 67 Mental faculties
- 68 Certain grains
- 69 Weighty

**DOWN**

- 1 Waiting for dinner
- 2 Riyadh resident
- 3 Excessive
- 4 "Brokeback Mountain" director Lee
- 5 Bleaching agent
- 6 Tater
- 7 Alan or Cheryl
- 8 Uru. neighbor
- 9 Introduced
- 10 Alleviation
- 11 "\_\_\_ Brockovich"
- 12 Cartoonist Thomas
- 13 Recipe amts.
- 18 Bridges or Daniels
- 23 Nameless auth.

- 25 Mel and Ed of baseball
- 26 Opponent
- 27 Assails
- 29 Public meetings
- 30 Nicholas Gage memoir
- 31 Token value
- 32 Composer Satie
- 33 Small newts
- 34 Drench
- 35 \_\_\_-mutuel
- 36 \$ dispensers
- 40 Filmy fabric
- 41 Porgy's partner
- 43 Chow \_\_\_
- 44 Soup veggie
- 46 Lusters
- 47 Erwin and Gilliam
- 50 Barbary state
- 51 Sen. Kefauver
- 52 Flippant
- 53 Bias
- 54 Jai \_\_\_
- 55 Ernie's pal
- 56 Leg punch
- 57 R.R. stops
- 61 Wall climber
- 62 Bad actor
- 63 "Sliver" author Levin

1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13
14						15					16			
17						18					19			
20						21				22	23			
24			25	26				27						
			28			29	30					31	32	33
34	35	36				37						38		
39						40						41		
42					43						44			
45			46						47					
			48						49			50	51	52
53	54	55					56	57				58		
59						60	61				62	63		
64						65					66			
67						68					69			

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# Shakespeare Ensemble Presents *Pericles*



The MIT Shakespeare Ensemble is presenting the play *Pericles, Prince of Tyre*, this weekend and next in La Sala de Puerto Rico in the Stratton Student Center.

(clockwise from above)

Kellas R. Cameron '10 brandishes a dagger as the character Leonine.

Grace M. Kane '11 (right) and Angelina Del Balzo portray a Bawd and Boulton, respectively.

(left to right) Zachary D. Tribbett '12, Kellas R. Cameron '10, and Jessica I. Wooton '12 portray Pericles, Simonides, and Thaisa, respectively.

Photography by Chelsea Grimm

## Call for Nominations! 2009 Student Art Awards

### LAYA and JEROME B. WIESNER STUDENT ART AWARDS

The Laya and Jerome B. Wiesner Student Art Awards are presented annually to up to three students (undergraduate or graduate), living groups, organizations or activities for outstanding achievement in and contributions to the arts at MIT. Established in 1979, these awards honor President Emeritus Wiesner and Mrs. Wiesner for their commitment to the arts at MIT. An endowment fund provides a \$1,250 honorarium to each recipient.

<http://web.mit.edu/arts/about/awards/wiesner.html>

### LOUIS SUDLER PRIZE IN THE ARTS

The Louis Sudler Prize in the Arts is presented annually to a graduating senior who has demonstrated excellence or the highest standards of proficiency in music, theater, painting, sculpture, design, architecture or film. The Prize was established in 1982 by Mr. Sudler, a performer in the arts and an arts patron from Chicago. An endowment fund provides a \$1,250 award to the honoree.

<http://web.mit.edu/arts/about/awards/sudler.html>

Please send nominating letters by Friday March 20, 2009 to:  
Susan Cohen, Director, Council for the Arts at MIT- E15-205

[cohen@media.mit.edu](mailto:cohen@media.mit.edu)  
<http://web.mit.edu/awards/>

# Buses of Fans Watch Basketball Team's Historic Win

NCAA, from Page 1

build on what our predecessors had already put in place, and create a type of culture within the basketball program that had not been seen before," said Johnson.

Four seasons later, the three senior captains led the team to its first NCAA tournament berth in the program's 108-year history by winning the New England Women's and Men's Athletic Conference Tournament Championship on March 1.

## Unprecedented Success

MIT overcame an eight-point halftime deficit to beat nationally-ranked No. 17 Rhode Island College, 73-68, in overtime last Friday in its first-round NCAA game. The team then fell in its next game against Farmingdale State on Saturday night by a 67-61 score, ending dreams of a trip to the Division III Final Four in Salem, Virginia.

Despite the loss, the seniors have certainly met their goal of invigorating the basketball program: they compiled the best four-year record in the history of the program with 68 wins and 45 losses. But along the way, they have altered the culture of MIT as a whole. The legacy they leave behind is one marked by camaraderie, a tireless work ethic, and a dedication to each other and their fans. It has been documented in news outlets such as *The New York Times*, *The Boston Herald*, *The Boston Globe*, and the New England

Cable Network. The team was also featured on ESPN's SportsCenter and billed as "the best Cinderella story of March Madness this year" by ESPN.com sportswriter Kieran Darcy.

As Gampel said, "It's impossible for me to pick my favorite part of the season because the whole thing was like a movie script. I had so many moments that I'll be able to smile at forever."

## Invigorating a Fan Base

Past precedent suggested that the support the basketball team received for its NEWMAC Tournament Championship semifinal would be sparse. But Casey M. Flynn '10, a member of the Undergraduate Association Committee on Athletics, made sure that this game would be different. Flynn remembered that during her freshman year, a friend had pulled together a 20-person SafeRide shuttle to take fans to an away game. Drawing on that experience, she solicited "a bunch of offices," finally reaching the Division of Student Life (DSL) and asking "for the biggest bus they could give me."

Her hard work paid off: students filled the bus for the NEWMAC semifinals, and the DSL allowed her to have a second bus on-call for the NEWMAC finals the following day. By the time the first-round NCAA game rolled around at Rhode Island College, there were 98 people traveling on two buses, while still others traveled in cars.

The men's team trailed Rhode Island College 30-22 at halftime. Coach Larry Anderson described the feeling in the locker room as down-spirited: "The doors were closed, and we were trying to make adjustments ... Then we heard a really loud noise and could barely make out what the crowd was saying. It turned out to be, 'Let's go Tech!' I asked my team, 'Do you hear that? Our fans have arrived.' As we walked back to the court, the fans were just exploding, and we tied the game in two or three minutes."

Starting guard/forward Eric S. Zuk '11 said, "Coming out after halftime against RIC, we could hear the chants of the crowd before we even entered the gym. It was surreal. The crowd led us to victory in that game, which is something the whole MIT community should be thanked for." James D. Karraker '12 and William E. Bender '12 also cited the halftime chants as "carrying us that game."

Although the Rhode Island College court was technically a neutral site for both MIT and Farmingdale State, it appeared as if the MIT team had home-court advantage. Flynn filled three fan buses with little effort and was floored by the fans' intensity: "I grew up attending Division I University of Maryland basketball games. The MIT fans were definitely not at the number scale that Maryland has, but the enthusiasm level was definitely matched:

we had horns, face and body paint, and signs."

Julie Soriero, the Director of Athletics, was similarly impressed with both the fans and how much the team appreciated its fans: "The outpouring of support and enthusiasm was incredible. They were an easy team to support — they played hard, they played together, and they were respectful of the game and their opponents. Additionally, to a player, they appreciated and recognized the value of fan support in their success," she said.

Looking over at the Farmingdale State fan section on Saturday night was like looking at the MIT fan section in previous years: ghostly empty, with maybe 40 fans total. And on the MIT side, students were jumping up and down on the bleachers, and President Hockfield was starting the wave.

## Effect on Recruiting

Dean of Admissions Stuart Schmill '86 said he thinks the team's stellar season may help MIT to attract other elite athletes: "The recent success of the men's basketball team certainly has gotten a lot of press, and so it may well spark the interest of students who are top-level athletes who may not have looked at us in the past," he said.

Furthermore, Schmill believes that the team's success has highlighted MIT's excellence inside and outside of the classroom: "One of the interesting storylines [in the press] was how our athletes also maintain a rigorous academic load and are successful students, too. I am glad this is highlighted, because we do it right. As anyone who is close to our program knows, our student-athletes are particularly impressive," he said. For instance, ESPN.com writer Darcy discussed Bartolotta's double degrees in physics and management and Gampel's status as an economics major and a premed.

Likewise, Coach Anderson sees his players as true student-athletes who take academics and athletics equally seriously. He also sells

his basketball program as a way to promote leadership and build community, especially emphasizing how basketball fits into the MIT culture as a whole.

## Looking Toward the Future

Another contribution the seniors have left behind is the confidence they have instilled in the team's underclassmen. Karraker cites this season and the senior class as "the foundation that the MIT program will be built upon. We will be back to this point and farther in the years to come. This is just the beginning."

Anderson also credits the seniors with creating the team's defining camaraderie and believes it will be an enduring characteristic in the future.

And if you want proof that the seniors care about mentoring the underclassmen, look no further than the seniors' response to being interviewed for this article. Asked for their take on the basketball team's legacy, Bartolotta, Johnson, and Gampel originally declined to answer because "we wanted our underclassmen to get some publicity." That unselfishness alone is a foundation for the basketball program to build upon.

For Bartolotta, Johnson, and Gampel, their legacy will be defined by the community they have built around the MIT basketball program. Johnson described this community and its culture as extending far beyond the team itself: "This is the culture we had hoped for. A sports program doesn't just include the players and coaches; a true sports program includes everyone from the players and coaches to the athletic training staff who spends hours each day making sure their athletes are in top condition, to the cleaning lady who comes and watches your game, to the students who travel hours to support their school, to the President of the 'Tute who bleeds Beaver Pride, and everyone else in between. I think we have this type of basketball program now."

# MURJ o u r n a l

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**MARCH 20**

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Questions? [murj-officers@mit.edu](mailto:murj-officers@mit.edu)



**Solution to Sudoku**  
*from page 9*

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

**Solution to Crossword**  
*from page 9*

U	S	A	L	S	L	A	P	R	E	N	T		
N	A	N	N	P	A	R	R	E	R	A	S		
F	J	D	G	E	J	J	D	G	E	L	I	S	P
E	D	U	E	D	F	A	I	N	T	S			
D	T	E	O	F	F	B	A	N	E				
T	O	F	F	E	E	C	O	F	F	E			
S	P	A	T	E	O	L	S	E	N	A	R	F	
O	A	T	S	G	R	E	E	D	B	R	I	T	
A	R	M	M	O	U	N	T	P	E	E	K	S	
K	I	S	S	E	S	M	I	S	S	E	S		
H	I	S	S	T	A	S	T	E	S				
S	A	B	E	N	A	K	S	U	U	S	A		
K	L	E	E	M	I	N	T	S	H	I	N	T	S
E	A	R	N	E	V	E	N	A	R	I	E	S	
W	I	T	S	R	Y	E	S	M	A	S	S	Y	

## GRAD GALA

APRIL 11, 2009



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# Two Libraries Close To Meet Cut Budget

Libraries, from Page 1

still seems to be a lot of flexibility," said Waitz. He added that future meetings to discuss more options were planned.

In an email to students working in the library, Aero-Astro librarian Barbara A. Williams informed them the Libraries would have to close both the Aero-Astro and Lindgren branches. According to Williams' email, the Libraries will need to merge the two branches' "collections and services with the Engineering and Science Libraries, respectively."

Slightly before closing time at 6 p.m. last night, the Aero-Astro library was mostly empty. A student working the desk, Janelle L. Fouché '11, said the library gets busy between two and four p.m. She said about "ten people per hour" come to the library, but many just "come in and out" to check out books on reserve for their classes.

Outside the empty library, there were about fifteen Course XVI students studying and doing problem sets in the neighboring lounge. When this reporter approached one table of students to ask them questions, most seemed unaware that their department's library may be closing. When asked how often they used the library, one said he had a couple of books checked out. Another student, a sophomore in Course XVI, Mary E. Knapp '11 said she "never" used the library. But she was "very unhappy" about the closing of Lindgren since it was a quiet place to study.

Meanwhile at the Lindgren Library, a little after 6 p.m., two hours before closing, there were three students studying at desks along the windows.

One of the students, Udaya B. Gunturu G, a graduate student in EAPS, said he "uses this library very much." In his sixth year, Gunturu has spent about "ten hours a week" at the library over that time.

Christine Sherratt, Lindgren Librarian, said the library was usually busiest "in the afternoon."

Students were informed of Lindgren possibly closing or restricting hours by EAPS department head, Maria T. Zuber, who forwarded an e-mail she had received from the Libraries to students "a couple of weeks ago," said Gunturu.

Zuber told *The Tech* in an e-mail: "Lindgren Library is a key element of the intellectual fiber of our Department." And while she said it was too early to tell the "full extent of the loss," the department's "scholarly endeavors will take a major hit."

"We are worried," said Gunturu. "We can get books everywhere", but "we also need maps and data ... and it's difficult to get this in electronic format."

Pointing to a row of map cabinets at the back of the library, Gunturu said the "maps are huge" and that reading them on a small laptop screen is difficult. The library had both a map room and several cabinets with hundreds of drawers of geological maps, and maps with geophysical and atmospheric data, among other types.

Sherratt said there are roughly 30,000 maps in the Libraries collection, according to statistics pulled together last summer. She was uncertain whether this number also included a collection of topographic maps in Hayden Library.

The maps are "very specialized" said Gunturu, and "the resources are very important for research in this field."

MIT Libraries consists of five large libraries, four specialized branches, and the Institute Archives. Lindgren Library recently celebrated its seventy-fifth anniversary.

*Nick Bushak contributed to the reporting of this article.*



World-renowned cellist Yo-Yo Ma discusses the topic of imagination with a group of Burchard Scholars after last Sunday afternoon's performance of the Silk Wind Ensemble held at Symphony Hall in Boston. DIANE RAK—THE TECH

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**March 20**

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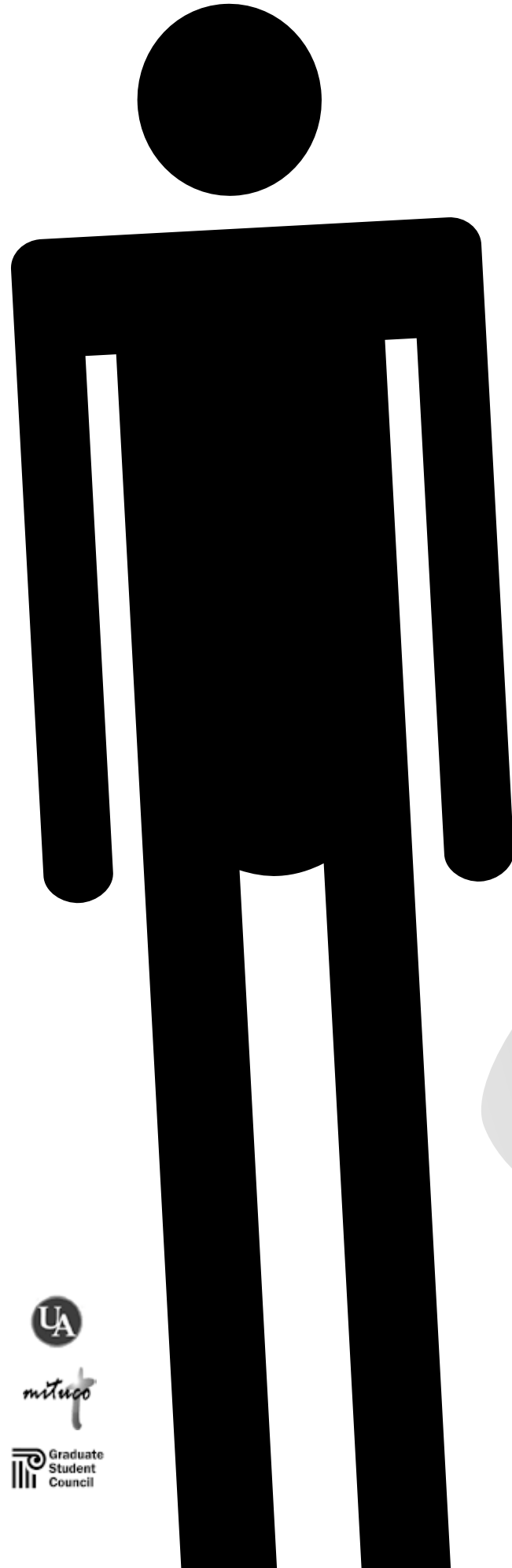
## Awards Convocation 2009

Odds of a child becoming a top fashion designer: 1 in 7,000

Odds of a child being diagnosed with autism: 1 in 150

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# ARE WE MORE THAN MATTER? DOES IT MATTER?



## ARTS WED 3/11

### *Sharper, Flatter? Does it Matter?*

8 PM KILLIAN HALL 14W-111

*Performances and discussion on music, beauty and their relation to being human with*  
WORLD-CLASS PIANIST, MIA CHUNG  
and PROGRESSIVE SAXOPHONIST, KEVIN GOSA

## SCIENCE FRI 3/13

### *Matter, Antimatter? Does it matter?*

7 PM STATA CENTER 32-123


*An antimatter physicist confronts questions of understanding and meaning*  
HARVARD PHYSICS PROFESSOR, GERALD GABRIELSE  
*moderated by* MIT PROFESSOR AND HEAD OF DEPARTMENT OF  
NUCLEAR SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING, IAN HUTCHINSON

## ETHICS SAT 3/14

### *Moral Mammals? Why Do We Matter?*

3 PM STATA CENTER 32-123

*A discussion on the implications of atheism and theism for ethics with*  
PRINCETON PROFESSOR OF BIOETHICS, PETER SINGER  
and YALE PROFESSOR OF PHILOSOPHICAL THEOLOGY, JOHN HARE  
*moderated by* PRINCETON PROFESSOR OF RELIGION, ERIC GREGORY

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# New UA Dining Proposal Comm Aims to Complete Work by May

Dining, from Page 1

dent Life Constantino Colombo on Friday to authorize the release of the raw survey and focus group data, said UA Vice President Michael Bennie. He said that he hopes that the data will be available early next week.

The new Dining Proposal Committee plans to use the Envisions Strategies data to complete their proposal. The UA bill asks that the Dining Proposal Committee present a draft proposal to the UA Senate on April 24 and prepare a final report for May 1. According to Daniel Hawkins, the UA Senator from Simmons and writer of the bill, "after approval

by the senate, the Dining Proposal Committee will generate its own proposal and submit it to senior administrators."

Meanwhile, the Blue Ribbon Committee on Dining has been requested to submit its report by the end of April, according to the committee's public website.

Applications to be a member of the UA Dining Proposal Committee are being accepted until 12:00 p.m. on Saturday, March 13. The UA Nominations Committee will present a slate of nominees from the applicant pool to the UA Senate on Monday. The committee will have positions for students across a spectrum of living and

dining arrangements at MIT: dorms with dining halls, dorms without dining halls, fraternities, sororities, and independent living groups.

Bennie said he doesn't expect that any of the student members of the Blue Ribbon Dining Committee will be members of the new UA committee.

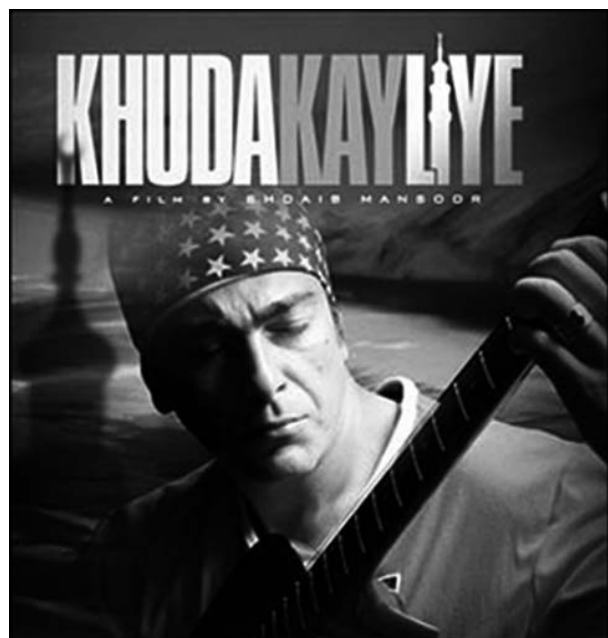
Donna Denoncourt, associate Dean of Residential Life and Chair of the Blue Ribbon Committee, wrote in an e-mail, "Our goal has always been to incorporate student input, so the Blue Ribbon Committee will be discussing if and how to best incorporate the work of the UA Dining Proposal Committee into our process."



S. BALAJI MANI—THE TECH

Ari P. Miller '11 (left foreground) and Olivia H. Bishop '11 step out for a duet during "Sister Sadie" at the Festival Jazz Ensemble show *Sound Painting* last Friday in Kresge Auditorium.

# Community Lecture Series Fellows



Wednesday, March 18th, 7:00pm  
Room 491, Student Center, MIT

## MIT Interfaith Dialogue Program

# Addir

Film:  
Khuda Kay Liye (In God's Name)  
Post 9/11 film about the difficult situation of Pakistanis in particular and Muslims in general.

Dinner will be available.

Questions: ora@mit.edu  
Website: mit.edu/dsl/addir/

All are invited to attend.

Addir is a word in Ancient Sumerian which means "bridge". In the Addir Fellows Program we aspire to build bridges of dialogue and understanding. The Addir Fellows MIT Interfaith Dialogue Program is sponsored by Office of Dean for Student Life and MIT Hillel in cooperation with the Board of Chaplains.

This event is co-sponsored by MISTI - <http://mit.edu/misti> - and will include a brief overview of how MISTI provides MIT students with opportunities to connect to cultures in other countries.



## Tang Trial Scheduled for October

Anna L. Tang, the former Wellesley student accused of stabbing Wolfe B. Styke '10, is tentatively scheduled to face a jury trial on October 13, 2009. In October of 2007, Tang allegedly stabbed Styke -- her ex-boyfriend -- seven times in his neck and torso as he slept.

According to the original police reports, Style awoke in his Next House room while being stabbed and fought off Tang before calling the police. When officers arrived, Tang was reportedly waiting in the hallway outside Styke's room and covered in blood. Tang faces charges of home invasion, armed assault with intent to murder, and assault and battery with a dangerous weapon causing serious bodily injury.

Following her arrest, Tang was imprisoned for two-and-a-half months at the MCI-Framingham correctional facility before being released on \$10,000 bail. She is currently under house arrest and monitored by GPS.

For more information about the the Tang case, visit <http://tech.mit.edu/V127/N49/stabbing.html>.

—Nick Semenkovich

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264 Huntington Avenue, Boston, MA

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Scenic & Costume Design by Francis O'Connor

Starring Edward Herrman and Jay O. Sanders

Galileo Galilei and Pope Urban VIII face off in a battle for the soul of the world!

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in person only

<http://web.mit.edu/arts/see/freetickets/index.html>

## BE LESS PRODUCTIVE AT THE OFFICE.

The office has always been a place to get ahead. Unfortunately, it's also a place where a lot of natural resources start to fall behind. Take a look around the next time you're at work. See how many lights are left on when people leave. See how much paper is being wasted. How much

electricity is being used to run computers that are left on. Look at how much water is being wasted in the restrooms. And how much solid waste is being thrown out in the trash cans. We bet it's a lot.

Now, here are some simple ways you can produce less waste at work. When you're at the copier, only make the copies you need. Use both sides of the paper when writing a memo. Turn off your light when you leave. Use a lower watt bulb in your lamps. Drink your coffee or tea out of mugs instead of throwaway cups.

Set up a recycling bin for aluminum cans and one for bottles. And when you're in the bathroom brushing your teeth or washing your face, don't let the faucet run. Remember, if we use fewer resources today, we'll save more for tomorrow.

Which would truly be a job well done.

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# Chamitoff: 'Never Give Up, Never Surrender'

Chamitoff, from Page 1

they didn't have anyone to blame," said Chamitoff. He also engaged in a chess game against US youth chess champions, initiated by the US Chess Federation. Earth-based participants sent their moves in on the internet. The program manager joked with Chamitoff: "whatever you do up there you can't lose to 3rd graders." They didn't get to finish the game while Chamitoff was in space.

Each astronaut was allowed to take a certain number of items for organizations they represent, as well as personal mementos. One of the items

Chamitoff took with him was a picture that was taken of students and faculty in MIT's Department of Aeronautics and Astronautics from Spring 2008. One of the personal items he took with him was a collection of music that his father had recorded before he passed away. "I was able to play with him and kind of bring him along," said Chamitoff.

Training to be an astronaut took several years. Throughout those years, he and other astronauts in his class worked to support on-board crew members in current missions. Chamitoff served as Capsule Communicator (CAPCOM) for one expedition and

also spent time working with partners in Russia before the launch.

Chamitoff also went through several survival training sessions. Aquarius, an underwater habitat off the coast of Florida, served as a "space flight analogue," in which astronauts practiced missions with real equipment, he said. He spent nine days in Aquarius to get a simulated feel of running missions.

Chamitoff said he remembered fondly the friendships he made as a graduate student at MIT: "This is the time in your life you get to know those who are going to be your lifetime friends," said Chamitoff. He recalled studying for qualifying exams

with fellow students at the Draper lab, spending hours talking through exam questions. "This was the most bonding time, to survive those exams together," said Chamitoff.

How does one become an astronaut? "Never give up, never surrender is the motto," said Chamitoff, advising budding astronauts to always keep their dream alive. Reaching your dreams is all about pushing yourself, said Chamitoff, adding, "you need to set your own standards and not what others expect of you ... If you have done your best, that is all that you can do."

A video of the interview is at <http://tech.mit.edu/V129/N12/chamitoff/>.



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BRIAN HEMOND—THE TECH

Gregory E. Chamitoff PhD '92, who recently returned from a 179-day tour of duty aboard the International Space Station as the Flight Engineer and Science Officer for Expedition 17-18, which began June 2, 2008, stands with a miniature satellite that was developed at the MIT Space Systems Laboratory. While aboard the ISS, Chamitoff used these satellites to test hypersonic satellite motion planning algorithms he developed for his PhD thesis. Chamitoff gave a lecture on Tuesday at the Space Systems Laboratory.

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# Reporters wanted.

This spring, we're looking for a few good reporters to join MIT's oldest and largest newspaper. Try it out! Come to our Sunday newswriting seminars.

**Sunday, March 15, 3 p.m. — W20-483**

**SHARPEN YOUR PEN:** Strong sentences make strong stories. Learn how to cut out ambiguities and distractions. Develop an ear for vigorous verbs and concrete nouns. Pick up skills you can use anywhere, not just in the newsroom.

**DO GOOD INTERVIEWS:** Effective interviewing is at the crux of what makes a news article vibrant and informative. Learn how to make the most of your sources.

All experience levels welcome.  
Snacks will be provided.

Can't make it? Still want to write? E-mail [join@tech.mit.edu](mailto:join@tech.mit.edu)!

What I love about newspapers is that they're not perfect. I once had an old editor (not as old then as I am now) at the L.A. Times who used to joke each night that we'd finally put out the perfect paper, only to come in the next day and lament that there'd been an error or two - and that we'd try again. We never got there. We never stopped trying either.

People who talk about the importance of newspapers like to cite Thomas Jefferson, who said that if he had to choose between a government without newspapers and newspapers without a government, he'd choose newspapers. I like this quote better - I don't know who said it - which Jefferson would surely appreciate: "Everything you read in newspapers is absolutely true, except for that rare story of which you happen to have first-hand knowledge."

Readers routinely complain about bias in newspapers. People are human, including newspaper guys. (That's what we old guys are - not "journalists;" we didn't become journalists until about 1990.) But those who complain about bias never worked in a newsroom. They don't understand about daily newspapers - the miracle of producing one each and every day.

—Mike Littwin, *The Rocky Mountain News*, Feb. 27, 2009

**Ron:** (*referring to a newspaper*) Have you ever seen one of these things on a newsstand in a rainstorm like this? They look like a lot of old bags whose faces have fallen.

**Jim:** That's right, Aristotle--that's because nobody's come up with a waterproof paper yet. But even if they did, we wouldn't use it and the Examiner wouldn't use it and neither would any other paper in the country.

Because we have to print on the cheapest paper they can make. Otherwise, we couldn't sell for a dime. You know what people use these for? They roll them up and swat their puppies for wetting on the rug — they spread them on the floor when they're painting the walls — they wrap fish in them — shred them up and pack their two-bit china in them when they move — or else they pile up in the garage until an inspector declares them a fire hazard!

But this also happens to be a couple of more things! It's got print on it that tells stories that hundreds of good men all over the world have broken their backs to get. It gives a lot of information to a lot of people who wouldn't have known about it if we hadn't taken the trouble to tell them. It's the sum total of the work of a lot of guys who don't quit. It's a newspaper, that's all. Well, you're right for once, stupid.

And it only costs 10 cents, that's all. But if you only read the comic section or the want ads — it's still the best buy for your money in the world. I'm sorry to see you go Collins — here — you'll probably want something to read on your way home.

—30— (1959)

The MIT Figure Skating Club's Annual  
**FIGURE SKATING EXHIBITION**



**Johnson Athletic Center**

**Saturday, March 14**

**6pm**

**Free Admission**

- Ice Dancing • Pairs Skating • Solo Skating • Group Numbers •
- Theater on Ice •

\*\*This event is hosted by the MIT Figure Skating club and is sanctioned by the United States Figure Skating Association\*\*

**Sports Shorts**, from Page 20

Fellow freshmen Molly A. Kozminsky '12 and Lauren M. Chilton '12 rounded out the sabre squad with rankings of 23rd and 28th. Stephanie H. Shin '10 captured 14th place in epee, followed by Kirsten Hessler '12 (31st) and Sophie M. Monahan '11 (37th). Cordelia S. Link '10 led the foil team with a 15th-place finish while Jenna G. Caldwell '11 ranked 22nd and Lindley C. Graham '10 came in 31st.

—Mindy Brauer, DAPER Staff

### Women's Gymnastics Sends 3 to Nationals after Extraordinary Outing at ECAC Championship

The MIT women's gymnastics placed fourth out of eight entries at the ECAC Division III Championship hosted by Ursinus College on Saturday, while three Engineers qualified for the National Collegiate Gymnastics Association (NCGA) Championship. Among those heading to St. Paul, Minnesota on March 20 are senior superstar Julia C. Zimmerman '09, who was named ECAC Gymnast of the Year for the third time, while setting a new ECAC and school record in the all-around with a score 38.675; freshman phenom Leanna S. Morinishi '12, who placed fifth in the all-around at 37.350; and junior stalwart Katie M. Mingo '10, who qualified with a beam tally of 9.350. As a team, the Cardinal and Gray missed the national event by just 0.25 of a point.

Zimmerman added to her already remarkable legacy with her best-ever ECAC outing, finishing first with the new record in the all-around, tying for first on the beam, and ranking second on both the vault and the floor exercise, while leading MIT to a strong score of 183.900. Zimmerman has earned best gymnast recognition during every season of her illustrious career except for last when teammate Sophia L. Harrison '08 won

the award.

Morinishi checked in with scores of 9.500 on the vault, 9.275 on the beam, 9.400 on the floor, and 9.175 on the bars. Mingo's 9.350 on the beam tied Springfield College's Penelope Bohunko. Mingo also scored a strong 9.275 on the floor.

—Mike Stoller, DAPER Staff

### Dawn Gerken Named NEWMAC Men's Swimming Coach of the Year

MIT head coach Dawn Gerken was recently named New England Women's and Men's Athletic Conference (NEWMAC) Men's Swimming and Diving Coach of the Year following the Engineers' impressive victory at the league championships last week. Gerken's honor completes a near-sweep of the conference's major awards for MIT. Following the three-day competition, Rastislav Racz '10 was named Swimmer of the Year and Timothy J. Stumbaugh '12 was tabbed Rookie of the Year.

Gerken led the Engineers to a No. 11 national ranking, their first undefeated season, and a record-setting point total at the 2009 NEWMAC Championships. Her selection as the league's top coach is the first for MIT since Joe Kurtz captured the honor in 2003. Currently in her seventh season at MIT, Gerken was also named NEWMAC Women's Swimming Coach of the Year in 2006.

Gerken, who has guided MIT to 38 All-American honors, is hoping to add to that total as the Engineers prepare for the upcoming NCAA Division III Championships.

—James Kramer, DAPER Staff

## SCOREBOARD, CONT.

**Scoreboard**, from Page 20

Men's Tennis	
<b>Thursday, March 12, 2009</b>	
Suffolk University (0-1)	1
MIT (5-1)	8
Men's Volleyball	
<b>Saturday, March 7, 2009</b>	
Bard College (13-9)	0
MIT (18-10)	3
The College of Mount Saint Vincent (10-11)	0
MIT (19-10)	3
<b>Sunday, March 8, 2009</b>	
Hilbert College (3-15)	0
MIT (20-10)	3
Lasell College (16-9)	0
MIT (21-10)	3
<b>Wednesday, March 11, 2009</b>	
Johnson & Wales University (4-11)	3
MIT (22-10)	0



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for submission guidelines and past issues, visit [web.mit.edu/rune/www](http://web.mit.edu/rune/www)

# SPORTS

## MIT Sport Taekwondo Captures First at West Point Tournament

By Tara Sarathi  
TEAM MEMBER

It has been four months since the last Ivy Northeast Collegiate Taekwondo League tournament (now called the Eastern Collegiate Taekwondo Conference, or ECTC), but the MIT Sport Taekwondo team seized the training period as an opportunity to train hard and forcefully capture first place at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point on Saturday, Feb. 28. The team, coached by head instructor Dan Chuang and led by captains Corinna Hui '09 and Christopher J. Han '09, showed outstanding spirit and talent on all levels: from forms to sparring, passionate beginners to experienced veterans. At the end of the day, MIT captured first place out of 22 schools, inching out rival Cornell University by a narrow, but decisive, margin of twelve points.

MIT's competitors wasted no time in demonstrating their readiness for competition as the forms part of the tournament began. Daniel J. Sauza '11 captured silver in the men's black belt division, while Erika Lee '12 intrepidly seized the bronze in the women's black belt

division.

In the red belt forms, MIT's women dominated with a triple place as Shammi S. Quddus '10, Ranbel F. Sun '10, and Stephanie E. Nix '09 gallantly snatched first, second, and third place respectively.

In blue belt forms, Andrew K. "Suggy" Sugaya '11 overpowered the men's division with a first place performance, and Alvin S. Chen '11 delivered a valiant performance to capture silver in men's green belt forms.

In the especially competitive yellow belt forms, Hsinjung "Sophia" Li '11 walked away confidently with the bronze.

Even after a brilliant performance in forms, MIT did not go easy on their opponents, particularly against long time rivals Cornell. As the afternoon progressed, the following sparring matches were never spiritless.

For the first time since 2006, MIT's women's A1 team (Sun, Hui, Christine Chin '09) dynamically clinched the gold against rival Cornell. The team's MVP performance was given by Hui as she muscled her way through the last few seconds for a heroic 11-10 win to seal first place.

As for B team sparring, the men's B1 team (Ning Wu G, Jason Uh '10, Omar E. Fernandez '10) fought for third, while the women's B1 (Sun, Han Zhu '09, Chin), B2 (Quddus, Nix, Lyla J. Fischer '11), and B3 (Christine T. Hsueh '10, Christine M. Lee '09, Lorriane Ling G) obliterated the competition by sweeping first, second, and third place for the fifth time in six tournaments.

One of the more exhilarating moments of the tournament was the rise of the C teams. Women's C1 (Hsueh, Li, Fischer) showed their mettle by capturing the gold and leaving the ring with all team members undefeated. The men's C1 (Mark J. Yen '11, David Y. Wen '10, Ijeoma "EJ" Emeagwali '12) seized the silver after a painstakingly-close championship match in overtime.

After a day full of tough battles, the team walked away from West Point with their morale strong. Even though several superior performances led to a first place victory and an overall first place standing in the league, the team must continue to train hard to finish the season as strong as it started. The next ECTC tournament will take place at the University of Pennsylvania on April 4.



SETH A. VILLARREAL—THE TECH

Kirsten S. Hessler '12 (right) lunges against an opponent in an attempt to score in Epee at Sunday's NCAA Northeast Regional event held at the Johnson Indoor Track.

### The Tech's Athlete of the Week: Joseph B. Silverman '10

This past weekend, MIT junior Joseph B. Silverman placed seventh in the 197-pound weight class in the Division III National Wrestling Tournament, held at Coe College in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. His stellar performance in the tournament earned him All-American status, and Joe is the second MIT wrestler to earn this distinction in the last two years. Glenn J. Geesman '09 also qualified for and competed in the national tournament.

Silverman qualified for the tournament with a strong second-place finish two weeks earlier at the New England Wrestling Association tournament, which, coupled with a 33-5 season record, earned him a wild-card spot in his weight class. Considered an underdog entering the tournament, Silverman wasn't ranked among the top ten in his weight class nationwide, but he wrestled strong and posted a record of 4 wins and 2 losses. His losses came at the hands of the first and third place finishers. His work ethic and training regimen contributed to his four victories, including an impressive 8-1 decision over Ed Broderick of The College of New Jersey.

Heavyweight Geesman also wrestled in the tournament. He qualified by winning the New England tournament in dramatic fashion over Springfield College wrestler Chris Brown, who had defeated Glenn earlier in the tournament. Geesman won his first match at Nationals, a 3-0 decision over Adam Sutter of Lakeland College, after dropping his next two to the second and eighth place finishers. His final season record stands at an impressive 38 wins to only four losses.

Silverman and sophomore 125-pounder Grant M. Kadokura '11 were also named Academic All-Americans for the past season. Kadokura posted an impressive fifth-place finish in the New England tournament but did not qualify for the national tournament.

—Michael Gerhardt, Staff Writer

### Robin Shin Earns Berth to NCAA Fencing Championship

A seventh-place finish by Robin S. Shin '12 at Sunday's NCAA Northeast Regional earned her a spot at the NCAA Fencing National Championship to be held at Pennsylvania State University from March

#### Sports Shorts

19-22. She will be the first sabre competitor to make the trip since Caroline Purcell '02 and Jennifer A. Mckeehan '02 represented the Engineers in 2002. The qualification also continues a family tradition of national appearances, as older sister Stephanie S. Shim '10 finished 20th in epee last season while their father Robert Shim '77 received a spot in the sabre field.

Sports Shorts, Page 19

### UPCOMING HOME EVENTS

Friday, March 13, 2009

Men's Gymnastics vs. The College of William and Mary 5 p.m., duPont Gymnasium

Saturday, March 14, 2009

Women's Lacrosse vs. Bridgewater State College 10 a.m., Jack Barry Field

Women's Tennis vs. Colby College 1 p.m., duPont Tennis Courts

### SCOREBOARD

#### Women's Gymnastics

Saturday, March 7, 2009

ECAC Championship  
MIT 4th of 8

#### Men's Lacrosse

Wednesday, March 11, 2009

Assumption College (1-2) 11  
MIT (0-2) 6

#### Women's Lacrosse

Thursday, March 12, 2009

MIT (0-2) 6  
Williams College (1-1) 17

#### Rifle

Saturday, March 7, 2009

MAC Championship  
MIT 2nd in Expert Division

#### Sailing

Saturday-Sunday, March 7-8, 2009

Sharpe Trophy  
MIT 6th of 8

Scoreboard, Page 19

The Tech does many things to get a story.

It's gotten its staff press passes to Red Sox games.



It's covered its staff's dinners, concerts, and movies.

It's set up interviews for its staff with movie stars, foreign dignitaries, and other famous people.



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