



Leaked Dining Proposal Prompts Student Response

UA Calls for Dissolution of Blue Ribbon Dining Committee

By Meredith L. Lis
STAFF REPORTER

The Undergraduate Association Senate passed a bill Monday calling for the dissolution of the Blue Ribbon Committee on Dining and the creation of a UA-chosen replacement committee comprised of students, faculty, and staff which would give students more say in the decision-making process. The bill

also demands that plans described in the leaked consultant's report to the Blue Ribbon committee be scrapped.

According to the bill, the leaked recommendations contradict the results from a survey of MIT conducted by the committee in Spring 2008, which the bill says shows "opposition among students to mandatory dining plans." Part of the bill

demands that "participation in an undergraduate dining system not be mandatory."

The UA plans to use the data already collected by the survey to come up with new recommendations for undergraduate dining. The proposed committee would devise new recommendations by June 2009.

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Draft Proposal Includes More Dining Hours, Mandatory Meal Plans, and Breakfast Options

By Arkajit Dey, Nick Bushak, and Austin Chu
STAFF REPORTERS

Mandatory meal plans, all-you-can-eat dining halls, and longer service hours are some of the recommendations made in a consultant's report for the future of MIT dining, which was leaked to dormitory e-mail lists this weekend. Several days earlier, student leaders had raised concerns that the proposal had been delivered to administrators but not to members of the Blue Ribbon Committee on Dining.

A draft presentation and an executive summary, created by consulting firm Envision Strategies, were made publicly available Saturday night.

All meal plans in the proposal require a significantly higher mandated minimum contribution than current meal plans. The report bases its plans on the idea that students should set aside money to be used exclusively for dining.

Richard D. Berlin III, a member of the Blue Ribbon Committee, as Director of Campus Dining Services, declined to comment on the state of the committee or the contents of the proposal on Monday, writing in

an e-mail, "[U]ntil the Blue Ribbon Committee itself has the opportunity to review and discuss the consultant's report, I don't believe that commenting on the material for the Tech would be appropriate."

These proposals are not final; the Blue Ribbon Committee plans to evaluate the consultants' report and make final recommendations to the administration regarding the future of dining at MIT.

A component of all plans in the proposal is "Dining Dollars," money similar to TechCASH that can be spent on food. The report recommends allowing Dining Dollars to be spent at on-campus dining venues, convenience stores, and local grocery stores, but preventing the money from being spent on non-food items such as beer or cigarettes.

Under the proposed plan, freshmen living in residences with all-you-can-eat (AYCE) dining (the report suggests Baker, Next House, and Simmons) would be required to purchase a plan ranging from a minimum of \$1,350 per semester for 75 meals (5 per week) and \$650 in dining dol-

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SETH A. VILLARREAL—THE TECH

The Undergraduate Association's Executive Board led a discussion about the future of dining at MIT during an emergency UA Senate meeting the evening of Monday, Feb. 16.



VIBIN KUNDUKULAM—THE TECH

Harvard's Hasty Pudding Theatricals' Man of the Year, James Franco, receives his coveted Pudding Pot after being roasted by members of the theatrical society on Friday, Feb. 13.

Overall Reaction Mixed, But Vocal Segment Opposes Meal Plan

By Omar Abudayyeh and Natasha Plotkin
STAFF REPORTERS

Hastily-produced signs decorated the walls of the Infinite on Monday, highlighting phrases from a proposal to revamp dining that students found objectionable.

The signs reveal one vocal segment of the student body that active-

ly takes issue with the proposal, produced by an external consultant for MIT's Blue Ribbon Committee on Dining, which is charged with creating a new vision for dining at MIT.

While these students, and many others, oppose the possibility of a mandatory meal plan that the proposal suggests, MIT students are far from uniformly opposed, or even op-

posed for the same reasons; rather, student opinion as a whole might best be characterized as scattered.

The extent to which students are informed about the Blue Ribbon Committee on Dining, its consultant's draft proposal, and the state of MIT dining in general vary as much

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Possible Meal Plans Proposed by Leaked Drafts

		Meal Plans						
Per Semester Cost		\$2,475	\$2,175	\$1,775	\$1,625	\$1,500	\$1,350	\$1,175
AYCE Meals Included		∞	285	210	150	105	75	60
Dining Dollars Included		\$50	\$75	\$125	\$350	\$580	\$650	\$600
Freshmen and Sophomores	Houses with AYCE Dining	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗
	Houses without AYCE Dining	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗
Juniors and Seniors	Houses with AYCE Dining	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Houses without AYCE Dining	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

		Meal Plans							
Per Semester Cost		\$1,325	\$995	\$1,300	\$1,175	\$975	\$800	\$950	\$800
AYCE Meals Included		0	0	140	75	50	45	0	0
Dining Dollars Included		\$1,325	\$995	\$95	\$475	\$490	\$355	\$950	\$800
Freshmen and Sophomores	Houses with AYCE Dining								
	Houses without AYCE Dining	✓	✓						
Juniors and Seniors	Houses with AYCE Dining			✓	✓	✓	✓		
	Houses without AYCE Dining	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

✓ This category of students may select this meal plan.
✗ Sophomores may select this plan; freshmen may not.

SOURCE: ENVISION STRATEGIES DRAFT PROPOSAL TO BLUE RIBBON COMMITTEE ON DINING

All of the meal plans detailed by the Envision Strategies draft proposal to the Blue Ribbon Committee on Dining include a mandatory semesterly payment for food. The amount required to pay declines with seniority: freshmen pay a minimum of \$995, juniors and seniors pay at least \$800. Students in dorms with all-you-can-eat dining must always pay for some meals in the dining hall.

In Short

¶ Election Packets for students wishing to run in the upcoming Undergraduate Association elections are available at <http://ua.mit.edu/committees/elect>. They are due at 5 p.m. on Feb. 23.

Send news information and tips to news@the-tech.mit.edu.



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WORLD & NATION

Justice Dept. Is Reviewing Interrogation Under Bush

By Scott Shane

THE NEW YORK TIMES

The U.S. Justice Department's ethics office is in the final stages of a report that sharply criticizes Bush administration lawyers who wrote legal opinions justifying waterboarding and other harsh interrogation methods, according to department and congressional officials.

The report, by H. Marshall Jarrett, who leads the department's Office of Professional Responsibility, would be the first accounting for legal advice that endorsed interrogation techniques historically considered by the United States and other Western countries to be illegal torture. Attorney General Eric Holder will have to decide whether to approve the findings and whether to make them public.

The report is expected to focus on three former officials of the Office of Legal Counsel, the Justice Department office that advises the executive branch on the interpretation of the law. They are John Yoo, a Berkeley law professor, now a visiting professor at Chapman University, who was the primary author of opinions on torture while at the counsel's office in 2002; Jay S. Bybee, now a judge on the U.S. 9th Circuit Court of Appeals, who as head of the office signed the 2002 opinions, which were later withdrawn; and Steven G. Bradbury, who wrote three more still-secret opinions on interrogation in 2005, when he was the top lawyer in the counsel's office.

Jarrett's office completed a draft report late last year, but Michael B. Mukasey, the attorney general at the time, and his deputy, Mark R. Filip, insisted that it not be considered final until written responses from Yoo, Bybee and Bradbury could be incorporated. The three are now in the process of submitting their responses, according to an official who agreed to speak about the internal report on condition of anonymity.

Saying Small Nations Count, Czechs Seek an Obama Visit

By Steven Erlanger

THE NEW YORK TIMES

PRAGUE, CZECH REPUBLIC

Czech officials are pushing hard for U.S. President Barack Obama to come to Prague early in April to meet the 27 leaders of the European Union, of which the Czech Republic currently holds the presidency.

The visit, Foreign Minister Karel Schwarzenberg said, would be important to every smaller country in the European Union.

"It's our impression that the new administration doesn't just care about the fat cats — Germany, France and Britain — but they care about the small countries, too," Schwarzenberg said in an interview. "It's important that the United States also do this in a country that 20 years ago belonged to the Soviet pact."

Obama, who in Europe is viewed as something akin to a rock star, will make his first trans-Atlantic visit as president in early spring, when he goes to London for a summit meeting on April 2 of the Group of 20 large industrialized countries, a session intended to discuss overhauling the global financial system and coping with a nearly worldwide recession.

On April 3 and 4, Obama will be in Strasbourg, France, and two towns in Germany — Kehl and Baden-Baden — for a NATO summit meeting marking the alliance's 60th anniversary.

That meeting, of which France and Germany are co-hosts, is also expected to mark France's full reintegration into the military side of the alliance, more than 40 years after Charles de Gaulle quit the joint military command and kicked NATO out of Paris.

That means Obama will have visited the main "troika" of the European Union — Britain, France and Germany — and met with the countries' leaders.

The Czech Republic — a country of 10 million people that has been struggling to hold the European Union together under the pressure of the economic crisis and a continuing spat with the previous holder of the presidency, France — very much wants Obama to then come to Prague to meet European leaders, instead of doing it in the European Union's bureaucratic capital, Brussels.

France and Britain Disclose Collision of 2 Submarines

By John F. Burns

THE NEW YORK TIMES

LONDON

In a freak accident, two submarines carrying nuclear weapons, one French and the other British, collided while submerged on operational patrols in the Atlantic earlier this month, the British and French defense ministries said Monday.

Both vessels returned damaged but otherwise safe to their home ports, with the 250 crew members abroad uninjured and with "no compromise to nuclear safety," the defense ministries said in terse statements that appeared to have been agreed between the nations. The reference appeared to cover the nuclear reactors that power the submarines and the 16 ballistic missiles carrying nuclear warheads that the British and French vessels each routinely carry on patrols.

But military experts said the episode raised troubling questions about the safety of ballistic-missile submarines patrolling the oceans while hiding their whereabouts even from NATO allies. They said that agreements on "waterspace management," requiring NATO nations to advise each other of the whereabouts of sub-

merged submarines, did not include vessels carrying ballistic missiles with nuclear warheads.

The collision spurred a fresh outcry from groups in Britain and France that have demanded that the nations scrap their nuclear arsenals, with representatives saying that only chance had prevented a more serious impact that could have sunk both vessels, along with their missiles. The collision "could have released vast amounts of radiation and scattered scores of nuclear warheads across the seabeds," said Kate Hudson, the chairwoman of the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament, a long-established protest group in Britain.

The collision of the vessels on the night of Feb. 3, at a location neither nation disclosed, was described by military experts in London and Paris as a million-to-one occurrence, given the expanse of the oceans and the low number of submarines carrying ballistic missiles on patrol at any time from nations with such vessels. Those nations include the United States, Russia and China, as well as Britain and France.

Just as startling, the experts said, was that the French Defense Ministry

appeared not to have known in the immediate aftermath that its submarine, Le Triomphant, had struck the British submarine, HMS Vanguard. On Feb. 6, the ministry released a statement in Paris saying that the French vessel had "collided with an immersed object," which it described as probably a drifting cargo container, and that the submarine's sonar dome, located in its nose and crucial to its ability to track other vessels, had been seriously damaged.

Official confirmation of the collision came only after a report of the episode appeared Monday in The Sun, a British tabloid newspaper. French officials said Monday they only realized that Le Triomphant had struck the British vessel after sending inquiries to other navies about the deep-sea impact — an admission that appeared to underline the extreme secrecy NATO allies impose on the whereabouts of their missile-carrying submarines.

The HMS Vanguard, which is 492 feet long, was towed back to its home port at Faslane on the Firth of Clyde, near Glasgow, Scotland, with "very visible dents and scrapes," according to the BBC.

First on Cambodia's Docket: A Man Linked to 14,000 Killings

By Seth Mydans

THE NEW YORK TIMES

PHNOM PENH, CAMBODIA

The first trial of a senior Khmer Rouge cadre opened Tuesday, 30 years after the end of the brutal communist regime that took the lives of as much as one fourth of Cambodia's population.

The first defendant is Kaing Guek Eav, 66, better known as Duch, the commandant of the Tuol Sleng prison and torture house, which sent at least 14,000 people to their deaths in a killing field.

The purpose of Tuesday's hearing was to address procedural issues before court sessions begin next month.

Duch (pronounced DOIK) confessed to journalists before his arrest nine years ago that he had committed atrocities, but said he had been acting under orders and would

himself have been killed if he had disobeyed. Known for his brutality, he is charged with crimes against humanity and war crimes, and with murder and torture in his prison, known as S-21.

Four senior Khmer Rouge officials who were in a position to give those orders are also in custody, but court officials say their trials may not start until next year.

They are Nuon Chea, 82, the movement's chief ideologue; Khieu Samphan, 76, who was head of state; Ieng Sary, 82, the former foreign minister; and his wife, Ieng Thirith, 75, a fellow member of the Khmer Rouge Central Committee.

The Khmer Rouge leader, Pol Pot, died in 1998. Many Cambodians say they fear that some of the defendants may also die before they are brought to trial, and the tribunal has been providing them the best

medical care Cambodia has to offer.

The trials are being held by a hybrid tribunal supported by the United Nations that includes Cambodian and foreign judges and prosecutors in an awkward legal compromise that has drawn criticism from human rights advocates and legal scholars.

The chief concern is that the Cambodian members of the tribunal will not be independent of their government's political agenda. Questions have already been raised about the Cambodian co-prosecutor's reluctance to recommend further indictments.

Foreign and Cambodian analysts say the government, fearing that a widening circle of defendants could reach into its own ranks, wishes to limit the number of defendants, thereby harming the tribunal's credibility.

WEATHER

Eastern All Stars

By Brian H. Tang

Although the Western Conference may have bested the Eastern Conference in Sunday's NBA All Star Game, the weather bragging rights are clearly in the East. It didn't seem possible, but much of the ice and snow that fell in the prior month has vanished in recent days. Although temperatures haven't been far from the climatological average, daily high temperatures have consistently climbed above freezing. This, combined with a few bouts of rain in lieu of additional snow storms, has laid waste to the deep snow pack Mother Nature had built up last month. However, we're still in the depths of winter and the risk of snow returning spontaneously is still in the cards. Thankfully, this week does not feature a return to the ice cavern of January.

Meanwhile, the West is being hammered by storm after storm. High winds and over two inches of rain fell in the San Francisco Bay Area Sunday. Just to the east, the Sierra Nevada received about 2 feet (60 cm) of snow to the delight of skiers and riders but to the angst of those trying to get through mountain passes or out of airports. Despite the travel headaches this storm is causing, the precipitation is quite welcome as the first half of winter has been extremely dry out west with most of California in the midst of a severe drought.

Extended Forecast

Today: Mostly sunny. High 35°F (2°C).

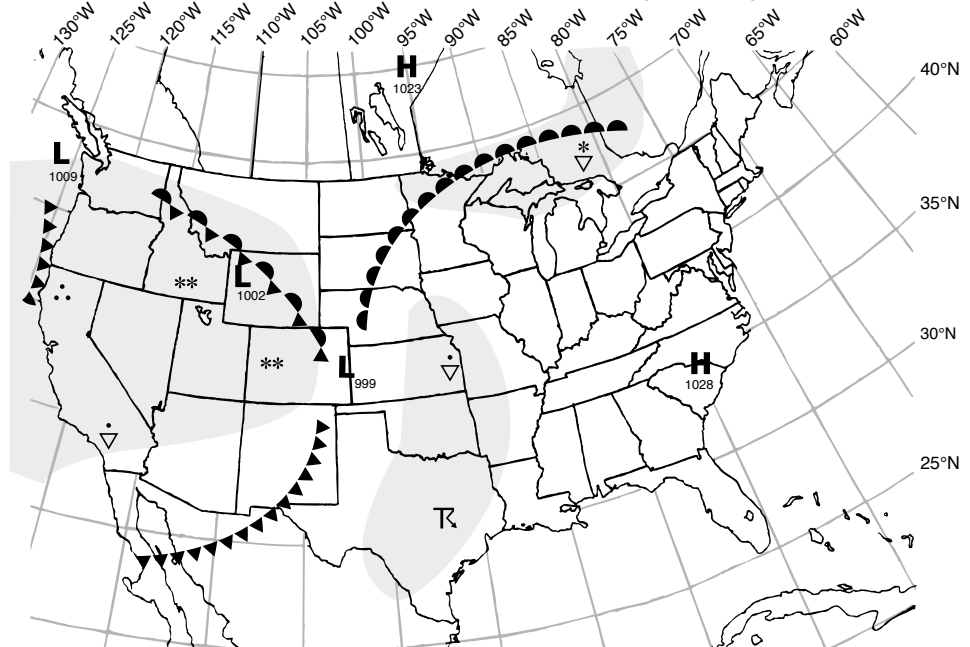
Tonight: Clear. Low 25°F (-4°C).

Tomorrow: Sunny in the morning, then increasing clouds in the afternoon. High 38°F (3°C).

Tomorrow night: Snow showers in the evening turning to rain overnight. Breezy. Low 33°F (1°C).

Thursday: Rain showers in the morning, then cloudy the remainder of the day. High 42°F (6°C).

Situation for Noon Eastern Standard Time, Tuesday, February 17, 2009



Weather Systems	Weather Fronts	Precipitation Symbols	Other Symbols
H High Pressure	- - - Trough	Snow *	Fog
L Low Pressure	- - - Warm Front	Light Rain ▽	Thunderstorm
§ Hurricane	▲▲▲ Cold Front	Moderate Rain **	Haze
	▲▲▲ Stationary Front	Heavy Rain ***	

Compiled by MIT Meteorology Staff and The Tech

Revelations by Senator from Illinois Cause Concern

By **Monica Davey**
THE NEW YORK TIMES

CHICAGO

Several Democratic lawmakers from Illinois said Monday that they were troubled by revelations about Roland W. Burris, the state's newest senator and a fellow Democrat. And at least one called for Burris to come before the state Legislature and explain himself.

"We all have a lot of questions," state Rep. Jack D. Franks said. "He wasn't forthcoming, and that's the bottom line. I feel betrayed. The real problem here is the question of trust for the citizens of Illinois. We were supposed to rise to the occasion and, again, Illinois becomes the laughing-stock for the nation."

Franks was a member of a panel assigned this winter to consider impeaching Gov. Rod R. Blagojevich after federal prosecutors accused him of trying to sell the Senate seat left empty when Barack Obama won the presidency.

In January, the panel heard testimony from Burris, who had been appointed by Blagojevich but not yet seated in Washington, about his ties to

the governor.

At the time, Burris described to the lawmakers under oath an occasion on which he had spoken about his desire to become the next senator with one of Blagojevich's former chiefs of staff.

But Burris now acknowledges he also spoke with others, including Blagojevich's brother, Blagojevich's chief of staff at the time, and two close advisers to Blagojevich.

Burris said that he did nothing wrong, that his conversations were all above board, and that he did not fully answer a question about those conversations during his January testimony before lawmakers because the questioning had moved on.

Burris, who acknowledged this weekend that federal agents had "reached out" to his lawyers and "want to meet with me," said his decision this month to file a new, fuller description of his talks with state officials was made voluntarily when he discovered his omissions.

Some lawmakers have been skeptical of the timing, suggesting that Burris, a former state attorney general, may have realized that some of the talks in question could have been cap-

tured on federal recordings secretly made during the investigation into the former governor, who was impeached and removed from office last month.

For the past few days, Republican state lawmakers have called for a county prosecutor to consider perjury charges against Burris, but some Democrats interviewed said they needed to learn more before they would suggest such a drastic step.

Democratic Senate leaders in Washington said they would review Burris' new disclosures and await action by Illinois state leaders.

"This is troubling," said state Rep. Lou Lang, a Democrat, adding that he intended to study all of Burris' previous comments, and hoped that his colleagues would do the same. "My take is that this could still go either way. We could determine that Burris was simply negligent and had a failing memory in a very honest way. On the other hand, we may find out that he knew more than he was willing to explain."

A spokeswoman for John J. Culleton, the state Senate president and a Democrat, said he, too, was "very troubled by the timing of Burris' revelations."

As Clinton Lands in Asia, North Korea Threatens Missile Test

By **Mark Landler**
and **Choe Sang-Hun**
THE NEW YORK TIMES

TOKYO

As Hillary Rodham Clinton arrived in Japan on Monday, her first foreign visit as secretary of state, North Korea threatened to test what its neighbors believe is a ballistic missile capable of reaching the United States.

Speaking briefly at an airport arrival ceremony, Clinton did not directly address the reports from North Korea, but on the flight over she continued to employ a tone that was notably softer than previous American pronouncements, echoing remarks she made in New York last week.

"Our position is when they move forward in presenting a verifiable and complete dismantling and denuclearization, we have a great openness to working with them," she said.

She also repeated her offer to normalize ties with North Korea and help rebuild its economy if it abandoned its nuclear weapons.

But in what appeared to be a pointed challenge to her mission on this trip to Asia and a test for the new Obama administration, North Korea

issued an oblique statement responding to recent news reports that it had been preparing to test-launch a Taepodong-2 missile from a base on its east coast.

"One will come to know later what will be launched," the North's state-run news agency, KCNA, said Monday, the 67th birthday of the North Korean leader, Kim Jong Il.

In Seoul, the South Korean defense minister Lee Sang-hee said North Korea had been preparing to test a Taepodong-2 missile since January. In recent weeks, South Korean media have reported that North Korean engineers were assembling a 105-foot Taepodong-2 missile.

Analysts and government officials in the region have feared that North Korea may launch a long-range missile to help make its nuclear program a top foreign policy issue for President Barack Obama. North Korea has also threatened a naval clash with South Korea on their disputed western sea border.

With its economy in shambles and isolated from most of the world, North Korea has often used military threats to extract economic aid and diplomat-

ic benefits from other countries.

As she landed in Tokyo, Clinton appeared to be sticking with her previously scheduled agenda of a trip this week to four Asian countries, intended to build solidarity between the United States and Asia on issues like the global economic crisis and climate change.

Stepping from her plane on a blustery, cold evening, she reaffirmed the "cornerstone" alliance between Washington and Tokyo and declared that "we have to work together to address the global financial crisis, which is affecting all of us."

With the Japanese government reporting on Monday that its economy shrank at the sharpest quarterly rate since 1974, the financial crisis is sure to figure high on Clinton's agenda, not just in Japan, but in Indonesia, South Korea, and China, which she will visit later in the week.

Choosing to make Asia her first official visit, rather than Europe or the Middle East, where secretaries of state traditionally begin their diplomatic travels, was also intended to send a message that the region was a high priority.

In Vatican Controversies, Questions of Pope's Focus

By **Rachel Donadio**
and **Nicholas Kulich**
THE NEW YORK TIMES

ROME

Close on the heels of the pope's rehabilitation of a group of schismatic bishops, including one who denied the Holocaust, a second scandal has compounded a searching debate within the church over whether Pope Benedict XVI's focus on doctrine and perceived insensitivity to political tone are alienating mainstream Catholics and undermining the church's moral authority.

On Sunday, a priest known for such provocative statements as blaming the sins of New Orleansians for Hurricane Katrina asked the pope to rescind his appointment as an auxiliary bishop in Austria.

The affairs have engendered a storm of criticism of the church hierarchy and led to frantic efforts to mollify angry and confused parishioners around the globe, while the latest controversy has raised concerns that the actions could be part of a disturbing pattern.

The Vatican expert George Wei-

gel, in a recent essay in *First Things*, a American religion journal, criticized the Vatican for its "chaos, confusion and incompetence."

In Vienna on Monday, 10 Austrian bishops convened a crisis session to deal with the fallout. Erich Leitenberger, a spokesman for the Vienna archdiocese, said church officials around the country had been inundated with letters, phone calls and e-mail messages, including some from parishioners saying they were leaving the church.

Austria, a majority-Catholic country with a complicated Nazi past, had been reeling from the pope's revocation of the excommunication of four schismatic bishops from the ultraconservative Society of St. Pius X, including Bishop Richard Williamson, who has denied the existence of the Nazi gas chambers as well as the scale and genocidal intent of the Holocaust.

While that firestorm was still raging, Benedict ignited another by appointing the Rev. Gerhard Maria Wagner, known for his Katrina comment and for saying that homosexu-

ality was curable, as the auxiliary bishop of Linz.

Cardinal Christoph Schoenborn, the highest ranking Catholic official in Austria, said Monday that the decisions about the schismatic bishops and Wagner were unrelated, and that they were "made on different tracks." But their proximity intensified the rancor among more-reform-minded Austrian Catholics.

"The displeasure grew exponentially," Leitenberger said.

Outside St. Stephen's Cathedral in Vienna, Elisabeth Felbermair, 28, said she was relieved that Wagner was stepping aside. "Thank God he's going," she said, calling his views "too reactionary." She said she would probably leave the church, though for personal reasons not directly related to the controversies of recent weeks.

For many Catholics, the issues are larger than Wagner. As the Austrian newspaper *Die Presse* said on its front page on Monday: "His name stands for a battle over direction: Should Linz be more faithful to Rome or should the church be more democratic and more liberal?"

Fireball in Texas Sky, Its Origin Unknown

By **James C. McKinley Jr.**

THE NEW YORK TIMES

HOUSTON

The fireball that streaked across the Texas sky and appeared to dive toward earth over the weekend remained a mystery on Monday after the military said the event had nothing to do with a collision of satellites last week and did not seem to involve an artificial satellite coming down.

"We still think it's possible it might be a natural phenomenon, a meteor or asteroid," said Maj. Regina Winchester, a spokeswoman for the U.S. Strategic Command, in Nebraska.

Whatever it was, the fireball on Sunday caused great consternation and wonder across Central Texas. Dozens of people called the police to report sonic booms and a bright fireball plunging toward the ground around 11 a.m.

In Williamson County, north of Austin, so many callers were convinced that the plummeting light was a burning aircraft that the sheriff's office dispatched a helicopter and several patrol cars to look for debris.

"No one said they saw it crash," said a spokesman, Detective John Foster. "But it looked like it was going down; it was approaching the earth."

Lisa Block, a spokeswoman for the Texas State Police, said troopers were flooded with calls around the same time from McLennan County, which includes Waco, and Kaufman County, southeast of Dallas.

The Federal Aviation Administration has determined only that the object was not an aircraft.

Byron D. Tapley, the director of the Center for Space Research at the University of Texas, Austin, said it was highly unlikely that the object came from the collision of a Russian satellite and an American communications company satellite over Siberia last Tuesday. Tapley said the belt of debris, some 500 miles above the earth, was too high for pieces to come down this soon.

Boycott Over Louisiana Law Seen As Door to Teaching Creationism

By **Adam Nossiter**

THE NEW YORK TIMES

NEW ORLEANS

A leading scientific group has announced its intention to boycott Louisiana because of a new state law that could open the door to teaching creationism in the public schools.

The measure, signed into law last summer by Gov. Bobby Jindal, allows teachers to "use supplemental textbooks" in the classroom to "help students critique and review scientific theories."

A leading Christian conservative group here, the Louisiana Family Forum, championed the law; a member proposed the bill to its legislative sponsor.

Scientists denounced the law as a back-door effort to sneak creationism into the classrooms.

In response to the law, the Society for Integrative and Comparative Biology, formerly the American Society of Zoologists, wrote to Jindal this month to announce it would not hold its 2011 annual meeting in New Orleans, opting for Salt Lake City instead.

"It is the firm opinion of S.I.C.B.'s leadership that this law undermines the integrity of science and science education in Louisiana," the president of the society's executive committee, Richard A. Satterlie of the University of North Carolina, Wilmington, wrote to the governor, a Republican.

The group has more than 2,300 members, mostly academics who teach across the spectrum of biological sciences. It said its most recent convention, in Boston last month, brought together more than 1,800 scientists and graduate students for five days.

"The S.I.C.B. leadership could not support New Orleans as our meeting venue because of the official position of the state in weakening science education and specifically attacking evolution in science curricula," Satterlie wrote. "As scientists, it is our responsibility to oppose anti-science initiatives."

Facebook's Users Ask Who Owns Information

By **Brian Stelter**

THE NEW YORK TIMES

Reacting to an online swell of suspicion about changes to Facebook's terms of service, the company's chief executive moved to reassure users on Monday that the users, not the Web site, "own and control their information."

The online exchanges reflected the uneasy and evolving balance between sharing information and retaining control over that information on the Internet. The subject arose when a consumer advocate's blog shined an unflattering light onto the pages of legal language that many users accept without reading when they use a Web site.

The pages, called terms of service, generally outline appropriate conduct and grant a license to companies to store users' data. Unknown to many users, the terms frequently give broad power to Web site operators.

This month, when Facebook updated its terms, it deleted a provision that said users could remove their content at any time, at which time the license would expire. Further, it added new language that said Facebook would retain users' content and licenses after an account was terminated.

Mark Zuckerberg, the chief executive of Facebook, said in a blog post on Monday that the philosophy "that people own their information and control who they share it with has remained constant." Despite the complaints, he did not indicate the language would be revised.

The changes in the terms of service had gone mostly unnoticed until Sunday, when the blog *Consumerist* cited them and interpreted them to mean that "anything you upload to Facebook can be used by Facebook in any way they deem fit, forever, no matter what you do later."

Given the widespread popularity of Facebook — by some measurements the most popular social network with 175 million active users worldwide — that claim attracted attention immediately.

The blog post by *Consumerist*, part of the advocacy group *Consumers Union*, received more than 300,000 views. Users created Facebook groups to oppose the changes. To some of the thousands who commented online, the changes meant: "Facebook owns you."

OPINION

Meal Plan Not What Students Ordered

We call on students and administrators alike to reject the plans for MIT's dining system described in the recently leaked draft consultants' report to the Blue Ribbon Committee on Dining. The report emphasizes "nutrition," "social engagement," and "community building" as core principles at the expense of personal responsibility, independence, and free will.

The overly broad vision of campus dining outlined in the report will never succeed. Instead, dining must be remade in a way that respects students and is consistent with the Institute's egalitarian ethos.

It is not surprising that the details of the report have prompted such strong opposition amongst undergraduates. In the end, the purpose of a dining program at MIT should first and foremost be the provision of convenient, high-quality food — not as a tool for social engineering — and accomplishing that goal should be the main focus of any changes to the existing system.

It is clear that the current system of house-based dining is economically not sustainable. Residential dining operates at a loss of hundreds of thousands of dollars a year. Due to economies of scale in the industry, smaller dining halls are by nature more difficult to operate at a profit than larger facilities.

The decision to reopen a number of new residential dining facilities (such as Simmons and McCormick) over the past decade was made in the name of the abstract concept of "community building," not in an effort to provide the best and most efficient service for students. It should therefore come as no shock that the administration finds itself in a position where a mandatory meal plan appears to be the only option to make the system self-sufficient.

In order to construct a truly sustainable dining program on campus, however, the administration needs to start by understanding and accommodating student preferences, not by trying to shape them into some preconceived ideal.

By forcing MIT into the mold of other universities with mandatory dining programs, the consultants' recommendations fail to consider the Institute's highly valued sense of personal independence as well as the effects of such a broad spectrum of existing dining behavior.

Many students on campus — as a result of personal choice and the traditions of their living groups — prefer to spend their own money on their own schedule and cook what they want to, when they want to. Likewise, many students also appreciate the convenience of

dining halls and a large number might welcome (and patronize) a full service "all you care to eat" (AYCE) facility. Another significant portion of the community resides in FSILGs with food service and may or may not choose to eat some of their meals on campus.

A comprehensive dining policy should strive to accommodate these preferences (and the full range of options in between) rather than pigeonholing students into a handful of "administration-approved" dining alternatives. Students who do not wish to participate in a dining program should not be required to, and students who desire the services of a dining hall should be offered a high-quality AYCE facility with service from breakfast through dinner. This facility should be conveniently located to the center of campus and should be operated to be economically self-sufficient without mandatory participation — if it cannot support itself through the revenues of those who use it, it shouldn't exist.

When it comes to crafting the details of particular plans under a new dining policy, flexibility and affordability should be the key criteria. Students should be able to choose from different levels of full service plans, hybrid AYCE/declining balance meals, or no plan at all. The first option will better serve those students who want the ability to rely on a dining hall for the majority of their meals every day. The last option will satisfy those who currently find little use for dining halls and prepare their own food, but will still give those students access to a conveniently located dining hall.

Finally — and perhaps most importantly — the middle option provides for students who want to use college as a stepping stone to the real world: they have the freedom of being able to experiment with cooking or eating out, while still having ability to fall back on a dining hall when they're most hosed. Moreover, any declining balance accounts should be totally refundable at the end of the academic year, lowering the barrier to food purchase without costing already-stretched college students money they desperately need.

While *The Tech* applauds MIT's efforts to improve a flawed dining program, we are very concerned that the recommendations presented in the draft report represent a significant step in the wrong direction. A fair and equitable dining policy should treat MIT students as adults and should require vendors to provide convenient and high quality service without mandatory participation.

MIT's Campus Dining should look at the popular, but optional dining program at UNC Chapel Hill as a model — that school boasts that its operation is "unique because all meal plans are voluntary... [t]herefore, we must earn your business."



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Editorial

Letters To The Editor

Debate Ideas Respectfully

We are writing to express our deep concern about an email that members of our Community received in response to their recent letter appearing in *The Tech* on January 28, 2009. This email was written to the letter's authors who were critical of positions taken by Professor Noam Chomsky his public lecture on January 13, 2009 about the recent violence in Gaza.

We strongly support the principle of free expression embodied in both Professor Chomsky's lecture and the subsequent letter disagreeing with him. However, the subsequent anonymous email sent to the letter's authors was unmistakably hostile and hurtful. While such expression is legally protected, its content merits our strongest condemnation. We urge all members of our community to honor MIT's admirable tradition of using our right to free expression in ways that promote informed, respectful debate.

Philip Clay, Chancellor
Steven Lerman, Vice Chancellor and
Dean for Graduate Education
Chris Colombo, Dean for Student Life
Daniel Hastings, Dean for
Undergraduate Education

Editor's note: Additional background information, including a copy of the referenced e-mail, can be found on page 10.

Corrections

The article entitled "Chomsky Condemns U.S. and Israel for Civilian Deaths in Gaza Strip" in the Jan. 14 issue of *The Tech* misquoted Professor Noam A. Chomsky as saying, regarding Israeli actions in Gaza, "At most they should be greeted with a yawn." He actually said, "So there is no particular reason why this new crime should be greeted with anything more than a yawn."

The Jan. 21 article about the 2009 Mystery Hunt used the wrong sex for the captain of the fictional Brass Rat Spaceship. Captain Blastoid is female.

That same article incorrectly described a tortuously complicated puzzle featuring a live duck as a "logic puzzle"; actually, that puzzle, the Duck Konundrum, has little in common with traditional logic puzzles.

The Feb. 10 article about MIT's 2009 commencement speaker incorrectly stated that Vivian Tang '09, Class of 2009 president, was not involved in the committee that recommended choices for the 2009 speaker. Although she was not officially a member of the committee, she was consulted to collect speaker suggestions from students and provided feedback when the committee was compiling the list of recommended speakers.

An article Friday about mandatory dining plan modifications for the fifty undergraduates living in NW35 Ashdown mis-stated the price of the former meal plan. It is \$600 per term, not \$600 per month.

Care about Dining?

Email letters@tech.mit.edu

Submission deadline for Friday's issue: Wednesday at 4:30 p.m.

Opinion Policy

Editorials are the official opinion of *The Tech*. They are written by the editorial board, which consists of Chairman Austin Chu, Editor in Chief Nick Bushak, Managing Editor Steve Howland, Executive Editor Michael McGraw-Herdeg, and Opinion Editor Andrew T. Lukmann.

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

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

Letters, columns, and cartoons must bear the authors' signatures, addresses, and phone numbers. Unsigned letters will not be accepted. *The Tech* reserves the right to edit or condense letters; shorter letters will be given higher priority. Once submitted, all letters become

property of *The Tech*, and will not be returned. Letters, columns, and cartoons may also be posted on *The Tech's* Web site and/or printed or published in any other format or medium now known or later that becomes known. *The Tech* makes no commitment to publish all the letters received.

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

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Lowered Expectations

The Shoddily-Built Stimulus Bill Will Not Be Enough

Keith Yost

By any measure, the \$787 billion stimulus bill will fall well short of solving the problems facing the economy. Over the next two years, the expected shortfall between potential and actual gross domestic product is projected to reach \$2 trillion — this legislation doesn't even come to half of that.

But wait, it gets worse.

Around a third of the stimulus is designed merely to counteract the expected decline in state government spending. States, unlike the federal government, are obligated to balance budgets, and will be forced in the near future to cut spending rather than raise it. Right away, a third of the stimulus bill is spent just treading water.

But wait, it gets worse.

Roughly another third of the bill is in tax cuts. Tax cuts are great, and make no mistake: it was good that both Obama and congressional Republicans pushed for them. In a sense, tax cuts are the ultimate in "shovel-ready" stimulus — their effect begins as soon as you can get the checks out. But tax cuts have a problem: the name of the game in stimulus is to increase spending, and some fraction of every tax cut dollar is going to be saved instead of spent.

Furthermore, the more tax cuts are relied upon as a form of stimulus, the greater the marginal propensity to save will be. In other words, tax cuts have diminishing returns to scale, and give or take a few hundred billion, the stimulus bill exhausts just about all that can or should be achieved with tax cuts.

The great strength of tax cuts is that they reduce the distortionary impact of government involvement and increase the efficiency of the economy (hence the perennial enthusiasm of conservatives for tax cuts). However, the tax cuts in the stimulus bill are not geared to capture these efficiency gains.

Instead, they're almost entirely given out in the form of lump-sum transfers — the marginal tax rate, the fraction of your next earned dollar that is diverted to the government, will either stay the same or increase for most people. There will be no efficiency gains from this bill.

But wait, it gets even worse.

The most salient failure of the stimulus bill

is in the last third, which is good old fashioned spending. The goal of stimulus spending is two-fold: to be shovel-ready (in other words, timely), and productive. The vast majority of the spending fails on both counts — not only is it delayed until well after it is needed, but it's also of questionable real value.

It's clear that Democrats banked upon Republicans being unable to offer serious opposition; taking to heart Rahm Emmanuel's maxim that "no crisis should go to waste," Democrats stuffed the legislation with all the pet projects that they've lusted after for years.

Democrats are fond of saying that the stimulus bill is free of earmarks — but earmark-free doesn't mean pork-free. It only means that a particular legislative tactic was not used. For all their talk of bipartisanship, the left played this like politics as usual, larding the bill with all the goodies they wanted and responding to Republican outrage by slamming them as anti-government ideologues who would rather sink the country than admit a fault.

In reality, had Democrats simply dropped their pork (or, more cynically, if they'd just let the GOP up to the trough), they could have had near unanimous support for the bill's passage.

But wait, it gets still worse.

Some are inclined to believe that anything is better than nothing, that taking action, however imperfect, is still better than no action at all. The great Keynes himself once famously quipped that during a recession, governments should pay people to dig holes, and then pay them again to fill them in.

However Keynes missed something in his analysis: make-work projects raise spending, but since they create public debt, they also raise expectations of future belt tightening. Forward looking individuals, in expectation that they'll have less after-tax income in the future, will save more today, offsetting the spending gain achieved by paying people to squander resources.

Unless spending is done wisely, creating objects of value that promise to either raise

future incomes or reduce the need for future government expenditures, it may actually have a dampening effect on the economy.

Even more damning is the partisanship with which Democrats pursued their agenda. Had Democrats cut out their wasteful spending, Republicans would have happily voted for it and would have been in a compromising mood when the inevitable second round of stimulus came by. Instead, it looks like every future step is going to be made against a hardened Republican minority that has become disillusioned by the gap between Democratic rhetoric and action.

Many moderate

conservatives like Judd Gregg, taken aback by the rapacious ways of the supposedly post-partisan Obama administration, have withdrawn the goodwill they showed and returned to their trenches. Rather than raise expectations about the economy, this

bill has lowered them, not only by condemning us to higher taxes in future years, but also by raising the specter of government gridlock at a time of national crisis.

But wait, because this is the worst.

Fiscal stimulus is only going to work if it is

made in tandem with progress in fixing the financial sector. But the financial situation is not being sorted out. The Paulson/TARP plan is solid, and the Obama administration is sticking to it. But, rather than further defining the plan and adding details, all they've done is restate the vague road map set out by Bush.

Timothy Geithner, the new treasury secretary, is an intellectual lightweight in over his head. A student of East Asian affairs, not economics, Geithner floundered in his role as president of the Federal Reserve Bank of New York and since his promotion he hasn't done any better. Being an East Asian hammer, he has a tendency to see things as an East Asia nail; he's provided as much detail in his China bashing comments as in his Treasury's plan for absorbing the long tail of risk present in the financial world. Markets have tumbled in response.

The short of things is this: this stimulus measure is, at best, a sloppy stopgap. It does the obvious — counteract declines in state spending and enact moderate tax cuts — but beyond that it's a mess. With any hope, this bill will provide Congress some breathing room to sharpen their pencils and come back with a second round of stimulus that will be full of productive, shovel-ready projects to get the economy moving again. Ironically (given the campaign slogans), with this president and Congress, hope is something in short supply.

"Some are inclined to believe that anything is better than nothing, that taking action, however imperfect, is still better than no action at all."



Clean Energy

Seize the Opportunity Now

Marcio G. von Muhlen

Only 12 months ago oil was racing past \$100 a barrel, and it seemed like our nation's ability to address our energy future would become the defining issue for our times. It might be tempting to dismiss talk of our energy challenge as just another fad born out of those crazy subprime mortgage days. After all, gasoline prices have come down, and how can we worry too much about the environment when millions of Americans have just lost their jobs? Nonetheless, there are three key reasons why energy remains an urgent issue and critical to our future.

First, the fundamentals that drove the price of oil and gas to stratospheric highs are not going away. These fossil fuels are finite resources, our ability to extract them cheaply is diminishing, and their costs will again increase as global markets recover and as the developing world surges ahead in population and economic growth. The cost of a barrel of oil is already up 20% from its December 2008 low.

Second, our demand for foreign oil and the related foreign policy decisions we make to ensure supply from abroad have greatly diminished our leadership position in the global political economy. According to the US Energy Information Administration, the US imports 58% of its petroleum needs. The top three global oil exporters are Saudi Arabia, Russia, and Iran; and 56% of global oil reserves are in the Middle East. If we want to restore both economic and geopolitical strength to the US, we need to increase our self-reliance. Our greatest obstacle to doing so is our dependence on foreign oil.

Third, the environmental cost of burning fossil fuels is increasingly hard to ignore, and policy changes acknowledging this are gaining momentum. Evidence for climate change is so compelling that even oil company executives have acknowledged it as a critical problem.

Consider the words of the US Climate Action Partnership, a group that includes the petroleum giants ConocoPhillips and Shell. In their 2008 "Call to Action" they announced, "We need a mandatory, flexible climate pro-

gram ... The most efficient and powerful way to stimulate private investment in research, development, and deployment is to adopt policies establishing a market value for GHG (greenhouse gas) emissions over the long-term."

President Obama has promised legislation to reflect the GHG cost of fossil fuels and \$150 billion to speed development of alternatives. It is therefore reasonable to expect that our energy policies will be changing quite soon, bringing an entirely new set of incentives to the energy marketplace. These realities represent a huge opportunity to begin reshaping the world's \$6 trillion per year energy industry through technology and innovation.

These opportunities are evident in companies like EnerNOC, which has grown from a student business plan competition winner to a \$250m business in just six years, and Co2Stats.com, a service started by two students through a program designed for first-time entrepreneurs. EnerNOC enables utilities to avoid building excess power plants by coordinating decreased electricity demand by large users during peak hours. Co2Stats has registered 5,000 sites in the last sixteen months to track the carbon footprint of their web presence. Could the next clean energy success story be yours?

Awareness is just a mindset. You can contribute to the clean energy movement by getting involved in your university's energy community — and if none exists, you can create one. You can also seize the opportunity by building a team and competing for the MIT Clean Energy Prize (www.mitecp.com), sponsored by NSTAR and the US Department of Energy. This business plan competition, open to student teams from all US universities, is designed to develop a new generation of energy entrepreneurs; it offers \$500,000 in prizes and is partnered with the MIT \$100K Competition. The deadline is February 26th.

Every community in the US depends on energy and the solutions to our energy challenge will not come from any one policy, university, or company. What will be your contribution?

Marcio von Muhlen is a graduate student in the Biological Engineering Department at MIT. He is also co-director of the MIT Clean Energy Prize.

Preferred Dining

An Expensive Failure

Aditya Kohli

MIT offers great flexibility with its dining plan. Many other schools around the country force students to buy into a dining plan that could feed a family of four for six months. Whatever money the student does not spend on food is lost. At MIT, we instead boast a "pay as you go system" that gives students more dining options.

The above is the spiel often given at MIT info sessions and on campus tours. Too bad it's a ruse. The mandatory "Preferred Dining" program at Next House, Baker, Simmons, and McCormick Hall is a perfect example of an inefficient and unnecessarily punitive dining program — the very program that MIT prides itself on not possessing.

The program charges all residents of the four dorms, except seniors in McCormick, three hundred dollars per term. This fee gets residents a 50 percent discount on most items in their dining halls. A cursory look at the system might make it seem beneficial to the student. However, in order for someone to take advantage of the system he or she must spend \$600 each semester. Each dining hall is typically open for 60 meals in the course of a semester, so that students must spend \$10 at each meal to make the program worthwhile. In addition, they must eat every meal at the dining hall.

Unfortunately, both of these value requirements are rarely met. According to Volume 126 Issue 40 of *The Tech*, the average check at one of the four dining halls is \$8. Moreover, it is safe to say that nobody eats every meal in their dining hall — in fact, a sizeable demographic never eats in a dormitory. Those freshmen with Greek affiliations (50 percent of males and 25 percent of females) often eat meals at their respective houses. They end up paying double: at the house and through the dining halls. Also, if a resident goes out to a meal in Boston, he

or she is effectively paying both \$10 for the missed meal in the dining hall and the cost of what they actually eat. The assumptions made by MIT's Preferred Dining program are simply far-fetched.

The rationale behind Preferred Dining is twofold. The first is to help subsidize campus dining and make it autonomous. MIT should not make students pay for an inefficient dining program; it should shoulder the weight itself. We pay enough tuition as it is; it is ridiculous to expect us to pay \$10 every night for dinner in our dorms.

The second reason given for Preferred Dining is that it encourages students to eat in their dorms and thus builds community. In this goal, Preferred Dining fails miserably. MIT does not understand that students cannot simply be forced to interact with one another. If I have free time at dinner, I will eat with my friends. I am probably not going to approach someone I have never met before and strike up a conversation in the interest of building community. (Although if I did the topic of conversation would probably be how overpriced the hamburger we are both eating is).

There are a number of simple solutions to make Preferred Dining more valuable. Dining halls could be open seven days a week or could serve lunch and breakfast in addition to dinner. Both of these scenarios would make the program more economically feasible for students. The best way to fix the program, however, would be to make it optional. Those who eat enough to make Preferred Dining useful would purchase it and those who never use it will not be forced to pay \$600 a year.

MIT seems to have an aversion to making things mandatory for students — why the exception here?

This column was first published in *The Tech* on February 13, 2007. Seniors in McCormick are now required to buy into the Preferred Dining program.

CAMPUS LIFE

Brouhaha Rhythm

More Than a Groupie, Less Than a Stalker

By Michael Lin

CAMPUS LIFE EDITOR

Those who know me well will know that it is impossible for me to be only vaguely interested in something. The moment I get excited about anything; be it a video game, television show, movie, or music group; I go directly into "fanboy mode." I become almost unhealthily obsessed, becoming as fervent a fan as is physically possible, short of getting logos tattooed on my face. I quote from film and television constantly. I annoy all of my friends, trying to convert them to whatever new cause I've adopted. I create relevant costumes for Halloween parties and, in a recent and potentially unsettling development, conventions.

What can I say? I like wearing red ties and domino masks. Luckily for me that double-

sided tape isn't as permanent as it advertises, and the pain of peeling off the top half of my face is worth it to achieve the right superhero effect.

Fanboyism is a state of irrational fervor and/or obsession of sufficient intensity to overwhelm objectivity and reason. Every comic book hero in existence is bound to have at least one such fan, even the underrated Aquaman, who people seem to forget is much more than just the Fish Whisperer. It takes guts to cut off his own hand (no sushi jokes, please) to save a life, and replacing it with a retractable hook is just awesome. So what if he's weakened by dehydration? So is everybody else, except maybe the Human Torch. Green Lantern's weakness is the color yellow, but he never seems to catch any flak for that. Ahem... those who value political cor-

rectness may not care for the gender-specific term "fanboy," but considering that it's generally applied towards the whiny and illogical, I suppose it's only fair. One's initial inclination might be to assume that fanboyism is limited to the nerd and geek demographics, and although it is true that the word finds greatest use among we strange and peculiar folk, I'm prepared to wager that the phenomenon is universal, a fundament of human nature.

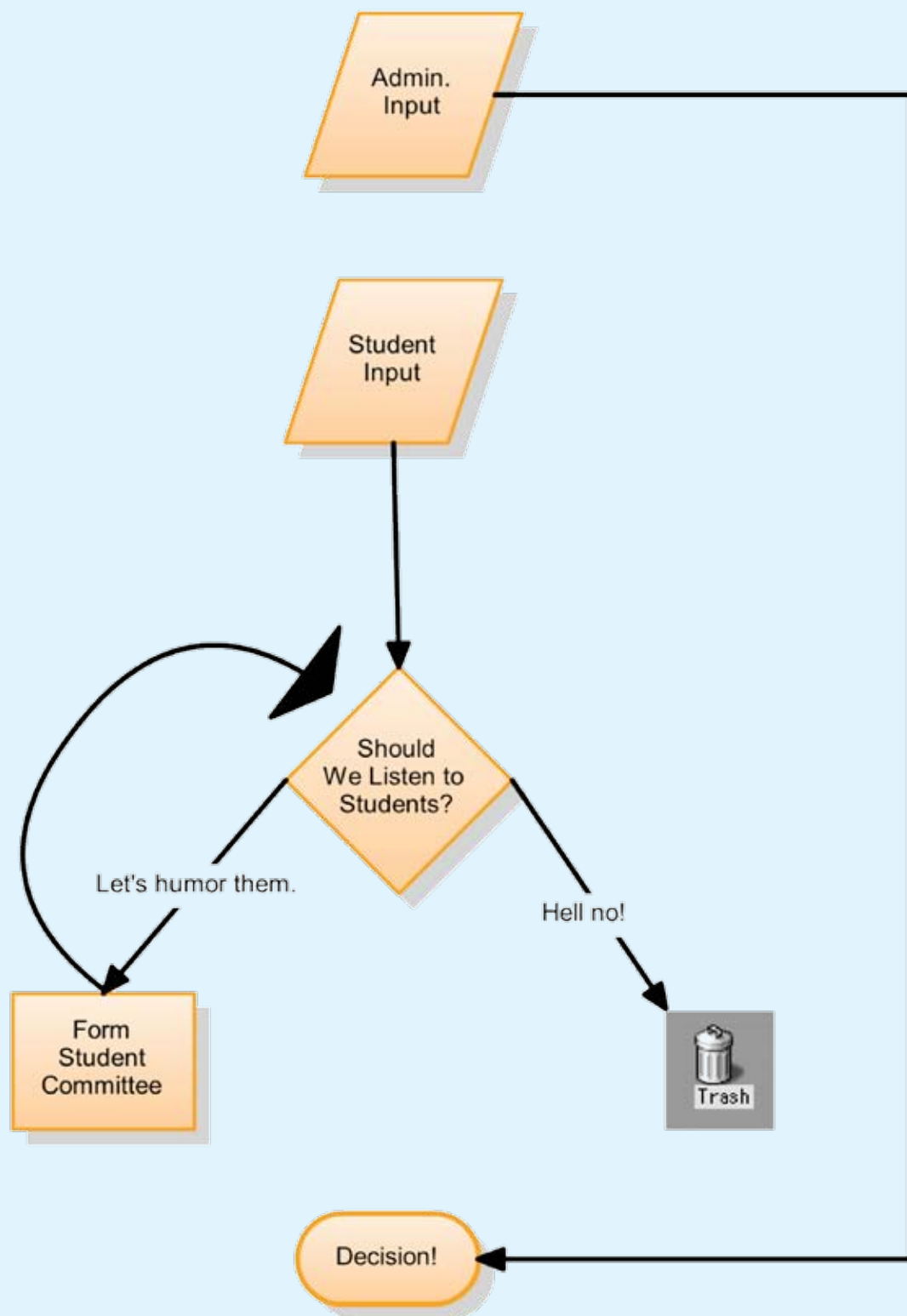
Clearly, the concept of the fanboy can't be foreign to anyone who has had contact with the Internet in the past ten years or with other human beings in the past four hundred. 17th century Puritan oppression? Total fanboyism. Ninjas vs. Pirates? Fanboyism. N'Sync vs. Backstreet Boys? Fanboyism, and a bloody example of it, at that. Charlie Chaplin vs. Buster Keaton? Fanboyism. Politics? Ohh, boy.

I don't think I could give any rational explanation for why I get so fixated. It isn't as if I'm incapable of apathy or ambivalence. There are plenty of things I don't care about, but virtually none that I only sort-of care about. Maybe some evil government laboratory cut up my brain and stripped my amygdala, leaving me emotionally unchecked, like a fictional character from yet another of my various obsessions. Perhaps I'm permanently cursed with the inability to merely dip my toes in new experiential puddles. It's either a full-bodied, two-footed stomp, or avoiding getting my feet wet altogether. It is my gift. It is my curse... well, you know the rest.

Now, if you'll excuse me, I have some deck tweaking to do. I just picked up a new collectible card game a few weeks ago, and you know how I get about these things.

FLOWCHART

How Decisions are Made at MIT



Agree?

Disagree?

Let us know!

E-mail letters@tech.mit.edu

Submission deadline for Friday's issue: Wednesday at 4:30 p.m.

Steal My Comic

by Michael Ciuffo



20 YEARS LATER...

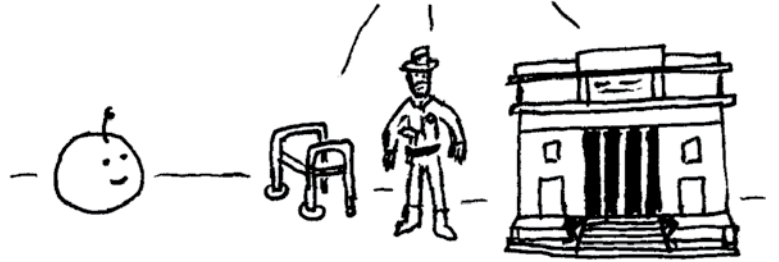
LOS ANGELES 2029 A.D.

Blobbles

by Jason Chan

Hey Walker, do you want to go to BoCo tomorrow?

which one of us are you talking to?



Thanks to Eric Marion for today's caption. Want to see your caption in Blobbles? Send an e-mail to blobbles@mit.edu!

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 9.

© Puzzles by Pappocom

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

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

Crossword Puzzle

Solution, page 9

ACROSS

- 1 Wild stab
- 6 Pod pals
- 10 Front of the calf
- 14 Honshu metropolis
- 15 Bullets, informally
- 16 Story
- 17 Magazine
- 19 Orchestral reed
- 20 Tool for evening
- 21 Count (on)
- 23 Natl. TV network
- 26 Speaker
- 28 Sunbeam
- 29 Bradley U. city
- 31 Mountain nymph
- 33 Tennis champ Monica
- 34 Earring setting
- 36 Summoned, old-style
- 39 God of love
- 40 Make repairs at Shea
- 41 Hebrew zither
- 42 "Auld Lang ___"
- 43 Bridge position
- 44 Unstressed vowel
- 45 Olympian Jesse
- 47 Cake makers
- 48 ___ Gatos, CA
- 50 Grain alcohol

- 53 Kind of bread
- 54 Deep secrets
- 56 ___ Antoinette
- 58 Hoof noise
- 59 Confiscate
- 64 Small shark
- 65 Winglike parts
- 66 Be of one mind
- 67 Cameo gem
- 68 Tear apart
- 69 Roebuck's partner

DOWN

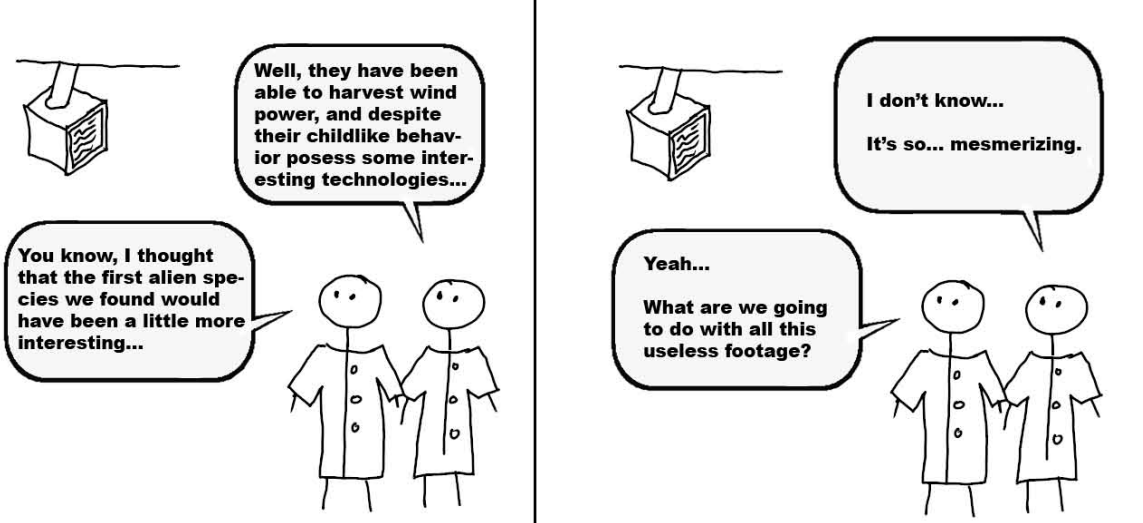
- 1 Letters for Republicans
- 2 Bring into play
- 3 Corn serving
- 4 Quick hop
- 5 Brazilian city near Belem
- 6 House coat?
- 7 Roast host
- 8 Doctor's org.
- 9 Mended with melted metal
- 10 Halt
- 11 Dealer in men's furnishings
- 12 Entertainer Massey

- 13 In want
- 18 Facts
- 22 Afore
- 23 Church sections
- 24 Noah or Wallace
- 25 Intestinal exam
- 27 Mechanical man
- 30 Stitch anew
- 32 One way to be taken?
- 34 Dog tether
- 35 C.I.A. forerunner
- 37 Wedding present?
- 38 Wipe from memory
- 40 Temporary auto
- 44 John Steinbeck's birthplace
- 46 Poetic twilight
- 47 Half a Polynesian island?
- 48 Milk: pref.
- 49 Synthetic fiber
- 51 Jordan's capital
- 52 Identified
- 55 Peak
- 57 Rim
- 60 Granada bravo
- 61 Period
- 62 Auction end?
- 63 Legal matter

1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13
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54			55				56				57			
58					59	60						61	62	63
64					65						66			
67					68						69			

The Daily Blunderbuss

by Ben Peters



Doonesbury

BY GARRY TRUDEAU

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CHELSEA GRIMM—THE TECH

Marcel P. Nunez '11 (back) of MIT's Habitat for Humanity chapter works with a volunteer from the Greater Lowell chapter to remove mud and stone from the basement of a 150-year-old farmhouse in Bedford, MA. MIT's chapter sends 16 volunteers to a Build Day each month.

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- Is the purpose of science to understand or just to meet our bodily needs?
- Are humans forever destined to be aliens to the universe? Or does our ordinary experience count for anything?



Initial Deadline:
Monday, February 23

Join our Seminar at MIT the week of June 15th to begin considering these questions with the care they deserve.

Institute
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Nature

www.isnature.org

Solution to Sudoku

from page 7

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

Solution to Crossword

from page 7

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

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\$100 stimulus 1st one to fault this Fermat frolic

$$X^n + Y^n = Z^n = \text{the product } (Z^{n-2})(Z^2)$$

$$\text{Fig.1 } Z^n = a^2 - b^2 = \left(\frac{Z^{n-2} + Z^2}{2}\right) - \left(\frac{Z^{n-2} - Z^2}{2}\right) \quad a-b=Z^2$$

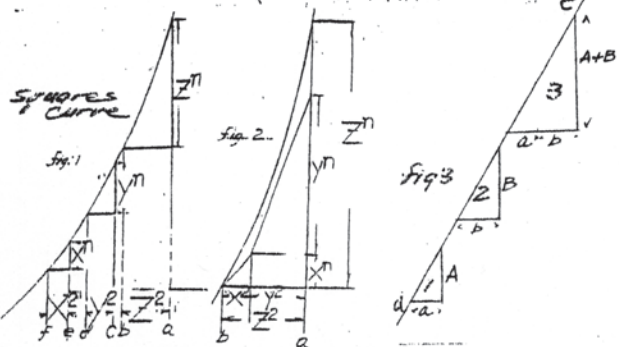


Fig.1 $a-b=Z^2, c-d=Y^2, e-f=X^2$. Fig.2 shows the integral triple $Z^2=X^2+Y^2$. and indicates X^n+Y^n is less than Z^n . 2 reasons for this 1. a change in slope. only a constant slope d/e (fig.3) allows addition of A, B from items 1,2 to equal the total rise in item 3. 2. let $Z_1=(X+r)=(Y+t)$, $Z_1^n = Z_1^{n-2} = X_1^{n-2}(X+r)^{n-2} + Y_1^{n-2}(Y+t)^{n-2}$ which equals X^n+Y^n +things. $X^n+Y^n = Z_1^n$ -things. if Z_2 is introduced where $Z_2 < Z_1$, then $Z_2^n + Y_2^n \neq Z_2^n$. an integral solution is not possible.

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617-784-6569

Text of Letter to Guest Columnist

The below letter was sent as an e-mail to Gila Fakterman, one of two authors of the Jan. 28, 2009 opinion column "Expecting More from an MIT Professor: How Prof. Chomsky's Talk Failed the Community."

The letter was condemned by senior members of the MIT administration who wrote, in an open letter to *The Tech*, "the subsequent anonymous email sent to the letter's authors was unmistakably hostile and hurtful. While such expression is legally protected, its content merits our strongest condemnation." See page 4 for the full administration response.

An Information Services & Technology consultant told Fakterman that it appeared the message originated from Eastern Washington University. The *Tech* column was widely available on the Internet, and someone could easily have found the column using a service like Google News and responded to the column by e-mail.

"We urge all members of our community to honor MIT's admirable tradition of using our right to free expression in ways that promote informed, respectful debate," wrote Chancellor Phillip L. Clay PhD '75, Vice Chancellor Steven R. Lerman '72, Dean for Student Life Chris Colombo, and Dean for Undergraduate Education Daniel E. Hastings '78, in the Monday e-mail.

Public condemnation is a rare action by the MIT administration, which does not generally comment on

campus discussions. To provide context for the administrators' response, *The Tech* has printed the text of the letter below.

Subject: I agree with Hitler

Date: Wed, 28 Jan 2009 22:00:01 -0800 (PST)

From: "Kember M." <klminh@yahoo.com>

To: gila@MIT.EDU

Hello,

I'm wondering, how long will those stupid jews use Hitler as a crutch to avoid self-criticism?

Israel is a terrorist, apartheid state. They deserve to be compared DIRECTLY TO HITLER, not indirectly, as Professor Chomsky noted in his speech.

You act like a piece of shit, you treat people with the same respect as jews were treated (dark-skinned people, not white. i know it's hard for you to understand) in daily life, spit in their face at every opportunity, you deserve to be criticized as Hitler's ilk.

You are an incredibly weak individual, if you think Israel deserve's to be held above Hitler, or Bush, or any other evil government. I feel sorry for you, but I have to point it out to you directly, I can't just let your statement against the greatest thinker of our time go unpunished.

Start thinking rationally, it will do you good!!! good day,

UA Bill Calls for Larger Student Role In Dining Committee and Its Decisions

UA Dining, from Page 1

In response to skepticism about the proposed committee's ability to finish what has so far been a two-year process in a few months, UA Vice President Michael A. Bennie '10 said, "we have the data so that's nine

months of the process."

The bill demands the current dining committee be dissolved largely in order to "give the chair of the committee to the students," said UA president Noah S. Jessop '09. "If the Blue Ribbon Committee is able to reform itself to fit this plan, I would

be delighted to let it do so," Jessop said.

The exact structure of the proposed committee has not yet been determined, but the UA would want to include students from a broad spectrum of living and dining situations.

Want to sound off?

Write a letter to the editor! letters@tech.mit.edu

Deadline: 4:30 p.m., 2 days before publication

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Mandatory Dining Proposed At MIT? That's Nothing New.

Student Reactions to Dining Plan Vary from Approving to Skeptical

Proposals, from Page 1

lars and TechCASH to a maximum of \$2,475 for the unlimited meal plan with \$50 in dining dollars.

Freshmen living in other dormitories would have the option of selecting all of the plans available to those in AYCE residences, plus several declining-balance plans. The cheapest option is \$950 (according to the draft presentation) or \$995 (according to the executive summary) per semester in dining dollars.

The required contribution from students decreases as seniority increases, but the lowest contribution required is still \$600 (according to the draft presentation) or \$800 (according to the executive summary) per semester, a plan available only to juniors and seniors in dorms without dining halls. Upperclassmen in dormitories with AYCE dining halls would still be required to choose a plan that includes a number of AYCE meals.

Currently, the five dormitories with dining halls — Baker House, McCormick Hall, Next House, Simmons Hall, and NW35 — require that residents subscribe to a \$300-per-semester meal plan that offers students 50 percent off à la carte items at all dormitory dining halls. NW35 offers an AYCE dinner for \$8 (\$4 with the dining plan). Currently, residents of dormitories without dining halls do not have a requirement to subscribe to any meal plan.

The consultants also made a variety of suggestions to expand dining to the east side of campus, such as re-opening Pritchett as an AYCE dining hall. They also recommended expanding dining hall service to include breakfast, lunch, and dinner.

The impetus for mandatory meal plans and dining halls that offer longer hours and AYCE options in the proposal seem to come largely from concerns over the low percentage of students reported to maintain a balanced diet — less than 20 percent of undergraduates and 30 percent of graduate students, according to a campus-wide spring 2008 survey administered by Envision Strategies and the Blue Ribbon Committee.

The draft report cites encouraging proper nutrition as one of the key purposes of a campus dining program. They state a vision that “dining plans should insure that economic considerations do not compromise student nutrition.”

In addition to nutrition, social engagement and community building were also listed as primary justifications for the recommendations.

Sit-down dining venues “may be more conducive for social engagement,” according to the report.

The report claims “thoughts that survey respondents tend to agree upon” included “MIT should offer a global meal plan to build community,” “Meals are an important part of the residential life experience,” and “Broader commitments are justified if it results in lower costs and better service.”

The slide presentation, however, notes that “students do not think there should be a meal plan commitment, regardless of where they live.”

Some details such as costs and which students would be required to participate were inconsistent between the presentation and summary, possibly suggesting that the specifics are still tentative at this point.

Historical Perspective

The proposal of the Blue Ribbon

LEGAL COUNSEL

MIT students, family, employers and start-ups seeking U.S. legal counsel, campus or office consultation. Call:

James Dennis Leary, Esq.
321-544-0012

Committee is the latest chapter in a nearly two-decade old story. Over that time, MIT has often tried to revamp the way its students eat. Mandatory meal plans are the norm at most peer institutions, but all recent efforts to make MIT more like its peers have stalled because of student opposition.

Previous incarnations of the Blue Ribbon Committee, such as the House Dining Committee in 1992, the Institute Dining Review Working Group in the mid-1990s and the Campus Dining Board in 2001, have all attempted to resolve the question of dining at MIT. All these committees and working groups suggested mandatory meal plans whose implementations were derailed due to student opposition.

Until 1993, MIT had dining for houses with dining halls: Baker, MacGregor, McCormick and Next. That year, MIT tried to introduce a more expensive AYCE option for those dining halls in an attempt to make the dining system solvent. But the Institute eventually backtracked when the plan met with student resistance to the high price tag and instead chose to close the dining halls in MacGregor and McCormick.

Over the rest of the 1990s and into the early 2000s, several other committees tried to develop an acceptable dining solution. Eventually a new model of subsidized dining, with students paying an up-front fee and then buying a la carte meals at half price, emerged with the creation of Simmons Hall in 2002. Baker and Next House followed Simmons' example the following year, and McCormick reopened its dining hall the year after that with the same model. As of last week, the new undergraduate dormitory NW35 also adopted this subsidized dining model after initially trying a completely mandatory meal plan (one up-front fee for all meals).

Several current administrators have been involved in past iterations of MIT dining committees. The current Secretary of the Institute, Kirk D. Kolenbrander, was a one-time chair of the Campus Dining Board of 2001. The activity of this committee overlapped with the start of Berlin's tenure. And the Director of the Campus Activities Complex, Phillip J. Walsh, was a leader of the earlier Institute Dining Review working group of the mid-1990s.

as opinions on the issues themselves.

Many students' primary concerns about the proposed dining plan center around its potential to restrict student choice. They objected to a mandatory buy-in.

“I'd like to have my own decision when it comes to dining,” said Jasmine R. Florentine '11, a Random Hall resident.

Ashutosh Singhal '12 voiced concern that students would not be allowed to spend a mandatory meal balance at all of the places where students currently choose to buy food, including ethnic and other specialty grocery stores.

“I don't think there's anything wrong with [all you can eat dining] but it doesn't have to be mandatory,” said Nick Meyers '12.

Many students expressed concerns about the financial implications of a mandatory dining plan: “It forces us to pay for a plan not all MIT students will use,” said Jeff Z. Chen '12, who lives in Simmons Hall.

Dima Ayyash '12 echoed this sentiment, saying, “I don't think we should be forced to pay for food.” Ayyash, who moved to Senior House from Simmons this semester, said that, having experienced both eating at the dining hall at Simmons, and relying more on grocery shopping for food at Senior House, she prefers living without a dining hall because she spends less money on food.

Students' opinions on how they personally would like changes to the dining system — issues of mandatory buy-in aside — varied widely, too.

Some students liked the possibility of the expanded all-you-can-eat options the proposal suggests: “I definitely think all-you-can-eat is a great option because I love eating and it's stressful to have to decide on specific foods,” said Katherine J. Eve '12, who lives in Next House. “I'm an athlete, too, so I have to eat a lot.”

Kabelo Zwane '12 agreed: “Personally, I find that I'm not very good at picking stuff that's good for me.” Zwane said he went to a high school with a dining hall that provided healthy food for lunch and “it seemed easier to go to some place with limited options and know you'd be eating something healthy.”

“It would be best to have a normal dining plan with breakfast, lunch, and dinner,” said Adriana Vasquez '11, though she did not believe such a plan should be mandatory.

Other students said they preferred the current system to the proposed one: “I like the system the way it is now,” said Angela Cheng '11. “[All-you-can-eat] seems like kind of a waste, because right now we can get as much food as we need.”

Stephanie P. Chen '11 expressed the same sentiment and said, “An all-you-can-eat system is more unhealthy because people will eat more to get their money's worth. Less

drastic changes might be better.”

Other students expressed dissatisfaction with the current dining options, but knew less about the proposed dining plan. Complaints about the current dining system ranged from too few options to too few hours to too expensive to too unhealthy.

Jose A. Muniz-Navarro '09 said that, as a senior, he felt that MIT currently lacked sufficient dining options. He complained that he had become bored of the options that restaurants at the student center provided and joked, “I would suspect that what I'm eating at MIT for four years is going to have some serious consequences.”

He said he liked the idea of having more options available through a dining hall but expressed skepticism that MIT dining could provide quality service: “The danger of having mandatory dining is that if it's crappy then everyone will have mandatory crappy dining.”

His friend, Aldo Pacchiano-Camacho '12, lamented having three years of eating at MIT ahead of him rather than behind him: “I'm a freshman, and at the beginning I liked the teriyaki chicken and other student center options, but I'm already tired of everything.”

Student understanding of the leaked consultants' proposal varied: the majority of students interviewed by *The Tech* said they had either glanced over or not looked at the copy that has circulated through dorm mailing lists over the weekend.



Paul Baranay '11 participates in a meeting on Sunday in Burton-Conner's Porter Room to discuss the leaked consultants' report on dining. The meeting was hosted by the Campaign for Students.

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The Endless Present

Eyal Weizman on the Architecture of Occupation on Israel Palestine

FEBRUARY 19, 2009

4:30p-6:00p

MIT Bldg 32-155

MAIN SPEAKER

Eyal Weizman is an architect based in London. He is the director of the Centre for Research Architecture at Goldsmiths College, University of London. Before this role, Weizman was professor of architecture at the Academy of Fine Arts in Vienna. In 2008, he became a member of the BTselem Managing Board. He has taught, lectured, curated and organized conferences at many institutions worldwide. His books include *Hollow Land*, *A Civilian Occupation*, the series *Territories 1, 2 and 3*, *Yellow Rhythms* and many articles in journals, magazines and edited books.

COMMENTATOR

Salim Tamari is director of the Institute of Jerusalem Studies and a professor of sociology at Birzeit University. He edits *Hawliyyat al Quds* and *Jerusalem Quarterly* and is also the author of several works on urban culture, political sociology, biography and social history, and the social history of the Eastern Mediterranean.

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SPORTS

MIT Theater on Ice Team Takes First Place at SCNY Showcase

By Wendy Chen
TEAM MEMBER

On February 14, 2009, the MIT Figure Skating team competed at the Skating Club of New York (SCNY) Showcase, a United States Figure Skating-sanctioned competition in theatrical skating held at the Chelsea Piers Sky Rink in New York City. The team placed first in the Production Ensemble event, which required at least 7 skaters.

Jessica A. Eisenstein '06 choreographed the three-minute, thirty-second-long program to music from *Chicago's* "Cell Block Tango." Participants included: Elizabeth R. Boroson '09, Kristina K. Brown '09, Wendy Chen '10, Diana S. Cheng '04, Jane Codman (staff), Jessica A. Eisenstein '06, Katherine J. Fang '12, Regula E. Granger '12, Bonny S. Kellermann '72, Annie Ouyang '11, Carla Rivas G, Aubrey L. Samost '10, and Cynthia Tang '09.

Highlights of the program included individual sit spins and two synchronized skating pinwheels; Boroson, Fang, Granger, Rivas, Samost, and Tang lifting Cheng to represent a gunshot to Eisenstein, who played the male role; and solo duets with similar pairs elements by Samost and Eisenstein. Skaters on the team also performed individual tricks that included jumps, lunges, and spirals on the ice while criss-crossing each other. The program



COURTESY OF THE FIGURE SKATING TEAM

The MIT figure skating team is seen on Feb. 14 at the Skating Club of New York.

concluded in a dramatic ending where skaters on the outside circle

performed a Mohawk sequence while closing in on the skaters on the inside circle, who struck an aggressive pose by stabbing Eisenstein with their roses.

This is the second year that the Figure Skating team has fielded a competitive Theater on Ice team. The Theater on Ice team and other skaters will be performing in the annual MIT Figure Skating Club exhibition on Saturday March 14, 2009 at 6 p.m. in the Johnson Ice Rink. The show is open to the public and admission is free.

UPCOMING HOME EVENTS

Tuesday, Feb. 17, 2009

Men's Volleyball vs. Lesley University 7 p.m., Rockwell Cage

Wednesday, Feb. 18, 2009

Men's Basketball vs. Clark University 6 p.m., Rockwell Cage
Men's Hockey vs. Bryant University 7 p.m., Johnson Ice Rink

SCOREBOARD

Men's Basketball

Saturday, February 14, 2009	
Worcester Polytechnic Institute (18-4)	72
MIT (16-8)	55

Women's Basketball

Saturday, February 14, 2009	
Wellesley College (10-9)	58
MIT (4-17)	44

Men's Hockey

Saturday, February 14, 2009	
MIT (10-5-1)	Win by Forfeit
University of New England (13-4-1)	

Women's Hockey

Friday, February 13, 2009	
MIT (6-13-1)	3
St. Michael's College (5-14-3)	4
Saturday, February 14, 2009	
MIT (6-14-1)	1
Norwich University (13-5-1)	5

Women's Gymnastics

Saturday, February 14, 2009	
Ithaca and SUNY Brockport	
MIT	2nd of 3

Men's Volleyball

Saturday, February 14, 2009	
MIT (5-9)	1
Ramapo College	3
Saturday, February 14, 2009	
MIT (6-9)	3
Hunter College	1
Sunday, February 15, 2009	
MIT (7-9)	3
Baruch College	2
Sunday, February 15, 2009	
MIT (8-9)	3
New Jersey City University	0

Men's Wrestling

Friday, February 13, 2009	
MIT (2-16)	24
Coast Guard Academy (4-11)	34
Friday, February 13, 2009	
MIT (2-17)	21
Western New England College (1-10)	30

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Presenter: Daniel Weiss
MFIC Chief Strategy Officer & Head of Ascella Compliance

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