Number of Applicants Increases; Acceptance Rate Is Record 10.2%  

Officer Joseph D’Amelio of the MIT Police was arrested in uniform in East Boston on Saturday night for trafficking in prescription painkillers. D’Amelio, of East Boston, and his cousin Anthony Cristallo, of Derry, NH, were caught trafficking 340 OxyContin pills and 500 Roxicodone tablets at an auto shop near Logan International Airport, the Boston Herald reported. D’Amelio was arraigned and bail was set at $500,000 cash in the East Boston District Court yesterday. Both D’Amelio and Cristallo pleaded not guilty. If convicted of trafficking over 25 grams of oxycodone, D’Amelio and Cristallo face at least 7 years in prison, according to Massachusetts sentencing guidelines. Cristallo, a convicted killer, spent 15 years in New Hampshire state prison for a murder he committed in 1986 at age 16, the Suffolk County assistant district attorney told WMUR-TV Channel 9 New Hampshire.

Federal Express opened a package in their custody containing the oxycodone tablets and notified narcotics officers. Federal Express performed a “miracle.” (It was a FedEx employee, the Boston Herald reported.)

MIT Campus police officer Joseph D’Amelio was arrested Saturday on drug trafficking charges after receiving a package containing hundreds of prescription painkiller tablets at an auto shop in East Boston.

Grad Student Stipends Increase 3.4%  

GSC Report Says Cost of Living for Grad Students Increased 4.9% Last Year  

By Zeina Siam  

Wenjia Zhu ’11 and Bo Han ’10 use the Lindgren Library lobby for a quick phone conference on March 16. Because of budgetary constraints, Lindgren Library (Building 24) and the Aeronautics and Astronautics Library (Building 33) will likely close in the near future, as reported in last week’s Tech.

The annual survey characterizes the consumption behavior and cost of living of the MIT graduate student body. The survey polled 2208 graduate students, or 36 percent of MIT’s graduate population, a sample size Chan described as “huge.” These percentages are then indexed to the Bureau of Labor Statistics’ September-to-September inflation numbers for each of several consumption-good categories. These categories, such as “Food and Beverages” and “Transportation,” are used to represent a graduate student’s total expenditure.

At the near future, as reported in last week’s Tech.

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Based on their recent annual survey, the GSC estimates the cost of living for a graduate student has gone up by 4.9 percent for the coming academic year. The GSC said that housing and agricultural prices are increasing continually, affecting graduate students’ budgets and putting pressure on the council to request increases in stipends.

“We get information about the students’ consumption baskets and the percentage that each surveyed student allocates to each consumption good type,” said Alex H. Chan ’10, co-chair of the GSC’s Housing and Community Affairs subcommittee.

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**Obama Moves to Quell Fury Over AIG Bonuses**

President Barack Obama and his top economic advisers scrambled to calm a nationwide furor on Friday over bonuses paid at American International Group, the insurance giant that received $85 billion in federal aid.

The White House announced that the Treasury Department would begin reviewing AIG's bonuses on Monday, and that the government might recapture them if it determined that the payments were inappropriate.

"You could argue that if taxpayers had pulled out AIG, the contracts wouldn't be worth the paper they were signed on," said one aide.

For all the furor since details of the bonuses became public over the last several days, the issue of restitution payments to AIG employees globally has been percolating publicly since AIG was bailed out in mid-November. About $1 billion in re- tention payments for 2008 and 2009 are in question, but the controversy involves only a fraction of that, about $450 million over two years, that was intended for employees of AIG's financial products unit. That was the source of the financial derivatives blame for the near-meltdown at the heart of the economy's downturn.

The AIG compensation committee Monday to regain control of state prison health care.

**High Court's Second-Amendment Ruling Has Had Little Impact**

By Adam Liptak

About nine months ago, the Supreme Court breathed new life into the Second Amendment, ruling for the first time that it protects an individual right to own guns. Since then, lower federal courts have decided more than 80 cases interpreting the decision, District of Columbia v. Heller, and it is now possible to make a preliminary assessment of its impact.

So far, Heller is firing blanks.

The courts have upheld federal laws banning gun ownership by people convicted of felonies and some misdemeanors, by illegal immigrants and by drug addicts. They have upheld laws banning machine guns and banning semi-automated weapons. They have also upheld laws making it illegal to carry guns near schools or in post offices. And they have upheld laws concerning concealed and unregistered weapons.

"The Heller case is a landmark decision that has not changed very much at all," said Adam Winkler, a law professor at the University of California, Los Angeles. "The Heller court did not even mention receivers or the power that federal judges hold to appoint temporary managers when government programs violate constitutional standards.

President Obama on Friday that the Treasury would recapture the bonus money by writing new requirements into a $30 billion installment of govern- ment aid scheduled to go soon to the ailing insurance conglomerate. The government has already provided $710 billion in taxpayer assis- tance to keep AIG from failing and now owns nearly 80 percent of the company.

But administration officials con- cealed that almost all of the most re- cent round of bonuses, totaling $165 million, had been paid last Friday, one day before the Treasury publicly acknowledged that it had reluctantly approved the payments. The officials said that people who received the bonuses would probably be able to keep them.

By seeking to link repayment of the bonus money to the coming $30 billion in assistance, the administration seemed to leave open the pos- sibility that the company would ef- fectively be repaying taxpayers with taxpayer money. A Treasury official disputed that taxpayers would be repaying themselves, but could not specify how else the company would give back the money.

Increasing the pressure on the company, Andrew M. Cuomo, the New York attorney general, said he would sue AIG for the names, job descriptions and performance evaluations of the employees receiv- ing the bonuses.

You could argue that if taxpayers had pulled out AIG, the contracts wouldn't be worth the paper they were signed on," Cuomo said.

For all the furor since details of the bonuses became public over the last several days, the issue of reten- tion payments to AIG employees globally has been percolating publicly since AIG was bailed out in mid- November. About $1 billion in re- tention payments for 2008 and 2009 are in question, but the controversy involves only a fraction of that, about $450 million over two years, that was intended for employees of AIG's financial products unit. That was the source of the financial derivatives blame for the near-meltdown at the heart of the economy's downturn.

The Treasury and Federal Reserve of- ficials said they had known about the program as far back as last fall.
An Autism Surge Alarms Minneapolis Somalis

By Donald G. McNeil Jr. THE NEW YORK TIMES

Ayub Abdi is a 5-year-old with a smile that might be called shy if one did not know that his eyes never waver. He does not speak. When he was 2, the family had a “Mom,” “give me,” and “need water,” but he has lost all that.

His hair is cream and spilt, and he makes a loud “Ummm! Ummm!” when he is hungry. He might weigh 50 pounds for the walls, held for his family’s eviction from their last home.

As he is strapped into his seat in the Volvo, in which to speak to special education class, it is hard not to notice that there is only one other child inside the car, another Somali immigrant.

“I know 10 guys whose kids have autism,” said Ayub’s father, Abdurashid Jama, a 39-year-old security guard. “They are all looking for help.”

Autism is terrifying the community of Somali immigrants in Minneapolis, and some Somali welfare-based educators have parented in raising the alarm. But public health experts

China’s Stimulus Spending Sows A Surge in Growth

By Keith Bradsher THE NEW YORK TIMES

The global economic downturn, and efforts to reverse it, still probably make China an even stronger economic competitor than it was before.

China, the world’s third-largest economy and the world’s fourth-largest economy, had already become more ascendant. It is creating a new kind of economic competitor. As its usual position as a country with piles of money and a strong banking system, at a time when many countries have neither, to acquire natural resources and make it a military power.

Last week, China’s prime minister, Wen Jiabao, even reminded Washington in a speech in Beijing that the United States’ biggest creditors, China expects to 2012, Britain went to safeguard its investment.

Chinese leaders are turning economy to an economic and social advent, said economic analysts.

The country is using its nearly $600 billion economic stimulus package to make its commodity as well as to expand its business in China’s economy and development. Construction has already begun on new highways and railroads. The recovery is likely to expand transportation costs.

Several companies are struggling to revive lending — in the latest effort with a $15 billion program to help Chinese banks lend more in the last three months than in the preceding 12 months.

“The recent tweaks to the stimulus could indicate a sharper focus on the long-term competitiveness of our economy,” said Eswar Prasad, a former China division chief at the International Monetary Fund.

The company said it is relying on the stimulus to create jobs, infrastructure investment, which will boost the economy’s productivity.

“Most of the economic slowdown is also doing some things that Chinese authorities had tried and failed to do for four years: slow inflation, reverse what had been an economic boom. That dependence and pop a real estate bubble before it could grow even bigger.

The recession in most of the large economies in the world is inflicting real pain here — causing a record rash of bank failures in China, putting up stock prices.

The potential for increased and sustained social unrest. But as President Barack Obama’s administration tries to persuade Congress last week, “Challenge and compromise, under certain conditions, one could be transformed into the other.”

In the past, Chinese companies are shopping for foreign businesses to acquire the technology and the business with the Ministry of Commerce. The Ministry is leading a delegation of corporate executives to Europe for the ministry’s competitiveness in China. The Ministry is signing compacts, in the absence of clear conditions, one could be transformed into the other.”

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The Ministry of Commerce is seeking ways to come across with some immediate benefits of the slowdown. For the first time in China. For instance, air freight and ocean shipping costs have plunged by as much as 70 percent as demand has fallen.

Netanyahu’s May Name May Lead to a Secretary for the Ministry

By Isabel Kershner THE NEW YORK TIMES

Israel’s prime minister-designate, Benjamin Netanyahu, 75, forged ahead on Monday with negotiations toward a probable narrow, hawkish government of his Likud party and the Religious Zionist Party. It is the first time that a specific Netanyahu agreement with the national Zionist Yisrael Beiteinu party led by Avigdor Lieberman.

If finalized, the agreement reached late Sunday, could make Lieberman, an often ideologue and outspoken political whose threatened, on Monday and his party gives a relief for the cap- 

Arrests are common among gay men and 1970s and among Aborigines.

It is “extraordinarily difficult” to separate close clusters from those in which everyone was exposed to the same vaccine, said Carl Steffen, a former neighbor of the National Cancer Institute.

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State Street CEO’s $29M Reward May Cause Fireworks

By Beth Healy THE NEW YORK TIMES

Almost as soon as Mauricio Funes, the new government of El Salvador, was sworn in, he set about

With the FMLN’s victory, El Salvador is now living through the aftermath of guerrillas in its civil war. With its former leftist guerrillas, he set about

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Government Should Intensify Efforts to Combat Economic Crisis

In last week’s opinion column (“Three Myths About the President’s Budget”), A. Weinberg says, referring to the increase in federal spending, that “the undoubted cause of this is the greater effort to solve the economic crisis.” This is not true.

The increase in stabilization efforts is part of a gradual increase for only half of the increase in the federal budget. The other half is explained by sharp spending increases in: (1) Social Security, (2) Medicare, (3) Medicaid and (4) Other.

These increases by 25%! This is unprecedented, by any measure.

But the core real problem is that, unlike Mr. Weinberg's undisputable items the TARP and Stabilization Efforts, these increases are permanent and, what is more, they are funded with

Opposition Policy

Letters to The Editor

Barry Paul

MIT is at a crossroads. Amidst news of the budgetary crisis and G reform, students are increasingly concerned about similar issues against unformed traditions of bucking and dining. At the same time, Mr. Weinberg’s position as a body as a whole is becoming increasingly aware of the existence and the value of the Undergraduate Association.

Administrators have finally begun openly and consistently pledging to maintain transparency, which has been the UA’s watchword for years. In the midst of these debates and discussions, I stand among the many other students: Michael A. Bennie ’10 and Margaret K. Dechert ’06.

As current Undergraduate Association vice president, Mike has shouldered the herculean task of representing a student body that is constantly oscillating between the extremes of “aggressively critical” and “completely apathetic”—and has performed it admirably. Over the past year, Mike has demonstrated a refreshing willingness to tackle complex issues head-on—most notably, the current dining situation—rather than let the issues simply languish, unaddressed, in committees.

At the same time, Mike has never lost sight of other, more subtle concerns, such as G reform and Saferide performance. He also has been instrumental in orchestrating the internal affairs of the UA, taking pains to meet with UA committee chair ones—during the winter interlude—planning for the spring.

Mike has demonstrated a refreshing willingness to tackle complex issues head on-rather than let the issues simply languish, unaddressed, in committees.

Not only are they the most qualified students for these roles, but together they form an unbeatable team.


Volunteer: (617) 253-1541. Business: (617) 258-8324.

Letters to the editor, columns, and editorial cartoons must bear the authors’ signatures, addresses, and phone numbers. Unsolicited letters will not be accepted. The shorter the letters, the more likely they are to be published.

For commercial and advertising rates, contact, send mail to general@the-tech.mit.edu, and we will be happy to send the periodical to the appropriate person. You can reach the editor in chief by e-mailing editor@the-tech.mit.edu or by phone. For requests for coverage, information about errors that call for correction, e-mail news@the-tech.mit.edu. Letters to the editor should be sent to techeditor@the-tech.mit.edu. The Tech can be found on the World Wide Web at http://www.technet.mit.edu.

To Reach Us

March 17, 2009
Smile!

Who knows what you’ll find peeking out from behind the door here in the southeast corner of the Student Center! Come meet our friendly staff every Sunday, Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday night during term and become a part of making the news happen.

join@tech.mit.edu
W20-483
Help Desk

by Michael Benitez

ON A GIVEN DAY, THE CROSSWALK IN FRONT OF BUILDING 7 CAN BE CRAWLING WITH:

CHARITY GROUPS
GETTING A SPARE CHANGE, ETC.

ON A GIVEN WEEK, THE CROSSWALK IN FRONT OF BUILDING 7 CAN BE CRAWLING WITH:

CHARITY GROUPS
GETTING A SPARE CHANGE, ETC.

AND MORE, NOT POCKETS CAUSE CANCER!

Michael Benitez 3-17-09

However, other tactics remain:

Pretend to be in a hurry.

Ask them for money.

For $50 a month, you could feed a child.

For $50 a week, you could feed me.

No.

This photo has been removed.

- U.S. Dept. of Homeland Security

Steal My Comic

by Michael Ciuffo

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

Solution on page 14.

Solution, tips, and computer program at http://www.sudoku.com
In 1990, plastics accounted for about nine percent of the materials used in the average car. Today, the figure can be as high as 20 percent.

Bayer MaterialScience is one of the world’s largest and most innovative suppliers to the auto industry, playing an active role in shaping the future of the automobile.

Developing windows made of plastics, for example, which offer increased safety benefits. And energy-absorbing polyurethane, which helps protect car passengers in an accident and – when used in bumpers – can reduce the risk of injury to pedestrians. For safer cars – and sheer driving pleasure.

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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
http://web.mit.edu/awards/

The MIT Symphony Orchestra presented "Miracles" on Friday, March 3, 2009 in Kresge Auditorium. Director Adam K. Boyles led students through three pieces including Joseph Haydn’s Symphony No. 102, John Harbison’s Canonical American Songbook, and August Nielsen’s Symphony No. 3 (Sinfonia Espansiva).

(clockwise from top left)
Latifah B. Hamzah ’12, the piece’s concertmaster, plays Nielsen’s Symphony No. 3.
Kevin Dong Gyun Woo ’12 plays the cello in Haydn’s Symphony No. 102. Woo was the principal player for both Haydn’s and Harbison’s piece.
The orchestra performs Nielsen’s Symphony No. 3.
Photography by Meng Heng Touch

MITSO Plays Haydn, Harbison, Nielsen
Ben Detwiler hoped to make the world a better place. That hope died when he was killed by a drunk driver.

Oxycodone is a painkiller that is listed as a Schedule II drug by the Drug Enforcement Administration, meaning it has a high potential for abuse and “severe psychological or physical dependence,” but has valid medical uses. Although oxycodone itself has been available for 30 years, abuse of the drug skyrocketed after 1996, when OxyContin’s formulation was released. OxyContin is a time-release version of the drug, which was widely viewed as safer and harder to abuse than previous drug formulations. However, addicts quickly discovered that crushing the pills would cause rapid absorption of all the oxycodone in a single OxyContin tablet.

According to a 2001 study from the Department of Justice, a bottle of 100 tablets (of 40 mg OxyContin) costs $400 when purchased legally, but may be worth up to $4,000 on the black market.

Roxicodone contains about 27 grams of oxycodone in 28–100 grams of oxycodone carries a sentence of 7–20 years. (D’Amelio is estimated to have been carrying about 27 grams of oxycodone in OxyContin pills, and an unknown amount of oxycodone in Roxicodone pills. The precise amount of Roxicodone could affect his sentence.) Trafficking in more than 100 grams carries a sentence of 10–20 years.

MIT has placed D’Amelio on administrative leave without pay. MIT spokeswoman Patti Richards said yesterday. Captain Albert F. Pierce Jr. of the MIT Police Patrol Division declined to comment on the arrest. MIT Police Chief John DiFava did not return repeated telephone calls. MIT has released no official statement regarding D’Amelio’s arrest. You may have seen D’Amelio’s name before.

In 2004, former campus activist Aimee L. Smith PhD ’02 filed a complaint against officer D’Amelio for unlawful arrest after D’Amelio arrested her twice in three months. After the first arrest, at the 2004 Commencement, all charges against Smith were dismissed. President Charles M. Vest sent an unusual personal letter to the district attorney saying that MIT did not wish for Smith to be prosecuted. D’Amelio’s actions at Commencement were appropriate, Vest said in the letter.

Three months later, on an August afternoon in 2004, Smith was arrested for disorderly conduct and resisting arrest outside the Student Center. Smith was arrested after approaching police officers inside the Student Center and asking them whether they “know anything about [their] first amendment rights.” The judge saying that “the mere uttering of profanity in a public place” was not a crime.

In fall 2004, MIT hired the Pinkerton Detective Agency to provide an independent report on the facts of Smith’s allegations against D’Amelio. That report was meant to collect facts and did not make any specific recommendations.

In response to these expectations, the GSC gave a presentation on the cost of living calculations to the provost and deans at a meeting on Feb 17.

“We presented the data objectively and the response from the administration seemed to be positive,” said Chan. In their presentation, the GSC presenters said that low levels of discretionary income put graduate students in a vulnerable position. This especially applies to international students, who make up 39 percent of the graduate student body and are not allowed to earn supplemental income.

Dean for Graduate Education Steven R. Lerman ’72 and Claude R. Canizaros, vice president for research and associate provost, announced the decision to increase the stipends by 3.4 percent. The monthly stipends for the 2010–2011 academic year will range from $2,171 for engineering teaching assistants to $2,350 for Science and Engineering doctoral candidates.

Unlike graduate stipends, faculty and staff salaries will be frozen next year. The $125,000 a year and staff making $5,000 a year. Graduate student stipends for the current year represent a 3.5 percent increase over last year.
State Colleges Balance Budget Cuts with Missions

By Tamar Lewin
THE NEW YORK TIMES

When Michael Crow became president of Arizona State University seven years ago, he promised to make it “The New American University,” with 100,000 students by 2020. It would break down the musty old boundaries between disciplines, encourage advanced research and entrepreneurship to drive the new economy, and draw in students from underserved sectors of the state.

He quickly made a name for himself, increasing enrollment by nearly a third to 67,000 students, luring big-name professors and starting interdisciplinary schools in areas like sustainability, projects with partners like the Mayo Clinic and Sichuan University in China, and dozens of new degree programs.

But this year, Crow’s plans have crashed into new budget realities, raising questions about how many public universities research universities the nation needs and whether universities like Arizona State, in their drive to become prominent research institutions, have lost focus on their public mission to provide solid undergraduate education for state residents.

These days, the headlines about Arizona State describe its enormous cuts.

The university has eliminated more than 500 jobs, including deans, department chairmen and hundreds of teaching assistants. Last month, Crow announced that the university would close 48 programs, cap enrollment and move up the freshman application deadline by five months. Every week, from Crow down, will have to 10 up anxious fallrighth days this spring.

“The New American University has died, welcome to the Neutered American University,” the student newspaper editorialized last month the month the morning after the latest cuts were announced.

While Arizona State’s economic problems have been particularly dramatic, layoffs and salary freezes are becoming common at public universities across the country. The University of Florida recently eliminated 430 faculty and staff positions, the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, laid off about 100 employees, and the University of Vermont froze salaries, left open 22 faculty positions and froze bonuses.

“What’s happening, everywhere, is what’s happening to Michael Crow,” said Jane Wellman, executive director of the Delta Project on Postsecondary Costs, Productivity and Accountability, an organization that studies spending by colleges and universities.

“The trend line is states disinvesting in higher education.”

The picture varies by state. Dozens of states, hit hard by the recession, made midyear cuts in their financing for higher education. And yet, budgets are largely intact at some leading research universities, like the University of Michigan.

“Public universities everywhere are bracing for deep cuts in next year’s budgets, but the federal stimulus package, providing billions of dollars for education and billions of dollars more for research, should ease the problem somewhat.”

Despite the cuts, Crow said he was sticking to his priorities, protecting his new programs and his tenure and tenure-track faculty members. And he is hoping to expand research, with, for example, renewable-energy money from the stimulus package.

“I don’t retreat very easily,” he said. “The economy is shifting faster than the university can adjust, but we’re trying to protect students from the hurricane. We’re protecting the core of the core.”

But not everyone is convinced that the Arizona State model makes sense.

“It may be that the idea of a 100,000-student research university was never very sustainable,” said Patrick M. Callan, president of the National Center for Public Policy and Higher Education, which monitors access to higher education. “In this economy, the places that have been trying to claw their way up the ladder, the ones whose aspirations have exceeded their financial vision, are going to have the toughest time. They can’t be all things to all people.”

But Crow said he thinks he can simultaneously broaden access for Arizonans, improve academic quality and increase research.

His university, he said, is an inclusive institution where there are students with no family income at all and a growing population of American Indian students. Tuition in most programs is less than $6,000 a year for state residents, in part because of a state constitution provision that it be “as nearly free” as possible, which courts have interpreted to mean that its tuition must be in the bottom third of public universities nationwide.

“Crow’s record for improving quality is impressive, too. He has hired more than 600 tenured or tenure-track faculty members, and last year, for the first time, won a spot on the National Science Foundation’s list of the top 20 research universities without a medical school, along with powerhouse like M.I.T. and the University of California, Berkeley.”

But not every university can be in the top 20. And in a time of shrinking state budgets, undergraduates at public universities will most likely pay the price in higher tuition, larger classes and less interaction with tenured professors. So it is a real question as to whether universities the nation can afford, and what share of resources should go to less expensive forms of education, like community colleges.

“Universities aspire to prestige,” Wellman said, “and that is achieved by increasing selectivity, getting a research mission and having faculty do as little teaching as possible, not by teaching and learning, and taking students from Point A to Point B.”

Mark G. Yudof, president of the University of California, laments that it has become an article of faith that every depressed area needs a research university.

“Research universities are very expensive,” Yudof said, “and you can’t have one in every county and every state. Your first obligation as a public university is to treat the undergraduates right. That’s going to need a national attitude adjustment from leadership and boards of re-

California’s three-tier higher-education system, which serves 3.3 million students, almost 20 percent of the nation’s college population, is among the hardest hit by the current recession. This year, with hundreds of millions of dollars removed from their budgets, both the California State University system and the University of California are being forced to shrink their enrollment.

“We’re trying as hard as we can to preserve the instructional program,” Yudof said. “But with the economy shrinking, and less money allocated to public universities, can I guarantee that the class that would have had 40 won’t be 45? I can’t.”

Finding the right balance between improving academic quality and serving state residents is not easy.

Case in point: merit scholarships. Arizona State University recruits National Merit Scholars nationwide with a four-year, $900,000 scholarship, a package so generous that Arizona State earns National Merit Scholars, more than Yale or Stanford. Through the cuts, Crow has kept that program, even while proposing to cut a scholarship for Arizona residents with high scores on state tests, a proposal the state legislature turned down.

And even as his plans for expanding the university have slowed, Crow is trying to increase the enrollment of out-of-state students — who pay triple tuition — to as high as 40 percent next year.

When the latest cuts were announced, many Arizona State students said they believed Crow was doing his best to protect them but that, ultimately, that quality of their education could suffer.

“My African American history professor said he thinks classes will be bigger next semester, and that’s too bad,” said Tierra Jenkins, a sopho-
more civil engineering student.

Many students at Arizona State said they blame the state legislature for short-sightedness in failing to support the university when it plays such a key role in the state’s econom-
y and residents’ upward mobility.

“It really takes a lot of wind out of the sails of this university,” said Kyle Whitman, a senior and an econ-

omics major who works part-time in Crow’s office. “It’s been on such a strong trajectory.”

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MIT No Longer Mails Rejection Letters; Decisions Given Online

Admissions, from Page 1

Schmill. He also said he thinks that awareness of MIT’s “very generous financial aid” is increasing in a year where financial aid is “important to more and more families.”

Only 1,597 students out of 15,661 applicants were admitted to the Class of 2013. Forty-eight percent are women and nearly a quarter are underrepresented minorities in an admitted class that spans all fifty states and sixty foreign countries.

“Decisions were tougher than ever,” said Schmill, as the “additional applications were all very strong.”

Applicants were notified of MIT’s decision online at decisions.mit.edu at 1:59 p.m on Saturday, March 14. Admissions decisions were to be available exclusively online, according to a blog post by Associate Director of Admissions Matthew L. McGann ’00. Though rejection letters will no longer be mailed, accepted students will still receive their admission packets in the mail.

The target size for the Class of 2013 is 1,075, said Schmill. This target would be achieved if the yield, the percentage of students who accept MIT’s offer of admission, were at least 67.3 percent. If the yield remains at last year’s 66 percent, MIT may accept students from its waitlist for the fourth year in a row. MIT’s highest yield in recent years was 69 percent for the Class of 2011.

A previous version of this story ran on the web on Saturday, March 14.

MIT Interfaith Dialogue Program

Addir

Khuda Kay Liye (In God’s Name)
Past 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/oa/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.

MIT Interfaith Dialogue Program

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

- filmed
- "Khuda Kay Liye (In God’s Name)"
- Dresden Nine
- community lecture series
- addir
- food will be available
- MIT Dining Services will provide food
- MIT Interfaith Dialogue Program
- MIT Hillel
- "Addir Fellows Program"
- board of chaplains
- MISTI
- "Co-sponsored by MISTI"
- "Microsoft Office"
Commitment: The New Factor At Play in College Admissions

By Peter Schworm

By a growing number of observers, colleges are searching for signs of commitment from applicants before they extend admissions offers, hoping to find out whether their affection is mutual.

In the increasingly tense courtroom of college admissions, more selective schools are smiling upon high school students who show sincere interest in attending, closely tracking such things as whether they visited campus, responded to recruiting messages, or even joined an online chat with an admissions officer.

“You’re going to want those students who you also want,” said Gil Villanueva, dean of admissions at Brandeis University. “Everything else being equal, between a student you know and a student you don’t, you will go with the known commodity.”

Villanueva, like many admissions officers, said keen enthusiasm for a school is no guarantee but can sometimes tip the balance in students’ favor.

The growing importance of “demonstrated interest” is the product of a number of overlapping factors. High school students are applying to a larger number of colleges to better their odds of acceptance, which has made it harder for colleges to estimate how many actually plan to come. This year, the financial downturn and the economy have further complicated the process, with families expected to base their decisions more on cost.

Amid such unpredictability, students who seem excited about the possibility of attending college also want to be in on the plan to arrive on campus as soon as possible, according to John Mahoney, director of undergraduate admissions at Boston College. Said he: “Students are being conditioned to check out the schools they want to go?”

“We tell them we’re not tracking who they are,” he said. “But they want to make sure they let us know they were there.”

Mahoney said BC does not consider student interest and said he suspects some students feign interest to boost their odds.

“Students are being conditioned to express interest, but if they are doing so just to get into a school, then it takes away from the experience,” said he.

But some say that students who cultivate relationships with schools — through the delicate art of admissions flirting — gain a much better chance of winning their hearts.

“It’s almost like a dating game,” said Phil Meisner, founder of CAPS, the College Application Processing Service, in Washington. “No one wants to commit, but we’re looking for a signal. Why shouldn’t students be able to let colleges know they want to go?”

College officials say students rarely go overboard in their self-marketing campaigns, although they fear more will as the practice becomes more prevalent. Others worry that judging students by expressions of interest could unfairly help wealthier students whose parents and counselors know the system’s subtleties and how to exploit them.

“We don’t want to penalize students who don’t know that 14,000 contacts with an admissions officer could tip the balance,” said Gail Ber- son, dean of admissions at Wheaton College in Norton.

This spring, a student whom Berson met at a New York City high school has become a “steady pen pal,” even sending her copies of his latest short stories. His persistence convinced Berson he would attend, and his writing ability convinced her he should be admitted, despite a so-so academic record.

Alex Michel, a senior from Weston, said she knew that Wheaton was her top choice as soon as she visited the campus, and she imme- diately made her intentions known. She visited campus several times, including an overnight stay with students, and e-mailed admissions officers with questions. In December, she was accepted, and now she chats on Facebook with her eventual classmates.

“I know colleges are looking for students who are enthusiastic,” she said. “When I visited campus, I always made sure the admissions office knew I was there.”

Parents and applicants take note: Walter and other college officials said they do not hold it against students who cannot afford to visit campus, particularly in the slumping economy. There are many other ways students can let colleges know they are among their top choices, including attending a college fair or reception in their hometown. Even better, it is introducing themselves to an admissions officer and striking up a conversation.

“Remember,” Walter said, speaking of such chats.

Admitting more students who truly want to be there, college officials say, creates an energetic and close-knit culture on campus. And by producing loyal alumni with soft spots for their colleges, it also pays long-range dividends in fund-raising.

Giving preference to students whose interest seems genuine also helps colleges boost their image. By targeting students who are more likely to attend, they can admit a smaller percentage and still fill out their freshman class, making them appear more selective and more desirable.

Families have caught on to the new approach. John Mahoney, director of undergraduate admissions at Boston College, said parents who visit the campus often scan the premises for the sign-up sheet that will let them make their presence known.

“We tell them we’re not tracking that,” he said. “But they want to make sure they let us know they were there.”

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The following student Coop members have been nominated by the Stockholders as candidates for the Board of Directors for the 2009-2010 academic year.

M.I.T. Undergraduate Students:
- Hae Rhee (Hattie) Chung, 2011

M.I.T. Graduate Students:
- Lorena Lee-Houghton, PhD, 2011
- Tongyi Chao, PhD/IMBA, 2011
- Paul Romano PhD, 2011

Harvard Undergraduate Students:
- Tami Kim, 2011
- George Thampy, 2010
- Edmund Swierczewski, 2011
- Melissa Oppenheim, 2012

Harvard Graduate Students:
- Aaron Chadbourne, HBS/HLS, 2011
- Luke Fosterland, KSG, 2010
- Johanna Wightman, HBS, 2010

Any student Coop member may petition to be a candidate on the election ballot. A Petition application is available online at www.thecoop.com. The Petition period is March 16, 2009 to March 30, 2009. For complete Petition rules consult the information posted in the election section on the Coop website at www.thecoop.com.

March Madness, from Page 16

Memphis Unchallenged In C-USA as Big East Dominates Selections

The East. Three of these top seeds are from the Big East. Louisville took home the Big East regular season and conference tournament titles. Before switching in 2005, Louisville was a member of Conference USA. Memphis holds that conference’s regular season and tournament titles. Since the departure of Louisville, DePaul, Marquette, and Cincinnati, the Memphis Tigers have dominated the league. The last time Memphis lost to a C-USA team was more than three years ago — that’s 62 in-conference games ago. As sports analysts love to point out, C-USA is simply not as competitive a league as, say, the Big East. I agree. What I don’t agree with is the idea that Memphis could not fare well in a more competitive league. The Tigers’ performance out of conference and in the Big Dance over the past few years has proven otherwise — they made it all the way to national championship game in 2008. Let’s see how far Memphis makes it this year.

Last in: Minnesota, Arizona
Snubs: St. Mary’s, Penn State, Creighton, San Diego State

Solution to Sudoku from page 6

Spring Season Off to Great Start as Team Remains Undefeated

Tennis, from Page 16

score of 6-1, 6-2. Vishnevetsky soon followed her partner off the court, winning with multiple approach shots to take the match 6-1, 6-1. Next off was Yi Wang ’09, who stayed consistent throughout her match to wear down her opponent, winning 6-2, 6-0.

In the next match, McCree hit a down the line passing shot to make it 5-4 in the first set, changing the momentum. She continued and did not let her opponent win another game, making the score 6-4, 6-0.

Sonya Makhni ’11 played next in exhibition. Sonya forced errors and hit a winning backhand down the line shot, generally putting pressure on her opponent. Despite the pressure Makhni put on her opponent she lost a tough match 2-6, 3-6.

The next two matches went to tie breakers for the third set. Diskin was the first off of the two. She started off her match well, taking the first game with a winning crosscourt forehand. She kept up the pressure throughout the match, winning it with 6-3, 5-7, (10-4). This left Hall on court. Hall kept the ball deep in the court and hit a backhand volley winner during the second set. The match was tight but Hall pulled it out in the tie breaker, winning 6-4, 3-6, (10-4). This gave MIT a 9-0 win over Colby, making their spring season count 2-0.

More difficult schedule and only lost 4 games. Memphis is on a 25-game winning streak. I’m only slightly disappointed that Memphis did not get a top seed. UConn’s a good team, but if both teams make it to the Elite Eight, the head-to-head matchup will end the debate.

The other number one seeds are Louisville in the Midwest, North Carolina in South, and Pittsburgh in the East. Memphis holds that conference’s regular season and tournament titles. Before switching in 2005, Louisville was a member of Conference USA. Memphis dominates the league. The last time Memphis lost to a C-USA team was more than three years ago — that’s 62 in-conference games ago. As sports analysts love to point out, C-USA is simply not as competitive a league as, say, the Big East. I agree. What I don’t agree with is the idea that Memphis could not fare well in a more competitive league. The Tigers’ performance out of conference and in the Big Dance over the past few years has proven otherwise — they made it all the way to national championship game in 2008. Let’s see how far Memphis makes it this year.

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2009 NCAA Tournament
Men's Bracket

*Note: Opening Round:
Alabama St. vs Morehead St. on Tuesday, 3/17
Winner becomes #16 seed in Midwest Regional

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Join other students and staff to create alcohol and other drug policy and educational programs at MIT.

Alcohol Policy Committee
(EtOH)

Drug Policy and Education Committee

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Strong Doubles Play Sets Tone as Women's Tennis Sweeps Colby

By Jennifer Rees

MIT Women's Tennis defeated Colby this past Saturday, winning 9-0. The warm day allowed the players to compete outside, which also allowed the many fans to see the action better. Among the fans was Kat Pick, a former assistant coach who came out to support the team. With the support of the fans, the team headed out to play doubles.

The first match went quickly, with the team of Leslie A. Hansen '10 and Anastasia Vishnevetsky '12 easily defeating their opponents 8-0. Next off was the number three team of Alexandria C. Hall '12 and Jennifer A. Rees '11, who defeated their opponents 8-3. That left the number two team of Anisa K. McCree '10 and Melissa A. Diskin '11 in the spotlight. The match was close and intense with the scores going back and forth. In the end, Diskin and McCree won 8-3 against their opponents. This gave MIT a 3-0 lead going into the singles matches.

Hansen started off the singles matches well with a winning backhand volley to take the first game. She finished her singles match with a

Brackets Unveiled: UConn Chosen Over Memphis as West’s Top Seed

By Nydia Ruleman

In the Tech office, the sportswriters anxiously await the results of Selection Sunday. One of the editors is from Connecticut (Editor’s Note: was). I am from Memphis. We’ve been talking smack all season. Finally, the brackets have been revealed, and we learned the teams’ seeding for the NCAA men’s basketball tournament. Connecticut (27-4) is the number one seed in the West region and Memphis (31-3) is the number two seed — also in the West region.

Both teams made a strong case for a number one seed. Last Thursday, Connecticut lost to Syracuse in an epic six-overtime, 3-hour and 46-minute Big East Tournament quarterfinals game. (That’s as long as Gone with the Wind, to put it in perspective.) The Huskies have played a

Tennis, Page 14

Kelly Duncan ’11 looks upward for an open teammate during Saturday’s women’s lacrosse matchup on Roberts Field. The Engineers defeated Bridgewater State 13-10.

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March Madness, Page 14

UPCOMING HOME EVENTS

Tuesday, March 17, 2009
Women’s Softball vs. Simmons College
Men’s Lacrosse vs. Wentworth College
4 p.m., Briggs Field
4 p.m., Jack Barry Field

Wednesday, March 18, 2009
Men’s Baseball vs. Wentworth Institute of Technology
5:30 p.m., Briggs Field

Thursday, March 19, 2009
Men’s Lacrosse vs. Curry College
Men’s Volleyball vs. Emmanuel College
4 p.m., Jack Barry Field
7 p.m., Rockwell Cage

March Madness, Page 14

Thomas S. Caldwell ’09 does an L-seat on the rings during MIT’s match versus the College of William and Mary on March 13. The engineers lost 335.7-314.4 in their final home meet.

MIT Official Sports GEAR
including hats, t-shirts and more items with the name of your favorite team!

To purchase items go
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ON CAMPUS: DAPER Main Desk, W35 lobby

Your purchase supports MIT sports programming.
-Thank you!