Ben Folds to Perform for Spring Weekend
Selection Was the Result of Student Input; Folds Garnered 70% Approval on Survey

By Elijah Jordan Turner

Twenty students in conjunction with the Student Activities Office have selected Ben Folds to headline this year’s Spring Weekend concert on Saturday, Apr. 25. Leading up to the main event will be a new festival and a series of events coordinated by student groups.

Ben Folds was chosen based on a November survey, in which participants were asked to rate ten groups and singers based on their likelihood of attendance. Jason Mraz received the highest number of positive responses (72 percent), but was unavailable for the April-Spring date. Folds received the second-highest number of positive votes, with 70 percent of respondents indicating they would possibly, probably, or definitely attend the Ben Folds concert.

“As we’re excited about responding to the opinions of students,” said Joshua Yanofsky ’08, chairman of the Student Center on a Thursday night, most students had never heard of Ben Folds.

Hard Times in Workplace Mean More Grad Apps
By Meredith L. Lis

As jobs get scarcer, several graduate students who are experiencing a jump in applications for the 2009 school year. Departments anticipated an increase in applications and enrollment, partially due to increased financial caution in the current recession.

The number of graduate student applications is expected to be 15 percent greater than last year’s total, said McInerney Crowley ’08, director of the graduate admissions process. This number does not include applicants to the Sloan School of Management, which has not yet released their data.

Newspaper

Dining Report Was Kept Under Wraps; UA To Discuss
By Nick Bushak

Undergraduate Association President Noah S. Jessop ’09 announced on Wednesday night an emergency meeting of the UA Senate to discuss “concerns brought forth about the Blue Ribbon [dining] committee.” According to Jessop, members of the UA Senate and Executive Board were concerned about a lack of transparency after a student saw a copy of the independent consultant’s report to the committee on the desk of an administrator before most members of the Blue Ribbon Dining Committee were notified about the report.

Curing Cupid’s Cynicism

Clay, Reif, Stone Form Planning Task Force; 150-Member 3-Level Hierarchy Will Help
By Robert McQueen

How is MIT reacting to the current economic situation? In a letter released to the MIT community on Monday, the MIT administration unveiled details of a new task force charged to reevaluate and recommend changes in MIT operations to improve financial health.

The Institute-wide Planning Task Force, divided into four areas: academic planning, administrative planning, student life, and revenue enhancement. Within these areas, smaller working groups will meet weekly to propose and discuss new ideas on specific aspects of MIT operations. In order to promote idea development, all working groups will be provided with informative tools.

Mandatory Dining is Gone for Ashdown Undergraduates

MIT has quietly discontinued a novel mandatory dining fee program in which approximately 50 undergraduates living in a dormitory were required to pay $600 a month to eat at the closest thing MIT has to a traditional college cafeteria. Dinner is served in the dining halls in any of those five dormitories.

Undergraduate residents in Ashdown Hall (the Phoenix Group) no longer have to pay $600 a month, and they no longer get free dinners.

Ashdown’s dining hall offers all-you-can-eat dinners, making the hall the closest thing MIT has to a traditional college cafeteria. Dinner is served six days a week, along with a weekend brunch. The Phoenix Group are now members of the House Dining program, the closest thing MIT has to a meal plan. In the program, residents of any major dining hall, including those in any of these five dormitories, can receive free dining.

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Attacks in Mosul and Kirkubla
Killed 13
By Sam Dagher
The New York Times

A spate of attacks on Thursday, including the assassination of a Sunni Arab political leader in the violent northern city of Mosul, killed at least 13 Iraqis and left 39 wounded, security officials said.

The politician, Abd al-Karim al-Sharabi, was one of five Sunni leaders to be killed since Dec. 31 or in Mosul, where tensions between Arabs and Kurds are high and Sunni insurgents remain firmly entrenched.

The deadliest attack on Thursday took place in Kirkubla, the holy Shi'ite city south of Baghdad, where tens of thousands of pilgrims have been massing during the annual Arbaeen festival, which marks the end of the mourning period for Imam Hussein, grandson of the prophet Muhammad.

A bomb inside a propane gas canister exploded on a pedestrian-only road teeming with pilgrims not far from Imam Hussein's shrine, killing at least eight people and wounding 35, according to an Interior Ministry official in Baghdad who spoke on the condition of anonymity.

China Arrests 12 People
After Fire at TV Tower
By Sharon LaFraniere
The New York Times

In a spate of arrests announced Thursday, Beijing officials put the blame for a Monday fire that destroyed part of the government's spectacular new media complex squarely on the shoulders of the state-run television network.

The police detained 12 people, including the chief of construction for the media complex near a world-renowned architectural symbol of China's rising power. One firefighter died, and seven people were injured.

Many questions remain about the fire, including how fireworks could have ignited such an inferno and why the flames seemed to spread unchecked through a modern tower, designed by a world-renowned architect, that would presumably have been outfitted with state-of-the-art fire retardant systems.

Lawmakers Move Quickly
On Stimulus Vote
By David M. Herszenhorn
The New York Times

Congressional leaders moved swiftly on Thursday to schedule votes in the House and Senate on the $789 billion economic stimulus plan while lawmakers spent much of the day hammering out the final details of the legislation.

Even as clerks were still drafting the measure, a broad array of industries and interest groups scrambled to calculate winners and losers in the final stimulus deal and in some cases engaged in fierce, down-to-the-wire lobbying efforts for further adjustments.

On some issues there was confusion among top White House and congressional officials over whether certain provisions were included in the bill — an embarrassment for House Democrats who had promised at least 736 hours of public review before a vote.

Among the last-minute changes on Thursday was a slight expansion of a tax break for businesses favored by Senate Republicans who provided the votes to pass the measure.

The provision lets companies claim refunds for taxes paid in earlier, profitable years.

Another late insertion was a $3.2 billion tax break specifically intended for General Motors that allows it to claim refunds for taxes paid in 2008 by applying current losses to prior profitable years.

Still, if the discovery could lead to an effective drug to treat the common cold, “that’s a big deal,” Senaid said. Industry handles aside, perhaps the biggest reason the common cold has long defied treatment is that the virus has so many strains and presents a moving target for any drug or vaccine.

The scientific link in this chain of problems may now have been broken by a research team headed by Liggett and Dr. Ann C. Palmigian, a cold virologist at the University of Wisconsin.

Cold virus is thought to trigger half of all asthma attacks.

Even so, it might be difficult to kindle the interest of pharmaceutical companies. When the new findings were “an interesting piece of science,” said Dr. Glenn Tillotson, an expert on antiviral drugs at Viropharma in Exton, Pa.

He noted that the discovery of developing a new drug is now $700 million, “with innumerable fights with financiers and regulators.”

Because colds are mostly a minor nuisance, drug developers say, people would not be likely to pay for expensive drugs. And it would be hard to get the Food and Drug Administration to approve a drug with any serious drawbacks for a minor disease.

Carl Seiden, president of Seiden Pharmaceutical Strategies and a longtime industry analyst and consultant, said industry might be loath to waste in because Relsrema and Tamiflu — two drugs that ameliorated flu but did not cure it — were huge commercial disappointments.

The industry also has learned in recent years that turning a genetic discovery into a marketable drug is far harder than once thought.

The discovery of a specific component of the immune system could lead to an effective drug to treat the common cold, “that’s a big deal,” Senaid said.

But there is a concern over what many fellow Republicans see as a “mental crisis.”

Sen. Judd Gregg of New Hampshire abruptly withdrew Thursday as the nominee to be commerce secretary, saying he had “irresolvable conflicts” with President Barack Obama over his economic stimulus plan and a concern over what many fellow Republicans believe is the politicization of the 2002 census.

The departure of Gregg is the latest setback to a White House that has struggled to fill several top positions and fulfill the president's pledge to build a bipartisan administration. He is the third prospective Cabinet secretary — the second at the Commerce Department — to remove his name from consideration.

“Fiscal I am a conservative, as an everybody knows, a fairly strong one,” Gregg, a Republican, told reporters at an afternoon news conference in the Capitol. “And just it becomes clear to me that it would be very difficult, day in and day out, to serve in this Cabinet.”

“I am my mistake, obviously, to say.”

“It is very difficult,” added that he intended to withdraw until Thursday. He said Gregg had had a “change of heart.”

Obama was, traveling in Illinois, told reporters that he had spoken to Gregg on Wednesday, but he had not known that Gregg intended to withdraw until Thursday. He said Gregg had had a “change of heart.”

Obama said, noting that the American people are “desperate” for

New Research Focuses on Cure for Common Cold

By Nicholas Wade
The New York Times

Curing the common cold, one of medicine's elusive goals, may now be in the realm of the possible. Researchers said Thursday that they had decoded the genomes of the 99 strains of common cold virus and developed a catalog of the virus' vulnerabilities.

“We are now quite certain that we see the Achilles heel, and that a very effective treatment for the common cold is at hand,” said Stephen B. Liggett, an asthma expert at the University of Maryland and co-author of the finding.

Besides alleviating the aches, stuffy nose, and runny nose that plague everyone, a true cold-fighting drug could be a godsend for the 20 million people who suffer from asthma and the millions of others with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease. The Common cold virus is thought to trigger half of all asthma attacks.

Even so, it might be difficult to kindle the interest of pharmaceutical companies. When the new findings were “an interesting piece of science,” said Dr. Glenn Tillotson, an expert on antiviral drugs at Viropharma in Exton, Pa.

He noted that the discovery of developing a new drug is now $700 million, “with innumerable fights with financiers and regulators.”

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weather

Return to Winter
By Garrett P. Marino

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Pakistan Backtracks On Mumbai Terrorist Attacks

By Salman Masood

Pakistan acknowledged for the first time on Monday that six suspects were being held and awaiting prosecution in connection with the Mumbai terrorist attacks planned in November in which 166 people were killed.

Pakistan officials had previously denied any connection between the Mumbai attacks and their country. But on Monday, Pakistani officials said six suspects were being held in connection with the Mumbai attacks, which American officials are widely believed to have been orchestrated by Pakistan from the Pakistani territory.

The formal acknowledgment of a Pakistani role in the Mumbai attacks came on the final day of a visit to the country by Richard C. Holbrooke, President Barack Obama’s special envoy to the region, which has bases inside Pakistani territory.

Holbrooke, who is in a key role as a principal strategy for the war in Afghanistan, said in a radio interview on Tuesday that the Pakistanis had been aware of the Mumbai attack planning, which is still under investigation.

But while much is known about the Brahmaputra river, tracking flocks with radar and as a demonstration of what he has called the "Islamicization" of the hospitals.

The almost 500 hospitals responding to the IRS survey reported spending an average of 9 percent of their total revenues on providing community benefits, including free medical care, education and research.

Britain Refuses Entry To Dutch Lawmaker

Sirpa Paavolainen, a Finnish Mormon, who has compared the Quran to the Green Book, the Bible of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, has been refused entry to the Netherlands.

The lawmaker, Geert Wilders, had been invited to the House of Commons on Monday to talk about his anti-Islam campaign.

A Dutch member of Parliament who has compared the Quran to "Mein Kampf" and blamed Islamic texts for inciting the 9/11 attacks was detained by immigration officials at Heathrow Airport on Thursday.

The New York Times

The House Select Committee on Kosovo, which has been investigating the extent to which American officials are aware of the risks to American military personnel in Kosovo, is expected to release its report on Monday.

But the wandering albatross is one of the most important bird species on Earth.

Bird migration is a subject of fascination for scientists and the public alike. Willem Kolff, a founder of kidney dialysis, died of natural causes, his son Therus said.

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Opinion

Who Won the Civil War?

Organizations Refuse to Define Farley

Jonathan D. Farley

As we celebrate the 200th anniversary of Lincoln’s birth, the 100th anniversary of the founding of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, the inauguration of America’s first black president, and Black History Month, it’s worth pondering the question, “Who won the Civil War?”

On November 20, 2002, I wrote in a Nash- ville newspaper that a relatively new, tax-exempt, gun-toting statue honoring the founder of the Ku Klux Klan should be removed. This founder had executed black soldiers, along with women and children, instead of taking them prisoner — the penalty for inciting slave insurrection, under Confederate law, being death — so there is a simple-minded readiness . . . indicate how low prestigious universities will stoop to dole out fancy degrees to blacks . . . Let’s get the moths out of the closet. Instead of defending myself against such vitriol or remaining silent, my own university, Vanderbilt, joined in on the attack. Both the head of Vanderbilt, Gordon Gee, and the university spokesman, Michael Schoemfield, criticized me, the former calling me “volatile” and the latter an extremist. At no point did either of these men utter one word of criticism about the founder of the KKK, the Confederacy, or any of the individuals or groups targeting me for defamation, termination, hospitalization, or worse.

As a Life Member, I went to the NAACP staff. I told Julian Bond, chairman of the national NAACP, that he would have me fired. Weeks after McCarty wrote this, a Nashville judge issued a $750,000 judgment in favor of the KKK founder of the KKK and Vanderbilt but, indirectly defending the founder of the KKK, was indirectly defending the NAACP’s position. For me, Gordon Gee was the first “hate crime” by a 25,000-member organization that commemorated the last ride of the KKK in Nashville, targeted me with extreme prejudice. They even sought to take legal action against me for hav- ing criticized the Founder of the KKK, who, by criticizing my critique of the Founder of the KKK, was indirectly defending him. Indeed Gee called the Daughters of the Confederacy “old friends.”

I told Vanderbilt I wanted to take an unpaid leave of absence to avoid more death threats. Vanderbilt Dean Richard McCarty wrote that “a purported debate over whether the founder of the Ku Klux Klan should be honored in Nashville, and past threats you claim have been made against you,” were not good enough excuses, and that if I did not return to Van- derbilt he would have me fired. Weeks after McCarty wrote this, a Nashville judge issued a $750,000 judgment in favor of the KKK founder, and Vanderbilt’s administration decided that the NAACP funded, gun-toting statue honoring the founder of the KKK should be removed. Instead of defending me against such vitriol or remaining silent, my own university, Van- derbilt, joined in on the attack. Both the head of Vanderbilt, Gordon Gee, and the university spokesman, Michael Schoemfield, criticized me, the former calling me “volatile” and the latter an extremist. At no point did either of these men utter one word of criticism about the founder of the KKK, the Confederacy, or any of the individuals or groups targeting me for defama- tion, termination, hospitalization, or worse.

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Unreasonable Expectations

Phelps, Obama, and the Cult of Personality

Maggie Liu

I have to say, I was seriously irked last week by the public reaction to the "shocking" announcement that swimming sensation Michael Phelps had taken a hit from a hong. How scan-
dalous! In the summer of 2008, during the Be-
ing Olympics, Phelps was, to put it crudely, "the shit." How quickly the tables can turn. Last summer, Phelps was a national hero — after successfully securing eight gold medals and breaking seven world records in one Olym-
pics, he was scouring sponsorships left and right. But now, as the public reaction to the "shocking" announcement that swimming sensation Michael Phelps had taken a hit from a hong, it's almost as if every news editor and anchorman has witnessed personal betrayal, a moral turndown. However, the only people to blame for those who believe that Phelps has "betrayed" them are members of the media itself.

Who gets to decide what "betrayed" means? It does not mean the public will give up the clean-cut boy next door. The pure-hearted young man only intend on rewarding his best and achieving success for himself and United States. It is inevitable when an individual becomes a public figure, a public image is always associated with him. This "image" is often two-dimensional and flattens the individ-
ual's other characteristics. However, the media plays up the image and the public is only captivated by the image. The cult of personality has long been an is-
sue of debate. Many argue that public figures are held to different standards than normal people. Are they not human? Stripping aside their public image, they are all ordinary people just very good at one particular thing. They might have stumbled upon their celebrity. Be this the product of welcome or unwelcome fame, in the public consciousness such individ-
uals lose their personal identity once they be-
come public figures. In the case of political fig-
urals lose their personal identity once they be-

It's not Barack Obama's fault that Tim Gei-
thimer and Tom Daschle can't pay their taxes, or that Larry Summers '97 wrote that Paul Vicker, the chair of the Economic Recovery Advisory Board, into White House meetings. But given the scope of the economic crisis, things like "unpaid taxes might seem like a trivial thing to wa-
time on." What is an issue is the underlying pathology of these people. Why didn't Geithner and Daschle (among others) pay their taxes? Why, at such a critical time, is there discord amongst members of Obama's economic team?

Geithner's and Daschle's tax troubles were "mistakes anybody could make." That's true. But these were avoidable mistakes and mis-
takes that stem from "an "above-the-law" sens-
of entitlement that I would have come to ex-
pert from the Bush administration.

Case-in-point: Daschle's unpaid taxes were largely taxes on a limousine and chauffeur service. The image of Daschle, the would-
be health czar, kicked back in a stretch limo and not paying a dime for it while millions of Americans live without health care smacks of something Donald Rumsfeld would do.

Does any of this mean that people like Gei-
thimer, Daschle, or Summers wouldn't make good administrators? In a sense, yes. It's one thing to have the technical expertise to serve as Treasury as Health and Human Services Secretary. In that regard, all of Obama's candi-
dates have been exemplary. But it's another to have the kind of sense of entitlement; the "above the law" ar-
chetype, which causes people to make the kinds of slips that makes them poor pols. On a psychological and even neurologically level, who can people who are wealthy and entitled make better emotionally more better policymakers.

Geithner may have the number-crunching skills to serve as Treasury secretary, but relative to many Americans, he has no idea what it's like to have limited options. And in a very real way, that affects his ability to make sound decisions. This type of emotional distance stems from Daschle and Summers and was in pandemic in the Bush Administration. It will spread through the Obama administration if not ad-

The bottom line is, "above the law," is a matter of principle. And principle matters more in this than the "same old politics as usual."
Brouhaha Rhythm

Curing Cupid’s Cynicism

By Michael Lin

With Valentine’s Day in-hand, the annual chorus of its detractors is at its loudest. Some still hoarse from the holiday season, decry the commercialization of a day supposedly dedicated to romance, while others bemoan the existence of the day at all, concerned that the setting aside of a special day for romance demeans the passion of the everyday.

Personally, I’ve never felt any personal hostility towards Valentine’s Day, despite having spent my fair share of time in an unflatteringly bitter state of singleshood. I enjoyed sitting through the compulsory Valentine’s Day cards of elementary school, although I confess that detailing myself into thinking a fist-size chocolate bar was some kind of declaration of love is not my proudest moment.

Even when I sank to drowning my sorrows in juice boxes, I generally cursed the inability of the other 8-year-olds to recognize my genius rather than the day of special romantic observance or the drunkenarchy of a certain diaper-assault and battery; they usually assume that someone beat their significant other to a pulp. Nope. I just pulled a diva move and slapped “ex” as in front of a police officer.

Before this event, I had taken a decent number of sleeping pills — but I spit most of them in juice boxes. I was so delirious I likely could have sworn up in a mental hospital!” Instead, I just told them, “I’m single, and well, it’s for the better.”

This Valentine’s Day will mark the one-year anniversary of hitting rock bottom, and at least I know that I will have to make a personal effort to top last Valentine’s Day. When my friends complain about being single this Valentine’s, I want to say, “well, better single than in a relationship which leads to you ending up in a mental hospital!” Instead, I just tell them, “I’m single, and well, it’s for the better.”

These days, I acknowledge that one person can’t be someone’s savior. However, it is possible to have a strong support mechanism of family, friends, and even a therapist. I would rather have a stable relationship than a roller coaster romance that ends with a crash. I was a silly freshman who believed it was a sign of weakness to seek help; now, I’ve learned it’s an indication that you know yourself well enough.


Curing Cupid’s Cynicism

By Christine Yu

Sure, the media and some of my friends would tell me, “Face it, you can’t stay single forever.” I’ve come to terms with that and yet I can’t be someone’s savior. However, it is possible to have a strong support mechanism of family, friends, and even a therapist. I would rather have a stable relationship than a roller coaster romance that ends with a crash. I was a silly freshman who believed it was a sign of weakness to seek help; now, I’ve learned it’s an indication that you know yourself well enough.


Talk Nerdy To Me

A Valentine’s Day to Remember

By Christine Yu

Last year, I spent Valentine’s Day in a mental hospital. The day before that, I spent a couple of hours in jail. In the age of the Internet, I should be terrified to write this piece, as Google will forever attach it to my name. Then again, my reputation on the World Wide Web isn’t exactly flawless — this information about me is already out there in an MIT Police log and in my personal blog.

If anyone has ever looked up my name in The Tech’s search function, a page that comes up is an MIT Police log, which states “arrest for domestic assault and battery” next to my name. When people hear the term “domestic assault and battery,” they usually assume that someone beat their significant other to a pulp. Nope. I just pulled a diva move and slapped “ex” as in front of a police officer.

Before this event, I had taken a decent number of sleeping pills — but I spit most of them out when I realized that I didn’t write a suicide note. See, last year, I was in an incredibly unhealthy relationship where all we did was fight and fuck. We fought daily, but we always made sure to put on a happy façade for our friends, who fueled our affair with the line, “OMG, you two are so cute together!”

In retrospect, our relationship was doomed from the start — we went “Facebook Official” after an explosive fight about my drinking habit.

To cope with anxiety and depression freshman year, I turned to booze and sleeping pills. I cared so much about what others thought that I couldn’t seek help. I entered this relationship foolishly in hopes for stability. In the end, I hit rock bottom, trying to off myself after an incredibly explosive fight, and, well, the other details in the story just get convoluted and complicated.

This Valentine’s Day will mark the one-year anniversary of hitting rock bottom, and at least I know that I will have to make a personal effort to top last Valentine’s Day. When my friends complain about being single this Valentine’s, I want to say, “well, better single than in a relationship which leads to you ending up in a mental hospital!” Instead, I just tell them, “I’m single, and well, it’s for the better.”

These days, I acknowledge that one person can’t be someone’s savior. However, it is possible to have a strong support mechanism of family, friends, and even a therapist. I would rather have a stable relationship than a roller coaster romance that ends with a crash. I was a silly freshman who believed it was a sign of weakness to seek help; now, I’ve learned it’s an indication that you know yourself well enough.

Coraline Is an Animated Scare… and Success Only for the Brave Children
By Samuel Markson

**CONCERT REVIEW**

*‘Where the Word Ends’*

By Sudeep Agarwala

**ARTS**

*Where the Word Ends*

By Samiel Markson

**MOVIE REVIEW**

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*Coralline Is an Animated Scare… and Success*
CONCERT REVIEW
Matt Wertz Rocks the Paradise
Pretty Impressive for 'Just a Regular Guy'

By Nydia Ruleman
staff writer

Matt Wertz
Paradise Rock Club
February 6, 2009

Wertz has been branded with a black "X" on each hand and informed not to drink "adult sodas," I entered the Paradise Rock Club last Friday for the concert I had been enthusiastically anticipating — Matt Wertz.

I hadn't heard of the opening band before I bought tickets to the concert, but I was pleasantly surprised by the Alternate Routes. Their music, rock with a bit of a twang, was enhanced by occasional tambourine and harmonica. During the final number, performed by both Matt Wertz's band and the Alternate Routes, the lead singer stopped harmonizing for an intense whistling interlude. What I was most impressed with was the creative percussion: a tool box filled with what sounded like nails, was used to keep a syncopated rhythm during "The Future's Nothing New."

As for the main act, I've been following Matt Wertz's music for four years, since before he signed with a major label. Through the years, his music has evolved; he swaps the acoustic guitar for an electric one every once in a while and incorporates features from a wider variety of genres. At times, a mellow Wertz sounds like John Mayer or Jack Johnson, but occasionally he breaks out the falsetto like Justin Timberlake.

“Through the years, his music has evolved; he swaps the acoustic guitar for an electric one every once in a while and incorporates features from a wider variety of genres.”

Wertz's latest album, Under Summer Sun, released last September, features eight tracks from his previously released independent albums and four new songs. One of my personal favorites, "The Way I Feel," is a bluesy yet upbeat love song. Another classic, "Everything's Right," which first introduced me to the artist, is featured on the sound track of My Super Ex-Girlfriend. Another song I recommend is "5:19" Wertz wrote a while waiting for the inevitable breakup phone call from his then-girlfriend. Wertz draws on his experiences to write love songs, a recurring theme in his music. It's good to know my favorite love song wasn't written about a sandwich.

In the middle of his set, Wertz took five minutes to plug the Mocha Club, a grassroots effort his friend initiated after a trip to Africa, by encouraging fans to donate $7 a month, roughly equivalent to two cups of mocha, to provide medication, education, and clean drinking water. This wasn't an annoying celebrity platform; Wertz genuinely described the impact of his trip to Africa and the joy he saw there in the midst of difficulties. He even gave away free CDs to those who signed up that night.

I was impressed by Matt Wertz at the concert. His humor and charisma made the show entertaining. The music was better live. And most importantly, there's a real person behind the songs — after all, he does claim he's "just a regular guy."
Steal My Comic
by Michael Ciuffo

The Daily Blunderbuss
by Ben Peters

Forget about Valentines? You’re in luck!
Simply cut out and deliver to your special someone.

An MIT Valentine

Roses are red.
Violets are blue.
I have a problem
set due Monday,
and so do you.

Be sure amongst the mass of telegrams and due dates amongst further urgent communication with me until 10:00 AM EST Monday, February 16, 2009. A.D.
Please accept this message in point of fact.

Note: Please notice that the absence of this notice
confidentially represents adelay. This is not an
unusual occurrence. Please be assured, it is
not due to negligence or disinterest.
Reif launched an online interactive Ideabank web site collects input to implement. SM '76 will decide on which ideas Vice President Theresa M. Stone Philip L. Clay PhD '75, and Execu-
group. Information from a Data and Analysis Group.

New ideabank.mit.edu Helps Evaluate Cost Savings

Task Force, from Page 1

mation from a Data and Analysis Group. Ultimately, Reif, Chancellor Philip L. Clay PhD ’75, and Execu-
tive Vice President Theresa M. Stone SM ’76 will decide on which ideas to implement.

Ideabank website collects input

In order to increase involvement outside the institute-wide Task Force, Reif launched an online interactive forum, the MIT Idea Bank (http://ideabank.mit.edu). Since Monday morning, the Bank has received more than 200 ideas from students, staff, and faculty.

Mark W. Manley, along with many other contributors to Idea Bank, spoke out against wasting paper. “When I started working at MIT,” Manley wrote, “I was extremely surprised to see how paper-driven MIT is. Manley’s idea to reduce paper usage is one of the more popular ideas on Idea Bank. Another hot topic on the forum concerns the heating and air-condi-
tioning efficiencies of campus build-
ings. In a post on Idea Bank, Jason B. Cohen recalled a time when he saw frost on the inside of windows at Eastgate and Building 54. Cohen proposed that single-pane windows in MIT buildings be replaced with double-pane windows in order to improve heating insulation. Other popular topics on the forum include energy conservation, lowering salaries, and reducing paper junk mail, and making more paper-
work electronic. The ideas receiving the highest ratings and popularities will be considered by the Institute-wide Task Force and brought to the co-
dinators.

Organization

As one of the three Task Force co-
dinators, Graduate Dean Steven R. Lerman ’72 will collect ideas from working groups and submit them to the Provost. The coordinators “make sure the Task Force is able to real-
ize its full potential,” Lerman said. In addition, the coordinators will provide the MIT community with updates on ideas developed within working groups.

According to Lerman, the co-
dinators will meet on a regular basis with working group chairs to discuss recommendations. If ap-
proved, ideas concerning academic, administrative, and student life will be reviewed by Reif, Stone, and Clay, respectively.

Dean for Undergraduate Educa-
tion Daniel E. Hastings was cho-

en by Reif to co-chair the working group on education. “Fundamen-
tally,” said Hastings, “I accepted because MIT has a serious budget crisis and we all need to step up to help.” According to the Institute-
wide Task Force website, the value of MIT’s endowment dropped by ap-
proximately 25% from June to De-
cember, to $7.6 billion. In the coming months, further updates and announcements on new ideas will be posted on the Institute-
wide Planning website (http://web.
mit.edu/instituteplanning).

Course VI Grad Apps Only Up by 5 Percent

EECS Grad. Funding Down by 10 Percent

Grad Applicants, from Page 1

cations were received, again exclud-
ing Sloan applications. Last year, the Institute received 17,413 applica-
tions, excluding Sloan, an increase of 1,150 from 2006. Sloan saw a spike in its first round of applications and more normal numbers in the second round. Over-
all, Sloan is experiencing a “record year” in terms of received applica-
tions, according to Director of MBA Admissions Rod Garcia.

The Department of Electrical En-

gineering and Computer Science saw a five percent decrease in applications from last year, with 2,550, said EECS Graduate Office Terry P. Orlando.

Orlando also said the depart-
ment’s funding has dropped ten per-
cent from last year, and although it is common for funding to start low and rise, the drop could have to do with the recession. “People are being cautious because of financial issues,” Orlando said.

The number of graduate students enrolled in EECS has decreased from 695 in 2006 and 685 in 2007 to 638 this fall.

LEGAL COUNSEL

MIT students, family, employees and start-up workers U.S. legal counsel, campus or office consultation. Call: James Dennis Leary, Esq. 321-544-0012

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Healthy MEN in college or with a college degree wanted for our sperm donor program.

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Madoff Collapse Wraps Out $2M Grant from Picower Foundation

In 2002, the Barbara and Jeffrey Picower Foundation gave MIT $50 million to build building 46 and establish what’s now the Picower Insti-
tute for Learning and Memory at MIT. At the time, the Picower Foun-
dation had $1 billion in assets.

On December 11, 2008, Bernard L. Madoff’s $50 billion hedge fund collapsed, when Madoff (pronounced May-doff) admitted his hedge fund was actually a Ponzi scheme—a confidence scheme that took in money from more and more investors and paid the older inves-
tors with the money from the new.

Five days before Christmas, the Picower Foundation revealed that its $1 billion had been managed entirely by Madoff, the Foundation’s assets were wiped out, and it was closing.

Yesterday’s Wall Street Journal reported that MIT was expecting $2 million in funding from Picower this year — funds that now will never arrive. It’s not entirely clear what MIT was planning to use the funds for, but a December 20, 2008 Boston Globe article indicated that MIT had received $230,000,000 each year from the fund to support graduate fellowships in the name of Norman Levinthal ’58.

Mark Bear, Director of the Picower Institute told the Journal, “This is a huge setback.” With respect to funding, “We’re back at the starting gate,” he said.

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Sperm donors needed

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Legal”

For more information, please email: natya-tix@mit.edu

Tickets will also be available at the door. http://web.mit.edu/natya
Goldstein & Magnuson
Take Seventh Place at
NorthAms in January

Debate Team, from Page 12

Zimmerman ’07 competed under the banner of the University of Mary-
land, where they now attend gradu-
ate school. Groce and Zimmerman ended the tournament in fifth place while Goldstein and Magnuson finished seventh. In addition, Goldstein re-
ceived the third place speaker award and Groce the sixth. The MIT Debate Team will be
attending a number of tournaments this spring in preparation for the American National Championships at Mount Holyoke in April. In addi-
tion, Goldstein is serving as the Cambridge IV held earlier this year, the team of Goldstein and Magnuson has been invited to the Hobart and William Smith Colleges Round Rob-
in in early April to compete against the top British Parliamentary teams in the world.

SPORUS, CONT.

Sports Shorts, Continued

Sports Shorts, from Page 12

cut’s Taylor Murray on the beam with a 9.300. Leanna S. Morimishi ’12 tied for fifth on the vault with a 9.200. Morimishi also ranked fifth on bars with a 9.575 and fourth on floor with a 9.537.

MIT, 1-1 in dual meet competition, will compete at Ithaca College next Saturday.

Eric R. Reuland ’10 paced MIT with eight kills to go along with five aces and five digs. Malcolm K. Bean
posted seven kills and two blocks. Philip M. Rogoz ’10 and Caine L. Jette ’10 com-
posted seven kills and two blocks as Randolph Li ’09 totaled six kills. Michael Demyttenaere ’10 and Gar-
dan was able to preserve the win, however, finishing with 29 saves.

The Engineers will host their next regular-season Saturday, February 14 through March 26.

Men’s Volleyball Sweeps Daniel Webster

In the inaugural meeting between both programs, the MIT men’s volleyball team defeated Endicott, 6-4, in New England Collegiate Hockey Association (NECHA) action Saturday. The win moves the Engineers one point past the Gulfis in the NECHA American East Standings. The two teams com-
peted in the final 20 minutes of the game with Gulfis taking a 30-14 lead.

Michael C. Kozlowski G opened the scoring just over seven minutes into the game with help from Justin D. McGann ’09 and Fierce Forever 8 student drag queen Sean Price. The hosts would also host a break dancing workshop on Saturday.

The Fierce Forever 8 student drag dr- and Alpha Chi Omega 16th annual Lip Sync competition will occur in the days prior to the concert; on April 23 and April 24 respectively. Insom-
Negrini said that she “would imagine” that the ini-
Nitro was able to preserve the win, however, finishing with 29 saves.

The team of Goldstein and Magnuson has been invited to the Hobart and William Smith Colleges Round Rob-
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SPORUS, CONT.

Sports Shorts, Continued

Sports Shorts, from Page 12

the 30-11, 30-20 victory over Daniel Webster College in a North East Collegiate V olleyball Association (NECVA)

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SPORUS, CONT.

Sports Shorts, Continued

Sports Shorts, from Page 12

The third place speaker award and Groce the sixth. The MIT Debate Team will be
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SPORUS, CONT.

Sports Shorts, Continued

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in in early April to compete against the top British Parliamentary teams in the world.
**Yankees’ Rodriguez Earns New Nickname For Himself: A-Roid**

By David Zhu

First, there was A-Rod, the scrapp- py kid playing in Seattle who seemed destined for greatness. Next came Pay-Rod, the star shortstop who ditched his team in search of a bigger contract. Not long ago, Joe Torre gave us A-Fraud, the narcissistic, demanding Yankee superstar. Now, the revelations of this past week end provide another addition to the repertoire of variations on the guy’s nickname: A-Roid.

On Saturday evening, Sports Illustrated got hold of a leaked report which identified Alex Rodriguez as one of 104 players in Major League Baseball who tested positive for steroids in 2003. The same Alex Rodriguez who was supposed to be the shining star of baseball, the quintessential pro athlete who was supposed to (eventually) cleanse the sport of the bad taste left by the steroids scandal, the player who would surpass Barry Bonds’ home run record and not have an asterisk after the number next to his name.

But all of that came crashing down, just because Alex Rodriguez decided to inject himself with some chemicals—which he probably didn’t need anyway. At the time of the failed test, A-Rod was already the highest-paid player in baseball and a near-certain future hall-of-famer. Apparently, he and his big ego didn’t think it was enough.

Now, as a Seattle fan, by

**Debate Team Reaches Quarterfinals at World Debate Championship**

By Bill Magnuson

During IAP, the MIT Debate Team reached the quarterfinals of both the World Universities Debating Championship, held in Ireland, and the North American Debate Championshps, hosted by Amherst University in Massachusetts. This accomplishment represents MIT’s best finish ever at the World Championships, a tournament normally dominated by international competition.

Representing MIT in the field of over 300 teams at the World Championshps were Adam J. Goldstein ’10 and William H. Magnuson ’09. Nine preliminary rounds were held over the course of three days to determine the top thirty-two teams which would advance to the elimination rounds.

This team from MIT finished the third day in 19th place, placing them in an octofinal round with teams from McGill University, Hart House and the University of Cambridge. Other American teams that reached elimi- nation rounds included Princeton, Harvard and Stanford Universities.

Goldstein and Magnuson were eventually eliminated in quarterfinals after a tense debate of the motion: “This house believes that the international criminal court should prosecute crimes against the democratic process.” Other topics for debate included the banning of gambling, allowing soldiers to sue their government for negligence and the arming of local militia in Afghanistan.

Shortly after returning home from Ireland, the MIT Debate Team attended the annual border battle between Canada and the United States known as the NorthAms. Using a format which represents a combination of both the American and Canadian parliamentary styles, NorthAms is a debating challenge for teams from both countries.

MIT was well represented, making up four of the 93 teams in attendance. They included the team of Sharon Karim ’10 and Peter F. McKeever ’11 as well as the team of Gold- stein and Magnuson. In addition, two former members of the MIT Debate Team, Adam Groce ’07 and Michelle

**Debate Team, Page 11**

**The Tech’s Athlete of the Week: Jacqui Wentz ’10**

On January 25, Jacqualine M. Wentz ’10 became the first female athlete in the country to qualify for Division III NCAA Championships in the 5000 meters this year. Her automatic qualifying time of 17:05.2 at the Terrier Invitational broke the MIT record for the distance.

The morning after this performance, Wentz anchored the Distance Medley relay and ran a 5:04.2 for the 1600 meters, setting a personal record.

In light of this accomplishment, Wentz was named the Eastern Collegiate Athletic Conference Athlete of the Week. She is the second Engineer in two years to qualify for Nationals in the 5000 meters.

This season, Wentz has captured first place in a range of distances. At the Bates vs. Colby & Meet month on January 17, her wins in the 1000 meters (2:59.34) and the mile (5:10.01) set her season off to an impres- sive start.

On January 31, Wentz’s victories in the 800 meters (2:18.45) and the mile (5:09.95) at Bowdoin College were accompanied by her anchor leg in the 4000 meter steeplechase, when she helped the team earn another event win.

Division III NCAA Championships for Indoor Track will take place in Indiana on March 13-14.

—Maggie Lloyd, Staff Reporter

**SCOREBOARD**

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<td>Babson College (12-10)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday, Feb. 12, 2009</td>
<td>MIT (5-7)</td>
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**Men’s Ice Hockey**

| MIT (9-5-1) | 4 |
| Endicott College (9-9-2) | 6 |

**SQUASH**

| Sunday, Feb. 8, 2009 | 6285 |
| Monday, Feb. 9, 2009 | 6218 |

**Squash**

| Monday, Feb. 9, 2009 | 6218 |
| Monday, Feb. 9, 2009 | 6285 |

**WOMEN’S GYMNASTICS**

| Saturday, Feb. 7, 2009 | 175-000 |
| MIT (3) | 169-250 |
| Rhode Island College | 169-250 |
| SUNY Brockport (2) | 184-550 |
| Southern Connecticut State University (1) | 183-950 |

**Men’s Basketball**

| Tuesday, Feb. 10, 2009 | 0 |
| Daniel Webster College (2-3) | 0 |

**Men’s Volleyball**

| Friday, Feb. 13, 2009 | 6 p.m., duPont Gymnasium |
| Saturday, Feb. 14, 2009 | 9 a.m., duPont Gymnasium |
| Track and Field Invitational | 12 p.m., Johnson Athletic Center |
| Men’s Basketball vs. Worcester Polytechnic Institute | 1 p.m., Rockwell Cage |
| Women’s Basketball vs. Wellesley College | 3 p.m., Rockwell Cage |

**Sports Shorts**