Leaked Dining Proposal Prompts Student Response

By Meredith L. Lis

The Undergraduate Association Senate passed a bill Monday calling for the dissolution of the Blue Ribbon Committee on Dining and the creation of a UA-chosen replacement committee comprised of students, faculty, and staff which would give students more say in the decision-making process. The bill demands that plans described in the leaked consultant’s report to the Blue Ribbon committee be scrapped.

According to the bill, the leaked recommendations contradicted the results from a survey of MIT conducted by the committee in Spring 2008, which the bill says shows “opposition among students to mandatory dining plans.” Part of the bill demands that “participation in an undergraduate dining system not be mandatory.”

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

UA Dining, Page 10

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

By Arkajit Dey, Nick Bushak, and Austin Chu

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

A draft presentation and an executive summary, created by consulting firm Envision Strategies, were made public at an available Saturday night. All meal plans in the proposal require a significantly higher mandated minimum contribution than current meal plans. The report bases its plans on the idea that students should set aside money to be used exclusively for dining.

Richard D. Berlin III, a member of the Blue Ribbon Committee, as Director of Campus Dining Services, declined to comment on the state of the committee or the contents of the proposal on Monday, writing in an e-mail, “[U]ntil the Blue Ribbon Committee itself has the opportunity to review and discuss the consultant’s report, I don’t believe that commenting on the material for the Tech would be appropriate.”

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

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

Under the proposed plan, freshmen living in residences with all-you-can-eat (AYCE) dining (the report suggests Baker, Next House, and Simmons) would be required to purchase a plan ranging from a minimum of $1,500 per semester for 7 meals (5 per week) and $650 in dining dollars included to a plan ranging from a minimum of $1,775 per semester for 7 meals and $1,350 dining dollars included.

Proposal, Page 11

Overall Reaction Mixed, But Vocal Segment Opposes Meal Plan

By Omar Abudayyeh and Natasha Plotkin

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Possible Meal Plans Proposed by Leaked Drafts

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France and Britain Disclose Collision of 2 Submarines

Justice Dept. Is Reviewing Interrogation Under Bush

By John F. Burns

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

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

But military sources said the episode raised troubling questions about the safety of ballistic-missile submarines patrolling the oceans while hiding their whereabouts even from NATO allies. They said that agreements on “waterspace management,” requiring NATO nations to advise each other of the whereabouts of submerged submarines, did not include vessels carrying ballistic missiles with nuclear warheads.

The collision spurred a fresh outcry from groups in Britain and France that have demanded that the nations scrap their nuclear arsenals, with representatives saying that only chance had prevented a more serious impact that could have sunk both vessels, as well as with their missiles and warheads.

The collision “could have released vast amounts of radiation and scored scores of warheads across the seabeds,” said Kate Hudson, the chairwoman of the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament, a long-established protest group in Britain.

The collision of the vessels on the night of Feb. 3, at a location neither nation disclosed, was described by military experts in London and Paris as a million-to-one occurrence, given the expansive nature of the ocean and the low number of submarines carrying ballistic missiles on patrol at any time from nations with such vessels.

Those nations include the United States, Russia, and China, as well as Britain and France.

Just as startling, the experts said, was that the French Defense Ministry appeared not to have known in the immediate aftermath that its submarine, Le Triomphe, had struck the British submarine, HMS Vanguard. On Feb. 6, the ministry released a statement in Paris saying that the French vessel had “collided with an unknown object,” which it described as probably a drifting cargo container, and that the submarine’s sonar dome, located in its nose and crucial to its ability to track other vessels, had been seriously damaged.

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

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

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

By Seth Mydans

PHNOM PENH, CAMBODIA — A Cambodian court opened Tuesday, 30 years after the end of the brutal communist regime that took the lives of as many as one fourth of Cambodia’s population, its first case against former senior Khmer Rouge cadre opened Tuesday, 30 years after the end of the brutal communist regime that took the lives of as many as one fourth of Cambodia’s population, its first case against former senior Khmer Rouge cadre opened Tuesday, 30 years after the end of the brutal communist regime that took the lives of as many as one fourth of Cambodia’s population, its first case against former senior Khmer Rouge cadre opened Tuesday, 30 years after the end of the brutal communist regime that took the lives of as many as one fourth of Cambodia’s population, its first case against former senior Khmer Rouge cadre opened Tuesday, 30 years after the end of the brutal communist regime that took the lives of as many as one fourth of Cambodia’s population, its first case against former senior Khmer Rouge cadre opened Tuesday, 30 years after the end of the brutal communist regime that took the lives of as many as one fourth of Cambodia’s population, its first case against former senior Khmer Rouge cadre opened Tuesday, 30 years after the end of the brutal communist regime that took the lives of as many as one fourth of Cambodia’s population, its first case against former senior Khmer Rouge cadre opened Tuesday, 30 years after the end of the brutal communist regime that took the lives of as many as one fourth of Cambodia’s population, its first case against former senior Khmer Rouge cadre opened Tuesday, 30 years after the end of the brutal communist regime that took the lives of as many as one fourth of Cambodia’s population, its first case against former senior Khmer Rouge cadre opened Tuesday, 30 years after the end of the brutal communist regime that took the lives of as many as one fourth of Cambodia’s population, its first case against former senior Khmer Rouge cadre opened Tuesday, 30 years after the end of the brutal communist regime that took the lives of as many as one fourth of Cambodia’s population.

The first defendant is Kaing Guek Eav, 66, better known as Dith Pran, the commandant of the Tuol Sleng prison and torture house, which sent as much as one fourth of Cambodia’s population to its deaths in a killing field.

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

Dith (pronounced DOKH) confessed to journalists before his arrest nine years ago that he had committed atrocities, but said he had been acting under orders and would himself have been killed if he had disobeyed. Known for his brutality, he is charged with crimes against humanity and war crimes, and with murder and torture in his prison, known as S-21.

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

They are Neou Cha, 82, the movement’s chief ideologue; Khieu Samphan, 76, who was head of state; Khieu Ponnary, 70, who was head of state; and Ieng Thirith, 75, a fellow member of the Khmer Rouge Central Committee.

The Khmer Rouge leader, Pol Pot, died in 1998. Many Cambodians fear that the defendants may also die before they are brought to trial, and the tribunal has provided them the best medical care Cambodia has to offer.

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

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

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

By Brian H. Tang

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

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

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

Saying Small Nations Count, Czechs Seek an Obama Visit

By Steven Erlanger

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

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

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

Obama, who in Europe is viewed as something akin to a rock star, will make his first trip to Paris in early April, and then he’ll go to London for a summit meeting on April 2 of the Group of 20 large industrial and developing countries intended to discuss overcoming the global financial system and coping with a nearly worldwide recession.

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

That meeting, of which France and Germany are co-hosts, is also expected to mark France’s full reintegration into the military side of the alliance, more than 40 years after Charles de Gaulle quit the joint military organization as an affront to Paris.

That means Obama will have visited the main “troika” of the Euro- 

The first meeting of which France and Germany — and met with the coun-

The Czech Republic — a country of 10 million people that has been struggling with its own political problems under the pressure of the economic crisis and a continuing spat with the previous holder of the presidency, France — very much wants Obama to come to Prague to meet European leaders, instead of doing it in the European Union’s bureaucratic capital, Brussels.
Revelations by Senator from Illinois Cause Concern

By Monica Davey

Several Democratic lawmakers from Illinois said Monday that they were disturbed by newly discovered e-mails from Rod Blagojevich and Roland W. Burris, the state’s newest senator and former governor. And at least one called for Burris to come before the state legislature and explain himself.

“We have a lot of questions,” state Senator Jack Franks, a Republican who said the corruption investigation was not forthcoming, and that’s the bottom line. I feel betrayed. The real problems here are for the citizens of Illinois. We were supposed to be able to trust this man for another term, and again, Illinois becomes the laughing stock for the nation.”

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

In a panel, the head panel tes- timony from Blagojevich, who was not been appointed by Blagojevich but yet not seated in, Washington, about his test to the governor.

At the time, Blagojevich described the lawsuit as something on which he had spoken about his desire to become the next senator with one of Blagojevich’s brother, Blagojevich’s chief of staff at the time, and two close friends.

Blagojevich said that he did nothing wrong and repeatedly referred to a court order, and that he did not fully answer a question about those conver- sations. He said in January his family before lawmakers because the ques- tioning had moved on.

Blagojevich, who acknowledged this weekend that federal agents had “fired” letters in his home, said, “want to meet with me,” said his de- cision this month to file a new, fuller complaint about his talks with state of- ficials was made voluntarily when he discovered his omissions.

Some lawmakers have been skep- tical of Blagojevich’s efforts to return a federal loan to Blagojevich, a former state attorney general, may have realized that some of the talks question could have been cap- able of bringing federal records secretly made during the investigation into the former governor’s legal troubles and removed from office last month.

For the past few days, Republi- cans on the panel have called for a court prosecutor to consider perjury charges, but some lawmakers have said letters interviewed said they needed to learn more before they would suggest sanctions to Blagojevich.

Democratic Senate leaders in Washington met late Monday to review Blagojevich’s new disclosures and amend ac- tion by Illinois state legislators.

“Just in case the governor did say Reg. Lon. Lang, a Democrat, that he intended to work with Burris’ previ- ous comments, and hoped that his col- leagues would do the same,” “My take on it is we can’t just go the same way,” “We could determine that Burris was simply negligent and had a failing memory in a very honest way.” On the other hand, we may find out that he knew more than he was willing to explain.”

A spokeswoman for John J. Cul- bat, the new president of the dangerous, admitted, she was too, was “very troubled by the timing of Burris’ re- cruals.”

February 17, 2009

As Clinton Lands in Asia, North Korea Threatens Missile Test

By Mark Landler

The New York Times

Close on the heels of the pope’s rehabilitation of a group of schisma- tic bishops in Austria, which deniers the Holocaust, a second scan- dal has compounded a series of de- bates over what the Vatican should do about the papal visit to Austri- a.

Speaking briefly at an airport ar- rival in Vienna, Elisabeth Felbermair, 28, who officially regulates ex- actly the reports from North Korea, threatened to try what our neighbors believe is a ballistic missile capable of reaching the United States.

“Our position is what they move more for a victory and a complete dismantling and decentraliza- tion, we have no interest for them to work with,” she said.

She also repeated her offer to nor- malize ties with North Korea but to rebuild its economy if it abandoned its nuclear weapons.

But in what appeared to be a pointed challenge to her mission on this trip to Asia, North Korea threatened to try what our neighbors believe is a ballistic missile capable of reaching the United States.

While the pope, Pope Benedict XVI’s focus on doc- trine and reform, the Vatican’s political tone are alienating mainstream Catholic and undermining the mission.

On Sunday, a priest known as such an influential pope the con- tinuing the sins of New Orleans for Hurricane Katrina asked the pope to remove an imprisoned as an aircraft.”

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Letters To The Editor

Debate Ideas Respectfully

We are writing to express our deep concern about an email that members of our Community received in response to their recent letter appearing in The Tech on January 28, 2009. This email was written to the letter’s authors who signed it, “anonymous,” who said that their email “does not provide for students who want to use college as a stepping stone to the real world: they have the freedom of being able to experiment with cooking or eating out, while still having ability to fall back on a dining hall when they’re most hoses. Moreover, any declining balance accounts should be totally refundable at the end of the academic year, lowering the barrier to food purchase without costing mandatory participation — if it cannot support itself through full service ‘all you care to eat’ (A YCE) facility. Another significant option would be an advisory board made up of students who desire the services of a dining hall should be offered a high-quality AYCE facility with service from breakfast through dinner. This facility should be conveniently located with food service and should be operated to be economically self-sufficient without mandatory participation — if it cannot support itself through the revenue of those who use it, it shouldn’t exist.

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

Finally — and perhaps most importantly — the middle option provides for students who want to use college as a stepping stone to the real world. They have the freedom of being able to experiment with cooking or eating out, while still having ability to fall back on a dining hall when they’re most hoses. Moreover, any declining balance accounts should be totally refundable at the end of the academic year, lowering the barrier to food purchase without costing mandatory participation — if it cannot support itself through full service‘all you care to eat’ (A YCE) facility. Another significant option would be an advisory board made up of students who desire the services of a dining hall should be offered a high-quality AYCE facility with service from breakfast through dinner. This facility should be conveniently located with food service and should be operated to be economically self-sufficient without mandatory participation — if it cannot support itself through the revenue of those who use it, it shouldn’t exist.

We urge MIT’s Campus Dining advisory board to consider all plans popular, but option—dining program at UNC Chapel Hill as a model — that school boa ts that its operation is ‘unique because all meal plans are voluntary…’[thero]fore, we must earn your business.”

Opinion

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

Dissonance is the opinion of students who signed the editorial. They successfully challenge and disprove the arguments in the editorial with their columns. Letters to the editor, columns, and editorial cartoons are written by individuals and represent the opinion of the author, not necessarily of The Tech. Electronic submissions are encouraged and should be sent to letters@the-tech.mit.edu. Hard copy submissions must be addressed to The Tech, 49 Mass. Ave., 02139, Cambridge, Mass. 02139. Letters sent by interdepartmental mail to Room 2620-W483. All submissions are due by 4:30 p.m. two days before the date of publication.

Letters, columns, and cartoons must bear the authors’ signatures, addresses, and phone numbers. Unsigned letters will not be accepted.

Letters to the editor reserve the right to edit condense, or shorten letters. Letters will be given higher priority once submitted, all letters become property of The Tech, and will not be returned. Letters, columns, and cartoons may also be posted on The Tech’s Web site and/or printed in any other form of The Tech, whether it becomes known, The Tech makes no commitment to publish all letters received.

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

To Reach Us

The Tech’s telephone number is (617) 253-1541. E-mail is the easiest way to contact us, the second favorite method is fax. In later or later that becomes known, The Tech makes no commitment to publish all letters received.

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By any measure, the $78 billion stimulus bill will fall well short of doing the problems facing the economy. Over the next two years, the expected short fall between potential and actual growth will mean an additional $2 trillion to reach $2 trillion — this legislation doesn’t even come close.

But wait, it gets worse. Around a third of the stimulus is designed merely to impact the expected deficit in state government spending. States, unlike the federal government, are obligated to maintain balanced budgets, and will be forced in the near future to cut spending rather than raise it Right away, a third of the stimulus is simply the cost of just treading water.

Furthermore, the more tax cuts are relied upon as a form of stimulus, the greater the distortive impact of government involvement and increase the efficiency of the economy (hence the perennial enthusiasm for lump-sum transfers — the market mechanism). Unless spending is done wisely, creating funds for students. MIT should be a role model.

The above is the spiel often given at MIT about the economy, this time of national crisis. MIT seems to have an aversion to making pork-free. It only earmark-free doesn’t mean pork-free. It only means that a particular policy has not been cut, and not that the money has been redirected. Any proposal that avoids key tax cuts will not increase for most people. There will be no efficiency gains from this tax slack.

President Obama has promised legislation to reduce the federal budget deficit by $1.5 trillion per year energy industry through technology development, and deployment is to adopt policies that they’ll have less after-tax income in the future. Some are inclined to believe that anything other than careful scrutiny of future spending, and some fraction of every tax cut that is not the perfect policy, university, or company. What will be your contribution?
Brouhaha Rhythm
More Than a Groupie, Less Than a Stalker

By Michael Lin
Campus Life editor

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

What can I say? I like wearing red ties and domino masks. Luckily for me that double-sided tape isn’t as permanent as it advertises, and the pain of peeling off the top half of my face is worth it to achieve the right superhero effect.

Fanboyism is a state of irrational fervor and/or obsession of sufficient intensity to overwhelm objectivity and reason. Every comic book hero in existence is bound to have at least one such fan, even the underrated Aquaman, who people seem to forget is much more than just the Fish Whisperer. It takes guts to cut off his own hand (no sushi jokes, please) to save a life, and replacing it with a retractable hook is just awesome. So what if he’s weakened by dehydration? So is everybody else, except maybe the Human Torch. Green Lantern’s weakness is the color yellow, but he never seems to catch any flak for that. Ahem… those who value political correctness may not care for the gender-specific term “fanboy,” but considering that it’s generally applied towards the whiny and illogical, I suppose it’s only fair. One’s initial inclination might be to assume that fanboyism is limited to the nerd and geek demographics, and although it is true that the word finds greatest use among we strange and peculiar folk, I’m prepared to wager that the phenomenon is universal, a fundament of human nature.

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

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

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

Blobbles
by Jason Chan

February 17, 2009

COMICS

The Tech

FUN PAGES

Page 7

Steal My Comic

Blobbles

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

53. Kind of bread
54. Deep secrets
56. __ Antoineette
58. Hoof noise
59. Confiscate
64. Small shark
65. Winglike parts
66. Be of one mind
67. Cameo gem
68. Tear apart
69. Reebuck’s partner

DOWN
1. Letters for Republicans
2. Bring into play
3. Corn serving
4. Quick hop
5. Brazilian city near Belem
6. House coat?
7. Roast host
8. Doctor’s org.
9. Mended with melted metal
10. Hall
11. Dealer in men’s furnishings
12. Entertainer Messey
13. In want
18. Facts
22. Afore
23. Church sections
24. Noah or Wallace
25. Intestinal exam
27. Mechanical man
30. Stitch anew
32. One way to be taken?
34. Dog tether
35. C.I.A. forerunner
37. Wedding present?
38. Wipe from memory
40. Temporary auto
44. John Steinbeck’s birthplace
46. Poetic twilight
47. Half a Polynesian island?
49. Synthetic fiber
51. Jordan’s capital
52. Identified
55. Peak
57. Rim
60. Granada bravo
61. Period
62. Auction end?
63. Legal matter

20 YEARS LATER...

LOS ANGELES 2029AD

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

Which one of us are you talking to?

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

s u d o k u
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Solution, tips, and computer program at http://www.sudoku.com

ACROSS
1. 4
2. 1
3. 7
4. 6
5. 9
6. 1

DOWN
1. 7
2. 3
3. 8
4. 2
5. 3
6. 8
7. 4
8. 5

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DOWN
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2. 3
3. 8
4. 2
5. 3
6. 8
7. 4
8. 5

Solution, tips, and computer program at http://www.sudoku.com
The Daily Blunderbuss

by Ben Peters

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Doonesbury

BY GARRY TRudeau

---

Dilbert®

by Scott Adams

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Mocha Moves Dance Group Presents...

Mocha Motion

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Two Great Nights of Dance with Guest Performances by
Spoken Word Artist Dorri Zini &
MIT Dance Troupe
Marcel P. Nunez ’11 (back) of MIT’s Habitat for Humanity chapter works with a volunteer from the Greater Lowell chapter to remove mud and stone from the basement of a 150-year-old farmhouse in Bedford, MA. MIT’s chapter sends 16 volunteers to a Build Day each month.

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- Receive a stipend

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Good luck on the campaign trail!

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Good luck on the campaign trail!
Mandatory Dining Proposed At MIT? That’s Nothing New.

Proposal, from Page 1

Proposal text...

Student Reactions to Dining Plan Vary from Approving to Skeptical

Reactions, from Page 1

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

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

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

“It would be best to have a normal dining plan with breakfast, lunch, and dinner,” said Adriana Vasquez ‘11, though she did not believe such a plan would work. “I’m an athlete, too.”

Others student said they preferred the current system to the proposed one: “I like the system that is in place right now,” said Angela Cheng ‘11. “[All-you-can-eat] seems like kind of a waste because right now we can get as much food as we need.”

Stephanie P Zeitlin ‘11 expressed the same sentiment and said, “All-you-can-eat is system is more unhealthy because people will eat more to get their money’s worth. Less drastic changes might be better.”

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

Joe A. Mancilla-Narváez ’09 said that, as a senior, he felt that MIT currently lacked sufficient dining options. He complained that he had been bored of the options that restaurants at the student center offered and joked, “I would suspect that what I’m eating at MIT for four years is going to have some serious consequences of the idea of having more options available through a dining hall but expressed skepticism that MIT dining could provide quality service.”

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

His friend, Aldo Pacchiarino-Co- machu ‘12, lamented having to pay at MIT ahead of him rather than behind him: “I’m a freshman, and at the beginning I liked the idea of it. It’s like eating chicken and other student center options, but I’m already tired of everything.”

Student understanding of the leaked consultants’ proposal varied: the majority of students interviewed by The Tech said they had either glanced over or not looked at the corpro that has circulated through demail handling lists over the weekend.

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The MIT theater on ice team takes first place at SCNY Showcase

By Wendy Chen

On February 14, 2009, the MIT Figure Skating team competed at the Skating Club of New York (SCNY) Showcase, a United States Figure Skating-sanctioned competition in theatrical skating held at the Chelsea Piers Sky Rink in New York City. The team placed first in the Production Ensemble event, which required at least 7 skaters. Jessica A. Eisenstein ’06 choreographed the three-minute, thirty-second-long program to music from Chicago’s “Cell Block Tango.” Participants included: Elizabeth R. Boroson ’09, Kristina K. Brown ’09, Wendy Chen ’10, Diana S. Cheng ’04, Jane Codman (staff), Jessica A. Eisenstein ’06, Katherine J. Fang ’12, Rupali E. Granger ’12, Bonny S. Kellermann ’72, Annie Ouyang ’11, Carla Rivas G, Aubrey L. Samost ’10, and Cynthia Tang ’09.

Highlights of the program included individual sit spins and two synchronized skating pinwheels. Boroson, Fang, Granger, Rivas, Samost, and Tang lifting Cheng to represent a gunshot to Eisenstein, who played the male role; and solo duets with similar pairs elements by Samost and Eisenstein. Skaters on the team also performed individual tricks that included jumps, lunges, and spirals on the ice while crossing each other. The program concluded in a dramatic ending where skaters on the outside circle performed a Mohawk sequence while closing in on the skaters on the inside circle, who struck an aggressive pose by stabbing Eisenstein with their roses.

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

UPCOMING HOME EVENTS

Tuesday, Feb. 17, 2009
Men’s Volleyball vs. Lesley University 7 p.m., Rockwell Cage

Wednesday, Feb. 18, 2009
Men’s Basketball vs. Clark University 6 p.m., Rockwell Cage
Men’s Hockey vs. Bryant University 7 p.m., Johnson Ice Rink

SCOREBOARD

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

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

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

Women’s Hockey
Saturday, February 14, 2009
Ithaca and SUNY Brockport
MIT 2nd of 3

Men’s Volleyball
Saturday, February 14, 2009
MIT (5-9) 1
Ramapo College 3

Saturday, February 14, 2009
MIT (6-9) 3
Hunter College 1

Sunday, February 15, 2009
MIT (7-9) 3
Baruch College 2

Sunday, February 15, 2009
MIT (6-9) 3
New Jersey City University 0

Men’s Wrestling
Friday, February 13, 2009
MIT (2-16) 24
Coast Guard Academy (4-11) 34

Friday, February 13, 2009
MIT (2-17) 21
Western New England College (1-10) 30