### Spring Weekend Concert

To Open for Ben Folds at Bareilles, Hotel Lights

#### Staff Reporter
**By Omar Abudayyeh**

The ability of Fraternities, Sororities, and Independent Living Groups (FSILGs) to charge and accept non-student summer boarders has been critical to struggling revenues at FSILGs. A new committee charged by Dean for Student Life Chris Consolo will be examining whether FSILGs can continue their practice of renting beds to non-MIT affiliates over the summer. The committee will report back to Dean Consolo with the results of their investigation by May.

The committee, known as the Summer Resident Working Group, plans to have a list of recommendations ready for implementation during the 2010-2011 school year. After the Institute learned from the Cambridge License Commission and Boston Licensing Board that current licenses only allow for MIT students to live in the FSILG houses, Dean Colombo was prompted to form a committee to investigate current FSILG summer housing policies, said Katey Miller, the assistant dean for FSILGs.

In past summers, issues with summer housing included trouble collecting rent and boarders outstaying their planned period of living in the houses. The committee will also be looking at the possibility of renting beds to non-MIT affiliates over the summer. Several students asked about the possibility of renting beds to non-affiliates instead of a full house of MIT students.

### Chorallaries’ ‘Concert in Bad Taste’ Features Comedic, Bawdy Songs

#### By Maggie Lloyd

Chances are, if you’re Sarah Palin, Barack Obama, or just a member of the MIT community, you got offended by the a cappella group the Chorallaries (or the “Whore-allaries,” as they called themselves) at the 9th Annual Concert in Bad Taste last Saturday night.

From a line that stretched from 26-100 to the Infinite Corridor, students walked straight into a disco party. The lecture hall’s chalkboards were decorated with furry Eskimos and Charlie the Unicorn, who was taking it in the rear, while toilet paper rolls were hurled every which way.

East Campus houseminder Thomas Delaney and Dean for Student Activities Joel Wallman both contacted former Police Chief John DiFava, who has lodged inquiries within the Police. DiFava said that as far as he was concerned, students should be able to camp out or as long as they were not disruptive. Students were back in line on Friday afternoon.

As per Bad Taste tradition, the list of the offended was read to the audience by a banana (Tres E. Wise ’10). Audience members called for her to “pee it” Cheesy math jokes (“Euler? I hardy know her!”), a Dr. Seuss-inspired, economy-themed story about the administration (“Oh, The Places You’ll Not Go!”), and the Bad Taste Top Ten Rejected Video Games (including Cultural Revolution, Dr. Mario OBGYN, Wii Fat, and MATLAB), were other classics that kept the audience awake until almost three in the morning.

Of course, there were some new elements to this year’s Bad Taste. The skits featured some special guests: Sarah Palin, Barack Obama, and Charlie the Unicorn, who was taking it in the rear, while toilet paper rolls were hurled every which way.

### The Weather

**Today**
- Mostly Cloudy, 27°F (-2°C)
- Winds: West, 10 MPH

**Tonight**
- Mostly Clear, 1°F (-18°C)
- Winds: Sunny, 30°F (-1°C)

#### Details, Page 2

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**UA and Class Council Candidates**

#### Undergraduate Association

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Candidates</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>President / Vice President</td>
<td>Benjamin J. Agar ’12 / Raice Lunat ’12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>President</td>
<td>Michael A. Bennie ’10 / Margaret K. Delano ’10</td>
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<tr>
<td>Vice President</td>
<td>Bryan A. Jackson ’10 / Thomas W. Hay ’10</td>
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#### Class Council

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<tr>
<th>Position</th>
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<tr>
<td>President</td>
<td>Anubhul Bhargav</td>
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<td>Vice President</td>
<td>Rishi Dixit</td>
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<tr>
<td>Treasurer</td>
<td>Laloo Wagh</td>
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<tr>
<td>Secretary</td>
<td>Kevin A. Rustagi</td>
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<tr>
<td>Co-Publicity Chairs</td>
<td>Tiffany T. Chu, Crystal J. Miao</td>
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<tr>
<td>Co-Social Chairs</td>
<td>Steven H. Hong, Lynne D. Tyre</td>
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<tr>
<td>Co-Publicity Chairs</td>
<td>Shreema Bhalla, Mary Liu</td>
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<tr>
<td>Co-Social Chairs</td>
<td>Emma M. Rosen, Yu (Helli) Zhao</td>
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<tr>
<td>President</td>
<td>Nathaniel S. Fox</td>
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<td>Vice President</td>
<td>Hannah E. Sparkman</td>
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<tr>
<td>Secretary</td>
<td>Effra A. Scacchi</td>
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<tr>
<td>Co-Publicity Chairs</td>
<td>Christine Chen</td>
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<td>Michael S. LaVan, Ellen B. McInnes</td>
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<td>Rena Kus, Mary X. Wang</td>
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<td>Co-Publicity Chairs</td>
<td>Christopher T. Strick, Cynthia Wang</td>
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**Bad Taste, Page 14**

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**MIT’s Oldest and Largest Newspaper**

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**MIT’s Oldest and Largest Newspaper**

http://tech.mit.edu/
Just When You Thought Winter Was Over…

By Angela Zalcuh

The classic nor’easter swept through New England Monday morning dumping 5 to 7 inches of snow at airports (as of Monday afternoon). Nor’easters, so named because the wind blows from the northeast during the storm, are low pressure systems that develop off the coast of the Carolinas, where the air is relatively warm and moist. As they move northeast and encounter colder air in New England, they cannot hold onto their moisture and develop a type of precipitation that is sensitive to the track of the system. If the nor’easter moves far enough inland, Boston and Cape Cod receive rain while northern New England receives snow. If the nor’easter tracks eastward out to sea, Boston and Cape Cod receive snow. If the center of the nor’easter passes over the 40/70 benchmark (at 40° north latitude) Boston slides into heavy snow.

Temperatures for the work week will remain below freezing and drop into the teens. Tomorrow morning will be sunny, but a weak low pressure system will bring clouds on Friday.

Extended Forecast
Today: Mostly cloudy. High 27°F (-2°C).
Tuesday: Mostly Clear, Low 14°F (-10°C).
Tomorrow: Sunny. High 30°F (-1°C).
Tuesday Night: Clear. Low 18°F (-8°C).
Wednesday: Sunny. High 47°F (8°C).
Thursday: Sunny, High 60°F (16°C).
Friday: Sunny. High 32°F (-1°C).

Bush Administration Releases Memos On Terror

By Neil A. Lewis

The secret legal opinions issued by Bush administration lawyers after the Sept. 11 attacks included assertions that the president could use the na- tion’s military within the United States to combat people deemed as terrorists and to conduct raids without obtaining a search warrant.

That opinion was among nine that were disclosed publicly for the first time on Monday by the Justice Depart- ment, in what the Obama administra- tion portrayed as a step toward greater transparency. The opinions showed a broad interpretation of presidential authority, asserting as well that the president could unilaterally abrogate foreign treaties, deal with detainees suspected of terrorism while rejecting input from Congress, and conduct a warrantless eavesdropping program.

Some of the legal positions had previously become known from state- ments made by Bush administration officials in response to court challeng- es and professional inquiries. But the opinions provided the clearest illustra- tion to date of the broad definition of presidential power that was approved by government lawyers, including John Y. Yoo and Jay S. Bybee, in the months following the Sept. 11 attacks.

In a memorandum dated Jan. 15, 2009, just before President George W. Bush left office, a top Justice Depart- ment law enforcement official at a new Justice Department, the earlier memo- randums had not been relied on since 2003. But the official, Stephen G. Bradbury, who headed the Office of Legal Counsel, said it was important to acknowledge writing the “doubt- ful nature of these propositions,” and he used the memo to formally repudi- ate the opinions.

Bradbury said that the earlier mem- orandums were the product of lawyers confronting “novel and complex ques- tions in a time of great danger and un- der extraordinary time pressure.”

The opinions authorized the military to operate on domestic territory was dated Oct. 23, 2003, and written by Yoo, at the time a deputy assistant attorney general and Robert J. Dela- mora of corporate counsel. It was destin- ed to Alberto R. Gonzales, then the White House counsel who had asked whether Bush could use the military to combat terrorist activities inside the United States.

“The law has recognized that force — including deadly force — may be le- gally used in self-defense,” Yoo wrote to Gonzales. Any oblique allusion to the Fourth Amendment’s protection against unreasonable searches would vanish, he said, be- cause any privacy offense that comes with such a search would be less than any injury from deadly force.
The New York Times

March 3, 2009

The United States would not need to offer a direct quid pro quo, the officials said Monday. It said the United States said business was getting worse, particularly in terms of jobs.

Patriot, as well as other big sites that rely heavily on user reviews, like Tin-

pAdvisor, Amazon.com and CNet, Yelp is struggling to serve the compet-

And while the Government Accountability Office has identified

Because same-sex marriage is allowed in only two states, Massa-

For computer and cell phone users in big American cities, Yelp has become a popular Web site for rating, saving or just reading about local businesses, from the auto mechanic to the neighborhood watering hole. It has almost entirely on 5 million users in the United States, and the five-year-old San Francisco company shows how the Internet can amplify the voices of individuals to provide useful information to the commu-

Fannie and Freddie Likely to Stay In U.S. Hands

By Peter Baker

President Barack Obama sent a secret letter to Russia's president last month suggesting that he would back off from efforts to extend a nuclear missile defense system in Eastern Europe if Moscow would help stop Iran from developing a nuclear weapon.

In recent letter last month, Obama offered deal to Russia

Suit Seeks To Force Government To Extend Benefits To Same-Sex Couples

By Abby Goodnough and Katie Zezima

The legal advocacy group that successfully argued for gay marriage in Massachusetts intends to file suit here on Tuesday seeking some federal benefits for same-sex couples.

The Defense of Marriage Act, passed by Congress in 1996, which prohibits the federal government from recognizing same-sex marriages, is regarded by civil rights groups like Social Security sur-

Globe Amid Economic Worries

short of dentists, Maine adds teeth to doctors' training

By Katie Zezima

Cindy Merrithew was nervous about having her teeth pulled, mainly because she decided to do the work herself.

"I was skeptical," said Merrithew, 47, a nurse's assistant whose mouth is filled with damaged, brittle teeth. "I didn't know if they knew much about it."

"You never want to lose a tooth," she said. "You get used to having teeth -- I can't imagine how it would feel to lose them."

Dentists are in such short supply in Maine that primary care doc-

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Financial Services

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OPINION

Uncertainty Threatens UA Elections

With the issues of dining reform, GIR overhaul, and severe budget cuts on the horizon, more than ever the Undergraduate Association requires strong student leadership to have confidence in the strength of the student body and the respect of the administrators.

The only way to ensure that the UUA’s executive officers are speaking on behalf of the student body is through a fair, transparent, and unbiased election process.

For this reason, it is of the utmost importance that the current leaders of the UA take steps to ensure that the upcoming elections are fair and free of any misperception of impropriety. However, poorly written policies and holes in the UUA’s governing documents have left the field vulnerable and made it particularly difficult to resolve charged allegations of interest of the very people charged with running the process—regardless of whether they are valid or specious. We would like to recommend some changes to ensure that the process remains reliable.

According to the UA Constitution, elections are planned, supervised, and executed by an independent Elections Commission (ElectComm) guided by an Elections Code. The Elections Commission, led by the commissioner, also consists of a Technical Coordinator—whose responsibility it is to execute the online voting system—and a number of other members responsible for publicity and enforcing elections rules.

This year—though it runs counter to the independent independence of the ElectComm and—Evans Broder ’10, was simultaneously appointed to ElectComm and to the UA Executive position of Chief of Information Technology (CIT). Though this act in and of itself does not explicitly violate any specific clause of the UUA’s governing documents, it threatens to infringe on the separation of powers among the Association’s branches.

If the elections are to be held in a manner that is fair and secure, the UUA must be responsible to the UA Vice President, himself a candidate in this upcoming election. Upon receiving a complaint from a third party regarding the potential for conflict of interest from this arrangement, the Elections Commissioner attempted to address the matter, however, the UUA codex in this situation are decidedly vague. There is no clear protocol for addressing conflict of interest disputes among commissioners and there is also no statute governing the removal of members of the ElectComm.

Because of the ambiguity of the UUA’s governing documents and given that Mr. Broder initially refused to step down, the situation was quickly deteriorating, prompting to disrupt the election schedule. In the process of attempting to address the situation, members of the UA Exec were forced to step in to mediate and to help coordinate an election process.

After a prolonged dispute, Mr. Broder eventually proffered his resignation in a strongly worded message, but the conflict has illustrated a significant weakness in how the UA organizes and governs its own elections. We encourage the UA Senate to implement the following reforms to help shield the process from such issues and to hold on to authority over its elections.

First, the UA should explicitly charge its Judicial Board (JudBoard) with adjudicating claims of conflict of interest and/or derivations of conflict on the part of members of the Election Commission. JudBoard should also be empowered to censure or remove them.

Second, sitting members of the UA Executive Committee and the Principal Officers of the Senate should be enjoined from sitting on the Election Commission.

Third, the Senate should formalize the relationships between the Election Commission and the other branches of the UA such as ElectComm. It should be made clear that while ElectComm is in charge of running a reliable election and that regular reports to the President should be commonplace, the Elections Commission is not subject to Executive authority and is in fact an independent entity.

Fourth, a provision should be made to have the code that runs the UA elections audited on a regular basis by a disinterested third-party to ensure that whatever runs the system will not affect the election’s outcome for whatever reason.

To be sure, there may be those who say that revealing the source code of an election system may risk its validity to anyone. But scrutiny, how can a closed-source system ever improve? How do we even know now that votes are being counted properly?

When the UA forced the resignation of a perfectly good software engineer, they meant to ensure that students felt confident in the integrity of the election system. Instead, they increased the odds that something will go wrong by March 16, when online voting is to begin. That’s hardly the way to reach any member of our staff. If you are unsure whom to contact, send mail to general@the-tech.mit.edu, and it will be directed to the appropriate person. You can reach the editor in chief by e-mailing chief@the-tech.mit.edu.

To Reach Us

The Tech’s telephone number is (617) 253-1541. E-mail is the easiest way to reach any member of our staff. If you are unsure how to contact, send mail to general@the-tech.mit.edu, and it will be directed to the appropriate person. You can reach the editor in chief by e-mailing chief@the-tech.mit.edu. Please send press releases, questions for coverage, and information about errors that call for correction to news@the-tech.mit.edu. Letters to the editor should be sent to letters@the-tech.mit.edu.

Obama’s Vision of Change: A United States of Soviet Socialist Republics

Anurag Maheshwari

President Barack Obama’s recent address to Congress started with a promise that he would speak freely and candidly. He acknowledged that the confidence of the American people has been badly shaken as the recession gains momentum, job losses mount, and certainty in the future erodes. He promised the American people that the nation would rebuild and recover stronger than ever.

But even as Obama received plaudits from his media friends for doing his impression of a straight-shooting pragmatist, his diagnoses and proposals belied his true nature as a partisan liberal ideologue. Obama’s speech was full of misrepresentations, omissions and a dangerous willingness to overstep the boundaries of what the federal government’s role ought to be in our society.

The hyper-centralization of everything—from education and health care to our banking system and energy policy—is gradually shifting us towards a cradle-to-grave sovietization of our entire economy, instituting a debilitating dependency of individuals on government for everything in their life.

Obama recognized that lax credit streams from irresponsible bankers were responsible for the housing bubble, but what was missing in his address was a recognition that ALL bubbles, whether dot-com, biotech, or housing, are ultimately lax-credit bubbles, a symptom of predatory malinvestment.

The Glass-Steagall Act (GSA), passed during the height of the great depression, was the handiwork of Summers and his cronies. The infamous sub-prime mortgage market fattened from a tiny 4.5% of all mortgage lending to a monstrous 33% by the time the crisis peaked at the end of July 2008. Obama did not say a single word about the Glass-Steagall Act, its repeal, or whether it will be reinstated. Media propaganda claims that Republicans were in favor of deregulation and the Democrats were against it, but in reality the repeal was a bi-partisan effort, merely signed into law by President Clinton during his second term. Instead, Obama’s address was all over the place, bouncing from infrastructure, to tax cuts, to welfare, to energy, to health care and education. And while it’s true that these challenges must be dealt with, we must first recognize the two core problems which threaten our national debt just to satisfy his congressional cronies. Any promise to not do so again is hollow.

The second problem is the gargantuan, all-pervasive federal bureaucracy which has become a permanent Washington D.C. bête noire. Truth be told, issues like education, health care, and welfare programs should be dealt with at the local level, not by some Washington special interest group. A more responsible way to tackle our economic problems is to lower federal taxes and let states and countries develop their own solutions rather than force the country into a one-size-fits-all federal straitjacket.

If Obama truly wanted to be progressive, he could have cut the number of tax brackets from seven to three, so that the federal taxes for bottom 90% wage earners could be uniformly reduced to no more than 5%, for the next 9.9% to no more than 15% while the taxes for the top 0.1% wealthy could be raised to 90%. Cutting capital gains tax for small businesses and reducing the corporate tax for high-tech and clean energy enterprises, coupled with shrinking the size of federal government (already at 21% of GDP) would ensure freedom and social justice.

The two elephants in the room which Obama did not, and perhaps never will, address are congressional oversight of the Federal Reserve and overseas military spending. All malinvestment and credit bubbles are a result of our secretive fractional reserve banking system. Free from accountability, the Fed neither discloses its operations to Congress nor does Congress exercise any control over the trillions of dollars that the Fed adds annually to money supply. Obama’s rhetoric of disciplining and oversight of Wall Street shamelessly ignores this fundamental reality.

While Obama was quick to honor the service of our brave soldiers and rail against cold-war era weapons systems, his rhetoric cloaked the fact that now we have more than 700 military bases in more than 60 countries around the world. This hyper-extension of U.S. military power is reminiscent of the evil empire against whom we spent half a century in a futile struggle. In the address, there was no plan on bringing our troops and war machine home. No plan to dissolve cold-war era NATO. No plan to divest our vast colonial holdings in Europe and Asia and save hundreds of billions of dollars without altering our primary or destabilizing the balance of power.

We cannot succeed in the Middle East unless most American and foreign troops, seen as colonial occupiers, are withdrawn from that region. A few thousand American peacekeeping troops could be deployed in Cyprus, Bahrain, Egypt, and Jordan to provide a security envelope for Israel and protect the vital shipping lanes in the Persian Gulf, the Red Sea, and the Mediterranean until a workable solution to Arab-Israel conflict can be found and the enduring problem of international terrorism can be resolved. In the Pacific our presence in Guam and Okinawa is a constant need to buffer China. The resources saved could easily be used to reduce the federal debt, expand our industrial production, and make our military stronger.

Obama’s address was high on false hopes that reckless spending without cutting our overseas empire is a panacea to our current problems and future prosperity. It fell short on real change.

March 3, 2009

It’s Dangerous to Go Alone!

‘The hyper-centralization of everything... is gradually shifting us towards a cradle-to-grave sovietization of our entire economy...’

Take This.

photo@tech.mit.edu
By Charles Lin

I am a long way from Texas. If I were in Texas, I would not be freezing my balls off. On Friday, the 27th of February, 2009, the high in San Antonio, TX—the city where I grew up—was 92 degrees. I shit you not. 92 degrees. That is six degrees separated from a boy-hand warm enough for swimming. Chapstick. That's how much I know I'm a long way from home. But's Bees Wax Pomegranate Lip Balm. It is the greatest thing ever recommended to me—and the reason my lips aren't freezing profusely.

Today, I finished an entire stick of it.

You have no idea how much of an accomplishment this is. Seriously.

This is what happened to my last six sticks of chapstick:

1) Melod in dryer in right jeans pocket, 2) I'm not sure what happened to the others—lost, hunted down and retrieved, destroyed somewhere.

I have never finished an entire chapstick. I've never needed to. But here, it is effing cold. Constantly. I have to humidify my room. I've sealed my window with that shrink wrap shit. My guitar cracked because it was so cold. That's how cold it is.

Screw you, New England.

It happened to me last year. I was fine all winter until one day in February, I Overespt, crawled out of bed, and realized how awful this place can be. It's just that the cumulative weight of three freezing months dropping on me like an icicle from the post-doc deathtrap sidewalk in front of the Broad Institute. And normally when that day comes, I skip work and try to get some vitamin D and dopamine.

However, this year, I thought, chapstick. One stick.

I don't know why I thought this. I'm assuming it's a coping mechanism. I also think it's a sign that maybe I'm adapting.

I've always considered myself a Texan. I spent 18 years growing up there. I can shoot a gun and ride a horse (not at the same time, unfortunately). I've dabbled in Republican-ism. I own these. These are qualifying marks.

Here, I have overcoats and a nice collection of scarves. They make me happy.

I go outside, it's forty degrees out and think it's warm enough for swimming. I go over patches of ice. I cope. I adapt. I accept.

My Texas-on circa 2001 would never accept running in sub-freezing temperatures.

But I don't weigh 130 pounds and worship the Dave Matthews Band. I run the 100-meter dash in under twelve seconds. And the only things left of me from the way back when machine are a guitar from 8th grade and pre-1994 five books. That's really it. Jona- than Livingston Seagull, My Side of the Mountain, Surely You're Joking, Mr. Feynman, and Drama in the 19th Century.

I've been thumbing over them the last few nights. I've been thinking of sweaty August evenings in Texas without air conditioning. Damp fingers flipping pages in the din of cicadas. Lingering heat, brush and hill country. I prayed for colder weather, I wished it wasn't so effing hot.

I got my wish. And in between wondering if one day I'll get my revenge for the granting of that wish, I think I'm starting to accept that it's okay to be cold sometimes.

I am using my spare time to find pen pals online and planning expeditions out to sea. I am sti-

ling in my car wearing my hands by the vents. I am checking the mail for postcards from warmer lands.

I am debating what chapstick to buy next. Maybe cherry? Maybe something with eucalyptus.

In the meantime, I still wear tights when I run bridge loops. I think I will for another few weeks. On the route, the genes gather at the edges of the ice. I like how the water and ice reflect the evening light.

In the Trader Joe's parking lot, the snowdrifts recede to free buried shopping carts. The wintry sunlight pierces my window for fifteen minutes between four and five in the afternoon. I spend nights at my desk with a cup of tea watching the snow fall and the wind blow.

A girl I once loved was fond of quoting from a Christopher Diangar play. "Back in 1939 they couldn't say 'Frankly, my dear, I don't give a damn.' Now we can say fuck and show decapitations. So life moves forward."

She's somewhere in Texas now, God bless her. And I'm up here in New England, where we're all Godless liberals to begin with.

So life moves forward.

And somewhere in Texas, there's an old pair of jeans with an only chapstick stain, the size of a quarter, lingering at the bottom of a pocket.

By S. Campbell Proehl

Day six may night at 8:00 p.m., and I am sitting with crumbs from what was formerly a $16.99 block of parmesan. My cable hasn't been working for the past two days. This is unfortunate, because I returned to my apart-

ment ten minutes ago filled with the desire to do nothing but finish this parmesan and watch C-SPAN.

I used up C-SPAN, but only on certain days. Only on days like today.

I normally just pop in my headphones, hold my head high, and walk down the infinite every evening. This is the only thing I can do. If everyone else can do it, I should be able to as well. So I walk. I walk slowly so that I don't have to linger and think about how much time I spend alone at this school. At the end of the day, I scramble out of this cement jungle to get home to my apartment, which is usually empty. I pour my self a glass of milk, take my vitamins, and on the days that I actually get to crawl into my bed, I listen to Ray Charles sing "Lonely Avenue."

It is during wars like these that I wonder if exciting things will ever happen in my daily life. I so often find myself scheming in an at-

tempt to draw out of my day. I am always running, trying to jog past the hand-

some German guy I sometimes see on Wash-

game Ave. smoking a pipe with tobacco so

sweet that I want to bake it into a cake, the old

ones. They make me happy.

I do go outside, it's forty degrees out and

I don't know if one day I'll get my revenge for the granting of that wish, I think I'm starting to accept that it's okay to be cold sometimes.

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In the Trader Joe's parking lot, the snowdrifts recede to free buried shopping carts. The wintry sunlight pierces my window for fifteen minutes between four and five in the afternoon. I spend nights at my desk with a cup of tea watching the snow fall and the wind blow.

A girl I once loved was fond of quoting from a Christopher Diangar play. "Back in 1939 they couldn't say 'Frankly, my dear, I don't give a damn.' Now we can say fuck and show decapitations. So life moves forward."

She's somewhere in Texas now, God bless her. And I'm up here in New England, where we're all Godless liberals to begin with.

So life moves forward.

And somewhere in Texas, there's an old pair of jeans with an only chapstick stain, the size of a quarter, lingering at the bottom of a pocket.

The Tech

March 3, 2009

Call for Nominations!

2009 Student Art Awards

LAYA and JEROME B. WIESNER STUDENT ART AWARDS

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

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

LOUIS SUDLER PRIZE IN THE ARTS

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

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

Please send nominating letters by Friday March 20, 2009 to:

Susan Cohen, Director, Council for the Arts at MIT- E15-2055

cohen@medialab.mit.edu

http://web.mit.edu/awards/
The Daily Blunderbuss

The greatest Halloween costume ever.

Waka-waka... waka-waka...

my leg... oh my god.

momeee!

Piled Higher and Deeper

Cirilla?

Waka, what are you doing, Cirilla?

Crushing the dreams of our youth, you?

You're stapling TACO BELL applications to their papers?

Doonesbury

By Garry Trudeau

Dilbert®

By Scott Adams
Steal My Comic

by Michael Ciuffo

Introducing the MX-8500

This weapon will greatly decrease the monetary and human cost of modern combat.

There is no AI. It's remote controlled by satellite.

Then how are we saving money? Who are we going to pay to operate these things?

Designed to auto-deploy, it can be dropped into war-zones en masse.

How does the AI distinguish friend from foe?

That's the clever bit...

Crossword Puzzle

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

Solution, tips, and computer program at http://www.sudoku.com; see also solution, page 13.
A Habitat for Humanity benefit concert was held on Friday evening in 10-250. All the proceeds from the event went towards Habitat building projects.

(counter-clockwise from top-left)

MIT's Christian a cappella group the Cross Products performs “Before the Throne of God Above.”

Breakdancing group Imobilare performs to several songs from Disney’s Mulan.

South Asian classical music group Swara performs.

MIT a cappella group Resonance performs “Headlock” by Imogen Heap.

Photography by Chelsea Grimm
Committee Hopes To Keep Non-Affiliated Summer Occupants

Summer Housing, from Page 1

Thank you to Students, Faculty, Staff and Employees of M.I.T.

Bose Corporation was founded and built by M.I.T. people. Our success in research and in business is a result, in no small part, of what M.I.T. has done for us. As one measure of our appreciation, we are extending special purchase privileges to all students and employees of M.I.T. for their personal use.

Summer Housing, from Page 1

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MLK Diversity Exhibit Vandalized Twice

President Susan J. Hockfield and Prof. J. Phillip Thompson, Chair of the Committee on Race and Diversity, have issued a statement in response to vandalism of the Martin Luther King, Jr. memorial exhibit last month (see right). The annual exhibit consisted of several student-created displays to promote diversity, human rights, and similar principles, and ran from Feb. 2 through Feb. 9 in Lobby 10.

There were two incidents of vandalism, and organizers of the event were not certain exactly when they occurred:

1. A display entitled “On the Shoulders of Giants” with cardboard cutouts of Abraham Lincoln, Barack Obama, and Dr. King was altered. The cardboard cutout of Lincoln was removed and replaced with a cardboard cutout of “Crocodile Hunter” Steve Irwin.

2. A display about the Palestinian/Israeli conflict was removed in its entirety. Nour J. Abdul-Razzak ’09, who was part of the team that created the display, said that the removal of the display was “not appropriate,” and the perpetrators had “no right to just take something away.” Abdul-Razzak said that her group had tried very hard to be sensitive to concerns on both sides of the Palestinian/Israeli conflict.

The statement was issued under the auspices of the Committee on Race and Diversity, which formed in 2007 when the Campus Committee on Race Relations joined with the MLK Committee. It is posted on the CRD’s website, at http://web.mit.edu/crd/.

Statement From Hockfield and CRD

To Members of the MIT Community,

On behalf of the Committee on Race & Diversity and the Institute Administration, we write to address the unfortunate and mean-spirited vandalism to the recent Martin Luther King, Jr. display in Lobby 10, where multiple figures from the display were stolen or damaged.

Academic excellence only thrives in an open and inclusive environment. At MIT we accept many ways of voicing ideas and sharing dissenting opinions. However, the privilege of working and studying here carries a concomitant obligation to share our views respectfully. Vandalism is not the expression of ideas, it has no place at MIT, and it is grounds for dismissal or expulsion.

This incident serves as a reminder that we must accelerate the important progress the Institute has made building an increasingly diverse community and creating a culture of inclusion that supports MIT’s mission.

Sincerely,

Susan J. Hockfield, President
J. Phillip Thompson, Chair,
Committee on Race and Diversity

LEGAL COUNSEL

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

The new scanners at the Libraries can scan your notes, problem sets and books up to 17”x24” in full color. Your scans can be instantly converted into JPEG files, searchable PDFs, and even MP3 audio files of scanned text—then email the files or put them on your USB drive. It’s that easy, and it’s completely free.

Try one of the scanners at Barker, Dewey, Hayden or Rotch libraries, or find out more at libraries.mit.edu/book-scanners

I scan, I email, I turn text into audio... I am super-scanner!

(And I’m free!)
What’s Going On?

MIT can be a bewildering place if you don’t know what’s going on.

Don’t be a confused panda! Instead, be a smart panda. A happy panda.

Tech reporters hunt down the news; photographers get exclusive shots; and production staff see the entire issue—even the parts that don’t make it to press—long before we print.

Want in? Join The Tech!

Spring Weekend Tickets Go On Sale Today

Spring Weekend, from Page 1

artists did not recognize Bareilles or Hotel Lights. Kent M. Willis ’10 said he had not heard of either opening act, but will attend the concert anyway. “I like Ben Folds enough to go, regardless of the opening acts,” Willis said.

Yi Wang ’09 said she liked Bareilles’ music, but felt that her music “is good on a CD, but not necessarily good live in the concert setting.”

Bareilles’ selection was not based solely on the survey responses. Factors such as her appeal to an audience different from Folds’ availability for April 25, and cost were considered.

Bringing Bareilles to MIT will cost $25,000, half as much as the $50,000 spent on securing Folds, but $5,000 more than what was originally allotted for the opening act.

Joshua Velasquez ’08, a design strategist at the Student Activities Office who is in charge of publicity for the weekend, said the cost-estimation was necessary to ensure the selection was among the choices in the survey. Funding for the entire weekend will be taken from student life fees and admission fees to events.

Velasquez also expects the ticketing and security issues that delayed the entry of some concert-goers last year will be resolved in time for this Spring Weekend.

“Our hope is to refine the ticketing and security processes enough to get everyone into the show to see all three acts,” said Velasquez.

Tickets to the concert and other Spring Weekend events are scheduled to go on sale to members of the MIT community today. MIT students can purchase tickets to the concert for themselves at $15 apiece and for their guests at $25 apiece. People not affiliated with MIT will be able to purchase tickets to the concert beginning March 30.

The Spring Weekend festival, which will occur from 12 p.m. to 8 p.m. just before the concert, will function as an outdoor music festival with on-campus groups performing. There will also be booths for non-musical student groups and off-campus vendors.

While the pre-concert festival will be free, a dinner from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. will come with a $3 fee for everyone, including students and general community members.

Student groups can still take part in the festival for free by sending applications to swfestival@gmail.com by March 21.

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Add Date is this Friday!

• Last day to add subjects to Registration. • Last day for juniors and seniors to change an Elective to or from P/D/F Grading. • Last day for Graduate students to change a subject to or from P/D/F Grading. • Last day to change a subject from Listener to Credit. • Last day for Sophomores to change a subject to or from Exploratory. • Last day to petition for second S.B. for next February degree candidates.

The space is donated by The Tech.

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join@the-tech.mit.edu

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This space is donated by The Tech.
Visa Hassles May Discourage International Students

By Cornelia Dean

The Tech
March 3, 2009

When Alena Shikumatava opens the “fish lab” at the Whitehead Institute of MIT, she encounters a security gate, a swab for DNA and a check of her air and shelf after she lifted a few long containers, each containing one or more zebrafish. She had studied the tiny fish in her quest to unravel one of the knottiest problems in biology: how the act of genes is encouraged or inhibited in cells.

Shikumatava, 34, a postdoctoral researcher from Belarus, will not pursue it in the United States, she said partly because of what happened last year, when she tried to renew her visa.

What should have been a short visit with her family in Belarus punished her with a routine trip to an American consulate turned into a three-hour nightmare of bureaucratic snafus, lost documents and frustrating encounters with embassy employees. “If you write an e-mail, there is no one replying to you,” she said. “Unfortunately, this is very common.”

Shikumatava, who ended up traveling to at least five embassies and studios outside the United States even before she opened the door to the “fish lab” at the Whitehead Institute of MIT, said that delays of two or three months were common and attributed the problem to “an unfortunate staff shortage.”

A State Department official, who spoke on the condition of anonymity, said that delays of two or three months were common and attributed the problem to “an unfortunate staffing shortage.”

The issue matters because American universities rely on foreign students and scholars for their graduate and postdoctoral science and engineering programs. Foreign talent also fuels scientific and technical innovation in American labs. And the United States cannot reasonably assume that this country is everyone’s first choice for undergraduate, graduate or postgraduate work.

Albert H. Teich ’64, the director of science and policy programs at the American Association for the Advancement of Science, organized a meeting on the subject in January by the National Academy of Sciences, universities around the world now have the research equipment and infrastructure to compete with their American counterparts. When the United States puts up barriers, the report said, “foreign universities are well positioned to extend competing offers.”

By Danielle Guichard-Adsbrooke of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology put it: “There are other countries that want these folks. They are the best of the best. They have other options.”

Guichard-Adsbrooke directs the International Students Office at MIT. Foreign students eventually make it to campus, she said, although the path may be slow and bumpy and they do not necessarily arrive on time. Problems typically occur if they leave the United States — for family visits or scientific meetings abroad — and then find they need a new visa to return.

She told of one student from the Middle East who agonized when he was called home to the bedside of his dying father for fear he would not be allowed back to his classes. He made the trip, she said, and his return was delayed.

Visa requirements vary from country to country. Guichard-Adsbrooke said, but because some students must renew their visas often and cannot predict how long it will take for their documents to come through, there are some of them spend a lot of time calculating when they can travel and when they must start the paperwork to work again.

She and others said that students from all over — even the European Union and Australia — had had problems, but that they seemed most acute for people from China, India, the Middle East and Russia. Belarus was part of the former Soviet Union, which might explain some of Shikumatava’s difficulties, said Kathleen Bailey Mathae, director of the Board on International Scientific Organizations, part of the National Academy of Sciences.

“You are never going to have a system that is 100 percent guaranteed to get people as, in the time they need to be in,” she said. “But when you see problems recurring and the same sort of problems over and over — that’s when you know you have a problem.”

She said researchers were increasingly unwilling to schedule conferences or other scientific meetings in the United States. Although the problem is particularly acute for meetings organized on short notice, she said, some groups are looking for sites outside the United States. Last year, for example, the Government of Norway funded the American Association for the Advancement of Science to hold its meetings.

“Unfortunately,” the State Department official said, “we want people to think this is the best place to hold their meetings.”

The official said that time limits for visas were ordinarily a matter of reciprocal agreements between nations. Shikumatava’s case, he said, may have been further complicated because Belarus severely limits the number of foreign service officers the United States can have there at any given time.

Shikumatava said her experience was particularly nerve-racking because she was kept from her lab for three months, just as she was struggling to publish new findings before her competition. When she was required to hand in her passport in Moscow, employees at the embassy lost it,陌生人 there for nine days with no documents.

When she returned to the United States, she found that two colleagues had also been stranded by visa problems, one in India and the other in Peru.

Shikumatava said she would probably return to Europe. Her husband, a computational biologist from Germany, left the United States last fall for a job in Vienna. She might have tried to stay on, she said, if entering and leaving the country were not such a “discouraging” process.

“I got the visa and so I am back,” she said. “But it’s for only one year, so next year in December if I am going to stay here I am going to have to reapply for this stamp.”
MIT/Wellesley Toons Perform During ‘Bad Taste,’ Storm Stage

“I’m Yours,” elaborating upon one episode of rape at a party, made this reporter want to call Chris Hansen of Dateline NBC’s “To Catch a Predator.” Any time there was a lull in the performance, the audience was happy to find new distractions. Minmin Yen ’11, dressed as a Chinese takeout box, became the most sought-after toilet paper target in the room. Cheers erupted whenever anyone was able to get a roll into the box, and one audience member was ambitious enough to dump a wad of several unraveled toilet paper rolls onto the unsuspecting Yen as she exited the stage.

Before the show, several students just couldn’t wait to, well, wait in line. Jacqueline Rogoff ’10 and Shaymus W. Hudson ’12 waited outside of 26-100 for three nights to ensure their places in line. Rogoff said her motivation was “eternal glory.” Matthew S. Putnam ’09, who only had to wait one night, reasoned, “I’m going to be wasting time anyway. I figured I’d get in line early and get good seats.”

Sadoian, in his second year as Bad Taste Chair, explained why this event is so popular. “The weather’s crummy outside, students are stressed with classes. This is advertised as an emotional release. You can come, you can laugh at yourself, you can laugh at other people and not feel bad about it.”

No, it doesn’t feel bad at all. It just leaves a bad taste.
A Night of Bad Taste

On Saturday evening in 26-100, the Chorallaries held their 41st Annual Concert in Bad Taste, an event where political correctness and tact are thrown humorously out the window.

(clockwise from top-right)

The MIT/Wellesley Toons make a guest appearance performing “You Whore,” a parody of Jason Mraz’s “I’m Yours.” Left to right: Leslie S. Nachbar ’10 (in mask), Samantha Guergenov, Esther Shang, Krista L. Speroni ’12, Isabella Gambill, Akash A. Chandawarkar ’09.

Students line up in front of 26-100 on Saturday night; the line was started last Wednesday evening, and ended up snaking around Building 16.

Per Bad Taste tradition, audience members pelt the stage and each other with sheet and toilet paper before the concert.

Tess E. Wise ’10 parodies the recent dining protest in Lobby 7 in a skit making fun of east and west campus stereotypes.

Photography by Rachel Fong
**Sports**

### Scoreboard

| Event                  | Date                  | Venue/red.
|------------------------|-----------------------|------------------------
| **Men’s Basketball**   |                       |                        |
| NJWAC Semifinals       | Saturday, Feb. 28, 2009 | Babson College 39      |
| MIT                    | Sunday, March 1, 2009 | MIT 50                 |

| Event                  | Date                  | Venue/red.
|------------------------|-----------------------|------------------------
| **Women’s Track and Field** |                        |                        |
| NJWAC Championship     | Saturday, Feb. 28, 2009 | Springfield College 50 |
| MIT                    | Sunday, March 1, 2009 | MIT 76                 |

| Event                  | Date                  | Venue/red.
|------------------------|-----------------------|------------------------
| **Men’s Fencing**      |                       |                        |
| IFA Championship       | Saturday, Feb. 28, 2009 |                        |
| MIT 1st of 11          | Sunday, March 1, 2009 |                        |

| Event                  | Date                  | Venue/red.
|------------------------|-----------------------|------------------------
| **Men’s Track and Field** |                        |                        |
| NEICAA New England Championship | Saturday, Feb. 28, 2009 |                        |
| MIT 27th of 33         | Sunday, March 1, 2009 |                        |

| Event                  | Date                  | Venue/red.
|------------------------|-----------------------|------------------------
| **Women’s Hockey**     | Saturday, Feb. 28, 2009 |                        |
| MIT (6-15-1)           | Sunday, March 1, 2009 |                        |
| Norwich (17-8-1)       |                        |                        |

| Event                  | Date                  | Venue/red.
|------------------------|-----------------------|------------------------
| **Men’s Swimming and Diving** |                        |                        |
| NEICAA Championship    | Sunday, March 1, 2009 |                        |
| MIT 1st of 7           |                        |                        |

| Event                  | Date                  | Venue/red.
|------------------------|-----------------------|------------------------
| **Men’s Volleyball**   |                       |                        |
| Elms College (9-12)    | Sunday, March 1, 2009 |                        |
| MIT (15-9)             |                        |                        |
| Emerson College (2-10) |                        |                        |
| MIT (16-9)             |                        |                        |

### Free tickets for MIT students!

**Radius Ensemble**

Featuring Marcus Thompson, viola

Saturday, March 7, 2009 at 8 pm
Killian Hall at MIT, 14W-111

- Piazzolla: Tangos for wind quintet (arr. Scott)
- Gubaidulina: Quasi hoquetus for viola, bassoon, & piano
- Ibert: Aria for flute, clarinet, & piano
- Brahms: String quintet in F, Op. 88

**Boston Modern Orchestra Project**

**John Harbison: A Winter’s Tale**

Friday, March 20, 2009, at 8pm
Jordan Hall at New England Conservatory

Concert performance - Opera in two acts
Based on the play by William Shakespeare

2 tickets per MIT student ID
Tickets available at the MIT Office of the Arts (E15-205)
Monday - Friday 2 - 5:30pm in person, first-come, first-served only
http://web.mit.edu/arts/see/freetickets/index.html

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**Two Men of Florence**

Thursday, April 2 at 7:30pm
The Huntington Theater
264 Huntington Avenue, Boston, MA

by Richard N. Goodwin
Directed by Edward Hall
Scenic & Costume Design by Francis O’Connor
Starring Edward Herrman and Jay O. Sanders

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

1 ticket per MIT student ID
Pick up tickets @ the Office of the Arts (E15-205)
Monday - Friday 2 - 5:30pm in person only
http://web.mit.edu/arts/see/freetickets/index.html