

## Assault in Building 2 Man arrested for rape on Tuesday

By John A. Hawkinson  
NEWS EDITOR

A man was arrested early Tuesday morning on campus and charged with rape and trespassing.

Around 2:20 a.m. Tuesday morning, the MIT Police received a report of a sexual assault on the first floor of Building 2, most likely in a classroom. Police responded and assisted the victim with medical attention, and cordoned off the scene.

Like most of MIT's interconnected main campus, classrooms in Building 2 are unsecured and accessible to the public. Building 2 is just east of MIT's main lawn and adjoins Memorial Drive.

Neither party involved was affiliated with the Institute, the MIT Police said.

Violent crime on MIT's campus is extremely rare. Excluding incidents involving on-campus parties, there have been no comparable incidents within the past two decades.

By 4 a.m., MIT Police had arrested Jason Reed, who was found on campus and in the vicinity of the crime scene.

Reed, age 30, is homeless and was arrested on the charge of trespassing. He was arraigned Tuesday on trespassing as well as

Rape, Page 15



JOHN A. HAWKINSON—THE TECH

**MIT Police question Jason Reed in connection with a sexual assault** shortly after 3:45 a.m. on Tuesday morning. Reed was charged with rape and trespassing.



ANDREW SWAYZE

**Maxwell Mann '12 observes as Nathan Lachenmyer '10 works to free the drive chain from the bell at the Kendall Red Line station.** The MIT Kendall Band Preservation Society began their work repairing and refurbishing the Paul Matisse musical sculpture yesterday.

## After health bill, a push to curb costs Profs study medical inflation

By Jingyun Fan  
STAFF REPORTER

Though the effects of the health reform bill have yet to be felt, the passage of the bill shined a hard light on health care inequities and runaway medical costs. Professors, and staff at MIT Medical are already preparing for the bill's consequences by conducting new research and looking for new ways to fix health care inefficiencies.

"This is a clarion call to the MIT community," said Jonathan H. Gruber '87, an economics professor who has worked extensively with Democrats on health care reform. "The U.S. government now takes health care cost control very seriously, and the folks that can lower costs without sacrificing health are the ones who will determine the future of the nation. And those folks should be at MIT."

Gruber served as a technical consultant to the Obama administration and developed a micro-simulation model that estimates the cost effects

of health care policy. In a July 2007 article, *The Washington Post* called Gruber the Democratic Party's "most influential health-care expert."

His method of cost estimation is faster and more formal than that produced by the Congressional Budget Office. Gruber concluded that under the bill, Americans buying individual coverage will pay less than what they currently do for typical individual market coverage. Americans with individual coverage might also be protected from high out-of-pocket costs, which would be an important accomplishment for the health reform legislation.

Gruber said that the technological advances in medical technology for the last 50 years has been cost-increasing. In the future, new technology will need to reduce costs. In order for this to happen, several areas including drug formulation and surgery need greater innovation.

According to Gruber, the

Healthcare, Page 15

### INTERVIEW

## Leland Cheung's plan for Cambridge

By Liz Tsai

Leland Cheung, an MBA/MPA student at MIT Sloan School of Business and Harvard Kennedy School of Government, was elected to the nine-member Cambridge City Council in November last year and is currently serving a two year term. In addition to being the first student to be elected to a seat on the council, Cheung is also the council's first Asian-American member.

During his campaign, which he ran while a full-time student, Leland emphasized job creation by directing attention to his prior experience as a venture capitalist and highlighted the benefits of bridging the gap between students and the Cambridge community through encouraging student involvement. In an article published last October, *The Cambridge Chronicle*, a local newspaper, predicted that "Cheung's goal of strengthening ties

between town and gown would be an asset to Cambridge." In an interview with *The Tech* last Wednesday, Cheung talked about his experiences serving on the council and his plans for the future.

*The Tech:* What has the experience of being on the council been like so far?

*Leland Cheung:* I love it so far. A lot of people talk about wanting

Cheung, Page 13



RUI LUO—THE TECH

### IN SHORT

**The graduate student stipend** will increase by 2 percent next academic year. Graduate student tuition will increase by 3.8 percent.

**Notice a new printer on the first floor of the Student Center?** Its name is "Lerman," and it is part of a pilot program by the UA and IS&T. It is similar to an Athena printer, but it only completes your print job if you activate it manually via its touch screen.

**The MIT Post Office** introduced 24-hour access to its post office boxes for box customers last Monday, March 29.

**The MIT Live Music Connection** will be featuring Levi Schmidt

**and Crossroads** today from 8 p.m. to 10 p.m. at the Coffeehouse in the Student Center. Tickets are free.

**Minorities in Mathematics:** University of Arizona Distinguished Professor William Yslas Velez will be giving a talk, "The Mathematical Enterprise: A Minority Perspective," next Monday at 4:30 p.m. in 4-370.

**It's that time of year again.** Prepare yourself for CPW 2010, starting next Thursday April 8.

**Looking to join the UA?** The deadline for UA leadership applications are due next Friday April 9. Learn more about the UA positions and committees at <http://ua.mit.edu/>.

**Send news information and tips** to [news@tech.mit.edu](mailto:news@tech.mit.edu).



AVIV OVADYA—THE TECH

**Compost bins** now accompany trash and recycling bins in Lobby 10.

### DUBAI, CITY OF TOMORROW?

Then all of a sudden, the money vanished, the magic died, and the once luscious city withered. **OPN, p. 6**

### HOW STUDENTS GET HEARD

And what the administration can do to better engage students. **OPN, p. 4**

### THE STATE OF THE GSC

GSC President Alex Hamilton Chan briefs the campus. **OPN, p. 5**



### DID YOU SAY "YES," SUSAN ARTZ?

**FUN, p. 9**

### ALICE IS NOT QUITE GROWN UP

Tim Burton's latest film is fabulous, of course, but just a touch too...*Disney*. **ARTS, p. 7**

### SECTIONS

World & Nation . . . 2  
Opinion . . . . . 4  
Arts . . . . . 7  
Fun Pages . . . . . 9  
Sports . . . . . 16







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## EDITORIAL

# Return assignments before finals week

The Undergraduate Association's Student Committee on Educational Policy should dedicate themselves to adding a new component to the End of Term academic regulations: requiring all assignments and midterms to be graded before finals. While numerous regulations currently dictate when subjects with final exams may have their last assignment due, and the Friday before the start of the reading period is declared the last test date, there are no requirements for when assignments and midterm exams must be returned by.

The absence of such a policy hinders undergraduates as they prepare for exams. Not having graded problem sets, papers, presentations, quizzes or labs means that students cannot learn from their mistakes or failings as they study for finals. This deprives them of feedback in their preparation for final exams that are often weighted towards material from the end of term.

While many classes recommend that students keep copies of their work precisely so they can study from their submissions as they are being graded, this is hardly an acceptable compromise. Especially for individual assignments without generic solutions, such as papers or presentations, there is no substitute for simply having the assignment returned. Studying for end of term examinations is best done with one's work, so even quizzes and pssets with posted solutions do not present an adequate resource for students.

SCEP should demand the faculty adopt a simple requirement: For subjects with final examinations, all midterm exams and assignments on material dealt with on the final exam must be returned before the beginning of the reading period.

This rule is fair to both instructors and students. It gives instructors at least six days from the last test date to the last day of classes to correct, grade,

and return assignments and exams. It also still permits them to have lengthier assessments requiring more correction time due at the end of term, though they must then not cover the same material on their final exam. Students gain the invaluable benefit of having their full repertoire of work available to study for their exams. Of course, faculty and staff must have the same reasonable exceptions for medical or family emergencies that are provided to undergrads.

In brief, students can study more effectively and instructors are only restricted in what they can assign at the end of term by the speed of their grading. Students will learn the class material better and take more knowledge from their courses. It's not a total win-win scenario, but it's pretty close.

Finals at the Institute are demanding enough on their own. There is no reason that students should not have all of their work, in hand and graded, as they prepare for them.

## CORRECTIONS

A brief last Tuesday incorrectly stated that U.S. Census forms must be returned via mail by April 1 (National Census Day) for all students, or students will be subject to a \$100 fine. Instead, students residing in dorms and FSILGs should return forms to Residential Advisers or House Managers by Monday April 5. Students residing in dorms or FSILGs should obtain census forms from their RAs or house managers, whose information

can be found at: <http://web.mit.edu/census/contacts.html>.

MIT only distributes and collects forms for those who live on campus or in Institute-approved housing. Individuals living in apartments or off campus should have received their census form from the Census Bureau in the mail and should have returned the form on April 1 — as Tuesday's brief indicated.

All should return the form, regardless of citizenship.

## GUEST COLUMN

# When students get a say

By Michael A. Bennie

Two years ago, as I was becoming more involved in MIT's undergraduate student government, I read an article in the faculty newsletter by Martin Holmes et al. entitled *The Task Force on Student Engagement: A Path Forward* (<http://web.mit.edu/fnl/volume/204/martin.html>). The opening paragraph succinctly put the latest student engagement struggles into context: "In recent months, MIT's undergraduates and graduate students have expressed concern about their role in certain decisions, including the way NW-35 was presented to the community, the conversion of Green Hall to undergraduate housing, and communication regarding W1 and student dining." As I mentioned in a previous piece (*One Undergraduate Voice*, <http://tech.mit.edu/V130/N3/bennie.html>), members of the MIT Community have responded to this call for student engagement through a variety of efforts. Some of them have been very successful in informing students or collaborating with them, while others have fallen short.

In this article I will recount three experiences that demonstrate best practices and areas for improvement in engaging students: the Dean for Undergraduate Education Visiting Committee's meeting, the Housing Strategy Group's work on summer housing

utilization, and the House Dining Advisory Group's work on improving house dining.

### DUE Visiting Committee

For those unfamiliar with the visiting committee structure, the MIT Corporation uses 31 visiting committees to evaluate the status of major units within MIT (all of the academic departments along with other important groups such as DAPER and the Libraries). These committees, composed of MIT Corporation members, alumni, and professionals familiar with the unit under review, assess the current situation within a specific unit and make recommendations for improvement. The primary mode for student input during these meetings is a student-only lunch with the committee members. The DUE Visiting Committee held its regular biennial meeting on campus last month.

In the past, students selected to meet with a visiting committee received little information beyond a time and a place. Breaking from that tradition, students that were invited to the DUE Visiting Committee received a copy of the committee's agenda, indicating the topics on which they were receiving presentations. Along with a snapshot of the current work of the committee, the major topics in the committee's report two years ago were available. While many of the

issues were not surprising, a few were not on the radar of many of the students attending. For example, one surprising topic sought to understand student self-confidence at MIT. Given a few days to reflect on this issue, I was able to share several salient examples of relevant situations faced not only by me, but also by other undergraduates that I had time to ask. Using the information provided, students gained a better understanding of the Visiting Committee's priorities and were much more prepared for the conversations that took place that afternoon.

### HSG summer housing utilization

In its final report, the Institute-wide Planning Task Force recommended that summer on-campus housing be "defragmented" as a mechanism to reduce the costs associated with spreading 600-800 undergraduates over a space that is used to house roughly three times that number of people during the academic year. This was a situation in which a majority of students clearly wanted one outcome (for all dorms to remain open) and administrators wanted another.

The way that HSG tackled this issue is laudable. Individuals from Residential Life put together a plan that they felt met the needs for the community: a list of dorms that

Student engagement, Page 6

## OPINION POLICY

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# Calm down? I think not

*Democrats have a short memory when it comes to incendiary politicking*

By Keith Yost  
STAFF COLUMNIST

Health care protesters are an unruly lot. They've broken windows. They've sent threatening letters to congressmen. They've called representatives bad names and spat at them. By the standards of American politics, this is small potatoes, and like everything else, it too shall pass.

Democrats, eyeing the 2010 midterms and eager to portray the Republican party as an atavistic throwback to the 1960's, are now trying to spin a case that recent unrest is not the random stirrings of the occasional angry guy, but instead purposely incited by Republican leadership. Nevermind that the GOP has publicly denounced what few outbursts of racism, homophobia, or violence that there have been — when a conservative gives a speech that urges his party to contest "battleground" states, we should all read into the subtextual clue he is sending to commit violence against liberals.

This charge is absurd, and what's more, is patently hypocritical. Republicans are merely rallying their base and tapping into the sea of discontent that liberals have brought upon themselves. Most of the Republican language that has been cited by Democrats as inflammatory is simply run of the mill

metaphor of politics as war, and certainly no worse than the charges hurled by liberals at the previous president.

When liberals said that George W. Bush stole the 2000 election, were they merely being outspoken in their belief that the Supreme Court interpreted the law incorrectly, or were they urging on a patriotic counter-coup to seize back the country by whatever means necessary? When they said that he

**Republicans are merely rallying their base and tapping into the sea of discontent that liberals have brought upon themselves.**

was a war criminal, were they using hyperbolic language to challenge his foreign policy, or were they calling for him to be tried and executed? When they compared him to a chimpanzee, were they being humorous in their criticism, or were they being racist? Throughout the eight years of the Bush Presidency, even a casual follower of politics can find language and acts more extreme

than those being taken by some protesters today. Hell, a casual observer of Obama's current Chief of Staff, Rahm Emanuel, could find antics as embarrassing as what we are now seeing.

Perhaps Bill Clinton said it best when he commented on the 1992 Los Angeles riots that killed 53 people and injured thousands of others. In the run up to the riots, plenty of leaders on the left had expressed outrage and stirred up their followers. Afterward, few were willing to go so far as to condone the violence, but neither did they condemn it too strenuously either. Then candidate for president, Clinton captured the logic perfectly: The rioters couldn't be blamed. Their rioting was the natural result of being poor, unemployed, and downtrodden — and wasn't it Republican policies that made them so? Should the blame fall on the leaders that stood up and represented them, or should it fall on those who placed them in their situation?

Or perhaps it was Barack Obama who said it best, when he commented on the racism of his former pastor, Jeremiah Wright. He denounced the pastor's speech in no uncertain terms. And yet, he could not disown him or others like him, saying, "These people are a part of me. And they are a part of America, this country that I love." Their

anger was not to be embraced, he explained, but to ignore their anger would be to ignore its root causes, and if we did that we would never unravel it.

If angry people are symptomatic of legitimate problems, and it is more productive to address those problems than to mute angry people, then what exactly is the Democratic complaint with today's strain of angry folk? Why should it be the case that Democratic anger must be dealt with by an appeal to its root causes, but Republican anger must be false, manufactured, and unworthy of anything but contempt?

Outraged people have a right to express themselves. Of course we should condemn violence and calls to violence, but broadly muzzling political speech on the speculative basis that it might lead to violence is contrary to our democratic values. Besides, we are nowhere near that point — the worst example of Republican politicians urging violence that Democrats have been able to muster is an Arizona blogger who called upon his readers to break windows and run away. The melodramatic claims that Republican politicking is destroying the fabric of our nation is nothing more than the prattle of egoists with hurt feelings, wishing that others loved them as much as they love themselves.

## ON CAMPUS

# Update from the Graduate Student Council

By Alex Hamilton Chan

The Graduate Student Council set out to chart a financially prudent path to better graduate student life and to maintain core activities and services provided to students this year. And with much pleasure, I report that our administration has achieved what we promised — not just to maintain the level of graduate student life at MIT, but to bring it to new horizons.

**A stronger graduate student coalition in the Boston area and across the nation can serve as a unified voice for student advocacy.**

This past year has seen many important developments at the GSC. As a direct result of the council's work, a reasonable stipend increase (2 percent) as well as improvements in various aspects of campus life were possible. We also managed to establish a leadership position for the GSC on the national level. Orientation and signature events were very well attended while creative new initiatives like the Diversity Task Force were launched. The graduate dental plan that was created by the GSC three years ago has reached an enrollment of 1051 this year.

Today, I write to provide a short "State of the Council."

### Advocacy, student welfare & career development

The GSC's annual stipend recommendation to the MIT Administration has been a consistently strong example of the Council and the Administration working cooperatively. Each year's recommendation is made from a cost-of-living analysis, produced from surveys and government inflation statistics. Our analysis this year showed that the average grad student faced at least 1.4 percent inflation during 2008-2009 and that many grad students still rely on savings, credit card debt and gifts from relatives to meet all their expenses. These findings were

presented to the Deans Group, resulting in a central stipend increase of 2 percent to make up for a shortfall in previous years.

Our GSC administration has created a legislative action subcommittee and added national policy to our otherwise campus-based advocacy agenda, going to Washington, D.C. to push for tax exemption of graduate student stipends, open access to federally funded published research, and higher caps on H-1B visas for advanced-degree holders. We sent delegations to Capitol Hill to lobby as part of the National Association of Graduate-Professional Students' annual "Legislative Action Days" in both the fall and the spring. The MIT GSC demonstrated its leadership in these efforts and stood out as the nation's most active graduate-professional government in our lobbying efforts.

The 2009 Career Fair, organized jointly with the Class of 2009 and the Society of Women Engineers, was a tremendous success by all measures. With over 300 companies and more than 5,000 students attending, the fair was the largest student-run event on campus and one of the largest career fairs in the country. The employer-to-student ratio of the MIT Career Fair is approximately five times higher than that at the career fairs of our peer institutions, such as Harvard and Yale. In collaboration with the UA, students worked with administrators and faculty to propose a resolution at the May faculty meeting for moving the September student holiday from a Monday to a day aligning the fair with a student holiday to make student participation easier and reduce class absenteeism. This resolution was passed in the November 2009 faculty meeting.

For a third consecutive year, the GSC teamed up with the Writing and Communication Center and the Center for Health Promotion and Wellness to offer the Dissertation Boot Camp for students who would like additional support while writing their dissertations. Also, in collaboration with the Postdoctoral Advisory Council and the Career Development Center, the GSC held the Academic Career Series as well as the national award-winning Professional Development Series, and our latest sessions attracted over a hundred attendees. Furthermore, the GSC travel grants continue to

benefit many students in need of support to present their work at conferences.

### Student life and activities

The year started off with an extremely successful graduate orientation, the most highly attended in history. Our welcome address featured President Hockfield and two Nobel laureates. Other GSC activities that made the year more enjoyable included excursions to local events, an 800-person BU-MIT Party, and the Alumni Dinner Series. The annual GSC Ski Trip was the largest ever, and saw some 550 students enjoy an IAP weekend in the snow at Sunday River.

The Muddy Charles Pub continues to be a focal point and meeting place for many grad students. The pub continued its cultural Monday Mondays series, offering food and drink from around the world in partnership with student groups from the featured country. Also, the Pub conducted an extremely successful Renovation Competition. The Muddy board is working with some of the winning ideas and moving toward implementation to give this beloved pub a new and improved look.

**The Muddy Charles pub continues to be a focal point and meeting place for many grad students.**

The GSC Funding Board awarded \$128,548 to over a hundred student groups in the past academic year. Hundreds of events were made possible because of this funding. Despite the budgetary contraction, our team managed to maintain this vibrancy of student activities by keeping funds available to the student groups. We have also launched a small fund to encourage creativity and new student groups.

The Leadership Development Subcommittee held a one-day on-campus leadership evaluation seminar at which participants used a self-assessment tool to investigate their own leadership styles and how those styles interface with others. The Subcommittee also continued its successful Leadership Evolution for Graduate Students series, instructing graduate students on essential leadership skills over the course of three IAP sessions.

As members of our newly-established Legislative Action Subcommittee took on key leadership roles in NAGPS, our team also reinforced our leadership role with the Boston Graduate Leadership Organization (BGLO). A stronger graduate student coalition in the Boston area and across the nation can serve as a unified voice for student advocacy as well as a useful platform for sharing best practices and networking. As part of our work with BGLO, we organized several events including a 900-person party and a Haiti fundraiser. Furthermore, we won the bids to host the 2010 NAGPS National Conference and the 2011 Ivy Summit. Our administration established MIT as a leader in the graduate community nationwide.

### Looking forward

As part of a broader Advising Initiative, we developed and implemented a new graduate student survey on mentoring issues and advisor-advisee relationships and started analyzing the results. This survey had 2460 respondents, which amounts to 40 percent of all MIT graduate students. It is the most powerful dataset on advising ever generated at MIT. A major focus of the rest of our term and for a substantial part of the next administration will be to generate suggestions and actionable items from this dataset.

The 4th Grad Gala will be held on April 10, continuing a growing tradition for the GSC. The MIT Ring is one of the most recognizable rings in the world, and the GSC Grad Rat committee launched an extremely innovative campaign reaching out to a wide range of both student groups and alumni.

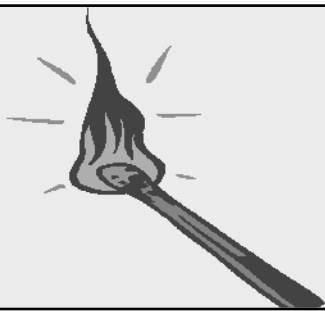
Finally, elections for new GSC officers for the 2010-2011 term will be held at the April General Council Meeting on April 7th, 2010 at 5:30 p.m. in 32-155. More information is available at the GSC website: <http://gsc.mit.edu>. Speaking from personal experience, this is a very rewarding experience for both enhancing personal growth and contributing to the community. I encourage you to consider running for a position.

Join us now or send your suggestions to [changemit@mit.edu](mailto:changemit@mit.edu).

*On Campus runs every Friday and features opinions about campus issues.*

*Alex Hamilton Chan is the president of the Graduate Student Council.*

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## DUBAI AND BACK AGAIN

## The city of tomorrow

If it sounds too good to be true, maybe it is

By Keith Yost  
STAFF COLUMNIST

I hadn't expected much coming out of college. I knew that recessions were not kind to the young and inexperienced, so I was surprised when I received an offer from the Boston Consulting Group to work as a business consultant in Dubai.

It seemed too good to be true — what did a business strategy firm need with a 22-year old nuclear engineer? — but the compensation was too much for me to harbor any serious second thoughts. Adding up the salary offer, signing bonus, housing allowance, performance bonus, and profit sharing, I could easily make \$200,000 in my first year, topped off with a gold-plated benefits package.

I'd long given up my rebellious streak, but it was still a source of pride to outdo my parents. In a single stroke, I would surpass their highest combined income — what better proof of one's independence could there be than that? Getting the job was not just a relief from the uncertainty of life after graduation. This was it. This was adulthood. This was everything I'd worked so hard for at MIT. I couldn't be happier.

A short year later however, the dream job was gone.

The Dubai economy, advertised to me in interviews as recession-proof, was racked by a credit crisis that revealed deeper, arguably insurmountable, structural problems. My foreign adventure ended abruptly with a paroxysm of self-doubt and despair. In returning to the United States, I returned to all the feelings of uncertainty that came with graduation; I was right back to where I was before I had begun my job search, complete with the inescapable anxiety that comes from not knowing what you want to do in life. Seven months in the Middle East had taught me only one lesson: Even in the best of circumstances, business consulting can be a morally ambiguous and soul-crushing profession.

Now back in Boston, I find it hard to complain about how things turned out. I still may not know what I want to do in life, but I

learned a little more about the world. I paid off \$61,000 of student loans. I continue to get to waste my weekends on idle adventures with friends. When I am honest with myself, I must admit this was more than I had expected. Yet at the same time, what I am left with is little consolation when I think of how close I was to being set for life. Sometimes I lay awake at night and wonder... what happened?

**The city of yesterday and tomorrow, today!**

I arrived in Dubai in June, 2009. If there is an urban analogue to shock and awe military campaigns, Dubai is it. Giant malls, grand hotels, towering skyscrapers, indoor ski slopes, islands shaped like palm trees; to be poetic about it, what the mind imagines, the Emiratis built. The skyline is amazing. The food is wonderful. The elevator close door buttons actually close the doors when you press them. Nothing is old, everything is new. After a life of living exclusively in buildings several decades older than myself, I was finally in the city of the future.

Within a couple weeks, the favorable first impressions faded into a less attractive picture. While the winter is cooler, summer temperatures commonly reach to 110 degrees and, factoring in the high humidity, feel closer to 140 degrees. The ocean is like bath water and provides no respite from the heat. There are no names for the streets, no up-to-date maps online, and the cabbies, themselves fresh expats from less developed countries, do not know their way around. The commercial banking system is terrible. The laws are strange and the bureaucracy inept. There is silt and dust everywhere. English is common, but not as common as Bad English (Bad English is a language very similar to English, but with the added grammatical rule that speakers must repeat every sentence three times). If one is determined to do so, it is not hard to have a terrible time in Dubai.

As a city, the novelty of Dubai fades quickly. Outside of one or two unique attractions, like wadi bashing or the gold souk,

Dubai does not have much to offer in the way of touristy things. One quickly bores of roaming the countless malls, each filled with the same stores and sights as the last. Despite its headline-stealing architectural accomplishments, after a few hours of exploration one gets the feeling that Dubai is not so much a city as a giant sprawling suburb, an insipid tessellation of apartment buildings, shopping centers, restaurants, and office parks, plopped unceremoniously into a barren desert.

**Ultimately, my most enduring impression of Dubai is not what it has accomplished, but what it failed to accomplish**

As a culture, Dubai's novelty is more durable. The city is a melting pot, borrowing heavily from British, Arab, and South Asian influences, but also adding in pieces from elsewhere around the world. The cultural plenty affords an opportunity to cherry pick the best bits (like chicken tikka masala) and avoid the mediocre elements (like watching cricket). But along with this diversity comes a curious sort of contradiction, as if one were viewing the frayed edges where two cultures failed to mesh. The posted signs plaintively urging western women to wear more modest clothing and the advertisements on the sides of mass-produced soda cups at franchised fast food joints (one such cup suggesting, in the ultimate of anaptosis, that hen-pecked Emirati men should relax from their female-dominated households by indulging in a snack on their bike ride to work), imply that on some level, the mixing cultures failed to find common ground.

At one restaurant I found, the managers had put up a flat screen TV that played, on loop, the concert of some teen idol boy band I'd never heard of. Emirati women, bundled up head to toe in their black burkas, would walk by, giggle, and goggle at the

hip gyrations of these half-naked, off-key westerners. If you had a taste for irony and were lucky, you might eat lunch during one of the five daily calls to prayer, and could listen bemusedly as the tinny adhan fought to be heard over the sex-filled pop music. Were these merely growing pains, or a battle for the city's soul?

Ultimately, my most enduring impression of Dubai is not what it has accomplished, but what it failed to accomplish. Caught offguard by the global recession, Dubai's haphazard expansion has been frozen in mid-stride for all the world to gawk at, like rubberneckers at a traffic accident. Its unfinished metro system, a patch-work solution to an awkward, poorly planned network of roads, connects partially built apartments to idle construction sites. What had been a miraculous boom story now looks like a particularly ugly form of "hurry up and wait."

To the optimistic, the inchoate nature of Dubai's sprawl might suggest the possibility of some later, more mature period of development during which the mistakes made during the early days of reckless development can be put to right. But for me it was eerie to look upon a city that is incomplete. The windowless, unfinished skyscrapers, with their threads of rebar jutting out, evoke the thought of destruction, rather than construction. The still, abandoned cranes and the anemic flows of traffic highlight the troubles the city faces rather than its potential. Were it not for the youth of the city, who seem to take great pains to draw obscenities and genitalia on every dust covered surface of every abandoned car and storefront, one might easily mistake Dubai a casualty of some sort of apocalyptic alien invasion or neutron bombing, not the victim of a sharp recession and sudden depopulation.

There are several words that can be used to describe Dubai. It is magnificent, mundane, interesting, diverse, conflicted, and hot. But if I were limited to only one, it was disturbing.

*This is the first in a four-part series on the author's experience as a consultant in Dubai.*

## UA UPDATE

## Apply for UA positions

President Susan Hockfield and Vice President for Institute Affairs Kirk D. Kolbrander attended Senate this past Monday. The two discussed the state of MIT's finances, particularly in the context of W1, and answered questions from students. The majority of questions surrounded MIT's commitment to innovation in the future and how we can budget appropriately to be both more innovative and more sustainable. A full transcript of the discussion will be available online after minutes have been approved at the next Senate meeting at <http://ua.mit.edu/senate/minutes>. Senate also passed a bill to fund the creation of Athena Paper Notebooks and to support a MassCPR event.

The recruiting process for next year is underway! Institute Committee nominations interviews will take place this upcoming weekend. The President and Vice President elect will be interviewing students who

wish to serve as executive members and/or committee chairs of the UA next year. A full list of positions is available at <http://ua.mit.edu/exec/positions>. All students interested in applying must submit an application to [wedothings@mit.edu](mailto:wedothings@mit.edu) by 5 p.m. on April 9 with the following information:

- 1) Name, Class Year, MIT e-mail,
- 2) Position(s) of interest (see below; up to 3; in order of preference),
- 3) Qualifications / Accomplishments (no more than 100 words; annotated list is appropriate),
- 4) Answer the questions: Why are you interested in this position? What ideas do you have for it for next year? (no more than 150 words per position),
- 5) References (up to two)
- 6) Availability for 30 minute interview (Three options in order of preference).

— Maggie Delano,  
UA Vice President

## Undergraduate influence

Two years of engaging the administration

## Student engagement, from Page 4

need renovations which could be completed over the course of a summer, a list of dorms that were booked for summer conferences, and three dorms that could accommodate the diversity of living styles on campus. When students asked for justification regarding how the dorms were categorized, clear numbers were presented backing up claims. When students asked about smoking, cats, desk workers, storage, transportation and ensuring students could block with other students from their dorm, Residential Life worked to ensure that those needs could be met. When it came time to communicate a final decision to the undergraduate population, student representatives were in a position to help present the case for change, making sure to emphasize where the cost savings were coming from and the renovations that could be expected in dorms that were closed. This collaborative working style resulted in an outcome that both students and administrators supported, even though the initial situation looked bleak. As a final sign of teamwork, HSG agreed to review the decision annually in order to determine where improvements could be made and which dorms would be open in future summers.

## HDAG

HDAG was brought together earlier this month to advise the Dean for Student Life on the creation of a new (and more cost effective) solution to house dining at MIT. Following in the wake of the Blue Ribbon Dining Committee and the Undergraduate Association's Dining Proposal Committee, this group of administrators, housemasters, and students from the five dining hall dorms (Baker, McCormick, Next, Simmons, and the Phoenix Group) has a monumental task: students want a healthy, cheap dining situation with more choice.

While this group is just beginning its work, it is clear that there are already several obsta-

cles to credibly engaging students. The time between the creation of this committee and a final decision is approximately one and a half months, which is simply not enough time. On a matter of such great importance, it is unlikely that student input can be collected and incorporated in any meaningful way before students depart for the summer. In order to meet the time constraints, HDAG members have been presented with a rigid set of assumptions: there will be a meal plan and it will involve at least a certain number of meals per week. These assumptions are the only real decisions that most students care about and insisting that they are part of any solution creates an impediment to meaningful dining conversation. Unlike the assumptions that were made by Residential Life in the summer housing utilization decision that were logical and able to stand up to a challenge, it appears that the assumptions made by HDAG are not up for negotiation. Finally, HDAG membership is drawn exclusively from the five dining hall dorms and provides students outside those dorms with only limited channels for input through an Idea Bank and public forums, both of which appear to be behind schedule.

## Conclusion

There is a lot to learn about the value of student engagement from these recent examples. Administrators and students can work as equals on issues important to both parties. When information flows freely and students are involved at the beginning of the decision-making process, the results benefit the entire MIT Community. On the other hand, problems can emerge when decisions appear to be rubber stamped by students with limited choices on a tight deadline. There have been some major improvements in the realm of student engagement this past year and I think we can all look forward to future refinement.

*Michael A. Bennie '10 is the current president of the Undergraduate Association.*

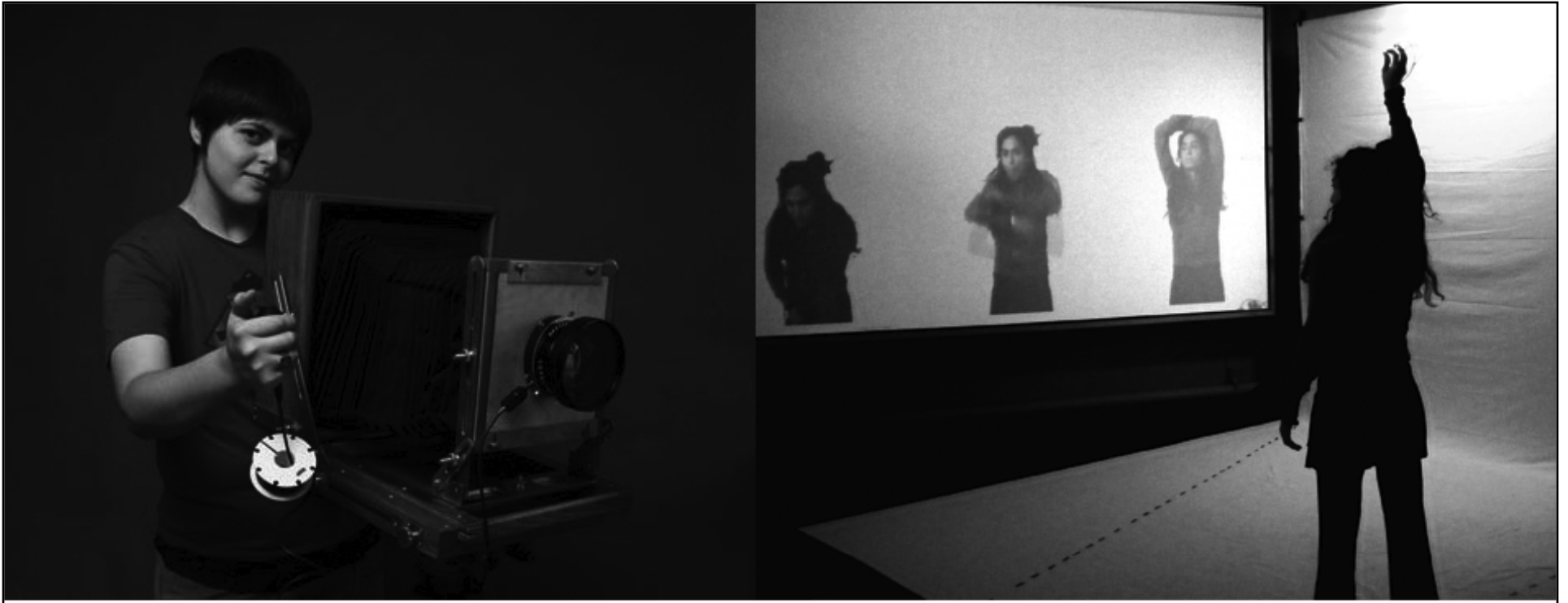












## The Council for the Arts at MIT's Grants Program



**Next Grant Application Deadline:  
April 2, 2010**

<http://web.mit.edu/arts/do/funding/grants.html>  
contact Susan Cohen at [cohen@media.mit.edu](mailto:cohen@media.mit.edu)



## Large Event Fund Allocation, April to May 2010

Event Name	Primary Sponsor	Date	Total Budget	\$ Requested	\$ Received	% funded
¡Gala Sabrosura!	Mes Latino	4/3/2010	\$5,570	\$5,570	\$2,500	45%
15th Annual Hawaii Club Luau	MIT Hawaii Club	4/3/2010	\$6,869	\$2,669	\$1,500	56%
2010 MIT Open Ballroom Dance Competition	MIT Ballroom Dance Team	4/24/2010–4/25/2010	\$56,141	\$4,000	TBA	TBA
7th Annual Science and Technology Awards Banquet	Arab Students' Organization	4/2/2010	\$26,550	\$4,000	\$0	0%
AXO Lip Sync	Alpha Chi Omega	4/24/2010	\$3,517	\$1,592	\$1,000	63%
Battle of the Bands 2010	MIT Live Music Connection	4/10/2010	\$3,333	\$2,683	\$1,200	45%
Campus Build	Habitat for Humanity	4/23/2010	\$1,965	\$1,212	\$1,000	83%
Dance Till You Drop	Burton Third Bombers	4/18/2010	\$5,045	\$3,000	\$3,000	100%
Earth Day Fair	Sustainability@MIT	4/22/2010	\$4,985	\$2,870	\$1,500	52%
East Campus CPW	East Campus	4/8/2010–4/11/10	\$5,603	\$2,868	\$2,868	100%
Eastgate Community Association Spring BBQ	Eastgate Community Association	5/9/2010	\$2,500	\$2,400	\$2,400	100%
Finals Breakfast	MedLinks	5/17/2010–5/21/2010	\$1,390	\$1,390	\$1,390	100%
Flippin for Finals	RLP and MITPD	5/16/2010	\$4,500	\$2,500	\$0	0%
Footwork 2010	MIT Ridonkulous	4/3/2010	\$15,745	\$2,450	\$2,450	100%
Grains of Rice	Asian American Association	4/17/2010	\$6,900	\$3,900	\$2,000	51%
Greek Weekend	IFC	4/30/2010	\$7,318	\$4,458	\$3,500	79%
Helicopter Fly-In	MIT Flying Club	5/3/2010	\$280	\$280	\$0	0%
iFair	International Students Association	4/16/2010	\$6,000	\$6,000	\$3,500	58%
La Fete	Edgerton House Association	5/1/2010	\$4,508	\$2,500	\$1,500	60%
Mandala @ MIT: A Celebration of Art and Architecture	Buddhist Community @ MIT	4/4/2010	\$8,200	\$6,400	\$1,500	23%
MassCPR	MIT EMS	4/1/2010	\$3,259	\$3,259	\$2,600	80%
More or Less Political	Platypus at MIT	5/7/2010	\$1,550	\$1,250	\$0	0%
MSA Spring Dinner	Muslim Students Association (MSA)	4/2/2010	\$2,700	\$2,700	\$2,000	74%
Next Act Presents: Urinetown the Musical	Next Act	4/8/2010–4/11/2010	\$7,175	\$1,375	\$1,375	100%
Polics, Activism, MIT: An Interview with Michael Albert	PlatypusMIT	4/12/2010	\$720	\$720	\$0	0%
Sala Lights Project	Musical Theater Guild	3/1/2009	\$27,000	\$5,000	\$0	0%
Sweat Lodge	SOCS	5/21/2010	\$6,700	\$2,733	\$0	0%
Westgate Spring BBQ	Westgate Executive Committee	5/15/2010	\$2,119	\$2,119	\$2,119	100%
<b>Totals</b>			<b>\$215,702</b>	<b>\$73,658</b>	<b>\$36,902</b>	<b>—</b>
<b>Averages</b>			<b>\$7,438</b>	<b>\$2,540</b>	<b>\$1,272</b>	<b>46%</b>

The Large Event Fund (LEF) sponsors large, social events (larger than 150 people) on campus that are open to everyone in the MIT Community. Over four funding cycles over the academic year, the LEF gives out approximately \$100,000. Source: MIT Association of Student Activities

## ARCADE Allocations, April to May 2010

Event Name	Primary Sponsor	Date	Total Budget	\$ Requested	\$ Received	% funded
1st MIT-China Energy and Environment Workshop, The Future of Coal in Shanxi, China	MIT China Energy and Environment Research (CEER) Group	6/2010	\$3,280	\$3,280	\$0	0%
Bernarda Alba	Teatro Latino	5/6/2010	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$700	70%
Black Women's Week	Black Women's Alliance	4/12/2010–4/16/2010	\$1,555	\$1,000	\$555	56%
BSA Kite Flying Event	BSA	4/24/2010	\$650	\$650	\$500	77%
Chicano Graduation	La Union Chicana Por Atzlan	5/1/2010	\$4,608	\$1,500	\$750	50%
Concert of Classical Chamber Music	Russian Connection	4/18/2010	\$800	\$350	\$0	0%
CPW Steel Pan Jamboree	MIT Caribbean Club	4/10/2010	\$1,400	\$1,400	\$1,200	86%
Cultural Dinner	Ashdown House	6/15/2010	\$1,175	\$900	\$900	100%
Cultural Festival	Sidney-Pacific Graduate Community	6/12/2010	\$2,470	\$2,270	\$2,270	100%
Culture Show 2010	South Asian American Students	4/9/2010	\$9,868	\$4,500	\$2,000	44%
Dhoom 2010	Sangam	4/16/2010	\$2,650	\$2,500	\$1,700	68%
Ebony Affair	Black Graduate Students Association (BGSA)	5/21/2010	\$1,404	\$1,404	\$1,000	71%
Expressiveness of the Body — A Comparative Discussion of Traditional Medicine in East and West	MIT Traditional Medicine Society	5/7/2010	\$1,543	\$1,543	\$1,000	65%
Guarito y Ron Party	Colombian Students Association of MIT	5/15/2010	\$1,000	\$800	\$800	100%
Holi	Hindu Students Council	4/24/2010	\$2,084	\$2,084	\$1,000	48%
Japanese Hanami Party	Japanese Association of MIT	4/16/2010	\$3,066	\$2,171	\$1,500	69%
MIT China Energy & Environment Talk Series	MIT China Energy and Environment Research (CEER) Group	3–4/2010	\$2,340	\$2,340	\$0	0%
Mujeres Latinas Alumnae Empowerment Conference	Mujeres Latinas	4/3/2010	\$4,978	\$2,498	\$2,000	80%
Phoenix Rising: MIT Asian Dance Team first showcase	MIT Asian Dance Team	4/3/2010		\$0	\$0	0%
Strait to Taiwan	Association of Taiwanese Students	4/27/2010	\$1,790	\$1,090	\$1,090	100%
<b>Totals</b>			<b>\$47,661</b>	<b>\$33,280</b>	<b>\$18,965</b>	<b>—</b>
<b>Averages</b>			<b>\$2,383</b>	<b>\$1,664</b>	<b>\$948</b>	<b>59%</b>

The Assisting Recurring Cultural and Diversity Events (ARCADE) fund is managed by a committee of representatives from the Association of Student Activities, Undergraduate Association, Graduate Student Council, and the Campus Committee on Race Relations. ARCADE supports recurring diversity events on the MIT Campus. Source: Association of Student Activities

### Solution to Sudoku

from page 10

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

### Solution to Kenken

from page 10

<sup>5-</sup> 1	<sup>2</sup> 2	<sup>11+</sup> 5	<sup>24x</sup> 6	<sup>3</sup> 3	<sup>4</sup> 4
<sup>6</sup> 6	<sup>11+</sup> 5	<sup>5+</sup> 1	<sup>3-</sup> 3	<sup>2-</sup> 4	<sup>2</sup> 2
<sup>1-</sup> 3	<sup>48x</sup> 6	<sup>11+</sup> 4	<sup>5</sup> 1	<sup>7+</sup> 2	<sup>11+</sup> 5
<sup>2</sup> 2	<sup>48x</sup> 4	<sup>11+</sup> 3	<sup>5</sup> 5	<sup>7+</sup> 1	<sup>6</sup> 6
<sup>4</sup> 4	<sup>3</sup> 3	<sup>6</sup> 6	<sup>2-</sup> 2	<sup>5</sup> 5	<sup>1</sup> 1
<sup>4-</sup> 5	<sup>1</sup> 1	<sup>2</sup> 2	<sup>4</sup> 4	<sup>2-</sup> 6	<sup>3</sup> 3

## Cameras installed in Lobby 54



VIBIN KUNDUKULAM—THE TECH

Video cameras continue to be installed around campus, increasing the likelihood that the movements of students and staff may be recorded. Pictured above is one of two cameras recently installed in the lobby of Building 54. At the same time, one or more cameras were installed in the basement entrances of the same building.

Thomas W. Komola, manager of the Security and Emergency Management office, said that cameras became functional just last week and that the School of Science had requested them after a series of thefts.

The footage from these cameras is managed by the Security Office, Komola said, is subject to the same access restrictions as their other cameras: "The MIT Police Department is the sole entity that may request and use this information," and "a written request must be signed and presented by the Chief of MIT Police."

— John A. Hawkinson

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## Being a student helps Cheung keep Council job in perspective

Cheung, from Page 1

to grow up and make a difference in the world and have an impact. I get to go to work everyday and actually do that. A lot of people have an inspiration to make a tangible difference in the world...Especially around here, a lot of people talk about progressivism and democratic ideals...I get to go to work and do something about it everyday. It's really fulfilling work and it's also very interesting and very challenging. There are constantly issues being thrown at you. One hour I'm talking about how to support businesses in Central Square...The next minute I'm at a seminar with President Hockfield on the future of manufacturing in the U.S. In terms of the diversity of work and the different issues you need to be versed in, it's really a lot of fun.

**TT:** How does your perspective as a student set you apart?

**LC:** I think everyone on the council brings a different perspective and certainly my perspective as a student is that there are communities which we represent on the council that are not necessarily always the ones that are there and vocal in front of the council. People talk about how you live in a bubble when you're in college and it's a very similar thing with the city council. Because you're so busy, a lot of the stuff that breaks through and gets your attention tends to be a small minority of the issues out there...You have a small group of people who are very adamant about their issues...and so in trying to be a good and responsible representative you try and take up their cause. Because there is so much going on, it's easy to just respond to things especially given the fact that I'm still in school and have this whole other set of requirements. Being a student

allows me to step back and get the big picture and maintain it on a regular basis.

As for school, I ended up switching to a part-time program...I'm [in] a dual degree program with the Harvard Kennedy School and they make their elected officials go part time...which really lets me balance out my workload a lot better.

**TT:** Do you think you've learned anything from being at MIT Sloan or Harvard Kennedy School that has really helped you serve as a city councilor?

**LC:** MIT Sloan is a great education in terms of economics, finance, accounting, marketing, [and] everything that goes into making a business successful. A lot of those skills are very transferable to what the city is trying to do. We have a budget. We have small businesses that we are trying to support...We're trying to promote ourselves as a city and market ourselves to other communities and other people. A lot of the skills I've learned at MIT Sloan are very transferable to the challenges we're facing as a city.

Most of the coursework there [at Harvard Kennedy School] is focused on the theory of democratic government and the practical challenges to implementing it. For example I just took a course at the Kennedy School on the difference between public sector and private

sector budgeting and accounting. Combined with a course I took here on private sector accounting and my experience in the private sector doing that kind of work, it gives me a good foundation to...better analyze the budget and make decisions about it.

**TT:** When you were running for City Council, you based your campaign on job creation, education, affordable housing, university/community relations, and transparent government. What have you done to address those issues?

**LC:** So in terms of job creation, I lobbied hard to become chair of the economic development committee. Committees were just announced last week and I'm in the process now of working with my other committee members to set up our priorities and goals and hearing scheduled for the next few months. We're going to bring a lot of stakeholders from across the committee to figure out what resources we have and how we can tackle that challenge.

In terms of education, the person I supported for mayor, David Maher, has a strong record of supporting families in need and serving on the School Committee...The most important thing a member of the City Council can do is to decide who they vote for...I've also been taking the time to go and talk to

parents...In my role as a city councilor I've been stressing that fact that it is a great opportunity to get involved...

For affordable housing, I have a meeting coming up that I've organized between the police commissioner, the Cambridge housing authorities, and neighborhood groups to get together and talk about some of the issues on affordable housing...

[For] university relations, I also lobbied hard to become chair of the university relations committee...Because we took a longer than average time to pick our mayor, it set back the committee work and so we're kind of rushing into that right now.

As for transparent government, I've put in a bunch of orders on how the city can better use technology to open up government and make it more transparent. There was an issue where we were streaming a video online in Windows Media format and I suggested that we stream it in flash so that Macs can play it too and they've started working on that solution.

**TT:** Specifically, you spoke a lot about the importance of student involvement during your campaign. Are you doing anything to promote that?

**LC:** There are a couple things coming up that I'm working on. The biggest thing is that I posted for interns here at MIT and I would highly

recommend that people find me...if they're interested in interning. We have a certain amount of budget for staff and I set aside a portion of that budget to bring students on from universities.

**TT:** What has been the hardest thing about being on the council?

**LC:** The hardest thing is really that there is so much to do on City Council that you really need to prioritize. There are a lot of things that I would love to do that I can't do because I can only be in two places at once, max.

**TT:** Is there anything else that you would like to say?

**LC:** The biggest thing that I think people should do right now is fill out the census. Every single person is quantifiable in terms of dollars and services that the city can give back to students, [especially] with 20% of the people who live here being students. You still use tap water, you still use the T, you still go out at night and expect the police to keep you safe when you're out clubbing... All of those things get federal funding and if students don't register in their census and say that they live here, we don't get funding, which translates into us not being able to provide as good services to students...It's 10 questions, you can do it in a like a minute. That's the most important thing that everyone should do right now.

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### Solution to Crossword

from page 10

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

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Iraq and Afghanistan

Thursday, April 8 | 4:30p - 6p | MIT 66-110



Ambassador Barbara Bodine comes back to MIT to discuss Yemen, where she was ambassador between 1997 - 2001. Her over 30 years of US Foreign Service were spent mostly on Arabian Peninsula and greater Persian Gulf issues.



MIT Center for International Studies  
web.mit.edu/cis | starrforum@mit.edu

# The 2010 Harold & Arlene Schnitzer Prize in the Visual Arts

Paintings, prints, sculpture, video, photography, ceramics, art glass - all forms of visual art

All currently registered MIT students may enter the Schnitzer Visual Arts Competition

Deadline: **Monday April 5, 2010**

between 12noon and 5pm at the Student Art Association (W20-429), please submit:

- 1) Examples of artist's work
  - a. Three pieces that best represent your entire body of work
  - b. Or one piece of original work and visual representations of other originals (i.e. slides, photographic prints, etc.)
- 2) A written statement concerning artist's intent as it pertains to his or her works and art in general

## PRIZES & EXHIBITION

Prizes will be awarded for first, second, and third place in the competition

Honorable mentions may also be awarded

Winners must be willing and able to display their work in the Wiesner Student Art Gallery for an exhibition that will open on May 25, 2010

This includes the installation and deinstallation of the exhibition

The exhibit will be up during Commencement, and close on June 29, 2010

There will be an opening reception at the gallery for the MIT community on May 25, 2010

- **FIRST Prize \$5,000**
- **SECOND Prize \$2,500**
- **THIRD Prize \$2,000**

Please contact [cohen@media.mit.edu](mailto:cohen@media.mit.edu) if you have any questions

<http://saa.mit.edu/schnitzer-prize>

Application: [http://web.mit.edu/arts/about/awards/Schnitzer\\_app2008.pdf](http://web.mit.edu/arts/about/awards/Schnitzer_app2008.pdf)



A new SafeRide television has been installed behind the Student Center. Only its casing was visible for most of the week.

JASMINE FLORENTINE—THE TECH

## Reed was troubled

### Had history of mental illness

Rape, from Page 1

two counts of rape, according to the Middlesex District Attorney's office.

Reed knew the victim casually, MIT Police said.

Reed is being held without bail, the DA said, pending a "dangerousness hearing" which is scheduled for today.

Reed has a troubled history, including a conviction earlier this year in Boston.

At the age of 12, Reed witnessed a friend commit suicide with a handgun at close quarters, according to a statement by his lawyer filed in connection with the prior arrest.

Reed has been homeless multiple times, and has moved between Boston, Arizona, Dallas, and New Jersey in the past decade. He returned to Boston in 2009 and has been homeless here. He has been diagnosed with mental illness and has been on multiple medications, his lawyer's statement said.

In January of this year, Reed was arrested and subsequently convicted of assault and battery. He hit a woman in the head several times behind 110 Newbury St., apparently after having sex with her, according to a Boston Police report.

The January victim, Shereen Westdahl, age 46, was hospitalized, but was then released and died shortly thereafter, according to the case file.

Since his incarceration in January, and until his release on or around March 16, Reed has not had access to his medication, his lawyer's statement said.

Reed was convicted on March 16 and sentenced to three months of jail time, which was deemed to have been served by the time he spent in jail awaiting sentencing.

The Commonwealth had recommended an 18-month jail term, the Suffolk District Attorney's office said.

Reed's court-appointed public defender for the January case, Justin Drechsler, declined to comment.

A previous version of this article ran on our website on Tuesday evening.



JOHN A. HAWKINSON—THE TECH

MIT Police examine the area on the first floor of Building 2, where the incident took place.

## Bias found to be a persistent hurdle for women pursuing careers in science

By Tamar Lewin  
NEW YORK TIMES

A report on the underrepresentation of women in science and math by the American Association of University Women, released Monday March 22, found that although women have made gains, stereotypes and cultural biases still impede their success.

The report, "Why So Few?," supported by the National Science Foundation, examined decades of research to cull recommendations for drawing more women into science, technology, engineering and mathematics, the so-called STEM fields.

"We scanned the literature for research with immediate applicability," said Catherine Hill, the university women's research director and lead author of the report. "We found a lot of small things can make a difference, like a course in spatial skills for women going into engineering, or teaching children that math ability is not fixed, but grows with effort."

The report treats lightly on the hot-button question of whether innate differences between the sexes account for the paucity of women at the highest levels of science and math.

Five years ago, Lawrence H. Summers, then the president of Harvard, sparked a firestorm when he suggested that "there are issues of intrinsic aptitude, and particularly of the variability of aptitude" reinforced by "lesser factors involving socialization and continuing discrimination."

The association's report acknowledges differences in male and female brains. But Hill said, "None of the research convincing-

ly links those differences to specific skills, so we don't know what they mean in terms of mathematical abilities."

At the top level of math abilities, where boys are overrepresented, the report found that the gender gap is rapidly shrinking. Among mathematically precocious youth — sixth and seventh graders who score more than 700 on the math SAT — 30 years ago boys outnumbered girls 13 to 1, but only about 3 to 1 now.

"That's not biology at play, it doesn't change so fast," Hill said. "Even if there are biological factors in boys outnumbering girls, they're clearly not the whole story. There's a real danger in assuming that innate differences are important in determining who will succeed, so we looked at the cultural factors, to see what evidence there is on the nurture side of nature or nurture."

The report found ample evidence of continuing cultural bias. One study of postdoctoral applicants, for example, found that women had to publish 3 more papers in prestigious journals, or 20 more in less-known publications, to be judged as productive as male applicants.

Making judgments about an individual's abilities based on his or her sex is a classic form of discrimination, said Nancy Hopkins, an MIT biology professor who created an academic stir in the 1990s by documenting pervasive, but largely unintentional, discrimination against women at the university.

Even if male math geniuses outnumbered female geniuses 3 to 1, Hopkins said, it would be reasonable to expect one female math professor for every three male professors at places like Harvard

and MIT. "But in fact, Harvard just tenured its first female, after 375 years," said Hopkins, who, famously, walked out of the room after Mr. Summers made his controversial remarks.

The university women's report cited research showing that girls' performance suffers from any suggestion that they do poorly at math. In one experiment, college students with strong math backgrounds and similar abilities were divided into two groups and tested on math. One group was told that men perform better on the test, the other that there was no difference in performance between the sexes. Their results were starkly different: in the group told that men do better, men indeed did much better, with an average score of 25 compared with the women's 5. In the group told there was no difference, women scored 17 and men 19.

Any suggestion of advantage based on sex affects results, the research shows, even where there is no cultural stereotype.

In an experiment ostensibly testing "contrast sensitivity ability" — a made-up skill — men and women in a group told there was no difference between the sexes in such sensitivity rated their own ability equally. But in a group told that men were better at it, men rated their skills far higher than women did.

Teaching girls about how stereotypes affect performance, the report found, can diminish such effects.

In a separate survey of 1,200 female and minority chemists and chemical engineers by Campos Inc., for the Bayer Corporation, two-thirds cited the persistent stereotype that STEM fields are not

for girls or minorities as a leading contributor to their underrepresentation.

Many in the Bayer survey, also released Monday March 22, said they had been discouraged from going into their field in college, most often by a professor.

"My professors were not that excited to see me in their classes," said Mae C. Jemison, a chemical engineer and the first African-American female astronaut, who works with Bayer's science literacy project. "When I would ask a question, they would just look at me like, 'Why are you asking that?' But when a white boy down the row would ask the very same question, they'd say 'astute observation.'"

The university women's report found that girls have less confidence in their math abilities than boys with equivalent achievement levels. Because most people choose careers where they believe they can do well, the report said, girls' lesser belief in their skills may partly explain why fewer young women go into scientific careers. Both the university women's report and the Bayer survey stress the need for more female mentors and role models.

But even as women earn a growing share of the doctorates in the STEM fields, the university women's report found, they do not show up, a decade later, in a proportionate number of tenured faculty positions.

For more information on the Bayer Survey, see <http://bayerfactsofscience.online-pressroom.com/>. For more information on the American Association of University Women survey, see <http://www.aauw.org/research/whysofew.cfm>.

## MIT professors analyze wasteful medical spending

Healthcare, from Page 1

health care reform can be divided into two rounds: The "coverage round," which was answered by the new bill, and the "cost-reduction round," which will require long-term technological innovation and creative thinking. "I can see MIT faculty being more involved going forward," he said.

### MIT research targets spending

Other MIT faculty are involved in whittling down the costs of health care. Joseph J. Doyle, an associate professor in Sloan School of Management, is researching the returns on medical spending. Doyle found that an extra night of in-hospital care does not decrease the likelihood of

mortality in newborn infants. Examples like this, where spending results in few benefits, are prime targets for cuts.

### Unnecessary images are frequently ordered by doctors to increase their own incomes...

Doyle said that while the health care bill only begins to tinker with how to control medical spending, the strength of the bill lies in the expanded coverage it provides. "I don't like the idea that if you get sick, you might stop working, and if you do that, you will lose your in-

surance," said Doyle.

Frank S. Levy '63, a professor in the Urban Studies and Planning Department, is also working on identifying areas that could reduce spending and waste in medicine. His research has exposed waste spending in medical imaging. Levy said that unnecessary images are frequently ordered by doctors to increase their own incomes, prevent malpractice, and compete for patients by agreeing to their requests. In fact, a recent study in the *Journal of the American College of Radiology* found that 26 percent of these expensive imaging requests were inappropriate.

"Patients have gotten to the point, that if you won't give them an image they will go to a different practice," Levy said. He is now writing a book on the history of how insurers and

hospital groups have tried to define what constitutes as necessary imaging and how they have worked to get both patients and doctors to accept those definitions.

### MIT Medical reacts to bill

Before the health care bill passed, MIT Medical has already been trying to manage its resources in a more cost-effective way. It has already proposed to cut its 24-hour urgent care center to open hours 7 a.m. to 11 p.m. and eliminate its inpatient unit. The in-patient unit provides subacute supportive care and takes care of patients recovering from gastritis, mononucleosis, appendix-removal surgery, or intoxication.

Medical Director and Head of MIT Medical William M. Kettle said, "Our patient census is very

low, and the costs of staffing are significant." According to the MIT Medical website, the average daily census in 2009 (1.8) reached an all-time low.

According to Kettle, the direct impacts of the bill on MIT Medical's health coverage may be limited because MIT is self-insured, thus it may not be subject to some federal requirements. However, more students may not need MIT's health coverage because the new legislation allows students to stay on their parents' insurance plan until age 26. The health care bill will also increase insurance premiums as a result of the expanded coverage. As a result, students will need to make the financial decision of whether to stay on their parents' plan or buy into MIT's insurance plan.

