

## In response to complaints, tweaks made to dining

### HDAG offers new lunch options as well as a cheaper \$2,500 plan, though many still aren't happy

By Deborah Chen  
STAFF REPORTER

Dean for Student Life Chris Colombo and the House and Dining Advisory Group (HDAG) updated the dining plan yesterday with lunch options as well as a cheaper \$2,500 plan to appease upperclassmen wary of mandatory dining.

Students can now pay more for the option of getting lunch at Maseeh Hall. Current sophomores and juniors who want the minimum can choose a \$2,500 "transition" plan that offers 7 meals a week. In an e-mail sent out to undergraduates, Colombo

said the changes to the dining plan came about as a response to student concerns over cost, flexibility and the impact on community at FSILGs and non-dining dorms.

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Comparisons of new dining plans, p. 11

According to Henry J. Humphreys, senior associate dean of residential life and dining, there will be no more changes to the types or prices of plans offered.

Many students are still dissatisfied, especially with the transition plan, which is available only to current sophomore and juniors and

will be phased out after the current sophomores graduate. Keone D. Hon '11, creator of the anti-dining petition *SayNo.mit.edu* said, "These changes are absolutely not adequate enough. As articulated in the petition, we don't accept 'grandfathering' as an acceptable solution."

Hon launched a letter-writing campaign last night that has yielded over 40 e-mails to Colombo in the space of a couple hours.

#### The new plans

For a couple hundred dollars extra, the new lunch plans allow students to allocate their weekly meals

between breakfast, dinner or lunch (which will only be offered at Maseeh Hall). Students who live in Maseeh hall will have to buy these premium flex plans; other students will be able to choose between these or the regular plans, which offer a fixed number of breakfasts and dinners a week.

For instance, the "Basic 14" plan offers 14 meals a week, 7 dinners and 7 breakfasts, for \$3,800 a year. For \$500 more, the "Any 14" plan still only offers 14 meals a week, but those meals can be any combination of breakfasts/brunches, lunches or dinners.

In general, the cheaper plans will only be offered to upperclassmen.

The transition plan is the cheapest plan, offering 7 flexible meals a week. Only the classes of 2012 and 2013 will be able to purchase it.

Students in the incoming class of 2015 will have to buy the most expensive plans. At Maseeh, this means the \$4,500, 19-meals-a-week flexible plan. At other dining dorms, this means they will have to buy at minimum the 14-meals-a-week rigid plan, for \$3,800.

#### Addressing student concerns

Administrators say that giving up-

Dining, Page 11

## Drawn from an elite club

### Why is it always MIT Corporation members that speak at graduation?

By Aparna Sud  
STAFF REPORTER

The selection of Xerox CEO Ursula M. Burns as commencement speaker marks the fourth time in five years that MIT has chosen a member of the MIT Corporation, raising the question: How are final speakers chosen?

According to Gayle M. Gallagher, executive officer for Commencement, student and faculty members of the Commencement Committee compiled a list of prospective commencement speakers. The list of recommended speakers is then given to President Susan J. Hockfield, who makes the final decision. According to Chair of the Commencement Committee W. Eric L. Grimson PhD '80, Hockfield is not obligated to pick from the list of recommended speakers.

When asked for names of other speaker candidates, Grimson said that information regarding the list of recommended speakers is confidential.

Gallagher said that the commencement committee "looks for speakers whose message— accomplishments, professional journey, national or global service — would resonate well with our students."

According to Burns' son Malcolm Bean '11, Burns has known she "wanted to speak at commencement for a long time." Notified in August of her selection, she accepted earlier than previous speakers, allowing the MIT community to be informed as early as November.

Bean also knew there would be a good chance his mother would speak at his own graduation. "My mother first served on the ESD (Engineering Systems Division) subcommittee. She has always been impressed by MIT, but her enthusiasm for MIT was really sparked by ESD and has developed with her time on with the MIT Corporation," Bean said.

Burns joined the Corporation shortly after 2007. She now currently holds a five-year term membership that ends in 2013.

According to Bean, Burns upholds many MIT "ideals as well as its commitment to vigorous education and furthering engineering," Bean said, "Burns fits well as next speaker

Commencement, Page 12



PHOTOS BY JOHN A. HAWKINSON (LEFT) AND ELIZABETH D'ARIENZO (RIGHT)—THE TECH

**City of Cambridge public works employees repair** a broken water main on Massachusetts Avenue outside Building 33 (left). The Student Center (W20) was without water for most of Sunday because of the break, and all bathrooms in the building were sealed off (right). The building was closed down for repairs overnight, and opened again early yesterday morning.

## Water shutdown forces emergency closing

### Student Center loses running water after main break under Massachusetts Avenue

By Joy Lee  
STAFF REPORTER

Students returning from their Thanksgiving break on Sunday were greeted by orange, yellow, and white signs plastered on the doors of the student center announcing that the building was without water and functioning restrooms. Bathrooms were cordoned off with tape.

The Stratton Student Center (W20) was closed briefly on Sunday night as a result of a

water main break on Massachusetts Avenue.

Water was restored shortly after midnight Sunday by the City of Cambridge. Food vendors made do with bottled water.

City workers said that a trickle of water began around 2 p.m. on Saturday afternoon, but they decided to wait until Sunday morning to avoid working through the night. Though they began early Sunday morning and had restored water to W20 that night, they were still at work on Monday morning repairing the damaged pipe and restoring electrical

connections to street lighting.

Campus Activities Complex Director Philip J. Walsh made the decision to close the building on Sunday evening — signs were posted saying the building was closing at 10 p.m., and many students were asked to leave, though some students worked in the building through midnight that without being informed or shushed out by CAC staff.

Walsh did not respond to inquiries about

W20 closing, Page 12

## Death at Kendall

At approximately 11:30 a.m. on Monday, a 57-year-old male MBTA passenger fell onto the tracks and was killed by an inbound Red Line subway train, according to *The Cambridge Chronicle*. As of 10 p.m. last night, the identity of the victim has not yet been released by MBTA officials. It is not known if the victim is affiliated with MIT.

According to MBTA spokesman Joseph Pesaturo, the victim's name will not be released until his family has been properly notified. It has not yet been determined whether the death was a suicide, accident, or homicide.

—Robert McQueen

## IN SHORT

### In the mood for some exercise?

Registration for PE classes over IAP starts tomorrow (Wednesday) at 8 a.m. The tentative schedule is available at [mitpe.com](http://mitpe.com).

### The deadline to submit applications for LEF/ARCADE funding

is this Friday Dec. 3 at midnight. This funding cycle is for community events planned to occur between Jan. 1 and Mar. 31.

### Toys for Tickets is happening now!

If you have a parking ticket issued by the MIT Police, then you can pay for it with unopened toys of equal or greater value of the ticket. Bring your ticket and toys to W20-022 before Dec. 15.

### The Anna Tang trial will restart on Wednesday.

Tang is the Wellesley student who stabbed Wolfe B. Styke '10 in his Next House dorm room on Oct. 23, 2007. Her trial is expected to last three days.

## SLOCUM'S IDEAS FOR DINING

The Course 2 professor's plan for reforming the current dining system and keeping everybody happy. **OPN, p. 4**

## CUTTING POETRY FOR TWITTER?

Emily Ruppel questions the Writing Department's tech obsession. **OPN, p. 5**

## JUST RATIFY IT ALREADY

Why is Congress stalling on nuke reduction? No good reason. **OPN, p. 5**



## PLAN A DOUBLE FEATURE FILM NIGHT!

There's a fine art to pairing films. **CL, p. 9**

## WOMEN FENCERS STAND AT 5-1

At last week's home tournament, women's fencing started strong with victories over 5 colleges. **SPO, p. 15**

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# Bomb attacks made on two Iranian nuclear experts

By William Yong  
and Robert F. Worth  
THE NEW YORK TIMES

TEHRAN — Unidentified assailants riding motorcycles carried out separate bomb attacks here Monday against two of the country's top nuclear scientists, killing one and prompting accusations that the United States and Israel were again trying to disrupt Iran's nuclear program.

The slain scientist, Majid Shahrari, managed a "major project" for the country's Atomic Energy Organization, Iran's nuclear chief, Ali Akbar Salehi, told the semiofficial IRNA news agency. His injured colleague, Fereydoon Abbasi, is believed to be even more important; he is on the U.N. Security Council's

sanctions list for ties to the Iranian nuclear effort.

President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad said that "undoubtedly the hand of the Zionist regime and Western governments is involved" in the attacks. He also publicly acknowledged, apparently for the first time, that the country's nuclear program had been disrupted recently by malicious computer software that attacked its centrifuges.

The two scientists are among the most prominent in the Iranian nuclear world, and the brazen daylight attacks on them seemed certain to worsen tensions over the country's controversial uranium enrichment efforts.

Israel and the United States have often signaled that they will not tolerate a nuclear Iran. Neither has

acknowledged pursuing sabotage or assassinations there, but both are widely believed to be pursuing ways to undermine the country's nuclear program short of bombing reactor sites, including damaging the centrifuges to slow down the production of enriched uranium.

Philip Crowley, the State Department spokesman, did not address the Iranian accusations in detail.

"All I can say is we decry acts of terrorism wherever they occur and beyond that, we do not have any information on what happened," he said.

Diplomatic efforts to stop the Iranian nuclear program appear to have failed, and this year the United Nations and Western powers imposed a new, tougher round of sanctions.

# In U.S. terrorism sting operations, questions of entrapment

By Eric Schmitt  
and Charlie Savage  
THE NEW YORK TIMES

WASHINGTON — The arrest Friday of a Somali-born teenager who is accused of trying to detonate a car bomb at a crowded Christmas tree-lighting ceremony in Portland, Ore., has again thrown a spotlight on the government's use of sting operations to capture terrorism suspects.

Some defense lawyers and civil rights advocates said the government's tactics, particularly since the attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, have raised

questions about the possible entrapment of people who pose no real danger but are enticed into pretend plots at the government's urging.

But law enforcement officials said Monday that agents and prosecutors had carefully planned the tactics used in the undercover operation that led to the arrest of the Somali-born teenager, Mohamed Osman Mohamud, 19, a naturalized U.S. citizen. They said that Mohamud was given several opportunities to vent his anger in ways that would not be deadly, but that he refused each time.

"I am confident that there is no entrapment here, and no entrapment claim will be found to be successful," Attorney General Eric H. Holder Jr. said Monday.

Holder called the sting operation, in which Mohamud was under the scrutiny of federal agents for nearly six months, "part of a forward-leaning way in which the Justice Department, the FBI, our law enforcement partners at the state and local level are trying to find people who are bound and determined to harm Americans and American interests around the world."

# Climate change talks begin with modest expectations

WASHINGTON — Global talks on climate change opened in Cancun, Mexico, on Monday with the toughest issues unresolved and little expectation of a breakthrough on shaping an international treaty to curb emissions of the heat-trapping gases linked to global warming.

But some who attended the meetings, sponsored by the United Nations, expressed muted hope that small steps could be made on a decades-long journey to reduce the planetary threat of rising global temperatures.

This year's talks come at a low point for global climate diplomacy. Last year, more than 100 heads of state gathered with hopes of fashioning a binding treaty to address global warming. A year later, midlevel envoys are trickling into a Mexican resort with hopes, at best, of averting disaster.

Still, leaders expressed belief that the U.N. remained the best, if not the only, place to address a problem that will require a global solution.

—John M. Broder, *The New York Times*

# Comcast fee ignites fight over videos on internet

Level 3 Communications, a central partner in the Netflix online movie service, accused Comcast on Monday of charging a new fee that puts Internet video companies at a competitive disadvantage.

Level 3, which delivers the Netflix streams of movies, said Comcast had erected a tollbooth that "threatens the open Internet," and indicated that it would seek government action on the issue.

Comcast quickly denied that the clash had anything to do with network neutrality, instead calling it "a simple commercial dispute."

The clash highlighted the growing importance of Internet video delivery — an area that some people say needs to be monitored more closely by government regulators. Net neutrality, which posits that Internet traffic should be free of any interference from network operators like Comcast, is thought to be on the December agenda of the Federal Communications Commission.

—Brian Stelter, *The New York Times*

# Google said to be bidding for Groupon, site for daily deals

Google is prepared to pay \$5 billion to \$6 billion for Groupon, the daily deals site, people familiar with the deal said Monday.

A deal could be struck as soon as this week, these people said, cautioning that the talks still could fall apart.

At that price, Groupon would be the largest acquisition ever for Google. The deal would make Google the market leader in the fast-growing arena of locally tailored discounts.

—Evelyn M. Rusli and Claire Cain Miller, *The New York Times*

## MIT Entrepreneurship CENTER

### GRADUATE ENTREPRENEURIAL COURSE HIGHLIGHTS - FALL 2010

#### 15.390 New Enterprises

Covers the process of identifying and quantifying market opportunities, then conceptualizing, planning, and starting a new, technology-based enterprise. Topics include opportunity assessment, the value proposition, the entrepreneur, legal issues, entrepreneurial ethics, the business plan, the founding team, seeking customers and raising funds. Students develop detailed business plans for a start-up. MW2.30-4 (E62-276) or MW4-5.30 (4-163)

#### 10.807/15.371 Innovation Teams

i-Teams, (short for "Innovation Teams") is a unique MIT course that assembles cross-disciplinary teams of students from across MIT. The goal of i-Teams is to teach students the process of science and technology commercialization focusing on how to judge a technology's commercial potential. Each team has access to faculty, practitioners, business mentors, and fellow students throughout their project. **Lecture:** MW EVE (5.30-8 PM) (32-124)

#### 15.399 Entrepreneurship Lab

Teams of science, engineering, and management students participate actively one day a week on-site with the top management of high tech start-ups in order to gain experience in starting and running a new venture. Student projects focus on one urgent aspect of the start-up, such as selection of target market, design of market-entry strategy, choice of sales approach to initial customers, etc. **Lecture:** T EVE (6-9 PM) (E51-325)

#### Other Available Course Offerings

15.356 H1 How to Develop Breakthrough Products	15.358 The Business of Software and Digital Platforms	15.363J/HST.971J Strategic Decision Making in the Biomedical Business
15.365/ESD.58J Disruptive Technologies: Predator or Prey	15.376J Media Lab Enterprises: Digital Innovations	15.387 H1 Technology Sales and Sales Management
15.394 A/B Dilemmas in Founding New Ventures	15.396 H2 Complex Sales Organization	15.431 Entrepreneurial Finance
15.615 Basic Business Law for the Entrepreneur and Manager	15.818 Pricing	15.900 Competitive Strategy
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## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## Housemasters are supporting students

I just want to make it known that I am deeply against the letter to the editor by Richard Kramer '75 from the November 23 issue of *The Tech*.

I have been a GRT at Simmons Hall working with John Essigmann and Steven Hall for the past three years, going on four. For an alumnus, who has probably never worked or interacted with John and Steven, to say that these people are mere cattle drivers and puppets of the administration is not only an insult to them and the students in the dorms, but to MIT as a whole.

I honestly cannot think of any other MIT faculty that are more dedicated to their students and their students' well

being. Although John and Steven both have busy schedules doing research, they spend countless hours enriching the lives of students.

Whether they interact with the students individually in the halls, at one of their (nearly) weekly study breaks, or at one of the (nearly) weekly residential scholar events, they always make sure to listen to the students and treat them with utmost respect.

There hasn't been a single house team meeting that I have been to in the last 3.5 years in which the housemasters made any decision that was to the detriment of the students and their livelihood. Their decisions are based on years of experience as housemasters and always put the well being of the students first.

I would say that John and Ellen Essigmann and Steven Hall are exactly the kind of people that MIT should hire as

housemasters and that MIT would be hard pressed to find people as great and caring as them.

Patrick R. Schmid G  
Simmons Hall GRT

## Scary new statue

The new student center sculpture, "Math Man in the Fetal Position," is very insensitive to students. At this time of year, when school related stress can be so overwhelming, students need to be consoled by the art around campus, not mocked by it. Not one more student should have to kneel in front of this snowy Goliath in the quiet darkness of 3 a.m., crying silently to himself and questioning the decisions that got him to this point.

David A. Brescia '11

## GUEST COLUMN

A balanced perspective on dining  
Professor suggests evolutionary changes to the new plan

By Alex H. Slocum

As a long time community member I respectfully ask the community to pretty please consider the following with regard to dining plans at MIT:

## Observations

- Dining Plan based living groups effectively receive an annual subsidy of about many \$100k. This is neither sustainable nor fair to kitchen based living groups.

- Many students dine out several times a week (often for free) at other non-dorm living groups, professional events (recruiting), department events, student activities events...

- The Night Café in Simmons works quite well and appears to be profitable.

- To require 7 breakfasts and 7 dinners in four dorms costs more than many students are willing to pay.

- Two thousand students have signed a petition against the current dining plan!

- Nevertheless, many parents (and students) want a dining plan.

## Hypotheses

- A fair and sustainable dining plan must be implemented, and can be a "win" for Dining and Kitchen-based living groups.

- Cultures will not be adversely impacted by a dining plan if students are better able to select the ideal living group.

- This can be facilitated if *all* living

groups create culture guides (e.g., MIT-Google search "dorm culture report", and see for example [http://web.mit.edu/ec/www/pub/East\\_Campus\\_Culture\\_Report\\_2008.pdf](http://web.mit.edu/ec/www/pub/East_Campus_Culture_Report_2008.pdf)).

- The increased cost of a dining plan could be partially offset by increased diet quality, community value of eating together, and adjustments to the financial aid program.

- Bold MIT-worthy creative thinking could make things even better.

## Basic experiments

- Evolve the proposed dining plan and work within the dining plan community to address financial, transfer/relocation, and other issues as needed.

- Evolution step 1: 14, 12, 10, or 8 meals per week options should be available to *all*. Students should sign up in the Spring semester for the following year.

- Evolution step 2: Provide dinner in the 4 dining dorms but breakfast in just two and "Night Cafés" and in at least the other two dorms.

- Upgrade kitchens and facilities in the kitchen-based dorms

## MIT-worthy experiments

- A new interschool department "Culinary Arts" should be created where the MIT Chefs who cook at night teach by day the art, science, and history of cooking (watch out Alton Brown!)

- This could be a "Freshman Experience" course.

- Look at the magnificent potential, beyond just cooking and eating, that the culinary arts can inspire (e.g., Ratatouille, Emeril Lagasse, and Alton Brown). If just one such script is created in the class, it could fund dining at MIT for a long time!

- Consider a variant of Safeway's corporate health plan: everyone pays the basic health insurance rate, and then they get rebates for healthy living.

- Students on the dining plan receive rebates based on healthy lifestyles (participation in sports, organized or on their own, and meeting health goals, as determined with their doctor).

## Concluding thoughts

If none of the above can help all parties come together to reach happiness, then I believe we must for at least another year keep the currently practiced dining plan in place, but it must lose far less money, which means prices do need to increase.

*Alexander H. Slocum is the Pappalardo Professor of Mechanical Engineering, Chairman of the Committee on Student Life, Director of the Experimental Study Group, where he is a pasta chef for semi-weekly dinners, a Z-Center frequenter, and a Hawaiian Shirt wearing faculty member. He invites anyone who wants to discuss dining in more detail to go for a walk 'n talk or a run.*



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# In cancer research, a new target: tumors' fuel line

By Andrew Pollack  
THE NEW YORK TIMES

For the last decade cancer drug developers have tried to jam the accelerators that cause tumors to grow. Now they want to block the fuel line.

Cancer cells, because of their rapid growth, have a voracious appetite for glucose, the main nutrient used to generate energy. And tumors often use glucose differently from healthy cells, an observation first made by a German biochemist in the 1920s.

That observation is already used to detect tumors in the body using PET scans. A radioactive form of glucose is injected into the bloodstream and accumulates in tumors, lighting up the scans.

Now, efforts are turning from diagnosis to treating the disease by disrupting the special metabolism of cancer cells to deprive them of energy.

The main research strategy of the last decade has involved so-called targeted therapies, which interfere with genetic signals that act like accelerators, causing tumors to grow. But there tend to be redundant accelerators, so blocking only one with a drug is usually not enough.

In theory, however, depriving tumors of energy should render all the accelerators ineffective.

"The accelerators still need the fuel source," said Dr. Chi Dang, a professor of medicine and oncology at Johns Hopkins University. Indeed, he said, recent discoveries show that the genetic growth signals often work by influencing cancer cells' metabolism.

The efforts to exploit cancer's sweet tooth are in their infancy, with few drugs in clinical trials. But interest is growing among pharmaceutical companies and academic researchers.

One factor spurring interest in cancer metabolism is the intriguing interplay between cancer and diabetes, a metabolic disease marked by high levels of blood glucose. The possible link between the two great scourges has garnered so much attention that the American Cancer Society and the American Diabetes Association jointly published a consensus statement this summer summarizing the evidence.

People with Type 2 diabetes tend to have a higher risk of getting certain cancers. And preliminary evidence suggests that metformin, the most widely used diabetes pill, might be effective in treating or preventing cancer.

It is still not clear if high blood glucose is the reason diabetics have a higher cancer risk. A more likely explanation is that people with Type 2 diabetes have high levels of insulin, a hormone that is known to promote growth of certain tumors, according to the consensus statement.

Similarly, metformin might fight cancer by lowering insulin levels, not blood sugar levels. But there is some evidence that the drug works in part by inhibiting glucose metabolism in cancer cells.

Even if blood sugar levels fuel

tumor growth, however, experts say that trying to lower the body's overall level of blood sugar — like by starving oneself — would probably not be effective. That is because, at least for people without diabetes, the body is very good at maintaining a certain blood glucose level despite fluctuations in diet.

"When a patient with cancer is calorically restricted, the amount of glucose in the blood until they are almost dead is close to normal," said Dr. Michael Pollak, professor of medicine and oncology at McGill University in Montreal. Also, Pollak said, tumors are adept at extracting glucose from the blood. So even if glucose is scarce, he said, "the last surviving cell in the body would be the tumor cell."

So efforts are focusing not on reducing the body's overall glucose level but on interfering specifically with how tumors use glucose.

This gets to the Warburg effect, named after Otto Warburg, the German biochemist and Nobel Prize winner who first noticed the particular metabolism of tumors in the 1920s.

Most healthy cells primarily burn glucose in the presence of oxygen to generate ATP, a chemical that serves as a cell's energy source. But when oxygen is low, glucose can be turned into energy by another process, called glycolysis, which produces lactic acid as a byproduct. Muscles undergoing strenuous exercise use glycolysis, with the resultant buildup of lactic acid.

What Warburg noticed was that tumors tended to use glycolysis even when oxygen was present. This is puzzling because glycolysis is far less efficient at creating ATP.

One theory is that cancer cells need raw materials to build new cells as much as they need ATP. And glycolysis can help provide those building blocks.

"You can have energy that turns on the lights in your house, but that energy can't build anything," said Matthew G. Vander Heiden, assistant professor of biology at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Still, as with everything else about cancer, metabolism is complex. Not all tumor cells use glycolysis, and some normal cells do. So it could be challenging to develop drugs that can hurt tumors but not normal cells.

Two early efforts by a company called Threshold Pharmaceuticals to interfere with glucose metabolism did not work well in clinical trials. One of Threshold's drugs, called 2DG, is the same form of glucose used in PET imaging, but without the radioactivity. Because of a slight chemical modification, this form of glucose cannot be metabolized by cells, so it accumulates.

But much less 2DG buildup is needed to spot a tumor on a scan than to destroy it by gumming up its works. Large amounts of the drug were needed because 2DG lasted only a short time in the body and because it had to compete with the natural glucose that is abundant in

the bloodstream.

Efforts have not ended, however. Waldemar Priebe, a professor of medicinal chemistry at the M.D. Anderson Cancer Center, said he had developed a way to deliver up to 10 times as much 2DG to a tumor. It has been licensed to a startup called Intertech Bio.

The other Threshold drug, glufosfamide, consisted of glucose linked to a standard chemotherapy agent. The idea was that, as with the Trojan horse, the tumors would eagerly ingest the glucose only to then be poisoned.

In a late-stage clinical trial involving more than 300 patients with advanced pancreatic cancer, glufosfamide prolonged lives compared with no treatment, but not by a statistically significant amount.

A new company, Eleison Pharmaceuticals, plans to repeat the trial. Dr. Forrest Anthony, Eleison's chief medical officer, said the original trial would have succeeded had it excluded 43 diabetics who were taking insulin, which is known to impede PET scanning for tumors. Insulin "sends glucose into skeletal muscle and fat tissue and away from the cancer," he said.

Many other companies and scientists are trying to develop drugs that inhibit enzymes — for example, pyruvate kinase M2, involved in tumor metabolism.

Yet another approach is not to starve a tumor of energy but to give it more energy, and that is the idea behind a substance called dichloroacetate, or DCA. Dr. Evangelos Michalakis of the University of Alberta, who came up with the idea, says there is a mechanism by which cells that become defective can commit suicide for the greater good of the body.

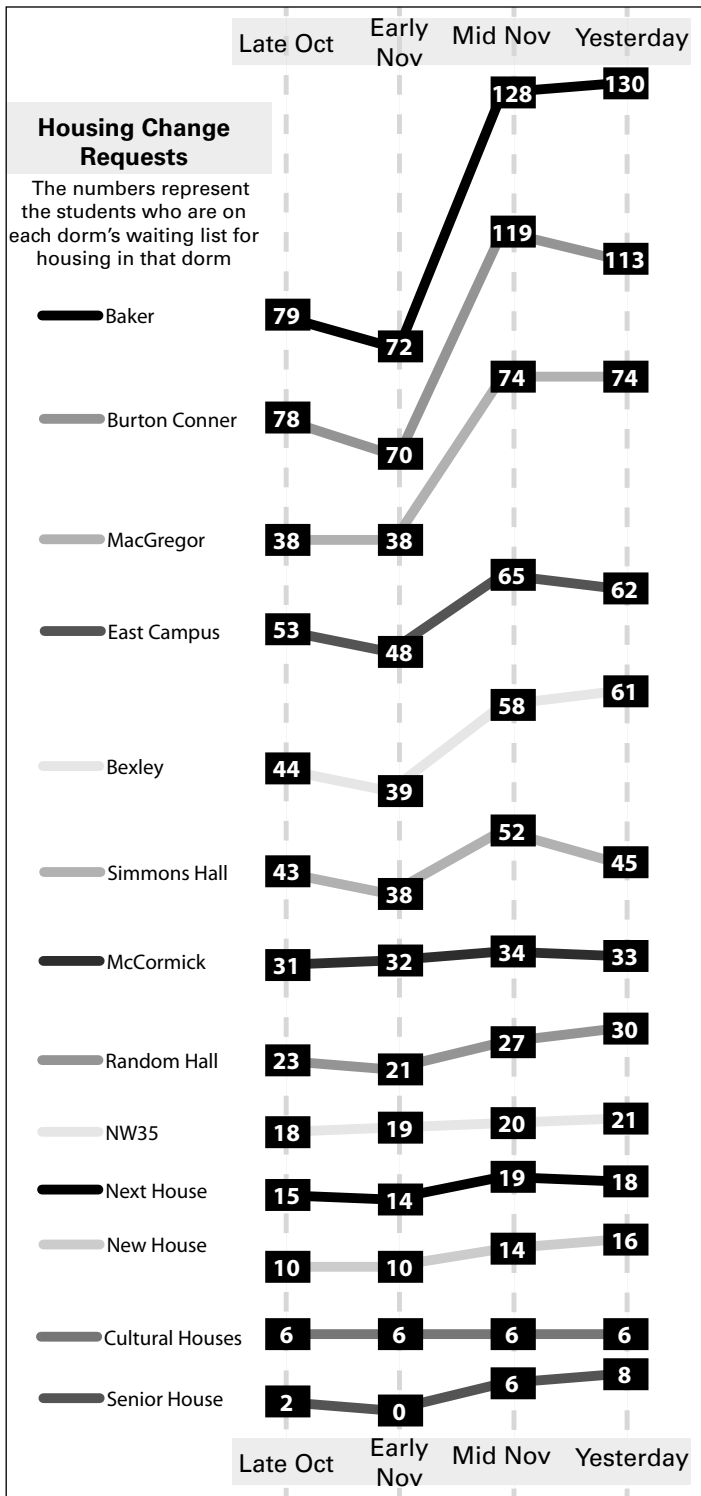
But cancer cells usually do not kill themselves. Michalakis says this could be because they lack sufficient energy.

DCA, a simple chemical that is formed in small quantities when drinking water is chlorinated, has long been used to treat certain rare diseases in which lactic acid builds up in the body. DCA inhibits an enzyme called pyruvate dehydrogenase kinase. The effect of that inhibition is to move metabolism away from lactic acid-producing glycolysis and toward more normal oxidation of glucose in the mitochondria, the energy factories of the cell.

In 2007, Michalakis and colleagues published a paper showing that DCA, when put in drinking water, could slow the growth of human lung tumors implanted into rats. It seemed the DCA did not affect normal cells.

Since DCA is not a novel compound, it cannot be patented, making it unlikely a pharmaceutical company would pay for clinical trials. So Michalakis has been raising money from foundations and governments to conduct larger clinical trials.

"We have only assumptions and theoretical excitement," Michalakis said. Still, he added, "there's no question that this is a new direction that is logical and very appealing."



The above data is up-to-date and taken from the MIT Housing website. The data includes students moving into dorms from off-campus.

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## Tech's MLI

By The Tech Sports staff

rain the MLB Postseason. In the American League Division Series against Minnesota with their opponents, the Texas Rangers, record me 5 against the Tampa Bay. In the National League, the Philadelphia Phillies swept including a ho-hitter by Roy Halladay. The series against Atlanta in which every game will claim their league pennant and Staff weigh in with department bragoin

Can you find the typo? (Answer is below)

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"ho-hitter" in the second line of the second paragraph should be "no-hitter"

# Some students still find revised dining plan lacking

*Baker president resigns from HDAG, encourages students to sign SayNo petition online*

Dining, from Page 1

perclassmen the option to purchase cheaper plans will ease the transition into the new dining system.

"We're offering the transition plan that will allow dorm cultures to stay intact," Humphreys said. "The flexibility of the plan takes into account students' busy schedules and will give more options if they were considering moving out."

But some students complain that the essence of the new plan has not changed. "DSL administrators seem more concerned with winning this battle against the students, than with creating a good dining plan. The new option offered today reflects this, and it does nothing to solve the underlying problems with the plan or address the concerns of freshmen and future underclassmen," Baker president Andy Wu '11 said in an e-mail to Baker House and the Undergraduate Association last night. In that same e-mail, Wu announced his resignation from the House Dining Advisory Group.

Tom Gearty, director of communications for the Division of Student Life, said the new plan does not mean the end of community at FSILGs and off-campus dorms. "We can improve community in the house dining system without working to the detriment of the other communities with concerns. You're MIT students — if anyone can adapt and innovate, it's this community."

Some worry that mandatory dining will discourage pledges still living in dorms from eating dinner at their fraternities. Gearty said, "Can it have an impact? Possibly yes. We will have to go into discussion about how to mitigate it. We won't know until we put the plan into place and we'll try to accommodate the concerns as we move forward."

Hon believes that students will not be satisfied with the transition plan. "It's inclusion surprised us in that the transition plan isn't even that attractive to students in dining dorms right now," he said.

Hon also cited concerns about lack of transparency in the process of formulating the new dining plan.

"We're concerned with HDAG's attitudes

The Revised Dining Plan								
	<b>Transition plan</b>	<b>Basic plans</b>			<b>Maseeh flexible lunch plans</b>			
	Available only to the classes of 2012 and 2013	Set number of weekly breakfasts and dinners. Required for residents of Baker, McCormick, Next, Simmons (excluding classes of 2012 and 2013)			Set number of meals per week, which can be used on breakfast, brunch, lunch (at Maseeh Hall), or dinner. Required for Maseeh Hall residents.			
	<b>7 meal plan</b>	<b>10 meal plan</b>	<b>12 meal plan</b>	<b>14 meal plan</b>	<b>10 meal plan</b>	<b>12 meal plan</b>	<b>14 meal plan</b>	<b>19 meal plan</b>
Annual price	\$2500 per year	\$2900 per year	\$3400 per year	\$3800 per year	\$3375 per year	\$3875 per year	\$4300 per year	\$4500 per year
Price per meal	\$11.90 per meal	\$9.67 per meal	\$9.44 per meal	\$9.05 per meal	\$11.25 per meal	\$10.76 per meal	\$10.24 per meal	\$7.90 per meal
Meal allocation	Any 7 meals (breakfast, brunch, lunch, or dinner)	• 5 breakfast or brunch • 5 dinner	• 6 breakfast or brunch • 6 dinner	• 7 breakfast or brunch • 7 dinner	Any 10 meals	Any 12 meals	Any 14 meals	Any 19 meals
Eligible classes	• Juniors • Seniors	• Juniors • Seniors	• Sophomores • Juniors • Seniors	• Freshmen • Sophomores • Juniors • Seniors	• Juniors • Seniors	• Sophomores • Juniors • Seniors	• Sophomores • Juniors • Seniors	• Freshmen • Sophomores • Juniors • Seniors

CONNOR KIRSCHBAUM

that certain concerns will be addressed as time passes on. All these issues should have been vetted thoroughly during the process that happened last year. We want the commitment from administration that everything is on the table, without the basic restrictive fundamental assertions that got us to our current proposed dining plan," he said.

Both Wu and Hon urged students to continue protesting the dining plan. In his e-mail, Wu asked Bakerites to sign the SayNo petition, while Hon asked students to e-mail Dean Colombo their opinions on the revised plan. The letters were copied to *The Tech*. As of Monday

midnight, there were 41 e-mails, all of them in opposition to the proposed plan, and several sent from parents of students.

Hon sees the changes as a small, if unsatisfactory step forward.

"One positive message that comes out of this announcement, however, is the acknowledgement by HDAG and Colombo that the plan can be revised, which contradicts their earlier assertion that there is no room for changes," Hon said. "These revisions, though minimal, show that the process of settling on MIT's new dining plan is still ongoing and that the overwhelming student outcry is having an effect."

Humphreys told *The Tech*, however, in both an interview and e-mail correspondence that the structure of the plans is now final. Future changes would only involve other minor adjustments, "such as hours of operation and food options for residents who have particular dietary, religious or personal needs."

Humphreys sees the new plan as a return to form for MIT. "Twenty years ago, MIT had a meal plan, and for the past twenty years, people have been experimenting with various plans, none of which have worked. This new system will at last provide quality food and nutrition, benefiting the MIT community."

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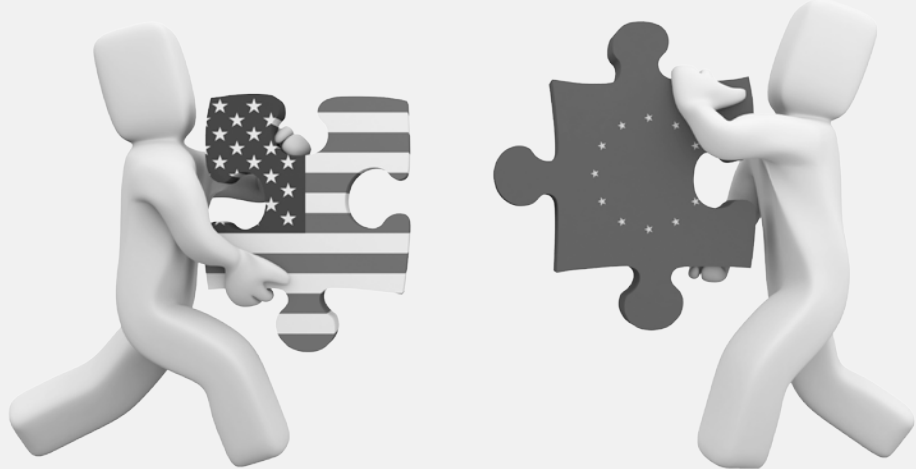
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## Commencement speakers get no pay

**Commencement**, from Page 1

and really embodies what MIT is about."

The student representatives responsible for compiling student input include UA president Vrajesh Y. Modi '11, Class 2011 President Anshul Bhagi '11, and former GSC president Gleb M. Akselrod G and current GSC president Ulric J. Ferner G.

Ferner said, "It is appropriate and fantastic that someone who has a link and supports MIT is speaking at the University's 150th Anniversary."

Bhagi said that Burns' leadership and success as an engineer makes her a good choice as the commencement speaker.

According to Bean, one of the main focuses of Burns' speech will be acknowledging that we are all "fortunate to come to MIT and remembering we didn't do this by ourselves." Bean said Burns wants to emphasize "We are fortunate to have talent, financial support, and family support. It's our chance to improve the world. We should use the talent gained from MIT and not waste it."

As the 2011 speaker, Burns will follow in suit of Corporation members such as 2010 speaker Raymond S. Stata '57, 2009 speaker Governor Deval Patrick, and 2007 speaker and former MIT president Charles M. Vest.

### Choosing a speaker

According to the MIT Commencement website, some of the responsibilities the Corporation and its committees hold are "reviewing and providing guidance on strategic directions, approving annual budgets, electing the President (as well as the other Corporation officers), and being available (individually as well as collectively) to advise the President on issues that he/she may wish to raise with them."

According to Gallagher, "In May following elections, student leadership solicits feedback from their constituents. Once compiled we meet to review all of the suggestions and to prepare a list of names for the President." Grimson said a short list "10 to 12 names are usually recommended unranked" after extensive discussion on each nominee.

Ferner said that students are invited to submit up to three names for speakers and every nominee that has more than one nomination is discussed in length. Ferner also noted in the case of graduate students, there was "a bias towards speakers from technical and research backgrounds."

Student members of the Commencement Committee said they were pleased with the overall process, and the level of student input.

Ferner said that he was particularly "impressed and happy with how proactive administration is in seeking student input."

Bhagi said, "It is easy to think students should pick the name for a speaker, but everyone needs their voice and opinion heard."

Grimson said, "Hockfield takes the list seriously and gives all input great consideration." According to Grimson, there has been frequent overlap in this list and the chosen speakers in previous years.

Grimson added that MIT tends to exclude "entertainers" as it is an "honor to speak at MIT." According to Grimson, although MIT does pay expenses and provides a small unique gift to speakers, the Institute does not provide monetary compensation like some other colleges.

Grimson said that it is rare for nominees to turn down the invitation for lack of a speaking fee.

MIT does not offer honorary degrees to its commencement speakers for similar reasons. "MIT students put four years of incredible hard work into earning their degrees. It doesn't feel right to just give one away," Grimson said.

## Vendors close up early

*Water outage shuts down Student Center on Mon.*

**W20 closing**, from Page 1

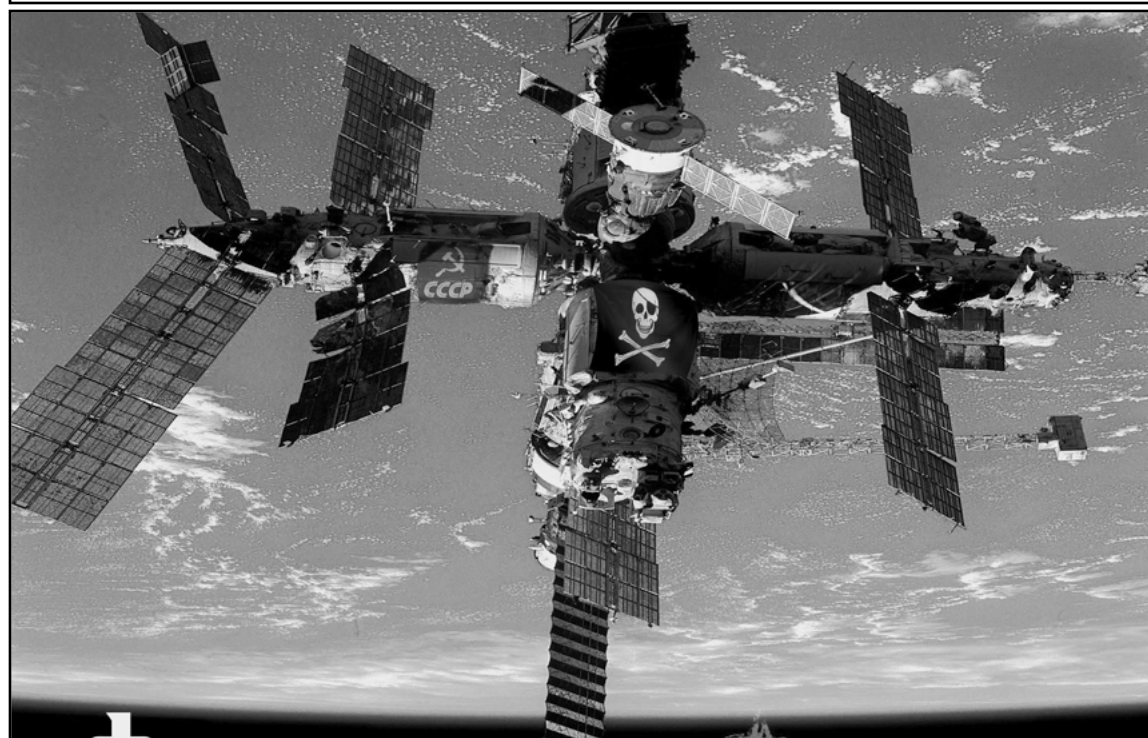
why the building, which is typically open around the clock, needed to close at night after it had already been open during the day without any running water.

Around 10 p.m., groups of students gathered in front of LaVerde's Market only to be turned away by an employee who told them that because the building was closing, LaVerde's was closing also. At Anna's Taqueria, an employee said their manager had brought

in bottled water for the food, and employees were resorting to using hand sanitizer instead of soap and water.

Students working in the 5th floor Athena cluster and reading room were forced to leave the building as well. Andrew Chen '11 was one of those students affected by the closing. "It's a little annoying because I was planning on working here." He added, "It would be more annoying if I had more work."

*John A. Hawkinson contributed reporting to this article.*



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Nina, Course 3	Maggie, Course 10	Jack, Course 19
Jenny, Course 4	Vince, Course 12	Aislyn, Course 20
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served in high leadership positions since 1975. *Business Week* selected Kresa as one of the nation's top 25 managers in 2001, and in 2002 *Forbes* magazine named Northrop Grumman its company of the year. Kresa has received many of the industry's and the government's most prestigious honors for his contributions to aviation and space technology. He is a member of the National Academy of Engineering, the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, the past chairman of the Board of Governors of the Aerospace Industries Association, and chairman of the Board of Advisors at MIT Lincoln Lab. During his participation on the board of the General Motors Corporation, he was appointed interim board chair by the Obama administration in 2009.

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MIT  ENGINEERING



# Fencing teams kick off season with home wins

*Levine and Kozminsky stood out at MIT tourney where women won 5-1, men 3-2*

By David Zhu  
SPORTS EDITOR

On November 20, the men's and women's fencing teams hosted their first tournament of the season. They faced off against the University of New Hampshire, Brandeis, Boston University, Wellesley, UMass, and Sacred Heart. The men finished the day 3-2, defeating UNH, BU, and UMass, while the women finished 5-1, defeating every opponent but Wellesley.

Each team in the tournament competed round robin, meaning each team faced each other head-to-head. Three fencers on each team faced all three fencers on the opposing team for a total of 9 matches. This was repeated with all three weapons for a total of 27 individual fencing matches. The team with 14 or more individual match wins out of the 27 was declared the winner.

An individual match is won by scoring 5 "touches." How a touch is scored depends on the type of weapon used. In a foil match, a touch is given by striking the opponent with the point of the blade. Only the torso is the target area, and touches are awarded based on "right-of-way," meaning the advantage is given to the person who strikes first. In a saber match, the entire upper body (with the exception of the hands) is a valid target, and right of way is also given. Unlike foil, a touch can also be given by striking the opponent with the side of the blade in a cutting motion. Lastly, in an epee match, the entire body is a valid target, there is no right-of-way awarded, but a touch can only be scored with the point of

the blade. Scoring is determined with the use of electrified weapons, and conductive target areas. Each fencer is attached to a cord on a reel which coils and uncoils along with their motions. This cord delivers power to both the weapon and the conducting plates on the fencer's suit. Each weapon requires a varying amount of force and touch duration to register a touch.

**The fencers violently lunge at each other, parry each other's blows, and expertly dodge attacks...**

Watching an individual fencing match is like watching any other individual combat sport, but with more intricate motions. The fencers violently lunge at each other, parry each other's blows, and expertly dodge each other's attacks. This is all done in the confines of a 1.8 meter wide, 14 meter long area called the strip, which fencers are penalized for stepping outside of. The best way to describe a fencing match is a combination of boxing, Aikido, ballroom dancing, and electrified medieval weaponry.

Standout performances for the engineers included Daniel S. Levine '12, who won 11 of 15 matches for the men's foil, and Molly A. Kozminsky '12, who won all 18 of her matches. The Engineers have one more match before Winter Break on December 5, then resume competition next semester.

## UPCOMING HOME EVENTS

**Tuesday, November 30**

Men's basketball vs. Emerson College

7 p.m., Rockwell Cage

**Thursday, December 2**

Men's basketball vs. Newbury College

7 p.m., Rockwell Cage

## Women's basketball wins 64-32 over Fisher College

*Engineers get 24 points off the bench, and defense allows lowest point total in ten years*

By Mindy Brauer  
DAPER STAFF

Freshman Tamara R. Pena's 10 points, 10 rebounds, three assists, and three steals helped power the MIT women's basketball team to a 64-32 victory over non-conference foe Fisher College on Saturday afternoon. Winners of three straight games, the Engineers (3-2) surrendered the program's fewest points in a game since the 2000-2001 season and saw their percentage of bench scoring during the streak move to 43 percent.

In the beginning of the game, baskets by Anna L. Merrifield '13 and Pena gave MIT a slim lead of 4-3. Following almost two minutes of scoreless play, a put-back and free throw from Lauren S. Burton '13 ignited a 26-5 run which resulted in a 30-10 advantage for the Engineers.

MIT maintained its comfortable margin as its lead eventually grew to 35 points (55-20) with 8:48 left to play. The Engineers closed their scoring with seven

points.

Merrifield posted 11 points, including a 9-of-10 performance at the free throw line, to go along with five rebounds, two assists, one steal, and a block. Coming off the bench, Rachel A. Hunt '14 recorded 11 points, five boards, and two blocks

**MIT maintained its comfortable margin as its lead eventually grew to 35 points with 8:48 left to play**

while Kristen E. Whaley '11 grabbed 10 rebounds. Burton tallied seven boards, five points, and five assists and Marissa A. Good '12, Rebecca Odum '13, and Sydney B. Beasley '14 each scored seven points.

MIT kicks off New England Women's and Men's Athletic Conference (NEW-MAC) play on Tuesday, Nov. 30 at the U.S. Coast Guard Academy.

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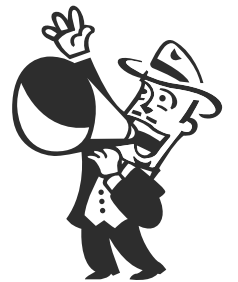
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