



DAVID M. TEMPLETON—THE TECH

Crowds gather in Lobby 7 to view the beginning ceremony of the 2011 Mystery Hunt. Codex Alimentarius won this year's hunt in 42 hours.

## Codex wins Hunt in 42 hours

### Annual Mystery Hunt based on video game theme

By Evan Moore  
STAFF REPORTER

Disaster interrupted the wedding of Mario and Princess Peach. Guests watched as Princess Peach was kidnapped by Bowser, they then went into teams to solve the Mystery Hunt puzzles to help Mario find Peach

and, in turn, to win the Hunt. After almost 42 hours of grueling puzzle solving, team Codex Alimentarius (Codex) beat the other teams to rescue Peach at 5:58am on Sunday, finding the coveted Mystery Hunt "coin" (Peach's captive friend) and winning the 2011 MIT Mystery Hunt as well as the right to design

next year's contest. Metaphysical Plant, last year's Hunt winners (and the 2005 winners), designed and organized this year's video game-themed Hunt. Codex hunted this year with approximately 60 people solving on

Hunt, Page 11

## Allocations jump 37%

### Two allocation cycles take effect in spring

By Jiyeon Baek  
STAFF REPORTER

The UA Finance Board's IAP/Spring 2011 budget allocation for student groups increased 37 percent from 2010. This increase is not due to more available funds but owes to a larger over-allocation percentage in the Finboard budget. The over-allocation percentage, which is the percent Finboard gives over its available funds in the apprehension that some will not be spent, was previously set at 10 percent during the 2009-2010 year. It rose to 30 percent in Fall 2010 and then to 40 percent in Spring 2011.

According to UA Senator Rachel Meyer '11, the over-allocation percentage was increased because previous data indicated that groups won't spend all the money given to them. Even if groups do spend all their allocated money, the difference could be covered by reserve or rollover funds from previous semesters.

The groups receiving the most funding this IAP/Spring term are

Habit for Humanity, Association of Puerto Rican Students, and Chinese Student's Club. Habitat for Humanity and Chinese Student's Club were also among the top ten groups to receive most funding for the IAP/Spring 2010 cycle.

Javier E. Ramos '12, treasurer of the Association of Puerto Rican Students, said that his group received more funding this semester because they were more involved in finboard office hours and finboard in general. Ramos also noted that his group did every activity it budgeted for last semester.

According to the UA Finboard Chair Cynthia A. Boulbrick '11, Finboard members inspect and discuss every group's budget defense, which details the reasons for a group's financial request. Finboard assigns and approves funding numbers to each student group. The budget allocations are then sent to the UA Senate for further approval. For better funding approval from the UA, student organizations are

Finboard, Page 9

### IN SHORT

**MIT's Town Gown Report** for 2010, detailing interactions with the City and future building plans, was released in December. See <http://cambridgema.gov/cdd/cp/tg/>.

**National Penguin Day** is today. See how many penguins you can find in this issue.

Ellen B. McIsaac '12 resigned as

UA Treasurer on Jan. 12.

**Cambridge plans a study** on Kendall Square, Central Square, and space in between, p. 9.

**The MIT Faculty Newsletter** from Nov./Dec. has some great articles. See our summary, p. 9.

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

## Maseeh starts accepting applications

### Phoenix Group to assist in selecting newest dorm's next occupants

By Deborah L. Chen  
STAFF REPORTER

Maseeh Hall (W1), MIT's newly renovated undergraduate dorm, is now open for transfer applications. Current students who wish

to move to Maseeh Hall must complete a short online application posted yesterday afternoon. Members of the Phoenix Group, undergraduates who committed to living in Maseeh Hall when they came to MIT and who are cur-

rently housed at the graduate residence Ashdown House (NW35), and Phoenix Group social members, who do not live at NW35 but participate informally in the com-

Maseeh, Page 9



SAM RANGE—THE TECH

In celebration of Wikipedia's tenth birthday, hackers installed a suspended globe of puzzle pieces, modeled after the online encyclopedia's logo, in Lobby 7. Wikipedia's logo, used since 2003, is an incomplete puzzle composed of pieces bearing characters from various languages.

## Malfunctioning AEDs in Bldgs. 16 & 4 fixed

Two Automated External Defibrillator (AED) machines, one in Building 16 and one in Building 4, were out of order for a month starting in the middle of December. By Jan. 16, both machines were deemed fully functional.

In addition to functioning as defibrillators, MIT's AED boxes are designed to sound an alarm upon being opened and place a phone call with the location of the machine to MIT Police. During the time that the two machines were nonfunctional, they were still able to perform defibrillation, but did not alarm upon being opened or call the MIT Police.

At the end of December, police discovered the AED machine in Building 16 missing and its box lying open. However, police had no record of a call. The machine was mysteriously found in its box three days later, and it is still unknown whether this temporary theft was for a prank or for the expensive equipment.

MIT Facilities and MIT Emergency Medical Services determined that these inactive alarms presented a safety hazard, and the machines were labeled with signs describing them as nonfunctional and directing people towards the nearest functional machines.

Brandon S. Russell G, the Director of Am-

AED, Page 10

### IF MIT STUDENTS MADE POLICY...

Would we have chosen to invade Iraq? Afghanistan? And what would we do about Iran?

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### MY APP ATE MY SUMMER

The trials and tribulations of Android development. **CAMPUS LIFE, p. 6**

### HOLIDAY ON CAMPUS

A postdoc faces the solitude of MIT during Christmas. **CAMPUS LIFE, p. 5**



### DOESN'T JUST STING, IT HURTS

The Green Hornet promised and exciting action-comedy, but failed to deliver either action or comedy.

ARTS, p. 7

### IPOD DESIGN PHILOSOPHY

The true story of the origin of Apple's acclaimed minimalist design philosophy.

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## SURVEY ANALYSIS

# MIT students on military engagements

## No surprises — students want to leave Iran alone, disagree with Iraq

By Ethan A. Solomon  
OPINION EDITOR

Last November, *The Tech* published some of the results of a campus-wide political survey. We asked graduate and undergraduate students about their views on today's most important social, political, and economic issues, and 2,145 people — 20 percent of campus — responded. Here, we present your responses to military engagement questions, particularly concerning the United States' role in the Middle East.

### Most MIT students believe the United States made the wrong decision in choosing to invade Iraq — 70 percent, to be exact.

Iran is a source of perennial concern in Middle East politics. The country has been aggressively pursuing a nuclear energy program, which many governments, including the US, believe to be a build-up to developing nuclear weapons. Some critics have proposed that military intervention would be justified in an effort to prevent Iran from developing a nuclear weapon. We asked what MIT students felt was more important — preventing Iran from developing nuclear weapons, even if it meant taking military action, or avoiding military conflict with Iran, even if it meant the country may develop nuclear weapons. The answer corroborated other data characterizing MIT students as being generally left-leaning: 1,005 students, or about 47 percent of respondents, said avoiding military conflict was more important. About 30 percent said preventing Iran from developing nuclear weapons was more important, even if it meant military conflict. Interestingly, a large contingent of respondents, 480 of them (22 percent), were unsure. In comparison, an October 2009 Pew poll reported that 61 percent of Americans supported military action to prevent nuclear weapon development, which is double

the MIT support for the same response.

Unsurprisingly, most MIT students believe the United States made the wrong decision in choosing to invade Iraq in 2003 — 70 percent, to be exact. Only 323 students in our survey (15 percent) said it was the right decision, and a plurality of those — 37 percent — identified with the Republican Party. Still, about 20 percent of those who agreed with the decision to invade Iraq identified with the Democratic Party (but only 7 percent of Democrats agreed with the decision to invade Iraq). Libertarians who felt it was the wrong decision to invade Iraq outnumbered those who felt it was the right decision by more than three to one. As was the case when considering Iran, almost as many students were “unsure” about the decision to invade Iraq as were those who felt it was right — 308, or roughly 14 percent.

But Afghanistan is a different animal altogether. Approximately 45 percent of students felt it was the right decision to use military force in Afghanistan in 2001, while 32 percent said it was wrong and about 22 percent reported “unsure” or did not answer. According to an August 2010 Pew poll, 52 percent of Americans felt it was the right decision, 38 percent the wrong decision, and only 10 per-

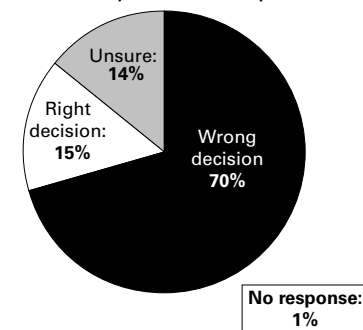
### Forty-five percent of students felt it was the right decision to use military force in Afghanistan, 32 percent said it was wrong.

cent didn't know or declined to answer.

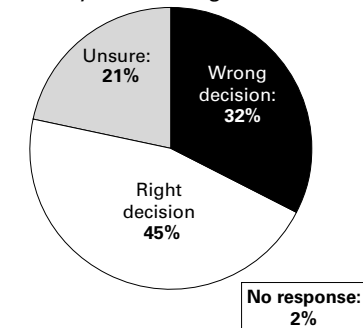
International students at MIT tend to be more cautious about invading other countries. Fifty-six percent of non-U.S. citizens preferred to avoid military conflict with Iran, and 76 percent felt it was wrong to engage in Iraq. Internationals were nearly tied on the Afghanistan question — 42 percent felt it was wrong to invade, and 38 percent felt it was right.

Keep a look out on this page for future survey analysis!

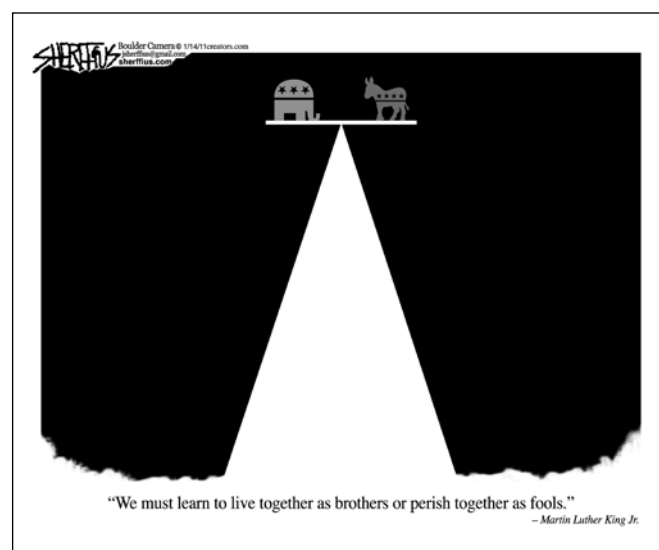
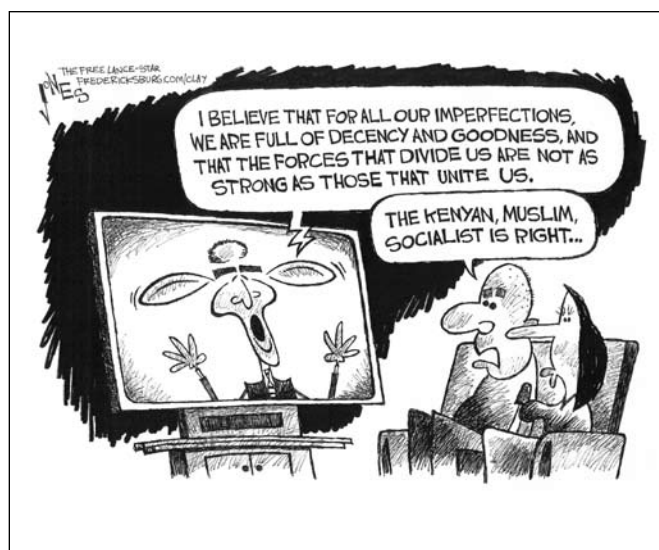
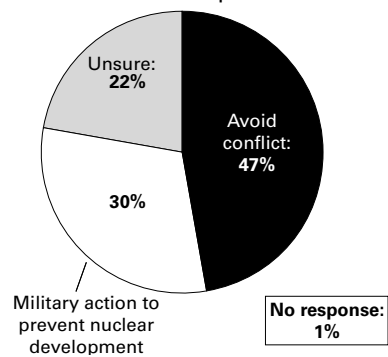
Did the U.S. make the right or wrong decision in using military force in Iraq?



Did the U.S. make the right or wrong decision in using military force in Afghanistan?



Should we use military force to prevent Iranian nuclear development?



## CORRECTIONS

An opinion column published on Jan. 12 about potential G.O.P. candidates for 2012 incorrectly stated that Tim Pawlenty was the current governor of Minnesota. Mark Dayton succeeded Pawlenty as governor on Jan. 3.

## OPINION POLICY

**Editorials** are the official opinion of *The Tech*. They are written by the editorial board, which consists of Chairman Steve Howland, Editor in Chief Jeff Guo, Managing Editor David M. Templeton, Executive Editor Natasha Plotkin, Opinion Editors Joseph Maurer and Ethan Solomon, Advisory Board member Andrew T. Lukmann, and Opinion Staff members Nina Sinatra and Ryan Normandin.

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# A Boston holiday

A postdoc takes a holiday break from tradition

By Aprotim Mazumder

I spent my holidays this year at a place few people on campus saw during break. Some people went home, others went on vacation. I stayed in Cambridge and Boston.

I washed up on these shores in the not-so-distant past from a distant land called India, and as things would have it, I just could not find my way back home this year. Combine that with some stereotypical social ineptitude and maybe even a certain indifference to fellow members of the same species, and you would think I'm one who would not do much for the holidays. "Didn't anyone invite you to Christmas dinner?" a recent acquaintance asked. I responded with forced laughter and a lame-sounding, "Well, most of my friends are out of town; it is nice still," while thinking to myself, "Really, it isn't that much of a disaster!"

Thus dawned Christmas Eve. The energy on campus had been seeping out for a few days as more and more people went home. By this time the Infinite Corridor had assumed the slightly preternatural air of an abandoned monastery, with only the occasional tourist clicking the mandatory photo of the MIT insignia before rushing with a shiver out from the spaces that seem so vast and cold without the people that give this place life.

At this point, despite my stoic nonchalance, the emptiness was beginning

to bother even me. I was thinking of a far-away land, of the warmth of its sun. I was like Sam in *TRON: Legacy* describing the sun to Quorra in the darkness of the Grid: "It's warm ... radiant ... beautiful."

I wanted to get away. So I did an unusual thing: I went to a church and sang carols, which I am loathe to confess because of the clichés of academics having a left-of-center bent and admitting to nothing remotely religious. Yet in India, secularism is a different thing. It does not mean that you celebrate nothing, but rather that you celebrate everything.

**The vision of this bird among the snow seemed to me the very symbol of my Christmas, and made me as happy as all the caroling of the previous evening.**

Unlike Americans, who tend to be polarized about religion, Indians are allowed to be a bit more ambivalent. Irrespective of one's faith, it was typical when I was young for one to know the carols and go to Park Street (a quarter of Calcutta with the last

vestiges of Anglo-Indian culture) and appreciate the lights. I enjoy singing carols, and even without waxing rhapsodic about the epiphanies we experience while singing carols on Christmas Eve, I must say it makes me feel nice, warm, and fuzzy. And here, it makes me feel sort of related to the local culture.

Yet epiphanies do not limit themselves to designated places like churches, temples, magnificent valleys, or images of distant space captured by Hubble. The days before Christmas had seen a light perfumery sprinkling of snow, almost like a delicate Christmas decoration, and some of this dusting was still scattered about the bushes in my neighbor's yard. I was doing something as droll as putting out the garbage on Christmas Day when I heard a loud chirp from my side — there was a bright red cardinal sitting on the dry bushes, looking at me quite unapologetically. I do not know if it is unusual to see these birds at this time of year in Cambridge, but the vision of this bird among the snow seemed to me the very symbol of Christmas and made me as happy as caroling the previous evening had.

Then came the snow. Slow at first, but steady. For a person who has spent most of his life in the tropics, snow possesses a certain novelty. But I seem to love the snow beyond that. The first time it snowed, I put on my heavy black overcoat and went for a walk. Since then, I have discovered that the thing to do when it snows is to put up

a Facebook status like "Snowpocalypse" or "Snowmageddon."

Come Monday, we had ample opportunity to recycle these terms that came into vogue last year. We received 20 inches of snow at once; it really seemed to set the holiday mood. Neighbors who hardly ever meet in everyday life shoved their driveways and passed loud greetings to each other in a festive communal fashion. It was the kind of weather that causes you to shrug and say, "It's New England," and thus display the transatlantic version of the stiff upper lip. Yet snow as far down as South Carolina and Georgia sort of detracts from the undeniable coolness of New England. So I plodded down Hampshire Street with the air of a modern-day Robert Scott, leaving boot marks on the virgin snow, and it did not matter that Hampshire Street was not Antarctica, and thousands of people walk, run, plod, cycle, and drive down its length every day.

Then the days went fast. New Year's Eve found me in New York City where half the known world goes to catch a distant glimpse of a huge ball. I did, too, and ultimately saw the fireworks from the 36th floor of a skyscraper with some friends, and their friends, and their friends, and so on. Everybody in New York seemed to ask me for directions — I attribute it to my long black overcoat and the fact that I naturally walk faster in New York City. And now here I am, rejuvenated from my holidays and braced for a happening year. Thank you, Boston.

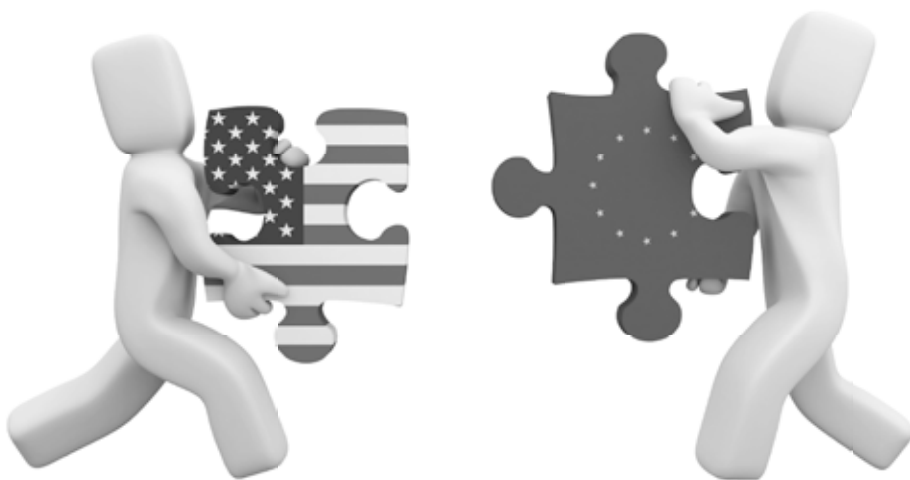
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## SIPB IAP

### Caffeinated Crash Course in Ruby

Fri Jan 21, 6:00pm – 9:00pm 1-115

Ruby was designed to take some of the best ideas from Perl, Python, LISP, and Smalltalk to make programming with it an enjoyable experience.

### Web Programming in Python with Django

Thur Jan 20 7:00 PM -09:00 PM 3-133

The web framework for perfectionists with deadlines, Django lets you access your database with python objects, and comes with both designer-friendly templates, and a convenient admin interface.

### Advanced C

Fri Jan 21 7-9 PM room: 4-237

Learn how to use features you thought were only in higher-level languages like LISP, as well as when and how to get closer to the hardware with inline assembly and gcc-specific features.

### Ham Radio Clue

Wed Jan 19 5:30-7:30pm room: 4-270

Wish you could coordinate with many friends at the same time at an event? All it takes for a license to do this and more is a short exam which any MIT student should be able to pass without much effort. We'll teach you the extra bits you don't already know.

### Developing Debathena

Wed, Fri Jan 19, 21 5:30-10:30pm room: 3-133

### Debathena Hackathon

Sat, Jan 22 1pm- SIPB office (W20-557)

Attend this workshop to learn how to build Debian packages, work with Debathena source repository, and get a behind-the-scenes look at how the Athena environment actually works. Then join us on Saturday for a hackathon to put your newfound skills to use as we work on open Debathena project tasks and perhaps add your favorite features.







# Consultants sought on future of Kendall/Central

## City of Cambridge in process of hiring firm to plan redesign of the two local squares

By John A. Hawkinson  
NEWS EDITOR

The City of Cambridge is seeking to hire a consultant team to run a “comprehensive urban design and planning study for the Central and Kendall Square area.”

Released last Thursday, Cambridge’s request for proposals (RFPs) has already garnered interest from 23 potential bidders, including 16 firms from the greater Boston area and 2 from Toronto.

The project will:

- “Focus on the many current plans that are in varying states of readiness with a view towards creating as much synergy as possible among them.”

- Look for missing opportunities within and between the squares.
- Define processes for reviewing and implementing these changes.

Bids are due to the city by February 3. The RFP says the consulting project, once awarded, “may take up to a year,” though it hopes to proceed “as expeditiously as possible.”

There are two phases to the project. Phase A focuses on Kendall Square, and Phase B focuses on Central Square. Both phases also deal with the “transition area”: Main Street, from Kendall to Mas-

sachusetts Avenue. They will also involve coordination with the separate standing advisory committees for the two squares.

### Phase A: Kendall

In Phase A, the study will look at MIT’s emerging zoning proposal; the Cambridge Center buildings; Cambridge Research Park, which has built 5 of 8 planned buildings; the Alexandria project on Binney Street, which is in pre-construction; traffic changes at the intersection of Third, Broadway, and May; and will also examine housing opportunities.

MIT has not decided how it will adjust the timing of its zoning proposal in response to the study, according to Michael K. Owu ’86, a director of real estate for MITIMCo. “MIT intends to respond to the city study by sharing our ideas and actively engaging in the process,” Owu said in an e-mail.

Also in Phase A, the study will address concerns in the transition area: Novartis’ new building in the Analog Devices lot; and across the street from it, the development of the north half of the block containing Random Hall, managed by Forest City, the developers of University Park.

The RFP notes that Forest City’s

development, which is in conjunction with MIT (which owns half of the property), will “require new zoning.”

Peter Calkins of Forest City said that Forest City hopes to extend the University Park zoning district one block closer to Mass. Ave. If not approved, Calkins said, the retail- and commercial-use building they want to construct could still be built, as it is mostly compatible with the current zoning. Calkins is the executive vice president of Forest City Boston.

### Phase B: Central

The second part of the study, expected to begin in mid-summer, will be coordinated with a special city committee, the Red Ribbon Commission on the Delights and Concerns of Central Square. The Red Ribbon’s findings will be presented at the beginning of Phase B.

The RFP does not detail a long list of items for Phase B as it does for Phase A, but refers to “strengthen[ing] the heart of the square” and paying attention to housing.

The consultants will run numerous meetings during both phases: meetings with stakeholders, and also separate meetings with the public. See sidebar for details.

## Tasks associated with planned study

Task A1	Understanding the dynamics and potentials of Kendall Square.
Task A2	Begin work with the “Kendall Square Advisory Committee 2011.”
Task A3	Present initial vision to committee.
Public Meeting A1	Present the initial vision to the general public.
Task A4	Present plan that reflects committee and public input.
Public Meeting A2	Present the revised plan to the general public.
Task A5	Present final vision.
Public Meeting A3	Present the final vision and recommendations to the general public.
Task B1	Understanding the dynamics and potentials of Central Square.
Task B2	Begin work with the “Central Square Advisory Committee: 2011.”
Task B3	Present initial vision to committee.
Public Meeting B1	Present the initial vision to the general public.
Task B4	Present plan that reflects committee and public input.
Public Meeting B2	Present the revised plan to the general public.
Task B5	Present final vision.
Public Meeting A3	Present the final vision and recommendations to the general public.

## Highlights from the November/December 2010 Faculty Newsletter

The November/December 2010 edition of the Faculty Newsletter (FNL) reported on several items relevant to the broader MIT community. Several highlights from the issue are summarized below. More information on all pieces is available at <http://web.mit.edu/fnl>.

- **Stellar Next Generation: IS&T** will be implementing a “limited evaluation” of an updated version of Stellar, known as Stellar Next Generation, for the Spring 2011 term. New features include streaming video, video conferencing, image handling, and Google Docs integration.

- **From a Whistle to a Hum: Facilities Upgrades Enhance the Resilience of the Campus Steam Distribution System:** The Department of Facilities is upgrading MIT’s steam distribution system in response to a steam pipe explosion that occurred in Building 66 in late 2008. In addition to replacing some pieces of the infrastructure, Facilities is testing new pipe monitoring software for the high-pressure steam traps in Buildings 66, 68, 56, and 54.

- **Maintaining Our Resolutions: Implementing the MIT Faculty Open Access Policy:** The Faculty Committee on the Library System and the Libraries staff have been working to implement a policy passed by the faculty in March 2009 to make their scholarly articles available freely online. Currently, 30 percent of the 6,000 scholarly papers faculty publish each year are being collected. The Libraries staff is developing collection methods with a few departments and hopes to later put these methods into use across the Institute.

- **Student Support Services: Reorganized, Reviewed, and Redefined:** A number of changes to Student Support Services (S<sup>3</sup>) have been implemented in response to the recommendations of a December 2009 S<sup>3</sup> Task Force report. The protocol for getting an excused absence from class was clarified and available appointment times were extended by seven hours each week. Furthermore, “a recommendation was made to provide additional resources to support graduate students via the Office of the Dean for Graduate Education,” wrote Dean for Undergraduate Education Daniel Hastings in the FNL article.

—Natasha Plotkin

# Finboard outlines new budget policy

## Student groups see potential for more work but also flexibility

Finboard, from Page 1

recommended to have a thorough budget defense. The UA also considers a student group’s spending history, former UA Treasurer Ellen B. McIsaac ’12 said. Groups also get an increase in their funding if they are hosting new events.

### New budget policies

In an e-mail sent to student groups, Finboard and the Senate announced new budget policies which included lifting caps on travel and costumes for the recent allocation cycle. There is now a new funding category for “Medium Sized Events” that cost between \$1,000 and \$2,500. In addition, there will now be two funding cycles per semester instead of only one

per semester.

According to Meyer, the changes in number of funding cycles were made because there were concerns of underspending or overspending.

“Most student groups don’t plan far enough,” McIsaac said. “We just wanted to make it easier for student groups to access funding.”

The Senate has approved the creation of a temporary committee to assist in reviewing the new Finboard policy over IAP and early spring semester. The committee will be comprised of members from the Senate, Finboard, the Association of Student Activities, and UA-funded undergraduate student groups. Meyer says that the committee will discuss the implementation of the new policies.

Finboard’s new policies met with mixed reaction. Jacky Lau ’11, treasurer of the Chinese Student’s Club, said “I would rather just do it [the funding application] once rather than twice. I’ve been in the club for three years. I have a lot of experience — I usually know which events we’ll have. It takes quite a lot to finish your budget defense.”

“[Filling out] the same application four times a year would be difficult,” Ramos said, but also added that he would not object to “a shorter, more streamlined, more frequent application.”

However, the co-president of Habitat for Humanity, Joshua D. Cohen ’12 said two allocation cycles would help with event planning, allowing groups more flexibility.

# Applications open for Maseeh transfer

## Phoenix Group prepares move to W1 and builds new home community

Maseeh, from Page 1

munity’s events, are guaranteed a spot in W1.

The dorm’s residents, 462 undergraduates total, will be 40 percent members of the freshman class of 2015 and 60 percent upperclassmen. Incoming freshman may select Maseeh Hall through the freshman housing lottery.

According to Adam J. Keyes, Manager of Housing Assignments for MIT’s Department of Housing, the applications will have students’ names, genders, and current dorms removed and will be reviewed by a Phoenix Group reading committee. Applicants will be chosen through a “mutual selection process” and will be notified of the decision by March 25, 2011.

The current Housemasters of the Phoenix Group — Professor Suzanne Flynn of the Linguistics and Philosophy department and her husband Jack Carroll — will be Housemasters of Maseeh Hall. There is currently an active search for an Associate Housemaster.

Students who are not selected for Maseeh will have the opportunity to enter the April housing lottery, which will also be used to fill any vacancies remaining after the first round. No applications will be required for students who choose to enter through the April housing lottery or for the classes of 2015 and beyond.

Carolina Roque ’13, Phoenix Group president and Dormitory Council Housing Chair, estimates that roughly 50–60 people from the Phoenix Group will be moving into Maseeh Hall.

### Building dorm culture

The application questions, written by Phoenix Group members, asks prospective W1 residents to explain what they would like to gain from living at W1 and to offer one suggestion to improve the dorm.

**“We wanted to gauge people’s personalities to make a strong community and have a strong bond to take over to Maseeh. It wasn’t competitive or anything like that.”**

Incoming students who wanted to join the Phoenix Group before Maseeh Hall opened filled out a similar application. “We wanted to gauge people’s personalities to make a strong community and have a strong bond to take over to Maseeh. It wasn’t competitive or anything like that,” Roque said. Roque also

noted that the Phoenix Group worked with the MIT Housing Office to determine how W1 would be populated. “All members of the Phoenix Group are on a committee, so everyone has an input,” she said.

Roque said that the Phoenix Group Executive Committee is also trying to develop a strong dorm and floor culture. “We’re thinking of a way to allow groups of friends to move together so floor culture is easier to develop. We want to do a floor rush, and I don’t want people to think of us as ‘just another West Campus’ dorm. We want every floor to be unique, and every type of personality to feel comfortable there.”

An art committee is in the process of negotiating the painting policy at W1. According to Keyes, students will not be allowed to paint the walls, but they may be able to paint large canvasses which will be displayed around the dorm.

When asked whether or not the presence of a dining hall might affect people’s decisions to move to Maseeh, Roque said, “Despite the dining fiasco, I know a lot of people who want to move into W1, and a lot of people in the Phoenix Group are really excited.”

“Obviously, a lot of people won’t want to move into W1 because they like cooking for themselves, but that’s fine, because there’s a place for everyone,” she said. “That’s what I love about MIT.”

# \$1 billion slotted for renovations over next decade

*Tackling capital renewal issues will seek to involve community input, more transparency*

Deferred, from Page 1

rary embarrassments" by "learn[ing] from actual experience over a period of time, and not merely from estimates, what the cost of the maintenance of our plant actually is."

Current administrators say a maintenance backlog is nearly inevitable for a cutting-edge research institution. Executive Vice President Theresa M. Stone SM '76, whose job involves keeping a broad watch over MIT's financial, capital, and operational resources, said Institute leaders have always been forced to balance capital renewal needs with the investments necessary to support new types of research.

Amster said, similarly, "We've been investing in large, technically intensive, complicated buildings ... instead of renewing old ones," he said.

Amster and Stone said that because MIT has always needed keep up with new research technology, they don't fault their predecessors for investing in new buildings while letting others fall into disrepair. Associate Provost Martin A. Schmidt PhD '88, who chairs the Committee for the Review of Space Planning (CRSP), which oversees a large segment of MIT's capital renewal

efforts, does not place blame on his predecessors either. Past investment decisions "may have mortgaged our future a little bit," he said, but "it's possible that previous leaders made these decisions fully aware of deferred maintenance." And, in any case, "we are still the best university in the world for what we do."

Amster explained that deferred maintenance is a particularly large and growing issue today because many buildings are showing multiple serious signs of age. The Main Group buildings (which form the Infinite Corridor and several connected structures) are almost 100 years old and are degenerating: "[They] have stood up well ... but they're coming due on their age," Amster said.

Meanwhile, Amster said the buildings from the 1950s and '60s are "coming due for renewal" around now.

Because of this wave of renewal needs, Amster said, "I don't think we have a choice but to address the problem."

"We can't continue to live with deferred maintenance," said Schmidt.

### Current funds are inadequate

Several mechanisms are cur-

rently in place to plan and fund the capital renewal projects necessary to address the maintenance backlog. The Committee for the Review of Space Planning allocates a \$20 million annual budget to renovation projects related to "programmatic needs," such as lab renewals, said Schmidt. Individual departments and other units often supplement this fund with their own financial resources.

Furthermore, Schmidt said, MIT created a \$20 million annual Capital Renewal Fund six or seven years ago, managed by the Department of Facilities, to address more haphazard deferred maintenance issues, such as leaky roofs and aging elevators.

In addition to these funds devoted specifically to addressing maintenance needs, MIT also solicits funds for major individual renovation projects, such as W1. Last September, alumnus Fariborz Maseeh ScD '90 donated \$24 million to finish renovating the building to reopen it as an undergraduate dormitory, Maseeh Hall, this fall.

Despite these efforts to put a dent in the deferred maintenance issue, the current system and funds are still inadequate to return MIT's

facilities to a condition that's "worthy of MIT's mission," said Stone. She, and other administrators, say that in the near future, MIT needs to devote more funds and thought to addressing deferred maintenance.

Stone said that over the next decade preliminary plans are in place to devote about \$1 billion, two-thirds of the Institute's total capital expenditures, toward renovations.

MIT will continue to solicit additional funds for specific renovation projects, Stone said. At the same time, she said, the Institute will continue to construct new buildings in situations where research agendas demand new resources. For example, MIT might build a new nanotechnology building to maintain "international competitiveness," said Schmidt. Because of these new building needs, and the sheer magnitude of deferred maintenance costs, Stone said, some capital renewal "will have to be financed through Institute debt."

Amster said he hopes to kick off a new effort to systematically attack capital renewal issues at a CRSP meeting early this year. He envisions that the Department of

Facilities will organize "an analysis process for how to invest in our existing buildings."

He hopes that the process will be transparent and involve the community — to an extent. Facilities has a thick document containing the details of the building maintenance costs that add up to the \$2.1 billion figure, but Amster has no plans to make it public. He said he worries that MIT community members would overwhelm Facilities with their personal input and opinions, interfering with Facilities' ability to do its job.

### Administrators are optimistic

Institute leaders are optimistic that the deferred maintenance issue will be brought under control.

Stone said that the MIT Corporation has been informed of the issue and understands its importance. They and other stakeholders, she said, "are going to begin to develop mechanisms to find funding to get this done ... they're committed to finding answers. It's a very positive story."

"I believe it is my generation's responsibility to come to grips with this issue and provide a roadmap for how to renew MIT," Amster said.



JOANNA KAO—THE TECH

**Last Wednesday's blizzard destroyed multiple trees on campus.** This branch, formerly near the intersection of Main and Vassar Streets, fell and hit a woman, unaffiliated with MIT, on the back of her neck.

## Blizzard causes the worst tree damage on campus since 1997

The blizzard last Wednesday caused the worst storm-related tree damage at MIT since the April Fool's Storm on April 1st, 1997, according to Norman H. Magnuson, Jr., Manager of Ground Services in the Department of Facilities. The storm destroyed at least three entire trees near East Campus and one in front of Burton Conner.

A woman unaffiliated with MIT was hit in the back of the neck by a falling tree branch across the street from the Whitehead Institute at the intersection of Main and Vassar Streets. According to Lieutenant Kenneth J. Albert of East Cambridge Fire Department's Engine 3, she did not lose consciousness. Magnuson said he was unaware of anyone from MIT being hit or hurt by falling branches.

Bartlett Tree Service, hired to clean up while MIT staff were busy clearing the snow, was still clearing branches yesterday. Magnuson was unaware of any other damage from the storm. As of yesterday morning, Magnuson did not know how much the cleanup was costing MIT.

—Joanna Kao

AED, from Page 1

balance Operations at MIT EMS, says that AED machines must be used in conjunction with CPR. "Many heart attacks are caused by fibrillation, which is when the heart is beating, but ... spasming," Russell said. "So sometimes when CPR is not working, the AED is designed to stop the electrical activity ... AED use where there is no CPR is very bad."

Russell said that it was lucky that there were functional AEDs nearby. The machine in Building 4 required a short walk to another machine near the Student Services Center, and the closest functional device to the machine in Building 16 was located in the Stata Center.

—Jingyun Fan



Matthew Mazzotta, UAP "The Buseycle Project" Funded in part by the Council for the Arts at MIT, 2006

### Solution to Easy Sudoku

from page 8

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

### Solution to Crossword

from page 8

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

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# Metaphysical Plant adds new features to Hunt

Puzzlers earn free answers in Mario Kart race, cooking competition, and other events

Hunt, from Page 1

site and another 40 or so solving remotely, according to member Jeff Jakubowski, who otherwise has no affiliation with MIT. Most members of Codex are not affiliated with MIT.

### Veterans revamp the Hunt

Julian West PhD '90, a member of Metaphysical Plant, said that work commenced on this year's Hunt the day after the wrap-up last year. He said that the main difference between organizing the Hunt and participating in it is the amount of time involved. "I think [organizing] a Hunt once every five years is the right amount," West said, adding that he was a little saddened he couldn't participate this year.

This year's Hunt featured optional events where participants had the chance to win free answers. The five optional events ranged from a *Mario Kart*-style race to a cooking competition with coffee as the secret ingredient. Another new feature was the awarding of "achievements,"

which, similar to the Xbox 360 console achievement system, rewarded teams for completing special tasks. For example, team The Team Your Team Could Smell Like won the "Warp Whistle" achievement for solving a metapuzzle — puzzles that require answers from previous puzzles — out of order. Other achievements included calling in an answer containing a Q not followed by a U or turning in five wrong answers.

To make the Hunt puzzles more accessible, the multimedia required for solving a puzzle were all placed on the same web site, accessible by almost any device. Teams submitted answers via a web form, which partially eliminated the need for spelling their answers out over the phone. Confirmed answers for each team were also available online.

This year, the organizers were able to place a clue on the web site of rhythm game developer Harmonix. The company placed the clue on their message board for their weekly *Rock Band* song release announcements. Comic author Randall Mun-

roe of xkcd.com also wrote a strip for the Hunt, posted on the main xkcd website. The title "Stingray Nebula" was the answer to an xkcd-themed metapuzzle.

Although he claims that he does very little solving, Jakubowski admired this year's Hunt: "It was very well run, very smooth," he commented, adding that the structure this year was unique.

For the most part, the Hunt went according to plan. There was one online puzzle that malfunctioned due to a server jam; however, a backup puzzle was quickly put in place.

West attributed much credit to the test solvers, who he believed made the Hunt as smooth as it was. Each puzzle was tested at least twice for anything that would confuse the actual solvers.

### Hunting in five worlds

Structurally, the Hunt was split into five distinct "worlds" — *Mario*, *Mega Man*, *Legend of Zelda*, *Civilization*, and *Katamari Damacy* — each placing Mario into a different

video game. Teams unlocked these worlds sequentially by increasing their score, which was based on both how many puzzles the team had solved and how long the team had been participating. In each world, the puzzles and metapuzzles were laid out according to how the video game was traditionally played. For instance, the *Mega Man* world required players to defeat different "bosses" by solving puzzles, whose answers were used against other bosses in the world. This process is similar to how Mega Man fights his bosses in the original video game.

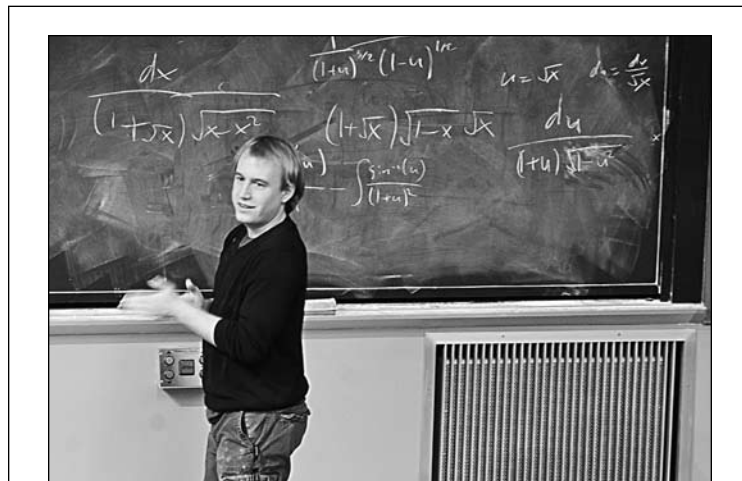
Finally, during the "runaround" part of the Hunt, players met their final match, GLaDOS, the evil artificial intelligence from the *Portal* se-

ries. Around 50 members of Codex were instructed to roam the halls of MIT looking for both Peach and the "friend" she had made while being held captive: the Hunt coin, hidden in a *Mario* question block. This year's coin was a Companion Cube, an iconic object from *Portal*, and the Hunt concluded with a wrap-up session in Lobby 13 on Sunday evening.

For creating next year's hunt, Jakubowski claimed team Codex has "a million ideas."

"It's just a matter of whether or not they are doable," he said.

The solution to every puzzle, as well as puzzles created but not used, are now available online at the Hunt website, <http://web.mit.edu/puzzle>.



MELISSA RENÉE SCHUMACHER—THE TECH

Philip D. Tynan '11 tries to solve one of the problems in the final round of the 2011 Integration Bee. He won, calculating three of the final round integrals (many problems were not solved). Tynan received a copy of "100 Great Problems of Elementary Mathematics" by Heinrich Dörrie, and earned the title of Grand Integrator.

### Solution to Hard Sudoku

from page 8

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

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## Massachusetts General Hospital Research Study

14-21 year old females

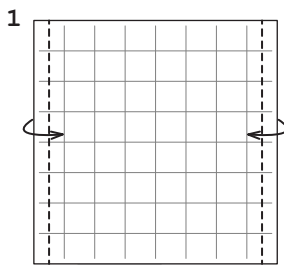
(athletes and healthy volunteers)

Bone density and fitness testing

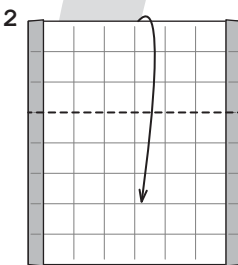
Payment for participation up to \$525

Call Dr. Misra 617-724-5602

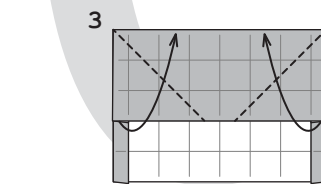
## ORIGAMIT



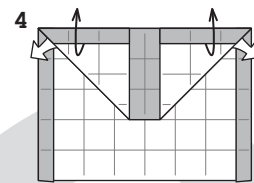
1 Begin with an 8x8 grid. White side up. Valley-fold.



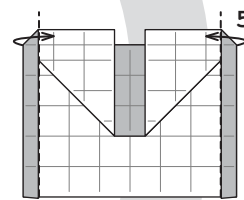
2 Valley-fold.



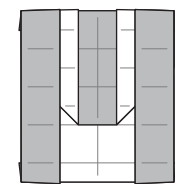
3 Valley-fold.



4 Fold up while releasing paper from the corners.



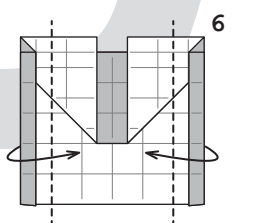
5 Valley-fold.



6 'M' finished! Come to OrigamiMIT to learn 'I' & 'T'



7 Mountain-fold.



8 Valley-fold.

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# Men's volleyball starts off season with 3 wins

By Paul Dill  
HEAD COACH

The MIT men's volleyball team opened their season with three matches last week against Wentworth, Lesley, and Elms. The Engineers, who are ranked No. 8 in the AVCA Division III Coaches Top 15 Poll, won all of their matches to start the season 3-0.

In the opener for both squads, the MIT men's volleyball team registered a 27-25, 25-20, 25-19 win over NECVA New England Division foe Wentworth Institute of Technology on Tuesday night. MIT took an early 3-0 lead before Wentworth scored three quick points to earn the first of 15 ties in the opening game. A back-and-forth battle ensued before the Engineers took a 19-16 lead. However, the hosts would not go away quietly, rallying to tie the score at 19, and, after being down 23-19, battled back to tie the score at 23-all. Facing match point at 23-24 and 24-25, Wentworth evened the score both times,

but an attack error at 26-25 gave MIT a 27-25 win in game one.

Wentworth raced out to an 8-2 lead in the second game only to see the Engineers use an 11-5 spurt and tie the game at 13. The game would eventually be tied at 15 before MIT pulled ahead 22-17. Two quick Leopard points pulled the hosts within three, but the Engineers took a 2-0 lead with a 25-20 win. After two quick ties to open the third game, MIT scored four straight points to take a 6-2 advantage, a lead it would not relinquish. Wentworth pulled within a pair at 8-6, but a 6-1 run by the visitors extended the lead to 14-7, en route to a 25-19 win.

The Engineers then topped cross-town foe Lesley University, 25-9, 25-13, 25-7, on Thursday night. Malcolm K. Bean '11 paced the Engineers (2-0, 2-0 NECVA) with eight kills and three blocks as Matt P. Hohenberger '13 added eight kills of his own. In the first set, Lesley took a 2-0 edge on back-to-back errors by the visitors. The Lynx went back on top at 4-3. The Cardinal and Gray responded with 11 unanswered points to gain some breathing room. Les-

ley rallied with consecutive points to pull back within eight (14-6) but that was as close as the Lynx came the rest of the set, as Hohenberger's service ace iced a 25-9 MIT victory.

Evan P. Wang '14 opened the second set with an ace of his own helping the Engineers race out to a 7-1 advantage. The Lynx stayed within striking distance, getting to within 9-4 and 18-11, before the Engineers scored seven of the last nine points, taking a 25-13 victory on a Lynx serving error at set point. MIT established a 7-3 lead in the final set with a Bean block later increasing the margin to 12-4. An emphatic Hohenberger kill made it a 17-6 contest, as the visitors took a 25-7 decision.

On Saturday, Kenneth M. Siebert '14 smashed a match-high nine kills as Timothy R. Lee '11 handed out 30 assists to help lead the Engineers to a 25-12, 25-13, 25-18 sweep of the Elms College Blazers.

MIT opened up a 10-6 lead in the first set before going on a 10-1 run highlighted by three Siebert kills, a kill from Benson M. George '12 and Wang, and two George ser-

vice aces to take a 20-7 lead. Elms pulled to within 10 on three occasions, but a kill by Bean, a service ace by Patrick J. Vatterott '13, and a Blazers' attacking error allowed MIT to claim the opening set 25-12.

The second frame played out in similar fashion as MIT established an early 13-8 lead and used an 11-4 run to post a 24-12 advantage. Elms' Michael Martin drilled a kill to halt the run but an error on the ensuing serve attempt gave the Engineers a 25-13 win and a 2-0 lead in the match. In the third stanza, MIT built a 21-13 lead before Elms rallied to score five of the next eight points to pull within six (24-18). From there, a service error by Elms resulted in a win for the Engineers.

George and Vatterott both downed eight kills and hit above a .600 clip for the match as MIT was .333 as a team through three sets. Caine L. Jette '10 notched a match high 10 digs as Jeremy J. Velazquez '12 recorded nine digs to lead MIT's defensive effort.

The Engineers will play their next home match vs. Emerson College on Thursday, January 27th in Rockwell Cage at 7 p.m.

## Taekwondo takes on Cornell Engineers finish 2nd in two Conference tournaments

By Tara Sarathi  
TEAM REPRESENTATIVE

Before break, the MIT Sport Taekwondo team competed in two Eastern Collegiate Taekwondo Conference (ECTC) tournaments, held at Cornell and Princeton. The Engineers finished second to archival Cornell in both competitions, falling to second in the overall season standings.

In the second tournament of the season, held at Cornell, the team, led by head coach Dan Chuang and team captains Jason Uh G and Erika Lee '12, competed fiercely. Although the team was smaller than usual, with twenty-eight competitors, they made their presence felt, especially as the poomsae competition began. In the black belt division, Uh and Daniel J. Sauza '11 once again double placed in the division, with Sauza taking the gold and Uh placing third. On the women's side, Lee took second while Nicole A. Kang '14 placed third in her first competition with the team.

In the red belt division, Christopher M. Williams G and Seth M. "Matthew" Weinberg G took first and third place respectively. As for the blue belt division, Maksim Stepanenko '12 and Hillary T. Monaco '12 seized second place in the men's and women's divisions, respectively. Furthermore, in the competitive yellow belt division, Juliana Melo '14 advanced through the preliminary to finals round to take second place in her division.

As the poomsae competition ended, the team prepared for the sparring competition. In the A team division, Men's A1 (Uh, Sauza, Williams) battled fiercely through each of their matches to capture third place. In the B team division, the Men's B1 team (David Wen G, Rafael A. "Maverick" Raya '11, Williams) and B2 (Weinberg, Phillip H. Daniel '13, Ijeoma "EJ" Emeagwali '12) charged through two difficult brackets in order to seize bronze. On the women's side, the B1 team (Tara P. Sarathi '12, Hsinjung "Sophia" Li '11, Lori Ling G, alternate

Monaco) dominated their division in order to capture the gold, while B2 (Jennifer Tran '11, Kristina L. Lozoya '13) snatched the bronze. As for the C team division, the women's C1 team (Melo, Shirley Tsang '14, Tran) captured the silver.

In their tournament at Princeton two weeks later, the Engineers once again competed fiercely.

In the black belt poomsae division, Lee captured first place, preventing the previous gold medalist from obtaining her tenth consecutive gold. In addition, Rebecca Hung '11 seized third, while in the men's division Sauza and Uh took second and fourth place respectively.

In the colored belt divisions, Li grabbed second place in the women's red belt division, while Daniel and Bradley Wu '11 captured second and fourth place respectively for the men. As for the blue belts, Angela N. Chang '11 took first place for the women, while Stepanenko took the bronze. Even among the extremely competitive yellow belt division, the team continued to show their prowess. Melo captured second place, while Maria Z. Tou '14 and George T. Cheng '14 surged past the preliminary round and placed within the top ten.

As the day progressed, the team began the sparring competition. In the A team division, the men's A1 (Uh, Aziz Abdellahi G, Williams) sparred fiercely through a difficult bracket in order to take third place, while the women's A1 (Sarathi, Li, Lee) muscled their way through each match in order to capture the bronze. In the B team division, men's B2 (Weinberg, Daniel, Emeagwali) surged through their bracket to claim third place. As for the women, B2 (Chang, Tran, Lozoya) showed their opponents no mercy as the sparred their way to third place.

By the end of the day, the team earned a total of 328 points, taking second behind rival team Cornell. However, the team is just shy of first place in the league, with 1130 to Cornell's 1167. Over IAP, the team is ready to train even harder and smarter in order to take the ECTC cup back from Cornell at the end of the season.

### SPORTS SHORTS

#### Ski team competes at Cranmore

The MIT Ski Team had their first two slalom races of the season this weekend at Cranmore. Despite clocking in their fewest ever team finishes Friday, individuals from the MIT team had successful weekends. On Friday, Michael J. Yurkerwich '11 and Jason D. Pier '13 both placed in the top 25 for the men (in 14th and 19th, respectively) and scored personal best USSA points. Saturday saw another top-25 finish for Yurkerwich (12th; Pier was 29th), and a first-time finish for newcomer Joshua Walker '12 (68th). In addition, Jonathan D. Allen '14 improved in the league from 71st Friday to 67th Saturday. For the women, Chyleigh Harmon '14 narrowly missed the top-50, placing 51st in Saturday's race. Her teammates Jennifer L. Hawkin '12 and Sarah J. Laderman '12 raced consistently placing 72nd and 74th Friday, then 72nd and 73rd on Saturday. Next weekend the team will race one slalom and one giant slalom race at Waterville Valley in New Hampshire, their "home" mountain.

—Alexis Dale, Team Representative

### UPCOMING HOME EVENTS

#### Saturday, January 22

Men's and Women's Swimming and Diving vs. Tufts University 1 p.m., Z-Center Pool

Men's Volleyball vs. Baruch College 3 p.m., Rockwell Cage

Men's Volleyball vs. Elms College 5 p.m., Rockwell Cage

#### Sunday, January 23

Men's Volleyball vs. Emmanuel College 12 p.m., Rockwell Cage

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