Bill Gates, philanthropist, will give talk on April 21

Former CEO hopes to inspire MIT community to tackle problems of the world

By Hayden Metsky

Bill Gates, philanthropist and co-founder of Microsoft, will speak at MIT on April 21 in an effort to motivate students and faculty to solve some of the world’s most sig-

nificant problems.

Gates will present a presentation in Kresge Auditorium from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., according to a press release from the News Of-

fice on Monday. The presentation will consist of a talk and 40-minute question-and-answer session. The talk, titled “Giving Back: Finding the Best Way to Make a Difference,” will reflect the philanthropic mis-

sion that Gates has devoted his time to in recent years. In addition to the event in Kresge, Gates will meet with President Susan Hockfield, along with other faculty members, to learn about MIT research that will solve problems confronting people across the world.

Tickets to the event will be dis-

buted by lottery, and any mem-

ber of the MIT community may enter. The lottery opened yesterday-

day afternoon and will close at 5 p.m. on April 13. Those interested in entering the lottery can do so at http:/

/lottery.mit.edu/2008/2008event/. In contrast, tickets for President Obama’s speech in October were tightly controlled. Only 280 tickets were available to students, faculty and staff of MIT. The lottery was run by the MIT community.

In addition to MIT, Gates will visit Stanford University, the Uni-

versity of Chicago, Harvard Uni-

versity, and the University of Cal-

ifornia, Berkeley. According to the

Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, at each university Gates will address the question “How do we get the world’s brightest people focused on its biggest problems?”

Student reaction to news of Gates’ visit was mostly positive.

“The hope is that he also visits MIT because MIT is the best in the world,” said Vu A. Hong ’10. “I’m happy that recently he’s been pro-
moting the Gates Foundation more, rather than Microsoft.”

The Gates Foundation, founded in 1994, strives to improve health condi-
tions in developing countries, while also helping people in these countries overcome poverty and hunger. In the United States, the foundation works toward spread-
ing access to education and access to computers and the Internet in public libraries. The foundation also funds online video courses and interactive learning innovations.

One of the guiding principles of the Gates Foundation is that “sci-

ence and technology have great po-
tential to improve lives around the world.” In this year’s annual letter, Gates focuses on innovation be-

cause, as he states, “it can make the difference between a bleak future and a bright one.”

MIT faces less competition for ... MIT

By John A. Hawkins

The battle for the letters “MIT” is fierce, but one source of competition for those letters looks out of the running, at least for now.

According to an article in FocuS Taiwan last week, Taiwan-operated businesses in mainland China will be required to label their products “Made in China,” since it contains the substring “MIT” or “Made in Taiwan.”

MIT has seen competition in the past from Meritt Institute of Technology, Mapúa Institute of Technology, Melbourne Institute of Technology, Machakos Institute of Technology, and University of Chicago, Harvard Uni-

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Undergrads may sign up for Harvard library privileges

By Pearle Lipinski

Under a new pilot system between the MIT Libraries and the Harvard College Library (HCL), undergraduates may now borrow from select Harvard libraries. Undergraduates were able to begin signing up for HCL Special Borrower cards yesterday. The cards grant access to several of Harvard’s 76-plus libraries.

Undergraduates were unable to apply for borrower cards, and the privilege was only available to MIT graduate students, research staff, and faculty.

The program will be evaluated after 14 months. According to the HCL, both Harvard and MIT will collect data such as circulation and usage to evaluate the value of the libraries.

According to the Harvard Uni-

versity system website, the Harvard University Library is the largest academic library in the world, housing over 66 million volumes. The library began with 400 books bequeathed by John Harvard in 1638.

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Quake shakes buildings, nerves in southern California

By John F. Burns
NEW YORK TIMES

LOS ANGELES — A powerful earthquake southeast of Tijuana shook Southern California on Sunday afternoon, damag-

ing buildings in border towns and rattling a seismically-sophis-
ticated state. The temblor was felt as far away as Las Vegas as chandeliers swayed, homes shook and the earth seemed to slide under the feet of people emerging from Easter church services for well over a minute.
The 7.2 quake struck just after 3:50 p.m. local time, and was centered near Guadalupe in southern California, Mexico, and about 108 miles southeast of Tijuana, according to the U.S. Geological Survey.

Reports from the remote area in Mexico where the quake was slow in coming and Mexican Web sites were overloaded with traffic caused quake-phobia that that size of that quake would probably cause major property damage and perhaps injuries to numerous near its epicenter, experts said.

On the U.S. side of the border, the shaking was particularly acute in San Diego, where it set off alarms and sent the San Diego Union-Tribune running in response, the San Diego Union-Tribune reported.


Sales of U.S. homes rose significantly in February

The wobbly housing market showed a rare sign of strength in February: pending home sales were up significantly, a report released on Monday suggested, that Americans took ad-

vantage of a tax credit for home buyers. Sales rose 8.2 percent, the most in nearly two years, the report said.

Economists said the data released on Monday suggested that the housing market was emerging from the recession as the expiration dead-

line approach of a government tax credit. Qualified home buyers have until April 30 to take advantage of a tax credit of up to $8,000 - the credit was originally set to expire, but it has been slow to propel the market to the spring.

An influx of foreclosed homes, which are often offered at bargain prices, has added another reason for prospective home buyers to enter the market. The agents’ association said it ex-

pected the upward trend to continue in the March data.


With hope dwindling, 115 Chinese miners are saved

From the start, China’s latest coal mine disaster seemed likely to end as so many others — in a country where an aver-

age of seven miners die every day: a failed rescue effort, griev-

ing relatives, few if any survivors.

But then, more than a week after the half-built Wangjiaxiang mine in northern China was flooded with millions of gallons of water, rescuers heard taps on a metal pipe. They furiously pumped water out of the shaft and sent glucose injections down through a pipe. By late Monday, rescuers had dragged up 115 men safely to the surface, though 38 others remained missing.

Survivors said they had strapped themselves to shaft walls with their bare hands and looked down, Hunger and hope then jumped into a mine cart that floated by. Others said they ate the food that the rescuers had left behind.

By any standard in the dangerous world of mining — and certainly by those of China’s especially deadly industry — it is a remarkable feat.

David Frickert, a coal mine safety adviser to the Chinese government, told The Associated Press, “This is perhaps the most amazing rescue in the history of mining anywhere.”

—Sharon LaFraniere, The New York Times

Anglican church rebukes Irish church for abuse scandal

By By David E. Sanger
and Peter Baker
NEW YORK TIMES

LONDON — At a time when his relations with Pope Benedict XVI are already strained over the pope’s offer to dissatisfy Anglicans of fast-track conversion to Roman Catholicism, the archbishop of Can-

terbury has plunged into the crisis over cases of abuse by Catholic priests, offering the Easter week-

end to describe the Catholic Church in Ireland as “losing all credibility” because of its poor handling of the abuse crisis.

In a BBC radio interview, part of which was made public on Sat-

urday, the archbishop, the Most Rev. Rowan Williams, described the abuse scandal as a “colossal traum-

a” for Ireland in particular.

He made no direct reference to the personal controversy that has swirled around the pope in the wake of accusations that he failed to act strongly enough against pe-

ople who have abused priests.

But Williams, the head of the worldwide Anglican Communion, which claims 70 million adherents, was unusually blunt.

“I was speaking to an Irish friend recently who said that it’s quite dif-

ficult in some parts of Ireland to go down the street wearing a clerical collar now,” he said. “And an in-

stitution so deeply bowed into the lode of a society suddenly becom-

ing, suddenly losing all credibility — that’s not just a problem for the church, it’s a problem for everybody in Ireland.”

His remarks appeared to anger leaders of both the Catholic and Anglican Churches in Ireland, who criticized Williams for poor judg-

ment in exacerbating an already tense situation among Catholics in Ireland.

Their outbursts, in turn, led to an apology from Williams, whose office said he made a telephonic slip on Saturday evening to the Catholic archbishop of Dublin, Diarmuid Martin, expressing his “deep sor-

row and regret” at any offense his remarks had caused, and to offer an assurance that he meant no offense.

Before Williams’ apology, Mar-

tin, the head of the largest Catholic dio-

cese in Ireland and the most pow-

erful voice in the Irish church after Bp. Finucane, had issued a sharp rebuke.

“Those working for renewal in the Catholic Church in Ireland did not need this comment on this Easter weekend, and do not de-

serve it,” Martin said in a statement.

“The unequivocal and unqualified comment in a radio interview of the archbishop of Canterbury, Dr. Rowan Williams, that the Catholic Church in Ireland has lost all credi-

bility,” has stunned me.

“I have to say that in all my years as archbishop of Dublin in, in difficult times I have rarely felt personally so discouraged as when I woke to hear Archbishop Williams’ comments,” he said.

Martin has been outspoken in his demands for full accountability in the church over child abuse, and was appointed to the Dublin See to a mandate to rebuild there in the wake of revelations about wide-

spread abuses in the archdiocese.

Speaking to reporters after offi-

ciating at a Mass in Dublin on Sat-

urday, he said that “church leaders” should be more careful in their com-

ments about the abuse scandal.

Obama limits when United States would use nuclear weapons

WASHINGTON — President Bar-

ack Obama said Monday that he was revamping American nuclear strategy to substantially narrow the conditions under which the United States would use nuclear weapons, even in self- defense.

But the president said in an in-

terview that he was carving out an exception for “outliers like Iran and North Korea” that have violated or renounced the most basic terms of the nuclear non-proliferation treaty.

Discussing his approach to nuclear security the day before for-

mally releasing his new strategy, Obama described his policy as part of a broader effort to edge the world toward making nuclear weapons obsolete, and to create incentives for countries to give up any nuclear ambitions.

To set an example, the new strategy reserves the develop-

ment of any new nuclear weap-

ons, overriding the initial position of his defense secretary.

Obama’s strategy is a sharp shift from those adopted by his prede-

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By By David E. Sanger
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NEW YORK TIMES

The first days of April are much more welcoming than many of those of the earlier days of March. Don’t expect much new floo-

d rains to engulf your sur-

roundings later this week. We

will continue to dry out from

what rains accunmulated last

months, with warmer tempera-

tures streaming into New England. A high of 77°F was recorded at Logan airport on Sunday, breaking a record set in 1950.

The Tech Weather Fronts

Extended Forecast

Extended Forecast

Tuesday, April 6, 2010

Today: Sunny, becoming partly cloudy by evening. High 71°F (22°C). West wind 5-15 mph.

Tuesday evening: Mostlly cloudy. A stratus shower possible. Low 53°F (12°C). South wind up to 10 mph.

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Video shows photographer being killed in 2007 air attack

By Elisabeth Bumiller

WASHINGTON — The Web site WikiLeaks released a video on Monday showing an American helicopter shooting dead a photographer and driver in a July 2007 attack in Baghdad.

A senior American military of- ficial confirmed that the video was authentic.

Reuters had long pressed for the release of video that it had obtained of 17 minutes of black-and-white aerial footage and conversations be- tween pilots in two Apache helicop- ters as they open fire on people on a street in Baghdad. The attack killed 12, among them Reuters photogra- pher Namir Noor-Eldeen, 22, and driver Saeed Chmagh, 40.

At a news conference at the Na- tional Press Club, WikiLeaks said it had acquired the video from whis- tile-blowers in the military and was able to view it after breaking the en- cyption code.

David Schlesinger, the edi- tor in chief of Reuters news, said in a statement that the video was "probably graphic of the kind involved in war journalism and the tragedies that can result."

"There is no question that coal- ition forces were clearly engaged in combat operations against a hostile force,"-interim British ambassador, a spokesman for the multinational forces in Baghdad, said at the time.

But the video does not show how- tle action. Instead, it begins with a group of people milling around on a street, among them, accord- ing to WikiLeaks, Namir Eldeen and Chmagh. The pilots believe them to be insurgents, and mistake Noor-Eldeen’s camera for a weapon. They aim and fire at the group, then revel in their kill.

"Look at those dead bastards," one pilot says. "Nice," the other re- sponds.

A wounded man can be seen in a hospital operating room. A body can be seen on the ground. The video appears to end with the pilot who finally killed the wounded man saying, "There's a bunch of people that they sent out to go out and to run around and to cause chaos, and we landed the area up with police, but they can't be everywhere."

"Though none of the shooting in- volved on the left of the camera," the spokesman said, "violence comes as the mayor has expressed concern about an up- tick in homicides in the city. Crime rates remain among the lowest in the city and, in addition, but coupled with a shrinking police force brought on by tough economic times, any spike in violence can put city officials and residents on edge. Violence is the only way to bring their kids into a battle," one pilot says.

A senior American military armed vehicles arrives and ap- proaches the group of people as if they think they just drove over a body; one of the pilots says, chuckling a little,

"There's a bunch of people that the FBI wants to go out and to run around and to cause chaos, and we landed the area up with police, but they can’t be everywhere."

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First, this is not the hurried beginning of a process. Instead, it is the culmination of years of work. HDAG is a result of a collaborative effort of students, faculty, and administrators. Some of the key figures involved in the work of the Blue Ribbon Committee on Dining have been

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Welcome to your caste

If you’re not an Emirat, you’re just a carpetbagger

By Kevin McComber

“Does what graduate student leadership at MIT mean to you?” After nearly four years in graduate leadership positions, I’m still not sure. In the middle of my time overseas, a co-worker friend and I went to eat at an upscale restaurant near work. We were having a good conversation, trading stories and jokes, and

Some of the nicest people I met displayed an almost sociopathic disregard for the eastern expat workers... I was enjoying myself until, seemingly out of nowhere, my friend pulled aside a waitress and dressed her down for some imperceptible infraction. After he was done and the waitress had left, I asked him, as politely and neutrally as I could, why he treated the waitress that way.

He gave two reasons. The first was the common response, as universal as it was unconvincing: being mean was the only way to get anything done. Unless one occasionally put boot to bottom, no eastern expat would ever take you seriously.

The second reason was more enlightening. Besides being necessary, he explained, breaking up a power structure in line was merely being honest with the situation. If he wanted to, my friend could call over the manager of the waitress and demand that she be fired. The woman would lose her job and be deemed a traitor. If my friend wanted speedy service, he could pretend that the power balance was otherwise. If my friend wanted secrets out, this was what the waitress was to deny him. In obedience to the social norms imposed by the caste structure, I didn’t spend much time hanging out with eastern expats, but what little time I did spend did not confirm the expectations set by my colleagues. I liked talking to my cabbies. The most common topic of discussion was U.S. meddling in Pakistan — many of my drivers said they were not fond of America, although since we got along fine it seemed more likely to me that they took fault with some concept of America rather than with my Americans in particular. Maybe it’s just hard to root for the big guy. My longest conversation was with some Pakistani youths I’d hired to help me pick up furniture I’d bought off of Dubizzle, the Dubai equivalent of Craigslist. We crammed together in a tiny pick-up truck and wanted lost in the city for two hours grubbing futons and chairs and the like, mostly talking about our favorite movies and music, and what life was like in our respective countries. My impression is that the average eastern expat working in Dubai is anti-western — to the contrary, if anything they are accused of being too fastidious and anti-western — to the contrary, if anything they are accused of being too fastidious and anti-American and thus will work to get work for one of themselves. You’d much sooner find them slinging boozy DVDs than fomenting revolution with AK-47s. The downside of being in a caste system is that you’re a temporary servant to the westerners. I, for one, didn’t occupy the topmost rung. A month after I arrived, the government tapped my cell phone. When I asked immigration services barred me from leaving the country. For such infractions, there is no explanation, no apology. If the monarch wishes to tap your phone, he needs no justification. If you miss your expensive international flight because a bureaucracy decides at the last minute you cannot leave, tough cookie. You’re not a citizen. Your only legal recourse is to pretend to fill a gap until a superior Emirati learns how to do your job.

You’re not a citizen. You’re a hired hand, a temporary servant brought in to fill a gap in a superior Emirati government, the society — was not set up for my benefit. I had no rights that they were bound to respect. I came to Dubai expecting some degree of cultural shock. But there is a distinction between struggling to adapt because something is different and struggling to adapt because something is abhorrent. Dubai is a dictatorship, perhaps benevolent, but still a dictatorship. The press is free only so long as it does not criticize. The economy is hewn to the desires of Dubai’s ties with the West. Beneath the glamour of Dubizzle, a society built upon precepts borrowed from the antebellum South. If I, a carpetbagging northerner, came away from the land of plantation owners and slaves without any feelings of attachment to the country I had lived for seven months, I do not think I would have missed to.

It’s this second in a four-part series on the author’s experiences as a consultant in Dubai.

GSC leadership isn’t always rewarding, but it’s always enriching

By By Keight Yost

I settled in a studio apartment on the thirteenth floor of an apartment complex in a western expat enclave — it was simple but spacious, and despite my zeal to be as frugal as I could, was still far more than I needed to satisfy my college student tastes. I was alone in my one-bedroom, nearly every building I came across had huge banquet rooms draped across its upper floors, screams of generosity. Making a modern-day ghost town brought more than just physical isolation. In some way, I was detached from the lifestyle that my country of origin, Dubai society. The most accurate way to describe UAE society is to say that it is stratified into the imports, the locals, the people I met displayed an almost sociopathic disregard for the eastern expat workers... There is little interaction between the rungs — each member of the community, and some are barefoot, even students in the typical sense at all, having completed all their classes. Grad students don’t generally take on leadership positions to put those positions on their résumés, and they tend to be less interested in doing things outside their research. But grad students also need to tend to little detail to develop their own identities, and they know where their interests lie. This means that once you find students who are willing to work toward a cause, they are really good at it. They also have very diverse backgrounds (not just ethnically, but also in terms of work experience, marital status, etc.) and this provides a great breadth of knowledge in the community.

Some of the nicest people I met displayed an almost sociopathic disregard for the eastern expat workers... I was enjoying myself until, seemingly out of nowhere, my friend pulled aside a waitress and dressed her down for some imperceptible infraction. After he was done and the waitress had left, I asked him, as politely and neutrally as I could, why he treated the waitress that way.

He gave two reasons. The first was the common response, as universal as it was unconvincing: being mean was the only way to get anything done. Unless one occasionally put boot to bottom, no eastern expat would ever take you seriously.

The second reason was more enlightening. Besides being necessary, he explained, breaking up a power structure in line was merely being honest with the situation. If he wanted thing to do, he would do, or for doing it poorly. It’s always important to let others know what you’re doing and to ask them for input along the way. The unfortunate part about being a leader, sometimes, is that you become tied to the abilities of others. Being a leader often makes you become an expert in a field, which means the leader has to coordinate the efforts of other people and rely on them to get things done. I’ve sometimes wished everyone working for me could have had a salary, just so I could threaten to fire some of them. This is a distinct advantage of being a leader in a volunteer organization — you don’t really have any way to punish people for not doing a good job. You would do, or for doing it poorly. It’s always important to let others know what you’re doing and to ask them for input along the way. The unfortunate part about being a leader, sometimes, is that you become tied to the abilities of others. Being a leader often makes you become an expert in a field, which means the leader has to coordinate the efforts of other people and rely on them to get things done. I’ve sometimes wished everyone working for me could have had a salary, just so I could threaten to fire some of them. This is a distinct advantage of being a leader in a volunteer organization — you don’t really have any way to punish people for not doing a good job. You would do, or for doing it poorly. It’s always important to let others know what you’re doing and to ask them for input along the way. The unfortunate part about being a leader, sometimes, is that you become tied to the abilities of others. Being a leader often makes you become an expert in a field, which means the leader has to coordinate the efforts of other people and rely on them to get things done. I’ve sometimes wished everyone working for me could have had a salary, just so I could threaten to fire some of them. This is a distinct advantage of being a leader in a volunteer organization — you don’t really have any way to punish people for not doing a good job. You would do, or for doing it poorly. It’s always important to let others know what you’re doing and to ask them for input along the way. The unfortunate part about being a leader, sometimes, is that you become tied to the abilities of others. Being a leader often makes you become an expert in a field, which means the leader has to coordinate the efforts of other people and rely on them to get things done. I’ve sometimes wished everyone working for me could have had a salary, just so I could threaten to fire some of them. This is a distinct advantage of being a leader in a volunteer organization — you don’t really have any way to punish people for not doing a good job. You would do, or for doing it poorly. It’s always important to let others know what you’re doing and to ask them for input along the way. The unfortunate part about being a leader, sometimes, is that you become tied to the abilities of others. Being a leader often makes you become an expert in a field, which means the leader has to coordinate the efforts of other people and rely on them to get things done. I’ve sometimes wished everyone working for me could have had a salary, just so I could threaten to fire some of them. This is a distinct advantage of being a leader in a volunteer organization — you don’t really have any way to punish people for not doing a good job. You wouldn’t consider me worth the effort. But it was clear that the system — the laws, the
A personal view of comprehensive immigration reform
Why welcoming immigrants is the American thing to do

By Alex Lu

Immigration means different things to different people. For some, it’s the start of a new life in the “Land of Freedom and Opportunity.” For others, just a way to send money home. Among those already established here, some feel that it’s a welcome influx of diverse traditions, novel philosophies, and colorful customs; others feel it brings in competition that depletes limited economic resources.

However you feel about immigration — legal or otherwise — in this Land of Freedom and Opportunity, I believe we can all agree on some core values. It’s uniquely American that we’re an open-ended melts society, entrepreneurs willing to distinguish themselves through ingenuity, schooling, or even just sheer hard work, have opportunities to advance in life. We don’t have a month — instead we vote for our democratic and accountable government. Everyone has equal rights regardless of gender, race, income, religion, and national origin. We have law and order. Those engaged in violent, fraudulent, or anti-social acts are eventually brought before the judicial system.

We have a democratic system. Rather than monarchs here — instead we vote for our democratic and Opportunity, I believe we can all agree on some core values. It’s uniquely American that we’re an upwardly mobile society, that safeguards workers’ rights against blatant abuses, but also management’s rights to maintain continued viability and growth of the economy.

But there is a hidden population here — intimidated, desperate, and frightened. They’re trapped by their lack of immigration status, yet remain here in hope of a better life for their loved ones.

They’re trapped by their lack of immigration status, yet remain here in hope of a better life for their loved ones. Some, like children of illegal immigrants and refugees from war-torn nations — stay here because they have no other country to call home. They also fear for their safety from prejudice and those ready to take advantage of their illegal status. Many labor in what amounts to perpetual indentured servitude, service to no one but those looking to profit from hard workers receiving little compensation. I always thought slavery ended with the Thirteenth Amendment in 1865! It’s easy to dismiss “their” problems: “They didn’t belong here,” they’re clogging up welfare programs or charitable organizations. They don’t belong here, they’re clogging up the welfare system, and it’s their choice to stay here because they couldn’t get anywhere else in the world. Despite 9/11 and its aftermath, the people of Taiwan, and the cheap labor they were willing to provide, were people, too, and probably our ancestors.

The only way to do this sustainably is to: 1) clear the backlog of illegal immigrants here — through a combination of deportations and legitimization, recognizing their hard work, and allowing them to earn the right to stay; 2) make legal immigration less cumbersome, but require applicants to demonstrate good work ethic, self-advancement through education or otherwise, and a willingness to adopt these core American values; 3) clear the accumulation of unprocessed immigration applications, to minimize difficulties for legitimate candidates and attract talents that will truly contribute to this country. As long as there is poverty somewhere in the world, they will come — we might as well pick the best and brightest, give them a legitimate channel, and regulate them properly.

There are many reasons why I came here in 2001 in search of better opportunities — the blatant racism and lack of work in Scotland, the lack of civil liberties and political instability in Taiwan, and the cheap labor and other services that you couldn’t get anywhere else in the world. Despite 9/11 and its aftermath, the people of Massachusetts and MIT welcomed me with open arms, I received my degree here, and an Irish gentleman gave me a lot of help on getting my Green Card. During this process, I learned how this great country was made possible — on the backs of newcomers and illegal immigrants — and found current immigration practices unconvincing.

Let’s do the “right thing” — the uniquely American thing — and make it possible for everyone to work hard and earn these same opportunities. Talk to your elected representatives today (in your home districts) about what immigration means to you. You can make a difference. After all, there are no monarchical nobility left.

Alex Lu is a member of the M.S.T. Class of 2001, and can be reached at lexuc@alum.mit.edu.

Freedom is what makes MIT unique
A failure to respect that freedom will have consequences for you and the community

Responsibility, from Page 4

whichever classes you want. If you take them on paper, you may as well be a biden A or C is up to you. Once you go beyond freshman year, your advisor will sign off on basically whatever you give them. There are no built-in upper bounds to the number of classes you can take per term or even the number of classes you can take in a day. It’s a glorious level of freedom for those with a basic sense of self preservation.

Yet it’s existence would be threatened if those who overload themselves with classes then are compelled to do so instead of being able to take them in. It’s a glorious level of freedom for those with a basic sense of self preservation.

It’s outside of the classroom, though, where MIT becomes truly unique. Senior House’s Steer Roast, East Campus’s roller coaster during Orientation, hacks and hacking in general, the porosity of the freshman on campus requirement, to name a few, are all uniquely MIT activities. They couldn’t happen outside of the Institute, and they can only happen on campus because of knowledge of their inner-workings stays there.

That implies the need for discretion with pictures and media, obviously, but also the most serious need for responsibility and maturity. When that’s lacking, things go wrong, and often need to be escalated outside of MIT (see Burton Third’s concrete bomb of the 90’s that lead to the implementation of the Institute that gave you the freedom to lose control of the world if you had the mind to do so.

Preventing escalations and preserving the freedom enjoyed by MIT students is common sense and can be briefly summarized: safety, safety, safety. That means don’t do anything stupid. Take reasonable risks and test your own boundaries at MIT, but recognize the distinction between a bad idea and a challenge. And when you fail, realize that the consequences and responsibility for that failure are yours, not the Institute that gave you the freedom to make mistakes.

This may seem intimidating, probably for the first time in your life you can make poor decisions without anyone stopping you. But being at MIT is probably the first time in your life you have a real choice in the first place, and to get the most out of this place, you’ll need to embrace that freedom. If you’re reading this as a prospective second-year student and you’re thinking, “I wish there were some monarchical nobility left because there isn’t one obviously “right” way of experiencing CPW, take a deep breath and consider what you want out of college. If you want the challenges of choice and the responsibility that comes with them, you’re in the right place — nothing at MIT is obvious, and it will teach you to control your own life. At MIT, if you want something to happen, you’ll probably need to do it yourself and take all the consequences that come with it. Things just won’t happen for you. But that’s precisely why it’s so special, and so different from other colleges.

Remember that such responsibility exists not just on campus, but off. If they’re not in the right place — nothing at MIT is obvious, and it will teach you to control your own life. At MIT, if you want something to happen, you’ll probably need to do it yourself and take all the consequences that come with it. Things just won’t happen for you. But that’s precisely why it’s so special, and so different from other colleges.

Remember that such responsibility exists not just on campus, but off. If you fail, realize that the consequences and responsibility for that failure are yours, not the Institute that gave you the freedom to make mistakes.

Take reasonable risks and test your own boundaries at MIT, but recognize the distinction between a bad idea and a challenge.

Tuesday, April 6, 2010
SpringFest
Charity Fair
benefiting

Sponsored by
Berkland Baptist Church

relief efforts in HAITI

Food for the Hungry

orphans in CHINA

Saturday, April 10, 2010
11 a.m. – 5 p.m.
Harvard Square
99 Brattle St, Cambridge
www.SpringFestBoston.com

- All proceeds will be donated to
  Food for the Hungry's relief and development efforts in Haiti and
  the China Nest of Hope Orphanage in Beijing, China
- Learn more about Haiti relief efforts and orphan needs in China
  and experience Chinese culture and food
- Free kids’ activities
- Carnival games
- Food, food, and more food!
- Charity Raffle: prizes include two roundtrip domestic airline tickets,
  Red Sox tickets, Apple iPod Touch, restaurant and merchandise gift certificates,
  and much more!
Members of Lil’ Phunk look on as others perform solo onstage during Footwork 2010. The event hosted professional groups as well as student groups from MIT and BU.

The dance crew Lil’ Phunk rushes on stage during Footwork 2010, held in Kresge Auditorium on Saturday. Lil’ Phunk is the official Celtics junior dance crew, consisting of children aged 5 to 13.
EMPOWERED
by Masdar Institute of Science and Technology

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Visit: www.masdar.ac.ae
The Tech Tuesday, April 6, 2010

STEAL MY COMIC

by Michael Ciuffo

THE GUY IN NUMBER FOUR IS LOOKING A LITTLE PALE...

NAH, DON'T WORRY, HE COMES HERE ALL THE TIME

Subterfuge And Social Media

KENKEN

Solution, page 16

Instructions: Fill in the grid so that each column and row contains exactly one of each of the numbers 1 through 6. Follow the mathematical operations for each box without repeating numbers.

SUDOKU

Solution, page 17

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

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

Solution, page 17

ACROSS

1 Eve's origin? 37 Ballerina's skirt
4 So it would __ (apparently) 40 Part 3 of quote
5 Rascals 42 Sitting on
8 Rascals 43 Gridlock
14 112.5 degrees from S 45 Gives the game away
15 Dog food brand 47 Light amber brow
16 Baltimore ballplayer 49 Tatter trader
17 Start of Phyllis Diller quote 53 __ Dame University
18 Problem fixer 56 In that place
19 Of a fast period 57 Part 4 of quote
20 Charged lepton 59 Russian chess master
21 Part 2 of quote 60 Deer head?
22 Rue 61 Broad smile
23 Obliterate 62 Curving courses
24 Freudian topic 63 Do an usher's job
25 Go beddy-bye 64 Stately tree
26 Play an improper card 65 NRC forerunner
28 Portland, OR suburb 66 Become a pensioner
30 Sizzling 67 Fabled canal
33 More wintry 68 Sniggle's prey
34 Hebrew letter 69 Exhausts
35 Add on with difficulty 70 Out of __ (discordant)
36 Transmitted 71 Eminem's Dr.

DOWN

1 Hole enlarger 32 Atlas page
2 Cover, in a way 33 Pother
3 Lament 34 Hebrew letter
4 Mineo of movies 35 Add on with difficulty
5 Zeno's home 36 Recipe abbr.
6 Larger-than-life stories 37 Recipe
7 City on the Tigris 38 Spanish article
8 Problem fixer 39 Russian chess master
9 Vine 40 Part 3 of quote
10 ...and that __ hay! 41 Former Sov. unit
11 Night-flying insect 42 Sitting on
12 Entreaty 43 Gridlock
13 Transmitted 44 Cord for a whistle
14 Cord for a whistle 45 Gives the game away
15 Fabled canal 46 Nugget of granola
16 Norse warrior 47 Light amber brew
17 Play an improper card 48 Lehmann and Lenya
18 Do an usher's job 49 Tatter trader
19 Stately tree 50 United
20 ...and that __ hay! 51 Actress
21 Sniggle's prey 52 Snuggle
22 Exhausts 53 __ Dame University
23 Tetter trader 54 Goes up
24 Entreaty 55 Way in

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Other Crossword Puzzles

1010 KenKen Puzzle  www.kenken.com
Seismic Waves

**Problem:** One of the volunteer developers has a date this weekend. Dates lead to romance. Romance leads to orphaned projects.

**What's the plan?** We're hiring him a relationship coach. He's like Will Smith in 'Hitch.' But he only gives bad advice.

**Okay, remember:** The key to conversation is constructive criticism. You need to show you're smart enough to solve her problems.

---

Orphaned Projects

 sprung is weird

ahchoo!

ahchoo!

ahchoo!

ack! puller!

ack! dust!

ack! more dust!

ahah...
Novice cosplayers perform a Left for Dead version of Michael Jackson’s “Thriller” in the Masquerade at Anime Boston 2010. Anime Boston is a three-day conference on anime and anime culture that took place last weekend at the Hynes Convention Center.

On Saturday, Boston participated in the Second Annual International Pillow Fight Day along with over 150 other cities around the world. Organized by Banditos Mysteriosos, the event attracted over 1,500 people with pillows to Cambridge Commons to engage in glorious battle with their fluffy armed brethren.
Freshmen Open House
Department of Aeronautics and Astronautics – Course XVI
Friday April 9, 2010
1:00-2:00 PM
Robert C. Seamans Lab (Student Lounge), Building 33, 1st Floor

Paper Airplanes; Mingling with Faculty and Upperclassmen; Foods; etc.

Ever wondered what it's like to be an astronaut? Ever wondered what rocket science is really all about? Like paper airplanes and throwing things? Well, come over to the Course XVI (Aero/Astro) Open House on Wednesday April 8, from 4-5:30 in the Aero/Astro Student Lounge! Come chat with professors and students about what's really going on in the Aero/Astro Department and what it's like to be a part of this community of 180+ undergrads. Of course, there will be paper airplane folding and throwing. We'll provide the paper, you provide the talent and ingenuity. Hope to see you there!

Sponsored by Course 16 and the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics (AIAA) MIT Chapter.
Airlines, the masters of flight overbooking, have refined the practice of bumping to a science.

Oversold seats are still a nuisance, but some see opportunity in volunteering.

By Jad Mouawad and Michelle Higgins

TUESDAY, APRIL 6, 2010

In 1999, according to the Department of Transportation, 1.9 out of every 10,000 passengers were bumped. Last year, the company filled 82 percent of seats, down from 85 percent a decade ago. In 1999, the company said it had an overbooking ratio of just over 7 percent. This year, the company filled 82 percent of its seats while the number of oversold seats dropped to 8.3 for each 10,000 passengers.

The airlines have invested in new software to get a better idea of how many passengers will actually show up for a flight. They look at historical data on specific routes, the time of the day, whether there is a holiday, what fares passengers paid and how many business-class travelers are booked with refundable tickets.

The airlines argue that they must overbook to make up for passengers who fail to show up. For an industry desperate to return to profitability after losing $60 billion over the past decade, an empty seat at takeoff equals one thing: lost revenue. "A seat is a perishable item," said Leon Kinloch, the senior vice president for pricing and revenue management at Continental Airlines. "It's like a fruit that spoils. The moment the door is closed, that item has perished." So the airlines are imposing more restrictive booking policies. Most airlines, for instance, require travelers to buy their tickets within 24 hours of booking them, forcing travelers to stick with their plans or risk stiff penalties to change tickets.

And the airlines have invested in new software to get a better idea of how many passengers will actually show up for a flight. They look at historical data on specific routes, the time of the day, whether there is a holiday, what fares passengers paid and how many business-class travelers are booked with refundable tickets.

Kinloch, the Boston flier who tried to get bumped, says he has earned about $36,700 in flight vouchers and rebooked on another flight for free. "I'll just sit back and watch the chaos."
As the number of unpaid internships rises, many regulators are concerned that the practice is illegal

By Steven Greenhouse

The New York Times

Regulators are concerned that the practice is illegal...
In shift from Depression scholarship to White House policymaking, Sunshine Queen finds voice

Christina Romer is the cheerful new face of the Obama economic team

By Carolyn Lochhead
THE SAN FRANCISCO CHRONICLE

WASHINGTON — Christina D. Romer PhD ’85 was so spooked by a momentary lapse during a long-forgotten MacNeil-Lehrer spot on CNN that she called a Clinton administration that she avoided doing television for a decade. Today, the UC Berkeley professor is the most visible face of the Obama administration’s economic team, from the showcase Sunday talk shows to talk live cable spots from the White House.

“Have you ever had your brain just completely gone blank, ‘Oh my God, I’m on live TV, and I have no idea what I’m saying’?” Romer, 51, said in an interview in her Eisenhower building office next door to the White House. Her hus-

band and longtime collaborator, Fellow University of California at Berkeley economist David Romer, assured her that the lapse was barely visible to viewers.

But it was the longest 15 sec-

Bonds of my life and I swear I did just go blank, and you think, ‘Oh I might want to call him back,’ he said.

House policymaking, Sunshine Queen finds voice

In shift from Depression scholarship to White

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 6, 2010  The Tech

CHEMICAL ENGINEERING OPEN HOUSE

Wednesday April 8th

3:30-5:30pm

3blg 66, Rm 201


ding the decisive vote on health care legislation, a nod to her Bay Area roots and her role in pushing the legislation.

She called the deficits left by the previous administration “a crime” because they handcuffed the Obama administration’s ability to respond to the 2008 financial crisis. Future deficits promise to handcuff government’s ability to respond to the next crisis.

“I’m deeply worried about the deficit over the long haul,” Romer said. Before the crisis, she said, “I was as big a deficit hawk as any-

body.”

But the cost controls she ad-

vocated in the health care legisla-

tion have been watered down, and some say eviscerated, even though the Congressional Budget Office estimated they will save a substan-
tial half a percent of gross domestic product in their second decade.

As Keynesians go, Romer is more what Berkeley colleagues league Brad DeLong describes as a star teacher at Berkeley, winning a star status at the National Bureau of Economic Research that sits on the committee at the National Bureau of Economic Research that dates business cycles and was a star teacher at Berkeley, winning the coveted campus distinguished teaching award.

Romer cites her years teaching high school in Canton, Ohio, got her bachelor’s degree in economics from the College of Wil-

laim and Mary and her doctorate from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, where she took a graduate course from Summers.

She often heard people say, ‘He works 80 hours a week,’ I didn’t believe that before she got this job. But one week I was counting, and it was only Wednesday and she’d already put in 39 hours in three days. So yes, it varies between completely unsustainable and just incredible hard.”

David Romer’s has shown how not just mar-

together as a team, landing jobs as juvenile judges at Berkeley in 1968. Both now have endowed chairs. Romer’s conservative critics believe today surely could have gotten a worse appointment from their perspective. As Keynesians go, there are far more liberal pickings. Romer is more what Berkeley colleague Brad DeLong describes as an “economic monetarist” whose work has shown how not just mar-

tory of economic policy, so yes, it’s an important half a percent of gross domestic product and terrifying at the same time, said Yellen, who, like Romer, is married to a Berkeley economist, George Akerlof. (The couples are fast friends.)

Yellen said when she was in the White House from 1997 to 1998, there was the Asian financial cri-

sis and Russian default, but in the United States, unemployment was falling to its lowest level since the 1960s.

“There was a great deal to worry about and some very tense times,” Yellen said. “But it was almost always delivering good news, and surprisingly good news. This is a very difficult time, and a much more challenging time to be in the White House, because it’s just not just mar-

ket policies, can fail.

She is one of the nation’s pre-

eminent economic scholars. She sat on the committee at the National Bureau of Economic Research that dates business cycles and was a star teacher at Berkeley, winning the coveted campus distinguished teaching award.

Romer cites her years teaching introductory economics to Berkeley freshmen as vital preparation for explaining economic policy to the public and Congress.

“She has a deeper understand-

ing of financial crises and the De-

ficit problem than anyone in the country,” said San Francisco Fed-

ceral Reserve Bank President Janet Yellen, a Berkeley colleague and Romer confidante who was chair of the Council of Economic Advisers in the Clinton administration and is now Obama’s likely nominee to vice chair of the Federal Reserve.

Shaping U.S. economic policy from the White House may be an economist’s dream job, but it’s not exactly like pulling the levers of a machine. An economy is essen-
tially a collection of unpredictable human beings. Congress does not always follow directions. Decisions do have consequences.

“It’s very stressful — it’s a fan-
tastic challenge, both exhilarating and terrifying at the same time,” said Yellen, who, like Romer, is married to a Berkeley economist, George Akerlof. (The couples are fast friends.)

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Pistol takes silver in 2 events at NRA Pistol Championship

By Michelle Ma

The MIT pistol team, stripped of its varsity status in last year’s sports cuts, performed well at the 30th annual NRA Intercollegiate Pistol Championships at Fort Benning, Georgia, held March 16-20, in its first year as a club team. Several individuals won honors, and both the women’s team and the open team came in fourth place in their team aggregates. The open team took silver in the free pistol event and the women’s team took silver in the women’s air pistol event.

In recognition of his efforts and his dedication as coach during the team’s transition from varsity to club, Coach Will Hart was awarded the 2010 NRA Coach of the Year award.

The open team, consisting of Michelle C. Ma ’10, Drew D. Regitsky ’10, Andrew K. Sugaya ’11, Ariel A. Torres ’11, Albert W. Chang ’10, and Win Chyan ’13, finished behind the United States Military Academy, the Citadel, and the United States Naval Academy, with a score of 6,210. The women’s team, made up of Ma, Pearle M. Lipinski ’12 (also a Tech news editor), Christie S. Chiu ’13, and Alexandra Jiang ’11, trailed Navy, Army and the Ohio State University, missing the podium by only one point with a score of 6,066.

The open aggregate score is comprised of three events: air pistol, free pistol, and standard pistol, the last being fired with .22 caliber pistols. There are four competitors per team per event, and each can score up to 600 points; The highest possible score for a team is 7,200 points. Women’s scoring is slightly different, comprised of only two events: women’s air pistol and sport pistol, Sport fired with a .22 pistol. Only three competitors compete per event per team in the women’s aggregate, and with the maximum air pistol score 400 and the maximum sport pistol score 600 per competitor, the maximum team score is 3,000.

The open team’s strongest event was free pistol, a sixty-shot event at a range of fifty meters. Sugaya, Regitsky, Chyan, and Chang together earned second place with a team score of 2,046, falling to Army’s 2,030.

The women’s team captured the silver in women’s air pistol, an event that consists of forty shots at ten meters. Ma, Chiu, and Lipinski earned a score of 1,974, defeated Army by over ten points, but trailing Navy, who scored 1,981.

Individual efforts were honored as well, as several competitors qualified for finals. After a match is fired, the top eight shooters as determined by their score participate in finals. Only those who qualified individually, not as a member of a team, are eligible to be considered.

Finals consist of 10 shots, whose shot values are scored to the tenth of a point — a shot perfectly in the center would score a 9.9. These ten shots total are then added to the base score to determine the top three shooters in the event, and rankings can shift dramatically as a result of these finals. Regitsky entered free pistol finals and earned 6th place with a finals score of 90.8. Ma and Chiu entered into women’s air pistol finals as fifth and seventh place, respectively, but ultimately did not place in the medal spots.

Ma won third place individually for sport pistol, as well as third place for the individual women’s aggregate with a score of 911, two points behind the silver medalist Heather Deppe from Army. Ma’s performance throughout the season in sport pistol earned her a place on the All-American Second Team in sport pistol.

Sugaya also earned honorable mention for the All-American Teams in free pistol and air pistol. Hart is proud of the team’s performance, and notes that members’ toughness — both physical and mental — is a key factor of the team’s success. The team looks forward to another competitive season, bolstered by strong performances in the past.

The MIT pistol team won third place at last year’s nationals, and won the national championship title in 2005 and 2007. The team competed against nearly a dozen teams this year, including all military academies except the Air Force, as well as several civilian schools including OSU and Texas A&M.

The nationally-ranked No. 6 men’s volleyball team swept Wentworth Institute of Technology, 30-20, 30-25, 30-20, on Saturday. The Engineers, who will be making their sixth consecutive trip to the NECVA Championship Tournament, improved to 28-7 overall and 14-2 in league action. MIT finished the regular season winning 15 of their final 16 matches, and their 29 wins sets the program record for wins in a season.

Matt P. Hohenberger ’13 led the Cardinal and Gray with 10 kills, a .615 hitting percentage, four aces, and three blocks.

Several Engineers were honored this week as well earning NECVA New England All-Division Honors. Michael Demyttenaere ’10, Eric B. Reuland ’10 and Hohenberger were all named to the All-Division 1st Team with Hohenberger being named NECVA New England Rookie of the Year. Timothy R. Lee ’11 and David R. Thomas ’12 were named to the All-Division 2nd Team and Head Coach Paul Dill was named New England Coach of the Year.

The Engineers will take on NECVA New England Division rival Newbury College in the first round of the post-season tournament this Friday at 6 p.m. in Hyannis, MA — Paul Dill, Team Coach

Men’s crew opens Season against Penn and Dartmouth

The men’s lightweight crew team began their season Saturday with a much anticipated home race against EARC rivals Penn and Dartmouth.

The varsity eight, led by stroke seat Nicholas B. Murlo ’10, rowed a strong first half of the 2000m race, staying within a few seats of both opponents. The Engineers lost ground in the last half of the race, finishing a boat length behind Penn who finished a half length behind Dartmouth. The team is disappointed by the results, but is determined to find more speed for coming races.

The freshmen crew performed exceptionally well, taking a strong lead during the start of their race and finishing with a five second victory over opposing crew.

The lightweight team looks forward to more home racing this coming Saturday in the Joy Cup against Yale and Georgetown.

— Aaron Blankstein, Team Representative

Athletes’ Corner

Men’s volleyball playoff-bound for 6th straight year

The nationally-ranked No. 6 men’s volleyball team swept Wentworth Institute of Technology, 30-20, 30-25, 30-20, on Saturday. The Engineers, who will be making their sixth consecutive trip to the NECVA Championship Tournament, improved to 28-7 overall and 14-2 in league action. MIT finished the regular season winning 15 of their final 16 matches, and their 29 wins sets the program record for wins in a season.

Matt P. Hohenberger ’13 led the Cardinal and Gray with 10 kills, a .615 hitting percentage, four aces, and three blocks.

Several Engineers were honored this week as well earning NECVA New England All-Division Honors. Michael Demyttenaere ’10, Eric B. Reuland ’10 and Hohenberger were all named to the All-Division 1st Team with Hohenberger being named NECVA New England Rookie of the Year. Timothy R. Lee ’11 and David R. Thomas ’12 were named to the All-Division 2nd Team and Head Coach Paul Dill was named New England Coach of the Year.

The Engineers will take on NECVA New England Division rival Newbury College in the first round of the post-season tournament this Friday at 6 p.m. in Hyannis, MA — Paul Dill, Team Coach

Men’s crew opens Season against Penn and Dartmouth

The men’s lightweight crew team began their season Saturday with a much anticipated home race against EARC rivals Penn and Dartmouth.

The varsity eight, led by stroke seat Nicholas B. Murlo ’10, rowed a strong first half of the 2000m race, staying within a few seats of both opponents. The Engineers lost ground in the last half of the race, finishing a boat length behind Penn who finished a half length behind Dartmouth. The team is disappointed by the results, but is determined to find more speed for coming races.

The freshmen crew performed exceptionally well, taking a strong lead during the start of their race and finishing with a five second victory over opposing crew.

The lightweight team looks forward to more home racing this coming Saturday in the Joy Cup against Yale and George- town.

— Aaron Blankstein, Team Representative
UPCOMING HOME EVENTS

Tuesday, April 6
Baseball vs. Springfield College 3:30 p.m., Briggs Field
Women’s tennis vs. Brandeis University 4 p.m., duPont Courts
Women’s lacrosse vs. Emerson College 4:30 p.m., Steinbrenner Stadium

Wednesday, April 7
Men’s tennis vs. Wheaton College 4 p.m., duPont Courts

Thursday, April 8
Baseball vs. WPI 3:30 p.m., Briggs Field

SCOREBOARD

Baseball
Friday, April 2
vs. Brandeis University W 6-5
Saturday, April 3
vs. Babson College L 3-2
vs. Babson College L 4-0
Monday, April 5
vs. Suffolk University W 5-4

Men’s Lacrosse
Saturday, April 3
at Wheaton College L 12-9

Women’s Lacrosse
Saturday, April 3
vs. New England College W 13-9

Monday, April 5
vs. Bridgewater State University L 15-13

Softball
Saturday, April 3
at Springfield College L 8-0
at Springfield College L 8-0

Men’s Tennis
Saturday, April 3
vs. Springfield College W 9-1

Men’s Track and Field
Saturday, April 3
Engineers’ Cup 1st of 3

Women’s Track and Field
Saturday, April 3
Engineers’ Cup 1st of 3

Men’s Volleyball
Saturday, April 3
vs. Wentworth Inst. of Tech. W 3-0

Jessica L. Iacobucci ’12 fields a ground ball during the softball game against Wellesley on Friday.

The Engineers lost 1-6.

Kevin Pang ’11 hits a forehand during the men’s tennis match on Saturday. MIT won 8-1 over Springfield College.
EVERY FALL FOR OVER A CENTURY, A SELECT GROUP OF MIT STUDENTS HAVE BEEN GOING BACK TO SCHOOL CARRYING AN EXTRA NOTEBOOK.

HERE’S HOW YOU CAN JOIN THEM.
We’re The Tech, MIT’s fourth estate and paper of record. Now and this fall, we’ll have openings for freshmen, upperclassmen, and graduate students in the following departments: News, Opinion, Sports, Arts, Campus Life, Photography, Production, Technology, and Business. Previous experience is welcome but not essential.

BUT WE’RE MORE THAN JUST A NEWSPAPER.
The Tech is also MIT’s oldest student activity, and that means organized (and disorganized) events like Sunday and Thursday night dinners, Maine retreats, Rockband marathons at 4 a.m., as well as a generally fun place to hang around.

SO WHY NOT STOP BY?
If you think you might be interested, or even if you just want to see what we do, visit our booth at the Activities Midway this Saturday. Or drop by our office, W20-483, during our CPW events listed at the right. Or e-mail us at join+notebook@tech.mit.edu.

- Thursday 6 p.m.–midnight, Open House. Watch us make Friday’s paper.
- Friday 5–7 p.m., Dinner. Tour our newsroom!
- Saturday 3–5 p.m., Open House. Come visit after the Activities Midway.