Will HDAG hear student voices?
Many troubled over Dining

By Maggie Lloyd
ASSOCIATE NEWS EDITOR

As the Division of Student Life prepares to eliminate the house dining system's $600,000 annual deficit, some undergraduates worry that the newest dining committee will neglect students' opinions.

According to a new House Dining Review website, http://studentlife.mit.edu/house-dining-revew, several changes, such as offering all-you-can-eat service, providing breakfast, and opening all four dining halls seven days a week, are being considered. Estimated costs for these modifications range from $1,850 to $3,700 per person, each year.

This past Saturday, April 3, Daniel D. Hawkins '12, vice chair of the Undergraduate Association Committee on Student Life, sent an e-mail to the student-senior and -e-mail mailing lists expressing his opinion on the issue. Both lists are open to the public.

The subject line, "You are being lied to," showed Hawkins' frustration with the lack of student engagement in dining reform before the House Dining Review website was created.

In his opinion, "there are plans that can accommodate everyone's preferences, but that's not what MIT administrators are interested in," he said in an e-mail to The Tech yesterday.

President Michael A. Benielle 10 wrote a column in last Friday's Tech, the day before Hawkins' e-mail, in which he reviewed the importance of this student engagement.

According to Bennie: "The time between the creation of this committee and a final decision is approximately one and a half months, which is simply not enough time. On a matter of such great importance, it is unlikely that student input can be collected and incorporated in any decision."
Chinese currency set to rise

The Chinese government is preparing to announce in the coming days that it will allow its currency to strengthen slightly against the dollar. Several other countries have already followed the emerging consensus in Beijing said Thursday. The move would help ease tension with the Obama administration about China’s trade deficit with the United States. China’s exports have been bolstered by its policy of keeping the yuan pegged, currently fixed at the dollar. Many members of Congress and many economists say that by spending several hundred billion dollars each year to hold down the value of the renminbi, China has made its exports extremely competitive in foreign markets compared to exports from manufacturers in the United States and other countries.

— Keith Bradsher, The New York Times

Britain adapts stronger stance against internet piracy

The British Parliament on Thursday approved plans to crack down on digital media piracy by authorizing the suspension of repeat offenders’ Internet connections.

Following the House of Commons late Wednesday, the House of Lords on Thursday approved the bill after heavy lobbying from the music and movie industries, which say they suffer huge losses from unauthorized copying over the Internet. The law makes Britain the second largest European country, after France, to approve a so-called graduated response system, under which online copyright violators face temporary suspensions of their Internet accounts if they ignore warning letters. The anti-piracy plan is part of a broader bill aimed at stimulating international financial institutions.

Many of the original proposals in the bill were dropped in the course of the debate before the name of set for May 6. These included a plan to impose a tax on telephone lines to finance the expansion of broader bandwidth connections to remote areas or rural communities. As the proposal, every telephone line was to be subject to a levy of 50 pence, or US 75 cents, a month.

— Eric Pfeiffer, The New York Times

Energy needs in South Africa collide with Obama policy

The Obama administration, caught in an awkward bind between its own ambitions on climate change and Africa’s pressing energy needs, is facing the first test of its new guidelines to ensure that coal is a last resort. Treasury Department officials have declined to say how the United States will vote on a plan to extend the world’s seventh-largest coal plant in South Africa, most of it to help build the world’s seventh-largest coal plant. The bank’s own experts concede that the giant plant is desperate for carbon dioxide that will contribute to global climate change.

But the bank’s largest shareholder — the United States — has signaled that it wants “no or low carbon” ways of meeting the energy needs of developing nations that rely on fossil fuels.

Construction of the plant is well under way, so it is too late for the steps advocated in the Obama administration’s guideline to avoid such a test. The South African officials have declined to say how the United States will vote when the plan comes before the board on Thursday, with one describing the decision as “challenging.”

South African officials contend that the plant is desperately needed to meet energy demands, the largest on the continent, and that of six neighboring nations generate growth and combat poverty. The loan is the first South African has sought from the World Bank since apartheid ended in 1994.


Unearthing human ancestor is child’s play in South Africa

Nine-year-old Matthew Berger dashed after his dog, Tau, into the high grass here one sunny August morning in 2008, tripped over a log and stumbled onto a major archeological discovery. Scientists announced Thursday that he had found a human ancestor whose species lived almost 2 million years ago during the faustial, still mysterious period spanning the emergence of the human family.

“Dad, I found a fossil!” Matthew said he cried out to his father, Lee R. Berger, an American paleoanthropologist, who had been searching for hominid bones just a hill-and-a-half away for almost two decades. Fossil hunters have probably scooped the entire grasslands north of Johannesburg since the 1930s.

Matthew held the ancient remains of a 4- to 6-foot boy who had been just a few years older than Matthew himself. Berger, with the Institute for Human Evolution at the University of the Witwatersrand in Johannesburg, and his fellow researchers have since found much more of the boy’s skeleton, including his extraordinarily well-preserved skull, and they had learned that the remains of South Africa’s children will compete to name the boy.

In a report being published Friday in the journal Science, Berger, 44, and a team of scientists said the fossils from the boy and a woman were a surprising and distinctive mixture of primitive and advanced anatomy and thus qualified as a species of hominid, the ancestors and other close relatives of humans. It has been named Australopithecus sediba.

The species sediba, which means fountain or wellspring in Sotho, sits in between long legs, with human-like hips and pelvis, but well clothed through trees on apelike arms.

It had the small teeth and more modern face of Homo, the genus that includes modern humans, but the relatively primitive feet and “tiny brain” of Australopithecus, Berger said. Researchers had estimated that the individuals lived 1.78 million years ago, probably to the closer to the older dates, when aus-

teropithecines and early species such as Paranthropus comport themselves.

Berger’s team that said the new species probably descended from modern, “tiny brain” of Australopithecus africana. At a teleconference on Wednesday, he described the species as a possible ancestor of Homo erectus, an im-

mediate predecessor to Homo sa-

piens, or a “close side branch” that did not lead to modern humans.

By Erik Eckholm and Katie Hobbs, The New York Times

Phoebe Prince, the 15-year-old who killed herself after relentless teasing, spent her final days in fear of girls who had threatened to beat her up, according to the first official accounts released in a case in Mass-

achusetts that gained wide attention last week, where six students were charged with felonies.

Prince, who entered South Hadley High last fall after moving from Ireland, was involved in emotional tur-

moil after weeks of being called an “Irish slut” and other names, and also became increasingly worried about the loudly voiced physical threats, students told investigators. She told a friend that she was “not a tough girl” and “would not know how to fight, and at one point she asked friends to surround her as she walked in the hall.

Documents were prepared by the district attorney for the Northwestern District in Massachusetts in support of the charges against the three 16-year-old students.

They also described evidence sug-

gesting that some teachers and ad-

ministrators had known for weeks about the harassment but failed to stop it, a contention that school of-

ficials have disputed.

The 40 pages of documents surround the alleged crimes, on the three girls who were arrested Thursday in Hadley — Ashley Longe, Flannery Mullins and Shara-

n Channon Velazquez. They have been charged as youthful offend-

ers with felonies including viola-

tion of civil rights and stalking, and have also been charged with similar crimes under juvenile law.

Three other students — Sean Mulveyhill, 17, Kayla Narey, 17, and Austin Renaud, 16, — have been charged as adults, including charg-

es of statutory rape against the two male students.

The accused students have said they provided the first detailed accounts of verbal abuse and physical threats that prosecutors say were heaped upon Prince right up to the after-

noon of Jan. 14, when she walked home crying and hanged herself from a stairwell.

Court documents detail teenage girl’s final days of fear

By Colin W. Dugger and John Noble, The New York Times

Extended Forecast

Today: Cloudy with a chance of showers. High 69°F (20°C). South-

west winds to 15 mph.


Sunday: Mostly sunny. High 69°F (20°C).

Weather

Variable weather for CPW

By Angela Zalucha

and John Noble

The Obama administration, caught in an awkward bind between its own ambitions on climate change and Africa’s pressing energy needs, is facing the first test of its new guidelines discouraging coal-fired power projects in developing nations.

This week, the World Bank will vote on a $3.75 billion loan to help build the world’s seventh-largest coal plant. The bank’s own experts concede that the giant plant is desperately needed to meet energy demands, the largest on the continent, and that six of six neighboring nations generate growth and combat poverty. The loan is the first South Africa has sought from the World Bank since apartheid ended in 1994.


Situation for noon Eastern daylight time, Friday, April 9, 2010

Weather Systems

High Pressure

Cold Front

Cold Front

Warm Front

Cold Front

Trough

Precipitation Symbols

Heavy

Moderate

Snow

Rain

Other Symbols

Critical

Moderate

Light

Light

Light

Light
Opening new era, U.S. and Russia sign nuclear arms pact

By Peter Baker

With Boursin and Irandou, Presi- dents Barack Obama and President Dmitry A. Medvedev of Russia signed a nuclear arms control treaty on Thursday and opened what they hoped would be a new era in the tu- multuous relationship between two former Cold War adversaries. Meeting here in the heart of a once-divided Europe, the two lead- ers put aside the acrimony that has characterized Russian-U.S. ties in recent years as they agreed to bring down their arsenals and restore an inspection regime that expired in December. Along the way, they sidestepped unresolved disputes over missile defense and other is- sues.

"When the United States and Russia are not able to work together on big issues, it is not good for ei- ther of our nations, nor is it good for the world," Obama said as his words echoed through a majestic, gilted hall in the famed Prague Castles. "Today, we have stopped the drift, and proven the benefits of cooperation. Today, as an important milestone for nuclear security and nonproliferation, and for U.S.-Rus- sia relations."

Medvedev called the treaty sign- ing "a truly historic event" that will "open a new page" in Russian-U.S. relations. "What matters most is this is a win-win situation," he said. "No one stands to lose from this agree- ment. I believe this is a typical fea- ture of our cooperation. Both par- ties have won."

"We cannot turn a blind eye to this," Medvedev said, while adding that sanctions "should be smart" and avoid hardship for the Iranian people.

Obama said he expected "to be able to secure strong, tough sanc- tions" on Iran during the spring. The apparently warm relation- ship between the two presidents was on display as they entered the hall to trumpet music. They whis- pered and smiled with each other in English as they sat side by side signing copies of the so-called New START treaty, trading compliments.

Disposal of plutonium from accord likely to take decades

By Matthew L. Wald

The plutonium that is the key ingredient in thousands of nuclear weapons sidelines in the new arms control treaty between the United States and Russia is likely to be around for decades at least, accord- ing to experts. They say the process for destroying plutonium has not yet started to whittle down the surplus created by previous agreements.

Plutonium can be consumed in nuclear power reactors, creat- ing the possibility of a swords-to- plowshares conversion that would have the added benefit of making deployment of the weapons im- possible. But converting the weap- ons plutonium for civilian reactor use has proved much slower than expected.

Since the late 1990s, the United States has been trying to build a factory near Aiken, S.C., that would convert the weapons plutonium to reactor fuel. Government officials once hoped that such fuel could be load- ed into reactors in 2002. But con- struction did not begin until 2007 and even if it all goes well, the plant will not be finished until 2016. The plan is to use the amount already declared surplus, 34 tons, over about 15 years, so if the new arms agreement results in more plutonium being declared surplus, it would not start to be converted to fuel until the 2010s, at the earliest, people involved in the project say. "If we’re going to dismantle more warheads based on a new agreement, you’d have to stretch out the time," said Alan Hanson, a vice president of Areva, a French company participating in the plant construction.

Not Enough Cyborg Bananas in Your Life?

MIT Science Fiction Library

We aren’t fans, we just read the stuff!

How Extensive Is the Library?
The MITSFS Library contains over 60,000 volumes, including more than 90% of all science fiction and fantasy published in English. We have an almost complete collection of science fiction magazines and are the largest open stack science fiction library in the world.

Where Is the Library?
Go to the 4th floor of the Student Center. It is on the east side (W20-473).

When can I come in?
The MITSFS Library is open upwards of 80 hours a week. Check out our schedule at mitsfs.mit.edu.

Resistance is Frutile

South Korean sailors say blast came from outside the vessel

It could take weeks for engineers to salvage the South Korean warship that sank in waters disputed by North Korea after a mys- terious explosion and provide a definitive explanation of what caused the disaster. But some signs are pointing to North Korea, raising uncomfortable questions for the South’s government.

On Thursday, surviving crew members were public with their account, saying they were convinced that the explosion came from outside the ship. That follows remarks last week by Defense Minis- ter Kim Tae-young before the National Assembly that the military had not ruled out the possibility that the ship was hit by a mine or torpedo. Kim added, “A more likely possibility is a torpedo attack.”

If North Korea is ultimately found culpable, it will amount to one of the most serious military provocations since the Korean War ended in a truce, leaving the peninsula technically in a state of war. But what options South Korea may have to retaliate is a difficult issue for the South.

The delicacy of the matter was on full display during Kim’s tes- timony. No sooner had he raised the possibility of a torpedo attack than he was handed a note from the office of President Lee Myung- bak. It warned him not to “lean too much toward the torpedo at- tack” and to stick to the official stance: keeping all possibilities open until the ship was salvaged and examined for cause of sinking.

—The New York Times

White House presses Japan to reopen market to U.S. beef

The Obama administration is stepping up pressure on Japan to reopen its market to American beef, in hopes of helping ranchers and meatpackers gain full access to what was once their most lu- crative market.

Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack has been dispatched to To- kyo to meet with his Japanese counterpart, Hirotaka Akamatsu, on Thursday.

Japan resumed American beef imports in 2006, but restricted them to meat from cattle 20 months old or younger — a limit that American exporters say has no scientific basis. Japan says older animals are more prone to developing mad cow disease. Japan also bans certain body parts.

Japan, the world’s largest net importer of food, abruptly banned shipments from American meat packers in 2003 after mad cow dis- ease was discovered in one animal imported to the United States from Canada.

In 2003, Japan was the largest market for American beef, with exports of $1.4 billion; since then, American beef exports to Japan have averaged about $196 million, or less than 15 percent of 2003 levels.

—Hiroko Tabuchi, The New York Times
A potential MIT students, you’ve seen the admissions booklets: MIT will draw you with opportunities. Want to play Indonesian gamelan? Research polymerizable nanomaterials with world-class professors? Shoot fellow students with nerf guns on a Friday night — because you’re an official student group? You’ve come to the right place! That’s what Campus Preview Weekend is all about. During CPW you will experience a more vivid, more fun version of MIT. It’s not like this all the time. And that’s a shame.

At MIT, you will feel the temptation to overload yourself with classes, to spend all your time tooing about on problem sets. You will be surprised at how easy it is to allow academics to consume your life. You will become, as we like to say at MIT, terribly, horribly, bored. And, as an MIT student, you decide to embrace this extreme, sleep-deprived state of existence. You might choose to intensify it by taking five, six, even seven classes. You’ll spend your evenings, weekends, and vacations huddled in your room, only declaring to your fellow housemates or hallmates how very, very busy you’ve been, taking pride in being perceived as “hardcore.” At MIT, such a culture exists that valorizes this type of lifestyle. As an entering student, it might be hard to imagine yourself slipping into this mindset, but once you’re a student here, free of the constraints of high school or college for your academic completion and status, busy with problem sets, it can be easy to forget the importance of maintaining a life outside of classes. Here is your warning. Beware of the urge to be “hardcore.”

So much learning in college takes place outside of classes. By getting involved in extracurricular clubs, sports or music groups, you learn to work with and communicate with other people — and initially, they’re usually strangers. You will learn to accomplish goals alongside people you like, but you probably meet more people than you thought. This is how the real world works, and MIT is a great place to practice.

At MIT, you will feel the temptation to overload yourself with classes, to spend all your time tooing about on problem sets. Don’t.

Extracurricular research is also a great way to get involved in a huge part of MIT. The Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program (UROP) makes it very easy for students to work in a lab for pay, credit, or as a volunteer. If you’re one of the many MIT students who decide to participate in research, UROP is a fantastic way to get a small taste of that lifestyle. Plus, you’ll learn to communicate in an academic setting and further hone your people skills. UROP’s breadth is also unique to MIT. Many other programs do not provide undergraduates with such easy access to a wide range of research disciplines.

But everything comes at a price. This means that in order to take advantage of opportunities like UROP, sports and clubs, you will need to find time away from your work — so don’t do too many of them! While you may try to take seven classes per semester while attempting to juggle everything else you want to do with your life, you’ll likely be unhappy and probably leave the infrastructure prepared for the real world than your peers. So take five or four classes and devote each year, or even better, each term to learning something new, be it a sport, research, music, leadership, volunteering or even your personal project. Spend time making new friends and having fun. You will graduate on time.

None of this advice is truly specific to MIT. No matter what your matriculate, do not overload yourself with classes. Extracurricular activities will likely teach you as much as any class will, but what you learn is of a different nature — teamwork, management and so forth. You’ll have time for all of your projects, and meaningfully for learning and from mistakes. College life is about achieving a balance between your responsibilities and the rest of your life. Do even here, that balance is possible.
The city was strange and the society unnerving, but what disturbed me the most was the story BCG offered me $16,000 not to tell. Friday, April 9, 2010   The Tech

The story BCG offered me $16,000 not to tell

I missed out on many of the learning opportunities that MIT offers outside of classes. I don’t recommend what I did to anyone. But as stupid as carrying doubly coarse loads was, it had one advantage. After all the long days and late nights, I believed I was invincible. If BCG couldn’t make me burn out, nothing else could.

Despite having no work or research experience, I quickly found out why so little had been answered in the course of our bids for work. It was the same reason that clients usually didn’t know why we had been hired to answer, and as a matter of fact, we were hired to answer questions that had been stolen from our competitors. If we had not any guarantee that I would be qualified.

My moral system is organized around a single bottom line — goods and services represent tangible betterment. It was hard to sit at a laptop and type when you are saying something that your manager does not want to hear.

I spoke up once. And when it became clear that I would be committing career suicide to press on, I shut up.

Dubi and Back Again

The story BCG offered me $16,000 not to tell

By Keith Yost

The city was strange and the society unnerving, but what disturbed me the most was the story BCG offered me $16,000 not to tell.

I was never sure what to expect, going in. In my mind, consulting was about answering business questions through analysis. It was supposed to be fact sheets of numbers, slicing through data to discover profit and loss, and helping clients make decisions that would add the most value for themselves, and by extension, society.

It was a no-win game with no guarantee that I could get my head around the analysis. In hindsight, analytical skills should have been the least of my worries.

I thought up and writing PowerPoint slides. It was a fairly standard way of going about my education, and I couldn’t get my head around the analysis. In hindsight, analytical skills should have been the least of my worries.

I couldn’t possibly know what to expect, going in. In my mind, consulting was about answering business questions through analysis. It was supposed to be fact sheets of numbers, slicing through data to discover profit and loss, and helping clients make decisions that would add the most value for themselves, and by extension, society.

It was a no-win game with no guarantee that I could get my head around the analysis. In hindsight, analytical skills should have been the least of my worries.
The White House has announced plans to host a conference in Florida on April 15 during which President Obama will unveil his vision for the U.S. space program. If recent moves by the administration are any indication, this new vision will significantly curtail public funding for space activity. The president is working hard to spin the upcoming change as a transition rather than a cut, and he is likely to succeed, at least to the extent that the public will not notice the difference between the administration's budget and its predecessor’s. But while the swing-state politics of the Sunshine State may have their uses, they are not as important as the public's need to hold its leaders accountable on this issue.

To the critics of the space program, this is not a way of life at all, in any true sense. Under the clouds of this space-industrial complex, it is human-hand filled coffers and hands, one after another, have been turned to greed and selfishness, and velcro. But let us not deceive ourselves into thinking that all of NASA's budget can be reprogrammed by the occasion. The next step is, we would never have achieved satellites without luxuries such as the Apollo missions. Not even. But by proceeding on the basis of our fellow man, that would be one such an obsession with space imply not that we are an all too important, but instead that we doubt the goodness of the human race. Doesn’t? I suggest that we are more advanced of our inevitable self-destruction that we would rather fake things in space than building earth. One of those, submitting ourselves to the cruelties of our fellow man? Where others see an adventurer’s spirit, I see existential worry and cowardly desperation. Everything is possible. For everything is possible that is made. Everything is possible in space, everything is possible in the future.

And let us not pretend that it's the fault of the space program. It's all a matter of priorities. If Mr. Obama wants to spend more of his tax dollars in our country, he should do so, and let commercial interests fill in behind it. Mr. Yost wants NASA to look more like MIT? That’s the plan.

But these cost-containment arguments don’t get to the heart of the matter. Why do we maintain a space program? It’s not just for national pride. Although that was certainly a primary factor during the Cold War, it’s not enough anymore to say that we need to beat the Chinese back to the moon. The reason I support the space program is a base.

The more poetic among us say that NASA has given us the heroes like the astronauts who trained their vehicles to the skies, taught our children to fly, and let commercial interests fill in behind it. Mr. Yost wants NASA to look more like MIT? That’s the plan.

But these cost-containment arguments don’t get to the heart of the matter. Why do we maintain a space program? It’s not just for national pride. Although that was certainly a primary factor during the Cold War, it’s not enough anymore to say that we need to beat the Chinese back to the moon. The reason I support the space program is a base.

The more poetic among us say that NASA has given us the.
Why should you come to MIT?

**POINT: The ten best reasons to pick MIT**

By Ron T. Normandin

A year ago a too was a high school senior who was trying to decide which college to choose. “I thought MIT was a good option,” a friend of mine told me. “I chose a year later, I can say that I am very glad that I did. Since arriving here, I have only discovered a few things that I didn’t know before about MIT and I will tell you what I think you should know. I want to talk to you about all of my own experiences of MIT.

1. MIT is the best

This is true by the reflexive property. A set contains its own elements. A set containing itself is isomorphic to the entire universe. The neighborhood of a set is the set of all sets that are contained in it. A set containing all sets that are contained in it is a set that contains all of its subsets.

2. The faculty.

The reason you should end up choosing MIT is simply judged on basic college statistics. When you're hunting for a job, any employer that sees that MIT diploma is going to be pressed before you even open your mouth. So, why would you ever screw it up when you do open your mouth.

3. The writing.

How would you like to learn biology from the people who are on the cutting edge of research? It is not as if there are limits on the number of students that MIT could have achieved; it is the top 10 percent reasons to pick MIT.

4. The students.

I'm going to be honest, this is a reason I can't help but say. When you're for Dining, against Dining, just plain DXM, you can't have a family that keeps you well grounded. Remembering that there's a world out of MIT is hard to do, not just when it comes to current events but when it comes to the way that people think. There are those at MIT who love it here because they are "just like them" and there's no surprise that they're extremely disappointed when they graduate and realize that they're not very, very few people are actually like them.

5. Feeling like a complete nerd when you're doing something

You'll know it when you see it. People like to make their college choice for the wrong reasons. The number one reason people don't know what they're getting themselves into. I therefore present the top ten worst reasons to choose MIT.

1. "MIT is MIT"

This is one of the worst arguments I've heard for why you should go to MIT, and unfortunately I have heard it a lot. For a set of people (like myself and my family) MIT is the "private school of the poor". The analogy is apt. You have to work really hard to earn it, lots of people try to copy it, and too many people think it looks like a big deal out of it. MIT is a fascinating school with a lot of people who are still procrastinate like none other, half-ass, and aren't necessarily bothered by the lack of social life. At MIT you can swim in the Middle East, despite potentially working on the next U.S. M.D. You really have to respect the fact that MIT is a center of Tech, not a bastion of Brilliance. And you also have to remember that many of the things that MIT grads say don't apply to everyone here. There are undoubtedly those who'll just blow you away by how well-advanced they are while making time for amazing research and getting to the ground troops. You really have to remember that people here are people like this at every university.

2. You want to be happy.

They don't call this place "Hell" for nothing. And amazingly, it's really not so bad. There are different kinds of intelligence and where do you often see intelligence? At MIT, the undergraduates are insanely intelligent. They are quick-witted and can learn a lot of things in a short amount of time, but here are also very good at spending lots of time. My friend said that the percentage of people aren't necessarily more motivated, disciplined, worldly, or otherwise well-rounded. There's a great deal of personal initiative and not much spoon feeding when it comes to classes. That means that when you do take for them, they really do take for them.

3. You're for Dining

This is the third in a four-part series on the "What are the ten best reasons to pick MIT?" series. This is the title of the book that was written by Ron T. Normandin, a consultant to the web site "What are the ten best reasons to pick MIT?"

4. You're for Dining

Some days you really have to wonder whether there isn't a leak in the Internet's "towers of silence" that spills half the world's e-mails into your inbox. Even with all the discipline and Gmail filters you can master, the empty e-mails are still making their way through. Be ready to either spend a lot of time sorting through messages that resemble IM or remove more than e-mails and delete more than random flame wars that might erupt on you through your e-mailing list.

5. You don't like the idea of bureaucracy

Well, too bad, because everything at MIT is bureaucratic, and unfortunately, that's what makes it put so much faith into its students to let them be the ones to allocate money to student groups and to custodians off of campus, it gets annoying when solutions for some problems that the average student life is "let's make a committee for it".

6. Dining (or lack thereof)

If there's one thing that's been a persistent dead fish in the room, it's dining. The dining issue at MIT has taken on symbolic proportions, with "the evil administration" being the "immature students". The "student" is for Dining, against Dining, just plain DXM, you can't have a family that keeps you well grounded. Remembering that there's a world out of MIT is hard to do, not just when it comes to current events but when it comes to the way that people think. There are those at MIT who love it here because they are "just like them" and there's no surprise that they're extremely disappointed when they graduate and realize that they're not very, very few people are actually like them.

7. You have bad time management skills.

A large move faster and it's easy to fall behind. You'll need to take responsibility for your own life, unlike some other schools, there won't be someone to guide you at every step of the way. Planning is important.

8. The bubble

I was not surprised the day I lost my job. It was clear: I could either be a cheerleader for MIT, or I could be a cheerleader for the Red Sox. You know, the greatest team in history. I was not surprised the day I lost my job. It was clear: I could either be a cheerleader for MIT, or I could be a cheerleader for the Red Sox. You know, the greatest team in history. It might have been releasing reports of course, but the economy was not doing well. From the very beginning of my employment, I thought I wasn't a single employee. I was working on staying with the company — all of them were scrambling for liebacks, trying to land casual jobs with cash-stuffed clients or find their way back to their home countries.

9. It's not Harvard

This is the third in a four-part series on the "What are the ten best reasons to pick MIT?" series. This is the title of the book that was written by Ron T. Normandin, a consultant to the web site "What are the ten best reasons to pick MIT?"

10. You want an education.

Dining is the third in a four-part series on the "What are the ten best reasons to pick MIT?" series. This is the title of the book that was written by Ron T. Normandin, a consultant to the web site "What are the ten best reasons to pick MIT?"
Cryogenic tricks and treats

The science behind liquid nitrogen ice cream

By Fangfei Shen

Have you experienced cryogenic tricks and treats at MIT? It’s not too late if you haven’t. There are activities starring cryogenics throughout CPW, and they all use liquid nitrogen as their cryogen of choice. The reason is simple: Liquid nitrogen is cheap thanks to its atmospheric abundance (in fact, liquid nitrogen is cheaper than car gas!) While other cryogenic liquids would do similar tricks, they are made from rarer gases and are correspondingly pricier. Cryogenics relies on the super-cool, and liquid nitrogen is in fact super-cool. Liquid nitrogen, often abbreviated as LN2 (L for liquid, N2 for N2 nitrogen molecules), boils at 77°K and is way more effective than ice at cooling. It is also way more effective than ice at making ice cream.

Making LN2 ice cream is quick and delicious, and it looks awesome. Ice cream is liquid nitrogen’s call to fame among MIT undergrads, though we do appreciate its applications to, you know, research and industry.

Ice cream making by hand without liquid nitrogen can be an arduous and slow process. You must churn the ice cream a lot while cooling it until it turns into ice cream. The usual approach would whip the ice cream, aerating it to the fluffy and smooth consistency we love. Like any red-blooded American, you have a lot of athletes and/or crazy friends who tried making whipped cream or meringues. Yes, it was a white cream becoming liquid nitrogen turns ice cream making into a snap. The secret lies in liquid nitrogen’s low boiling point of 77°K.

If liquid nitrogen hits any temperature above 77°K, it starts boiling nitrogen gas. The temperature and room temperature (~30°F) is definitely hot enough. Swirling an LN2 ice cream-making setup steams into water vapor when it boils. Same concept and same process, except liquid nitrogen boils at a much lower temperature than a molasses sculpture of a slug being frozen. The walk to Harvard Square is not tiring. Even with choosing the slowest dance, my partner and I can only get you so acquainted with the music. It’s basically the only exercise I get, and I get to meet all sorts of interesting people outside of MIT. Don’t get me wrong, I realize that there are plenty of opportunities around campus to mingle, but coordinated shouting at movie screenings can only get you so acquainted with the people around you. I don’t even care all that much about what kind of dancing I’m doing — club dancing, ballroom dancing, I’ll even Michael Jackson dance if the opportunity arises, objections from bystanders notwithstanding. After the past three weeks, though, given that I can count the muscles in my legs and feet based on the individual types of soreness they’re experiencing, it’s become apparent that such a thing as too much dancing does exist.

I’ve been to three dances around the Boston-Cambridge area in the past three weeks, and walked to most of them, which didn’t help me any. The first was a masquerade at Harvard as part of their annual science-fiction/fantasy/game convention. Don’t look at me like I’m weird — Harvard’s that bad. Blogging to electronic remixes of video game music is surprisingly fun, once you get past the self-inflicted pop quiz of which game the song comes from.

It’s refreshing to dance in a grind-free setting (not that there’s anything wrong with that), as someone for whom public thrusting isn’t a big part of my dance vocabulary. On the other hand, considering how much Rock Band I saw this weekend, I sort of expected more rhythm and less frenetic, arbitrary twisting. I will say this much for dances at conventions, though: being able to try out new moves around people that won’t judge and will gladly match your occasionally misplaced enthusiasm is refreshing. The walk to Harvard Square isn’t a short one, though, at least not for someone whose idea of a brisk pace is still slower than a molasses sculpture of a slug being pulled across the Antarctic landscape by a team of glaciers.

Fast forward to the following week, when I spent a couple hours at the Boston University Dance Marathon. Similar-sized crowd, but with completely different music.
Long-distance lovers

Can the power of love overcome geography? No.

By M.

It pains me to say this because I don’t want to crap all over your fantasy, even if it’s with a healthy dose of reality. But that thing about true love overcoming everything, even distance? That’s a lie.

No doubt there’s something very romantic about long-distance relationships. There is nothing on earth like seeing your loved one for the first time in months, the rush of adrenaline and the urge to fuck each other’s brains out as soon as possible. The general impression is that couples who lack in geographical closeness make up for it in the intensity of their love. And we all know someone who knows someone who made a long-distance relationship work, and think, that we, too, can make it work! He’s not going to cheat on me!

Yeah, about that. It is so easy to cheat when your partner is far, far away. I don’t condone cheating, but at the same time, I could never trust myself to keep it in my pants if I were to go months without sex. If someone else hits on me and he’s looking good and I’ve had a bit to drink, it’s easy to slip up. Some will argue that if I can stray so easily then I’m surely not in love, but my heart and my vagina are a feet and a half apart. They don’t communicate very well. It is a huge temptation, and some of us are weak. And the same way I could cheat, well, my partner could too. It’s hard to trust that he won’t sleep with someone else when I’m not there to fuck him.

You live not in the present, but in the past and in the future. That is no way to live, stuck in a time limbo, missing someone all the time.

And then the feelings. Long-distance relationships are emotionally founded on longing, on that void you feel when someone you like is not close to you. You divide your time between fantasizing about the next time you see each other, and replaying in your mind the last time you were together. You live not in the present, but in the past and in the future. That is no way to live, stuck in a time limbo, missing someone all the time.

As if that was not enough, let’s add to it the pressure to make every time you see each other memorable. It is the only time you spend together, so it has to compensate for all the time you spend apart. The sex has to be perfect, the other person has to dedicate each second to you, you have to have fun. I’ve heard of guys not being able to get it up because they feel immense pressure to make sex amazing for their girlfriend. There are a lot of expectations, and if they go unfulfilled, you just end up totally disappointed.

Truth is, long-distance relationships are more draining than rewarding. Think of the costs. Expensive phone bills. Long bus or plane rides. Sore genitals from all the sex when you finally see each other. Fights over the phone. Trust issues, insecurity, and paranoia. There is so much one has to sacrifice to even have a shot at making it work, and the odds of it succeeding are slim. It’s only a matter of time before the geographical distance translates to emotional distance. Suddenly, you’re stuck in a relationship that doesn’t work but is hard to end. Nobody wants to dump someone over Skype.

If a long-distance relationship is to have chance at working, the distance problem needs to be short term — a blip — not the droning reality of your love lives. So often, that’s not the case. Many long-distance relationships I see are people going to school in different states or countries, and that’s not exactly a temporary situation. That is one dim light shining at the end of the tunnel. If you’re putting so much effort into making a long-distance relationship work, and it’s draining the living crap out of you, I think you’d want it to have a nice payoff. Like you being reunited at some point in the nearer future.

Ultimately, if you’re in a long-distance relationship, you need to step back and figure out if this is something worth fighting for. If you have no doubt it is, go for it. Otherwise, give yourself the freedom to find someone who you can wake up next to on a regular basis. Most people can’t cross the distance.

M. is a junior in Course 10. She can be contacted at undress@tech.mit.edu.
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 (AeroAstro) Open House on Friday April 9. Come chat with professors and students about what's really going on in the AeroAstro 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.
By Charles Lin

My main issue with Vampire Weekend has always been that 30 seconds out of every minute of their music is pure genius. Doesn’t even matter which album, song, or minute.

Most bands struggle to fill an LP with 30 seconds of genius. Vampire Weekend does it effortlessly. This sucks, because then I’m left bitching about the other 30 seconds of every minute. Those other 30 seconds usually fail to deliver the same up feeling really, or just get on my nerves.

I don’t care much more than once screaming at my stereo, “Era, you went to Colombia, you’re smart enough to write a three minute song for this song. Vampire Weekend, REPEET.” This too is sad, because I really like their work. Ezra Koenig is smart, witty, and almost certainly a foot snot. I like that he writes about grammar and the ennui of summering at the Cape.

These are issues that concern me and I am very glad that Vampire Weekend addresses them.

We probably shop at the same stores too (www.jesucatholic.com). I just prefer my pants a little less ass tight.

This brings me to the completely irrelevant crisis of whether or not I even like Vampire Weekend. It’s irrelevant because probably everyone loves them. Important people. Spin named them the best new band of 2008 and NSM gave their debut 42nd place on top albums of the decade — that’s Strokes and Interpol territory. Pretty lofty stuff.

I’ve been weary of these debut corona-

tions before (e.g. Strokes and Interpool), but with Vampire Weekend coming into town last Thursday at the Orpheum, I decided to give them a chance to reconcile my feel-

ings.

The worst of me always thought of Vamp-

er Weekend in that critical Sandström light.

I referenced João Gilberto and liked disso-

nings. At last Thursday I decided to give it a try. My left hand was down. Second place came from my friend Aaron who said, “They’re like The Shins, but without melody.”

At their best, well like I said, 30 seconds of genius. Batting .500 with punctuated rhythms, catchy hooks, and irreverently whimsical lyrics.

All this I mulled over, standing in the orchestra section at the sold out Orpheum. Surrounded by an audience straight out of the pages of Stuff While People Like, Vampire Weekend came out and played a 90 minute set split between their two LPs. I was a little let down. They killed it.

The guy to my right held up his iPhone and knew every lyric. Then he proceeded to make out with his girlfriend for the en-

core. A group of graduate students the row behind me were wriggling and singing in time with Era’s on stage pelvic thrusts. The entire balcony sagged and rose under the weight of their carousing that followed more traditional stuff.

This brings me to the completely irrel-

vant of which albums again, I find out of the other 30 seconds of “meh” fading (I’m more 40/20 now). They still have their flaws, but I think I’ll just get Vampire Weekend.

Maybe it has to do with them being in their element, and with their audience.

Someone has to make music for the Upper West Side, Cape-Cod-summering, steady-


toward-Botswana crew. If Vineyard Vines can exist, why can’t Vampire Weekend?

Maybe their music will endure longer than those bands that try to mold indie rock with [choose one culturally hip style.

By the encore, I’d forgotten why I could have hated them in the first place. Their songs had energy and verve. They were repetitive, but the circular rhythms and hooks became rallying refrain rather than tired iterations. And now listening to their albums again, I find that other 30 seconds of “meh” fading (I’m more 40/20 now) they still have their flaws, but I think I’ll just get Vampire Weekend.

Vampire Weekend is brilliant, but only half the time.

Twice the guitars, twice the hooks: Rostam Batmanglij (left) and Ezra Koenig (right) of Vampire Weekend play their hit “A-Punk.”

By Sudeep Agarwala

For as beautifully and thoughtfully as Saturday evening’s performance was con-

cealed behind the mannerly and academic, third concert of Musica Sacra’s 50th an-

niversary season also managed to present significant challenges to both audience and performer. In a program entitled The Spirit, is a 400-year-old history of sacred music, Musica Sacra performed five works that covered a span of 500 years. All were written within the last forty years.

Saturday evening’s program began with the premiere of Benjamin Britten’s music for the Nativity of the Lord. Founded on the chant of the twelfth century nun of the Christian mystic Hilde-

guard von Bingen, Sandtner’s work explored the resonant space of Harvard Square’s va-

numinous First Church Congregational to its fullest. This is difficult music to perform; Sandtner’s pace of singing required an immanent impulse to perform, the attention to detail was remark-

able: granting swells in the choir painted a marmoreal piece to realize the humanistic work Górecki must have envisioned.

In light of these two works, Osnat Netzer’s work came as a breath of fresh air. Whereas Sandtner’s and Górecki’s work revolved in the static, Netzer’s broke from the alabaster into something more akin to folk song. Whereas Sandtner’s and Górecki’s works provided ample surprises in unexpected harmonic shifts homophonic writing, Netzer’s music was marked with vast swatches of melodies carousing that followed more traditional rules of counterpoint. Although more tra-

ditional voice-leading in the choral parts made Netzer’s work one of the most ac-

cessible of the evening, Netzer’s work bore significantly more emotional gravitas. Set-

ting lines from Yehuda Amichai, the Psalms and the Jewish liturgy, Netzer’s unique use both to audience member and musician of the work, brittleness of lyric can ameliorate even the most avathari music. A setting of eight medieval English texts, Britten’s work is poised for performance during early spring and Lent, ranging from topics as vastly varied as a prayer to the Vir-

gin Mary, to a Middle English translation of the Latin O vos omnes, to ballads of spring approaching on the morns. Although much closer to character to Netzer’s work in the first half of the program, Britten’s work is technically demanding, both tonally and rhythmically. While passages in later movements of Britten’s work showed signs of exhaustion, Musica Sacra was particu-

larly impressive in its ability to shift modes from the tonally powerful works of Sandtner, Górecki and Sandtner to the thorner works of Britten’s songs. Solid lines of the first movement, St. Godric’s Hymn, gave way to the intricate chipping of Lord and Lenten is come. Janet Ross, soloist in the fifth movement, If I say of love can, was of particular note, maintaining a presence that blossomed seemingly out of nowhere, while negotiating balance with the choir.

Particularly impressive was the final move-

ment of the work, A Death, a setting whose non-obvious setting lends way to conclu-

sion reminiscent of scat singing in vocal jazz. Musica Sacra maintained the supple-

ness of the line while adhering strictly to the death-defying rhythmics hijinks of Britten’s whim.

Now in completing its thirtieth year, it’s this type of programming that is education-

al both to audience member and musician alike — a challenging program to perform, certainly, conductor Mary Beekman’s mu-

sical choices also pushed the limits of the audience’s imagination and conception of what contemporary choral music can be and is. Musica Sacra’s final concert, a collection of conductor Mary Beekman’s favorite piec-

es from the ensemble’s 50 year history, will be performed on May 22 at 8 p.m. at First Church Congregational in Harvard Square.
The chemistry experiment had me figuratively — and then shortly thereafter literally — glued to my seat.

Help Desk by Michael Benitez

Crossword Puzzle
Solution, page 23

ACROSS
1 Chasten
10 Burning
15 Suction device
16 Flat breads
17 Declerative courtroom statement
19 Actress Lamarr
20 Arbuckle of Hollywood
21 Hook’s underling
22 Missive from a CEO
23 Comes in
25 Gas name
29 On the Indian
30 Hood’s arms
34 Nabokov novel
37 Interrogatory sound-check statement

DOWN
1 Lge. church
2 Late, great tennis player
3 Risked getting a ticket
4 In apple-pie order
5 Anger
6 Social blunder
7 Peppard’s TV group
8 Scout’s rider
9 Formerly, formerly
10 Mar. follower
11 Spanish holiday
12 Knocker’s reply
13 Evaluator
14 Curvy letters
15 Knocker’s reply
16 Blot on the landscape
17 Castle’s defense
18 Eye piece
19 Basics
20 Set theory class
21 Wharton book, “__ Frome”
22 Eyepiece
23 Basics
24 Set theory class
25 Basics
26 Castle’s defense
27 Holds title to
28 Coral islet
29 Oh smart rodent
31 Jimmy of “Red, Hot and Blue”
32 Uh, excuse me
33 Stephen of "Michael Collins"
34 Poker payment
35 Murder
36 Cockeyed
37 Murder
38 UNIX’s opposite
39 Ave. crossers
40 Raise some eyebrows
41 Lamaste
42 Wwe
43 Of coradge
44 Cut with acid
45 Lipinski jump
50 Spud
52 Untidy diner
56 Exclamatory ballpark statement
59 Instant
60 Australian nut
61 Like Cheerios
62 Hold on a sec
67 Howard or Follett
68 Old name of Tokyo
69 Instant

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68 Old name of Tokyo
Steal My Comic by Michael Ciuffo

**CPW Prefrosh BINGO!**

**HOW TO PLAY**

To cross off a square, you must take a picture of yourself with a prefrosh wearing the T-shirt in that square.

Send your photos to bingo@tech.mit.edu by 11:59 PM Sunday.

Don’t delay! First place gets a $40 COOP gift card (or you can keep up with the latest in prefrosh fashion). Two runners up will also receive a $10 COOP gift card. Get all your prefrosh in the same photo, and we’ll throw in a free tech blanket.

Even if you don’t get Bingo, send in your photos. We will publish the best photos in Tuesday’s Tech!

The game is open to students and prefrosh alike (though if a prefrosh wins, he/she must attend mit in the fall to claim his/her prize).

(Notes: Some T-shirts vary slightly from the images. Here by color/design. We will accept anything close.)

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**Sudoku**

Solution, page 23

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<th>7</th>
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<th>4</th>
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<td>9</td>
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<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td>2</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
```

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.

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**Kenken**

Solution, page 25

```
12× 3 12× 12+ 9× 1 3× 3× 1× 3× 3× 9× 14+ 2× 5× 3× 2× 5× 3× 3×
```

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.
16 awesome sights at MIT

As you’re wandering around MIT this weekend, keep your eyes open. The campus is full of beautiful surprises, some of them hidden in plain sight. The Tech’s photographers have made a list of what they think are the most interesting places on campus, in no particular order.

We’ve given you the rough location of each of these attractions in the map below, and the captions should help you on your way. You’ll probably need the assistance of a local, though, so poster your QPM fests. This is your chance to get to know them.

Have your own shots of these iconic spots? Send them to us, along with your name and hometown, to photo@tech.mit.edu. Or, find us on Facebook (TheMITTech) or Twitter (@TheTech).

As you’re wandering around MIT this weekend, keep your eyes open. The campus is full of beautiful surprises, some of them hidden in plain sight. The Tech’s photographers have made a list of what they think are the most interesting places on campus, in no particular order.

1. The Tech: Like what you’re reading? Come visit the Tech offices on the fourth floor of the Student Center or our booth at the Activities Fairway to learn about MIT’s oldest student activity!

2. The Media Lab: The $30 million extension to MIT’s world-famous research center was designed by Pritzker Prize-winner Fumihiko Maki, and is a definite sight to see — and see through!


4. Kendall T station: The Kendall subway station takes MIT students into the heart of Boston, as well as to the city’s large train station at South Station. The musical structure hanging over the rails is currently being repaired by a team of MIT students.

5. Underground tunnels: Much of the MIT campus is connected by a subterranean network of tunnels, including the Stata Center and MIT Medical. Try taking an “alternate” mode of transportation down this long ramp in Building 66.

6. MIT chapel: MIT’s non-denominational chapel, designed by Eero Saarinen, lies across from the School of Architecture and Planning. Kresge Auditorium, the metal sculpture behind the altar catches reflected light from the moat between the School of Architecture and Planning, MIT Dining, and Sodexho Corporation. The cafe serves mainly organic and nutritious food.

7. MIT organ: This pipe organ sits in the loft near the stage of Kresge Auditorium. The ceiling of Kresge features “clouds” that absorb and direct sound, making the auditorium well known for its acoustics.

8. Halls and Puzzles: The hallway between Buildings 16 and 16C features a puzzle on the floor, as well as murals describing the Institute’s hacking history.

9. Secret ninja courtyard: Also known as the Atomic Courtyard, this space is bordered on all sides by Buildings 6, 6C, 4, and 2, and is only accessible through basement tunnels.

10. Sound benches: The parabolic benches outside of Building 16 are a popular place to study when the weather is nice. Try standing at the focal point of either parabola and making a sound!

11. The Kendall subway station takes MIT students into the heart of Boston, as well as to the city’s large train station at South Station. The musical structure hanging over the rails is currently being repaired by a team of MIT students.


13. Hart Nautical Gallery: Lying in the middle of Building 5, this branch of the MIT Museum contains model ships, a rare early autonomous underwater vehicle, and information about Ocean Engineering. Course 2-13 (formerly Course 13).

14. Steam Cafe: Located on the fourth floor of building T, Steam is the result of a collaboration between the School of Architecture and Planning, MIT Dining, and Sodexho Corporation. The cafe serves mainly organic and nutritious food.

15. Secret ninja courtyard: Also known as the Atomic Courtyard, this space is bordered on all sides by Buildings 6, 6C, 4, and 2, and is only accessible through basement tunnels.

16. Halls and Puzzles: The hallway between Buildings 16 and 16C features a puzzle on the floor, as well as murals describing the Institute’s hacking history.

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Prefrosh look forward to a fun-filled weekend

Interviews compiled by Natasha Plotkin. Photography by Andrea Robles.

**Hey Prefrosh**

Prefrosh look forward to a fun-filled weekend

Katie Allsop

Connecticut

Biology

What’s the most interesting you’ve done at CPW so far?

The open house with the biology department, because I love biology—it was even more exciting than the [CPW] festival.

What CPW activities are you most excited about?

A capella concerts. I probably am going to go watch Pants Pants Revolution...There so much, I can’t decide what to go to.

What do you do outside of class in high school?

Dancing—ballet, tap, [and] salsa dancing.

Laura Zehender

Richmond, Virginia

Mathematics

How’s CPW been so far?

Really exciting—there’s been stuff going on everywhere. Trying to choose what to do is the main problem.

What CPW activities are you most excited about?

A capella concerts. I probably am going to go watch Pants Pants Revolution...There so much, I can’t decide what to go to.

What do you do outside of class in high school?

Dancing—ballet, tap, [and] salsa dancing.

Kevin Chavez

Fitchburg, Massachusetts

Electrical engineering and computer science

How does MIT match or differ from your expectations so far?

So far it’s exceeded my expectations. And it’s good cause it’s only the first day, so it can only get better from here.

Which CPW events are you most excited about?

At [the welcome event], the Logarithms were amazing...I’m going to sit in on a few classes tomorrow.

What activities you considering getting involved in during college?

I’m considering tennis. I play varsity high school tennis...I like to think I’m pretty good.

Andrew Ardito

Cassockie, New York

Mathematics and physics

What the most interesting think you’ve done here so far?

I was at [Alpha Delta Phi] and they had this event where they would they would you PowerPoint slides you hadn’t seen before, and you would have to make a presentation based on them.

Any activities you’re interested in getting involved in?

Chess.

Esmeralda Ramiro

San Diego, California

Bioengineering

What have you been up to so far during CPW?

I went to a grill at East Campus...I went to Random Hall, and now I’m at this festival.

What are you looking for during the rest of the weekend?

I want to try out learning to DJ cause I’ve never done that, and it just sounds like lots of fun and completely out of the ordinary.

What activities do you do outside of school?

I do graphic design, so maybe I’ll check out some humanities classes

Jen Liu

Newton, Massachusetts

Environmental engineering

What the most interesting thing you’ve done at CPW so far?

I’d have to say eating Indian food at pika and doing a tour there.

Are there any CPW events you’re particularly excited about?

All the parties — dance parties.

Any activities you’re thinking of doing in college?

Track.

Katie Allsop

Connecticut

Biology

What’s the most interesting you’ve done at CPW so far?

The open house with the biology department, because I love biology—it was even more exciting than the [CPW] festival.

What are you excited about doing during the rest of the weekend?

I’m planning on sitting in on some classes—a biology class, a history class, and a math class.

What activities do you do in high school?

I’m on the robotics team. I also play the saxophone, not really, really, well, but I play it a lot.

Monica Neugebauer

Houston, Texas

Chemical engineering

What have you been up to during CPW so far?

I went to a social psychology class, and that was really interesting.

What are excited for doing during the rest of the weekend?

I’m interested in student government. I might play intramural soccer, because I play soccer outside of school...I’ll probably try a bunch of clubs.

What do you do outside of class in high school?

I play piano and soccer and do community service. I also do research sometimes at local hospitals.

Andrew Hinton

Kansas City, Kansas

Chemistry

What the most interesting thing you’ve done at CPW so far?

I ate liquid nitrogen ice cream. It was fun to watch being made, and it was really good.

What other activities are you excited for?

The Firehouse classes.

Any activities you’re interesting in doing during college?

I’m interested in student government. I might play intramural soccer, because I play soccer outside of school...I’ll probably try a bunch of clubs.

What do you do outside of class in high school?

I play piano and soccer and do community service. I also do research sometimes at local hospitals.

Victor Rodriguez

MexicoCity, Mexico

Engineering and business

What’s the most interesting thing you’ve done at CPW so far?

This festival — it’s crazy!

How does MIT match or differ from your expectations?

The stereotype is that people here are all nerdy, but it’s not true. It’s the opposite...There’s all kinds of people.

Andrea Hinton

Kansas City, Kansas

Chemistry

What the most interesting thing you’ve done at CPW so far?

I ate liquid nitrogen ice cream. It was fun to watch being made, and it was really good.

What other activities are you excited for?

The Firehouse classes.

Any activities you’re interesting in doing during college?

I’m interested in student government. I might play intramural soccer, because I play soccer outside of school...I’ll probably try a bunch of clubs.

What do you do outside of class in high school?

I play piano and soccer and do community service. I also do research sometimes at local hospitals.

Monica Neugebauer

Houston, Texas

Chemical engineering

What have you been up to during CPW so far?

I went to a social psychology class, and that was really interesting.

What are excited for doing during the rest of the weekend?

I’m interested in student government. I might play intramural soccer, because I play soccer outside of school...I’ll probably try a bunch of clubs.

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So much can happen in a day! The Tech asked a few prospective freshman what they thought of Campus Preview Weekend so far.

Sam Carreon
Greetings. Reader. My name is Sam Carreon (pronounced ‘car-own’ — I can’t tell you how many times people have poked fun at this...), and I am a potential student in MIT’s class of 2014. Coming from Palmdale, California, Massachusetts has been quite the culture shock. Weather in the Mojave Desert is drastically different from what I’ve experienced here: cold, windy, and slightly humid. Although I find the weather here to be far from ideal, I have realized that there is so much about MIT with which to fall in love. First, the super-cool hacks. I’m still not entirely sure if I want to at -

Rex Lam
Hi! My name is Rex Lam from Wakefield, Massachusetts. I plan on majoring in Economics at MIT. I am very excited to be here for CPW. So far, it has been a great experience. Registration ran very smoothly, and I quickly met up with my host, a sophomore pursuing Economics and Mathematics. We took a shuttle to Next House, which I learned was last one in the long line of different dorms. As my host said, Next House is always the “nerd” house — which ended up being the last one on dorm row. There are so many activities going on that I cannot keep track of all the events. In a matter of three hours, I went to two ice cream socials, attended an Economics class, and looked at laboratories where both undergraduate and graduate students conducted research. It was very exciting to see what I just learned in my biology class, such as the use of restriction enzymes and gel electrophoresis, applied in current research on malaria at one of the most cutting-edge research universities in the world.

Susan Ballentine
I am regretting my decision this morning to read on the plane instead of sneaking in one last hour of sleep before the onslaught of CPW activities began. I flew in this morning from Richmond, Virginia on a 7:00 a.m. flight and was greeted in the Boston Airport by an enthusiastic group of current MIT students. From there I was shuttled to campus at which point the festivities kicked off. Within 30 minutes of arriving, I had made new friends from as close to my home as the next city over to as far as Luxembourg and the Netherlands. I was shuttled into the endless line to sign up for UROP tours which were quickly filling up due to their popularity. I was asked “What’s your major?” about fifty times (and informed that it was not Math, but Course 18). I was approached by many current students preparing me for CPW by asking me questions to help best direct my attentions, and allowing me to ask a few of my own.

As I have visited campus before, I skipped the official tour and began wandering on my own in the lucky weather. I learned that no, the building numbers do not necessar -

Frankesca McCaffrey
Hey everyone! My name is Francesca McCaffrey, and I’m a senior at Wakefield High School in Wakefield, MA. The reason I’m writing to you right now, of course, is the fact that I’ll soon be a freshman somewhere else. Finding where that somewhere else will be has been a long journey, to say the least, and this weekend at MIT is only part of it. What I’ve seen so far is any indication, I can tell that this is one stop on the journey which I’m going to thoroughly enjoy. This is only my third hour on the MIT campus, so I can only guess what I have yet to see, and so much has happened already. Wakefield is a mere twenty minutes from Boston, but already I feel as though I am worlds away. I love being in the city, and there’s a certain excitement here which is due in part to the intensity of condensed humanity which is so characteristic of Boston and is a major reason for my desire to go to college in the Boston area. What I’ve learned, even after only being here for a few hours, is that this intensity also owns a great deal to the already vibrant MIT community and the ever growing flood of prospective students swarming its buildings, exploring its sidewalks, and so I hear, de -

YAY PREFROSH
Friday, April 9, 2010  The Tech

Photography by Andrea Robles

P.S. Happy birthday, Mom. I love you!

Can’t wait to see more of MIT — I’ll see you around campus!

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Through the eyes of a prefrosh

The MIT Logs perform in front of over 1000 prospective freshmen during the CPW Student Welcome and Prefrosh Icebreaker in Rockwell Cage on Thursday.

Giuseppe Zingales, a prospective freshman, plays Jenga on Thursday at McCormick.

Prospective freshmen play “Apples to Apples” on Thursday evening as part of McCormick’s CPW event.

Prospective freshmen (from left) Lucia Wang, Kaixi Wang and Stephanie Chiang enjoy snacks at McCormick’s NONLINEAR CHAOS (Games Night!!!) held at the East Penthouse on Thursday.
Dining, from Page 1

meaningful way before students depart for the summer.

MIT officials responded in their own column on Tuesday, saying "over the past two years, MIT has engaged students to gather their opinions and ideas on dining through numerous channels. There have been surveys, focus groups, and meetings."

That column was submitted to The Tech by Dean for Student Life Chris Columbus and also signed by Chancellor Philip L. Clay PhD ’75, outgoing Vice Chancellor Steven R. Leiman ’73, and Dean for Undergraduate Education Daniel E. Hastings PhD ’90.

According to that column, the latest dining reform developments are not "the hurried beginning of a process."

On April 6, Columbus sent an e-mail titled, "Make your voice heard on Campus Dining," to all undergraduates. The message gave a brief background on dining reform from the past few years, including the formation of the Blue Ribbon Dining Committee in spring 2009. The e-mail said that "the work of Campus Dining plans to offer dining for those three months without acceptable". If DSL was not working on dining for those three months, that's also unacceptable. If DSL was not working on dining for those three months, that's also unacceptable.

Colombo's e-mail also introduced the new House Dining Review website, which outlines the call to action and key considerations for House Dining reform. The site also features http://ideabank-housedining.mit.edu/, an Idea Bank similar to that of the Institute-Wide Planning Task Force, where members of the MIT community can provide suggestions and respond to posts from others.

Campus Dining plans to offer responses to House Dining Idea Bank submissions once the new dining plan is announced. According to the HDAG timeline indicated. The administration has been working hard to make sure that the opinions they hear are not those of administration or faculty, but of the students. Not only have they asked our opinions on the dining policies themselves, but also how the committee should be run and the best ways to collect student opinion," she said.

According to Rice, the HDAG "has made all of the student members at the meetings an integral part of all the discussions."

According to Simmons Hall president Christina R. Johnson ’11, "I believe that HDAG has done a good job of including student opinions in the conversation on dining. HDAG is committed to reaching out to students and gauging their opinions on several of the controversial issues."

Tom Gearty, spokesman for Colombo, said dining choices "are not unreasonable to expect that one dining plan could satisfy the diverse needs of all 4,000 undergraduates."

With regards to the HDAG meetings, Cameron S. McAlpine ’13, dining chair of Baker House, said "the amount of input from the students is always significantly less than from the housemasters and other older members of the HDAG."

According to McAlpine, "change can be difficult to deal with. Not everyone will be fully satisfied with the new dining plan, but it would be unreasonable to expect that one dining plan could satisfy the diverse needs of all 4,000 undergraduates."

In his opinion, this is due to the older members' extensive experience with dining reform on campus.

"I would not say that the student voice is being shut out of these meetings at all. I would just say that the students representing dining at the moment just don't have much of a voice. This can be resolved if dining gets publicized enough to get the majority of students aware of the history of dining at MIT and at least thinking about potential ideas to input," McAlpine said. McAlpine sent an e-mail to Baker House residents detailing the House Dining Review process earlier this week, "so I can get as much input from people that have different ideas so I can find out what students at Baker want," she said.

**GSC election results**

The Graduate Student Council elected officers for 2010–2011 on Wednesday night. The new officers take their position on May 5:

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**Students detailing the House Dining Review process earlier this week**

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**Colombo's e-mail came four months after the UA passed its "Resolution to Ensure Transparency in Dining Reform," which requested a report on future policy changes to House Dining from DSL by the end of January 2010. "We thought eight weeks would be plenty of time for DSL to come up with something. Apparently it was not," said Hawkins.

"Profit is important, but it should not be the determining factor."

—Sinchan Banerjee ’11

According to Hawkins, "if DSL was working productively on dining for those three months without letting students know what they were doing, that's unacceptable. If DSL was not working on dining for those three months, that's also unacceptable."

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Bigger and screwier
APO Screw doubles last year's take

Big screw; from Page 1
are microelectronics and power
economics lab classes. Leeb has
raised $704.93 so far.

In addition to large amounts of
money (last year's contest raised a
total of $1,128.51), competition is
much stiffer this year, and candi-
dates have been campaigning.

“We had in one day the sort of
gains we usually get in total,” said
Matthew S. Goldstein G of APO.

Intense competition
Last night, with 6.115/6.131
in second place, Leeb wrote: “Our
honour is at stake,” in an e-mail to his
“course family.”

“This is unacceptable!” Leeb
wrote. “My wife says that there can’t
possibly be anyone more annoying
than me.”

Vivek Goyal wrote that he was
“honored” and “happy to have a
reason to make [this] week’s 6.041
quiz very difficult.”

“Honored and happy to have a
reason to make [this] week’s 6.041
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More competitors
As if hundreds of dollars on the
penultimate day weren’t enough, this
year’s contest has also had
many more professors accepting
their nomination than in past years,
and accepting much earlier in the
course.

Kuhn wasn’t sure why more can-
didates accepted, but said that “part
of it was that we had more people
involved in chasing down the can-
didates.”

“This year, every single [person]
nominated” received a personal
visit, she said.

The Big Screw results will be an-
ounced next week Thursday, April 15,
at 6 p.m. in room 2-135.

Past Big Screw Totals

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Amount</th>
<th>Winner</th>
<th>Charity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>$1,128.51</td>
<td>Steven B. Leeb ’87</td>
<td>Pine Street Inn</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>$1,565.07</td>
<td>Daniel D. Frey PhD ’97</td>
<td>United Cerebral Palsy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2007</td>
<td>$586.33</td>
<td>John G. Brisson II</td>
<td>Environmental Working Group</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2006</td>
<td>$3,243.40</td>
<td>Charles M. Vest</td>
<td>MIT Corporation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2005</td>
<td>$1,238.00</td>
<td>George C. Verghese</td>
<td>Make a Wish Foundation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2004</td>
<td>$1,997.71</td>
<td>Steven B. Leeb ’87</td>
<td>Pine Street Inn</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* 2004 information not available at press time. Going into Friday April 16, 2004, the Screw had raised $157.54, 115 percent more than the prior year.

This year’s Big Screw totals, by day

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Professor</th>
<th>Charity</th>
<th>Mon.</th>
<th>Tue</th>
<th>Wed</th>
<th>Thu</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ernest G. Crabavallo (2.006)</td>
<td>Partners in Health</td>
<td>$14.72</td>
<td>$29.26</td>
<td>$38.83</td>
<td>$3,029.15</td>
<td>$3,111.86</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Steven Leeb (6.115/6.131)</td>
<td>Pine Street Inn</td>
<td>$33.64</td>
<td>$4.47</td>
<td>$18.71</td>
<td>$648.11</td>
<td>$704.93</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vinney Goyal (6.041)</td>
<td>Teach for America</td>
<td>$7.00</td>
<td>$2.00</td>
<td>$3.07</td>
<td>$59.79</td>
<td>$71.86</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.005 Team (2.005)</td>
<td>Big Sister Association</td>
<td>$0.75</td>
<td>$4.41</td>
<td>$2.51</td>
<td>$43.55</td>
<td>$51.22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jocelyn Monrore (8.022)</td>
<td>UNICEF</td>
<td>$10.72</td>
<td>$5.64</td>
<td>$2.00</td>
<td>$60.21</td>
<td>$78.57</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>David L. Darmofal PhD (6.003)</td>
<td>Pine Street Inn</td>
<td>$6.01</td>
<td>$27.29</td>
<td>$3.40</td>
<td>$5.76</td>
<td>$42.46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Michel X. Goquino PhD ’90 (18.310C)</td>
<td>A.T. Children’s Project</td>
<td>$14.14</td>
<td>$1.11</td>
<td>$2.52</td>
<td>$27.15</td>
<td>$36.09</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>W. Craig Carter (3.616)</td>
<td>Poverty Solutions Int’l</td>
<td>$11.00</td>
<td>$6.85</td>
<td>$11.00</td>
<td>$4.26</td>
<td>$33.11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sumbul M. Maddon (6.033)</td>
<td>Span, Inc.</td>
<td>$0.53</td>
<td>$2.14</td>
<td>$12.77</td>
<td>$13.48</td>
<td>$28.92</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John L. Leonard</td>
<td>Doctors Without Borders</td>
<td>$14.00</td>
<td>$5.58</td>
<td>$2.16</td>
<td>$5.99</td>
<td>$27.83</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Barbara J. Hughes PhD (2.671)</td>
<td>Borders</td>
<td>$1.70</td>
<td>$3.44</td>
<td>$11.81</td>
<td>$10.65</td>
<td>$27.60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>David R. Wallace PhD ’95 (2.009)</td>
<td>The Food Project</td>
<td>$2.62</td>
<td>$0.42</td>
<td>$6.05</td>
<td>$8.42</td>
<td>$19.13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Donald R. Sadownik (3.091)</td>
<td>Transition House</td>
<td>$3.11</td>
<td>$1.18</td>
<td>$2.01</td>
<td>$3.61</td>
<td>$9.21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yang Shao-Horn (2.002)</td>
<td>Transition House</td>
<td>$0.13</td>
<td>$3.96</td>
<td>$4.97</td>
<td>$0.11</td>
<td>$10.06</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Christopher C. Cummins (5.03)</td>
<td>Jimmy Fund</td>
<td>$4.06</td>
<td>$2.00</td>
<td>$3.07</td>
<td>$59.79</td>
<td>$71.86</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total | $1,128.51 | $129.83 | $159.56 | $1,255.84 | $2,308.16

The Course 20 team consists of Pros. Scott R. Manalis, Jongyoon Han, Roger D. Kamm, and Jan Lammerring. The 2.005 team consists of Pros. Jacobu Buongiorno, Pierre F. Lermusiaux, and Alexander Mines.

Micro/nano engineering laboratory
We have computers
You’re probably Course 6

We want you in our sheets.

The Tech

The MIT Press bookstore
292 Main Street
Kendall Sq., Cambridge
(617) 253-5299
books@mit.edu
9:7-F, 10-6 Sa, 12-6 Su
With select apps, iPad is more than a pretty face

By Bob Tedeschi

The New York Times

Let’s set aside the question of whether you should get an iPad and suppose you already bought one last weekend. You probably floated home and loaded it with a few whiz-bang apps and maybe even passed it around to your friends. At some point in the euphoria, you may also have wondered whether this device is just a trophy or something you can actually use. Such self-doubts can be easily cast aside, providing you delve a little more deeply into the App Store than the Top 100 list — and are ready to open the wallet again.

If you budget around $100 for a new and upgraded apps, you can easily make the iPad into much more of a constant companion than something you just trot out when the neighbors are watching. Start with productivity apps, because a mobile device is most valuable when it lets you work anytime, anywhere.

The big knock against smartphones is that you can’t effectively view or edit a Word document or Excel spreadsheet or read a PowerPoint presentation or PDF on something with a puny screen. On the iPad, you can at least read PDFs and, with a little more work, Office files, with the GoodReader app ($1). Air Sharing HD ($10) reads PDFs and helps you organize and print other Office files easily from the iPad.

If you want to edit Office files, you’re on thinner ice. The only iPad-specific apps for that task this week were the Pages, Keynote and Numbers apps from Apple ($10 each), the company’s answer to Word, PowerPoint and Excel.

The apps earned high ratings from users, but also some complaints about how poorly they worked for importing PowerPoint files or for exporting Excel files edited in the Numbers app. Heavy users of these applications should closely read those caveats.

Outside of work, dozens of other apps will help you turn the iPad into a go-to device.

For instance, you can find, manage and share recipes with the Epicurious app and watch movies or manage your queue with the Netflix app. Both are stellar, and both are free.

Check the weather and watch high-definition videos on the Weather Channel Max (also free), which is so nicely designed it puts the iPhone version to shame.

You can catch up on news with The New York Times Editors’ Picks, The Wall Street Journal, USA Today, Reuters or BBC News. These, too, are free, although you’ll need a Wall Street Journal subscription to use the app.

They all offered good browsing experiences, but in some cases, the articles were more pleasant to read on the companies’ Web sites. With The Times’ app, for instance, you can’t pinch and pull the screen to enlarge photographs.

Meanwhile, if you’re interested in the future of education, buy the Elements app ($14), an interactive guide to the periodic table. The app’s developers were shooting to create a book Harry Potter might have read, and they scored. The graphics are stunning, and you can spin them with your finger at anytime you want a little endorphin burst.

Tutorials read as if they came from the world’s wittiest chemistry teacher.

Other book publishers are finding innovative ways to mix fun with learning. The free “Try Story” app highlights a narrator’s spoken words — or yours, if you record your voice. It also plays songs from the movie and offers a virtual coloring book for each page.

Miss Spider’s Tea Party ($10) is even more refined, with characters that speak or make noises when tapped. Then there are always games. Some notable games specifically for the iPad include Flight Control HD ($5), Mirror’s Edge ($13), Super MonkeyBall 2 — Sakura Edition ($10), Real Racing HD ($10), Scrabble ($10), N.O.V.A. Near Orbit Van-guard Alliance ($10) and Ono ($7).

Artists will love Autodesk’s Sketchbook Pro ($8) or Brushes ($10). Budding musicians will love Nota ($8), and more experienced ones will go for Pianist Pro ($10) and Tab-Tockit ($10).

Sports fans will want the MLB at Bat 2010 iPad app ($15).

And travelers can download Flight Track Pro ($10), which lets them monitor their flights and quickly find alternatives, or 1,000 Experiences from Lonely Planet ($10), a graphically rich look at a wide variety of trips.

Lonely Planet cut the price for its app in half after a few days, which is a telling development. iPad developers started with prices that were often much higher than iPhone versions of the same software, based on logic that no one has yet unearthed.

As competition builds in the App Store, that logic should fade quickly.

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Write up a storm! Join the news department.

China's censors tackle and trip over the Internet

With censorship now 'a major growth industry,' Google and China are at loggerheads

By Michael Wines, Sharon LaFraniere and Jonathan Ansfeld

THE NEW YORK TIMES

Type the Chinese characters for "censor" into Google's search engine here in mainland China, and you will be rewarded not with a list of Internet links, but a blank screen. Don't blame Google, however. The fault lies with China's censors - who are increasingly a model for countries around the world that want to control an unrestricted Internet.

Since late March, when Google moved its search operations out of mainland China to Hong Kong, each response to a Chinese citizen's search request has been met at the border by government computers, programmed to censor any forbidden information Google might turn up.

"Censor" - in Mandarin, hulubobo - may seem innocuous enough. But it contains the same Chinese character as the surname of President Hu Jintao. And the computers, long programmed to intercept Chinese-language searches on the nation's leaders, substitute an error message for the search result before it can sneak onto a mainland computer.

This is China's censorship machine, part George Orwell, part Rube Goldberg: an information sieve of staggering breadth and fineness, yet full of holes; run by banks of advanced computers, but also by thousands of Communist Party droogues, highly sophisticated in some ways, remarkably crude in others.

The one constant is its growing importance. Censorship used to be the sleepy province of the Communist Party's central propaganda department, whose main task was to tell editors what and what not to print or broadcast. In the new networked China, censorship is a major growth industry, overseen — and fought over — by no fewer than 14 government ministries.

"Press control has really moved to the center of the agenda," said David Bandurski, an analyst at the China Media Project of the University of Hong Kong. "The Internet is the decisive factor there. It's the medium that is changing the game in press control, and the party leaders know this.

Today, China censors everything from the traditional print press to domestic and foreign Internet sites; from cell phone text messages to social networking services; from online chat rooms to blogs, films and e-mail. It even censors online games.

That's not all. Not content merely to block dissenting views, the government increasingly employs people to peddle its views online, in the guise of impartial bloggers and chat-room denizens. And increasingly, it is backing state-friendly clones of advanced computers, but also by thousands of Communist Party droogues, highly sophisticated in some ways, remarkably crude in others.

The paradox — at least at first glance — is that even with such pervasive restraints, China's press and Internet are capable of freethinking discourse and social criticism.

Newspapers, blogs and online sites have unleashed national outbursts over a host of topics, including food and medicine contamination and local corruption. Bloggers continue to break the laws, leaking their orders and creating an online land of mythical creatures, whose names are all homonyms for aspects of the state's heavy hand.

Some exposes and satires fall on the acceptable side of an often invisible and shifting line that marks what can and cannot be said freely in China. On the other side are statements that too overtly challenge the Communist Party's hold on power, that attack or embarrass powerful politicians or that tread on a long list of forbidden topics, from unrest in Tibet to political crises like the 1989 Tiananmen Square protests.

Journalists and Internet publishers often discover that they have crossed the line only after their online presence is blocked, their bylines are blacklisted or they are detained or summoned to "tea" with government security officers who deliver coy but unmistakable warnings.

With 384 million users in China at last count in January — and 181 million blogs — the Internet poses a true cat-birding predicament for censors. Foreign entities that operate outside China are the lesser of the censors' problems. The reason is logistical: access to the Internet in China from the outside world is limited, and all traffic must pass through one of three large computer centers in Beijing, Shanghai and Guangzhou.

At those centers, government computers — the so-called Great Firewall — interrupt inbound data and compare it to a constantly changing list of forbidden keywords and Web addresses.

When a match occurs, the computers can block the incoming data in several ways, from rejecting it outright to making more nuanced trims. For example, Chinese citizens who search Google using sensitive terms like "Tiananmen" may receive complete summaries of relevant Web sites. But if the Web sites are banned, it is impossible to link to them.

Within China, however, data cannot be censored at a handful of gateways. So the government employs a toolbox of controls, including persuasion, co-opting and force, to keep the Web in line. Self-censorship is the first line of filtering.
As more seek to evade them, censors tighten their grip

In China, personal blogs, text messages, and even IMs are subject to censors’ scrutiny.

China, from Page 22

and an obligation of all network and site operators in China.

China’s big homegrown sites, like Baidu, Sina.com and Sohu, employ thousands of so-called Web administrators to screen their search engine, chat rooms, blogs and other content for material that flouts propaganda directives. For four years, Google has battled, and lost, its Chinese search engine, Google.cn.

The Internet companies’ employees are constantly guessing what content will be deemed “inappropriate content,” said Xiao Qiang, an analyst of China’s censorship system, at the University of California, Berkeley. “Through that system, they get to every major Web site with content.”

Under a 2005 State Council regulation, personal blogs, computer bulletin boards and even cell phone text messages are deemed part of the Internet media, subject to sweeping restrictions on their content.

In practice, many of those restrictions are sporadically applied. But reminders that someone is watching are pointed and regular. An inappropriate post to a computer chat forum may produce a rejection message charging the author for “inappropriate content,” and the link to the post may be deleted. Forbidden text messages may be delivered to cell phones as blank screens.

Even so, screening the electronic activities of hundreds of millions of people is a nearly impossible task. Moreover, users increasingly are resorting to technological maneuvers like virtual private networks and proxy servers to sidestep the censors’ blocking of banned Web sites altogether. By one report, a million people now hurdle the Great Firewall via such dodges—a number that remains a tiny fraction of all users, but that has spiked upward in the last year.

So the censors have taken other tactics to tighten their grip.

One is automation. China’s leading instant-messaging service, called QQ, automatically monitors all on-line communications and blocks censored text.

The Ministry of Industry and Information Technology tried last year to expand automated censorship nationwide through mandatory Green Dam software that could remotely update lists of banned topics. After an outcry from Internet users and corporations, the state backed off, but Green Dam and other filtering software remains installed on computers in some Internet cafes.

The government signaled that a version for cell phones was in the works.

Another strategy is manipulation. In recent years, local and provincial officials have hired armies of low-paid commentators to monitor blogs and chat rooms for sensitive issues, with online comment in the government’s favor.

Xiao of Berkeley cites one example: In 2007, a city southwest of Beijing, deployed 35 Internet commentators and 120 police officers to define online attacks on the local police after a traffic dispute. By flooding chat rooms with pro-police comments, the team turned the tide of online comment from negative to positive in just 20 minutes.

According to one official newspaper editor who refused to be named, propaganda authorities now calculate that, confronted with a public controversy, local officials have a window of about two hours to block controversy and flood the Web with their own line before the reaction of citizens is beyond control.

Zhang Shuhe, a self-identified citizen journalist and blogger with the pen name Tiger Temple, said the government ranked various bloggers by the risk they posed. “The most dangerous ones will be shut down, and some others will receive alerts from the government,” he said.

Zhang’s own blog posts are sometimes deleted. His workaround is to publish six blogs, hosted on different Internet sites: because censorship rules are vague and the censors merely human, a post that one blocks may be ignored or overlooked by another.

That may not last long. The consensus is that the government is rapidly getting better at its work.

Consider: One chilling new regulation limits those who can operate a site on China’s.cn domain to registered businesses, and requires operators to produce Chinese identification. “In case they need to shut you down for some subjective content, they need to know how to find you,” said an executive with one Beijing firm that hosts Web sites.

Major cities like Beijing—which last year advertised for 10,000 voluntary Internet monitors—are increasingly taking censorship into their own hands.

Pitted against this are those who argue that government chokeholds on the Internet cannot succeed. Bloggers like Zhang argue that growing restrictions on Internet speech only inflame ordinary users, and that bit by bit “people are pushing the wall back.”

Dorm Electricity Competition

Week 2 Results

Energy Score*

Simmons
19.01
Senior House

Baker

16.05
Bexley
10.40
MacGregor
10.03
Eastgate

5.77
Tang
4.72

*Energy Score = Per capita change in consumption (kWh/person)

Wishing you the best of luck!
WASHINGTON — When an illegal smoke and a quip aboard a flight to Denver on Wednesday night overkill, unnecessarily alarming the entire country, convenience passengers and squandering the taxpayers’ money?

Assessing the government and media response was complicated by the revelation on Thursday that the Qatari diplomat, Mohammed al-Madadi, was on his way to make a routine consular visit to a convicted agent of al-Qaeda, a citizen of Qatar who is imprisoned in Colorado. But officials said that they learned the purpose of the diplomat’s travels well after the plane landed, and that they did not believe Madadi had any ties to terrorism. Still, the bizarre coincidence only underscored a widespread view that the huge response was justified.

“From a counterterrorism standpoint, the system worked perfectly,” said Kip Harley, who served as an administrator of the Transportation Security Administration under the Bush administration from 2005 to 2009. “The TSA and counterterrorism officials are on high alert for a very good reason. Al-Qaeda is going to use pregnant women, people with babies, and it is not out of the realm of possibility that they will use a diplomat.”

The possibility of overreaction to perceived threats is by now a familiar problem in the age of terrorism, when a little powdered sugar can set off an anthrax panic or a Coast Guard training exercise can persuade cable television crews that the nation’s capital may be under attack, as occurred last Sept. 11. In this case, however, there seemed to be little second-guessing of the broad security alert in response to a situation that ultimately turned out to have posed no significant threat.

“After all I have heard, the passengers, crew and authorities all acted calmly and appropriately,” said Ian S. Lustick, a political scientist at the University of Pennsylvania and author of “Trapped in the War on Terror” a 2006 book that criticized what he called the exaggerated response to terrorism.

Law enforcement, Homeland Security and airline industry officials, who would speak about the investigation only on condition of anonymity, described what happened aboard United Flight 663 from Reagan National Airport in Washington to Denver. Some details about the flight, which carried 157 passengers and six crew members, varied in different officials’ accounts on Thursday night.

Madadi, 27, a third secretary at Qatar’s embassy in Washington, was confronted by a flight attendant who smelled smoke as he left the forward lavatory near the cockpit. The flight attendant alerted a federal air marshal on board, and when challenged, Madadi denied smoking but admitted he had a pipe and made a joking reference to trying to set his shoes on fire.

The authorities feared a repeat of the attempted bombing of a Detroit-bound airliner on Dec. 25, in which a Nigerian passenger has been accused of trying to assemble explosives hidden in his underwear during a trip to the bathroom. In that case, the would-be bomb fizzled and the man, who later said he had been trained by the al-Qaeda affiliate in Yemen, ended up burning only himself.

The episode on Wednesday evening seemed to echo the Christmas Day events, which led to a sharp increase in the deployment of air marshals, who pose as ordinary passengers and break cover only when there is a security threat.

After the flight attendant and a passenger who followed Madadi into the lavatory both smelled smoke, the passenger found a bag of what the authorities said was tobacco.

One of the two air marshals on the flight then approached Madadi at his seat in the first-class section, showing his badge and identifying himself as a federal agent. Madadi said he had not been smoking but acknowledged that the bag contained tobacco for his pipe.

It was then that he made the remark about setting his shoes on fire, evidently a nervous joke referring to the 2001 episode in which Richard Reid tried to ignite explosives hidden in his shoe during a trans-Atlantic flight.

Within a few minutes, top Transportation Security officials were on a conference call, the Federal Aviation Administration had alerted the pilots of the thousands of flights then in the air of the possible threat, an FBI team had begun to assemble in Denver, and airport authorities positioned fire and safety equipment for the landing there, which took place at 6:54 p.m. NORAD sent the fighter jets to accompany the plane for the final segment of its route.

Intelligence agencies, meanwhile, checked their files for information not only on Madadi, but on the other passengers as well, because security officials had to consider the possibility that a team of terrorists was on the flight.
LOOK, PREFROSH!

Getting their first taste of MIT

Prospective freshmen stormed Johnson Athletics Center on Thursday for the CPW Festival. Students entertained the prefrosh with fun activities and free food. (clockwise from left)

Maja Wiehrowska ’13 (left) and Laura Royden ’13 (right) dance in liquid nitrogen. The liquid nitrogen ice cream, provided by East Campus, is an icon of MIT student culture.

With a variety of props before them, members of the Musical Theatre Guild speak to prefrosh during the CPW Festival.

MIT Lion Dance Club members bang on drums and demonstrate Chinese lion dancing.

A member of the MIT Sport Tae-kwondo team holds a pad while a prospective freshman gives it a solid kick.

Prefrosh attempt to rebuild a giant foam Jenga tower, but to no avail.

Nicholas chorNay—The Tech

Andrea robles—The Tech

Steve howland—The Tech

SOLUTION TO SUDOKU

Solution to Sudoko from Tuesday, April 6, 2010

8 3 6 7 1 9 4 5 2
1 5 4 8 6 2 9 3 7
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SOLUTION TO KENKEN

Solution to Kenken from page 12

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join@tech.mit.edu

Student-Worker Alliance hosts noon rally today

Labor, from Page 1

of taxpayer support, they were obligated to have a "broad public mission." The resolution called for both institutions to use their sav-
ing to "cushion employees and communities from any further harm."

The resolution was co-sponsored by longtime City Councillor Marjorie C. Decker and freshman City Councillor Leland Cheung, who is also an MIT graduate stu-
dent.

In an interview with the Cam-
bridge Chronicle, Cheung said, "We see the universities as community members. These firings affect the community as well."

During the council meeting, Decker said that the City Council must be pro-worker before it can be pro-business.

The council resolution origin-
ated from lobbying by recently laid-off workers, according to Alexi I. Goranov PhD '06, a postdoc and active member of the MIT Student Worker Alliance. "I would like MIT to continue to be a leader in the area of science and technology, but not at the expense of people's lives," he said.

Generally speaking, MIT does not plan layoffs centrally... financial targets are passed from the school level to the department level...

"It's not a protest," said Goranov.

The MIT Student-Worker Alli-
ance is hosting a rally at noon to-
morrow in 1-190 to "explore ways to help MIT and its unions deter-
mine fair and competitive wages and benefits," Goranov said. MIT Campus Police union rep-
resentatives will be also be atten-
dance, according to Officer Louis C. Rosa, an officer of the Campus Police Association.

The event, a "solidarity gather-
ing" is organized by the Alliance as well as the Massachusetts Inter-
faith Committee for Worker Justice, and Councillor Decker is expected to attend, Goranov said.

No MIT response

MIT Vice President for Human Resources Alison Alden, referred inquiries late Thursday to HR Communications Manager Janet B. Walzer, who could not be reached for comment.

Generally speaking, MIT does not plan layoffs centrally, an MIT official told The Tech in March. Instead, in a budget crunch, indi-
vidual schools receive financial targets, which they try to address without cutting staff, but after sev-
eral years of budget cuts, that be-
comes difficult.

Those financial targets are passed from the school level to the department level, leading to dif-
ferent departments laying off staff at different times and in different ways, though all the layoffs are ul-
timately coordinated with Human Resources.

Last year Cambridge asked MIT and Harvard to consider making the sacrifice to weather the tough economic times...

Council virtually powerless

The City Council may pass reso-
lutions and policy orders but it has no legal right or ability to enforce them.

In March 2009, the council passed a similar resolution spon-
ored by Decker where it asked "two of its largest employers to consider making the sacrifice to weather the tough economic times out without resorting to cutting its lowest wage workers for economic relief."

Decker also proposed offering the universities the funding neces-
sary to reinstate recently fired em-
ployees. The council took no action on her stimulus proposal.

In addition to the Council’s res-
olution regarding labor cuts at MIT and Harvard, on Monday the City Council also passed a policy or-
der in support of the "adoption of a regulation by the License Com-
mision to prohibit licensed hotels from subcontracting housekeep-
ing services such as guest room service."

According to the policy order, this resulted from public health and safety concerns raised when the Hyatt Regency-Cambridge be-
gan subcontracting its housekeep-
ing services to an unlicensed third party company.

Nick Bilton

New York Times "Blox" blogger Nick Bilton will give a talk today at 1 p.m. in 32-
G449, at CSAIL’s Human Computer Interaction (HCI) seminar, hosted by Prof. Rob-
ert C. Miller.

Bilton will speak on his work at the Times research & development labs, and as well as on "the new style of reporting" he uses at the Times, which incorporates "video, code, data visualization, writing, photos, etc."
A.L. East: New York Yankees

Maybe the Red Sox will win the wild card?

Friday, April 9, 2010   The Tech

There are many teams that will make it to the postseason…

A.L. East: New York Yankees

This is unquestionably baseball’s toughest division, its “Group of Death,” so to speak. Three teams — the Yankees, Red Sox, and Rays — have a legitimate shot at not only winning the division, but the World Series as well; only two will advance to the postseason.

The American League pennant winner has come from the East the past three years, and for each team. The Yankees, with a lefty-heavy lineup playing in Yankee Stadium (aka, the Great Wall of Park in the Bronx) will hit home runs like nobody’s business; they’ve also bolstered their starting rotation. The Evil Empire, with their ridiculously high payroll, is the favorite again after winning it all last year.

A.L. Central: Minnesota Twins

The Central is a relatively even division, and according to an ESPN simulation, all five teams have a chance to finish on top. The Twins are opening their new stadium, Target Field, and gave Joe Mauer, the A.L. MVP and face of the franchise, an eight-year extension during the offseason. They lost closer Joe Nathan for the season to elbow surgery, but the Twins should be able to get around the loss, especially with former MVP Justin Morneau back in the lineup. The big question is, however, how many of their October postseason games will get snuffed out?

A.L. West: Seattle Mariners

I’m going to have to go with my Mariners for the West. The Angels have owned the division in the past decade, but lost some key players in the offseason (Vladimir Guerrero to the Rangers, John Lackey to the Red Sox, and Chone Figgins to the Mariners). Butler is looking to get in the postseason for the first time since 2001, but they had the worst offense in the majors last season, focused on upgrading their pitching defense rather than offense.

They’ll be playing a baseball war of attrition, of sorts (“If we can’t score runs, we won’t win any games”). Butler is still young and untested, but should win plenty of low-scoring games… as long as they can stay healthy and Milton Bradley doesn’t blow up the clubhouse.

A.L. Wild Card: Boston Red Sox

Tough break for the Rays, who would be in the playoffs if they were in any other division. Boston’s biggest improvement this year is their defense, with Adrian Beltre at third and Mike Cameron in center. Supplementing an already-potent offense, they’ll keep the division race interesting and end up with the wild card. (Maybe it’s just because I want to see a playoff game in Fenway?)

N.L. East: Philadelphia Phillies

After making their second straight World Series appearance last year, the Phillies seem on the verge of establishing a dynasty in the East. The Braves, with much-hyped rookie Jason Heyward, will challenge the Phillies, and the low-budget Florida Marlins will stay in the race for most of the summer, but Philadelphia is the team to beat in the division. Another interesting “race” in the division will be when the Mets (and their players) fall apart again.

N.L. Central: St. Louis Cardinals

The Cardinals have two of the best hitters in baseball in Albert Pujols and Matt Holliday, and two of the best pitchers in Adam Wainwright and Chris Carpenter — who also can stay healthy. Their biggest weakness is their bullpen and ninth innings might be more exciting than Cards fans might like, but St. Louis is the favorites in the division (and the Cubs will continue their streak of futility). With Mark McGwire as their new hitting coach, however, we have to wonder if the Cardinals are looking at…other ways to enhance their performance?

N.L. West: San Francisco Giants

The Giants have had excellent pitching the past couple of seasons, but didn’t have the offense to support it. Tim Lincecum aims for his third consecutive Cy Young award, while teammate Matt Cain is a potential candidate as well. If Barry Zito miraculously pitches anywhere near the expectations of his huge contract, the Giants might have the best rotation in the league. Led by Pablo Sandoval, the Giants offense should provide enough run support.

N.L. Wild Card: Atlanta Braves

The Braves are full of young talent — from outfielder Jason Heyward, who supposedly is the next coming of Hank Aaron, to starter Tommy Hanson, to catcher Brian McCann. They have the ability to win with both their pitching and offense, and will beat out the Dodgers for the Wild Card.

Feel like your team was left out? Don’t worry. The Mariners are going all the way! Want to challenge me in fantasy baseball? E-mail sports@tech.mit.edu

UPCOMING HOME EVENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Men’s lightweight crew: Joy Cup</td>
<td>Saturday, April 3</td>
<td>8 a.m., Charles River</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Men’s lacrosse vs. Springfield College</td>
<td>Tuesday, April 6</td>
<td>11 a.m., Steinbrenner Stadium</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Track and field vs. Bates, Colby, &amp; South Maine</td>
<td>Thursday, April 8</td>
<td>12 p.m., Briggs Field</td>
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<tr>
<td>Softball vs. WPI</td>
<td>Thursday, April 8</td>
<td>2 p.m., Briggs Field</td>
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<tr>
<td>Women’s Lacrosse vs. Smith College</td>
<td>Thursday, April 8</td>
<td>2 p.m., Steinbrenner Stadium</td>
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<tr>
<td>Baseball vs. Springfield College</td>
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<tr>
<td>Women’s Tennis vs. Brandeis University</td>
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<tr>
<td>Men’s Tennis vs. Wheaton College</td>
<td>Wednesday, April 7</td>
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<tr>
<td>softball at Smith College</td>
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<tr>
<td>Basketball vs. Amherst College</td>
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SCOR EB OARD

COLUMNS

Two winners in March Madness

Butler’s run shows increasing parity in the NCAA

By Russell Spivak

This March has seen one of the most exciting NCAA tournaments in recent history, and the championship game was no exception — it was a true nail-biter, keeping fans and spectators on the edge of their seats. In the end, however, the 105th straight

basketball history to stay unbeaten for 105 straight

tie gives me a T, E, C, H...

The varsity men’s lightweight crew passes the halfway point in Saturday’s 2K race against Dartmouth and Penn. The Engineers lost ground in the second 1,000 meters, finishing in third place.

For more information on upcoming events, please refer to the Sports section of The Tech.
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.

Friday 5–7 p.m., Dinner. Tour our newsroom!
Saturday 3–5 p.m., Open House. Come visit after the Activities Midway.