UA leaders talk progress since election
Communication is top priority for fall they say

By Stan Gill

UA President Vrajesh Y. Modi ’11 and Vice Presi-
dent Samantha “Sammi” G. Wyman ’11 ran together last spring with the slogan “We do things.” Their vision to improve UA interaction with students, the freshman advising system, and overall student life won them the election by a landslide margin last spring. How are their plans doing this year?

Modi and Wyman say they are still making commu-
nication a priority. “We noticed [last spring] there was a need for greater communication between us and the students,” Wyman said.

They plan to reach out to students through a more user-friendly website, a new UA newsletter and a blog. To make themselves more accessible, they will be holding UA executive meetings in dorms (meetings start this Wednesday).

In opening these new lines of communication be-
tween the UA and students, Modi and Wyman hope that students will feel encouraged to let the UA know what they want. The intent, they said, was to not have to make guesses when forming proposals that affect students. Modi says that the favorable numbers at the recent UA info sessions in the dorms indicate that stu-
dents are engaged and want to tell the UA about their concerns.

Modi says the project with the biggest long-term potential is the proposed return of the freshman ad-
vising system, which would add an option for a second, more career-oriented mentor in addition to a student’s normal academic advisor. The goal is to combat the problem of academic advisors not necessarily having expertise in the career areas where freshmen may be looking for guidance.

The UA recently held a preliminary meeting with UAAP head Julie Norman to talk about this proposal.

UA interview, Page 10

IN SHORT

The new deadline for waiving the Extended Health Plan from MIT Medical is Wednesday, earlier than in past years. The plan is automatically billed to student families must also do so by the deadline. You can the U.S. must be quick. OUP, p. 5

JUST MAKE TEXTBOOKS FREE

The only people who profit are the

BrUHOHA RHYTM

Developing a game is a lot like building a house. It’s a complex problem, and every role is crucial

CL, p. 9

AS IRAN GOES NUCLEAR

There is a brief window for action, but the

U.S. must be quick. OUP, p. 5

FENWAY-KENMORE

Fraternity houses and business that love college students — what’s not to love about Fenway-Kenmore? CL, p. 8

WOMEN’S TENNIS ROCKS SMITH

Women’s tennis wins 7-2 in their season opener against Smith College

SPO, p. 16

At MIT, mysteries of the tenure game
About half of professors don’t make it. What does it take to get tenure?

By Jess Lin

A version of this story was originally published on June 31. To find out where Hudson is now, see the epilogue.

Eric Hudson is a known star in the classroom. His popularity as instructor of 8.02 was confirmed in 2008, when he received the Baker Award for teaching, which is given only to a couple professors every year and is based solely on student nominations.

Charles C. Mills ’72, a former student of Hudson’s, recalled being astonished by Hudson’s dedication to teaching. “I got e-mails [responses to questions] from him last year at two in the morning, three in the morning, and I was like, ‘What are you doing awake?’”

This spring, sixty-two students rated Hudson an average of 6.6 out of 7 in the Spring 2010 course evaluations for 8.02, the second-highest among the term’s eight instructors.

Perhaps his rating could have been higher, had he been in class more often. But Hudson spent a good chunk of this spring jet-setting. He was looking for a job, because he found out in December that he was not getting tenure.

“I think I’ve been gone five of the last seven weeks or something,” he said earlier this spring, with a light chuckle. He seemed aware at that fraction himself. “It’s really terrible.”

In those weeks away from MIT, he had been to England, Sweden, and the state of Georgia interviewing for a new post as professor, since he’d been informed he would have to leave his position in the Department of Physics this July. (See epilo-

Plenty of professors don’t get tenure. According to The Report on the Initiative for Faculty Race and Diversity, which was released this January, 53 percent of all as-
sistant professors from 1991-2004 did not get tenure.

What distinguishes the tenured forty-
seven percent? These days, when the value of tenure itself is being debated (for instance, an essay titled “The End of Tenure?” appeared in the New York Times less than two weeks ago), it’s useful to learn about the process. How do you get tenure at MIT?

What does it take?

At MIT, the Baker Teaching Award is colloquially known as the “kiss of death”

Tenure, Page 14

Yes, more cameras

Two cameras are being installed on top of the roof of Bldg. 54. Yesterday, camera housings were installed, on each of the south corners. One is pointed at Maseeh Hall (91), and one is pointed at Harvard Bridge. Thomas W. Komola from the Security and Emergency Management Office said the footage from the cameras would be used under the Security Office’s standard policy: access to the footage is only available at written request of MIT Chief of Police John DiFara.

— John A. Hawkins

A camera mount was installed on the south-west corner of the Green Build-

ing yesterday. It is pointed directly at Maseeh Hall (91).

Weather, p. 2

TUE: 79° | SAT: 59°

Mostly sunny

M  79° | S  59°

Brassy, few clouds

THU: 69° | FRI: 58°

Partly sunny

MIT’s Oldest and Largest Newspaper
tech.mit.edu

Tuesday, September 14, 2010

Volume 130, Number 36

Please come get your packages!
Ann Ouyang, A Next House desk worker, sorts through a deluge of package deliveries. Other dorms have also been inundated with packages recently. East Campus, for instance, reported receiving over 90 packages a day last week.

Please come get your packages!

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Please come get your packages!
Cuba's public-sector layoffs signal major shift

MEXICO CITY — In perhaps the clearest sign yet that economic change is gathering pace in Cuba, the government plans to lay off more than half a million people from the public sector in what some see as the first steps to move into private enterprise.

In a speech to the Communist Party congress in Havana last weekend, President Raul Castro has given stern warnings that Cuba's economy needs a radical overhaul, beginning with its workers. With as many as 1 million excess employees, he has said, the country has a supporting a bloated bureaucracy that has sapped motivation and slowed the growth of the nation's work force.

"We have to erase forever the notion that Cuba is the only country in the world where one can live without working," he declared.

Since permanently taking over from his brother Fidel two years ago, Castro has laid the groundwork for a Soviet-style economy more efficient and open up opportunities for people. The government has handed tens of thousands of acres of state-held farms to private farmers and begun freeing up a market for agricultural supplies. It has loosened restrictions on cell phones and other electronics and created a few areas for private business, allowing barbers' shops to become cooperatives and giving more licenses to private taxi drivers.

But these initial reforms have been comparatively limited, many analysts contend, and Cuba's economy — grappling with the fallout from the global financial crisis and the aftermath of devastating hurricanes in 2008 — appears to be in dire shape. Tourism revenues have flagged, the country has faced rice shortages and its sugar crop has been disastrous. Last year, imports fell by 37 percent.

Over the past several months, the Cuban Workers' Central, the country's only recognized labor federation, acknowledged the need of economic change is gathering pace in Cuba, the government plans to lay off more than half a million people from the public sector in what some see as the first steps to move into private enterprise.

The armed forces had to divert 72,000 men at the peak, Soviet-style economy more efficient and open up opportunities for people. The government has handed tens of thousands of acres of state-held farms to private farmers and begun freeing up a market for agricultural supplies. It has loosened restrictions on cell phones and other electronics and created a few areas for private business, allowing barbers' shops to become cooperatives and giving more licenses to private taxi drivers.

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Turkish constitutional changes pass by a wide margin

By Sebnem Arsu and Dan Bilefsky
THE NEW YORK TIMES

ISTANBUL — Turkish voters approved a sweeping package of constitutional reforms by a wide margin on Sunday, handing a major victory to the Islamist-rooted government that continued the country’s inexo-
rable shift in power away from the secular Westernized elite that has
governed modern Turkey for most of its history.

The changes were intended to bring Turkey’s military-imposed Constitution in line with European standards of law and democracy, but were widely viewed by voters and politicians here as a referen-
dum on the government of Prime

Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan.

According to unofficial results is-
 sued late Sunday night, the package of 26 constitutional amendments passed with 56 percent of the vote, the semificial Anatolian News Agency reported.

“The main message out of the ballet boxes is that our nation said yes to democracy, yes to freedoms, yes to the superiority of law — not the law of the superiors — and yes to the sovereignty of na-
tional will,” Erdogan said.

Analysts said the vote would bol-
ster the government’s prospects of winning re-election next spring, but was also likely to reinforce sharp ideological divisions in this deeply polarized country.

The governing Justice and Devel-

opment Party, which proposed the changes, portrayed the constitution-
al overhaul as an effort to strengthen
Turkey’s democracy while helping clear its path toward membership in the European Union. The amend-
ments, the government says, repre-
sented a long- overdue attempt to revamp a Constitution ratified after a military coup whose 30th anniv-
sary was on Sunday.

But opponents of the changes
describe them as an orchestrated power grab aimed at undermin-
ning the secular order established by the republic’s founder, Mustafa Kemal Ataturk, in 1923, and giving
religious conservatives power over
the military and judiciary, the last independent guardians of the secu-
lar state.

European Commission raises growth forecast

The European Commission significantly raised its growth fore-
cast for the region on Monday because of strong output data dur-
ing the second quarter, and said that the recovery was starting to broaden across sectors.

In the latest of its twice-yearly economic forecasts, the commis-
sion predicted a growth rate for 2010 of 1.7 percent in the 16-nation euro area, and 1.8 percent for the 27-member European Union. Those were upward revisions of around three-quarters of a per-
centage point compared with the last forecast in May.

It stressed that the recovery was uneven across countries. The higher forecast was based on new, more positive assessments of Britain, France, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Poland and Spain, which account for about 80 percent of the European Union’s
gross domestic product.

This unevenness reflects differences in production structures, the scale of adjustment challenges and rebalancing within the Eu-
ropean Union and the countries that use the euro.

But it added that the recovery was broadening “across sectors and demand components.” In particular, it noted a better contri-
bution of private investment and consumption to growth in the second quarter of 2010, exceeding the combined contributions of inventories and net exports.


Biotech company to patent fuel-secreting bacterium

A biotech company plans to announce Tuesday that it has won a patent on a genetically altered bacterium that converts sunlight and carbon dioxide into ingredients of diesel fuel, a step that could provide a new pathway for making ethanol or a diesel replacement that skips several cumbersome and expensive steps in existing methods.

The bacterium’s product, which it secretes like sweat, is a class of hydrocarbon molecules called alkanes that are chemically in-
distinguishable from the ones made in oil refineries. The organ-
ism can grow in bodies of water unfit for drinking or on land that is
useless for farming, according to the company, Joule Unlimited of Cambridge, Mass.

“We make very clean, sulfur-free hydrocarbons that drop di-
rectly into the existing infrastructure for the production of diesel
fuel,” said William J. Sims, the chief executive of Joule. The object,
his said, was not to be an alternative for fossil fuels, but “to become a viable replacement.”

Joule said it was the first company to patent an organism that secretes hydrocarbon fuel made continuously, directly from sun-
light. Other companies are working on organisms that will make
fuel if fed sugar from corn or cellulose- sources.


Gulf may have avoided direst predictions after spill

By Leslie Kaufman
THE NEW YORK TIMES

NEW ORLEANS — Marsh grass-
es matted by oil are still a common sight on the gulf coast here, but so are green shoots sprouting up be-
neath them.

In nearby bird colonies, car-
caises are still being discovered, but they number in the thousands, not the tens of thousands that have
died in other oil spills.

And at the mouth of the Mis-
sissippi River, the zone of severely

oxygen-depleted water that forms every summer has reappeared, but its size does not seem to have been affected by the Deepwater Horizon spill.

How much damage resulted from almost 5 million barrels of oil pouring into the Gulf of Mexico is still being toted up. It will be some time before the government releases its formal assessment of the effects — one that will define the breakdown rate of the oil, the ecological circumstance (the rela-
tion of luck (a fortunate shift in the atmosphere) and the oil’s rate of plume of dispersed oil more than a half-mile below the surface of the gulf is breaking down and how great a threat it poses to sea life.

But as the weeks pass, evidence is increasing that through a com-
bination of luck (a fortunate shift in ocean currents that kept much of the oil away from shore) and ecological circumstance (the rela-
tively warm waters that increased the breakdown rate of the oil), the gulf region appears to have es-
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caped the dire predictions of the spring.
LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Net neutrality deserves protection

Suppose a small newspaper wants to make a bandwidth-intensive website. Without net neutrality, it’s a no-go, because the media conglomerate that owns the tunnel wants to promote their own “news services” and leave you the rest. It’s like TV. Want some news? Tune into CNN, FOX or MSNBC.

As someone who looks at user-submitted videos, pursues political blogs, reads Wikipedia, and is a fan of investigative journalism, I disagree with how Keith Yost compares a company’s ability to section off the internet with a company’s ability to make electricity pricier during peak demand. Eliminating net neutrality is more analogous to empowering an electricity company to choose which appliances you can cheaply use — this would obviously reduce the wealth of electrical devices available to the consumers. Diverse richness is best protected with net neutrality.

Yost claims net neutrality will lead to a slower internet. But currently in Korea, Japan, and Australia, the internet is fast, and these countries are competitive economically. So if you think the internet is too slow, consider moving to one of these countries.

By Qiaochu Yuan

I was very disappointed by the column concerning Rush in the September 10 issue of The Tech. William Damazer’s opinion article was particularly insulting. Freshmen at MIT do not show commitment to the fraternity system through hazing. MIT has a strict no-hazing policy to protect its students from exploitation and suggest otherwise without evidence is irresponsible. I also find William’s use of the phrase “cheap house and women” unprofessional and unacceptable. One of the reasons rush is dry is so that alcohol is not a factor in a freshman’s decision, and in any case it’s not any harder to get alcohol on campus than it is at a fraternity. I am particularly appalled at the second half of the phrase, though. The women who spend time at my fraternity are our close friends, we respect and care about them, and I think it is a reasonable idea to reconsider in a semester or a year. There are two big reasons for this. First, MIT freshmen are very busy after rush, so it would be both inconvenient and awkward to scout out fraternities during the school year. Without rush to provide a social context in which a conversation about fraternity life can take place, very few freshmen would ever do what Ryan suggests. Second, MIT freshmen naturally become very close friends; we respect and care about them. After a semester of a comfortable and enjoyable fraternity, in the dorms, even fewer freshmen would ever consider leaving for a fraternity, not because fraternity life is less comfortable but because they know they will not have had a semester to experience it.

If the freshman class decides to seriously follow Ryan’s proposal, the inevitable result would be that hardly any freshmen enter the fraternity system. Ryan knows as well as any other MIT student that this benefits nobody — there aren’t enough places in the dorms for every student, so if MIT is to continue to promise housing for every student, it is essential that freshmen enter fraternities at the normal rate. So the proposal as it stands is untenable. While I might be willing to discuss the possibility that rush shouldn’t take place at all, or that there should be an additional year, this is a different conversation to have at a different time. Rush and the fraternity system are far from perfect, but they deserve much more credit than they have been given in this issue. Labeling an article “opinion” does not excuse a writer from providing evidence supporting those opinions. I hope that The Tech will hold its opinion articles to higher standards in the future and that its writers will all think twice before in- sulting a appreciable fraction of the MIT population that they don’t know.

Qiaochu Yuan ‘12 is a member of Theta Eta Delta. 

CORRECTIONS

A New York Times wire article on Tuesday about the effectiveness of various study habits included incorrectly the Heisenberg uncertainty principle in physics. The principle holds that the act of measuring one property of a particle (position, for example) changes the way that you can measure another property (momentum). William Damazer’s article, published in the 10 issue of The Tech, incorrectly followed Ryan’s proposal, the inevitable result would be that hardly any freshmen enter the fraternity system. Ryan knows as well as any other MIT student that this benefits nobody — there aren’t enough places in the dorms for every student, so if MIT is to continue to promise housing for every student, it is essential that freshmen enter fraternities at the normal rate. So the proposal as it stands is untenable. While I might be willing to discuss the possibility that rush shouldn’t take place at all, or that there should be an additional year, this is a different conversation to have at a different time. Rush and the fraternity system are far from perfect, but they deserve much more credit than they have been given in this issue. Labeling an article “opinion” does not excuse a writer from providing evidence supporting those opinions. I hope that The Tech will hold its opinion articles to higher standards in the future and that its writers will all think twice before in- sulting a appreciable fraction of the MIT population that they don’t know.

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OPINION POLICY

Editorials are the official opinion of The Tech. They are written by the editorial board, which consists of ten editors, and are signed by the editor-in-chief.

Steve Howland, Editor in Chief

Letter writers must use real names. A full column must fill the same amount of space allotted to the editorial. Columns are written by individuals and represent the opinion of the author, not necessarily the opinion of The Tech. They are encouraged and should be sent to editors@tech.mit.edu. Hard copy submissions should be addressed to The Tech, P.O. Box 397029, Cambridge, Mass. 02139-7029, or sent by interdepartmental mail to Room W20-483. All submissions are due by 3:00 p.m. two days before the date of publication.

Letters, columns, and cartoons must bear the authors’ signatures, addresses, and phone numbers. Unsigned letters will not be accepted. The Tech reserves the right to edit or condense letters; shorter letters will be given higher priority. Once submitted, all letters become property of The Tech, and will not be returned. Letters, columns, and cartoons may also be posted on The Tech’s website and/or printed in any other format or medium now known or later that becomes known. The Tech makes no commitment to publish all the letters received.

Guest columns are opinion articles submitted by members of the MIT or local community.

TO REACH US

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Spinning away

Iran’s nuclear program has de-accelerated, but remains on a dangerous trajectory

By Keith Yost

The past twelve months have not been good for Iran. Domestically, the country still reeks from the electoral chicanery of the previous August. Internationally, the United Nations has placed fresh sanctions on the regime for failing to comply with its resolutions. Economically, it seems recession has hit the nation, though it is hard to be certain — the government has ceased releasing numbers entirely.

According to the latest report by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), the year was also unkind to Iran’s uranium enrichment program. Contrary to plans, Iran’s number of installed centrifuges has risen only slightly, from 8,308 to 8,856, and, more importantly, the Iranians have failed to maintain their number of operating centrifuges, which has actually fallen from 4,592 to 3,772.

A happy consequence of this turn of events is that there is more time for diplomacy. Last October, I wrongly predicted that the United States would be faced with something like a do-or-die decision on the Iranian nuclear program by this time next year — now there is a second chance to deter Iran through the intelligent application of carrots and sticks.

This is a lucky break, and one which both hawks and doves should celebrate. However, this brief respite from Iran’s inexorable march toward nuclear weapons should not give us the false hope that inaction is a tolerable policy. If diplomacy should not give us the false hope that inaction is a tolerable policy. If diplomacy fails, the United States will have a number of options to work, it must work quickly.

Scenario A: Iran continues its current operations as it does not bring more centrifuges online, and does not enrich beyond 3.5 percent in significant quantity.

Scenario B: Iran slowly brings the remainder of its installed centrifuges online and operates them at current productivity levels, but does not enrich beyond 3.5 percent in significant quantity.

Scenario C: Iran brings its remaining centrifuges online and shifts its enrichment from 3.5 percent to 19.7 percent.

Scenario D: Iran brings the remainder of its installed centrifuges online and enriches it to 20 percent.

Kissinger once said, “A statesman’s duty is to bridge the gap between his nation’s experience and his vision.” There is yet hope for diplomacy. But should it fail, we will have short time before a hard decision must be made. If our president is a true statesman, he will begin preparing his nation for that decision today.

Make textbooks free

Cut out the middleman and make textbooks affordable

By Nils Molina

Textbook costs can run a thousand dollars a year per student, and thus are a big drag on education — not just at MIT but around the world.

Oddly, the professors who write the books usually don’t get much money from writing the textbook. Instead, nearly all of the money you spend on a textbook goes to people who review, edit, print and distribute the book (90 percent for textbook sales according to the National Association of College Stores).

Why, then, do professors bother writing college textbooks? Because getting a textbook published gives them recognition.

We need a textbook revolution. We need to eliminate the middlemen, and make textbooks a transaction between professors and students.

Professors should write textbooks that are free, and institutions should give them appropriate recognition. Professors could also get a reward from their college for writing the book, which wouldn’t make college more expensive, as it would pale in comparison to what students currently spend buying books. After all, a professor’s job is to educate his or her students.

Nobody loses (except, of course, the obsolete publishers). And students win enormously. Textbooks end, as textbooks become available to anyone online.

Want a physical copy? Print it out and put it in a binder. Does your textbook have an error? Just correct it, and send out a new version of the textbook. Want to learn, even if you don’t go to MIT? Download the book. And instructors can more easily tailor the textbook for their course. Freeing textbooks in college education is essential — our generation needs to wake up and tackle this problem.

Nils Molina is a member of the Class of 2014.
**Showdown**

The tumbleweed then tried to roll off into the sunset, but due to the Old West's placement north of the subtropical ridge, the prevailing winds were in the wrong direction.

**Abstract**

This paper presents a **method for** (synonym for new) (sciencey verb) the **property**, Using (something you didn't invent) was measured to be +/-(number) (number) (units). Results show agreement with theoretical predictions and significant improvement over previous efforts by et al. The work presented here has profound implications for future studies of and may one day help solve the problem of **Laser** (supreme sociological concern)

**Keywords:** (buzzword) (buzzword) (buzzword)
Stabilizing by Michael Ciuffo

**Sudoku**
Solution, page 13

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

**Crossword Puzzle**
Solution, page 13

**ACROSS**
1 Gifts to the needy
5 Forage crop
9 Major hit
14 Quantum event?
15 No. brains?
16 Home of the Rays
17 Vijay Singh’s homeland
18 Warmonger
19 Along a rotation line
20 Aviation pioneer
21 Sch. in Lexington
22 Interlaced
23 Stick
24 Singer Shore
29 Roman way
30 Station lineup
31 Alt. spelling
33 Aware of
35 Dramatic exit direction
36 Termination
39 George Lucas blockbuster
41 “The Girl from Ipanema” guy
42 Maitland
43 Pitch woo
44 Do uncredited work
45 Hotspot service
46 Loop or stud
47 Choir voice
48 Mai __ cocktail
51 N.Y.P.D. rank
52 Chapel Hill sch.
53 Boldness
54 Unobstructed
55 Sports division, est. 1969
56 Cozy
58 Old Calif. training base
60 MIT word
61 Coll. Bruins
62 Use an MRI
66 Justice Fortas

**DOWN**
1 TV alien
2 Floral loop
3 Head steward
4 Richard’s Agnew blockbuster
5 Rifts
6 Fiery gem
7 Ketch’s sister
8 Out of kilter
9 George Lucas blockbuster
10 Full-length skirt
11 Pamplona pal
12 Hall-of-fame pitcher Warren
13 Terminates
14 Quantum event?
15 No. brains?
16 Home of the Rays
17 Vijay Singh’s homeland
18 Warmonger
19 Along a rotation line
20 Aviation pioneer
21 Sch. in Lexington
22 Interlaced
23 Stick
24 Singer Shore
29 Roman way
30 Station lineup
31 Alt. spelling
33 Aware of
35 Dramatic exit direction
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44 Do uncredited work
45 Hotspot service
46 Loop or stud
47 Choir voice
48 Mai __ cocktail
51 N.Y.P.D. rank
52 Chapel Hill sch.
53 Boldness
54 Unobstructed
55 Sports division, est. 1969
56 Cozy
58 Old Calif. training base
60 MIT word
61 Coll. Bruins
62 Use an MRI
66 Justice Fortas

**Somewhere on the Search for Meaning**
by Letitia Li

**The Wager**

*Man, if Duke Nukem forever overcomes evil, I will rock, like, a hundred horse dicks.*

*In a row.*

*Well, I have to wait for the stars to align again to find out...*
I grew up in a small town in West Virginia, which is famous for its basketball players and health problems. Due to the hills that surround the area, it’s very difficult to rely on walking as a primary mode of transportation. Unfortunately, I fit the Asian female driving stereotype, and even though I have my driver’s license, for the safety of others, I rarely operate a vehicle. I also have no interest in campus, and relying on other people to drive you around results in them treating you to navigate. As a result, I completely rely on GPS or Google Maps on my phone to get my friends from point A to point B. However, for the closer areas, I am a landmark person.

I’ve always relied on the Cigo sign in Kenmore Square. I think of every Kenmore Square as MIT’s own Times Square in New York City. They wanted to bring the lights, and even though the Cigo gas station that once occupied the area is long gone, that is one of the only lights remaining.

Our summer, I lived in a fraternity house in Kenmore Square. There, I discovered that many houses on this area have a real interaction problem due to the work on the T station. I also discovered that the bulk of the businesses cater to college students, which are the primary occupants of this location as MIT and BU are very accessible from this location.

An example of a business that caters to the college market is the head shop, Sugar Daddy’s (472 Commonwealth Avenue), which is surrounded but still one of the most reasonable places to buy glass in Boston. The bar I’ve most frequently encountered other MIT students is Crossroads (486 Beacon St.), a.k.a. “Roads,” especially on Wednesday nights when they do a free pizza with a pitcher of beer. India Quality (444 Commonwealth Avenue), which has great lunch specials and is right next to the Sigma Kappa house, is another place I would consider an MIT hotspot. Campus Convenience (544 Commonwealth Avenue) and Quality Mart (21 Mass Ave) are the two convenience stores that I’ve frequented the most for minis while in this area.

I was informed that the lighted sign came into existence when a group of people who owned the building didn’t want the neighborhood to change. They wanted to preserve the identity of the area.

The Vitro Gardens (main entrance on Milton Street) is one of the best parks in Boston. The Gardeners are also part of the Emerald Necklace project. Fred Olmsted hoped to link the parks by parkways and waterways in a U-shape, basically making an Emerald Necklace around the city, but it’s more of an L-shape now. Despite being a great location in Fenway is BerryLine (1377 Boylston St.), which serves doughnut yogurt with your choice of fresh fruit or crumbly sweets. It is located conveniently across the street from a Shaw’s (3 Kilmarnock St.), which unfortunately is too small and doesn’t carry alcohol. Burton’s Grille (1363 Boylston St.) is also close by, which serves Asian food and has the largest miniature key lime pies. Boston Beer Works (6 Brookline Ave) is another great place for American food, and their blueberry beer has fresh blueberries in it. Bradley Liquor Store (1327 Boylston St.) has probably the best selection of beer and wine for the Times Kenmore area, and I prefer it to Marlboro Market (45 Mass Ave).

The Fenway-Kenmore neighborhood offers college students many businesses that cater to them and spans much farther than the places I’ve discussed, as I don’t include any East Fenway businesses. Then again, as someone who currently works at Harvard Medical School, I don’t think there are any businesses worth noting in the East Fenway area. I’ve mentioned Boston and the Chinese food truck due to the lack of options there. It’s wonderful that many of the fraternities, sororities, and living groups are located in the better parts of this neighborhood, which offers so many opportunities to get out of the MIT bubble.
BROUHAA RHYTHM

Playing games with metaphors
Video game is to house as developer is to...

By Michael T. Lin
CAMPUS LIFE EDITOR

If you had told me five years ago that I would one day be interested in designing video games for a living, I would probably have freaked out that some crazy person claiming to be from MIT was trying to tell me information about my future, then laughed hysterically with skepticism. Back then, my interest in video games was almost exclusively as a player, and not an especially good one, at that. I barely even owned any video games growing up, and my awareness of the development process was limited to channel-surfing into X-Play occasionally and wondering to myself who those faceless people were that produced these parent-terrifying time sinks.

Now, a few classes and UROPs later, I find myself increasingly curious about designing games as a field, dipping my toes into one of the more recent entries in this season of “Michael’s Next Top Career Choice.” Are you happy now, Mysterious Time-Traveling Crazy Person? You were right.

The weird thing, though, is that most people I tell about my burgeoning interest in designing video games for a living, I would probably have freaked out that some crazy person claiming to be from MIT was trying to tell me information about my future, then laughed hysterically with skepticism. Back then, my interest in video games was almost exclusively as a player, and not an especially good one, at that. I barely even owned any video games growing up, and my awareness of the development process was limited to channel-surfing into X-Play occasionally and wondering to myself who those faceless people were that produced these parent-terrifying time sinks.

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**Changes to advising could have big effects**

UA interview, from Page 1

and they will meet soon with the Alumni Association to drum up support and mentors for the program. Although opting into having this second advisor would not be required, Modi and Wyman said they thought many would choose to take advantage of the opportunity.

Bringing the add/drop system fully online by the spring semester is another high-profile project that the UA has committed to. Wyman said that they have already applied for funding for the project and assembled a project team, and that they are on track to meeting their target date.

The SafeRide monitor that Modi and Wyman mentioned during their election campaign is now fully operational and visible in the back of the Student Center. This year, the UA, along with the Baker Foundation, and the Dormitory Council, are co-sponsoring the shuttle to Trader Joe’s and Whole Foods, which will begin running this Sunday. There are no changes planned to existing shuttles besides general improvements to the system.

As for the contentious issue of dining, Modi and Wyman said they plan to meet with dorm senators and get their thoughts on dining before committing to anything. The UA is also working on picking the winter location for the East Campus produce market. It will likely again be held in Stata, but might relocate inside the building now that the new Anish Kapoor mural has been installed in the market’s previous winter location.

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Many confess to crime even when completely innocent

Researchers find that confessions of guilt just are not reliable, especially among mentally disabled

By John Schwartz
THE NEW YORK TIMES

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — Eddie Lowery lost 10 years of his life for a crime he did not commit. There was no physical evidence at his trial for rape, but one overwhelming factor put him away: He confessed. At trial, the jury heard details prosecutors insisted only the rapist could have known, including that: the rapist hit the 17-year-old victim in the head with the handle of a silver table knife he found in the house. DNA evidence would later show that another man committed the crime. But that vindication would come only after Lowery lost 10 years of his life because of the sentence and was pardoned in 1991.

"I want to make up a lot," he said about having confessed. Lowery said in a recent interview, "I thought it was the only dummy who did that."

But more than 40 others have given confessions since 1976 that DNA evidence later showed were false, according to records compiled by Brandon L. Garrett, a professor at the University of Virginia School of Law. Experts have long known that the mentally impaired, the mentally ill, the young and the easily led — are the likeliest to be induced to confess. There are also people like Lowery, who says he was just pressed beyond endurance by interrogators.

New research shows how people who were uninvolved or unimpressed in a crime could provide such a detailed account of what occurred, allowing prosecutors to claim that only the defendant could have committed the crime. An article by Garrett draws on trials involving confessions and other background materials to show how instructing facts got into the confessions — by police introducing important facts about the case, whether intentionally or unintentionally, during the interrogation. To defense lawyers, the new research is eye-opening.

"In the past, if somebody confessed, that was the end," said Peter J. Neufeld, a founder of the Innocence Project, an organization based in New York. "You couldn't imagine going forward."

The notion that such detailed confessions might be deemed voluntary because the defendants were not beaten or coerced suggests that courts should not simply look at whether confessions are voluntary. Neufeld said.

"They should look at whether they are reliable," he said.

Garrett said he was surprised by the complexity of the confessions he studied.

"I expected, and think people intuitively think that, a false confession will look flimsy," like someone saying simply, "I didn't do it," he said.

Instead, he said, "almost all of these confessions looked unacceptably reliable," rich in telling detail that almost inevitably had to come from the police.

"I had known that in a couple of these cases, contamination could have occurred," he said, using a term in police circles for introducing facts into the interrogation process "I didn't expect to see that almost all of them had been contaminated."

Of the exonerated defendants in the Garrett study, 13 of 17 — half — were "mentally disabled," under 18 at the time of the crime. Most were subjected to lengthy, high-pressure interrogations, and none had a lawyer present. Thirteen were taken to the crime scene.

Lowery's case shows how contamination occurs. He had come under suspicion, he now believes, because he had been partying and ran his car into a parked car the night of the rape, generating a police report. Officers grilled him for more than seven hours, insisting from the start that he had committed the crime.

Lowery took a lie detector test to prove he was innocent, but the officers told him that he had failed it.

"I didn't know any way out of that, except to tell them what they wanted to hear," he recalled. "And then get a lawyer to prove my innocence."

Proving innocence after a confession, however, is rare. Eight of the defendants in Garrett's study had actually been cleared by DNA evidence before trial, but the courts convicted them anyway.

In one such case involving Jef- frey Deskovic, who spent 16 years in prison for a murder in Poughkeep- sie, N.Y., prosecutors argued that the victim may have been sexually active and so the DNA evidence may have come from another liaison she had.

The prosecutors asked the jury to focus on Deskovic's highly detailed confession and convict him.

While Garrett suggests that leak- ing facts during interrogations is sometimes unintentional, Lowery said that the contamination of his questioning was clearly intentional.

After his initial confession, he said, the interrogators went over the crime with him in detail — asking how he did it, but correcting him when he got the facts wrong. How did he get in? "I said, 'I kicked in the front door.'" But the rapist had used the back door, so he admitted to hav- ing gone around to the back. "They fed me the answers," he recalled.

Some defendants' confessions even included mistakes fed by the police. Steven A. Drizin, the director of the Center on Wrongful Convic- tions at the Northwestern University School of Law, said the significance of contamination could not be under- estimated. While errors might lead to wrongful arrest, "it's contamination that is the primary factor in wrongful convictions," he said.

"Juries demand details from the suspect that make the confession appear to be reliable, even in these cases," he said. "Jim Traiman, a former policeman who now advises police departments on training officers to avoid false con- fessions, explained that few of them intend to contaminate an interroga- tion or convict the innocent."

"You become so fixated on 'This is the right person, this is the guilty person' that you tend to ignore ev- erything else," he said. The problem with false confessions, he said, is "the wrong person is still out there, and he's able to re-offend."

Traiman has become an advocate of questioning entire interrogations. Requirements for recording confessions vary widely. Ten states require officers to prove their innocence. "You run in to so many people who say, 'I would never confess to a crime."

"He does not argue with them, be- cause he knows they did not experi- ence what he went through."

"You've never been in a situation so intense, and you're naïve about your rights," he said. "You don't know what you'll say to get out of that situation."

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Chronicles of the atomic bomb

By William J. Broad
THE NEW YORK TIMES

They risked their lives to capture on film hundreds of blinding flashes, rising fireballs and mushroom clouds. The blast from one detonation hurled a man and his camera into a ditch. When he got up, a second wave knocked him down again. Then there was radiation.

While many of the scientists who made atom bombs during the Cold War became famous, the men who filmed what happened when those bombs were detonated made up a secret corps. Their existence and the nature of their work has emerged from the shadows only since the federal government began a concerted effort to declassify their films about a dozen years ago. In all, the moviemakers fashioned 8,500 secret films, according to federal officials.

Today, the result is a surge in fiery images on television and movie screens, as well as growing public knowledge about the filmmakers.

The images are getting “seared into people’s imaginations,” said Robert S. Norris, author of “Racing the Bomb.” They bear witness, he added, “to extraordinary and terrifying power.”

Two new documentaries, “Countdown to Zero” and “Nuclear Tipping Point,” feature archival images of the blasts. Both argue that the threat of atomic terrorism is on the rise and call for the strengthening of nuclear safeguards and, ultimately, the elimination of global arsenals.

As for the cameramen, there aren’t that many left. “Quite a few have died from cancer,” George Yoshitake, 82, one of the survivors, said of his peers in an interview. “No doubt it was related to the testing.”

The cinematographers focused on nuclear test explosions in the Pacific and Nevada.

Electrified wire rings their headquarters in the Hollywood Hills. The inconspicuous building, on Wonderland Avenue in Laurel Canyon, had a sound stage, screening rooms, processing labs, animation goat, film vaults and a staff of more than 250 producers, directors and cameramen—all with top-secret clearances.

When originally made, the films served as vital sources of information for scientists investigating the nature of nuclear arms and their destructiveness. Some movies also served as tutorials for federal and congressional leaders.

Today, arms controllers see the old films as studies in gung-ho paranoia.

“They have this very odd voice,” said Mark Sagg, a film producer at the World Security Institute, a private group in Washington. “You and I would be appalled that some hydrogen bomb vaporized a corner of what used to be paradise. But they’ve got a guy bragging about it.”


“They’re kind of unrecognized patriots,” said Peter Kuznick, the book’s author and a special-effects filmmaker in Hollywood. “The images that they captured will, for a long time, be a snapshot of what a bomb looks like.”

Bomb films, Page 13

The New York Times
At a news conference, O’Leary called the archive “a treasure trove” and promised to release the films after they had undergone any needed redactions for purposes of national security. Nuclear specialists say the shape and size of a weapon — especially a hydrogen bomb — can reveal design secrets.

The department’s goal was to make public as many as 20 films a month and complete the declassification project in five to seven years. Late in 1997, an event in Hollywood at the American Film Institute honored the filmmakers. Present were some two dozen of the survivors.

"You had to have the cameras running before the detonation," Douglas Wood, 75, a cinematographer, told a reporter at the gathering. "If not, he said, the blinding flash "would burn the film and jam the film gate."

Kazan, the filmmaker, organized and filmed the Hollywood event. Impressed with the skill and courage of the cinematographers, he mixed the event footage with declassified bomb imagery to produce "Atomic Filmmaker," a video he sells on his website, www.atomiccentral.com. The declassifications stopped in 2001. The arrival of the Bush administration, and an outbreak of atomic jitters after the terrorist attacks on New York City and the Pentagon, combined to bring about the program’s demise.

Today, the Energy Department says it has released publicly some 100 movies from the vast stockpile, which the military controls. "What you see is what we have," said Dar- win Morgan, a department spokesman in Las Vegas.

A page on the department’s website features links to clips from the films that visitors can view free of charge and sells full versions for $10, plus shipping. It calls them "an enduring, awesome visual documentation of the power and destruction of nuclear weapons."

Many are available free on YouTube under the search heading "declassified U.S. nuclear test film."

Yoshitake, the cameraman, said the release and restoration of the images were healthy developments because their disclosure improved public understanding of the nuclear threat.

"It’s a good thing to show the horror," he said.

And he wondered — now that the Cold War is over — why advanced nations still retain more than 20,000 of the deadliest of all weapons.

"Do we need all these bombs?" Yoshitake asked. "It’s scary."

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Tenured professors cultivate from ground up

Tenure from Page 1

- it’s thought that professors who spend too much time in the classroom sometimes are spending too much time in the lab. That’s a myth, says former MIT President Paul E. Gray. Professor Hazel Sive, with whom Hudson and Kochan worked, agrees. “Competent teaching is required for promotion,” she says. But it’s a myth that professors spend too much time teaching, especially young ones, earn that elusive international recognition? Winston adds, “Tenure will rest to a large extent on how well you do your research. There will be some, I think, that there’s not a prescription for that.”

The MIT way

Each approach to tenure is different for every department. But the style is a tradition of growth in its own right. Tenured professors cultivate from ground up. “The department is really amazing,” he says. “For some it’s a decision early on, but just because you get tenure doesn’t mean that somehow, it’s not and it is not like that.”

The decision of his senior colleagues went beyond any of his expectations. When his departmental review arrived at MIT, he was assigned lab space in Building 24 (where his lab was located), and there was no room for him to move. He wanted to make sure that people of professors offered up their own facilities to them. “That would be to say that the person was good, that you could have 10 professors. That is where, ‘Welcome to MIT’”

Imperfect, but still a good system

Tenure is not infallible. “It’s a process that works pretty well,” said Winston. “But it’s a process that can make mistakes, both ways.”

The system won’t favor tenured professors. It prevents universities from “making big mistakes that could get away from you and lying on his resume, claiming to have done something that he didn’t.”

When professors are young enough to have a chance to hire people who are unsuccessful instead of promoting them, universities say, Kochan. (Though it does court superstars, relatively rarely, to the department, we do everything we can to help those individuals be successful. “Because that’s the reality. But we are committed to hiring people that we believe can have a successful career. It’s a difficult, and working as hard as we can, that we can grow our faculty.”

MIT’s tenure style stands out from other institutions. “It’s not a shining star on the street.” Harvard has a reputation for tenure review. “Having tenure is not something to be proud of,” said Gray. “It is something to do to attract students and professors. It is something to contribute to their career development. It seems to me that if you bring someone in here who you think is really, well, critical in your tenure review, you’ll regret later on” and does so “making big mistakes that could get away from you.”

Tenure is a tradition of growing its talent, whereas others have individual styles. For instance, some departments have an entire larger section on grievance procedures in the official MIT Policies and Procedures, and begins, “if the candidate is chosen for tenure, then the faculty member may write to the Provost, Sive said that there are many points of entry to the department. In the case of the department, the Dean, or the department chair, or the senior professor by which appeals are organized by the Provost, but such appeals are not necessary.”

Second, the Race and Diversity report argues for a more diverse campus, whereas others have different criteria. The department recognizes the number of underrepresented minorities on the faculty and to help students from the beginning (“I see that as one of the key goals of my time at Fletcher School.”). As for tenure reviews that passions, tenure offers an important service. It was established in the early twentieth century, during the time when the university started being fired for having views that college administrators disagreed with. “Tenured you guaranteed freedom of speech,” said Gray. “An adminis- tering professors early on in their ca- reers for the National Academy of Sciences and the National Academy of Engineers. ‘You know, you’re not supposed to discriminate against people on the basis of race or gender, or any other factor. And even that might not be egre- gious enough. 

Tenured, but not exactly

Part of the reason for MIT’s warmth toward tenure candidates is that they are not viewed as threats. Ultimately, “we would not like to do that.” And even that might not be egregious enough.

Although, the important thing is that the person is working in, but rather a tradition of growing its talent. The generosity of his senior colleagues was a string theorist. “They were a string theorist couldn’t get jobs in string theorist.”

But it would be nice if once every ten years MIT would say, “Exploitive the letters, we don’t need it around and we’re going to keep it to the rule,” he said. “One day, maybe it’s necessary if departments had that flexibility. And probably that’s the right time.”

At the same time, “you... you’re great, but you’re not MIT mate- rials program. “So, that’s the kind of thing, if there were occasionally another option.”

Looking forward

To the tenure process sounds great in theory. But how well is the process actually being carried out? The Report of the Special Fac- ulty Committee on Promotion and Tenure will be released soon. It’s a question. It is expected to be released in the fall, according to Hudson. “And even that might not be egregious enough. The report will recommend changes to the process of the tenure process at MIT, and the faculty will review that report by presenting the process of the tenure review against the MIT written handout on what is allowed in tenure review against the MIT written handout on what is allowed in

The road to getting tenure at MIT

Students are probably familiar with the college admission process. However, the view at MIT is quite different. It’s more selective, they are promised a profession, they are trained in a hierarchy of reviewers. This group of over twenty individuals “aren’t suited to help- ful,” he says. “But it’s a process of recruiting professors, increased diversity on the faculty and to help students from the beginning.”

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The road to getting tenure at MIT

Tenured professors cultivate from ground up.
Future uncertain, Hudson leaves impression on MIT and students

Tenure II, from Page 14

The best practices in this area and recommends that MIT "reward the people who are doing a good job for mentoring by giving them a little more credit for what they are doing — more visibility, more recognition," says Kochan.

If these sound like big issues to address, they are. "There's a lot to do," said Kochan. "This is not a one year, or a three year, or even a five year process."

A move, a reflection

While Kochan looks forward to revitalizing the tenure process, Hudson looks toward his next step. First, he has to tie up matters at MIT.

Because Hudson is relocating, the graduate students in his lab have to decide whether to leave with him or to find another mentor. Fortunately, Hudson recently graduated his first round of grad students, and the two students he has now are first- and second-year, not too far into their projects. For them, "it's a disappointment but not a huge loss," says Hudson.

As of the end of May, Hudson had not decided where he's headed next. He wants to stay in academia, though, as he's drawn to the feeling of discovery in research, calling it "pure joy."

It's certainly not an easy path.

As of the end of May, Hudson had not decided where he's headed next. He wants to stay in academia, though, as he's drawn to the feeling of discovery in research, calling it "pure joy."

It's certainly not an easy path.

In fact, Hudson will be going on for another year, at MIT.

He was originally offered the opportunity to stay as a senior lecturer in the Physics Department for an additional year, but following a student petition at the end of Spring 2010, the offer was extended to three years. He is teaching 8.01 this fall and possibly 8.02 next spring, and doing research at Harvard while continuing to look for a new job.

A version of this story was originally published on June 11, 2010.

E-mail of the Week

In an e-mail circulated around Baker House, Easeen I. Zaman '11 informed residents there was lobster in 3rd East.

"Well... actually it's in the toilet. It's kinda funny, but why would you waste food?"

E-mail of the Week quotations are used with permission.
Women’s tennis beats Smith in season opener

Freshmen Quisenberry, Hsu lead Engineers to decisive 7-2 victory over Pioneers

By Jennifer Rees

This past Saturday, MIT Women’s Tennis played their first match of the season against Smith College. The match started off with the doubles matches. First off was the freshmen doubles team of Lauren C. Quisenberry ’14 and Julia C. Hsu ’14. They breezed through their match and won decisively, 8-1. Next off were Melissa A. Diskin ’11 and Katharine A. O’Neal ’14. They played a tough match but lost 2-8; this made the overall score tied at 1-1. The next team to finish was Jenny C. Dohlman ’11 and Jennifer A. Rees ’11. They were down 2-4 in their match, but they quickly changed the momentum to win the next six games straight to take the match 8-4, giving MIT a 2-1 lead over Smith. Sonya Makhni ’11 and Hillary E. Jenny ’12 were the last ones on court. The match was close with both sides fighting for every point, but MIT pulled it out in the tiebreaker for the win, 9-8(5).

The Engineers carried their momentum from the doubles matches into their singles matches. The first two matches off were Quisenberry playing one and Hsu playing two. They both won their matches with a score of 6-1, 6-2. Their strong performances brought MIT further into the lead with a 4-1 overall. Next off was Rees at seven. She finished with a score of 6-1, 6-2. Hillary Jenny at five was the next to finish. Her match had many games that went to deuce, but she was more consistent than her heavy hitting opponent and won her match 6-1, 6-3. O’Neal at three was the next to finish. Her match was close but she took the match with a score of 6-3, 6-3, further widening MIT’s lead. Diskin, known for splitting sets often and for running every ball down, played a close match with her opponent. She held her long match and won 6-3, 4-6, 10-5. Dohlman also split sets with her opponent. The match was close but she lost 6-2, 2-6, 10-8. In exhibition, Makhni defeated her opponent through a match of wills and won 6-3, 6-0. The lone sophomore of the team, Caitlin R. Pomeroy ’13, played two matches in singles, defeating both opponents 8-1. MIT won the match over all with the official score of 7-2.

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