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Proposal would split dorm into 10 independent houses
By Isabella Wei

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IFC confirms hazing took place in January
By Jeff Guo and Joanna Kao

A week after the News Office announced the decision to suspend the fraternity Phi Beta Epsilon (PBE) for hazing, parties remain tight-lipped about details of the case.

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But information about the most important matter — the nature and severity of the hazing allegations — continues to be withheld. Neither the IFC, which handled the case initially, nor the PSIHL office, which was involved with the subsequent appeal, nor the members of PBE have offered any details about what PBE did, and why it was considered hazing.

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Parents of dead student sue MIT, Delta Upsilon
Parents accuse parties of negligence in the 2008 death of Robert Wells, who fell out of a window
By Apama Sud


Two years ago, on Saturday, March 1, Wells plunged five stories from the DU fraternity house at 526 Beacon Street to his death. He was a senior in course IX, Brain and Cognitive Sciences, and a brother of DU.

The lawsuit, filed by Michael and Laura Wells in Suffolk County Superior Court, says that Wells sustained “massive injuries including blunt impact to his head, skull fractures, lacerations and contusions of his brain, subarachnoid hemorrhage,” etc., as a “direct and proximate result of both DU and MIT’s negligence,” and “failure to correct or warn the condition” of Wells’ living quarters. He opened the window adjacent to his bed for the “purpose of allowing cold air into his bedroom.” Shortly thereafter, around 5:45 a.m., he was pronounced dead.

The Wells’ allege that the house’s heating system “was notoriously difficult to control” and “was controlled by one unreliable thermostat,” so brothers “would often open the windows in winter months in an effort to get comfortable and to control the temperatures in their bedrooms.”

PPE AMUS WRITE ABOUT PLIGHT
Alumni are protesting the PBE’s suspension for hazing, arguing that the process was hasty and unfair. OPN, p. 5

IS THE IFC GOOD FOR FRATS?
Does the IFC feel pressurized to make examples of fraternities? OPN, p. 4

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Charity events are supposed to make you feel good, not ripped off. OPN, p. 4

MITWIT
Meeting a lot of new people on campus? Some advice. FUN, p. 6

SQUASH AT SYMPHONY HALL
Four squash titans faced off Wednesday night at Boston’s Symphony Hall. One triumphed. SPO, p. 16

WEATHER, p. 2
TUE 7’9” | 64°
WIN 7’0” | 71°
WIN 7’1” | 78°
ROUTE 70

Volumes 130, Number 40
Tech.mit.edu
Tuesday, September 28, 2010

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CIA intensifies drone airstrikes within Pakistan

WASHINGTON — The CIA has drastically increased its bombing campaign in the mountains of Pakistan in recent weeks, U.S. officials said, strikes that are part of an effort by the administration to try to cripple the Taliban in a stronghold being used to plan attacks against U.S. troops in Afghanistan.

As part of its covert war in the region, the CIA has launched 20 attacks with armed drone aircraft in September, the most ever during a single month, and more than twice the number in a typical month. This expanded air campaign comes as top U.S. military analysts are warning of a possible terrorist plots in the West from militants based in Pakistan.


Puentezsa says Taliban have reached out to Karzai

PARWAN, Afghanistan — The top American commander in Afghan-istan said Monday that high- level Taliban leaders had reached out to senior Afghan government officials in the context of start- ing reconciliation discussions that could pave the way to end the fight- ing in Afghanistan.

For months, efforts at recon- ciliation have been stymied at every level, and this is the explicit public suggestion that there is ex- tensive behind-the-scenes contact between insurgents and the Afghan government. Gen. David H. Petraeus, in a meeting with reporters after a tour of the largely United States-run detention facility here, where U.S. forces detain Afghans they suspect of supporting the insurgency, said the Taliban were making efforts to establish contact with senior mem- bers of the Afghan government.

“There are very high-level Tal- ban leaders who have sought to reach out to the highest levels of the Afghan government, and, in- deed, have done that,” Petraeus said.

The conditions of President Hamid Karzai “are very clear, very established, and, certainly, we support them as we did in Iraq, as the O.K.D. in Northern Ireland; this is how you end these kinds of insurgencies,” Petraeus said, re- ferreing to the conditions among others that the Taliban respect the country’s Constitution and lay down their weapons.

He added that any strategy had to be comprehensive and also in- clude traditional elements of coun- terinsurgency strategy, like training Afghan security forces, and also “coming to grips with the situation in which there are sanctuaries for the insurgents outside the borders of the country in which we are lo- cated, and it involves, in a sense, a war of words, of information.”

American support for the pro- cess is in part a recognition that “Oh, by the way, you are not going to kill or capture your way out of an industrial-strength insurgency,” Pe- traeus said, underscoring the scale of Taliban activity.

The talks are continuous, ac- cording to people knowledgeable about them. 

Petraeus’ embrace of talks comes at a difficult moment in the war and at a time when many politicians in the United States are searching for a way to bring the troops home as soon as possible. Popular support has ebbed amid a steady drumbeat of reports documenting the Tal- ban’s persistence despite the killing of large numbers.

Although, on its face a peace deal with the Taliban appears to be a necessary ingredient for the with- drawal of international troops, a reconciliation with the insurgents is also so controversial among many Afghans that the United States is in a delicate position in supporting it. At this point, though, there is an acknowledgment that it would be impossible to win against an insurgency of this scale and that a peace deal might be a major part of any exit strategy.

Kim’s son is elevated to general before North Korea meeting

MIAMI — Lady Gaga will likely become this Halloween’s hottest celebrity — Madonna with meat, as one costume sales- man described it — but when it comes to message-minded guffaws and flying off the shelves consists of a green costume called “Horror is In.”

A designer retooled a “killer mechanic” costume — but when it comes to message-minded costume sales.

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“Horror is In.”

—Damian Cave, The New York Times

This Halloween, it’s BP green with a sheen

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Pom Juice beneficial?

The World & Nation

world

juice could help prevent or treat heart disease, reduce the risk of strokes, lower blood pressure and slow the progression of cancer.

company ignored evidence that contradicted its claims that the juice could prevent or treat heart disease, reduce the risk of strokes, lower blood pressure and slow the progression of cancer.

—FTC says

Teen bombing attempt: Chrysler

AERIALSTRIKESWITHINPAKISTAN

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Extended Forecast


Thursday: Cloudy with rain. High 71°F (22°C). Low 59°F (15°C). South winds at 5-10 mph.

Weather

Situation for Noon Eastern time, Tuesday, September 28, 2010

By Allison A. Wing

WEATHER

With no hurricanes cur- rently active in the Atlantic, to- day’s weather description focuses on New England’s cur- rent weather pattern. For the next couple days, there will continue to be cloudy, rainy weather. Last night there was the unusual occurence of temperatures rising, leading to the occurrence of a warm frontal passage. This frontal passage is responsible for the rain, humidity and thunder today, with a chance of showers throughout the day. With rain that could be heavy at times as well as strong winds, it will certainly be not the best of weather. Tomorrow will also be cloudy with a slight chance of showers, especially in the evening. Thursday, a strong low pressure system is forecast to track into the Northeast, bringing tropical moisture with it, although there is still uncer- tainty in the timing. The com- bination of high levels of precipitable water and lift means that there is the potential for heavy rain and urban flooding from Wednesday night to Fri- day morning.

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Compiled by MIT

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As Florida condos sit empty, voters enter battle on growth

Dark horse emerges in Alaska race for Senate: the incumbent

Tech firms resist India on software code secrets

On basic religion test, many Americans do not pass

Southwest, determined to expand, buys AirTran

Maker of BlackBerry introduces a new tablet

Zeal for dream drove scientist in case science
When charity feels like a ripoff

Giving to charity is supposed to feel good — so why do some charity events make it feel so bad?

By Ronan Killian McGovern

Half an hour waiting in a long, slow queue, as a social activity, is not one of the most attractive activities over here. There’s room inside and no hold-up, please, but we’re not complaining, we’re thinking we should already be on the dance-floor. “What’s the hold-up?” I ask a doorman walking along outside the queue, thanking us for our patience.

“You’re collecting donations from people; you’re responsible for your own collection. You’re collecting and we’re not getting in. We were looking to play a game of darts to get in.”

“Sure. We want charity donations, so you don’t have to worry about that.”

“I don’t want to go in. I just wanted to make a small contribution to a good cause.”

“Darting is a good cause. Please enjoy your time waiting.”

So there’s the story: a short story with a moral that is left ambiguous. The “we” mentioned is a coalition of frat presidents who, according to the IFC, wanted to collect money for a charity event. It was a charitable event, that’s clear, or else why would they be collecting money at all? And the “us” mentioned is a doorman who, according to the “we” mentioned, wanted to ensure that the charity was blameless when it comes to collecting its donations.

When charity feels like a ripoff, it is not necessarily that of the newspaper. Electronic submissions 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 (“letters@tech.mit.edu”) are “published.” A copy of the letter will be sent to the author. Letters, columns, and cartoons may also be posted online. Correspondents should check their words to ensure that they are error-free. The editor reserves the right to edit for format or medium now known or later that becomes known. The Tech can be found on the World Wide Web at http://tech.mit.edu.

Is the IFC good for fraternities?

The IFC should give up self-governance for the sake of the fraternities

By David M. Templeton

As a self-appointed and widely-known “dorm advocate,” it is in my best interest for MIT to have a thriving fraternity community, and I have a vested interest in seeing that frats move out makes the gender ratio in the dorms much more favorable. But in all seriousness, everyone wants to live with other people who want to live with them, and want to have options available, the more likely everyone is to find the niche that best suits them.

In this it is content that I posit: the current style of fraternity leadership and governance helps to perpetuate the fraternity and itself the general community of MIT. By “fraternity leadership,” I’m referring to the Interfraternity Council, or IFC. The Interfraternity Council (ICF) has institutional goals of promoting inter-frat relations, organizing umbrella events like the Greek Grill, doing out some funds, and assembling the fraternity presidents semi-monthly for discussing issues of importance to their community. They also have a judicial committee charged with enforcing IFC regulations, which mostly serve to protect the frats from themselves, put everyone on an even playing field for recruitment, and ostensibly keep fraternities from inflicting the dorms as much as possible during RE.

It’s the other, more consequential activitites of the Judicial Committee, however, that concern me. Besides enforcing the regulations that the IFC suggests, the student Life would care about: having, drinking at CPAW parties, and other incidents of law and safety that are happening almost at the same time, these infractions include extreme options such as derailing a fraternity a pledge class, or expelling them completely.

Let’s talk about dorms for a moment. The administrative side of the IFC is the DormCon, DormCon. They handle most of the complaints within the fraternity system, and the afore- mentioned punishment for self-governance gives them a united, secretive public face. It is this individuality that hampers them, and ultimately weakens the entire premise of running at MIT.

David M. Templeton is the managing editor of The Tech. This column represents his opinions only.
PBE alumni respond to news of fraternity's expulsion

PBE is a uniquely MIT community

I am a Phi Bete. I have been a member since September 1971, when two words, “I pledge” brought the ringing of a chime and an unexpected attention it deserves. More letters from PBE alumni are available at http://tech.mit.edu/L/130/469/letters.html

I am the 741st member of Phi Beta Epsilon, one in an unbroken line of MIT student organizations that began in 1890 and continues through to our newest members, the class of 2013. We are a local to MIT and always have been. We are not a “chapter” of a national fraternity; we are not a national fraternity — we are the whole book. Unlike nationals, every member of our fraternity has been initiated into this fraternity that it should thrive for many generations to come.

Modesty aside, MIT has benefitted from Phi Betes as well. Across all years we have steadily served the institution...true — today’s undergraduate brothers, our “actives,” are among the brightest, most engaged, considerate, articulate and accomplished. I have had the privilege of knowing them. While they have grown to be a wonderfully diverse and inclusive group over the years, the privilege of being valued within the brotherhood they embody remains the same.

Phi Betes certainly know much more than I...We demand PBE Corporation be given the opportunity to argue its case in front of the IFC, not a fraternal type to begin with, remember the idea of service and opportunity to prove its innocence. It is unthinkable that 128 years of tradition of excellence and distinguished service to MIT will be erased by an uninformed and fast collection of undergraduate students from competing living groups, each with its own self interest against PBE’s continued survival and service.

We believe we have been unfairly singled out and discriminated against by IFC members.

Charity events are fun, but are they all that charitable?

Charity, from Page 4

More letters from PBE alumni are available at http://tech.mit.edu/L/130/469/letters.html

More thorough investigation necessary

As an MIT Alumnus and a member of the PBE fraternity community, I would like to stand in support of the many sentiments so eloquently presented in previous letters forwarded to you from other PBE Alumni. In addition, I would like to add that over the last three years, as architect of the future renovations to the PBE property, I had the good fortune of getting to know the current “Active” members quite closely. They have impressed me as being some of the most responsible, mature, open, collegial, and engaged students I have encountered at the Institute. Even as an MIT undergraduate and graduate student, and for seven years as a recent visiting associate professor in the Department of Architecture at MIT. All of the current Actives make me proud of my association with PBE, and I salute the success of the IFC who carried ulterior motives to close the door on PBE.

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We believe we have been unfairly singled out and discriminated against by IFC members.
**Crossword Puzzle I**

Solution, page 13

| ACROSS | 1 Modern journal | 5 “Squawk Box” airer | 9 “Wheel of Fortune” host | 14 Skunk River state | 15 Mystique | 16 Put down | 17 Crash-test road? | 20 MapQuest abbrs. | 21 NHL Senators | 22 Take a fall | 23 “Wheel of Fortune” buy | 24 Sub builder? | 26 NYC hours | 27 Hypotheticals | 31 Purposely misinformed | 32 Western relocation road? | 36 20th-cen. conflict | 37 Prefix’s prefix | 38 Rock band boosters | 42 Must-take road? | 47 Toll road convenience | 50 Bridge support | 51 Gen-__ (post-baby boomer) | 52 Verdi opera |
| DOWN | 1 Some pens | 2 Takings | 3 Quiet raptors | 4 Guy’s partner | 5 Discard | 6 Night in Metz | 7 Widespread | 8 Pleeeeeaaeee? | 9 ___ Paulo | 10 Border on | 11 Shock up | 12 Give aid to |
| 13 Comply with, as a rule | 18 Greek colony | 19 Kind of lily | 23 NY prison | 26 Sundial number | 27 Compass dir. | 28 Partner of hern | 29 Black cuddle | 30 Equinox mo. | 32 Pass, as time | 34 Part of TNT | 35 Geom. figure | 36 Tangled mass | 40 Bakker’s letters | 41 That woman | 43 S. Hemisphere nation | 44 Thomas of basketball | 45 Maiden turned into a spider | 46 Flood zone sight | 47 Jumps for joy | 48 Focus (on) | 49 Like some deductions, with “a” | 53 Food regimens |

| 55 Pennsylvania in D.C., e.g. | 56 “Battle Cry” writer | 58 Star in the sky | 60 Keyboard key | 63 Take one’s eye off the road? | 66 Wearies | 67 E. Ness, e.g. | 68 Mouse-induced squeals | 69 Diverse | 70 Marquis de ___ | 71 P.U connection | 91 ___ Paulo |

| 92 Bakey lure | 97 Timetable, briefly | 99 Not very much | 100 Water pitcher |

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**Crossword Puzzle II**

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**Steal My Comic**

by Michael Ciuffo

**Could this day get any worse?**

**You know, you tend to bring a lot of this on yourself!**

**Ugh! With the top down! How’d I know this would happen?**

**Note to self:**

**If you’re going to meet someone at 4, do it where there’s beer.**

**Yeah...**

**You want my honest answer?**

**StealMyComic.com**
Easy Sudoku
Solution, page 13

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.

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

Hard Sudoku
Solution, page 13

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.

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

**Penny Arcade**
by Jerry Holkins and Mike Krahulik

**Lab Coat Styles**

Hair Migration Pattern of the Male Professioriat.

By Jorge Cham

**PhD**
Piled Higher and Deeper
by Jorge Cham

**Instruction**
by Jerry Holkins

There are challenges, surely. But you have to decide: there’s so much time there.

Have no fear. I just had a funny thought. What if you and I were to.

How’d it go?

She clipped off the head of my penis with one of those cigar things.

So, not great.

---

5 YEARS B.T. (BEFORE TEMPLE)
10-20 YEARS A.T. (AFTER TEMPLE)
BRIEF FLIRTATION WITH LADY WHO DROVE AWAY SCHOOL
WWW.PHDCOMICS.COM
Letters, and hence words, are encoded in the table. There are many factors to unlock the question. Figure it out and provide your answer to show you are in your problem-solving prime!

Solve the puzzle, win a prize (and maybe a job)! Take a shot at: [http://joinapt.com/mit-puzzles](http://joinapt.com/mit-puzzles)

Resume Deadline: October 4, 2010
Submit to: CareerBridge
Please join us for the following events:

**Event:** Sloan Corporate Presentation  
**Time:** 12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m.  
**Location:** E51-145

**Event:** Finance Workshop (Open to All Students)  
Acing the Interview: How to Effectively Interview in Financial Services  
**Time:** 5:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.  
**Location:** 6-120

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- Erez Lieberman-Aiden
2010 Student Prize Winner

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Inventive MIT Graduate Students and Graduating Seniors Apply Today!

Receive monetary support and gain national media attention to further develop your innovative ideas!

Web.mit.edu/invent/student

Appeals court might rule on stem cells this week

During questioning period, judges held heated arguments with lawyers on both sides of case

Stem cells, from Page 1

a.m., and continued for about 75 minutes. It was scheduled to last only 30 minutes, but the judges asked many questions of the argu-
ing lawyers and extended the time.

The argument style at this court is similar to the argumentative style those before the Supreme Court, where judges ask many questions.

Deputy Assistant Attorney Gen-
eral Beth S. Brinkman began with the Government’s argument, but was immediately interrupted by Judge Thomas Griffith, after which they had a ten-minute exchange.

“All $64 million is completely ruined?” Griffith asked, expressing incredulity at the government’s position that the preliminary injunction caused irreparable harm.

“Don’t they keep lab notebooks?” He asked.

Griffith was the most aggressive questioner, according to Dow Jones Newswires. Judge Brett Kavanaugh labelled the government’s position “internally inconsistent,” but also said that deference was due to the govern-
ment when the law is ambigu-
ous. He labelled the government’s position — that stem cell research was not “research in which an em-
bryo is destroyed” — as “gerryman-
dering.”

Judge Judith Rogers appeared more sympathetic to the govern-
ment’s position, suggesting that the preliminary injunction might dam-
age the public’s interest.

(Kavanaugh and Griffith are ap-
pointees of Republican President George W. Bush. Rogers was ap-
pointed by President Bill Clinton.)

After Brinkman, Thomas G. Hun-
gar of Gibson, Dunn, & Crutcher ar-
gued in favor of the plaintiffs, James L. Sherley and Theresa A. Deisher, the adult stem cell researchers. The judges were not easy on Hungar, ei-
ther.

Kavanaugh observed that the congressional appropriations rider at issue, the Dickey-Wicker amend-
ment, was intended to bar research on human embryos, not on stem cells.

Hungar argued that the National Institute of Health’s research policy had been “all over the map,” but Griffith said the NIH had been con-
sistent in its refusal to not fund the derivation of human embryos.

According to Nature, the judges were “equal-opportunity interroga-
tors” letting no side off easy.

Hungar also revealed a per-
sonal opinion contrary to the plaintiff’s filing in this case: that the preliminary injunction (that has been temporarily lifted) should be interpreted as barring research that was permitted un-
der President Bush’s stem cell guidelines. In their filings, the plaintiffs argued that work with the Bush stem cell lines could continue, and the lower court judge, Royce C. Lambeth, ap-
peared to agree. But the govern-
ment took the opposite position consistent with Hungar’s: they believe the injunction barred work with the Bush lines.

UC Intervention rejected

Shortly after 1 p.m. yesterday, the appeals court denied the Uni-
versity of California’s request to join

the case as an intervenor. The university had moved for permission to join the case last week as an intervenor. Both the plaintiffs and government objected, with the government recommending that the university file an amicus curie,
or friend-of-the-court brief, instead. That will allow the university to offer its opinions before the court, but it will not have the same rights of reply and potential oral argument that a full party would have.

The court’s order yesterday granted the university amicus status.

Normally a party seeking to file such a brief must have either permission of the court or permission of both parties, though such permission is customarily granted.

Defense moves for summary judgement

With the case before the appeals

court, both sides are continuing to file motions and briefs before the lower court, the District Court for the District of Columbia.

On Sept. 9, the plaintiffs moved for summary judgement. Yesterday, the defense did so as well.

In about 100 pages of filings, the government reiterates the argu-
ments it lodged earlier, in its oppo-
sition to the preliminary injunction, as well as in its motions to stay, or temporarily lift, the preliminary in-
junction.

In one filing, it argues against the plaintiffs motion for summary judgement. In another filing, it argues for summary judgement in favor of its own side.

The government also responds to allegations that Deisher and Shirley personally offered in declarations filed earlier (as distinct from legal fil-
ings on their behalf by their lawyers), in its “Response to Plaintiff’s State-
ment of Material Facts.” In particu-
lar, the government strongly disputes the idea that Sherley and Deisher’s research has been harmed by human embryonic stem cell research.

The NIH continues to observe that, even as this lawsuit works its way through the courts, Deisher has still not applied for NIH funding. And it quibbles with Shirley over the number of competing NIH grants he has applied for, distinguishing grant revisions from new grant applica-
tions.

Jaensch lectures today

Professor Rudolph Jaensch, a noted stem cell expert, is giving the Jaensch lectures today.

Portions of the first section of this article, “Oval argument,” are sum-
morized from wire stories.

Upcoming Information Sessions

* Thursday, September 30th
5:30 P.M. - 6:30 P.M.
The Chipman Room (6-104)

* Tuesday, October 19th
12:00 P.M. - 1:00 P.M.
The Chipman Room (6-104)
Nightline is a peer-listening service run by student volunteers. Call between 7PM and 7AM any night of term to talk to either a male or female staffer. We're here to listen about serious things like eating issues, depression, suicide, school pressures, and relationship problems, but we also want to help you detangle all of the resources at MIT, give you random phone numbers, and keep you posted on sports scores. You name it, we want to talk to you about it.
Some say Simmons needs more culture

Simmons, from Page 1 believes that the architecture of Simmons, with “rooms like caves,” makes it especially difficult for the community to build dorm culture.

Lounge communities at Simmons Johnson suggested that better communication within Simmons could make the lounge system and rooming lottery process more effective. The lounge system in Simmons was put in place to encourage the creation of smaller communities, but Johnson said that the residents are not exploiting it to its full potential.

A lounge is a group of at least 10 residents who decide to become officially recognized as a social group. They can request funding from the house committee to organize outings, dinners, or other social activities. The members of a lounge need not be living on the same floor or tower. Currently, 194 residents are members of lounges, each lounge with a minimum of 10 members.

Johnson explained that one reason why residents are hesitant to use lounges is the reimbursement process, which is slow and complicated. Another reason why lounges don’t organize events as frequently as they could is the inability to gather together on a whim. Lounges must give advance notice to the government for events, thus hindering spontaneous events.

Svetlana M. Chekmasova ’11, who moved out of Simmons into East Campus, expressed that the lounge system “wasn’t as widely used as it could have been.” According to Chekmasova, many Simmons residents choose rooms based on room size and layout rather than the location or proximity to friends’ rooms. Chekmasova said that when groups of friends don’t live close to each other, the funds allocated to their lounge are less likely to be used for outings or dinners. Chekmasova suggests that the Simmons government create a rooming system that allows residents to stay in the same geographical area within the dorm. “If you want nicer rooms, that happens within that section. You stay in the same tower. You don’t have to pick rooms over community.”

Lacking government participation

Of the entire Simmons Hall of approximately 340 students, only a small percentage is involved in making decisions for the dorm. “The government is two dozen kids who are doing everything!” Laskey said. House meetings are open to all residents, but the attendance is unsatisfactory. “There are 20 people there and those 20 people are making decisions for the whole dorm. It’s reasonable to say we want more people involved.”

The level of disinterest in Simmons affairs was highlighted in an incident last year, when one particular floor of Simmons submitted a proposal to buy a television for their lounge. At the house meeting, the majority of attendees constituted of that lounge, and as a result, the proposal to purchase the television was passed with zero resistance.

Since then, Johnson has been optimistic. “I believe Simmons is still relatively new, and only now are people beginning to be curious about house meetings.” Johnson said that the government’s next steps to improve the Simmons living experience involve the newly formed Constitution Reform Committee, whose job this semester is to work on rewriting the Simmons Constitution. Johnson says that “a lot of the discussion was that going on about Proposition 10 that [they] think could be a recurring topic during the constitution reform committee discussions” and that they will consider “taking the bits and pieces from Prop 10 that [they] think could work.” By doing so, the Simmons government hopes to achieve “continued and better communication” of the methods with which underclassmen, especially freshmen, can define their own dorm culture.

Lack of participation in government discussions is still relatively new, and only now are people beginning to be curious about house meetings.
In their responses filed with the court, both MIT and DU have denied or dismissed all allegations of wrongdoing. The suit denies this.

Emmet C. Sabine ’67, Chair of MIT’s Association of Independent Living Groups, said, “I have no knowledge or information about this lawsuit so I can neither offer answers nor provide comments. Sabine said the AILG offers an accreditation process review of all living groups within the MIT Fraternity, Sorority, and Independent Living Group community, providing a multi-dimensional evaluation of the health of each MIT FISLG chapter.” In addition, the AILG’s Safety, Licensing, and Inspection program assists independent living groups maintain a safe living environment and pass building inspections and licensing requirements.

The Wellses also allege additional harm, including conscious pain and suffering and “loss of consortium,” a term referring to “loss of a wife’s society, companionship, and services,” according to Ballantine’s Law Dictionary.

In their responses filed with the Court, both MIT and DU have denied or dismissed all allegations. MIT remains “without knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth” of several claims and DU similarly has dismissed multiple counts on the grounds of lack of evidence. DU additionally claims that claims of habitability are barred from wrongful death suits by Massachusetts law, and that DU’s officers and directors are immune from liability. Robert Wells was “more than 50 percent at fault in causing the alleged injuries,” DU said.

DU and MIT both cite the Massachusetts law limiting liability of charitable organizations to $20,000. Both MIT and DU are charities.

Director of the MIT News Office Nathaniel W. Nickerson said that MIT and DU are charities.

“The committee’s first big step was to go back to basics and deem that reading, writing, speaking and reasoning were the most important skills to teach. They set out to recruit every educator in the building — not just English but math, science, or guidance counselors — to teach those skills to students. Teachers unions have resisted turnaround efforts at many schools. But at Brockton, the union never became a serious adversary, in part because most committee members were unionized teachers, and the committee scrupulously honored the union contract. Over the years, Brockton has refined its literacy curriculum. Brockton’s performance is not as stellar in math as in English language arts, and the committee has hired an outside consultant to help develop strategies for improving math instruction. Ferguson said Brockton High first “jumped out of the data” for him early last year. He was examining Massachusetts’ 2008 test scores in his office in Cambridge and noticed that Brockton had done a better job than 90 percent of the state’s 350 high schools helping its students to improve their language arts scores.
You are invited to attend a forum on the

STATE

of the

INSTITUTE

Wednesday, September 29, 1:00 pm

MASSACHUSETTS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

You are invited to attend a forum on the

COMMUNITY

SOCIAL

Wednesday, September 29, 2:00 pm

Kresge Oval • snacks and refreshments • faculty, staff, and students–welcome

PBE banned for 4 years

PBE, from Page 1

The IFC has kept the identity of this source a secret from PBE members.

According to IFC Judicial Committee chair Garrett R. Fritz ’11, the IFC decided that the hazing allegations were serious enough to stop rush. On Monday Sept. 6, the third day of rush, PBE was told it could not continue with its rush activities until the matter was resolved. The members were notified while on a trip to Six Flags with potential new members.

That same night, an IFC judicial board hearing was held. Three PBE representatives were allowed to speak at the hearing, though other members and alumni attended. Fritz said all five voting members voted unanimously that PBE violated the IFC’s Risk Management Policy (which prohibits hazing).

The board decided to expel PBE, which means a 10-year ban from MIT. PBE appealed the decision on two grounds: that the judicial process was flawed, and that the punishment was too severe.

The IFC has provided The Tech with a redacted version of the initial decision letter, which quotes relevant sections from the IFC Risk Management Policy.

The letter implies that PBE’s new member education involved alcohol by quoting from risk management policy: “No alcohol shall be present at any pledge activity or ritual of the chapter.”

The letter also quotes the policy’s description of hazing: “Massachusetts State Law defines hazing as: any conduct or method of initiation into any student organization, whether public or private, which willfully or recklessly endangers the physical or mental health of any student or other person.”

Schoen told The Tech that more information may be forthcoming later this week. Love, the director of the Office of FSILGs, has not returned several requests to comment.

PBE is a local fraternity, founded at MIT over 100 years ago, and only has this one chapter. In part because the entire process, from first discovery to final decision, took less than three weeks, many PBE alumni have complained that the decision was too hasty.

When IFC Judicial Committee chair convenes a hearing board to discuss a case, four representatives from different fraternities are asked to attend and cast votes. They are joined by the Judicial Committee secretary, who has fifth vote. The committee chair, Fritz, does not vote, but does participate in discussions.

MIT will ask the Cambridge Licensing Commission to revoke PBE’s housing license, so PBE members will not be allowed to reside there anymore. The process will probably take until the end of the semester, so members won’t have to move out right away, Schoen said. The fate of the house is unclear, as the PBE corporation owns both the house and the land underneath and can choose what to do with it.

Finalists presentations and Awards Ceremony

Tuesday, October 5 2010, 7PM

MIT Room 4-237

http://dmse.mit.edu/madmec
The Ig Informal Lectures
Saturday, October 2nd, 1:00 pm
MIT 10-250, 222 Memorial Drive

Once again, The MIT Press Bookstore is proud to partner with some Improbable friends to bring you a half-afternoon of improbably funny, informative, high-spirited public lectures, in which the 2010 Ig Nobel Prize winners will attempt to explain what they did, and why they did it. Please join us!

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All Ig Nobel Prize activities are organized by the Annals of Improbable Research. This free event is organized in cooperation with the MIT Press Bookstore.
MIT 4th in NCSA Power Rankings

Athletics program is 11th in athletics, tied for 4th in academics, 4th overall

By David Zhu

MIT’s athletic program was recently ranked number four overall in the nation — its highest ever ranking — by the National Collegiate Scouting Association (NCSA) The NCSA Power Rankings, a system first implemented by the NCSA in 2004, report on both the academic and athletic performance of each college’s athletic program.

The achievement “gives” recognition to our student athletes’ success in the classroom and on the field,” says Tom Grady, Director of Communications of the Office of the Dean for Student Life.

MIT were ranked eleventh in athletic performance, and tied for fourth in academic performance, for a total score of 9.0 (lower scores indicate stronger performance) - an improvement over last year, when they scored 11.3 and ranked sixth nationally.

In the poll, which also sorts schools by division, MIT trailed Amherst College, Williams College, and Middlebury College. Division III schools took five of the top six spots.

The scores are an average of the U.S. News & World Report ranking (the academic component), the U.S. Sports Academy Directors’ Cup ranking (the athletic component) and the NCAA student-athlete graduation rate of each school.

The NCSA rankings can be a strong selling point for schools towards potential student-athletes. Chris Krause, CEO and Founder of NCSA Athletic Recruiting, says, “The Power Rankings are an objective tool to empower student athletes to find the right fit in a college or university, not only for its athletics, but academics as well. Our hope is to educate these student athletes and their parents on the importance of evaluating schools that will provide the education for an enriched, successful career after college, in addition to athletic success.”

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Squash at Symphony Hall shows off world’s top players

Competitors vie for Sharif Khan trophy

By Zach Hynes

Egypt’s Ranny Ashour, the world’s top-ranked player, triumphed last Wednesday night as the global game of squash made its Boston debut at Symphony Hall. Dubbed “Showdown@Symphony,” the exhibition tournament sought to promote squash in a country where it is but a niche sport. Four of the world’s best competed in a single-elimination format on the stage of Symphony Hall for the Sharif Khan Trophy as diners on the orchestra floor and spectators from the balconies took in the action. While the organizers pulled out all the stops to keep the audience entertained with their choice of venue and assorted gimmicks, the game itself needs no embellishment.

Squash, at its highest levels, is so striking to the observer because of the continuity of the play and the kinetic, contested nature of every point. There are no lazy balls, no serves that cannot be returned, and no insurmountable leads. As quickly as the players hustle to the front wall and lunge to elevate the ball over the net (analogous to the “net” in tennis), the ball shoots back over their heads, in turn, they scramble back and play the cannon off the back wall. The

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