

## No East Campus roller coaster this year

City of Cambridge demands building permits for load-bearing structures

By Jessica J. Pourian  
NEWS EDITOR

There will be no East Campus roller coaster this year, revealed Mike T. Nawrot '12, EC rush chair, in a video released last week. The City of Cambridge required the dormitory to obtain building permits for their coaster, but the pro-

cess was not completed in time.

In a video sent to maseeh-discuss@mit.edu — actually the East Campus rush mailing list — on August 18, Nawrot explains that the rush chairs “recently” found out that they would need to work more closely with Cambridge for the roller coaster project to happen, get permits and potentially

enlist an outside contractor to help run the event.

The change in policy comes after a fire alarm at East Campus last year brought the dormitory rush to the attention of the city.

“The fire department saw the roller coaster, and when they found out that there were no permits that were pulled for the con-

struction, they reported it to city of Cambridge,” said Henry J. Humphreys, the senior associate dean of residential life and dining. “At that time, the city of allowed it to stay up for a couple of days working at the Institute, but it had to come down early, and any future

EC roller coaster, Page 15



JESSICA L. WASS—THE TECH

The long-awaited Fariborz Maseeh Hall has opened its doors to freshmen and upperclassmen alike.

## To capture flag, frosh storm MIT's tunnels



JESSICA L. WASS—THE TECH

Most freshmen arrived on campus this week to participate in one of about 20 pre-orientation programs. On Wednesday night, close to 100 of these freshmen gathered to play Capture the Flag in the tunnels under and around the Infinite Corridor.

## Next, New Houses see renovations

Residents approve of summer improvements

By Stan Gill  
STAFF REPORTER

Even for students who will not be moving into Maseeh Hall, coming back from summer vacation might mean returning to a new and improved dorm space. Both Next House and New House saw major changes over the summer while other dorms, both undergraduate and graduate, have been subject to other smaller improvements.

Next House has seen several changes, including new bathroom features, new exercise equipment, and a new TV and piano for the Tastefully Furnished Lounge (TFL). Basement areas have been revamped, including a redone laundry room, the addition of a air-

Dorm renovations, Page 8

## Hurricane Irene safety tips

The massive Hurricane Irene — with wind speeds around 120 mph as of last night — is predicted to hit New England Monday morning, and it could be the largest storm the area has seen for years. The last hurricane to pass within 75 miles of Boston was Hurricane Bob 20 years ago. New York, New Jersey, Virginia, and North Carolina have already declared a state of emergency in anticipation for the arrival of Irene, which could slam New England with winds above 60 mph.

Saferide will continue to run through the storm unless the roads are closed or become impassable. All outside trash cans around MIT that are not bolted down will be removed before the storm and stored elsewhere. Here are some tips to stay safe during the storm:

- Close your doors and windows. If you notice any open windows or doors, call the Customer Service Center at x3-4948 and press 2.

- Keep abreast of weather updates via radio, TV, or internet.

- Sign up for MIT Alert at <http://www.emergency.mit.net/mitalert>.

- If you have a car, consider parking it inside during the storm.

- Bring in loose objects that could be blown away and become projectiles. This includes lawn chairs and other outdoor furniture, as well as flags or banners.

- Bring in your pet cat if you have one.

- Don't go outside during the storm, especially on rooftops, balconies, or other elevated surfaces.

- For people not living in dormitories which have emergency power, keep your cell phone charged before the storm.

- Ensure that family and friends know that you are safe and keep an open line of contact.

- Don't panic! Store a towel in a safe place.

For more information about Irene's impact on campus and more tips, check MIT's emergency information website at <http://emergency.mit.net/emergency/>.

—Jessica J. Pourian

## A PEEK OFF-CAMPUS

# Tropical diseases infect powerless

Neglected diseases, eradicated here, devastate developing world

By Jingyun Fan  
NEWS EDITOR

Every year, 13 diseases that affect a fifth of the world's population are responsible for the loss of 56.6 million disability-adjusted life years and 534,000 deaths. But because these diseases only afflict the world's most

impoverished and powerless people, the international community has forgotten about them.

Neglected tropical diseases (NTDs) are a group of parasitic worm and bacterial infections that together represent a huge disease burden. The seven most common NTDs are ascariasis, hookworm, trichuriasis,

elephantiasis, river blindness, schistosomiasis, and trachoma. A 50 cent integrated package of rapid-impact medications has the ability to safely obliterate these seven diseases. Cheap therapeutics are available for other NTDs as well, but there is little fund-

Tropical diseases, Page 13

## TechPOP 2011

Check out the results of the inaugural Discover Journalism FPOP — Page 9



JESSICA L. WASS—THE TECH

## IN SHORT

Webcomic Saturday Morning Breakfast Cereal creator Zach Weiner is coming to MIT on Monday, August 29 for a talk, Q&A session and signings of his new book. The event is in 6-120 from 4 to 6 p.m. and is sponsored by LSC.

Barbecue ribs are now available in Kendall Square at a new restaurant, the BBQ Rib Shack, which is run by Red-bones Barbecue.

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

## DEBT CEILING DEBACLE

Should Obama or the GOP have gotten more out of Washington's latest mess? **OPN, p. 5**

## FROSH, FIX THE UA

Several good reasons to get involved with student government. **OPN, p. 4**

## WHERE TO GET HELP

MIT is a difficult place, but help is around every corner. **CL, p. 15**



## THE MELODIES OF RAVI COLTRANE

The Tech reviews Coltrane's performance at a club in Germany with a funny name. **ARTS, p. 7**

## WELCOME BACK TO MIT!

Look forward to our issues next week for special Orientation and Rush content!

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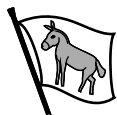
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# The State of the Race



*Obama is vulnerable, but none of the GOP field seem capable of unseating him*

As the 2012 race takes shape, the man that Republicans hope to beat, President Barack Obama, is looking more vulnerable with each passing day. The debt ceiling negotiations have collapsed his numbers, and recent Gallup polling shows him with just a 24 percent approval rating of his handling of the federal budget deficit. His numbers on the economy and job creation are similarly dismal, with approval hovering at 26 percent and 29 percent, respectively. In the other areas tracked by Gallup, his popularity has waned considerably — on Afghanistan, education, and foreign affairs, his approval is at 38 percent, 41 percent, and 42 percent, roughly a 10 point decline in each category from May of this year. Terrorism is the one issue on which the president has a majority approval rating, but even that number, 53 percent, is down 10 points from May, and is conspicuously low, given the recent death of Osama bin Laden. Worse still, there is little upside for the president when the numbers are broken down by party affiliation — there isn't a single area in which 50 percent or more of independents approve of Obama's job performance.

With 14 months still to go before the election, job approval ratings are an unreliable indicator of re-election chances, but it is worth noting that with 40 percent approving and 53 percent disapproving, Obama's Gallup numbers are lower than any other incumbent presidential candidate's were at the 14-month mark, with the exception of Jimmy Carter (who would go on to lose his re-election fight decisively to Ronald Reagan). It's no surprise, therefore, that the president is making bus stop tours of swing states — if his numbers don't show any improvement between now and March, then Obama will find himself on the unenviable side of a historical trend. Only one incumbent president, Harry Truman, has been re-elected with a less than 50 percent approval rating with 8 months of campaigning to go — all others with a less-than-majority approval failed in their re-election bids.

With that said, the current field of Republican presidential candidates does not appear particularly threatening to President Obama. Currently, the likelihood is that Obama will face either Rick Perry or Mitt Romney in the general election — InTrade, a leading predic-

tion market, places the odds of a Perry or Romney candidacy at 35 percent and 31 percent respectively. Jon Huntsman, Michelle Bachmann, Paul Ryan, and Sarah Palin (the latter two not currently running) constitute most of the residual probability, sharing (more or less evenly) a 21 percent chance of being the eventual nominee. In head-to-head polling, Obama beats most of these candidates handily; against Romney, the president enjoys a 3-to-4-point margin, and against the rest, the president has a double-digit lead. These positive polling numbers seem to offset Obama's low approval ratings; InTrade places the president's odds of re-election at slightly better than half.

In other races, the outlook is more positive for Republicans. Currently, InTrade gives a 65 and 70 percent likelihood to Republicans retaining control of the House and taking control of the Senate. This reflects a series of polls in recent months showing a 3-7 point advantage for generic Republicans over generic Democrats in congressional ballots.

It's 438 days until Election Day, and this is The State of the Race.

—Keith Yost

## Help fix MIT's student government

*The UA is dogged with problems, and only collective effort will fix it*

By Ryan Normandin

OPINION EDITOR

In high school, many of you were likely involved in some form of student government. Whether as a class officer, a member of the executive board of Student Council, or as a student leader in some other capacity, I'm willing to bet that you left a positive mark on your school. In fact, I know you have. According to the May/June Faculty Newsletter, 31 percent of you founded an organization. Perhaps, like myself when I was a freshman, you are proud of what you've accomplished so far, but are wondering where you will find your niche at MIT. With over four thousand undergraduate students at this school, will you be able to have as big an impact as you did in high school? I'm here to tell you that the answer to that is a resounding "yes."

If you participated in a student government in high school that was anything like mine, you probably spent a lot of time submitting purchase orders, planning events, and organizing fundraisers. Perhaps you were the "go-to person" for students to voice their frustrations with a new policy the administration had implemented. While certainly important, the influence that student leaders have in high school is largely restricted to intra- or inter-class events. Students can certainly act in an advisory capacity to school administrators by serving on the school council or the local or regional student advisory council, but even those positions afford students limited power.

Some say MIT has one of the most powerful and influential undergraduate

student governments in the nation. This government, the Undergraduate Association (UA), is in charge of recognizing and providing funding to student groups, organizing events with budgets in excess of \$100,000, has student representatives serving on many committees that the administration forms, whether they're charged with finding a new dean, creating a new major, or changing the HASS requirement. It is in no way an exaggeration that MIT students have a substantial

**The UA has broken down over the course of the last few years, oftentimes losing sight of what its purpose is.**

amount of influence when it comes to nearly every aspect of the Institute. Do we always get our way? No, of course not. But by and large, the administration actively seeks out student input and takes it into consideration when making decisions.

Why, then, does the headline to this article ask for your help in fixing the UA? Despite the potential of this system and its history of providing input, the UA has broken down over the course of the last few years, oftentimes losing sight of what its purpose is. Serving as MacGregor's Senator my freshman year, I witnessed the dysfunction in this body firsthand. Meetings stretched anywhere from three to six hours, but were far from productive. During debate, Senators would repeat,

slightly rephrased, the same major points over and over again. The majority of items on the agenda would needlessly stretch far beyond their scheduled end times. Not only are long, unproductive meetings a burden on the Senators representing their living groups, but they also lack transparency; after all, what student, curious about a certain bill or issue, would want to attend a meeting lasting four hours?

Although Allan E. Miramonti '13, the newly elected UA President, asserted in the March presidential debate that "If we have a more efficient body, a body that gets a lot more done, people will be less likely to leave," he was sparse on specifics throughout the campaign. His running mate at the time also pointed out that Senate and Exec need to "get along more and work together more efficiently." Hopefully, Allan will translate these words into more specific actions once the term begins.

The ineffectiveness of the UA was beautifully demonstrated last year, when in the months preceding the presidential election, five members of the UA — both Senate and Exec — resigned. In addition, the Senate consistently has an extremely low turnover rate. Since 2002, the percentage of Senators who served two consecutive years only rose above 24 percent once, usually falling much lower. In four of the eight years, the percentage returning was between ten and fifteen percent. The reason that many, including myself, did not seek reelection was because of the feeling that despite the significant number of hours they put into it, they got very little

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## OPINION POLICY

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# Living Pink (or blue, or green, or obsidian)

By Michael Veldman  
STAFF COLUMNIST

While I realize that almost every freshman has some anxiety about their move to their new home, I know that some of you have worries beyond not finding friends, spending REX alone, or flunking out after the first semester (which I'll have you know is impossible thanks to pass/no record). Some of you also have to worry about revealing an aspect of your identity that you might not even be comfortable with yourself. You freshmen who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, or transgender have the added burden of finding a living group and a circle of friends who accept your deviation from traditional norms.

Well, deviants, I have good news! Our school is a wonderfully accepting place. One

need only take a stroll down any corridor to see rainbow-colored "You Are Welcome Here" placards displayed in the windows of the many supportive faculty members. As it happens, we have some hard data on the topic as well. Last spring, LGBT@MIT surveyed student attitudes about queer kids in their living groups. (Anyone can access the results at [livingpink.mit.edu](http://livingpink.mit.edu)). With a 30 percent response rate, we have a pretty good idea of how welcoming most dorms, sororities, fraternities, and independent living groups are. Respondents were asked to rate on a 7-point scale various metrics such as their level of comfort with members of the LGBT community, or their perception of their living group's general attitude toward LGBT individuals. They were also invited to elaborate by submitting comments, which number in the hundreds

and can also be read on the website. Living group acceptance ranged from 6.8 out of 7 at Senior House to one fraternity's refusal to take part in the survey. While the survey

**The vast majority of campus seems to at the very least find sexual orientation and gender identity of little consequence for anyone but one's self.**

does on some level suffer from response bias (14 percent of respondents identified as LGBTQ themselves, a proportion high-

er than in the general population) it does seem to match up with many queer upper-classmen's experiences.

On the whole, though, despite pockets of intolerance, the vast majority of campus seems to at the very least find sexual orientation and gender identity of little consequence for anyone but one's self. (Perhaps this is a result of our peculiar obsession with academic achievement as the final arbiter of merit.) Regardless, any LGBT or ally freshman should check out the Living Pink guide — free copies can be picked up in the Rainbow Lounge. Whether you're a gay dude trying out for the lacrosse team who just wants some friends to play CoD with or a blue-haired trans chick with a penchant for radical queer activism, the guide can be a valuable asset in your search for the right home.

# UA resignations and low retention show need for change

MIT student government, from Page 4

out of it. It'd be like paying \$100 for a candy bar. Sure, the output is tasty, but it is definitely not worth the input.

But there seem to be problems more fundamental than unproductive meetings. The former vice president-elect, who resigned shortly after being elected, point to an atmosphere that does not encourage collaboration, teamwork, or input from new members. Not only does the negative atmosphere seem to marginalize individuals who do not agree with the leadership, but it encourages playing politics over substantive policy. In a May 2011 column, last year's UA President, Vrajesh Y. Modi '11, claimed that the UA has still accomplished important goals. Certainly, the UA managed to tangibly benefit students, but while Vrajesh sees the good outweighing the bad, I take the opposite view. The large number of resignations and student disillusionment with the UA points to more systemic problems. Even if the UA is able to accomplish a few of its goals, it cannot strongly advocate for students when students themselves view the organization as dysfunctional.

Some might argue that as MIT students, our academics come first. This is certainly true, but it is no excuse to bail on other commitments. Students still find time for athletics, volunteer work, and a variety of

**It is up to all of us, but perhaps none so much as you, the Class of 2015, to take back our student government and make the changes that need to be made.**

groups that are important to them. The Senate's low retention rate does not point to an MIT student's inability to balance commitments, because that's what MIT students excel at. Rather, it suggests that the UA is not important enough to them, whether because it is inefficient, fails at incorporating input from newcomers, or is just not a good atmosphere in which to work. Students care about issues on campus; we see this

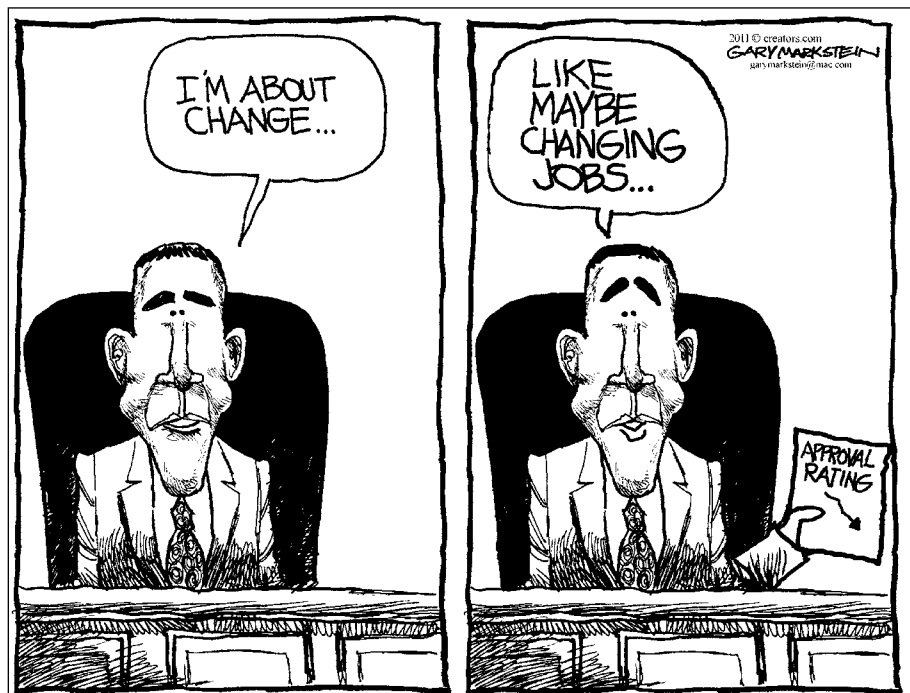
every time the administration announces a new policy that many students do not like. What students seem to fail to recognize is that student government is the group which addresses these issues. If you want to influence policy, then you should be involved in, or at least care about, student government.

The wave of resignations, including the prominent resignation of the vice president-elect, along with the poor retention rates and consistent placement of politics over policy should be a wake-up call to the UA. But I harbor doubts that much will change, unless we force it to change. It is up to all of us, but perhaps none so much as you, the Class of 2015, to take back our student government and make the changes that need to be made. Later this year, the Committee on Restructuring will present a proposal to restructure the UA and it is the duty of all of us to ensure that this proposal will address the fundamental problems of the UA and the larger issue of student representation. "Student representation" refers to MIT's multiple student governments: the UA, representing all students; Dormitory Council, representing the dormitories collectively; the Inter-Fraternity

Council (IFC), representing the fraternities; and the Pan-Hellenic Council, representing the sororities. Such a de-centralized government makes it difficult for the administration to figure out which government(s) they should go to if they want input on a certain issue. Just one more item to add to the list of problems.

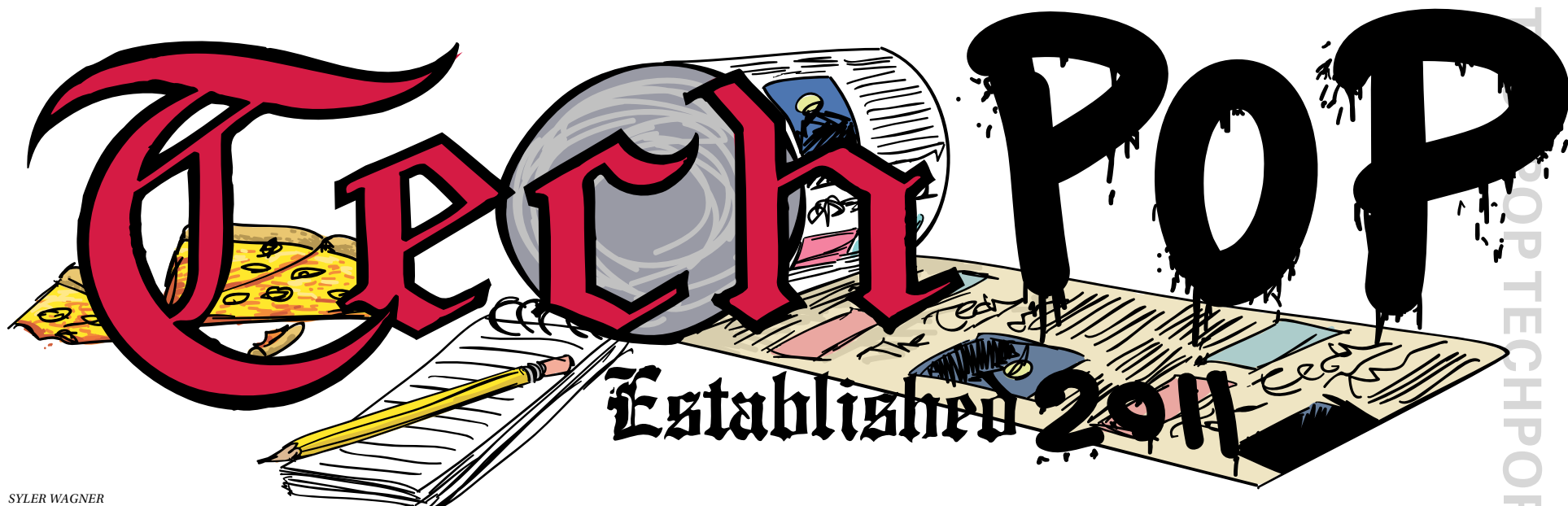
The UA's problems are numerous. It will take more than an one person to correct them all. Rather, it will take a group of individuals all dedicated to implementing the kind of policies that will fix the UA. I certainly have a few ideas for solutions of my own, but I am curious to hear what you have to say, particularly members of the Class of 2015. I invite current students, especially the Class of 2015, to contact me at [letters@tech.mit.edu](mailto:letters@tech.mit.edu) with ideas. With the feedback I receive, I will run a second column around the time of elections regarding how I — and, more importantly, all of you — believe the UA can be repaired. Until then, enjoy the free REX and Orientation food!

Senate retention data can be found on the UA's website at <http://ua.mit.edu/structure/>.









SYLER WAGNER

## EDITOR'S NOTE

Today's issue of *The Tech* includes this special section, with content created by Class of 2015 members of Discover Journalism (TechPOP), a new print journalism-focused Freshman Pre-Orientation Program. Since Tuesday, TechPOP has introduced students to the world of

newspaper publishing — they have toured *The Boston Globe* and *The Tech's* printer, MassWeb Printing Company, Inc.; interviewed students and members of the MIT faculty, and spoken with the MIT Knight Science Journalism Fellows. The content contained herein is the final product of a whirlwind day of interviewing members of the MIT community, photographing around

campus, designing layouts, and writing articles and columns. We hope that you enjoy the work our students have produced!

Listing all of the people and groups who have aided the FPOP would exceed our space here, but we especially must thank the following: The Everett Moore Baker Memorial Foundation and the Office of Undergraduate Advising and Academic Programming

for graciously providing funding; Simmons Hall Housemasters John M. Essigmann PhD '76 and Ellen M. Essigmann PhD '80, as well as Simmons Associate Housemaster Steven R. Hall '80, for providing the initial faculty support, use of Simmons Hall facilities, and funding via the William R. and Betsy P. Leitch chair; and FPOP organizers from within the UAAP, including Elizabeth

C. Young and Laura Maxim, for their patience and support as we worked to build this program from the bottom up.

Ethan A. Solomon '12 and Jessica L. Wass '14 served as counselors for Discover Journalism.

— Pearlle Lipinski '12 and Joseph Maurer '12, 2011 Discover Journalism (TechPOP) Coordinators

# Class of 2015 invades campus... early

*An article written about FPOPers, by FPOPers*

By Katie Bodner and Amita Gupta

Every year, freshmen flock to campus early to explore engineering, play with physics, go hiking, become leaders, observe the stars and — most importantly — bond with their fellow classmates. These Freshman Pre-Orientation Programs (FPOPs) have brought the Class of 2015 on campus a week early to get a brief introduction to one aspect of the Institute.

Rodrigo Paniza '15, participating in Discover Civil and Environmental Engineering (DCEE), enjoyed "building in the lab and hanging out in Boston," while fellow DCEE participant Whitney S. Loo '15 agreed that "we've bonded over our turbines not working." DCEE participants will compete to build the best and most environmentally-friendly wind turbine, all of which will go on display Aug. 27 in Room 1-390 at 1:00 p.m.

Nathan A. Spielberg '15 of Discover Mechanical Engineering, said, "I think it is really

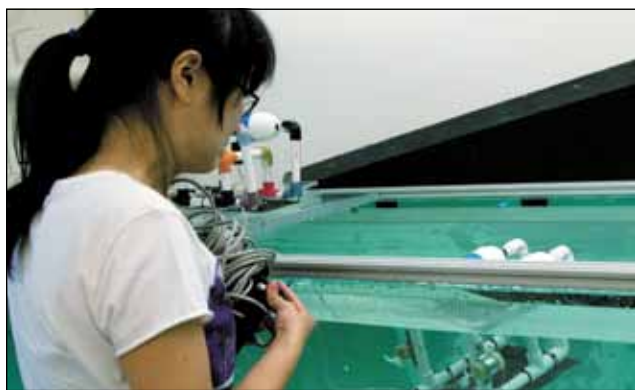
awesome that we were able to turn electric screw drivers into soccer playing robots and learn all of the methods to do so as well as meeting really cool people." Similarly, freshmen students like Candice I. Kaplan '15 were exposed to building underwater robots in Discover Ocean Engineering.

Other FPOP participants are also getting to apply new knowledge in fun ways. Ethan A. Klein '15 described "smashing roses by freezing them with liquid nitrogen" in Discover Physics. In Discover Energy: Learn, Think, Apply (DELTA), Francis X. Chen '15 got to play the part of a politician by simulating a UN Climate Conference — admitting that, just as real politicians, "we spent a lot of time yelling at each other." Fellow DELTA participant Priyanka M. Chatterjee '15 explained how she got to build and test her own spectrometer. Erin M. Bailie '15 described how a Course XII undergraduate Teaching Assistant in the Discover Earth and Planetary Sciences: Extreme Weather and Climate (DEAPS) hilariously

explained positive and negative feedback by "telling us about her high school boyfriends." Another DEAPS participant, Christopher J. Klingshirn '15, spent part of high school as a weather spotter for the National Weather Service and was excited, like Bailie, about yesterday's overnight trip to Mount Washington in New Hampshire.

Alternatively, some FPOPs have been covering non-science themes, such as the Freshman Arts Program (FAP). FAP participant Mitali S. Kini '15 enjoyed learning about bhangra dance and a capella singing. In FAP, participants are separated into one of seven disciplines including dance and the visual arts and spend three hours a day in their specific groups.

As a fun break, on Wednesday Aug. 24, around 100 new freshmen gathered in Lobby 7 to play capture the flag. Katie Y. Lee '15 of DELTA said, "Even though I won't remember names, I'll recognize a lot of faces later on campus."



JESSICA L. WASS—THE TECH

Discover Ocean Engineering participant Jiaming Zeng '15 modifies her underwater video-taking robot.



ETHAN A. SOLOMON—THE TECH

Incoming freshmen take advantage of fun opportunities to use high tech, expensive equipment such as laser printers in the Discover Materials Science and Engineering Pre-Orientation program.



AMITA GUPTA

Freshmen Arts Program dancers Mitali Kini '15 and Francisco X. Peña '15 (top) stand by their artwork painted on the windows of the Student Center.

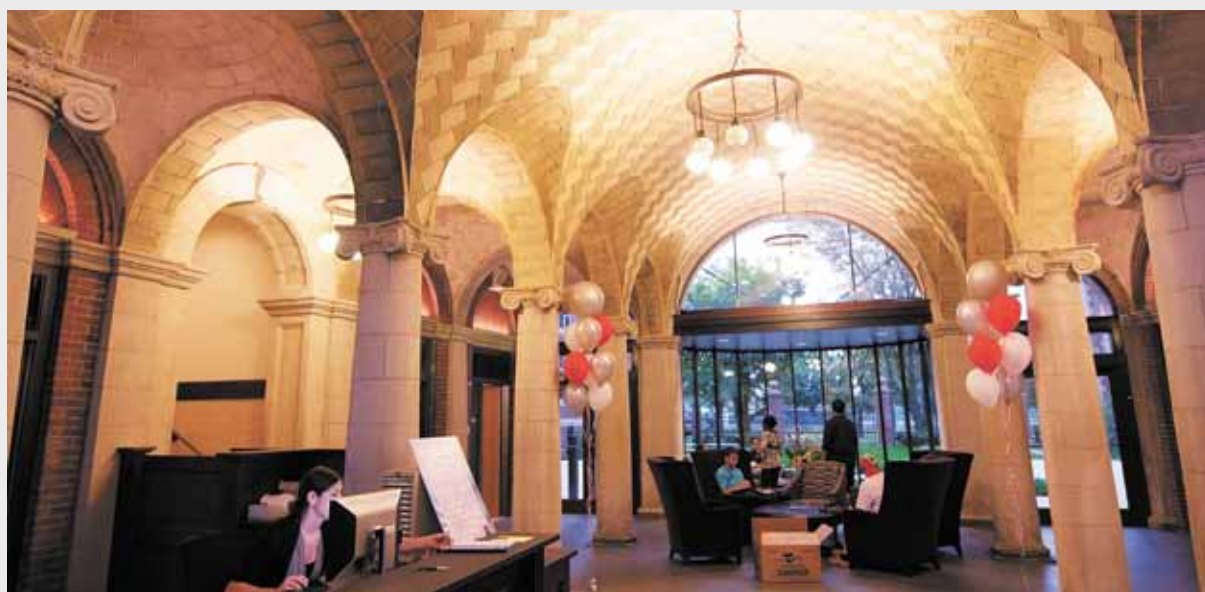
## Maseeh to hold in-house lottery mixer

Tired of the same old floor and wing rush in every other dormitory? How about a mixer instead? After much debate over how the Maseeh Hall in-house readjustment lottery will work, a deal was reached between the Maseeh housing advisors and the house government. On Aug. 30, the house government will hold a mixer for all those who have entered the lottery. Immediately after the mixer, attendees must fill out a form indicating with whom and where they would like to live. On the next day, the new roommates move in.

As early as Aug. 25, residents can indicate their intent to enter the lottery. Confirmation of this choice must be sent to the Maseeh house president, Virginia L. Nicholson '12, by Aug. 29.

Those who are satisfied with their rooms and roommates have squatters rights, are not required to give up their spots, and may not attend the mixer.

— Ian M. Gorodisher



IAN M. GORODISHER AND JESSICA L. WASS—THE TECH





# New student athletes storm the fields (and pool)

The Tech chats with a few freshmen on campus during fall preseason training

By Katie Bodner

While many freshmen are out exploring the history of Boston or creating soccer playing robots with their FPOPs, new varsity sports players and the rest of their teams are putting their skills to the test and getting into serious shape for the tough season ahead of them. *The Tech* was able to catch a few fall season varsity sports at practice and visit with some incoming freshmen.

## MIT Men's Soccer

The Men's Soccer preseason kicked off on Aug. 23 with rigorous two-a-day workouts and practices. The team's first game will be Sept. 2 against the University of Southern Maine.

The Men's Soccer head coach, Mike Singleton, is also beginning his first season with the team. Singleton has been conducting grueling workouts so that the team can pick up right where it left off after such a strong season last year. "Right now in preseason, the hope is to get together and sort out how we are going to play as a team and put our best team forth on every game in the season. We come back with a lot of strong returners and a strong freshman class. We have high hopes, high hopes to really improve upon last season," he said.

The team's freshmen players have arrived eager and quite anxious to hit both the fields and the books. Alexander M. Dago '15 comes to the Engineers from Chicago and hopes to play midfield or forward and to major in either Course XVIII or XIV. "I visited last September for a minority program. I started talking to the coach, and he said I'd be able to play. [MIT is] kind of everything I wanted: really good academics and a great city, Boston, which I really like," he said.

"I'm hoping that we qualify for the NCAA tournament and hopefully make the finals," said Andrew Y. Young '15 who will be the Engineer's centerback.

John L. Kramer '15 showcased his thoughts on life at MIT and the future of the Men's Soccer team. Kramer mentioned that he hopes to play forward and major in either Course II or XVI. "[Coach Singleton is] going to take us to a good place," he said. Outside of soccer, Kramer is anxious about adjusting to "a new place, a whole new environment. Coming in, I know no one really. It's going to be an adventure, I guess."

## MIT Women's Soccer

At 9 a.m. sharp on Aug. 20, a group of wishful women sprinted onto Steinbrenner Field. An aggressive bunch of talented fresh-



Coach Mike Singleton gives the MIT men's soccer team a talk during an intense early season practice this Thursday.

men joined the Women's Soccer team this year, coming hot off its strong 13-3-3 season. With the first game on Sept. 1 at Simmons College quickly approaching, head coach Martin Desmarais wastes no time and plans active practices, scrimmages and even demanding fitness tests for the girls.

Elena A. Gianotas '15, right outside defender, of California, noted that although she is nervous for school to start and the imminent wrath of cold weather, she is quite excited about people showing up at the games and the NEWMAC NCAA tournament.

Faith C. O'Brien '15, center midfielder, said, "Practices were exactly what I expected. I'm a little bit sore and I actually got hurt during a scrimmage. I was going out for a header, and I came down on someone's foot. It's been a lot of tactical stuff and just getting the touch back on the ball. It's been a lot of fun."

Both girls are nervous about the balance between fun, sleep and soccer but agreed that freshman Pass/No Record will be a big help.

As for the team's experience in the preseason, O'Brien is excited to work with all the girls.

"I feel like we are sisters," she said.

## MIT Water Polo

An epic game against Harvard will start the men's water polo season. Head coach, Mark Lawrence, who is new to the Engineers, has been pushing the players through rigorous practices in order to pre-

pare them for the upcoming season. Three adroit freshmen joined the team this year — Kyle D. Bowman, Dylan J. Hallman and Jack D. Clark. Intensely motivated by the upcoming game against their rival, most of the new players agree that they have been pushed harder than they would have ever expected. Clark commented on practices, agreeing that they are "pretty tough but a good time."

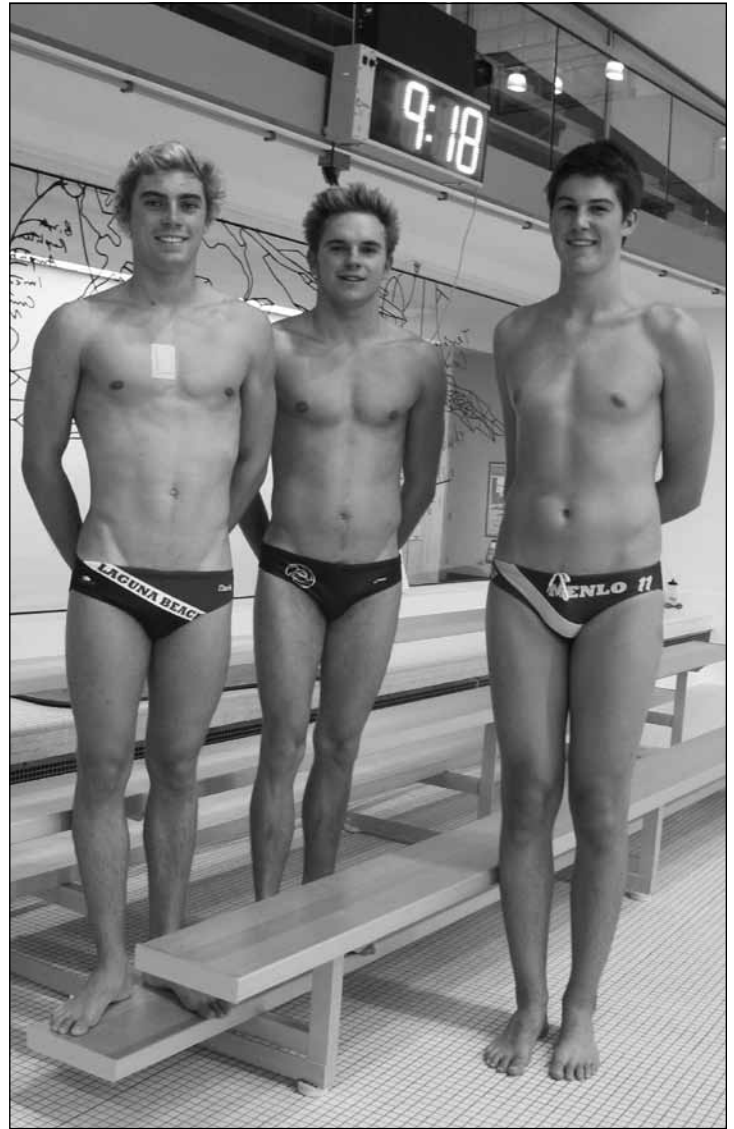
Academically, the new arrivals shared similar thoughts on their initial feelings about coming to MIT. Bowman, center defender and potential Course VI, says he chose to come to MIT because of the academics. "I didn't want to spend all of my time on water polo," he said.

The other incoming players were also drawn to MIT's focus on both sports and academics. When choosing MIT, Hallman, driver and potential Course XV, wanted something different, a good balance.

With preseason coming to a close, each player has high hopes and goals. During this season, Bowman is looking to get uninjured and be a contributor to the team. Throughout the preseason, Hallman has been driven by the Harvard game and said, "It's our biggest game. We'd like to be the northern division champions."

Like his teammates, Clark wishes for good playing time and to beat Harvard!

Look out for these fall teams — and the rest of MIT varsity sports — and check out their schedules at <http://www.mitathletics.com>.



Jack D. Clark '15, Dylan J. Hallman '15 and Kyle D. Bowman '15 relax after a grueling water polo practice.

"STARTLING, INFURIATING AND VITAL."  
- Marshall Fine, THE HUFFINGTON POST

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IN SELECT THEATRES AUGUST 26TH



The energetic Engineers Women's Soccer players run down the field at Steinbrenner Stadium during one of their practices.

# Neglected diseases increase susceptibility to HIV, malaria

*Missed by Millennium Development Goals, thirteen tropical diseases cause a half million deaths annually*

**Tropical diseases**, from Page 1

ing for implementation.

Unlike HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, and malaria, Neglected tropical diseases (NTDs) do not typically kill on their own, but they do lead to massive debility and poverty. Also unlike AIDS, NTDs lack a vocal afflicted but wealthy population to advocate for treatment. Many NTDs are ancient diseases that no longer threaten the developed world.

NTDs are largely neglected by the media and donors because they have a lower death percentage, said Dr. Edward T. Ryan, director of the Massachusetts General Hospital's Tropical Medicine program.

"To a large extent, these are chronic diseases that disproportionately affect the most impoverished on the globe," Ryan said. "They are often not on the radar screen of health funding agencies."

Several NTDs also have the ability to either increase susceptibility to or worsen the course of the "big three" diseases — AIDS, tuberculosis, and malaria. For example, women with female genital schistosomiasis, a disease caused by the parasitic blood-fluke (schistosome) contracted by contact with contaminated freshwater, acquire problems ranging from infertility, to bladder cancer, to anemia and

stunted growth in children. In addition, women also develop genital ulcers, and thus become much more vulnerable to sexually transmitted diseases, including HIV. A World Health Organization (WHO) working group concluded that there is a possible link between female genital schistosomiasis and HIV acquisition.

**'To a large extent, these are chronic diseases that disproportionately affect the most impoverished on the globe.'**

*Dr. Edward T. Ryan*  
MASSACHUSETTS GENERAL HOSPITAL

"This is one of the biggest underlying reasons for HIV" said Dr. Peter J. Hotez, president of the Sabin Vaccine Institute and a leading global health expert.

With as many as 45 million women infected with genital schistosomiasis, eradicating schistosomiasis has major implications for halting the spread of HIV as well.

A person with an NTD caused by a parasitic worm infection has a

greater chance of contracting tuberculosis, and this chance increases with the number of infections. Co-infection of hookworm and malaria causes severe anemia in children and pregnant women, and this contributes to almost half of all deaths due to malaria.

According to Hotez, the international development community overlooks the chronic debilitating effects of NTDs and its impacts on the more famous "big three" diseases.

"The disease burden of NTDs is grossly underestimated," Hotez said.

**Historical neglect**

In September of 2000, the United Nations articulated eight goals that would be the major focus of the global development community. The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) called on the world to end extreme poverty, gender inequality, and solve other major problems that were hindering social and economic development in the world's poorest countries. The UN General Assembly said that these goals should be achieved by 2015, four years from now.

MDG 6 was to "combat HIV/AIDS, malaria, and other diseases." In the specific targets for this goal, the General Assembly acknowl-

edged the many impacts of HIV/AIDS, malaria, and tuberculosis.

The importance placed on the Millennium Development Goals were such that MDG 6 was successful in promoting public sympathy for these three major diseases and billions of dollars in funding were raised. The Global Fund to fight AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria raised \$22 billion, the U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) raised \$32 billion, and the President's Malaria Initiative (PMI) also committed \$1 billion.

**'Other diseases' were neglected, and became known as neglected tropical diseases. This glossing-over has complicated the work of tropical disease advocates.**

However, "other diseases" were neglected, and became known as neglected tropical diseases (NTDs). This glossing-over in the MDGs has complicated the work of tropical disease advocates.

"This was a huge problem," Hotez said, "I mean, who wants to advocate for something called 'other diseases'? You can't really see Angelina Jolie doing that."

Part of the confusion about "other diseases" stems from an inconsistent definition of NTDs. The Global Network, an advocacy organization dedicated to NTDs, cites 13 diseases caused by bacteria and parasites. On the other hand, the WHO's NTD department covers 17 diseases. In academic papers, NTDs sometimes refer to a group of more than 30 diseases.

Hotez writes in the New England Journal of Medicine that a program to control NTDs would cost less than 10 percent of the programs for HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, or malaria, and at the same time save the equivalent number of disability-adjusted life years. According to Hotez, the time has come for funding programs like PEPFAR, the Global Fund, and others to pay more attention to "other diseases."

"We need to start integrating NTD control into the big funds" Hotez said.

"For relatively small investments," Ryan added, "major scourges of humanity can be addressed. In terms of cost-effectiveness, a number of experts would say this is very cost effective for the global community."



JESSICA L. WASS—THE TECH

Here's a cool picture we took over the summer. Send pictures of your summer experiences to us at [photo@tech.mit.edu](mailto:photo@tech.mit.edu)!

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<http://arts.mit.edu/about/council/camit-grants/>

We strongly suggest that applicants meet with  
Council staff before submitting a proposal

Please contact Susan Cohen at  
[cohen@media.mit.edu](mailto:cohen@media.mit.edu)  
to make an appointment



**Solution to Techdoku**

*from page 14*

3	2	1	6	5	4
2	1	6	5	4	3
6	5	4	3	2	1
5	4	3	2	1	6
1	6	5	4	3	2
4	3	2	1	6	5

**Solution to Sudoku**

*from page 14*

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

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## Institute Double Take



MANOHAR SRIKANTH—THE TECH

By Manohar Srikanth  
STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

In winter, melting snow reveals a layer of rich food mainly consisting of insects. This is an open invitation for the geese that have gathered at Briggs Field to take advantage of this delicious opportunity. While this is a feast for the geese, they make a mess on the field. Coyote decoys are occasionally installed to drive away these geese. This picture, taken in the winter of 2010, show geese alerted by the presence of a photographer.

Aperture:

*f/5*

Exposure Time:

1/800 sec.

Sensitivity:

ISO 200

Effective Focal Length:

135 mm

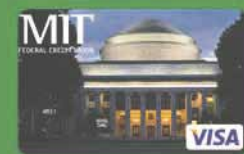
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