PBE suspension terms relaxed by MIT; IFC uneasy

By Joanna Kao

The terms of Phi Beta Epsilon's suspension have been changed as a result of a new agreement between MIT and PBE. MIT recently granted PBE the privileges to stay in their house at 400 Memorial Drive, to remain members of the Interfraternity Council (IFC) — although under probation — and to participate in rush starting in fall 2012 provided that they abide by the terms of their suspension and avoid future violations. The IFC did not sign or agree with the wording of the joint statement.

Joint statement by PBE and MIT

In a joint statement released on Friday, the Division of Student Life and PBE said that they have "re-solved issues that were raised by the fraternity regarding a decision made the past fall by MIT’s Interfraternity Council."

Neither MIT nor PBE were willing to speak about the specifics of the process which led to the joint statement, stating that they had "confidential discussions."

The statement revealed that Chancellor W. Eric L. Grimson Ph.D. ’80 will consult with various individuals, including the Chair of the Faculty, and will proceed to assemble and charge a committee to "examine FSILG judicial and other processes, especially as those processes relate to decisions about approved housing and recognition as a fraternity or independent living group."

View from the IFC

The IFC also released a statement on Friday stating that the executive board "did not feel comfortable with the current wording and chose not to work with MIT."
Locke, commerce secretary to be ambassador to China

WASHINGTON — President Barack Obama plans to nominate Gary Locke, the commerce secretary and one of the highest-ranking Chinese-Americans in the administration, as the next U.S. ambassador to China. Spokesman Michael McCaul said Monday that Locke, 61, would replace Jon Huntsman, who is stepping down to run for governor of Utah.

After leaving the governor's office, Locke helped run the Chinese practice at Davis Wright Tremaine, a law firm in Seattle. He also helped organize a visit to Washington State in 2006 by China's president, Hu Jintao.

—Mark Landler, The New York Times

Tucson shooting autopsy reports are released

TUCSON, Ariz. — Witnesses to the Tucson shooting rampage describe it in emotional language, and court documents lay it out in legalese. Now, newly released autopsy reports give a glimpse of the chilling attack from the clinical viewpoint of the forensic pathologist who examined the bodies of the six people who were killed.

“A gunshot entrance wound is at the left lower back, 24 inches from the top of the head and three inches left of midline,” Dr. Eric D. Davis, the chief medical examiner for Pima County, wrote in the autopsy report for Judge John M. Roll of U.S. District Court, which was released Monday.

Another was wounded to the head with perforations of skull and brain, “he wrote.

It wasGifted, who was holding a constitu-ent outside- side a supermarket on Jan. 8, who was the intended target of the wound to the head with perforations of skull and brain, “he wrote.

But days of snow and rain across the heart of China’s wheat belt in northern China from drought, Chinese experts already surging. Supplies were tight after bad weather in other parts of the country.

This winter was the driest in perhaps 200 years in parts of western China, the world’s largest wheat producer. That prompted alarm about the wheat crop in northern China from drought, Chinese authorities said as they called for an extended apology to offer an extended apology to Africa and the world.

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—Mark Landler, The New York Times

Fears of wheat crisis in China recede as drought eases

HONG KONG — Rain and snow during the past two weeks, together with a huge irrigation effort, appear to have saved much of the wheat crop in northern China from drought, Chinese and international agricultural and meteorological experts said Monday.

This winter was the driest in perhaps 200 years in parts of western China, the world’s largest wheat producer. That prompted alarm about the wheat crop in northern China from drought, Chinese authorities said as they called for an extended apology to offer an extended apology to Africa and the world.

But days of snow and rain across the heart of China’s wheat belt in northern Henan and western Shandong Provinces have boosted supplies to the point they are beginning to run short of the country.

The precipitation arrived at just the right moment, experts said. With cell phone and Internet services shut down, residents there had no advance warning of what was coming.

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By Kareem Fahim and Steven Sorkin

RAS LANUF, Libya — Government warplanes targeted rebels with fireworks and repeatedly bombed their positions near this coastal city’s oil refinery Monday, seeking to drive the opposition forces back farther to the east, as Libya continued to offer what appeared to be a slide into civil war.

The air attacks, which injured a family of five, added a note of urgency to a growing debate in Western capitals about imposing a no-fly zone over Libya.

There were conflicting reports about the casualties after the air strikes. Witnesses had said a man died when the car was hit, but doctors at a local hospital said the man, along with four relatives, survived.

The steady attacks from the air helped further turn the momentum of the conflict in eastern Libya, where opposition fighters had made strong gains recently then pulled back in their drive to the west toward Sirte — a stronghold of Moammar Gadhafi — and on to Tripoli. But on Sunday, troops loyal to Gadhafi stormed the town of Bin Jawwad, just to the east of Ras Lanuf, backed by fierce air power, and sent the fighters holding it into retreat.

In addition, the elite Khamis Brigade continued Monday to harass the opposition-held city of Zawiya, west of Tripoli, with tanks, artillery, and snipers, residents there said.

With cell phone and Internet communications cut off, there is little information on events in this rebel stronghold, which is now under siege by government troops attacking in the morning and inexplicably withdrawing after several hours, even though their tanks seemed to have taken control of the city’s central square.

By Leah Miller and Babak Zanjani

The New York Times

Secretary Robert M. Gates said Monday that the United States was “well positioned” to begin withdrawing some U.S. troops from Afghanistan in July, but he said that a substantial force would remain and that the United States was starting talks with the Afghans about keeping a security presence in the country beyond 2014.

At a joint news conference in the Afghan capital with President Hamid Karzai, Gates said that no decisions had been made about the number of troops to go home. His remarks were tempered with enough caveats, however, that suggest that the July drawdown promised by President Barack Obama could be minor:

“As I have said time and again, we are not leaving Afghanistan this summer,” Gates said.

Currently about 30,000 American soldiers are in the country.

Gates also used the news conference to offer an extended apology to Karzai for the mistakes killing last week of nine Afghan boys. Karzai accepted the apology.

On Sunday Karzai had rejected an apology for the killings from Gen. David H. Petraeus, the top U.S. commander in Afghanistan.

This breaks our heart,” Gates said as he stood beside Karzai in the Afghan presidential palace. “Not only is he their bogy for their families, it is a setback for our relationship with the Afghan people!"

One boy who was wounded but survived described a helicopter gun ship firing on the village as they gathered wood outside their village. The villagers apparently mis- took the children for insurgents who, hours earlier, had fired on a U.S. base. The boys were 9 to 15 years old.

Karzai, after responding that ci- vilian casualties were at the heart of tensions between the United States and Afghanistan, said of Gates that “I trust him fully when he says he’s sorry.”

Gates, who was on an unan- nounced two-day trip to Afghani- stan, spoke more positively than he had in recent months about what he cited as progress in the nearly decade-old war.

The gains we are seeing across the country are significant, he said, citing improvements in security in Helmand and Kandahar provinces in the south, as well as some prog- ress on Afghanistan’s eastern border with Pakistan.

Gates made similar remarks to U.S. troops at Bagram Air Base ear- lier in the day, when he told them that “you’re having success, there’s just no question about it.”

But despite the optimism in Gates’ remarks, U.S. commanders in the east and north have seen continued violence in 2021 and two of the most lethal suicide bomb attacks in nearly two years occurred in the last four weeks. One in the eastern city of Li- labad killed 40 people and another in Kandahar province in the north killed 32.

As for a U.S. military presence in Afghanistan beyond 2014, Gates said a U.S. team would be in Kabul next week to begin negotiations on what he called a security partnership, which he predicted would require a “small fraction” of the U.S. forces in Afghanistan today.

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Extended Forecast


Wednesday: Mostly cloudy with a slight chance of rain or snow showers. Highs in the mid-40s°F (4°C).

Thursday: Morning rain, possibly heavy at times. Highs near 50°F (10°C).

Defense secretary says US ‘well positioned’ for pullout

By Elisabeth Bumiller

The New York Times

The New York Times

Situation for noon Eastern time, Tuesday, March 8, 2011
LVMH buys Bulgari, doubles presence in jewelry market

By Michael J. de la Merced and Liz Alderman

NEW YORK — The producers of Broadway's Spider-Man, Turn Off the Dark were negotiating on Monday with their director, Julie Taymor, for her to work with a newly expanded creative team to fix the critically derided, $65 million musical or possibly leave the show, according to people who work on Spider-Man or have been briefed on the negotiations.

The artistic direction under consideration for Spider-Man — twice as expensive as any show in Broadway history — involves more decision-making by new executive producers, who would be chosen by Taymor anonymously because the producers have insisted that no information be made public.

The opening night for Spider-Man has already been delayed five times, the current opening date, March 15, seems as if all but certain to fail, because the Broadway Guild has threatened to go on strike unless the show is reviewed it (normally invitations are sent the week before). The people who work on Spider-Man said the new producers had reviewed a March 15 opening as unlikely. For all the decisions to be made, the role of Taymor is the most bittersweet. A Tony Award winner who has directed and designed some quarters as a visually creative genius, Taymor was recruited in 2005 to solve a whole new genre.

The people who spoke about the negotiations said that, through-out Monday, they were not sure if Taymor would stay or go as director.

—Patrick Healy and Kevin Flynn, The New York Times

Protest organizers are told to shut offices in Baghdad

BAGHDAD — Two political parties that led demonstrations in Baghdad over the past two weeks said on Monday that security forces controlled by Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki had ordered them to close their offices.

The actions, which the government said were merely evictions, came amid growing concerns that al-Maliki’s American-backed government was losing control of and force to stifle dissent in this fragile democracy.

Officials of the Iraq National Party and the Iraqi Communist Party said in interviews that dozens of armed security forces had come to their offices here Sunday, two days after another round of demonstrations.

Though the parties do not have any seats in Parliament, they are opponents of al-Maliki’s government. They called the evictions illegal efforts to weaken them.

“He is breaking the Constitution, he is breaking the law,” said the leader of the Iraq National Party, a member of Parliament, referring to al-Maliki.

The United States has no political motive behind the evictions, which it called a part of long-standing plan to publicly

The Constitution grants the activity of all political parties, and what was said about banning the Iraqi Communist Party is un-truth,” the leader said in a statement.


Jewish texts lost in World War II are surfacing in New York

By Sam Dolnick

In 1932, as the Nazis rose to power in Germany, a Jewish librarian in Frankfurt published a catalog of 15,000 books he had painstakingly collected for decades. The log of 15,000 books he had pains-takingly collected for decades.

Scholars say the books were full of new tomes.

In 1946, owned one of the lost books, an 1843 volume by Ludwig Philippson. Where he got it, his wife, Lotte Strauss said. “He was very proud.”

Today, his granddaughter, Ruth Dresner, lives in the Bronx. She keeps her grandfather’s catalog on her shelf and plans to leave it to her children.

“I’m 80 years old, and I’m very devoted and dedicated to perpetuating that tradition,” she said. “I am very proud.”

The regimen combines daily injections with a near-starvation diet, which many women, determined to lose weight, can lose about a pound a day without feeling hungry. Perhaps even more seductively, they are frequently told that the HCG will prompt the body to carry away and burn fat in the areas where they least want it — in their upper arms, bellies and thighs.

In response to inquiries stirred up by the diet’s popularity, the Food and Drug Administration warned in January that “homeopathic” forms of HCG, like lozenges and sprays, sold over the Internet and in some health food stores, are fraudulent and illegal if they claim weight-loss powers.

A New York doctor, Scott M. Byer, offers the HCG diet as an ad-junctive cosmetic surgery product.

The HCG, Byer said, “tricks your body into a state of pregnancy, it’s as fat so the fetus can get enough calories, but it protects muscle.”


Brooklyn bike lane pits residents against riders and agents

By Michael M. Grynbaum

NEW YORK — A group of well-connected New Yorkers has taken the unusual step of suing the city to remove a bike lane from a quiet street in a wealthy neighborhood of Brooklyn, saying it makes two ancient and overlapping concerns about safety and space.

The lawsuit, filed Monday in state Supreme Court, comes two years after a year of dueling petitions, pamphlets, and rallies over a bike path that in some ways becomes the poster child for the local debate over bike lanes.

Bike lane enthusiasts see the removal of that particular lane, it is an important victory as the condominiums in the Le Baron Linc, a Manhattan
tandem dedicated to preserving German Jewish culture.

The University Library Frankfurt still houses the bulk of the collection, but experts have determined over several decades that roughly half the books, 2,000 books listed in the 1932 catalog. In the last two years, a team led by the director of the Leo Baeck Institute, found that her grandfather had more than 1,000 of the lost titles.

Scholars say the books were made in Europe by private collectors and antiquities dealers. In the 50 past years, directors, nearly all from German Jews who immigrated and prospered here, gave them to the Leo Baeck Institute.

Herbert A. Strauss, who came to New York with his family in 1946, owned one of the lost books, an 1843 volume by Ludwig Philippson. Where he got it, his wife, Lotte Strauss said. “He was very proud.”

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Volcano erupts, producing fiery images but no damage

New cracks in Hawaii’s surface continued to spew lava on Monday as hot as about 2,000 degrees Fahrenheit — left veins of ash grey as the descent flows of red and orange — colors produced by temperatures as high as 2,000 degrees Fahrenheit. As hot as about 2,000 degrees Fahrenheit — left veins of ash grey as the descent flows of red and orange — colors produced by temperatures as high as 2,000 degrees Fahrenheit. As hot as about 2,000 degrees Fahrenheit — left veins of ash grey as the descent flows of red and orange — colors produced by temperatures as high as 2,000 degrees Fahrenheit. As hot as about 2,000 degrees Fahrenheit. —Anemona hartocollis, The new york times

Tree of Life

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tandem dedicated to preserving German Jewish culture.

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No precedent for peace
International community must stop turning a blind eye to genocide

By Rachel Bandler

The Libyan people have been met with fighter jets, bullets, and clubs as Moammar Gadhafi attempts to quell the uprisings overwhelming the country. The violence being used against the protesters has been unvilied to the world in recent days, where living as a part of the world community and at worst extolled for exemplifying “human rights.”

A trend is emerging in the international community where legitimate human rights violations are ignored until the tension erupts or until mass genocide has taken place. The U.N. knows exactly what Gadhafi represents, and yet chose to ignore it offering Libya a place on the Human Rights Council. If they did understand the true nature, it was their obligation to investigate the despot further.

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By Wissam Jarjoui

Two weeks ago, Rachel Bandler wrote an opinion column entitled “Don’t settle for the C-word” discussing the importance of the Israel-Palestine conflict. She concluded that the international community should be more involved in peace talks and that the majority of Palestinians living in the West Bank are under Israeli authority, and will not be able to travel between cities within Israel. The C-word is far from being seen as an option by many Palestinians, and the discussion of settlements is an important and delicate topic, but unfortunately with, in my opinion, insufficient attention.

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Settlements — a modern manifestation of an old problem
Israel-Palestinian history is mired in misconceptions

Settlements, from Page 4

condemned the new housing project, and Biderman reminded me, “the big dictators must know that they are not immune to lose their calculation. Just as it is with big banks, crackdown is an important component of how the United States should militarily intervene on behalf of Libya’s rebels.”

For a person who had been under the thumb of a dictator for over four decades, Libyans sure do make up for lost time. In the course of just a couple weeks, the rebels in Libya have done much to end Moammar Gadhafi’s regime. They have gained effective control, in terms of area, of most of the country, having driven Gadhafi’s regime from Tripoli and a few surrounding areas. And yet, there is only so much that a motley collection of civilians can do in terms of warfighting. Fortunately for the rebels, Gadhafi’s aversion to large, organized, armed institutions that could challenge his rule or refuse his orders means that the Libyan regime has little in the way of a conventional military. Unfortunately, nothing has stopped Gadhafi from hiring an army’s worth of foreign mercenaries to quell the protest-cum-rebellion in the new movement. This is al Qaeda at its worst, but al Qaeda will not — if the rebels cannot win outright victory, al Qaeda will be there to offer fighters in exchange for a foothold in the new movement. This is al Qaeda at its strongest, offering jihadists for hire and co-opting legitimate movements to lend face to their cause. If the rebels cannot win outright victory, al Qaeda will be there to offer fighters in exchange for a foothold in the new movement. This is al Qaeda at its strongest, offering jihadists for hire and co-opting legitimate movements to lend face to their cause.

By Keith Yost

Libya: A foreign policy no-brainer

US military intervention in the tumultuous state is justified

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We should not low-ball the difficulty of taking action in Libya. A simple no-fly zone or pure air campaign is unlikely to unseat Gadhafi from power, and ultimately American ground troops may be necessary. But we also should not be undervaluing that taking action in Libya will force us down some slippery slope into intervention across the globe. Libya is a low-hanging fruit, an oil-rich state run by an unstable anti-American dictator that is poised to achieve its own grassroots democratic revolution. There is no reason for our president to be dragging his feet.

Libya is a foreign policy no-brainer. US military intervention in the tumultuous state is justified.
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The Tech Tuesday, March 8, 2011

Crossword Puzzle
Solution, page 16

ACROSS
1. Puppy’s bite
4. Calyx parts
10. Lady’s address
14. Inn order
15. Rainbow band
16. Opera song
17. By way of
18. Start of a broker’s sign
20. Nodding response
21. Como __ Usted?
22. Confront boldly
23. Aesop’s loser
25. New Mexico art colony
26. Part 2 of sign
30. Dol. divisions
33. Island leader?
34. Creative Coward
35. Fairway alert
36. Prey on the mind
37. Clever
38. Wall painting
39. “__ Tu” (1974 hit)
40. Burn a bit
41. “__ Hall”
42. Patriotic women’s soc.
43. Part 3 of sign
45. Nuissance
46. Hotel employee
47. Acquire
50. Up to something
52. Cartoonist Keane
55. End of sign
57. Period
58. Taxi charge
59. Founder of Taoism
60. Cassowary cousin
61. Has dinner
62. Accounting activities
63. Current craze
64. A rage to live” author
65. Beauty and Another Kind of Beauty

DOWN
1. Blue shade
2. Nastase of tennis
3. Child’s toy weapon
4. W. __ Maugham
5. Pencil’s end
6. Hair line
7. “Diana” singer
8. T-shirt size
9. Do a judge’s job
10. Bucks and bulls
11. Locality
12. Broadcasts
13. Actor Dillon
19. The King’s middle name
20. “__ Coming to Take Me Away, Ha, Haal!”
21. Beauty trailer makes no sense! I call this a “beast”!
22. Sweet piercings, bid-55, tags, sick as! I guess the scars are kinda nice:
23. He’s going to tell girls he got these scars racing motorbikes in an active volcano.
24. How will she ever bring herself to love this dark Prince?
25. “__ Coming to Take Me Away, Ha, Haal!”
26. Beauty trailer makes no sense! I call this a “beast”!
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SOMEBODY ON THE SEARCH FOR MEANING...
by Letitia Li

I can’t let you give up your heart! When I lost mine, I forgot who I was... It’s why I had to pick a Ram Dom name.

It’ll be ok. Because I... How to become a heart surgeon in 5 minutes.

You didn’t get this far just to fall to some overlord. Especially one who spends more time on the metalla than spoilpower of her weapon.

All of you, thank you. Somehow... I might be whole again.

I’m glad. If you’d told us not to interfere, I’d have to ask if you expected us to play cards while you fought an impossible solo battle.

...I don’t know why I’m here. It seems I’m not really related.

...Now I know why biology is a GS.

Hey, you sure you’ve noticed a resemblance between us? We even share the same telepathic ability. Only mine is a lot better.

At least I won’t have to send you cards during the holidays.

I hope you’ll still try to save this hero, even though none of your tears and hopes. If everyone will hate you eventually, why not save them some time?

...I’d become just like me.

Hello, I wouldn’t design a silly fortress either.

Beauty and Another Kind of Beauty

This Beauty trailer makes no sense! I call this a “beast”!

Sweet piercings, bid-55, tags, sick as! I guess the scars are kinda nice:

He’s going to tell girls he got these scars racing motorbikes in an active volcano.

How will she ever bring herself to love this dark Prince?

I should warn you. My skills are wayNumeral12... I still love you. Even though you’re so cool and hot.

Crossword Puzzle Solution
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.

Instructions: Fill in the grid so that each column and row contains exactly one of each of the numbers 1–6. Follow the mathematical operations for each box.

Sudoku Solution, page 16

Techdoku Solution, page 16
Chem professor tells us why students should come to her office hours, not her shower

By Maeve Cullinane

Catherine L. Drennan is head of a chemistry laboratory investigating medically- or environmentally-relevant enzymes here at MIT. She is also a co-instructor of an incredibly popular freshman chemistry principles course, in the spring. In December, I had the opportunity to sit down with Drennan to find out more about her strange connection to Lisa Kudrow, why she thinks purple is the best color of all, and why she wishes students would ask questions at her office hours and not in her shower.

The Tech: What was the most exciting thing you did in college?

Catherine L. Drennan: I took a course in Indian theater in one of the famous directors of Indian theater who was on sabbatical leave at Vassar College. We read all kinds of books about Indian theater and then we performed a play. My role was basically sitting cross-legged on the floor and then at one point during the play — there were three of us — we all stood up and sort of screamed and then sat back down again. We all had to go to every rehearsal and I was just sitting there. I thought I should do more than just sit here at every rehearsal! I was also taking analytical chemistry that semester, so I had little cards with chemistry cards and I ended up getting an A in analytical chemistry, as well as in Indian theater! I’m not sure I would’ve gotten an A in analytical chemistry if I hadn’t seen for all of those hours sitting cross-legged that I got to study.

The Tech: What is your most embarrassing story, or what’s the weiest thing that ever happened to you?

Catherine L. Drennan: So I think the biggest advice about chemistry homework for tomorrow?

The Tech: What’s your favorite song right now? What have you got playing on repeat?

Catherine L. Drennan: “Single Ladies” — it’s Christmas time. I have a two-and-a-half-year-old so I have no control over the music in the house anymore.

The Tech: What’s your favorite kind of dinosaur?

Catherine L. Drennan: Purple.

The Tech: Do you see that your daughter is a Barney fan?

Catherine L. Drennan: I don’t think she knows what Barney is, but it’s her favorite color. So [for] everything, if you ask her what her favorite whatever is it is, like, “What’s your favorite meal?” Purple. And if it said, “What song do you want to sing?” Purple.

The Tech: If you were a cereal, what kind of cereal do you think you’d be?

Catherine L. Drennan: Granola.

The Tech: Kinds like the earthy, crunchy.

Catherine L. Drennan: Yeah, yeah.

So she came to my apartment, found the door open and — I was actually in the shower — she came into the apartment and into my bathroom at that point, and opened the shower curtain and said, “What was the chemistry homework for tomorrow?” I tell that story as a way to indicate to freshmen here that coming to my office hours is OK. I have office hours for students to come to my office hours — this is not bothering the professor, as opposed to going into my apartment and my bathroom, pulling back the shower curtain, and asking what the homework is for tomorrow. Coming to my office hours is just fine.

The Tech: I think the biggest advice about chemistry homework for tomorrow?

Catherine L. Drennan: So what’s it like to be a mother, a chemist, and a professor? What have you got playing on repeat?

Catherine L. Drennan: “Single Ladies” — it’s Christmas time. I have a two-and-a-half-year-old so I have no control over the music in the house anymore.

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Catherine L. Drennan: Yeah, yeah.

So I think that the flexibility is just amazing, and the graduate students and post-docs in my lab are really supportive of trying to help me balance everything. If it means having a meeting in my house instead of at the office, everyone is very supportive of taking time, and just having some of those casual meetings, doing what they do, but they don’t see that flexibility as much.

At the beginning of every semester of 5.71, I tell you a class a story about how when you were a student at Vassar College, Lisa Kudrow (of Friends fame) was also studying there. And you said that when you went to college you were planning on majoring in drama and that Lisa had planned to major in biology, but evidently you kind of switched paths. Now, I know you can’t speak for Lisa, but can you tell us in a little more detail what was that motivated you to make such a big switch?

Catherine L. Drennan: I also liked science, so I think of being sort of biology, psychology, biochemistry, drama, or some combination thereof. I actually did take a number of drama classes at Vassar, including the Indian theater one, and Vassar is a very famous place for theater — Meryl Streep and Jane Fonda and all sorts of people have come from there. That was one of the reasons why I thought that that’s where I wanted to go to college. They’re not so much known for chemistry — they have a very small chemistry department, but it’s a very good one. And because I was thinking of becoming a biology major, I had to take chemistry my freshman year, and then I just fell in love

with chemistry. I continued to take theater and education courses. I was definitely a well-rounded chemistry student and I took a lot of other things, but it was my freshman chemistry teacher who really made me fall in love with chemistry.

The Tech: What is your most embarrassing story, or what’s the weiest thing that ever happened to you?

Catherine L. Drennan: So I think the biggest advice about chemistry homework for tomorrow?

The Tech: What is your most embarrassing story, or what’s the weiest thing that ever happened to you?

Catherine L. Drennan: So I think the biggest advice about chemistry homework for tomorrow?
Are you a stressed out student? Read this.

Eight ways to get rid of mid-semester stress

By Nazia Chowdhury

Stressed to the max? Here’s the million-dollar answer to the question, “How are you?” — especially midway through the semester. While some studies suggest stress is a significant factor contributing to weight gain, aka the infamous “freshman fifteen” issue, we really do not mind the pressure. Because, hey — stress is what turns a lump of coal into diamond, as my friend Deeni Fathia ‘13 would say.

However, we don’t like the feeling of getting overwhelmed by our academic workload, social network, roommates, the dynamics of young adult relationships, eating healthy and the new meal plan, etc. … so what do we do?

1. Get some sleep!

This might be in the form of taking a power nap, going to bed early, sleeping late, or simply sticking to a regular healthy sleep schedule. If you are having a headache trying to solve an 8.83 problem (I am a freshman! What else did you expect?), try it after a refreshing nap. You’ll surely be more productive with a well-rested and clearer brain.

2. Eat healthy!

Eat fruits and veggies, protein, and whole grains. One thing my first semester taught me is that you’ve got to have that proper breakfast before classes makes a person and his or her stomach happy companions. Also, bring your caffeine consumption down. Definitely indulge in some sweet chocolate delicacies whenever you feel like you’ve been starved of them for a while.

3. It’s workout time!

You don’t have to spend two exhausting twenty hours in the gym. But take a walk along the Charles while listening to your favorite music. Breathe in the cold fresh air or walk to your favorite restaurant nearby. Eat and then walk back. Or take a yoga or ballet class. Go swimming with friends and splash around. There are loads of options and you can create even more.

4. Fun time!

The best way to do this is to grab some friends and do something you all love. Have an ice cream, hop onto the T and explore Boston, go shopping, make a robot (if that’s your idea of having fun), watch a movie, listen to music, play some games or a musical instrument. The options are endless. You can even make your “writing lab report time” enjoyable. Work with your friends, use their input and take a five minute chat break as you complete each section. Before long, the whole report will be ready to roll.

5. Branch out!

There’s surely a student activity group you’re interested in. Even if there isn’t, start a new group. Getting involved will give you some time away from college academics while doing something you love. Check out the MIT Student Office [ISO] (that’s the ultimate solution to every problem on Earth)

6. Get some distance

Create your own space in your dorm. It’s your dorm’s common room, or in a library. Get some time solely for yourself. Stepping out from the crazy college environment for a while works magic.

7. Stay connected!

The best way to do this is to talk with friends at MIT, that’s the usual answer to the question, “How are you?” — W20 La Sala de Puerto Rico

8. Ask for help!

Do not forget that your advisor, associate advisor and loads of other people are out there to listen to you and to make your life easier. The best people to go when you don’t know where to go are the Medlinkers. They know a lot about resources available on campus. Just shout out! Help will arrive!

Last but not least, don’t get stressed out about being stressed. Stress is quite normal in college. You can create even more.

By Nazia Chowdhury
MISTI: Around the world during summer break

Students reflect on their international research internships

By Arfa Aijazi

Looking to travel overseas this summer? Want an awesome summer internship — and all of MIT’s MISTI? Then MISTI, the MIT International Science and Technology Initiatives, may be the thing for you.

Every summer, MISTI places over 500 MIT undergraduates, graduate students, and postgraduates in finding, selecting, research projects, and internships. Internships in MISTI are open to students. Students can choose to participate in any number of summer programs.

MISTI students have opportunities to find students on their way to learning about the world. MISTI students travel to various locations around the world, including places like China, Brazil, Japan, India, and many more. Students have the opportunity to work on projects that range from studying the effects of climate change to working on robotics and artificial intelligence.

The reasons I seek out opportunities to do research abroad is to understand different approaches and mindsets of other researchers. In this collaboration, I will be working with students from other institutions and countries. I hope to combine the best of both worlds in the course of my scientific research.

Emily G. Conn ’11
Internship Completed: Summer 2010
Major: Mechanical Engineering
Program: MISTI-Israel, Alphana Technology Co.

My experience taught me a lot. I lived in Japan for five months, and I had a great time. I really enjoyed living in Japan, and I learned a lot about how a company works, and what things are like in Japan. It was a great opportunity to learn about another culture and to develop skills that will be useful in my future career.

Colin J. Taylor ’10
Internship Completed: Summer 2010
Major: Civil and Environmental Engineering
Program: MISTI-Japan, Waseda University

“On a technical level, I learned a lot about programming, and I never realized how difficult it was to integrate two different robotic systems into one. It was also a good chance for me to brush up on my design skills. On a personal level, it was a good chance for me to get to know the Japanese students, some of whom were the best people I’ve ever met.”

Colin J. Taylor ’10 traveled to Japan last summer, working for Alphana Technology Co., a company that specializes in the design of robot systems.

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Colin J. Taylor ’10 traveled to Japan last summer, working for Alphana Technology Co., a company that specializes in the design of robot systems.

“We also had the opportunity to collaborate on the chapter for a book about robotics. This was an exciting opportunity to work with students from other institutions and countries. I learned a lot from this experience and was able to contribute to the book in a meaningful way.”

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“I could write pages and pages about this trip. The traveling and teaching in China were both really good. The students were really good, and the environment was really good. The culture was really good, and the food was really good. I really enjoyed my time in China, and I would definitely go back.”

Isaac W. Looza ’10
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Major: Civil and Environmental Engineering
Program: MISTI-China, China Engineering Education Technology Initiative (CEETI)
Friends Don’t Let Friends Drive Drunk.

IFC does not sign agreement
IFC feels uncomfortable with agreement wording

PBE, Page 1
to sign it.” They also said that “the joint statement) is not sufficiently comprehensive and does not fully encompass the details surrounding this situation.”

IFC president Gordon W. Win- trow ’12 declined to comment on the joint statement made by MIT and PBE.

The previous executive board members of the IFC who were in- volved in PBE’s suspension were, for the most part, not part of this resolution, according to Garrett R. Fritz ’11, former chair of the IFC Ju- dicial Committee.

As part of the modified suspen- sion, PBE is once again a member of the IFC. However, the Fraternity is on probation until 2014, meaning that it will not receive a vote in IFC dealings.

The statement said that PBE will be working with the IFC and the Dean of Student Life on a new anti- hazing education program open to the entire FMECG community. “It will be similar to Partay Safe training. We hope that there will be more than just a few from each fraternity well-versed in the issue (of hazing),” said kele M. Knoblock ’11, president of PBE.

Moving forward: The new PBE

PBE is using their suspension period to “really redo and rein- vent” the house, including both the physical house and their fraternity initiation process.

The biggest changes will be to PBE’s initiation process. According to President of the PBE Corporation Steven C. Carhart ’70, they will be starting “with a clean sheet of paper but keeping the goals.” Activities will be drawn from publicly available literature and trainings that have been proven effective in creat- ing “intense bonding with groups of people.”

The most obvious change will be that the initiation events will be public, which is not typical for most fraternities. “What we do we will say. This is a change. The idea that there could be some misunder- standing because something was private … the surest way to make sure there’s no misunderstanding is that if it’s out in the open,” Carhart said.

The previous executive board members of the IFC who were involved in PBE’s suspension were mostly not part of this resolution, according to Garrett R. Fritz ’11.

“There has been the perception that in the fraternity world, one can have a challenging or intense kind of experience or people have backed off of it. What we’re trying to do is have a series of challenges that will be intense and meaningful experiences but not possibly per- ceived to be hazing. We’re trying to break some new ground in that,” Carhart said.

PBE says that this change to making their initiation events known publicly was not part of their agreement with MIT. “This is entirely our choice. This is some- thing that we want to do. It’s really what we’re trying to do. We’re try- ing to reinvent the notion of the fraternity for the 21st century,” Carhart said. “It’s a lifetime intergen- erational social and professional network. That’s the idea — that it has elements of training and edu- cation that you get as part of a frat that complements what you get at MIT.”

PBE sees themselves as setting a precedent in initiation reform. “We plan on coming up with a new [initiation]. We would help others come up with initiation reform and make sure it’s not hazing,” Knob- lock said. “There’s never a point when you take the time to sit down and really think about [hazing]. There could be hazing going on that never gets changed.”

Over the weekend, almost a hun- dred PBE alumni from all over the country came to meet the actives.

“We worked on planning major renovation of the house. We’re in the middle of a big fundraising plan. Alumni are extremely interested in rebuilding the house,” Carhart said.

Renovations to the house have been planned for several years. Carhart estimated that the renova- tions would be finished sometime between 2012 and 2013.

“The outsourcing of alumni and parent support are beyond belief,” Carhart said. “One of the things that has been really great is that this house has underclassmen and alumni much closer. We realized that if we didn’t work this out, then a lot that we worked for would be lost.”

“The alumni want to make sure PBE rebuilt and comes out strongly and better than ever,” Carhart said.

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Miramonti, Lai lone candidates
Platform focuses on transparency, student life, space

UA elections, Page 1

Miramonti and Lai explain their platform

"We want to re-establish trust and transparency between students and the administration," said Miramonti. "I guess that’s what we want to see in the administration, " said Miramonti. "What are the values that students perceive as central to MIT?" said Lai. "In line with their plans to engage students more actively, the ballot pair are looking to revitalize student spaces. "We’ve already asked students what they’d like to see in the former game room [in the Student Center]," said Miramonti. "We’re also trying to let students know about obscure study places. For example, there are great spaces in the Sloan building that people aren’t aware of."

Lai predicts that the UA will reach out to undergraduates through the Senate and then work with the MIT Department of Facilities to actuate student desires. "We will probably have to spend some money too, but we think students will [be happier]."

Miramonti joined the UA in January 2010; Lai, in September 2010. The two built a strong rapport during internal meetings. "We complement each other, skill-set wise, “ said Miramonti-Lai agenda is a UA help forum on a site like dining and housing,” said Lai. "There have been precedent for something like this," said Miramonti. "What are the values that students perceive as central to MIT?"

Should the administration then pose changes, the UA will be able to either affirm or contest the proposition as beneficial to undergraduate culture and tradition. Another important item on the Miramonti-Lai agenda is a UA help desk or directory. "We want this online on a website somewhere," said Lai. "It would be a compilation of student resources — add drop forms, course requirements, a link to the course guide, extracurriculars — that way students can just go to one place to easily find what they need."

Miramonti hopes to have the pre- liminary coding completed over the summer, and an actual functional directory established by the end of the Fall 2011 term.

"I’m not sure why there isn’t a precedent for something like this," said Miramonti. "There have been information FAQs for freshmen, but we hope something all-inclusive like this will be useful for all classes."

In line with their plans to engage students more actively, the ballot pair are looking to revitalize student spaces. "We’ve already asked students what they’d like to see in the former game room [in the Student Center]," said Miramonti. "We’re also trying to let students know about obscure study places. For example, there are great spaces in the Sloan building that people aren’t aware of."

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Miramonti joined the UA in January 2010; Lai, in September 2010. The two built a strong rapport during internal meetings. "We complement each other, skill-set wise,” said Miramonti-Lai agreed “We clicked well as a team early on.”

When considering their joint candidacy, Lai decided that his current position as secretary general gave him a great deal of insight into communication with undergraduates. "I take minutes, organize the UA newsletter, get UA information out to students,” said Lai. "As vice president, I would focus on internal management on overseeing individual committees."

Conversely, Miramonti has had more experience working with high-level administrators as a Senator. "I sit on [Executive Committee]," he explained. "I’m always in the UA office. I talk to [current UA president] Vrajesh a lot, and I’m just really invested in student affairs — that’s why I’m running as president.”

The UA Presidential and Vice Presidential Debate will be held this Sunday at 8 p.m. on the first floor of W20 (Student Center)."
The Tech Tuesday, March 8, 2011

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**Tuesday, March 8, 2011**
Koch designed for interdisciplinary research
MIT nationally recognized at the forefront of biomedical and cancer research

Koch Institute, Page 1

Emphasizing collaboration among experts from different fields, he said, “will advance the discoveries and technologies that revolutionized the way cancer is detected, monitored, treated, and prevented.”

Koch also highlighted the Institute’s proximity to established institutions of biological research fame.

“I was thrilled and surprised when Eric Lander [founding director of the Broad Institute] came crossing the street in a white-frilled apron with a tray of cookies,” joked Koch.

At the dedication, MIT President Susan Hockfield called the Koch Institute a place where “MIT’s world-class biologists and engineers, with their laboratories side-by-side, collaborate to understand the basic molecular mechanisms of cancer cells and develop practical, patient-ready devices.” She said she was confident that the strength of today’s researchers at the Institute will be passed onto students when they learn the “collaborative instincts, interdisciplinary skills, and hands-on problem solving.”

Senator Brown, who also visited the Koch Institute last month, spoke at Friday’s ceremony as well.

“This amazing facility really puts Massachusetts and Cambridge and MIT on the map to do things that no other countries and no other institutions can do by taking the convergence model and using that multi-disciplinary thinking,” Brown said.

Koch gave the dedication’s final remarks, explaining his personal motivations for supporting cancer research at MIT. He said his long association with MIT began with his father — Fred C. Koch ’22 — who also graduated from MIT.

Futher graduated from the Institute with the first class ever to receive a degree in chemical engineering,” said Koch. The elder Koch encouraged his sons to attend MIT, three of whom — including David — graduated from MIT with chemical engineering degrees. Koch said he holds a “lifetime reserve” for MIT and “admin[es] everything about this great institution.”

Koch became interested in cancer research when he was diagnosed with prostate cancer in 1992. At that time, Koch expected he had “not long to live,” but he was treated with an experimental drug called abiraterone that “worked like a miracle.”

Koch is on the Board of Directors of the Prostate Cancer Foundation.

Koch also supported cancer research at many other institutions, including a $25 million commitment to MD Anderson Cancer Center at the University of Texas and $20 million to Johns Hopkins Medical Center. He said that supporting a wide range of institutions is the best strategy in furthersing cancer research, just like winning a bet by “buying a ticket on every horse in the race.”

Koch politics

In addition to his support for cancer research, Koch — valued at $74.5 billion and the executive vice president of Koch Industries, Inc. — is known for his support of conservative causes. Koch Industries has financially backed conservative candidates, including Governor Scott Walker of Wisconsin, according to The New York Times. Koch also provided funds to start the Americans for Prosperity Foundation in 2004, which has contributed to the rise of the Tea Party movement.

Koch Industries has also been called a “kingpin of climate science denial and clean energy opposition” by Greenpeace. But Koch Industries has financially backed conservative causes for Prosperity Foundation in 2004, which has contributed to the rise of the Tea Party movement.

The Times reported that one of Koch’s companies, Georgia-Pacific, has been attempting to convince the government not to list formaldehyde as a carcinogen. Georgia-Pacific is a producer of formaldehyde. In a 2010 statement, Koch Industries said that “all Koch companies will respect and fully comply with any new formaldehyde regulation,” and for all six years that Koch has been on the National Institutes of Health, and the National Cancer Institute’s advisory board, “he has never engaged in a discussion of formaldehyde.”

In addition to his support for cancer research, Koch has also given $100 million to New York’s Lincoln Center, $20 million to the American Museum of Natural History, and $15 million to the National Museum of Natural History to establish an exhibit on human evolution. The Huffington Post reported that, at Friday’s dedication, Senator Brown was filming telling Koch, “Your support during the election, it meant a ton. It made a difference and I can certainly use it again.”
A Conversation with Professors Yung Ho Chang and Yasheng Huang.

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All MIT faculty, staff, and students are invited to attend.

Refreshments will be served.

LEMEELSON-MIT PROGRAM

celebrating innovation, inspiring youth
Astronomy Professor James Elliot dies at 67

James Ludlow Elliot ’65, an MIT professor of planetary astronomy and physics who discovered the rings of Uranus in 1977, died on March 3 from cancer-related complications. He was 67.

Elliot was known as one of the great observational planetary astronomers of the modern era. Among his accomplishments were leading the team that discovered the ring system of Uranus and discovery of the atmosphere of Pluto. He was committed to excellence in teaching and mentoring and was a staunch advocate for women in science.

Elliot was one of the pioneers in the technique of stellar occultations: watching a star as a planetary object moves in front of it and studying the effect on the star’s light.

Elliot was born on June 17, 1943, in Columbus, Ohio. He received an undergraduate degree in physics from MIT in 1965 and a PhD in astronomy from Harvard University in 1972. While a graduate student at Harvard, Elliot was an avid observer on the 60-inch telescope at the Agassiz Station in Harvard, Mass. He held a postdoctoral position at Cornell University and joined the faculty of Cornell’s Astronomy Department in 1977. He returned to MIT in 1978 after he discovered Uranus’s rings alongside Edward Dunham and Douglass Mink ’73. He was also the director of MIT’s Wallace Observatory.

Elliot was one of the pioneers in the technique of stellar occultations: watching a star as a planetary object moves in front of it and studying the effect on the star’s light. Elliot used occultations to probe planetary atmospheres as well as the physical properties of small bodies in the outer solar system.

But catching occultations can be challenging since the events themselves might last only seconds, and there are no second chances. To record them electronically, a team must be completely prepared. Elliot, however, excelled in coordination and preparation. When the planet Uranus was about to cross in front of a star in 1977, he and his team were flying in the Kuiper Airborne Observatory, telescopic equipment trained on the star, waiting. Because of the uncertainty in the event’s timing, they turned their equipment on about an hour in advance. To their surprise, the starlight disappeared briefly several times before the planet moved in, after the planet had moved on, the star winked out again several times. They realized that the symmetric dips in the star’s brightness — before Uranus itself hid the star and after the star re-emerged — were caused by a ring system around the planet. Their discovery was confirmed by several more occultation events and eventually with direct imaging from the Voyager 2 spacecraft, the Hubble Space Telescope and otherwise. Elliot received a NASA Medal for Exceptional Scientific Achievement for this discovery.

With the same occultation technique, Elliot and colleagues observed Pluto as it crossed in front of a star in 1988. The gradual manner in which the star disappeared allowed them to deduce that Pluto had an atmosphere since in the absence of an atmosphere, the star would have disappeared abruptly. Subsequent occultations have revealed that the atmosphere changes with time. The next such occultations will occur in June, and Elliot’s colleagues and students have observations planned.

Elliot was especially supportive of women in astronomy. At a science celebration at MIT held in his honor in June 2000 (called the “Jimboise”), nearly two dozen of his former and current students — more than half of them women — spoke about their research, as well as life lessons learned from Elliot. One common theme was his gift for engaging his students deeply in his research and then sending them off on their own with his utter trust that they could do the research themselves. He also conveyed to all his students a strong work ethic, admonitions to always be prepared, and reminders to always trust the data. At the Jimboise, notes of remembrance were captured on white index cards, because Elliot was never caught without one in his pocket.

Jim Elliot is survived by his wife, Elaine; his daughters, Lyn and Martha; son-in-law, Lute Breuer; his granddaughter, Bella Breuer; a brother, Tom Elliot; and sisters, Suzanne Elliot and Martha Bureau.

The family plans a private memorial service and requests that no flowers be sent. Gifts may be made to the Wallace Observatory Fund via mail (Attn: Bonny Kellermann, MIT Office of Memorial Gifts, 600 Memorial Drive, MIT Room W98-516, Cambridge, MA 02139-4822) or online (be sure to indicate that this is a gift in memory of Jim Elliot). This obituary originally appeared at http://web.mit.edu/newsoffice/2011/obit-elliot.html.

— The MIT News Office

BE LESS PRODUCTIVE AT THE OFFICE

The office has always been a place to get ahead. Unfortunately, it’s also a place where a lot of natural resources start to fall behind. Take a break around the next time you’re at work. See how many lights are left on when people leave. See how much paper is being wasted. How much electricity is being used to run computers that are left on. Look at how much water is being wasted in the restrooms. And how much wild waste is being thrown out in the trash cans. We bet it’s a lot.

Now, here are some simple ways you can produce less waste at work.

When you’re at the copier, only make the copies you need. Use both sides of the paper when writing a memo. Turn off your light when you leave. Use a lower watt bulb in your lamp. Drink your coffee or tea out of mugs instead of disposable cups. It’s a connected world. Do your share.

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Friday, March 11 7pm, 54-100

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MIT Students and Staff!
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The Airborne Comedians

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MIT News Office Article

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The Singapore University of Technology and Design (SUTD), established in collaboration with MIT, has a mission to advance knowledge and nurture technically grounded leaders and innovators to serve societal needs. This will be accomplished, with a focus on Design, through an integrated multi-disciplinary curriculum and multi-disciplinary research.


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Track & Field tussle at ECAC
Women’s team takes fifth; Men’s claims 37th

By Carlos Greaves

The MIT Men’s and Women’s Track and Field teams competed this weekend in the Eastern College Athletic Conference (ECAC) and IC4A indoor track championships. For those who are unfamiliar with the sport, in track events, individuals race around an oval track, sometimes in individually painted lanes. For field events, athletes perform a variety of feats of strength like pole vaulting (running with a long, flexible pole, planting it in the ground, and launching over a bar as high as possible), the long jump and triple jump (both involving sprinting at full speed and jumping as far as possible into a pit of sand), and throwing events such as discus, hammer throw, javelin, and shot put (throwing objects of various shapes and sizes).

Indoor track has many basic characteristics of outdoor track, with a few notable exceptions. While all the field events are similar, the track events are different due to the physical properties of the indoor track — it is only 200 meters around (compared to the outdoor track’s 400-meter length) and has two banked curves in order to help the athletes negotiate the track. For the spectators, this shortened length evokes the sensation of watching professional race car driving, but with even more exciting lead changes, no pit stops, and slightly fewer explosions. In addition to individual running events, the relays are even more exciting. In these races, four members from each team compete; the first person on the team changes, no pit stops, and slightly fewer explosions.

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B-ball falls to Rochester in second round of Div. III

By Greg McKeever

Eric S. Zuk ’11 had a season-best 15 points and William Tashman ’13 added 16, but it was not enough as MIT fell to the University of Rochester, 66-52 in the second round of the NCAA Division III Men’s Basketball on Saturday evening. The Engineers were outscored 40-27 in the second half, narrowly missing out on the Sweet Sixteen for the second time in three years. Tech sees its season come to an end at 20-9, the third consecutive 20-win campaign for Coach Larry Anderson’s squad. The MIT defense limited Rochester’s 58.4 percent shooting to just three points over the first 9:35 of the game. Tashman sank a jump hook on the final possession of the period to send Tech into the locker room up 25-20, as MIT held the No. 1 three point shooting team in the nation without a three-point field goal in the opening stanza. The lead would change hands four times over the next five minutes, with neither team up by more than three at any point during that stretch.

The Engineers had a couple of chances to get the lead under five down the stretch, but a pair of costly turnovers and a clutch three from John DiBartolomeo sealed their fate.

"Congratulations to Rochester on tonight’s win," Coach Anderson remarked after the game. "I’m so proud of our guys for leaving everything on the court. Hats off to Eric Zuk, he really led us today. It just wasn’t enough to get to the Sweet Sixteen.”

Zuk added five rebounds to his scoring effort while connecting on three of five shots from three-point range. Mitchell H. Kates ’13 also finished in double-digits with 14 points. With Zuk as the lone senior on Coach Anderson’s talented squad, the Cardinal and Gray is well positioned for a strong return in 2012. In addition to returning its top seven scorers, MIT will welcome back Noel Hollingsworth ’13 and James R. Burke ’13, key contributors from a year ago who missed most of this season as a result of injury.
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