

Guest artist from Berklee enlivens Coffeehouse on Thursday night



CHRISTOPHER A. MAYNOR—THE TECH

Abigail East, a folk and impressionist artist from Berklee College of Music, plays at The Coffeehouse Thursday evening. The Coffeehouse Lounge Program hosts performances every week by the MIT Festival Jazz Ensemble, MIT students, or Berklee College of Music students.

Diversity discussions on the rise

Briscoe's piece sparks debates on campus

By Adisa Kruayatidee
ASSOCIATE NEWS EDITOR

Shamariah J. Hernandez '12. Course 14. McCormick resident. What are the first thoughts that come to mind when you read those four facts about her? Oh, she must be a minority student? Course 14 ... um, is she double majoring in something else?

Or do you just say, cool, she's from MIT? Name, year, major, and residence — these are the first four things you find out about any MIT student you meet. Just knowing those simple bits, it's already easy to form an opinion. Of course, one is entitled to possess an opinion — but since the publishing of Brandon Briscoe '12's opinion article on affirmative action last Friday, in which he states that MIT is heading in the "wrong direction" with this admissions policy, much discussion has spawned among the student body about the fine line between the right to express an opinion and the need to correct prejudices.

Hernandez noted that Briscoe's article was just another incident of discrimination that had been "haunting" her whole life. "After 21 years of hearing [things like], 'Congrats, I'm glad you got into MIT ... but I couldn't because I'm white,' ... I think people need to know the truth."

Hernandez spent her long weekend setting up a Twitter feed, helping organize an affirmative action forum, and making a point to read all student responses to Briscoe's article. She has been encouraging students to write letters, and emphasizes the crucial importance of individual responses. "This is a movement about the individual, after all," she said.

Briscoe, on the other hand, did not expect the amplitude of this reaction to his piece. He described how, during his time at MIT, he felt he only ever heard one "predominant" opin-

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UA Council holds inaugural meeting

Councilmen confirm new VP, delay ratification of new constitution

By Stan Gill
NEWS EDITOR

The first meeting of the newly formed UA Council convened on Tuesday with nearly all of the expected members in attendance. Though they expected to pass their constitution at this meeting, those present decided it would be best postponed until next week.

"I thought our first meet-

ing went well," UA President TyShaun Wynter '13 said. "Almost all of the dorms were represented, not all of the IFC representatives were there, but the Panhel reps were. It was a really good turnout."

The meeting was shorter and more informal than the meetings of the former UA Senate. It began with a State of the UA address from Wynter — giving an update on the status of the

committees and where the UA was going to go from here — and continued with opening ceremonies that consisted of introductions of those in attendance and a discussion to ratify the interim UA constitution.

Rather than ratifying their temporary constitution, the council voted to postpone the ratification until next week's meeting to allow time for members to propose amendments.

Wynter said that there are no adverse implications to delaying the ratification vote; the temporary constitution is still in effect, and he hopes that the council will finalize it at their next meeting.

"The meeting on Tuesday went well, but naturally there are still a few administrative details to sort out before we can fully

IN SHORT

Minor Completion forms for final-term seniors are due today. Late forms will be fined \$50.

The final exam schedule is now online at <http://web.mit.edu/registrar/classrooms/exams/finals/index.html>. Students that have conflicting exams will be contacted directly by the Registrar's office.

The Chorallaries' Bad Taste Concert is Saturday, Feb. 25 at 11:59:59 in 26-100. Come for a night of unadulterated, uncensored musical entertainment.

The City of Cambridge has a new mayor! City Councillor Henrietta Davis was elected Mayor during a special election on Wednesday. City Councillor E. Denise Simmons was elected as Vice Mayor.

Send news information and tips to news@tech.mit.edu.

\$500,000 grant for music research at MIT

Michael Scott Cuthbert uses computational methods to study Western music

By Derek Chang
NEWS EDITOR

Michael Scott Cuthbert, associate professor of music, was recently awarded a \$500,000 grant from the Digging into Data consortium. This grant will support his work in using computational techniques to study changes in Western musical style. He has received \$175,000 specifically for his music21 project. On Thursday, Cuthbert sat with *The Tech* to discuss his work with music21 and his passion for combining computational techniques with music.

The Tech: Many of us with a musical background must be interested in your computational work and how it applies to music. What is the motivation behind your project?

Cuthbert: One of the main ways artists analyze art work or music is

examining a piece very carefully, from all possible dimensions. But it's really hard to put the work into the context of the time. How is the piece representative of its time period, or how does it break the mold? It takes us a very long time to look at one piece. In contrast, computers are good at getting an overview of a particular problem. For example, what patterns exist in how chords progress from one to another? Is the piece being looked at representative of the music grammar for the period?

People have been working on these questions for a long time in computational musicology, but the programming necessary to answer these questions has been difficult. My goal is to create basic building blocks to build libraries and analyze models of behavior that are

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MICHAEL SCOTT CUTHBERT

COMMUNITY AND TRAGEDY

A little bit can go a long way. **EDITORIAL, p. 4**

AFFIRMATIVE ACTION DEBATE

Discussions continue to rage around campus. **LETTERS, p. 6**

SOCIAL ISSUES, REPUBLICANS

How Kourtney Kardashian and Santorum connect. **OPINION, p. 6**



DO YOUR OSCAR PREDICTIONS AGREE?

Tech staff guess who will win this weekend's Academy Awards. **ARTS, p. 9**

ORIGINS OF THE INSTITUTE

Matthew Pearl's new novel is set in the early years of MIT. **ARTS, p. 10**

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Seven Marines killed in helicopter collision during training exercise

By Ian Lovett

THE NEW YORK TIMES

LOS ANGELES — Seven Marines were killed Wednesday night when two helicopters collided during training exercises in the desert along the California-Arizona border, the Marine Corps said Thursday.

Lt. Maureen Dooley, with Marine Corps Air Station Miramar in San Diego, said an AH-1W Cobra and a UH-1Y Huey crashed around 8 p.m. Wednesday during routine training operations near the Yuma Training Range Complex. There were no survivors.

Six of the Marines, serving with the 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing, had been stationed at Marine Corps

Base Camp Pendleton near San Diego, while the seventh victim was stationed at the Yuma Training Range. Their names will not be released until the Marine Corps has notified next of kin, Dooley said.

An investigation into the cause of the crash was under way, but Dooley described the weather Wednesday night as “pretty mild.” “Until the investigation is done, we won’t know exactly what caused the incident,” she said.

Though the exact location of the crash has not been determined, Marine officials believe the helicopters went down just on the California side of the state line, near the Chocolate Mountains. The area is a favorite training ground

for the military because the dusty, mountainous terrain mimics conditions in parts of Afghanistan, while the clear weather allows for flying at almost all times.

Mark Bobbi, a senior military aircraft analyst for the consulting firm IHS Jane’s, said there was no evidence of systematic problems with either helicopter. But he said that for the past couple of years, more Marine helicopters had crashed in domestic training missions than in combat missions in Afghanistan and Iraq. One reason is that many of those training exercises are conducted under combatlike conditions: at night, in the desert, “with multiple helicopters flying very low, very fast and very close together.

Bank of America breaks with Fannie Mae, can turn to other buyers

By Nelson D. Schwartz

THE NEW YORK TIMES

Bank of America said Thursday that it would no longer sell new mortgages to Fannie Mae, underscoring tensions in a fight between two giants of the home loan market over billions in losses in the housing bubble.

The latest move represents a major escalation in a protracted legal battle over how many defaulted mortgages Bank of America will have to buy back from Fannie because the original loans did not

conform to proper underwriting standards, market experts said.

“In mortgage circles, it’s pretty big,” said Guy Cecala, publisher of Inside Mortgage Finance, a trade publication. “It would be fairly extreme for a small or midsized lender to do this, but for a major lender, it’s very extreme.”

As one of the large government-sponsored mortgage finance enterprises, Fannie Mae takes mortgage loans from banks and packages them into securities that can be sold to investors or held on its own balance sheet. Fannie Mae backs

about 40 percent of mortgages in the United States.

Bank of America was Fannie’s third-largest provider last year, according to Inside Mortgage Finance. The bank originated \$156.1 billion in mortgages last year, of which \$37.7 billion were sold to Fannie, the trade publication said.

Bank of America insisted its customers would not be hurt by the decision and said it can make up for the loss of Fannie as a backer by turning to Freddie Mac or Ginnie Mae, other government-sponsored mortgage buyers.

US and North Korean officials meet for talks in China

BEIJING — The first official talks between the United States and North Korea since the coming to power of the youthful new North Korean leader were “serious and substantial,” the senior U.S. negotiator said Thursday, and would extend into a second day.

The talks, designated by the Obama administration as exploratory, were seen as a way to test whether the new leader, Kim Jong Un, a man in his late 20s, was prepared to meet conditions that would allow for a resumption of long established six-nation negotiations that aim to dismantle North Korea’s nuclear arsenal.

Issues ranging from nuclear matters to nutritional assistance were covered in the talks Thursday, Davies said. He indicated little progress had been made so far.

—Jane Perlez, *The New York Times*

Holder defends efforts to combat financial fraud

NEW YORK — Attorney General Eric H. Holder Jr. defended the Justice Department’s record on financial fraud Thursday evening, asserting that the administration’s “record of success has been nothing less than historic.”

In a speech at Columbia University, Holder said, “From securities, bank and investment fraud to mortgage, consumer and health care fraud — we’ve found that these schemes are as diverse as the imaginations of those who perpetrate them and as sophisticated as modern technology will permit.”

Critics have faulted the Justice Department for not pursuing criminal cases against the banking executives whose conduct helped bring about the 2008 global financial crisis and subsequent deep recession.

—Peter Lattman, *The New York Times*

Census: record number of Americans have bachelor’s degrees

More than 30 percent of American adults hold bachelor’s degrees, a first in the nation’s history, and women are on the brink of surpassing men in educational attainment, the Census Bureau reported Thursday.

The figures show significant gains in all demographic groups, but blacks and Latinos not only continue to trail far behind whites, the gap has also widened in the past decade.

As of March, 30.4 percent of people older than 25 in the United States held at least a bachelor’s degree, and 10.9 percent held a graduate degree, up from 26.2 percent and 8.7 percent 10 years earlier.

—Richard Perez-Pena, *The New York Times*

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EDITORIAL

Responding to tragedy

In the wake of four deaths, a little bit can go a long way

The passing of Brian G. Anderson '13 this past week marks the fourth death on campus in six months. This news is shocking to us all, and *The Tech* wanted to take this opportunity to address student morale on campus. As students ourselves, we know that on top of p-sets, exams, and general MIT stress, these events can be overwhelming.

In his letter to students earlier this week, Chancellor Eric Grimson PhD '80 emphasized the importance of reaching out to friends and peers around MIT. *The Tech* echoes this sentiment — not only to connect with a particular individual, but also to improve the well-being of the student body.

“Reaching out” to others does not necessarily involve referring someone to medical or taking a trip to S³. Simple actions make a difference. Take the time to brighten someone’s day — a small gesture can go a long way. It can be something as small as waving and smiling at a classmate in the Infinite, or sitting with someone who looks lonely at lunch and introducing

yourself. Make an effort to speak to a friend you haven’t seen in a while; a brief phone call, text message, or even a Facebook wall post can cheer someone up. Hold the door for someone behind you. Smile. Say thank you. Give a stranger a compliment. These are suggestions we think any MIT student can fit into their schedule and still have a positive impact. Engaging with those around you makes MIT a stronger community and brings people together.

Campus morale matters — try to do your part to keep it aloft.

MIT is not just an institution that hands you a fancy piece of paper after you complete enough p-sets or papers. Besides being a school and research facility, it is home to several thousand students for four or more years. Campus morale matters — try to do your part to

keep it aloft.

Of course, more serious issues will require more than just a kind gesture. Though the administration and student body often feel like detached entities, MIT is here to support you. The Institute has greatly expanded its mental health and student resources over the past several years in an attempt to benefit more students.

You shouldn’t be afraid to seek out help if you or someone else needs it. GRTs, housemasters, professors, deans, administrators, S³, and Medical are all there for you — so are your family and friends. Talk to someone in your student group or on your floor. Go to your advisor or mentor. Don’t be afraid to tell someone how you are feeling. If the first person doesn’t understand, find another. Most importantly, if someone talks to you — listen.

Take responsibility for the people around you and your community. It is up to you to keep MIT strong. Don’t let it down.

GUEST COLUMN

Let’s take a moment

Reflecting on the meaning of Relay for Life

By Daniel J. Ronde

It seems all we do at MIT is talk about the future. How are med school apps going? Are you going to take your job offer? Are you ready for that test tomorrow? In a way, it’s justified; we’ve spent our whole lives working as hard as we can in hopes of mastering our futures — in hopes of controlling our destinies.

Thanks to our competitive natures, every MIT junior feels he or she needs a prestigious internship, so we were concerned with resumes, cover letters, and interviews.

In another way, it’s funny we worry so much about our futures. Most of us will be perfectly fine after MIT. Statically speaking, we will have the best paying, most secure, and most prestigious jobs after college. We all have great opportunities ahead of us.

Last year, I attended the MIT Relay for

Life. I knew several people with cancer, but they were all older: my best friend’s mom, my dad’s best friend, my high school teacher. While their situations were tragic, I had trouble relating to them. We just didn’t have much in common. I paid the minimum amount to attend Relay and didn’t even attempt to solicit donations. At night, I was more caught up in the social aspects of the event than in its true meaning.

Ten months later, I was having the “typical jobs conversation” with my good friend and classmate Chris L. Welch '13. Thanks to our competitive natures, every MIT junior feels he or she needs a prestigious internship, so we were concerned with resumes, cover letters, and interviews. We thought our futures would be determined by companies like Exxon or Apple.

Twelve weeks later, Chris was diagnosed with Hodgkin’s lymphoma. His future will be determined by several painful procedures and months of chemo.

As members of the MIT community, Chris’s situation is visible and real for all of us. I, for one, will have a very different perspective on this year’s Relay for Life. I’m inspired to echo the compassion I watched Chris demonstrate every day. For one night, I will be genuinely concerned

with other people’s futures.

Unfortunately, Hodgkin’s lymphoma is relatively common in young adults. Six thousand individuals under 34 are diagnosed with the disease in the United States every year. We may not be able to change Chris’s destiny directly, but we can help ensure others do not have futures characterized by Hodgkin’s lymphoma and the uncertainty that comes with it. Many of his friends are working together now to transform Relay for Life into something more meaningful for all of us. We will make a difference; join us!

I’m inspired to echo the compassion I watched Chris demonstrate every day.

In the next month leading up to Relay for Life, let’s take the time to reflect not only on our futures, but also on how we can improve the futures of others. Let’s do as much as we can for those 6000 young people who will be diagnosed with Hodgkin’s this year, for the countless that already have it, and for Chris.

Daniel J. Ronde is a member of the class of 2013

CORRECTIONS

A Nov. 29, 2011 article about MIT’s Dalai Lama Center for Ethics and Transformative Values incorrectly stated that the Dalai Lama visited Central Park in 2010. He visited the park in 2003.

OPINION POLICY

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Mass. colleges gear up for fight over admissions

Affirmative action case headed to Supreme Court, colleges ready to fight for their policies

By Mary Carmichael

THE BOSTON GLOBE

Massachusetts colleges are gearing up for a fight over the use of racial preferences in admissions, as the US Supreme Court prepares to consider the constitutionality of affirmative action in higher education for the second time in a decade.

On Tuesday, the court agreed to hear the case of Fisher v. University of Texas, in which two white applicants to the school argue that it rejected them unfairly because some state admissions procedures favor racial and ethnic minorities.

Though arguments will not begin until October at the earliest, schools are already scrambling to figure out what a ruling might mean for them. Any decision that differs from the court's previous stance could affect not just public institutions but also private ones, which are barred from discriminating under a statute that regulates some types of federal funding.

Universities might be able to compensate by refocusing recruitment on low-income students — a strategy that has the additional effect of increasing racial diversity.

"This suit was filed in 2008, and since then it has been on everybody's watch list," said Laurie Pohl, vice president for enrollment and student affairs at Boston University.

The court ruled nine years ago in Grutter v. Bollinger, which involved Columbia University, that the Constitution does not prohibit some limited uses of race in admissions. But justices who have joined the court since then may be inclined to nullify their predecessors' decision.

"The court now has five justices who are quite starkly committed to the view that no attention to an individual's race is ever justifiable in a public setting," wrote Laurence Tribe, a prominent professor of constitutional law at Harvard University, in an email. A decision against the University of Texas's affirmative action policy, he said, "wouldn't surprise me at all."

The uncertainty is unsettling for college administrators, who had expected that decision would endure at least 25 years.

After 2003, some schools had to abolish policies that awarded "points" for race — which were deemed unconstitutional — and all had to review their procedures to ensure compliance.

"The thing that has most concerned me is that it's only nine years since the last ruling, and it's taken us time to adjust to that," said Tom Parker, dean of admission and financial aid at Amherst College. "I've never seen this kind of zigzagging. What happens if the swing vote changes in six or seven years? Do we revisit it again? This is not a way to establish law."

Ada Meloy, general counsel for the American Council on Education, a national college advocacy group, said her organization would likely lay out its legal opinion on the new case by filing an amicus brief with the court, as it did in 2003.

"We hope the court will recognize how carefully done the Grutter case was and that it might still be wise to wait out the additional 16 years," she said. "It's better for schools not to have the winds shifting so frequently."

Harvard, too, will probably sign on to an amicus brief. Its general

counsel said in a statement that he anticipated the university would "express its views to the United States Supreme Court in the Texas case, just as we did in the prior two occasions when the Supreme Court took up this issue of vital importance to higher education."

Many schools, including Harvard, have reported historically diverse applicant pools and incoming classes in recent years.

That trend could be reversed or slowed if the court rejects all forms of affirmative action in admissions.

"I will feel very sad if that happens, because it will have a big impact on the elite schools," said Alane Shanks, president of Pine Manor College, a small school in Chestnut Hill that recruits heavily from disadvantaged groups.

Richard Kahlenberg, a senior fellow at the Century Foundation who writes frequently about college admissions, said universities might be able to compensate by refocusing recruitment on low-income students — a strategy that has the additional effect of increasing racial diversity, and one the Department of Education embraced in guidelines it provided to college admissions officials late last year.

"Right now, universities rely very heavily on racial preferences in admissions and give almost no weight to socioeconomic status," Kahlenberg said. "Reaching out to low-income students of all races who wouldn't otherwise be admitted can be an alternative means of achieving a healthy racial and ethnic mix."

But Shanks, who wrote her doctoral dissertation on affirmative action, said such a policy would still cause too many underrepresented minorities to miss out.

"It just isn't enough," she said. "Socioeconomic status is important. But there are still way more poor white people than poor black people."

A narrower ruling from the court might still affect public universities and colleges, though exactly how is unclear.

The University of Massachusetts, for instance, instituted a policy in 1992 "to eliminate or mitigate artificial barriers and to increase opportunities for the recruitment and advancement" of minorities, women, and other potentially disadvantaged groups. Like many colleges and universities — including the University of Texas — it takes race and ethnicity into account among a host of factors when deciding whether to admit students.

But the UMass policy is not identical to that of Texas, which guarantees in-state high school students entry if they graduate in the top 10 percent of their class. That rule was introduced partly as a way of increasing diversity without explicitly considering race, and could figure heavily in the Supreme Court case because the primary plaintiff missed the cutoff by just 1 percentage point.

Such nuance makes it difficult

to extrapolate from the Texas policy to other schools, said Kevin Kelly, director of admissions at UMass Amherst.

"There isn't a 10 percent rule in what we do, and sometimes the court's decisions are very narrowly tailored," he said. "In terms of what a decision might mean, it's going to take a lot of smart people a long time to figure it out."

For private colleges and universities — which typically follow

the spirit if not the letter of policies at public schools — the potential ramifications are murkier but no less serious.

"Of course a constitutional ruling wouldn't directly affect private institutions," wrote Tribe, the Harvard legal specialist. "But they are subject to arguably more stringent restrictions under federal statutes governing the recipients of government funds, so the whole landscape could shift radically before too long."

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Academy Awards 2012

The Tech weighs in on likely winners for this year

Best picture

- 1 **The Artist** 8 votes
- 2 **The Descendants** 2 votes
- 2 **Hugo** 2 votes
- 2 **Midnight in Paris** 2 votes
- 3 **Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close** 1 vote
- 3 **War Horse** 1 vote

Best Actor in a Leading Role

- 1 **Jean Dujardin - The Artist** 8 votes
- 2 **George Clooney - The Descendants** 5 votes
- 3 **Brad Pitt - Moneyball** 3 votes
- 4 **Gary Oldman - Tinker Tailor Soldier Spy** 2 votes

Best Actress in a Leading Role

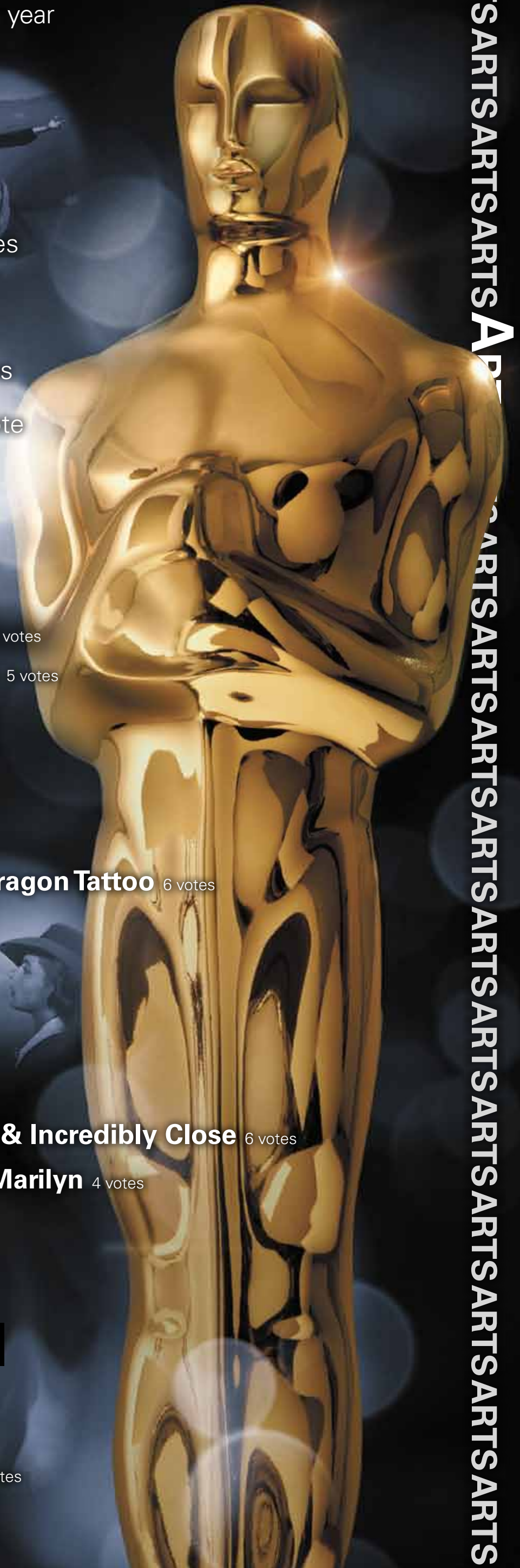
- 1 **Rooney Mara - The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo** 6 votes
- 2 **Meryl Streep - The Iron Lady** 4 votes
- 3 **Viola Davis - The Help** 4 votes
- 4 **Glenn Close - Albert Nobbs** 2 votes

Best Actor in a Supporting Role

- 1 **Max von Sydow - Extremely Loud & Incredibly Close** 6 votes
- 2 **Kenneth Branagh - My Week with Marilyn** 4 votes
- 3 **Jonah Hill - Moneyball** 3 votes
- 4 **Christopher Plummer - Beginners** 3 votes

Best Actress in a Supporting Role

- 1 **Octavia Spencer - The Help** 8 votes
- 2 **Jessica Chastain - The Help** 3 votes
- 3 **Melissa McCarthy - Bridesmaids** 3 votes
- 4 **B renice Bejo - The Artist** 1 vote



BOOK REVIEW

Mystery at the Institute

Matthew Pearl's latest historical thriller explores the early years of MIT

By Keith J. Winstein
ADVISORY BOARD

One-hundred forty years ago in Lawrence, Massachusetts, John Ripley Freeman found someone's lost dog. For reuniting pet and owner, the high-schooler collected a generous bounty of \$5. Freeman spent that fortune on the latest textbook in Inorganic Chemistry. With the change, he "procured a small supply of glass tubes, flasks, and a Bunsen burner, and set up a small laboratory at home, without setting fire either to the house or woodshed," he later wrote.

His self-taught chemistry knowledge propelled him through the entrance examinations at the fledgling scientific school whose faculty had written the textbook — the only school that trained budding scientists not with lectures, but by letting them do their own experiments in a laboratory and make their own mistakes.

Of course it was the Institute of Technology in Boston, and John Freeman 1876 became one of our all-star alumni, turning down professorships at Harvard and presidency at MIT to be one of the most prominent engineers of the 19th and early 20th centuries.

Those propitious and largely forgotten years of the Institute's uncertain rise in post-civil-war Boston are the setting for Matthew Pearl's new thriller *The Technologists*. Mr. Pearl, a bestselling novelist, has followed books like *Bringing Down the House* in making MIT and its students the stars of a novel that pleads its own plausibility.

The story takes place in 1868, three years after MIT opened for classes. Most of Boston is deeply suspicious of what the Institute represents. "Their sciences are seen as practically pagan," a policeman exclaims early on. As industry dawns, the city is hit by a series of terrorist attacks. Magnetic compasses in the harbor go awry, and seven ships crash into the piers of Boston. Later, all of the glass on State Street's office buildings melts away. Nobody knows why.

MIT is suspected of complicity in the scientifically-based attacks, but a small group of students — including Ellen Swallow Richards, class of 1873 and MIT's first female student, her future husband Robert Richards, class of 1868, and a character partly based on Freeman — toil secretly in the basement to reverse-engineer the schemes, capture the evildoer, and restore their school's reputation.

What distinguishes Pearl's book is how it self-consciously wears the trappings of high-end history. The 1860 debates on Dar-

win between our founder, the geologist William Barton Rogers, and legendary Harvard naturalist Louis Agassiz? Check. (Agassiz despised Darwin's theory; Rogers thought natural selection plausible and favored keeping an open mind.) The Institute's perilous financial state? The way MIT's first geometry students nicknamed Professor Watson "Squirty"? Check. Harvard's schemes to annex MIT are here, too, although in real life Rogers probably did not resist the plan by planting dynamite in a proponent's office — a great scene that reminds us the book is not meant to be taken too seriously. The prim determination of Richards, granite-hard New England tomboy, future first lady of science and a founder of environmental science and of home economics, at being the first and only woman to attend not just MIT, but any scientific college? Her temporary segregation as a "dangerous animal," taught separately from the male students? Here as well.

These ingredients could make for a rich stew, and Pearl is smart to seize on this setting for a novel. (Ellen Swallow Richards, the subject of an adoring biography by a friend in 1912 and a tendentious one in 1973, could probably carry a new book all on her own.) This is why it is so disappointing to find *The Technologists* as overwrought as it is.

Pearl has taken these elements and turned them up to 11. The characters are lucky to be one-dimensional. Bostonians fear MIT's sorcery to an extreme degree — "Technology will bring God's wrath!" an activist shouts. Everybody from Harvard speaks in page-long evil monologues about MIT as Prometheus. Agassiz: "Over there they will teach atheist machinists and the sons of farmers alike. The knowledge of science in such individuals cannot fail to lead to quackery and dangerous social tendencies."

What distinguishes Pearl's book is how it self-consciously wears the trappings of high-end history.

The narrative moves essentially along one rail to an apocalyptic, 109-page climax. When we finally learn whodunit, there's no satisfying resolution.

Pearl's fictional MIT is one where students compete for the ceremonial honor of being named "First Scholar" of their graduating class, and "charity scholars" attend for free but must wait on professors with bran-

dy at faculty meetings. It is an Institute that exists only because, upon first arriving in Boston, Rogers applied for a teaching job at Harvard and was rejected. What we get, alas, is a Harvard view of MIT.

More troubling for a book based on 19th-century scientific terrorism, Pearl has not done his homework to present credible calamities. The attack on the compasses is nautical nonsense. (If the ships are waiting for a pilot in the fog, they're not already in the inner harbor or going ramming speed. And they would be on soundings. And making sound signals.)

Later catastrophes are electromagnetically confused. The scientific discussions are flawed. For a book that calls itself *The Technologists*, this is a problem, or at least a wasted opportunity for verisimilitude.

By liberally sprinkling quotations wrested from history, *The Technologists* becomes a sort of ersatz jukebox musical.

One tool the book uses to dress up in history's clothes is jarring: Pearl has taken pains to insert the actual writings of Richards, Agassiz, Charles Eliot (MIT professor and later Harvard's president for 40 years), and others into their dialog whenever possible — context be damned. In practice, this produces some choppy prose that is helpful neither to history nor to the novel's grace.

Here is the real Richards, in a letter quoted by her 1912 biography, discussing a period of depression before she left home for Vassar College in 1868: "I lived for over two years in Purgatory really. ... I used to fret and fume inside so every day, and think I couldn't live so much longer. I was thwarted and hedged in on every side; it seemed as though God didn't help me a bit and man was doing his best against me and my own heart even turned traitor."

And in 1870, after she graduated from Vassar and was waiting to hear back from MIT: "Everything seems to stop short at some blank wall and I suppose I'm like Baalam and don't see the angel of the Lord in the way."

Now here is how those letters manifest in the book's scene-setting, with the 1868 depression moved forward in time: "But after she was graduated from Vassar, everything seemed to stop short at one blank wall after another. Despite all her hard work, a degree from a women's college proved insufficient

The Technologists

By Matthew Pearl

Random House

February 2012

to secure her admission into her newly chosen profession. She was living in purgatory, fretting and fuming so much that she began to think she couldn't live much longer. She was thwarted and hedged in on every side, as though God wouldn't help her a bit and man was doing his best against her, and her own heart even turned traitor. She felt like the prophet Baalam, obstructed everywhere by an angel he could not even see."

The misspelled reference to Balaam may have tripped easily off Richards' pen in 1870, but coming from Pearl in 2012 it is incongruous. And given that the real Ellen wrote in 1870 that she was over her depression, "not feeling the old unrest and fretting against the fetters," what is the value of this quasi-historical pastiche?

Pearl has Eliot explain why Harvard should acquire MIT: "President Rogers is a brave, even a remarkable man of our epoch. But far better than devotion to an idealized person is devotion to a personified ideal."

The real Eliot did write something quite like that second sentence — except in its original context, his "personified ideal" is pluralistic democracy in our country, in contrast with Europe's "idealized" kings and queens.

Later, Eliot-of-the-book criticizes MIT students as "shirks and stragglers." The real Eliot did use this phrase — but he was most likely referring to part-time non-degree students at Harvard's Lawrence Scientific School, where he had previously taught, not MIT.

By liberally sprinkling these quotations wrested from history, *The Technologists* becomes a sort of ersatz jukebox musical. The words are true in the micro but ultimately threaten to betray the characters. It is not so difficult to pick out the insertions, which do not really match Pearl's own writing.

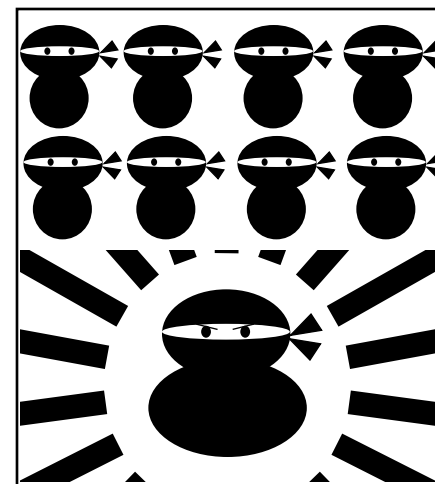
By contrast, when it is Pearl who gives voice to the characters, they ring more true. When Ellen Swallow proclaims, "Worry not, I am not one of the feminist reformers," it's not a phrase the real Ellen could have said in 1868, but in substance it's on the mark. She was a complex character who criticized the suffrage movement, mended her mineralogy professor's (later husband's) suspenders while a student, and dissented on pragmatic grounds from MIT's 1878 decision to admit female students on the same footing as men.

Despite disclaiming the mantle of reform, or maybe because of it, she became a super-reformer of the 19th century who did much to advance the public health, the environment, and the condition of women. It is not so hard to draw a line from MIT's first female student to its 16th president. Notwithstanding the book's flaws, Pearl deserves praise for dramatizing these pioneering people at a pioneering school, at the dawn of an era of revving change that continues today.



PHOTO COURTESY OF MIT MUSEUM, DIORAMA COURTESY OF NEW ENGLAND LIFE INSURANCE CO.

Still under construction in this diorama depicting 1863, MIT's campus in Copley Square was once the westernmost frontier of Back Bay. The woody shores of Cambridge beckon from the background.



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Freshman runs for Republican office

Shinkle goes for committeewoman

By Naina Mehta

Caroline B. Shinkle '15 will be running for the position of Republican State Committeewoman for the district of Suffolk and Middlesex, which includes the city of Cambridge and portions of Boston. The position has been vacant for six years. The Republican State Committee serves as the Board of Directors for the Massachusetts Republican Party; its primary role is to recruit candidates for local, state, and federal offices, to build the party throughout the Commonwealth, raise funds for the Republican Party, and support Republican City and Town Committees. This committee has 80 members; a man and a woman from each district.

Originally from Ohio, Shinkle explained that, because Cambridge is predominantly liberal, she wants to help offer a viable alternative to the Democratic Party. "I will do this by reaching out and sourcing candidates who have the commitment, passion, and experience for the [respective] office. I will also put my broad communications background to use to expand the Republican Party's ranks, to bring in an influx of new voters as well as to keep current members informed," said Shinkle.

Shinkle will be running against Joyce Kelly, a professor at Massachusetts Community College. Over the phone, Kelly told *The Tech*, "Right now I don't even know what I'm doing. I have not been to any forums lately. I just want to stay close to home, in bed, and take my meds. I haven't even met Caroline."

Shinkle believes that she is most qualified candidate to "build the Republican Party into a powerful force in my district, throughout the Commonwealth, and across the country." She added, "I have the determination and drive to lead the charge to end the one-party rule that has dominated Massachusetts politics for far too long."

Passionate about politics, Caroline has been involved from a young age. "I have really always been interested in politics and my expe-

rience spans covering the youth vote in the 2008 Republic National Convention for CVS Affiliate," she said. "I feel it's important to get the young involved as soon as possible," explained Shinkle. Her involvement in politics also includes covering political affairs for her high school newspaper and having served as a senator in the Undergraduate Association of MIT.

Shinkle has already started her campaign for the Republican State Committee. Apart from seeking support from the students at MIT, she has told *The Tech* that she has attended candidate forums throughout the district, spoken at engagements at Republican City and Town Committee meetings, and Ward events. However, *The Tech* was unable to verify documentation of her attendance at these events. Shinkle added that she has been going door-to-door and to business establishments throughout her district sharing her views and goals. However, Shinkle admits there is a challenge "in getting my name out there and getting to know the people in my district." She added that if elected, her goal would be to elevate the perception and presence of the Republican Party in Cambridge.

When asked how her MIT student background affects her candidacy, she responded, "MIT has a tradition of problem solving based on empirical data. I will approach my role pragmatically, focusing on the Party's performance and addressing the Party's challenges."

She hopes to address the interests of MIT and its students by working towards ensuring that the Party embraces science, technology, engineering, and math in its platform as a priority for education. Shinkle added, "I will also seek candidates who will focus on building a vibrant economy and ensuring access to capital for MIT entrepreneurs who are building their dreams and enhancing society."

The elections will take place on March 6, which happens to be Super Tuesday. Students, if registered in Cambridge as Republican voters, can vote at Kresge Auditorium.

Students talk race

Affirmative action forums held

Diversity debates, from Page 1

ion from the administration about affirmative action. "I believe I was writing the opinion of the 'silent majority' — whether it's a majority or not," Briscoe said, in an interview with *The Tech*. "It was unspoken." He noted that the reaction to his article is not as negative as it appears externally, as he had received several statements of support from other students.

In fact, what Hernandez and Briscoe both agree on is that there needs to be more open discussion at MIT. As differently as they feel on the issue, both want the conversation to move forward and to see students come out to express their opinions. Encouraging more discussion in general would be a big benefit and change especially for MIT, where students, Briscoe commented, are less active in political issues than students at other "elite" schools.

It was not lack of caring which made MIT students seem to keep their viewpoints to themselves. Briscoe's piece sparked response after response, from Facebook conversations to a number of formal letters to *The Tech*. Over the weekend, more than 100 comments on his piece, expressing a spectrum of opinions, were posted on *The Tech's*

website.

Wednesday's Affirmative Action Forum, sponsored by the Office of Minority Education and the department of Women's and Gender Studies, was mobilized in just a few days solely by a group of undergraduate students. Approximately 70 people were present at its peak. After nearly two hours of discussion, participants began suggesting ideas for larger movements for change, including writing to President Susan J. Hockfield, said Celeste I. Faaiuasao '12, one of the forum's organizers. In addition, Quinton McArthur, Assistant Director of MIT Admissions, was present to clarify and answer questions about the affirmative action process.

Faaiuasao, too, hopes that the "learning process" of a discussion will continue to spread from the Forum throughout the Institute.

Ultimately, the message Hernandez is trying to spread extends beyond stereotypes about race or gender — the underlying principle is to consider each person as an individual in every regard. "Hearing people make remarks like how Brandon is in his fifth year, how he's switched [to humanities] majors, is just as offensive as anything he wrote," Hernandez said. "Why can't you just accept someone as a person?"

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Non-member | \$15

At the Door | \$18



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Kenny Choi
Kenny Choi
FROM DAPHNE LOVES DERBY

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LEF Committee on Race and Diversity

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\$175,000 will go toward studying evolution of music

Cuthbert emphasizes quantitative approach and “good code” in his classes and research projects

Cuthbert, from Page 1

easy enough for someone with basic programming knowledge and strong musical background to be able to handle. I have been working to make the algorithm easier to use so that it can be put together with other algorithms.

TT: What does the music21 project specifically address with its computational techniques?

MSC: Music21 is a suite of computer tools that deals with musicology — understanding chord behavior, in particular. How do people perceive sounds over the course of time, say from the 1300s to the present time? Certain sounds may be considered stable, conclusive sounds now — in other words, they can easily conclude a piece or movement. However, such sounds may not have been considered appropriate for concluding a piece several centuries ago. If we look at large number of pieces — such as 100,000 pieces — we are probably looking at hundreds of millions,

even billions of notes. For each chord, we can then make comparisons between what other instruments are playing at the same time. This is a huge amount of data, and computers may be able to deal with such data more quickly than humans can.

I really strive to bring statistical and computational relevance to my work, and the grant has been extremely helpful in that regard.

TT: How did your interest in computational musicology grow?

MSC: I was always as much of a geek as a musician. I remember sitting in my college music theory classes and thinking about writing computer programs to do the homework for me. I was really interested in this area as an undergraduate. Around 2000, in grad school, I was in music graduate school. I wanted to take skills I had and worked as programmer for the National Bureau of Economic Research — while at the job, I would be writing code and thinking about how I could apply it in some form

to music. When I came to MIT and started working with the UROP program, I could further develop my code.

TT: What kinds of material have you been involving your students with?

‘We are probably looking at hundreds of millions, even billions of notes.’

Michael Scott Cuthbert
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF MUSIC

MSC: The combination of technical and musical knowledge at MIT is outstanding. At MIT, I could do work with undergraduates that I may not be able to do with postdocs elsewhere.

In one of my classes, 21M.269, Studies in Western Music History, we can address issues of statistical significance in music. Did one computer use phrases of music

from another composer? There are only so many combinations of notes — do the similarities in notes come by chance? I try to bring in computational and quantitative approaches to my classwork. For example, I may apply limits to dotted notes as a way of understanding ideas.

TT: What kinds of research projects do your students work on in UROPs?

MSC: My students often work on computer programs. I am a huge proponent of good code — you want someone to be able to use the code to solve their own problems. My students have worked on programs that can do tasks such as solve figured bass assignments from theory classes, add an accompaniment to Baroque pieces, and translate pieces to Braille. The research opportunities at MIT have opened the door for a lot of music opportunities and discoveries.

TT: You have focused a lot on medieval music, is that right?

MSC: Yes, definitely. In fact, I have worked with some of my students to try to determine how much medieval music is still preserved today. In biology, animals are randomly tagged and put back into the wild, and samples of the species are taken in order to determine the population of the species in the wild. We are using a similar tagging technique with music samples to determine how much music from this time era has been lost. While many people seem to think most medieval music is already gone, our findings have shown that we may even have 1/3–1/2 of medieval music left today. This may be more intuitive for a computer scientist, but contradicts general notions of how much music is still preserved in the present time.

Medieval music has been a big area of interest for me. If I don't examine a piece from, say, 13th-century Poland, who will? I find that getting acquainted with more obscure music allows me to be more discerning of the music that I hear.

UA Council to start officially next week

The council will primarily focus on policy recommendations

UA Council, from Page 1

harness the power of the 25 representatives,” newly approved UA Vice President Amanda C. David '13 said in an e-mail to *The Tech*. David, who was nominated by Wynter on February 6, was approved during this meeting by the minimum number of votes required.

The new council, final constitution or no, differs from the old senate in a number of ways. Most notably, the council does not have the power to pass legislation. Instead, they will pass “policy recommendations” that can be used as a source of reference whenever the administration, committees, or student groups want information on how the student body feels about any given issue. With more experienced members on the council — mostly juniors and seniors, including many of the dormitory presidents representing their respective dorms — Wynter said that they can bring a more complete view of how each population of students feels. In Wynter's view, the legitimacy of the representatives is higher because more people in living groups tended to vote for the president than they did for the senate representatives.

“[The policy recommendation system] allows each student to have their voice heard, so we're not leaving people out,” Wynter said.

Another initiative was to make the meetings more informal and comfortable for all involved. Wynter, David, and Alexandra M. Westbrook '13, the representative for Random Hall on the council, all expressed that one of the amendments that will be made to the constitution will be that the council will meet less often than weekly, as is the current practice. In terms of the group's operations, there will now be only one vote per house, and the council will be less stringent in following Robert's Rules of Order.

“I think the setting has become more comfortable than last semester,” Westbrook said, “Since I was in the Senate only last semester, I didn't see a lot of the old problems that they described, but I would like to see us grow and be productive as the council.”

The UA Council was convened as a result of legislation passed by the Senate in November to dissolve the Senate and restructure the central UA government under a new constitution. The numerous UA committees remained largely unaffected by the restructuring.

“[The formation of the council] is a fresh start,” David said, “It's a beneficial to have a streamlined sources of information that is able to represent the students in a more appropriate fashion.”

The next UA Council meeting will be Tuesday, February 28th at 7:30 p.m. in W20-401.



Professor Jeffrey A. Hoffman argues that latkes are the perfect space food at the annual Latke vs. Hamantashen debate on Tuesday night. The debate ended in a tie, and both foods were served at a reception afterwards.

MELISSA RENÉE SCHUMACHER—THE TECH

get on the front page

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Solution to Crossword
from page 13

| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| G | I | G | S | O | W | N | S | F | E | T | A | L |
| U | T | A | H | S | H | E | S | U | N | A | G | I |
| L | O | R | E | B | O | X | T | U | R | T | L | E |
| F | O | R | E | F | O | O | T | F | O | R | E | S |
| S | L | R | | D | O | R | A | | | | | |
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| I | S | R | X | E | R | O | X | S | T | A | R | E |
| L | E | A | V | E | A | N | T | F | O | R | E | I |
| T | I | T | A | N | M | E | E | S | E | P | E | A |
| S | T | A | N | B | A | R | R | E | L | R | O | L |
| Z | O | O | S | | P | T | A | | | | | |
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| B | O | T | T | L | E | N | O | S | E | J | U | D |
| B | L | U | T | O | F | L | A | T | E | R | I | N |
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Solution to Sudoku
from page 12

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

Solution to Techdoku
from page 12

| | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 7 | 4 | 5 | 1 | 2 | 6 | 3 |
| 4 | 1 | 2 | 5 | 6 | 3 | 7 |
| 2 | 6 | 7 | 3 | 4 | 1 | 5 |
| 6 | 3 | 4 | 7 | 1 | 5 | 2 |
| 3 | 7 | 1 | 4 | 5 | 2 | 6 |
| 1 | 5 | 6 | 2 | 3 | 7 | 4 |
| 5 | 2 | 3 | 6 | 7 | 4 | 1 |

UPCOMING HOME EVENTS

Saturday, Feb. 25

Rifle MAC Championships

8 a.m., DuPont shooting range

Men's Basketball vs. TBA in

NEWMAC Tournament Semifinal

1 p.m., Rockwell Cage

Lin was overlooked

It's too easy to miss potential stars

Lin, from Page 16

So then what makes Jeremy Lin such a sensational basketball player? Simply, Jeremy Lin hustles every single minute he's in the game, and he has great fundamentals. He has great vision on the court and has stepped up to the higher competition level and challenges that the NBA presents. What more is there to ask?

But how do you measure a basketball player's qualities like ability to cope with high pressure situations or ability to work with teammates to win games? The NBA needs a holistic recruitment process that does not hold

things against players such as what leagues they previously played in. Instead, it should focus on whether an athlete's abilities, personality, and work ethic will enable them to perform once they get to the NBA. Jeremy Lin has demonstrated that he belongs in the NBA, and he is outperforming countless other players who look better on paper. Jeremy Lin may not look, act or play like the typical NBA player, but there is no question he has had a major positive impact. There needs to be a way to ensure that the Jeremy Lins of the basketball world don't get overlooked when they seek recruitment into the world's best basketball league.

Men's hockey wins

Finish season with a record of 11-7

Hockey, from Page 16

kept down for long and scored a late first period goal as well as two in the second period to tie the game at three apiece. In net, Klein put on an outstanding performance while the Westfield State Owls kept the Engineers on their heels. Shutting the door in the third period, and narrowly missing several scoring chances, MIT took Westfield into overtime tied 3-3.

In one of the most high-pressure situations in all of sports — a sudden-death overtime to decide the league championship — MIT came through in dramatic fashion. Just two minutes in, Ernest Park picked up a rebound in front and shoved the puck into the net. The Engineers stormed the ice as Ethan E. Peterson '13 paraded Park in front of MIT's fans.

Despite going through a tumultuous

rebuilding period, the Men's Ice Hockey club has established itself as a dominant force in NECHA and in the American Collegiate Hockey Association (ACHA), a nationwide sister league to the NCAA. Under the helm of second-year coach Dave Hunter, the team has pulled off successful fundraisers with the Boston Bruins, received coaching advice from NHL Hall of Famer Ron Francis, and continues to draw large crowds to its home games. The team welcomes the alumni and fans' continued support as they build upon this success.

This NECHA Cup victory is dedicated to the player that inspires us all to persevere in hockey and in life — Michael J. Rosensweig '11, who continues to make great strides in a long recovery from leukemia. Having his presence in the crowd on Sunday is our greatest reason to celebrate.



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*The Army Lab provides the intern's salary, which typically ranges from \$2280/month to \$2864/month depending on class year. Under certain circumstances the ISN can provide the intern with a supplement of up to \$1500 to defray costs of local accommodations and travel.

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Men's Ice Hockey makes dramatic win in overtime

Team takes second consecutive Northeast Collegiate Hockey Association Championship

By Riley Brandt

TEAM REPRESENTATIVE

This past weekend, the MIT Men's Ice Hockey team captured its second consecutive Northeast

This past weekend, the MIT Men's Ice Hockey team captured its second consecutive Northeast Collegiate Hockey Association (NECHA) Championship in the American Conference Finals, capping off a story-book season with a heart-pounding overtime win. The Engineers successfully defended their 2010-2011 NECHA Cup victory, the first since MIT last won it in 2001.

This season, MIT finished with an overall record of 11-7 and earned themselves a second place seed out of eight teams in their conference. Dustin P. Kendrick G and co-captain Vladimir Sobes G, both in their fifth and final years

with the team, finished second in NECHA in points and assists respectively. Co-captain Ernest I. Park '12 also finished fourth in assists in NECHA as part of the American Conference's strongest offense.

This regular season performance earned MIT a spot in the semifinals Friday night against Bates College, a long time rival and runner-up to MIT in 2011. The Engineers started the game off slow, giving up early goals to go down 2-0 after the first period. Showing tremendous character, the team rallied from the early deficit to tie the game at 2-2, with goals coming from Sean E. Burke '13 and Gabriel V. Blanchet '13. Goalie Jenna R. Klein '15 supported from in net to keep Bates scoreless through the second.

The Engineers continued their onslaught in the third period, scor-

ing two quick goals from Blanchet and Daniel J. Rankin '13 to take the lead. Despite having a short bench, the Engineers staved off a heavy onslaught by Bates late in the third, surrendering a single goal with 30 seconds left and carrying the team to a hard-fought 4-3 victory.

This comeback win landed MIT in the finals against Westfield State University on Sunday afternoon. The atmosphere at Conway Arena in Nashua, NH was electric as dozens of dedicated MIT fans came to support their team opposite a large showing by the Westfield crowd.

Determined to get ahead early, the Engineers came out in full force from the start, taking a commanding 3-0 lead off of early goals by Blanchet, Michael Stephen Georgas G, and Blanchet again. Westfield, however, would not be

Hockey, Page 15



TINA S. HSU

The Men's Ice Hockey team won its second consecutive Northeast Collegiate Hockey Association (NECHA) Championship in the American Conference Finals Sunday afternoon. The game was decided in overtime against Westfield State University.

ATHLETE OF THE WEEK:
STEVE CHO '15

Prince of Squash

Steve Cho enjoys his UROP, anime, and dominating on the court



PHOTO COURTESY OF MIT DAPER

By Nidharshan Anandasivam

SPORTS STAFF

Sung Won (Steve) Cho '15 is a freshman on the MIT Varsity Squash Team. After starting to play squash a couple of months before moving to the United States from South Korea in eighth grade, Steve went on to play for the Division I Groton High School Varsity Squash Team. He has excelled in some of the premiere squash competitions including the Massachusetts Junior Open and the New England Interscholastic Squash Association (NEISA) Individual Championships. Steve will most likely declare Course 7 (Biology) or Course 20 (Biological Engineering) by the end of this semester. *The Tech* sat down with Steve's to discuss life as a student-athlete on the MIT Varsity Squash Team.

The Tech: What do you like most about MIT Squash?

Cho: My favorite aspect of playing squash at MIT is the team. The team here isn't as competitive as the high school team I played on at Groton, a Division I school, but I enjoy playing and practicing with them. They are all funny and dedicated to the game without considering each other as competitors. We have lost more matches than we have won, unfortunately, but that hasn't fazed anyone on the team and we all work hard every practice. I have really enjoyed playing with all of them this season.

TT: Could you give us some insight into the technical aspects of squash?

SWC: Squash itself is a great sport. It's a sport that takes into account not only one's physical abilities, but also one's focus, mental control, and foresight. My favorite games are those that

last long, when my opponent and I are both giving it our all, running around like crazy, panting like dogs, and stretching and diving all over the court. When I win games like that, I feel so refreshed and energetic even after such a long game. It's also really fast paced, which I like a lot, because I always pride myself on my speed and endurance on court and squash gives me a fabulous chance to test my limits.

Because I take so much advantage of my physical abilities on court, I often find myself lacking the necessary ball control that other players of my level have. There are players on my team who I can beat in games but have much better control than I do. The only reason I can beat players like them who are more skilled than I am is because I run around and keep the game going until my opponents finally get tired and give up the game.

TT: How do you find a balance between classes and sports at MIT?

SWC: As a freshman, I haven't found it too difficult to balance classes, work, and squash. Squash is a huge time commitment, taking up to 15+ hours a week with games on weekends. During the first term, it didn't affect me too much since I didn't work that much with pass no-record and everything, but I have yet to see how that might change as I progress through MIT.

TT: Are there any classes that you find particularly fascinating?

SWC: Of the classes I am taking this term, I must say I enjoy my UROP the most, though technically it's not really a class. Since IAP, I have been working at the Sabatini Lab at the Whitehead Institute and I have loved the work there. It will turn out to be a large time commitment once squash is over, but I am sure

I will love every hour of it. It's difficult to say the least, and it's often daunting to work with super expensive equipment and materials, but I learn so much interesting and useful materials from my supervisor.

TT: What are some of the things you enjoy doing when not playing squash or studying for class?

SWC: My favorite hobbies include exercise, reading books, and watching anime. I love working out in the gym and when squash is over, I hope to join one of the kendo, kickboxing, or pistol clubs. I love reading medical mysteries and my favorite authors are Dan Brown and Robin Cook. Finally, I am a huge fan of anime, including One Piece, Bleach, Prince of Tennis, Hajime No Ippo, and more.

TT: What other clubs are you involved in around MIT?

SWC: I used to be in kickboxing club before the squash season started and I hope to return to it when squash is over. I will have to wait to see if my shoulders get better, since they have been bothering me on and off during the season. It will be really fun to kickbox again though.

TT: Describe your general weekly schedule.

SWC: Right now, my daily schedule is basically classes from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. or so, UROP until a bit before 5 p.m., squash from 5-7 p.m. and then homework/relax/love fun until midnight or so when I go to bed.

TT: What do you aspire to do in the future?

SWC: I have yet to decide what I really want to do with my life. I am split between pursuing a PhD and a career in biological research and pursuing an MD and becoming a neurosurgeon.

Where has Jeremy Lin been hiding?

"Linsanity" is sweeping across the United States

By Carlos Greaves

SPORTS STAFF

For the past few weeks, "Linsanity" has been sweeping the nation. For those unfamiliar with this phenomenon, it is the buzz centered around 23-year-old Harvard graduate and New York Knicks point guard Jeremy Shu-How Lin. Since earning a starting position on the team in early February, Lin has averaged 24.6 points, 9.2 assists, and 2.4 steals per game, scoring more total points in his first five starts than any player since the merger of the ABA and the NBA in 1977. However, Jeremy Lin's story is not one of "how did he get so good so quickly?" but rather "how did he go unnoticed for so long?"

Lin graduated from Palo Alto High School in California in 2006, where during his senior year he led his team to a 32-1 record and a CIF Division II championship while averaging 15.1 points, 7.1 assists, and 5 steals per game. He did not receive any scholarship offers to play basketball and was only guaranteed a chance to play at Harvard and Brown, ultimately settling on Harvard. During his senior year, he was named First Team All-Ivy, averaged 16.4 points, 4.5 assists, and 2.4 steals per game, and became the first Ivy League player to record over 1,450 points, 450 rebounds, 400 assists, and 200 steals during his college career. Despite his performance, Lin went undrafted in the 2010 NBA draft and floated around between the Golden State Warriors, the Houston Rockets, and NBA D-League teams before ultimately finding the Knicks. He began the season as the third-string point guard until he finally got the opportunity to start against the Nets on Feb. 4.

No NBA team was going to hire an untested Ivy League player.

There are two main reasons why it took so long for Jeremy Lin's talent to get noticed. The first is that he went to schools that did not offer the highest competition level possible. He competed at such a small high school that his stellar performance was even overlooked by Stanford, which is literally right across the street. He then played for an Ivy League team, which is a Division I school in name only and rarely produces NBA talent. No matter how good Lin's statistics were, no NBA team was going to hire an untested Ivy League player to compete in the most competitive basketball league in the world.

The second reason Jeremy Lin was not sought after by NBA recruiters is that the current NBA selection process does not play to his strengths. He is not the fastest player in the NBA nor does he have as high a vertical as other NBA stars. He also does not play well in one-on-one or two-on-two scrimmages, which is a standardized way for NBA recruiters to evaluate prospects.