What do students want in a pres.?  Advisory group says experience, connections, approachability

By Stephanie Holden

On April 6, the Student Advisory Committee to the Presidential Search released their preliminary report, entitled "The Student Perspective on the MIT Presidency." Drawing upon the responses they received from six town hall meet- ings, each of which were attended by between 10 and 60 people, as well as hundreds of student re- sponses from online forms, paper questionnaires, focus groups, and informal discussions, the SAC described in their 28-page report what they found to be the most important challenges, desires, and concerns of MIT. This pre- liminary report does not contain the list of candidates that the SAC would like to nominate. Brian Owens Bryson G, a graduate student on the Student Advisory Committee, wrote in an email, "Each forum consisted of a presentation by the committee about the search process and the student committee's role in the process. Later in the presentation, we described the job functions of the president and the structure of the MIT administration. After the presentation, the committee presented some general discus- sion questions and smaller sub- groups discussed the questions, and these smaller subgroups had a student facilitator to keep the conversation going." A few of the issues mentioned in the report are not neces- sarily specific to MIT, including stu- dents' desires for increased inter- action with faculty, better quality of teaching, and the opportunity to have input in important Insti- tute decisions. The report offers some vague suggestions as to how to act upon these concerns. For instance, the students voiced an "urgent need to develop certain metrics for evaluating and re- warding good educators" beyond how successful professors are in their research, and advocate that any extra efforts that professors make to become more accessible to students "should be encouraged and appreciated through the right incentives from MIT regarding promotion and salary." The re- port also mentions that students...
North Korea launches rocket, but it appears to fail

By Choe Sang-Hun and Rick Gladstone
THE NEW YORK TIMES

SEOUL, South Korea — Defying weeks of international warnings of more sanctions and further sanctions, North Korea on Friday launched a rocket, a bellicose act that the United States called a cover for developing an intercontinental ballistic missile that one day might be able to carry a nuclear warhead.

But the three-stage rocket appeared to break up and explode moments after the launch.

Officials from the United States, South Korea and Japan called the launch a failure, and the Japanese government said the rocket had not separated into its pieces while still in North Korean territory or over South Korean waters.

“We believe that the rocket fell apart several minutes after the take-off,” said Kim Min-seok, a spokesman for South Korea’s Defense Ministry.

He said the assessment of both the South Korean and U.S. intelligence monitors was that “the North Korean missile launching has failed.”

The rocket, called the Unha-3, blasted off from the Sohae launch site near North Korea’s western corner with China, at about 9:30 a.m., the South Korea Defense Ministry spokesman said.

In Washington, a senior Obama administration official said the United States would follow through on its threat to suspend a recent agreement to supply food aid to North Korea despite the launch’s failure. The official also said the failure had given the White House more reason to see sanctions already in place as an effective counter of access needed for a successful program.

There was no immediate announcement of the launch from the North.

In Tokyo, Japan’s government spokesman, Chief Cabinet Secretary Osamu Fujimura, said that a U.S. satellite had detected a launch at 7:46, but the object appeared to break apart soon after liftoff. He said that the Japanese prime minister had convened an emergency meeting of his national security advisers, but that no object had been detected approaching Japanese territory.

Fujimura called on the Japanese people “to go about your daily lives,” saying there was no reason to panic.

Japan’s Defense Ministry said the object appeared to break up one minute after launch.

North Korea had said the rocket would fly south, carrying in Koonsmyongson-3 communications satellites, and insisted the launch was for peaceful purposes.

The North’s two previous attempts to put versions of Koonsmyong into orbit — one in 1998 and the second in 2009 — both failed to reach the required altitudes, according to experts, and the payloads plopped into the sea.

The North has insisted that never happened.

To this day, it still boasts that a satellite is in orbit, broadcasting patriotic songs.

South Korea, Japan and the Philippines — the countries near the North Korean rocket’s projected trajectory — were on heightened alert in case the launch went awry and might endanger their citizens or properties.

Day in court and new lawyer for defendant in Martin case

By Serge F. Kovaleski and Lizette Alvarez
THE NEW YORK TIMES

SANFORD, Fla. — A tall, lightly red-haired lawyer named Mark O’Mara appeared in court here Thursday, standing next to his newest client, George Zimmerman, one of the most recognizable defendants in the country but a man he had not met the day before the night before at the county jail.

Zimmerman, 28, has become known to millions as the neighborhood watch organizer who shot and killed Trayvon Martin, an unarmed black teenager, six weeks ago, but who was initially charged with second-degree murder Wednesday, is being held in protective custody. A conviction could result in a prison term of 25 years to life.

After seeing his client Thursday, O’Mara said in an interview that Zimmerman was “overwhelmed” and that he would try to get him out of jail within the next couple of weeks. Until then, Zimmerman, who was charged with second-degree murder Wednesday, was held in protective custody. A conviction could result in a prison term of 25 years to life.

O’Mara, a New Yorker by birth and a criminal defense lawyer for nearly three decades, is perhaps best known in central Florida as a blue-gray prison uniform. O’Mara said that he was not charg- ing Zimmerman and that he hoped to secure a low bond.

Zimmerman and his family had already offered to pay for Zimmerman’s defense because Martin was the young man accused of killing Trayvon. Martin had disappeared from view, only to re-emerge, confront him and assault him. After that, they con- trolled, he shot Martin in self-defense.

Florida’s expansive self-defense law, Stand Your Ground, was cited initially as a reason why charges were brought.

O’Mara said that his client had pleaded not guilty and that he would try to get him out of jail within the next couple of weeks. Until then, Zimmerman, who was charged with second-degree murder Wednesday, is being held in protective custody. A conviction could result in a prison term of 25 years to life.

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He is stressed and tired after long weeks of not being able to go out in public,” O’Mara, 56, said. “In the best of circumstances, he was dealing with the reality that he caused the death of somebody, and that weighs on you.”

Saying his client has no money, O’Mara said that he was not charg- ing Zimmerman and that he hoped to secure a low bond.

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By Bettina Wassener

China’s economic growth slowed to 8.1 percent in the first three months of this year, but recent efforts by policymakers to jump-start its tepid engine and depart from the second-largest, appear to be bearing fruit, with industrial and retail activity both rising during March, new data released Friday showed.

The growth rate was unchanged from the last quarter of last year. At the same time, the large part because of government efforts to cut back breakneck expansion, in large part because of government again tapping to its luxury villa nearby.

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OPINION

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR
Endorsing a fresh, pragmatic perspective: student leaders for Tallapragada/Yang

As students involved in leadership positions across campus, we are writing to endorse Naren P. Tallapragada and Andrew C. Yang for Undergraduate Administrator President. While acknowledging that the role has been contentious in the past, contrary to some of the more extreme charges, we must respectfully disagree.

The Tech holds the bold vision and leadership qualities that are essential to this role, and in all likelihood, practically, rather than endorsing Tallapragada and Yang, we would urge that the Tech incorporate that vision. Thus, we would urge that the Tech support Tallapragada and Yang in their efforts to lead the University with a shared vision.

By Haldun Anil

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By Haldun Anil

The case of Trayvon Martin
How inanimate and the mainstream media made a bad situation much worse

The overtly nonchalant expression of racism displayed thus far in reaction to the shooting has been nothing short of disgusting.

One law that seems mind-bogglingly foreign to Florida is the Stand Your Ground law, a provision that states a person is justified in using deadly force whenever the person reasonably believes that death or great bodily harm to himself or another is imminent.

According to the law, “a person is justified in using deadly force whenever the person reasonably believes that death or great bodily harm to himself or another is imminent.” This law essentially shields citizens from prosecution if they believe they are in danger.

While I believe that Zimmerman’s actions are deplorable and that he should be brought to trial for the murder of Trayvon, I do not believe that this shooting was simply one man’s fault. It is rather a distortion coming from a multitude of shortsightedness that plague our society, which include, but are not limited to, racism, an unconscious desire for sensationalism, and a lack of concern about the true impact of what we do.

I am urging the parents of black and Latino teenagers particularly not to let their children go out wearing hoodies. The hoodie is as much responsible for Trayvon Martin’s death as Zimmerman’s bullets. We have actively engaged in harmful behavior in any way.

Of course, laws have not been the only negatively contributing aspect of the Trayvon Martin case. The handling of the story by large media companies is also to blame.

Let’s all make the right choice and elect Trayvon Martin’s death as Zimmerman’s death. What we lack is awareness of the problems that exist in our society.

Haldun Anil

OPINION POLICY

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A question of Putin's intention

By Florence Gallo

I admit it: I slept through the Russian presidential election of last month, which saw Vladimir Putin win a third term for a new six-year term. It was like staying in the country as Moscow correspondent prior to MIT. My life and duties at the Institute have in deed kept me very far from all things “Russia” — 4,482 miles away to be precise.

But my unprecedented distant indifference towards Russian affairs extends beyond the obvious geopolitical reasons. It's because my mind is mimicking the mass political apathy that pervades Russia, and its yawning silence in this vast land. Latest street protests apart, and broadly speaking, I believe it is still persisting in the national psyche.

In short, my initial response to the result on March 4th was “Yay! Yes! Zvezdny!...” Not without good cause: this felt like déjà vu, big time.

Even political observers, Putin's victory came as no surprise, as out of the five candidates, only one was widely expected to win after meticulously maneuvering to hold his grip on power for more than a decade. Throughout his tenure, Putin has maintained an aura of omnipotence, buttressed by his skillful political acrobatics, which have enabled him to retain his grip on power despite overwhelming odds.

This is not to suggest that Putin's victory was not anticipated; on the contrary, many political observers had predicted a Putin win. The question that remains is: what does Putin's victory mean for Russia's future?
The Future of Clean Energy Begins Here
The Future of Clean Energy: The Economical Imperative
A Fireside chat with Bill Joy, Co-Founder, Sun Microsystems
Energy Vision ShowCase
MIT Energy Prize Award Ceremony
Who will win the $200K?
April 30, Hilton Back Bay Boston, 2:30 - 6:30 pm
Sudoku
Solution, page 10

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.

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Techdoku
Solution, page 10

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JOIN@TECH.MIT.EDU
Start-ups forced out of Kendall Square due to prices

Promoboxx finds Kendall space too rich for its blood; South Boston more affordable

By Michael B. Farrell

When Ben Carcio's idea for a Web start-up won a national competition last year, the prize included free office space at a dream address for techies: Kendall Square. He was surrounded by engineers from Microsoft Corp. and Google Inc., and venture capitalists who fund young tech companies.

But when his year of free space ran out, Carcio found he could not afford Kendall Square's soaring rents and last month moved his company, Promoboxx, to the South End in Boston.

"We were 100 percent committed to Kendall Square, and we had no choice but to look elsewhere," said Carcio. "That is what a lot of companies are feeling."

'We were 100 percent committed to Kendall Square, and we had no choice but to look elsewhere.' — Ben Carcio, Promoboxx

"We were 100 percent committed to Kendall Square, and we had no choice but to look elsewhere." — Ben Carcio, founder, Promoboxx

Increasingly, the startups and young companies that helped make Kendall Square a hub of the region's innovation economy are either being priced out, or squeezed out of the crowded district. Travis McCreary, executive director of the Kendall Square Association, said the square-mile business zone is a victim of its own success.

"We are doing precisely what we wanted to do, which is to create a neighborhood for innovation and entrepreneurship that is so successful that people are dying to get in," said McCreary. "But now, "we have no space for them.""

Other Kendall denizens following Promoboxx include software maker Buxtenet Inc., whose new digs in Boston's Innovation District cost half what it would have paid in Cambridge. Brightcove Inc., the digital media company that went public this year, and tech-law firm Finogon, Henderson, Fanboaw, Garrett & Danner, which plans to move across the Charles River this fall.

Through this out-migration Kendall is in effect helping to seed other tech clusters in the region, whether just down the street in East Cambridge, in Somerville, or most prominently, in Boston.

"Carcio is the real Romeo of Kendall Square," said Tim Rowe, founder of the Cambridge Innovation Center. "Some of the places that have the most jobs in the tech sector." But now, "we have to open our new innovation center."

"That is why the principals of Rapid? Inc., a local maker of security software, are willing to pay Kendall's going rate."

The company is finalizing a lease for space in Kendall where it plans to open its new innovation center. "During a tour of properties recently, Rapid?'s Richard Perkett said the new facility has to make a strong first impression, because when it comes to hiring in the tech sector, location matters."

"We want to create that walk-in-the-door feeling of, 'I want to work here,'" Perkett said.

"Kendall Square succeeded because it was a great place for business, but now it has to be a great place for people," said Dixon. Younger tech workers, he added, "are still full of rebellion of their parents' suburban lifestyle, and the number one concern for them is walkability." Increasingly the start-ups and young companies that helped make Kendall Square a hub of the region's innovation economy are either being priced out, or squeezed out of the crowded district by soaring rents.

So young companies are forced to choose between either paying up for less than ideal space, or move and lose the on-the-door feeling of, 'I want to work here.'

The architectural and urban planning firm hired by the city of Cambridge to develop a 20-year blueprint for the area is recommending that as much as half of the 1 million square feet of new construction proposed for Kendall be housing.

"It matters a lot to be the biggest. Being second biggest is not nearly as good." — Tim Rowe, Cambridge Innovation Center
PAX East, a three-day-long festival of everything game related, returned to Boston for the third time, this year at the Boston Convention and Exhibition Center (BCEC). PAX is a gaming convention started by webcomic Penny Arcade (PA) founders Mike Krahulik (known as “Gabe”) in his comic alter-ego) and Jerry Holkins (“Tycho”) in 2004. The show is meant to cater to gamers of all types — handheld, console, PC, and table top. Originally held in Seattle, PAX has also come to Boston for the past three years in the form of “PAX East”, and recently booked the annual event at BCEC until 2023.

The center piece of the show is the giant exhibition hall, which has hundreds of developers from around the country, ranging from the behemoth Xbox booth to the small Boston Indie Showcase with games from local developers. The exhibition hall was always flooded with people, and the constant bustle to it all is really what gives PAX so much of its energy. Besides the show floor, there was a variety of console free-play rooms, classic arcade games, and tournaments, along with a number of panels and workshops for con-goers to attend.

With the massive amount of events going on, one of the extremely useful things that helped us get navigate the weekend was a handy app called “guidebook,” the official app of PAX East. The app included the panel list for the entire show and the ability to build your own schedule (with notifications!), and also included maps, an FAQ, and a twitter feed of everything gaming convention-related. The ads for the con often show a gamer with the caption “Come Home” — and it really feels that way. People are very friendly throughout the entire show, welcoming you to take a photo, give directions, compliment your costume or video-game-related T-shirt, or just chat affably with you in an hour-long line. This communal sense really comes through during the large panels, and especially things like the keynote address, the Q&A’s with Tycho and Gabe, and the concerts, which were all highlights of the show.

The keynote address

PAX opened with a keynote address by the creator of the hit game series Prince of Persia, Jordan Mechner. Mechner told the audience of his introduction to the gaming world, and his rise from a kid who liked playing video games in arcades to programming them and eventually striking a deal with Jerry Bruckheimer, ending with one of his games being adapted for the big screen (Prince of Persia: The Sands of Time). He spoke of his relationship with his Apple II computer, for which he saved up for years and was the first computer he ever programmed with. Though he created games for years, his “moment of clarity” didn’t come until he realized that a game could tell a story, he said. Once he realized that video games didn’t have to just be about racking up more points than the previous person, he conceived an idea for a different type of game. His first breakthrough came in 1984 with Karateka — a karate side-scroller where the main character is trying to save a princess. After this project, he worked singly on Prince of Persia for three years, which he initially intended as a pure platformer. But when the game was finished, there was something missing. Others told him it needed enemies to be interesting. Yet, his computer lacked the memory (he had only 48 kb available) to actually render enemies due to the complexity of the basic platformer. Instead, he rehashed the careful animations of the Prince and made them black to create the shadow prince — one of the most memorable parts of the entire game.

“The reason I did it was because I had no memory,” Mechner said. “Technical constraints make us creative,” he explained, “It’s amazing what people can do with strict forms.” Indeed, it seemed that this provided a theme for the rest of the show. The attendees were reminded by everyone from Mechner to the chiptune panelists to the indie developers of the importance of working with what you’re given, and making the best of what you have.

Q&A panels with Gabe and Tycho

Krahulik (“Gabe”) and Holkins (“Tycho”) host two Q&A panels every PAX, one on Friday and one on Sunday, where the two creators just take questions from the audience.
Harassment in online games is more common than most gamers are comfortable admitting — and most don’t like to talk about it at all. This panel focused on the continued harassment of women on Xbox Live, and the hostile gaming environment it can create. Throughout the entire talk, a PowerPoint played in the background displaying a number of vulgar messages that the panelists had received over their time gaming online. Despite the incredibly offensive nature of the remarks, they laughed it off.

The panelists emphasized that one did not need to “feed the trolls” to get harassed on the Internet. We saw a video intentionally made to look like it was the 1950s of a woman in an old fashioned dress who expressed the desire to play video games after cleaning up in the kitchen. A male narrator guided her through the steps of setting up an Xbox live account, chastising her when she entered her name as “Doris.”

“Don’t choose a distracting name!” the narrator scolded. He proceeded to tell her not to choose a distracting avatar when she selected a character with a skirt, and also not to distract other players with her voice by using a headset. When male players heard her voice and recognized her as a woman, he explained, it activated “The Stupid,” which would just cause problems for everyone. A show of hands in the audience demonstrated that many women had similar experiences online, and had stopped playing games live as a result.

Two of the panelists run their own websites displaying some of the negative encounters they’ve had online — http://www.autoflushbehrensmoney.org/ and http://youtu.be/Rg0Pw19v7Jg. The site provides a helpful discussion, they said, and a number of women have written in to them to say that they found the site helpful because they had thought that “they were the only one” getting harassed.

The panelists encouraged the women in the audience to keep playing and to ignore the trolls. It’s about “the politics of fun,” they said. “Believe your right to play a video game!”

Panels at PAX

A number of workshops and panels that focus on games and gaming culture are held throughout the convention. Here are a few of the ones we were able to attend.

N00dz or GTFO! Harassment in Online Gaming

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Far Cry 3

Jerry Holkins (“Tycho”) and Mike Krahulik (“Gabe”), the creators of Penny Arcade, host a Q&A on Sunday afternoon.

Max Payne 3

Max Payne has reason to rejoice — the new Aliens game, Colonial Marine, will be an official canonical sequel to the popular science fiction series. While players can expect to recognize a ton of reference from the movies, those new to the story will still be able to play the game as a standalone piece. The development team of the game are all die-hard Aliens fans, so it seems like a lot of care was put into its production. Certainly, for just playing a few rounds with the dev team, it looks like Aliens: Colonial Marine might be one of the better movie-related games out there. In multiplayer mode, players decide between joining the team of aliens or the team of marines. Playing against the developers of the game, who selected the alien team, I was expecting to lose handily. It was still shocking to see four aliens scurry effortlessly along walls and on ceilings, making my marine seem slow and clunky. Luckily, the marines got the game.

Aliens: Colonial Marine

Xbox/PS3/Wii U/PC | Gearbox Software | Fall 2012

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Borderlands 2

Xbox/PS3/PC | Ubisoft | Sept. 4, 2012

When we finally reached the concert, it was packed. The main theater holds around 1,000 people, and every inch of the venue was crammed. The evening opened with the Video Game Orchestra (VGO), a group that has been featured at Anime Boston and PAX in recent years that creates contemporary arrangements of video game music. They played a number of pieces from games including Final Fantasy, Chrono Trigger, Street Fighter, and F-Zero. One highlight was the Super Mario theme played by a solo flautist who was simultaneously beating. VGO also had a surprise guest performance by Jonathan Coulton, the composer of the famous Portal ending song “Still Alive” which had the entire audience singing along. VGO was followed by comedy duo Paul and Storm, who opened their act asking if there were any need out in the audience. We are going to pander the shit out of you,” they said to cheers, and immediately proceeded to open with a song bemoaning the slow output of popular fantasy writer George R. R. Martin, of A Game of Thrones fame. The piece also included a brief capella version of the HBO show’s theme. A couple funny songs, and a brief parody Ted Talk later about how humor is just waking the lines of funny vs. tastlessness, Paul got a text from Wil Wheaton with an ASCII piano that he shared with the audience. He then encouraged the entire crowd to tweet some variant of “I’m a good wheaton.” A moment later, Wheaton’s twitter was flooded, and the audience roared in approval.

The acclaimed Portal composer Jonathan Coulton was definitely the climax of the concert — from his second rendition of “Still Alive” to a number of his other works, he had the entire audience gleefully singing along. For his performance of “Re Your Brains,” a song from Left 4 Dead 2, he had the audience sing “all we want to do is eat your brains” while pretending to be a montage. Coulton started his performance with a

Far Cry 3

Xbox/PS3/PC | Ubisoft | Sept. 4, 2012

The Far Cry booth at PAX was set up to show off multiplayer mode, and we got an opportunity to play a round against other PAX attendees of various levels of franchise. Despite playing with a team of strangers, I felt an allegiance to my team right away. There were a variety of factors contributing to this team feel: level design and spawn points subtly encouraged us to move as a pack, and players have the opportunity to revive their teammates, usually at a risk to their own well-being. In Team Fortress 2, it is advantageous to have a diverse mix of weapons on the team. The slower, consistent running speed for all players prevents your group from fanning out across the map instantly. This team based attitude is refreshingly, especially coming from a game like Halo, where it feels like the only thing keeping your teammates from shooting you in the face is that it would lose them a point.

Max Payne 3

Xbox/PS3/PC | Rockstar | May 15, 2012

Rockstar has been known to be a company that enjoys glorifying violence. True to form, the Max Payne 3 booth at PAX had brochures advertising the “Kickass of each bullet’s entry as they pepper an enemy.” The exhibitor who took us through the demo gleefully described the physics and “realism” of the game as a bullet burst through my character’s face in slow motion. Seeing someone get hit by a bullet was shocking every time; something about the way the characters reacted was just a little too real. It was excessive and unrealistic, but it also added to the fear of making me genuinely afraid of my character getting shot. After being mortally wounded, you have a brief, frantic opportunity to fire at your potential killer. If you are able to kill him before you hit the ground, your life is spared. Strangely, this only added to the fear of dying, being thrown into such a desperate, stressful fight for your life every once in a while makes the life feel realistic. The psychological weight of dying in Max Payne is unmatched, and it’s what made the game so intense.

The cover system in this game is also superb. I didn’t feel that the game was guiding me toward any particular shelter, there were dozens of places in every room that I could duck behind, offering varying levels of protection from incoming bullets. At a certain point I stopped searching for the spot I was “supposed to” stand, and instead considered every corner, table, and ledge in my field of vision a potential shelter, it was very immersive.

The Tech

Continued on page 12

popular video-game tunes. After them was Metalhead, a rock band that covers songs from Nintendo’s Metroid series (and whose guitarist later ran the chiptunes panel) and Protomen, a rock band that focuses largely on the Mega Man. On Saturday night, we were in line over an hour early for the 8:30 p.m. concerts. The queue looped around the convention center, hugging the walls; the enforcers (the people who volunteer to run the show) had us crowding against the corners in a gig, organized mob. Every few minutes random bursts of song exploded from the people around us and was quickly taken up by the surrounding crowd in line — selections ranged from “Sweet Caroline” to “Stand by Me” and “Rubehnian Rhapsody.”

We were able to play through a co-op level as the character Maya, who could set aside her gun for a moment to suspend enemies in the air with her telekinetic abilities. It was a notably fun game; the funky graphics and sounds, explained, and were put in to add energy and color to the game. “We invented our own style,” he said, imparting Borderlands 2 features more of the first person shooter / RPG elements that defined the original game, he said, will not feature dubstep, and will instead be similar to the first game. In addition, the game will

Graphics were particularly refreshing after becoming accustomed to the dark, ultra-detailed graphics of the rest of the Borderlands series (and whose guitarist later ran the chiptunes panel) and Protomen, a rock band that focuses largely on the Mega Man. On Saturday night, we were in line over an hour early for the 8:30 p.m. concerts. The queue looped around the convention center, hugging the walls; the enforcers (the people who volunteer to run the show) had us crowding against the corners in a gig, organized mob. Every few minutes random bursts of song exploded from the people around us and was quickly taken up by the surrounding crowd in line — selections ranged from “Sweet Caroline” to “Stand by Me” and “Rubehnian Rhapsody.”

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Continued from page 13

zendrum, a MIDI-controller percussion instrument, and a song about a pants. Coulton also played other fan favorites, from "Will You Go to My Birthday Party?" to "Crude Monkey," and left the stage to rousing applause.

Most of the audience left Coulton ended his performance close to midnight, when nerd rapper MC Frontalot took the stage. Frontalot, who is a self-proclaimed nerdcore rapper — the first in the world — has performed at almost every PAX since 2004. Unfortunately, we were unable to stay for his entire performance due to the immense exhaustion we were feeling from the day's activities.

The Omegathon

Each PAX, a momentous competition is held — the Omegathon. A multi-stage tournament with a group of randomly selected attendees each placed in pairs, players must compete in a variety of different games to win. PAX East 2012 featured X-men as the first round, Zip-It for the second, and Dance Central 2 for the third. With Holkin's narration for each of the events, it made the competition truly a spectacle worth watching.

As is tradition, the final round of the Omegathon made up the closing ceremonies of PAX East. In early March, Gabe left the PA blogs with one hint as to the opposing teams' pieces off the board.

"We had custom equipment built," he wrote, "Chew on that for a bit."

So what was it? Crokinole.

Created in Canada in the late 1800s, Crokinole is a table game similar to shuffleboard, in which players flick small wooden discs into discrete point regions. Two teams of two play each other, with teammates sitting across the board, and players can attempt to knock the opposing team's pieces off the board.

Initially, the game did not seem like it would capture nearly 3,000 people in a crowded room on a Sunday night. But after the demo with the two creators playing along with two of the PA team and the first few minutes of the real Omegathon, something changed.

With the coupling of Holkin's hilarious narration with the energy in the crowd, crokinole went from a simple board game to an intense spectator sport. For nearly two hours, the entire audience was captivated. Cries of "POPKIN RUNITSSNIT" (the handle of one of the players) resounded throughout the hall, and every move and flick was met with cries, boos, or cheers.

This final round of the Omegathon was the moment in which I most felt the coming together of the nerd subculture. During a quiet, intense moment when an "omenomant" was about to take a nearly impossible looking shot, a single voice from the crowd cried, "He's turned off his targeting system!" and the entire audience, including Krahulak and Holkin, laughed at the reference. Similar moments peppered the entire evening, I almost felt as if my neurogenic knowledge was being put to the test.

The game was intense, and over 30 minutes after the event was supposed to end, two-omomants emerged victorious — earning a free trip to Germany for Gamescom.

It was then that we left PAX, exhausted, but exhilarated. Filing out of the BCEC with thousands of other attendees, all I could think of was how long it would be until the next PAX East.

When I got home, ready to pass out from the epicness of the weekend, I noticed that on the PA site, Holkin wrote, "Before I collapse, I want to thank the Epic Ludologist (whomever!) for our shenanigans. We could not exist, and the attendees, both for their attendance, and for making the Omegathon's final round — Crokinole, for God's sake, literally a piece of fucking wood — a true spectacle!"

The video also featured new "predator" type moves, where Connor can stalk his targets, and a variety of new items such as the tomahawk. After introducing the new hero (Connor, a half British, half Native American assassin) and the setting of the preview (Bunker Hill, 1775), Hutchinson elaborated on the upgrades from the previous game. More emphasis has been placed on the on-screen characters; all of the animations have been redone from the earlier games, and AC3 is now capable of displaying up to 2500 enemies on screen. This is a far cry from the previous game, each of which could only render 419 enemies at a time. Since this is AC3's first time dealing with armies, the dev team wanted "epic crowds" to give the player a grand sense of realism, explained Hutchinson.

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Dyad

Dyad is an upcoming title for PlayStation 3 by indie developer Shawn McGrath, who has created the entire game almost entirely by himself. It is a “swear-speed abstract racing game,” where one increases speed by pairing colored enemies further down an infinite tube. Visually, the game looks rather similar to the Ultra Street Fighter IV demo. "Dyad" is made, you shoot through them and must continue pairing at faster and faster speeds while simultaneously avoiding the enemies you do not pair. When you have enough pairs, you can use the harnessed energy to shoot through multiple enemies and destroy them. This simple premise makes for an incredible engaging and addictive game that is nearly impossible to put down. Dyad was one of the few titles Holkin recommended at the press panel, and was later featured on the PA website.

Quantum Conundrum

One of the largest booths on the exhibit floor was the black circular room for the newest game in the Assassin's Creed series. Fans who waited out the hour-long line were treated to a video featuring Alex Hutchinson, the creator of the game. After introducing the new hero (Connor, a half British, half Native American assassin) and the setting of the preview (Bunker Hill, 1775), Hutchinson elaborated on the upgrades from the previous game. More emphasis has been placed on the on-screen characters; all of the animations have been redone from the earlier games, and AC3 is now capable of displaying up to 2500 enemies on screen. This is a far cry from the previous game, each of which could only render 419 enemies at a time. Since this is AC3’s first time dealing with armies, the dev team wanted “epic crowds” to give the player a grand sense of realism, explained Hutchinson.

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Kid Icarus / Mario Kart

Nintendo had a number of games for display in their booth, mostly for the 3DS. They had Kid Icarus: Oupright, Mario Kart 7, and Spirit Camera: The Cursed Memoir, among a couple of others. We had a chance to play Kid Icarus in a four-player versus battle. While the game looked good and seemed like it would be fun, I struggled with the stylus driven controls. Eight years after the Nintendo DS came out, I still find it clumsy to try to use the stylus with one hand while navigating the D-pad (or in this case, the mini joystick) and holding the system with the other. Given time, however, I think the game would be a fun multiplayer experience. We also had a chance to play Mario Kart 7 for the handheld system, which definitely retained the Mario Kart charm while adding new elements.

Tera

Tera touts itself as the “first true action MMORPG, providing all of the depth of an MMO with the immersion and gratification of an action game.” The game was situated in the heart of the exhibit floor, inside of a rather large tent stumped with faux stained glass windows. Graphically, the game is beautiful, and also seems to have a solid story behind it. We had a chance to play a cooperative mode with six other players, and were guided very skillfully through the demo by one of the exhibitors. The game flowed smoothly, and my character’s skills and strengths were distinct enough from the other players to make me feel useful and involved. The diversity of abilities encouraged the six of us in the demo to work as a team, and it didn’t feel forced.

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New plans for Kendall Square presented to public

City to work with committee to implement zoning changes; plans for Central in the works

Kendall, from Page 1

park at the John A. Volpe National Transportation Center, which the city hopes the federal government will sell, lease, or otherwise transfer to the city), transforming the area around the Kendall/MIT subway station into a public plaza; and promoting buildings mixed-use between residential and commercial/research.

Building shapes

Dixon presents a future Kendall Square where buildings can rise as high as 300 feet, but where the tallest of those buildings (above 250') can only be used for residential housing, and per-floor area is restricted to 10,000 square feet, keeping the tallest buildings narrow.

Shorter buildings will be allowed larger floorplates, with up to 30,000 square feet for 250'-high buildings, and 42,000 square feet for 85'-120' buildings. Shorter buildings can use their full block size. The tall buildings are allowed to grow wider as they go down.

The committee will also encourage “up-floor connections” between buildings, but those connections will be for private use of particular tenants in their buildings, and will not be publicly accessible. They are intended to permit research and business tenants whose space requirements exceed the floorplate limits mentioned above to use connected space in adjacent buildings.

Housing requirements

The committee also intends to address housing, which local residents have felt has been promised by developers, but not actually realized. The proposal will require developers to begin housing development by the time they complete 40 percent of their associated nonresidential space, and to complete the housing construction before they complete 80 percent of the nonresidential space. The committee projects 500–600 additional units of housing, taking the Kendall area to 2,000–2,500 units of housing.

Transportation

Analyzing transportation, the committee noted that Kendall has the smallest bus capacity (768 people/hour) of any nearby transit hub (Lechmere, 1,008; Central, 1,509; Sullivan, 2,434), suggesting there is room to improve the bus service to Kendall.

With respect to the Red Line, 11 percent of riders who exit at Kendall board at either Charles or Central, one stop away. The committee attributes this to the undesirability of the walk from either of those locations, and hopes to improve the walkability of the area surrounding Kendall. In the immediate vicinity, they will try to improve ground-floor retail, the intentions for the transition area between Central and Kendall are less clear.

After the presentation, attendees broke off into small groups to provide feedback to the committee.

Going forward

In the coming months, the city and its consultants will work with the committee to finalize the proposed zoning changes that will result from this process. At the same time, the city and its consultants are proceeding with a parallel process in Central Square, with a different advisory committee. The Central Square phase of the process is just gearing up and should complete in later summer.

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Going forward

In the coming months, the city and its consultants will work with the committee to finalize the proposed zoning changes that will result from this process. At the same time, the city and its consultants are proceeding with a parallel process in Central Square, with a different advisory committee. The Central Square phase of the process is just gearing up and should complete in later summer.

Transportation

Analyzing transportation, the committee noted that Kendall has the smallest bus capacity (768 people/hour) of any nearby transit hub (Lechmere, 1,008; Central, 1,509; Sullivan, 2,434), suggesting there is room to improve the bus service to Kendall.

With respect to the Red Line, 11 percent of riders who exit at Kendall board at either Charles or Central, one stop away. The committee attributes this to the undesirability of the walk from either of those locations, and hopes to improve the walkability of the area surrounding Kendall. In the immediate vicinity, they will try to improve ground-floor retail, the intentions for the transition area between Central and Kendall are less clear.

After the presentation, attendees broke off into small groups to provide feedback to the committee.
Future-oriented president wanted

Students voice desired qualities

The Tech Friday, April 13, 2012

The following student Coop members are candidates for the Board of Directors for the 2012-2013 academic year.


MIT Graduate Students: Ellie Potters, MBA, Sloan/MPA, HKS, 2013 Samuel Shumer, PhD, 2015


Voting Deadline is April 26

Join the group that pays its own bills.

Students voice desired qualities

Future-oriented president wanted

Students want more recognition for entrepreneurship as a form of academic achievement.

More of the concerns and student opinions presented revolved around issues unique to the Institute, including student health and wellness, MITx, MIT 2030, and the future of MIT as a global leader. According to the report, students have found that the restructuring of Student Support Services combined with a “common perception of inefficiency and bureaucracy” has decreased the usefulness of the service, and report that MIT Mental Health often takes too long to respond to more immediate requests for help.

In terms of MITx, students “are concerned with preserving the relevance of a physical campus with the increase in online learning initiatives” and emphasize the importance of a residential-based education. In this vein, students would like to see improvement of MIT’s physical campus. The SAC mentioned the lack of public community spaces available for students to host activities and interact with each other. Graduate students in particular are interested in having a separate space “that promotes interaction between graduate students across disciplinary boundaries as well as between students and faculty.”

Additionally, the report notes that there is a need for improvement of the “academic infrastructure” around MIT — for example, more places to eat and relax, and the improvement of central community spaces such as the Student Center. In terms of growth, the report also addressed an interest in expanding internationally, suggesting that MIT could consider developing campuses abroad, partnering with international institutions in dual-degree programs, and creating more study abroad programs.

The last three pages of the report summarize the qualities that MIT students want the most in their president. Personality-wise, students want the president to have every positive trait one can think of, with a focus on “an experienced leader that is personable and understanding.” Students believe that the president should have experience with managing a large budget, selecting good administrators, fundraising, research, and international relations. Students prefer a president who has connections, if not professional experience, in government and corporate leadership. Finally, the president has to advocate STEM fields nationally and internationally, be visible and approachable to students, and apply the values of MIT to create a vision for the Institute.

According to Bryson, the SAC is now incorporating student feedback to this report into a final document that will be posted online, and they are using the qualifications outlined by the report to identify potential presidential candidates that they will later bring to the Corporation.


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Arab Cultural Night

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When: April 14th, 2012 at 8:00pm
Where: Lobdell Dining Hall

Tickets: $6 MIT Students
$8 Non-MIT
Tickets will be sold at the booth in lobby 10 starting April 9th. Prices will go up at the door.

Cosponsored by: Arab Students’ Organization (ASO), Lebanese Club @ MIT, MIT Egyptian Club, Arcade.

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Arab Students Organization

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Friday, April 13, 2012

**Postdoc in need of a sublet apartment (efficiency or one bedroom) for fall semester.** contact: Jon Griffith, MIT-SUTD Collaboration, jong@mit.edu

**THE OTHER SIDE OF IMMIGRATION (US/Mexico)** Presentation and discussion with film director Roy Germano April 19th, 7:00pm At 3-270

**BERLIN CALLING (Germany)** Discussion with MIT Prof. Peter Weise May 1st, 5:00pm At 54-100

**PAN’S LABYRINTH (Spain)** Discussion with MIT Prof. Roberto Rey-Agudo May 2nd, 5:00pm At 4-237

Palestine@MIT Presents

**Program for an Architecture of Decolonization**

Join us in a lecture by Alessandro Petti Director of Decolonizing Architecture Art Residency

When: April 18th, 7 pm
Where: Room 6-120

Cosponsored by: School of Architecture and Planning Headquarters, Aga Khan Program for Islamic Architecture, Center for International Studies at MIT, Arab Students Organization, Arcade


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4:00 - 5:30 PM
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Orientation will see changes
FSILG recruitment will remain the same this year

Orientation, from Page 1

(FLP) “We want to coordinate with FPOP program coordinators to make sure programs end on Sunday afternoon, so that Sunday evening is free for social activities,” said Julie B. Norman, director of the Office of Undergraduate Advising and Academic Programming (UAAP).

Students attending on-campus FPOPs will have to pay $30 a day if they choose dorm housing during the FPOP period. Students will be charged the fee for at most four days. If students stay on campus for five days during the FPOP period (such as if they attend a five-day FPOP), they will only be charged for four days.

Students arriving before orientation will receive information on MIT’s various health and safety resources, such as MIT’s dean-on-call system. “We want to give them enough information to navigate safely in the residential system and community, and what resources are available in emergencies,” said Norman. “The form in which the information will come has not been determined, but Residential Life will work to systematically ensure that students who arrive early receive the information.”

Norman noted that these students should be given information early because they will not meet their housemasters or GRTs until the week of orientation. Some students, such as those who come from rural communities, may not have a strong knowledge of safety in urban areas,” she added.

In addition, Norman noted that some on-campus FPOPs end their planned activities before the evening. To provide students in these FPOPs an opportunity for activity or interaction at night, Norman hopes to plan organized activities at night for these students.

No change to FSILG Recruitment timing next fall

The RCO concluded in its report that another group be made to assess the timing of FSILG Recruitment. Dean for Student Life Chris Colombo is planning to form another committee consisting of faculty, administrators from the FSILG office, Panhel, IFC, and ILG representatives, and FSILG alumni to examine “the social and financial implications of adjusting the Recruitment period,” said Humphreys.

No timing changes will be made to Recruitment for Fall 2012, but recommendations made by the committee should be implemented for the Fall 2013.

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The Tech

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Formal attire required

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Sports

Cycling sweeps competition at the ‘Lux et Velocitas’ races

Team earns four ‘King of the Mountain’ jerseys

By Matthieu Talpe

On April 7 and 8, MIT’s cycling team competed at the ‘Lux et Velocitas’ races hosted by Yale University in New Haven, Conn. The three-race weekend took place in East Rock Park at the foot of the East Rock cliff, New Haven’s tallest landscape feature.

Schaber won the Men’s A circuit race. Team earns four ‘King of the Mountain’ jerseys

Cycling sweeps competition

G fourth and Christina M. Birch G with teammates Yuri Mastumoto G fourth in the women’s A, Quinn finished second in the men’s A with a time of 31 min 18.77 sec. Another twelve riders were found in the fastest half of their categories.

The afternoon circuit races consisted of a number of laps of a course that included the East Rock climb. In the men’s A race, Spencer D. Schaber G broke away from the main pack with three other riders and won the circuit race with a powerful surge in the last hundred metres. Quinn continues to add points to second place. Captain Adam P. Brey G powered his way to third place in the men’s A with a time of 31 min 18.77 sec. Another twelve riders were found in the fastest half of their categories.

The men’s A race, Spencer D. Schaber G broke away from the main pack with three other riders and won the circuit race with a powerful surge in the last hundred metres of the two-hour race. In the women’s A, Quinn finished second with teammates Yiri Mastumoto G fourth and Christina M. Birch G sixth.

Sunday’s criterium races took place around the East Rock Park on a flat, fast, 6-corner course. The day started with two impressive performances with Ernestine Liner ’14 sprinting his way to sixth place in men’s B and Edith B. Ortega G second place in the women’s criterium. In a spectacular display of teamwork, the MIT cycling team rode away from the pack in the women’s A race, guaranteeing a sweep of the first four places. A member of the MIT lead-out train to the finish line, including Lauren B. Balston G, Birch and Masumoto, to a 1-2-3 finish. Schaber was once again part of the MIT breakaway and finished fourth in the men’s A race — thanks in large part to the efforts of the other nine MIT riders blocking at the front of the pack.

As a tradition in the past race weekends, the MIT cycling team won convincingly the weekend team omnium ahead of 36 scoring teams and extended its Eastern Collegiate Cycling Team season standings. MIT now has 1384 points to second-place Penn State’s 991 and third-place the US Military Academy’s 765. Quinn continues to widen her margin as Points Series leader and yellow jersey holder. Despite suffering two flat tires in the men’s A race, Schaber continued to add points to second place. Captain Adam P. Brey powered his way to third place in the men’s A. With 40 percent more points than second place, he finished fourth in the men’s A race. As a tradition in the past race weekends, the MIT cycling team won convincingly the weekend team omnium ahead of 36 scoring teams and extended its Eastern Collegiate Cycling Team season standings. MIT now has 1384 points to second-place Penn State’s 991 and third-place the US Military Academy’s 765. Quinn continues to widen her margin as Points Series leader and yellow jersey holder. Despite suffering two flat tires in the men’s A race, Schaber continued to add points to second place. Captain Adam P. Brey powered his way to third place in the men’s A. With 40 percent more points than second place, he finished fourth in the men’s A race.

The MIT cycling team will look to defend its first place in the team standings and retain the two yellow jerseys.

By Liu Liu

Even though the team is smaller than in previous years, sMITe, MIT’s Women’s Ultimate Team, has set high expectations. The team is anchored by junior standouts Michelle A. Byak G, who runs the offense with big high throws and fast disc movement. Together with veteran players Alisha R. Schor G and Anna Katherine deRegt G, sMITe’s captains have driven the team to outperform previous years. Although the team gained only three rookies while losing six veterans this year, sMITe took advantage of its core to improve. Spending more of the season teaching new plays and reviewing drills instead of teaching old ones again, the team has surpassed many expectations in skill level and quality of play. After sMITe’s performance at spring break tournaments, this strategy seems to be working.

For the first weekend of spring break, sMITe traveled to Austin, Texas to play in Centex, the largest Women’s Ultimate tournament in the country. Centex hosts some of the best teams in the nation, including defending national champions UNC. After losing close games to UCSD and Rice, who both have the advantage of yearlong out-door practices, MIT won against Wisconsin-Eau Claire. However, the weekend wasn’t all just playing Ultimate. After playing, sMITe watched other teams in the annual Centex Dance-Off and had a barbecue with the University of Illinois-Urbana Champaign team, a team coached by sMITe alumnus and friend to sMITe coach Shuang Zhang. For a touch of irony, MIT’s first game on Sunday was against UIUC. MIT won using long hook throws and impermeable zone defense. Overall, sMITe placed seventh in division II.

Next, sMITe traveled to the Stonestown tournament, Get Sky- y. After sluggish play in the first game, with MIT winning 11-8 against New Hampshire, MIT bowed out of the competition, winning most games by at least 10 points, including a 15-0 victory over UMass. In the finals, MIT played against Stonestown. MIT was down by four at the half, but they were able to take advan- tage of gaps in Stonestown’s loose zone defense and almost made a comeback, losing 13-11.

Women’s ultimate frisbee team wins over spring break

Team takes advantage of their small roster to improve this year’s ranking

Crew keeps Hsu’s mind fresh

Athlete of the Week, from 24

Then we have a Bear whose mind is like a computer and can rap conversations in his mind while he writes code. We have an intimidating ninja on the team who can be the nicest guy at times, but also has a great break from schoolwork for a rather challenging task.

Crew hosts some of the best teams in the nation, including defending national champions UNC. After losing close games to UCSD and Rice, who both have the advantage of yearlong out-door practices, MIT won against Wisconsin-Eau Claire. However, the weekend wasn’t all just playing Ultimate. After playing, sMITe watched other teams in the annual Centex Dance-Off and had a barbecue with the University of Illinois-Urbana Champaign team, a team coached by sMITe alumnus and friend to sMITe coach Shuang Zhang. For a touch of irony, MIT’s first game on Sunday was against UIUC. MIT won using long hook throws and impermeable zone defense. Overall, sMITe placed seventh in division II.

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Engineers have best ever George Washington Invite finish

Women's Crew team victorious

MIT prepares for strong Nationals performance, taking first place at five of six meets

Gymnastics dominates this season as a club team

By Katie Bodner

It's an exciting year to be on the Engineers' Gymnastics team at MIT. Even though they were cut from varsity status to club status in 2009, the team has powered through the past two years and won at last year's nationals.

Coming in first place at five out of their six meets so far this season, the team boasts some strong new members and talented alumni and graduate students who have poured dozens of hours into practices in preparation for nationals in Salt Lake City Utah from April 18 to April 22.

The team competed this past Saturday in a meet at Dupont Gym at MIT, but Cambridge Community Gymnastics (CCG), an adult gymnastics program that uses MIT facilities, hosted the meet. This was the first time that CCG ever hosted a meet and also the first time MIT was not a host in its own gym. The other competing teams were University of Connecticut, Boston University, Rutgers University, and University of New England.

MIT earned its highest overall score of the season, 148.95, which reflects all the hard work the team has put into the season. MIT scored over 20 seconds ahead of the University of Massachusetts and University of Buffalo on April 21.

The varsity eight and B four faced stiff competition in their three races. The four continued their dominance in the second varsity eight, finishing behind Navy's A and B fours with a time of 7:43.4. on Saturday afternoon, the Engineers fielded a second varsity eight and a B four. The Engineers faced four athletes from the third varsity eight. After only a few practices together, the four raced hard and came up behind Georgetown in a time of 7:44.0. In the second varsity eight, MIT finished behind Georgetown in a time of 7:33.3.

In its fourth showing at the GW Invite, MIT has proved its early season speed and given Patriot League and Eastern Sprints League rivals a taste of what is to come. The Engineers will face Patriot League rival Navy again at the league championships on April 29, and Eastern Sprints rivals George Washington and Georgetown again at the Eastern Sprints Championships on May 13.

The Engineers face University of Massachusetts and University of Buffalo at home on the Charles River on April 21.

The varsity eight easily won all three races with open water, proving themselves to be a dominant force in the weekend regatta.

The second varsity eight, third varsity eight and B four faced stiff competition, but on Friday afternoon both eights managed to win. Open water wins over Duquesne University with times of 6:10.0 and 7:15.4 in the second and third eights, respectively. Day two of the regatta showed great promise for both teams. In the morning, the third varsity eight finished only 1.5 seconds behind Navy with a time of 7:03.90. The second varsity eight continued the close racing, only 3.7 seconds behind Navy. In the afternoon, the Engineers fielded a second varsity eight and a B four, finishing with four athletes from the third varsity eight. After only a few practices together, the four raced hard and came up behind Georgetown in a time of 7:44.0 to the Colonial's 7:43.4. In the second varsity eight, MIT finished behind Georgetown in a time of 7:33.3. In its fourth showing at the GW Invite, MIT has proved its early season speed and given Patriot League and Eastern Sprints League rivals a taste of what is to come. The Engineers will face Patriot League rival Navy again at the league championships on April 29, and Eastern Sprints rivals George Washington and Georgetown again at the Eastern Sprints Championships on May 13.

The Engineers face University of Massachusetts and University of Buffalo at home on the Charles River on April 21.

UPCOMING HOME EVENTS

Friday, April 13

Softball vs. Clark University 3 p.m. and 5 p.m., Briggs Field

Saturday, April 14

Men's lightweight crew vs. Harvard/Princeton TBA, Charles River

Men's lightweight crew vs. Harvard/Dartmouth TBA, Charles River

Baseball vs. Clark University 12 p.m. and 2 p.m., Briggs Field

Women's tennis vs. Simmons College 1 p.m., duPont Tennis Courts

Men's tennis vs. Springfield College 1 p.m., duPont Tennis Courts

Men's volleyball vs. Springfield College 7 p.m., Rockwell Cage

Women's Crew team victorious

By Rebecca Heywood

Engineers have best ever George Washington Invite finish

Coach Gina Policelli ’10 explained how it was great to see everyone on the team rise to full potential and deliver great routines on every event. “This puts us in a good place to go into nationals,” Policelli said.

Policelli was particularly excited about Karuman completing her double back dismount on bars, Watkins’s debut and sticking her back tuck on beam, Seto demonstrating an impressive stuck beam routine, and Karuman and Sharpe scoring extremely well in the all around.

With great confidence to go into nationals, Sharpe, who was on the team when it was still a varsity sport and who now competes as well as help coach, explained, “There’s a bit of pressure for the team to defend our national title, but I have no doubts that the team is up to the challenge and ready to perform exceptionally well at nationals.”

Sets, the team’s newest member and only freshmen, shed some light on her experience with the team.

“I’ve only ever competed on a recreational level as a part of a small gym, and I wasn’t sure that I was good enough to be a part of MIT’s team. I was especially intimidated knowing that the team had won the national title the year before. However, the team was very welcoming and very excited to have a new member,” said Sets.

Sets also shared with The Tech some insight into the dynamics of the team.

“We have a lot of fun at practices, and we are a very tight-knit team since the team is so small. We are always encouraging each other and trying to help each other improve routines and learn new skills. Being a part of the team has been a great experience for me and a good way to escape from the stress of MIT’s academic life,” Sets explained.

The team has been a great experience for the team since the team was only freshmen.

“It’s an exciting year to be on the team, the team has powered through the past two years and won at last year’s nationals.”

For those unaware of how gymnastics meets are run, each team rotates through each of the events (vault, uneven parallel bars, balance beam and floor exercise) and competes their line-ups, six individuals per event. In last Saturday’s meet, MIT competed its entire team: Kelsey C. Seto ’13, Lindsay M. Sanneman ’15, Kristen D. Watkins G, Julia Sharpe ’09, and Zara K. Karuman ’13. After the competition, the top four scores from each of the four events are added up to calculate the team score. The max for each individual score is 10.0, with the max team score being 60.0.

The Tech 23
Really respect the contributions of one of your peers? Think your student organization has gone above and beyond, with its members or events, this year?

Student Leader Awards

studentlife.mit.edu/sao/sla

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ATHLETE OF THE WEEK: CHARLES HSU ’14

Hsu does crew, viola, and course 7 research

Heavyweight crew’s coxswain balances chamber music, sports, and research

Charles Hsu ’14 is coxswain for the MIT men’s heavyweight crew team. In addition to crew, Hsu also dabbles in violin-making, works at Weiss Lab, and aspires to become a surgeon.

By Nidharshan Anandanivasan
STAFF REPORTER

Charles Hsu ’14 is a sophomore in Course 7 (Biology) who is on the MIT Varsity Heavyweight Crew Team. He enjoys creating things and aspires to become a surgeon. Charles was on the 2011 MIT IGEM (International Genetically Engineered Machine competition) team that placed fourth out of over 150 international teams. He is also working on the Solarclave project, which won the 2011 MIT IDEAS and Global Challenge competitions. The Solarclave is a low-cost solar-powered autoclave designed to provide third-world rural clinics with a portable and reliable method of sterilization. He is currently working in the Weiss Lab on genetically engineering autonomously patterned tissues, and has also worked on microfluidics and high-speed photography of cell-printing.

Charles balances his scientific interests with his passion for the viola. Not only does he play his viola for a chamber music group, but pursues the craft of violin making in his spare time.

The Tech sat down with Charles to discuss life as a student-athlete on the MIT Varsity Heavyweight Crew Team.

The Tech: What do you like most about the MIT Crew team?

Charles Hsu: What I like most about the MIT Men’s Heavyweight Crew team is that while everyone is driven by the same gritty desire to pull hard and win, everyone on the team is so enjoyably distinct in their humor, aspirations, and even physical properties. For example, we have one Mr. Jack, for whom the laws of thermodynamics do not apply. Always rowing in just his unisuit, snow or shine, the best we could ever get out of him was, “yeah my hands are a little cold.”

Athlete of the Week, Page 22