City boycotts Le Méridien

Hotel workers seek MIT’s endorsement of boycott

By Sara Hess

Workers at Le Méridien Hotel, located at 20 Sidney Street in Cambridge, are seeking MIT’s endorsement of a boycott on the hotel. The boycott began on Oct. 11 and is in response to what the workers see as management’s refusal to respond to a request that hotel employees be permitted to consider the option of unionization without managerial interference. In reference to the Le Méridien labor dispute, Nate Nickerson, MIT’s director of communications, informed The Tech, “MIT’s general practice is not to assess the business actions of other organizations.”

Employee healthcare changes

MIT employees will see changes to their healthcare benefits and premiums in 2013 as specified to conform to the requirements of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA). Signed into law by Obama in 2010, the PPACA established a timetable for implementing health care changes, the nearest of which is Jan. 1.

According to the MIT Human Resources website, the limit for Health Care Flexible Spending Accounts will decrease to $2,500 from $4,000, though the Dependent Care Flexible Spending Account will remain at $5,000. Certain FDX-approved contraceptives will no longer require a co-pay. These include IUDs and any injectable, emergency, diaphragm-based, and oral contraceptives that are either generic or have no generic equivalent. Also, the employer cost of health insurance plus the employee’s costs will be listed on W-2 forms. A summary of benefit coverage will be available beginning November 15.

Also beginning in 2013, the average increase to health plan premiums will be $13 a month, both dental coverage annual maximum and orthodontic coverage maximum benefit will increase to $1,750, and dental premiums will increase $3.50 a month. Dependent life insurance coverage will be available to age 28.

Employees also need to provide documentation of their dependents by Nov. 9 (Dec. 1 for faculty), or risk losing dependent coverage.

An information session about these changes will be held on Oct. 25, 12–1:30 p.m., and at the Lincoln Labs auditorium on Oct. 29, 9:30–11 a.m.

The changes can be found at http://hrweb.mit.edu/benefits/open-enrollment.

—Bruno R. F. Faisio

According to the City of Cambridge’s Property database, MIT continues to own the land underneath the hotel and rents it to HEI Hotels on a long-term lease. Le Méridien workers claim that their working conditions began to deteriorate after the 2007 sale. According to Heather Nichols, a front desk associate at Le Méridien, “There used to be over 100 people working here. But since HEI took over they’ve been cutting staff. We are now down to around 70.” Workers claim that as a result of the cuts they end up performing multiple functions at the Hotel.

Boycott, Page 9

IN SHORT

The 2013 Underclassmen Giving Campaign is underway! Stop by Lobby B all week this week to donate, or online until November 22 go to http://giving.mit.edu/ underclassmen-campaign.

Have an idea for MIT’s ITERAS Global Challenge? Submit an initial proposal tonight by 11:59 p.m. for a chance to win up to $1K. Details at http://globalchallenge.mit.edu

Check out MIT’s Presidential Election Conference this Friday! The event starts at 8:30 a.m. in the Media Labs Bartos Theater. Register at http://rooftopmit. edu/election2012.

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

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Lebanon and Jordan move to contain Syria-related violence

By David D. Kirkpatrick and Neil MacFarquhar
THE NEW YORK TIMES

BEIRUT — Lebanon and Jordan moved aggressively Monday to squelch the spread of violence from Syria's deadlocked civil war, a move that injects yet another layer of alarm over the stability prevailing among neighboring countries.

Lebanese army tanks and armed personnel carriers rolled into the streets of Beirut and Tripoli to stop a night of gunfights as the Lebanese military issued an extraordinary statement urging sectarian and political leaders to refrain from inciting to pull the country back from the brink.

"The country's fate is at risk," a government official said. "Tension in some areas is increasing to unprecedented levels."

In Jordan, the authorities seized a ring of Jordanian extremists suspected of plotting mayhem with munitions from Syria, while Jordanian military skirmishes with suspected Islamic militants traversing the Syria-Jordan border led to the death of a Jordanian border guard.

Ahmadinejad was responding to the head of Iran's powerful Revolutionary Guard, who on Sunday decried the potential for a military intervention by the United States and its allies to destabilize the Middle East. The Iranian president's comments, coming as Russia's leaders employ progres- sively more hawkish rhetoric against the West, are a shift in tone that is equal and opposite to one that took place last fall, when President Barack Obama was making overtures to Russia, which had exemptions of the United States be- gan to warm up.

Three days after hawkish commentators are back on the air, accusing Washington of supporting political forces opposed to President Vladimir Putin. Monday's hearings were remi- niscent of Soviet days, when the Young Communist League under Leonid Brezhnev organized rallies in support of Angela Davis, the radical activist.

— Ellen Barry, The New York Times

Italy convicts seven for failure to warn of quake

ROME — Seven prominent Italian earthquake experts were convicted of manslaughter Monday and sentenced to six years in prison for failing to give adequate warning to the residents of a seis- mically active area in the months preceding a fatal earthquake that killed more than 300 people.

Speaking in a hushed courtroom in LaAquila, the city whose historic core was smashed by the quake, the judge, Anna Maria Billi, read a long list of names of those who died or were in- jured in the disaster before he handed down the sentences to the academy's top distinguished officials.

The defendants, who said they would appeal the decision, were fined 100,000 euros each, or about $130,000, and are banned from pursuing public office.

The seven, most of them prominent seismologists and geologists, were members of a National Commission for the Forecast and Prevention of Major Risks, which met shortly be- fore the quake struck but did not issue a safety warning, even after a period of heightened seismic activity in the area.

— Elisabetta P纵横，The New York Times

Iranian president levels an attack against a rival official

TEHRAN, Iran — President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad of Iran aimed an unusual verbal attack against the government's highest-ranking official on Monday, signaling a new phase in deteriorating relations between top Iranian leaders as the country's economic conditions and isolation over the disputed program worsened.

Ahmadinejad was responding to the head of Iran's powerful judiciary, Ayatollah Sadegh Larijani, who on Sunday de- nied the president access to Tehran's Evin prison, where Ah- madinejad's top adviser has been held since September on charges of publishing offensive material and insulting the Supreme Leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei.

Kerim Reiter, the government's spokesman, was told that his planned visit to the imprisoned adviser, Ali Akbar Varnagir, would be "inappropriate" and divert attention from Iran's economic problems. Ahmadinejad has been political leader of the government blame more on what they call his misman-

— Thomas Erdbrink, The New York Times

Nov. 6 election looms large for monetary policy

WASHINGTON — The next sig- nificant event for monetary policy is not the Federal Reserve's meeting later this month, which is likely to pass quietly, but the presi- dential election two weeks later.

Mitt Romney, the Republican nominee, has said he opposes the Fed's easy money policies, which some see as overly con- servative and inflationary. And as president, he has promised to appoint a new Fed chairman.

The term of the current chair- man, Ben Bernanke, runs through early 2014. But the impact could be more immediate as investors revise their assumptions about the future.

"I certainly would expect the markets to respond, that they will take this as the Fed being more vigorous and that will be echoed in rates," said Laurence H. Meyer, senior managing director at Mar- nerosaic Advisers and a former Fed governor. Such a reversal would be wel- come by critics who argue that the Fed's efforts are undermining economic stability, and mired several economists say the Fed is likely to do revise economic growth. But Meyer and others cautioned that the impact would not be fully felt until it became clear whom the president intends to nominate as the new chairman.

"I am not at all sure that the impact would not be fully felt until it became clear whom the president intends to name as successor to Bernanke," Meyer said.

A range of experts regard two of Romney's economic advisers as the most likely candidates: R. Glenn Hubbard, who chaired the Council of Economic Advisers under Presi- dent George W. Bush, and N. Greg- ory Mankiw, who followed Hubbard in that role. John B. Taylor, a Stan- ford University economics professor and outspoken critic of Fed policy, also is mentioned frequently.

The choice of Taylor — or a like- minded critic — would represent a
dramatic step to change the course of monetary policy. By contrast, Mankiw, an economist at Harvard University, and Hubbard, dean of the Columbia University business school, both are seen as centrist.

But if it's not Taylor, I don't think it would have such a large effect," the Fed announced its latest stimulus campaign in September. The central bank said it would pur- chase mortgage securities at a rate of $40 billion a month until it con- cluded that the outlook for the labor market had improved "substantial- ly." It also said it intended to keep short-term interest rates near zero- at least until mid-2015, extending its previous forecast from late 2014.
China's slowing economy puts US exports at risk

By Nelson Schwartz

As China’s economy cools, U.S. manufacturers and retailers are scrambling to respond.

The economies of all four countries are not growing and the eurozone’s austerities — in particular — have also had their overall debt loads actually get bigger as a percentage of the economy, according to data released by Eurostat, the European Union’s statistical agency.

A recent report from the International Monetary Fund, one of the world’s second largest economies.

Last week the Chinese government announced that gross domestic product at an annual rate of 7.4 percent in the third quarter, the slowest pace in more than three years.

Even as the presidential candidate’s campaign continues, the rest of the world’s second-largest economy is Responsible for shaving 0.1 to 0.2 percentage points off the growth rate for the U.S. economy, which ex- pected GDP at a rate of 1.5 percent in the second quarter.

The recent slowdown in export growth has contributed to the loss of 30,000 jobs in the U.S. manufacturing sector since July, while the overall job market has improved and the unemployment rate fell.

China’s public relations efforts have been striking because exports, along with manufacturing, have been the biggest bright spots since the end of the recession.

China’s growth will be looking for further signals about Chinese demand and its influence on global economies as first such major company to report third-quarter earnings, slightly low- ered its estimate for global demand growth for slowing sales in China for products like trucks, trailers and aluminum cans later this month.

On Monday, Caterpillar reported lower sales in China and cut its global outlook for 2012.

The Associated Press

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Bold solutions vs. petty attacks

The president’s campaign has failed to deliver a substantive message

By A.J. Edelman

“Vote like your ladyparts depend on it.” This is the message that greeted users browsing The Obama campaign website the day before the first presidential debate. The message was clear, and it was petty. If you saw the message and thought “gee, this campaign is really trying hard to turn me on,” which you were one of very few.

Sometimes in politics, fortunes change abruptly. Yet sometimes political fortunes slowly slip away, and a campaign is left to wonder, at the end of the road, “what could have been?” For the Obama/Biden 2012 campaign, the case is very much the latter.

In 13 days, voters will go to the polls and cast their ballots. If the president loses, it will have been the result of what can be described as political malpractice. It is a sin of political campaigns that a candidate must consistently “stay on message,” hammering a core central theme in stump speeches, debates, fundraisers, and other events. That is why you may hear a candidate repeat the same line ten times, or repeat the same argument in a debate. Yet while former Governor Romney executed this plan impressively, it failed to stave off the sluggish economy and foreign policy issues, the Obama campaign was usually a distraction, not an issue. “Laypette’s” was just one of many distractions, as the Obama campaign consistently repeated the mistakes of attacks on Romney, or refused to disavow attacks made by its political allies. While Romney addressed the failed stimulus, the Obama campaign attacked Romney’s success. When Romney spoke of Medicare reform, the DNC ran ads attacking Romney’s tax returns and featured Ann Romney’s dressage horse, which she used for her mcelicious show. While there is no evidence that the Obama campaign collaborated with the DNC to make the ad, the campaign still failed to disavow the ad. When a pro-Obama SuperPAC ran an ad supporting Romney, they were reminded of the death of a steel worker’s wife, it took nearly two weeks for the Obama campaign to disavow the smarmy scare tactic. While Romney proposed a five-point economic plan, the Obama campaign contra...
**Techdoku II**

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

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"Let's Have Tea" by Gail Grabowski

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**Across**

1. "That's great!"
6. Dog's paws
10. Not on time
14. "All kidding__..."
15. Office helper
16. Money in Italy
17. Percussion instrument
19. Like__of bricks
20. Historical period
21. Phrase of understanding
22. Whirls on one leg
24. Makes a wager
25. Shower gel additive
26. Demean
28. Camera accessory
32. High-school math course
33. Fix up, as prose
36. Spaghetti topping
37. Capital of Norway
38. "Dear sir or __..."
40. Former Italian money
41. Plays 18 holes
43. A key to the watch
44. Change for a $5 bill
45. Performing in a theater
47. Ice bucket accessory
49. Fruit peel
50. Give up, as rights
51. Philippine capital
54. Give a nudge to
55. Healthful resort
56. "That's great!"
57. Baldwin of 30 Rock
58. Capital of Norway
59. Summer picnic fruit
62. Unlit
63. "Too bad!"
64. In pieces
65. Concludes
66. Midterm or final
67. Phone book listings

---

**Down**

1. "For Pete's__!"
2. Computer owner
3. Bread with a pocket
4. Summer hrs. in Richmond
5. Depends (on)
6. Loses color
7. Irish homeland
8. End of a college URL
9. Place of worship
10. Stops annoying
11. Sedan or coupe
12. Horse's gait
13. Long periods of time
18. Think the world of
23. Charged particles
24. Clever person's resource
25. Church platform
26. Unlawful fire
27. Invoices
29. Stage prompter's job
30. Farmland measures
31. Potpie veggies
32. Like drive-thru orders
34. Saw socially
35. Wedding words
36. Shooting star
39. Going far afield
40. Former Italian money
41. Plays 18 holes
42. Go yachting
46. Chew on, as a bone
48. Extra person who's "out"
50. Wave's high point
51. Manufactured
52. Alda of M*A*S*H
53. Geek
54. School-support org.
55. Close forcefully
56. Skin opening
57. Picnic pests
60. Pub brew
61. Clean-air agcy.
**Dinosaur Comics**

We've spent generations trying to figure out how to fly. And now we know how to do it! Kinda!

We can fly if we've got an airplane wrapped around us, anyway!

Meanwhile, fairies have been able to fly since forever and they do so under their own power. Have they shared any heavier-than-air flight skills with us? No they haven't.

But aren't fairies magic?

That's even worse! We've got nuclear waste that has to be managed for the next thousand years. Some magic sure would be handy for that, huh?

Wow. Wow it sure would.

Maybe it's like a fairy Prime Directive thing!

That makes sense, actually!

Giving us magic overnight would destroy us! In fact, maybe that's why fairies themselves are so rare: when they invented magic, they nearly destroyed themselves with the sudden, unpredictable and corrupting power!

The few survivors dare only use a handful of protective spells: immortality and flight!

Yes! And the magical fallout means they can't ever go home again!! I always thought I'd never say this, but I really want to read a novel set during the Fairy Magic Civil War.

Wow. Life surprises you sometimes, am I right?

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**Sudoku**

Solution, page 11

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 11

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

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**The All Nighters**

3:07 AM is time for...

WHAT THE?!

Relax, Alora. I'm from the future.

What are you doing here?

Oh, I thought you were my twin sister.

WARNING YOU ABOUT...

OW!

-No, that. Too late.

Yikes! MIT medical closes at 11 PM!!

Good thing I can call the 24-hour helpline at 617-253-4481.

**MIT Medical is closed overnight. Call the 24-hour helpline at 617-253-4481.**
We’ve worked hard to improve and expand our services and now we’re ready to open our doors with a whole new appearance.

Join us to kick off the celebration with a ribbon cutting, refreshments and a complimentary gift.

Stop by and help us celebrate our evolution!

October 25th, 2012
12:00-2:00pm
Building 11-004
& Ribbon Cutting

COME CELEBRATE AN EVOLUTION

OPEN HOUSE & Ribbon Cutting

October 25th, 2012
12:00-2:00pm
Building 11-004

We’ve worked hard to improve and expand our services and now we’re ready to open our doors with a whole new appearance.

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Elevator pitch, from Page 1

pany. He excused himself from class so often that the principal at his high school contacted his parents with concern. “My dad was sure that I was dealing drugs,” he joked. “But I convinced him that I just had a bladder infection.” Such was the humble beginning of the company that he eventually sold for $1.5 million while still in high school.

In his talk, Fazal reflected on his experiences as an entrepreneur and offered several lessons to those considering starting their own companies. He stressed the importance of trying to “create lasting value” and finding the right co-founder, among other pieces of advice.

Following the keynote, twelve finalists had 60 seconds each to pitch their startup ideas. The first place prize of $5000 went to Andrea Glaco with 3dim, a 3-D cellular phone photo imaging technology that allows users to take 3-D pictures with their cellphones. Runner-up Josh Adler with Moses Membranes was also chosen as the Audience Choice Award winner, for the company’s graphene nanotechnology that filters the toxic byproduct of fracturing in a rock layer and returns the water to the environment. Manoah Kotelly with Bluelight was the second runner up, for the company’s SMS technology that allows the poor to purchase products without paying high interest rates.

Kirsch auditorium was packed for the 100K Pitch Contest Finals. Twelve teams had 60 seconds each to pitch their ideas. More audience members watched real-time streaming from a separate room.

60-second pitches
Elevator pitch contest concludes

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American clarinetist and composer Don Byron returns to MIT to present an innovative gospel concert, a premiere performed by the MIT Wind Ensemble and a workshop on an opera-in-progress.

DON BYRON

The New Gospel Quintet with the Boston Arts Academy Spirituals Ensemble
October 27, 7:30 PM | MIT Kresge Auditorium

Concerto Premiere by MIT Wind Ensemble with soloist Evan Ziporyn
March 16, 8 PM | MIT Kresge Auditorium

The Tech 7
Open Access
A Conversation with:

Peter Suber, *Open Access* author
Richard Holton, MIT professor of Philosophy and Chair of the Faculty Open Access Working Group

Panelists will respond to questions about open access and its importance for scholarship and research at MIT and beyond.

Moderated by Ann Wolpert, Director of MIT Libraries.

Co-sponsored by MIT Libraries and MIT Press.

---

```python
from new_skills import *

def learnMarketableJobSkills():
    return linux, OSX, javascript, applescript, perl, python, PHP

if self.interest == True:
    print "E-mail join@tech.mit.edu"
```

---
Workers want MIT to endorse boycott

Hotel workers consider joining local union, protest labor practices

Boycott, from Page 1

“There is often no concierge, bell boy, or phone operator,” said Nicholls. “This forces workers at the front desk to essentially work up to five different jobs at once while receiving no additional pay. Workers also expressed concerns surrounding increases in their health insurance premiums. At a recent Cambridge City Council meeting, the workers testified that these increases are so exorbitant that they can no longer afford the company’s insurance and have resorted to enrolling in the state health insurance program, MassHealth.

Speaking by telephone, Wade Gates, a spokesman of HEI Hotels, responded to those claims, saying that "healthcare costs are going up for everyone, not just our organization."

In an attempt to address these and other complaints, 70 percent of workers at the hotel signed a document requesting that the hotel management maintain a neutral stance while workers debated whether or not to join Local 26, the Boston union of hospitality workers. As part of this neutrality, the hotel management would agree not to harass or fire employees in an attempt to deter unionization. According to Nichols, the hotel management refused to accept the request, which was then later sent to them via mail, said Nichols and Brian Lang, president of Local 26.

According to Nichols, the hotel management refused to accept the request.

Gates refutes Nichols’ statement that the hotel management was unresponsive to their requests. "We have an open door process and culture," said Gates. "We believe in building an employee culture of respect, and we respect the regulations set forth by the National Labor Relations Board which specify that employees must hold elections to form a union in order to join the union. Hotel employees have not yet held elections, but if they choose to do so, we will respect that process and the outcome."

Before proceeding with elections or other unionization related activities, workers at Le Méridien want a written agreement from management specifying that they will remain neutral during a potential unionization process. The failure to provide such an agreement has led workers to take further actions. On Oct. 11, they organized a picket line at the Hotel. More than 200 attendees, Lang reported that picketers marched from Le Méridien Hotel to the Cambridge City Hall where they were received by City Councillors who agreed to support the workers’ efforts to improve their working conditions.

According to Lang, Le Méridien workers will continue in their efforts to draw MIT’s attention to potential labor abuses at the hotel. "The workers at Le Méridien are going to continue active outreach to get individuals not to eat, sleep, or hold meetings in the hotel. They would like MIT to participate and respond by endorsing these efforts."

[Labor complaints] have led many major universities to preclude further investment in HEI.

At the Cambridge City Council meeting held on Oct. 15, the City Council voted unanimously to pass an order which instructs "the city manager and all city departments to boycott the services provided by HEI Le Méridien Cambridge." According to the City Council minutes from Oct. 15, the Council normally holds festivities at Le Méridien "every other year following its swearing in ceremony." The Council will cease to hold this particular event as well as all others at the hotel until "HEI changes its practices and treats its workers with the dignity and respect they deserve." HEI Hotels has come under fire before for labor complaints. This has led many major universities to preclude further investment in HEI. According to an article published in The Crimson in April 2012, Harvard Management, which manages Harvard University’s endowment, announced that it would no longer continue to invest with the company due to these complaints. A report by the organization HEI Workers Rising specifies that Harvard’s previous investments in HEI had totaled some $70 million.

The Crimson report further states that within the last year Princeton, Yale, Brown, The University of Pennsylvania, Cornell, Vanderbilt, and Swarthmore have all announced that they will not continue to invest funds in the company. According to Lang, Le Méridien workers will continue in their efforts to draw MIT’s attention to potential labor abuses at the hotel. "The workers at Le Méridien are going to continue active outreach to get individuals not to eat, sleep, or hold meetings in the hotel. They would like MIT to participate and respond by endorsing these efforts.

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More light shed on health violations

Mass. health department releases meningitis outbreak documents

By Sabrina TaverNSE and Andrew Pollack
THE NEW YORK TIMES

The Massachusetts Department of Health released hundreds of pages of documents Monday detailing a history of violations at the New England Compounding Center, whose tainted medicine has caused a nationwide meningitis outbreak. The documents include dozens of complaints from as early as April 1999, less than a year after the company began as a compounding pharmacy in Framingham, Mass.

The documents provide a window into regulators’ attempts to crack down.

Among the most frequently cited problems was the company’s habit of allowing doctors' offices to fax orders for medicine without names of specific patients, a practice that is prohibited under state law. The company was also repeatedly cited for not providing the appropriate data to support its medicines’ expiration dates. All violations were eventually corrected.

The reports were released as the number of meningitis cases related to the spinal injection of a steroid drug from the pharmacy that was contaminated with mold rose to 294. Three joint infections have also been linked to the shots, and 23 people have died.

State officials inspected the company at least three times in 2004, finding a variety of violations. The records show that a lawyer for the company pleaded with officials, saying that if they brought disciplinary action, the consequences “would be fatal to the business” and trigger a “catastrophe.” An outside auditor was assigned to see that the company corrected its procedures, and eventually the company was cleared by the state.

In January 2006, the company and the Massachusetts Board of Registation in Pharmacy signed a consent agreement in which the company and its chief pharmacist and co-owner, Barry J. Cadden, were to be placed on a one-year probation. However, the board agreed to delay the start of the probation for one year to give the company a chance to undergo two inspections and make improvements.

A few months later the state-appointed inspector said that the center had made significant progress. The documents, released in response to requests from journalists, provide a window into regulators’ attempts to crack down on problems at the company, and the company’s efforts to correct them.

The facilities include an array of small clinics and surgery centers, but also some major hospitals. In New York, for instance, the Beth Israel Medical Center, Montefiore Medical Center and Long Island Jewish-North Shore University Hospitals appear on the list. Also on the list are Brigham and Women’s Hospital and Boston Children’s Hospital, in Boston; a hospital in Eau Claire, Wis., that is part of the Mayo Clinic system; Yale-New Haven Hospital in Connecticut; and the Naval Medical Center in Portsmouth, Va.

Know something important we should write about?

(We probably don’t know about it.)

Let us know.

news@tech.mit.edu

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State officials inspected the company and found a variety of violations in 2004.
Being a sorority leader teaches important lessons

By Maria Elena Martinez

When I went through sorority recrui-
tment and asked about the time com-
mitment, I kept being told “what you
got out of your experience is re-
lated to what you are willing to put
in.” While it sounded very vague at
the time, I quickly understood what
they meant when I decided in my
leadership positions in Pi Beta Phi.

Sorority life is very focused on
the development of their members
and want to spot future leaders early
on. For this reason, they offer many
opportunities for the younger girls
to take command. The older sisters
in leadership roles become these
younger girls’ role models; they in-
spire them to one day stand in their
shoes and take responsibility for the
excellence of the chapter. My soror-
yty big sister and her big sister were
both new member educators for my
class. I remember looking up to them
and wanting to be as involved as they
were.

During my new member period,
I was part of the committee on chap-
ter elections. We were affiliated with
Mr. Panellenic Association, which
allowed me to interact with emerg-
ing leaders from other chapters by
participating in each other’s philan-
thropic events as a group and plan-
ing activities for the new members.

Then I decided to aim higher and
applied for my chapter’s executive
board, becoming the new member
educator. I was thrilled to share what
I had learned about my sorority
with the next new member class and
I had just learned about my sorority
educator. I was thrilled to share what

One of the hardest things is knowing
what you want to do and when to act as
an officer. The line between
those two roles can be very thin, es-
pecially when you are working with
confidential information or laying
down rules. When I was match-
ing big and little sisters I had to put
aside what I had heard my friends
say about who they wanted to be
matched with and instead go with
the preferences of both parties to
maximize happiness. This was one
of my most difficult situations be-
cause I wanted all my sisters to end
up pleased with my decisions.

As a leader in an established or-
ganization, you get to work with peo-
lies who share your same interests
and passion. Even though there is a
governmental structure, you all
still work together as a “united front”
towards the same goals. This makes
for an atmosphere where you are
more willing to commit your time
unto the betterment of the orga-
nization, and makes work a privilege
rather than an obligation. In my case,
it also gives me the sense of security
that sisterhood entails. I am not as
afraid to make mistakes, allowing me
to go the extra mile.

One of the experiences as a
leader in my chapter has been lead-
ing all the new members through
their new member program, teach-
ing them about the sorority, show-
ing them what I’m passionate about,
seeing them get involved in the
chapter, and attaining their initia-
tions. Even though I’m not officially
recognized for them after they are
initiated, I can’t help but offer advice
and feel proud when one of them de-
cides to take on a leadership role in
the chapter.

I encourage everyone to start
getting involved in organizations
they’re interested in and ask about
leadership opportunities. Serving
my chapter has benefited me greatly,
both emotionally and educationally,
and I am so grateful for the oppor-
tunities that sisterhood has given me.

Once important thing that being a
sorority leader has taught me is that
motivating the most active mem-
bers is not always the most effective
strategy. When I led new member
meetings, I usually rewarded those
who consistently showed up but
then ignored the people who were too
busy or too shy to come to meetings.
We decided as an exec board that
we were going to work on “motivat-
ing the middle” and reaching out to
those sisters who couldn’t make it to
chapter meetings or events all the
time. Those who came every time
were to just keep coming because
they liked it. Other sisters just need-
ed some encouragement and a little
“push” to make them realize how

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In an exciting game that left them a goal behind at the start of the second half, the MIT women’s soccer team went on to defeat the Coast Guard Academy, 3-1, on a sunny Saturday afternoon following senior day. Jennifer R. Ibanez ’16 scored the game-winning goal in the 75th minute of play. The Engineers are now 12-3-1 for the season and 7-1 in NEWMAC play, while the Bears fell to 2-12 and 0-8 in conference play.

Just 21 seconds into the first half, Casandra N. Ceri ’13 took a shot at goal, revealing the pace at which the game was moving right from the very beginning. In the first half alone, MIT took 25 shots at net, compared to just four from the Bears. Goalkeeper Devin Fellman saved 11 of these shots in the first 34 minutes, while goalie Meghan S. Wright ’13 only saved one. In the 39th minute, Emily Marks put the Bears on the board when she sent the ball flying into the top left corner of the net off a free kick, giving them an edge over the Engineers.

Trailing a goal behind, MIT turned it into overdrive, forcing Fellman to make six saves in the first 18 minutes. Finally, in the 65th minute, the Engineers tied up the game on an own goal. Andrea Y. Park ’13 (Irvine, Calif.) lobbed the ball at the net following a foul and the ball deflected off one of the Coast Guard players and went into the net. Ten minutes later, Ibanez scored her fourth goal of the season when she made it past the defenders and shot from ten yards out, sending the ball into the top left corner. A mere seven minutes later, Emily Kuo ’13 scored the third and final goal of the game after a cross from Samantha A. Fleischmann ’14. This was Kuo’s 15th goal of the season and the 40th in her career. With less than eight minutes remaining on the clock, the Bears were not able to close the gap and the game ended with an MIT victory of 3-1.

In the second half, the Engineers took another 20 shots at the net, nine of which were saved by Fellman, crediting her with an impressive 20 saves throughout the entire game, while Wright made just one save the entire game.

MIT will close its regular season on Saturday, Oct. 27 at Smith, while Coast Guard will travel to St. Joseph’s (Conn.) on Tuesday, Oct. 23.

UPCOMING HOME EVENTS

Tuesday, Oct. 23
Women’s Volleyball vs. Wellesley College
7:00 p.m., Rockwell Cage

Thursday, Oct. 25
Field Hockey vs. University of New England
6:00 p.m., Jack Barry Field

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