Boston Marathon bombing trial scheduled to begin next week

By Drew Bent and Ray Wang
ASSOCIATE EDITORS

Openings are expected to commence next Wednesday in the trial of the accused Boston Marathon bomber, Dzhokhar Tsarnaev, according to a court official. Pending motions will be addressed in a hearing on Monday, and on Tuesday the defense and prosecution teams will

Was ring design under influence of fraternities?

By Patricia Z. Dominguez
NEWS EDITOR

Every year, a group of MIT students is chosen by its respective class council to design MIT’s iconic class ring. The brass class ring, as well as organize the annual Ring Premiere and Ring Delivery ceremony. This prominent role exposes the group to criticism.

The past two ring committees, or RingCooms, have each had ten out of their eleven members affiliated with fraternities and sororities. Additionally, in the past seven years, at least five RingCoom chair members were party to the Chi Phi fraternity. In an interview with The Tech, an anonymous RingCoom member pointed out some of the symbols called into question on the Class of 2016 Brass Ring. The first was on the Hacker’s Map, which features an engraved “XVI” for the Class of 1865, but the circle around it makes it look like a Greek letter “phi” (the “X” in the “chi”). The second is located on the class shank. Here, the scribbles on the “I” in “MIT” are turned such that the letters “chi” and “phi” are also noticeable.

According to the Class of 2016 RingCoom’s website, the “XVI” symbols on the Hacker’s Map are supposed to represent a compass rose, declination scale, and a flat screw head, and the screw on the class shank was made to look like an “X” to distinguish a subtle vertical “XVI.”

The last symbol pointed out by the anonymous source was a vertically pointed star etched onto the Boston skyline side of the bezel. Although the star signifies 2012, the year the Class of 2016 entered MIT, a twelve-
WEATHER

Quiet clouds likely in Boston as South copes with winter storm

By Colin Thackray

Extended Forecast Today: Cloudy, High 24°F Winds at 10-15 mph from the West
Tonight: Overcast, Low 7°F Winds at 10 mph from the North

Tomorrow: Partly cloudy, High 28°F Low 3°F NW winds at 5-10 mph
Saturday: Clear, High 30°F Low 10°F
Sunday: Cloudy, High 33°F Low 24°F

A high pressure system will continue to dominate the weather as we move into February, keeping the temperatures relatively mild. However, the wet winter conditions are expected to continue, with a chance of snow and sleet in the forecast. Drivers should be prepared for slippery roads and reduced visibility.

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OPINION POLICY

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SCHOOL OF HUMANITIES, ARTS & SOCIAL SCIENCES
Policy bans roof deck use at parties
FSILGs seek "long-term solution"

FSILG, from Page 1
alumni receptions and special house events as well as the use of social media when advertising events and inviting guests. The policy states: “No more than 250 invitations may be extended. For purposes of this policy, an invitation is defined as direct advertising, through social media, by a member of a FSILG. Advertising includes, but not limited to written invitations, e-mail, or other forms of publicity.”

This most recent rendering of the social policy differed significantly from the one issued in August 2014, right before LCA incident that occurred during rush week. In last year’s policy, the maximum possible assembly number for any house was 249 people. It also did not address the use of roof decks or methods of extending invitations to guests via social media outlets.

“The FSILG Social Policy is a working document and we hope to continuously update it to represent the views of the community,” Oppenheim said. “One future goal of the social policy committee, comprised of representatives of the IFC, Panhel, the LGC, the FSILG office, the ALE, and the DSL, is to come up with a long-term solution for the assembly numbers in our communities.”

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Tsunarnaev jury to be seated far behind the original schedule
O’Toole says the trial could extend into this June

Trial, from Page 1
Although jury selection started on Jan. 5, with opening statements slated for Jan. 26, the process was drawn out by snow days and other cancellations, including an unrelated one this Monday for undisclosed reasons. A total of eight days of jury selection have been cancelled so far, and the court will also take this Thursday and Friday off to deal with pretrial affairs.

Last Thursday, the United States Court of Appeals for the First Circuit heard the defense team argue for the trial’s location to be changed, which government prosecutors opposed. The defense had filed repeated change-of-venue motions with the district court already, claiming that it would be impossible to seat an impartial jury in the city of Boston, which was heavily affected by the bombings. After O’Toole rejected all of the motions, the defense appealed to the higher court.

The appeals court initially ruled against the defense’s motion to move the trial to another city. However, the sole dissenting judge of the three, Juan R. Torruella, argued that the extent to which Boston was victimized by the bombings may justify moving the trial elsewhere. It was at Torruella’s request that the appeals court hold the hearing last Thursday.

During the hearing, the defense continued to push for a change of venue, while the prosecution maintained that the time elapsed since the bombings is enough to now hold the trial without media bias.

The appeals court asked whether it was the right time for the defense to be making the appeal. Usually, an appeal like this would happen once the trial is completed, but Tsarnaev’s attorneys argued that the judicial system would be harmed by going forward with what they believe is a biased jury.

The appeals court has yet to release a ruling. If the appeals court were to accept the appeal, which is unlikely considering the previous 2-1 ruling against it by them in the past, then the trial would have to be moved to another state.

The Boston Bar Association (BBA), the oldest bar association in the United States, has also expressed dissatisfaction with the case, although for a different reason. On Wednesday, it asked the Department of Justice not seek the death penalty. According to Boston.com, BBA president Julia Houston cited financial strain, disproportionate impact on minority groups, and the inevitability of wrongful convictions as reasons to seek life imprisonment should Tsarnaev be found guilty.

Once opening statements begin, the trial is expected to continue for months. O’Toole offhandedly mentioned to a potential juror Wednesday that it could extend into June.
Police tell students to get off Mt. Simmons

Students scaling the mountainous pile of snow behind Simons Hall in past weeks were confronted by police officers and told to leave. Some were reportedly threatened with arrest if they did not comply.

By multiple accounts, police told climbers to get off the nearly five-story mountain. In an email to The Tech, Jeremy Warnick, a spokesman for the Cambridge Police, cited public safety as their chief concern, “trespassing aside.”

“Falling from any significantly large snow mountain could lead to an injury or something more severe,” Warnick said.

Students nevertheless continued to entertain themselves on the snow pile, whether to climb, sled, or even snowboard down what was dubbed “Mt. Simmonds.” Some were also careful to avoid getting caught.

“My friends and I climbed it in snowy snow... When we heard that the police were on their way, we took some handy but necessary selfies and scrambled off,” Wendi Gurau ‘18 said. “I don’t think any of us has ever been arrested, but I’m certain that none of us wanted our first time to be in biking.”

MIT students aren’t the only ones seemingly fixated on the mountain. The Boston Globe published an article focusing on Dheera Venkatraman’s (PhD ’13) experience trekking the mountain. An avid winter hiker, he ventured a visit to the White Mountains and visited Mt. Simmonds instead. A buzzfeed post with over 2 million views also featured Mt. Simmonds.

Over the past week, excavators and trucks have been spotted moving snow from the mountain and taking it elsewhere. The previously towering snow pile now stands at only around two stories tall.

—William A. Rodríguez

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We invite you to attend an informational meeting to share your comments about the future of late-night service.

- This event is accessible to people with disabilities and individuals with limited English proficiency. If you need a reasonable accommodation (such as American Sign Language Interpreters, assistive listening devices, handouts in alternate formats, etc.) and/or language assistance (such as translated documents or an interpreter) to fully participate, please contact MBTA Marketing at (617) 222-5740 or email laternightservice@mbta.com at least 7 days prior to the event. Such services are provided free of charge.

- Written comments will also be accepted through Wednesday, March 11, 2015, and should be mailed to: MBTA, 10 Park Plaza, Room 2310, Boston, MA 02116.

**MEETING LOCATIONS**

**Monday, March 2**
6 p.m.—8 p.m.
District Hall
Assembly Space
75 Northern Ave.
Boston, MA 02210

**Monday, March 9**
5:30 p.m.—7:30 p.m.
Sheraton Commander Hotel
Mount Vernon Room
16 Garden Street
Cambridge, MA 02138

**Wednesday, March 4**
5:30 p.m.—7:30 p.m.
State Transportation Building
Cont. Rooms 1, 2, 3
10 Park Plaza
Boston, MA 02116

**Tuesday, March 10**
3:30 p.m.—5:30 p.m.
The Inn at Longwood Medical
Longwood Hall
342 Longwood Ave.
Boston, MA 02115

**Wednesday, March 11**
3 p.m.—5 p.m.
State Transportation Building
Transportation Library
10 Park Plaza
Boston, MA 02116

**Twitter Town Hall**

We also invite you to participate in a Twitter Town Hall on Monday, March 2, from 12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m. by using the hashtag #latenightservice

If this information is needed in another language, please contact the MBTA Title VI Specialist at 617-222-3200.

ESP Security is looking for volunteers to help at Spark, the weekend of Mar. 14. Sign up to volunteer at https://esp.mit.edu/security.

**IN SHORT**

**Add date to March 6. This is the last day to add subjects to registration. Students adding or changing class registrations after add date will face a $100 late fee to petition for further changes.**

**Laptop tagging**

Will take place in Lobby 10 from 9 a.m. to 11:30 p.m. next Wednesday. The MIT Police will tag laptops for $10 each, payable in cash or by MIT cost object.

**The final exam schedule for the spring semester has been published online at https://finals.mit.edu.**

**GPAs released for FSILGs**

The Division for Student Life has released a grade report for fraternities, sororities, and independent living groups (FSILGs). In the Fall 2014 semester, the average GPA among members of independent living groups was 4.45. The average GPA among sorority sisters was 4.43. “The average GPA for fraternities was 4.38.”

—Alexandra Delmore

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OBITUARY

Irvingsinger,philosophyprofessorandauthor of21booksstudyingattheInstitute,‘ThemNatureofLove’amonghisworks
Ring Committee, from Page 1

Pointed star is also a symbol of Chi Phi.

Patrick Lowe ‘16, last year’s RingComm chair, wrote in an email to The Tech that the only meanings behind the symbols are what’s mentioned in the material published by the Class of 2016 ring committee on its website.

This year’s RingComm said they attempted to make sure that there were no symbols with unclear meanings on the Class of 2017 Brass Rat.

“Going into this committee, I was very aware about past committees and the questionable symbols they put on the ring,” said Anthony Occidentale ‘17, the chair of this year’s committee, in an interview with The Tech. “When symbols or features were proposed, we ensured the importance of them to members in our class first and fact-checked to make sure it didn’t stand for any type of second meaning.”

With regard to the twelve-pointed star, which had been one of the options suggested for this year’s ring design, Occidentale added, “We definitely wanted a shooting star on our ring but had to shoot down some requests that would be labeled as standing for something else. The thirteen-pointed star we ended up with was the perfect fit. The number 13 is thought to be an unlucky number, yet a shooting star is said to be extremely lucky. We all luckily entered MIT in 2013 and this paradoxical shooting star overall seemed to fit a lot of things associated with MIT.”

A MakeMIT symbol was also said to be associated with a member on this year’s RingComm. “That had no bearing on the fact we put a subtle reference to their logo on the ring,” said Occidentale. “The class ring represents our experience here and significant events that occurred during our time here...MakeMIT is the first ever hardware hackathon in our class and the passion for hardware hacking. Linking the fact that a committee member is a part of MakeMIT, and that it’s the only reason it is on the ring, is like linking the fact that a member is from East Campus, and that’s the only reason a roller coaster is on the ring.”

Aspects of the Class of 2017 Ring Premiere were also changed from previous years. According to Occidentale, there was an established tradition that members of past ring committees would attend premieres. In practice, this evolved into “a drinking fest where members would show up drunk, drink in Kresge, and boo the committee on stage while chanting that their ring was better,” wrote Occidentale. He stated that he wished for this year’s premiere to go differently.

As a result, the Class of 2017 RingComm ultimately decided to allow past ring committees to RSVP to this year’s premiere “on the condition that they would be well behaved,” said Occidentale. He disclosed that last year’s RingComm chair did not RSVP, but was still granted entry. “The Campus Activities Complex (CAC) and Student Activities Office (SAO) took action this year by closing off the choir balcony in Kresge Auditorium; their reasoning for the decision was that ‘past Ring Commitee have utilized this space for Premiere events. However, in recent years, some student attendees have been found with alcohol in that space, which poses a significant safety risk for those individuals, as that space is raised above the auditorium floor and has a low railing,” according to an email to The Tech from Joel Pettigrew, a program coordinator in the SAO.

According to Emily Van Bleghem ‘17, vice-chair of this year’s committee, there are currently attempts being made to change current premiere traditions. “It has been thoroughly discussed with the 2017 Ring Committee that if we are fortunate enough to be invited to the 2018 Ring Premiere we will treat their event with the utmost respect,” she said in an email to The Tech. “We believe it is important to remember that this is their moment and to honor them, their class, and the ring they have worked so hard to present.”

This year’s RingComm also made a conscious effort to ensure that every member of the Class of 2017 received a ring. “That’s the goal. I’m the treasurer, and my goal is to get 100 percent participation in ring sales,” said Antoine Nasr ‘17. “At graduation, I want to be able to see everyone in my class turn their ring from the beaver facing towards them to the beaver facing away, as per tradition.”

This year’s RingComm provided subsidies where their budget allowed, as past ring committees did, as well as a RingComm financial aid scholarship.

This year’s Ring Delivery is scheduled to take place on April 22, at the Institute of Contemporary Art.

Ring Committee, from Page 1

Ring Committee invited on the condition that they RSVP, be ‘well behaved’
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3 - 270 4:00PM - 6:00PM

Solution to 18.03
from page 5

Solution to 5.12
from page 5

Solution to 7.05
from page 5

Solution to 7.013
from page 5

Solution to 7.05
from page 5

Solution to 7.013
from page 5

Solution to 7.05
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