

MIT's
Oldest and Largest
Newspaper



The Weather
Today: Rain and snow 40°F (4°C)
Tonight: Rain, 30s°F (0-3°C)
Tomorrow: Partly cloudy, 42°F (6°C)
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Volume 124, Number 1

Cambridge, Massachusetts 02139

Tuesday, February 3, 2004

UA Completes Under Half Of Fall Projects

By **Lauren E. LeBon**
and **Tongyan Lin**
STAFF REPORTERS

Out of the 52 Undergraduate Association's goals published in *The Tech* last term, 19 have reached completion by the end of Independent Activities Period, while 23 have missed their deadlines.

The UA Goals Checklist, a list of goals which students could use to track the progress of UA projects, served as the centerpiece of the election platform for Pius A. Uzamere II '04 and Jacob W. Faber '04 during the presidential elections last March. In October, *The Tech* ran the first edition of the checklist followed by two more updates in November.

Several UA officials, including Uzamere, said they have been disappointed in the low amounts of feedback received from students as a result of the checklist. Uzamere points to infrequent updates of the checklist web site and "marketing issues" as possible causes for low student input.

Nonetheless, the list seems to have provided a degree of motivation and accountability for the UA and has received significant support from current officers.

Officials assess early goals

"I viewed the first term as a trial to view how effective it is," Uzamere said. "On the whole, it's been pretty successful."

Still, Uzamere said that while there has been some useful feedback from the student body, that

amount has been small.

"It's supposed to be a two-way thing," Uzamere said, "not a dictum."

While 19 of the goals have been completed as of Feb. 1, 23 goals have missed the original deadlines published in *The Tech*. Meanwhile, 10 goals have deadlines coming this spring.

Uzamere said the projected completion dates are when MIT students can see the results of the UA's work around campus.

"If you see a target implementation date, that is when the implementation is completed," he said. "You can see it."

Uzamere added, however, that deadlines are not absolute, and that sometimes factors outside the control of student representatives can affect the completion date.

Some goals achieved

Last fall, the UA established a Daytime Shuttle to transport students across campus and into Boston. There has been debate lately among the UA, Parking and Transportation, and the Graduate Student Council over routes for the winter shuttle schedule. Three routes, two from the UA and one from the GSC, are being considered, said Katherine H. Allen '05, UA representative of off-campus students.

One route shortens the walking distance for residents of Epsilon Theta and Zeta Beta Tau, another

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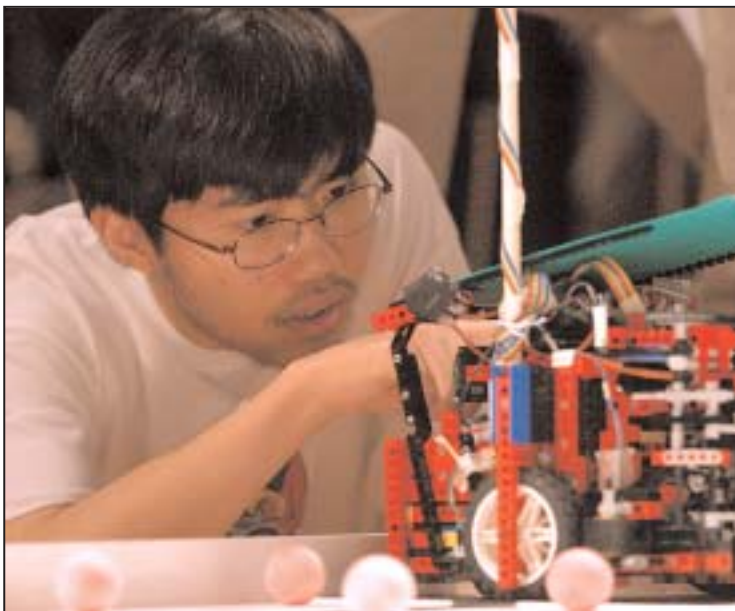
Convertible Wins Killian Chaos

By **Kathleen Dobson**

In a nearly full Kresge auditorium, "ZSR Convertible," created by Xin David Zhang '06, Yasuhiro Shirasaki '06, and Yin Ren '06, went undefeated last Thursday to win this

year's Autonomous Design Robot Competition (6.270) called "Killian Chaos."

The closest match-up of the day for "ZSR Convertible" came in the final round of the best of three match-up, when it defeated "Hum-



PETER R. RUSSO—THE TECH

Xin David Zhang '06 sets up his team's LEGO robot, named 'ZSR Convertible,' for an early round in the annual 6.270 autonomous robot competition, held in Kresge Auditorium last Thursday evening. 'ZSR Convertible' would go on to win the tournament.

6.270, Page 16

MIT Lays Off 100 Staff Members

Other Positions Left Vacant in \$23 Million Cost Cutting Measure

By **Beckett W. Sterner**
NEWS EDITOR

MIT will lay off approximately 100 staff from its administrative branch this year and leave another

130 positions unfilled, said Executive Vice President John R. Curry.

About 60 layoffs have already been announced in the Information Services and Technology Depart-

ment, said Jerrold M. Grochow, vice president for IS&T. The department will also leave ten positions unfilled.

The other layoffs will come from the facilities department, although their exact size and nature has not yet been fixed.

"We have been asked to reduce our [Fiscal Year] '05 budget by close to \$8M," wrote chief facilities officer Victoria V. Sirianni in an e-mail. "This cannot be done without reductions in staff."

Sirianni declined to comment further pending the official announcement of the layoffs this Thursday and Friday.

Curry said that layoffs and empty positions would save the institute approximately two-thirds of the \$35 million dollar gap in next year's budget.

Hiring freeze in place

Curry said that for almost all empty positions, they are "basically telling people we have a hiring freeze," and are losing staff through attrition.

The hiring freeze carries over to administrative staff for faculty as well, said Provost Robert A. Brown, although some positions may be filled occasionally.

Layoffs, Page 23

Shutdown Savings Minimal

By **Michael E. Rolish**
STAFF REPORTER

Additional staff vacation days and warm weather resulted in limited financial savings that did not significantly affect institute costs during the holiday shutdown, although Vice President for human resources Laura Avakian said that staff did appreciate the extra days off.

"The temperatures over the shutdown period were very mild," said Peter L. Cooper, director of utilities for the Department of Facilities. "That masks any effect of having the buildings shut down" as far as steam usage. "As far as the electric usage, we had hoped that people

Shutdown, Page 28



PETER R. RUSSO—THE TECH

A Boston Police officer stands ready with a pepper rifle in Kenmore Square Sunday night. Thousands of fans swarmed the square after the New England Patriots' victory over the Carolina Panthers in the Super Bowl, igniting small fires and climbing traffic lights.



Examining diversity and racial issues on campus.

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MASLab competition spread

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SPORTS

Brian Chase reviews the game that gave the Patriots their second title in three years.

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WORLD & NATION

Iran's Reform Party To Boycott Elections Next Month

THE NEW YORK TIMES

TEHRAN, IRAN

Iran's leading reform party announced on Monday that it would boycott the parliamentary elections this month. The boycott was announced one day after more than a third of the Parliament's members resigned to protest a ban on hundreds of reformist candidates.

Mohammad Reza Khatami, the party leader and younger brother of President Mohammad Khatami, said that his Islamic Iran Participation Front had decided by a large majority not to take part in the poll.

"We have no hope that free and legal elections will be held on Feb. 20," he said at a news conference. "Therefore, it is impossible for the Participation Front to take part in the elections under current circumstances."

The tension between reformist supporters of Khatami, who control Parliament, and their hard-line opponents has been building since early January, when nearly half of the 8,200 people who had filed as candidates were rejected by the conservative 12-member Guardian Council.

FCC Investigates Halftime Show

THE NEW YORK TIMES

The exposure of Janet Jackson's right breast by Justin Timberlake during a risque halftime concert at the Super Bowl in Houston led to apologies by CBS and MTV executives on Monday, and a call by the chairman of the Federal Communications Commission to investigate.

Michael Powell, the FCC chairman, called Jackson's display a "classless, crass and deplorable stunt." The commission could impose fines of \$27,500 for each CBS-owned station and affiliate. Both CBS and MTV are divisions of Viacom.

Judy McGrath, the group president of MTV Networks, said, "We have deeply apologized to CBS, to the viewers, and to the NFL." She called what happened "a renegade mistake by a performer" and said that MTV, the producer of the halftime show, was not taking the FCC investigation cavalierly. She added, "We absolutely, unequivocally, did not know this thing was going to happen."

At a White House press briefing on Monday, a reporter asked if President Bush had any criticism or comments. Scott McClellan, the White House spokesman, said: "Well, one, I think the FCC has already said that they're looking into the matter. I think our view is that it's important for families to be able to expect a high standard when it comes to programming."

Prosecutors Set Stage for Key Witness Against Stewart

THE NEW YORK TIMES

NEW YORK

Prosecutors in the trial of Martha Stewart sought to prepare the stage on Monday for the testimony of a key witness, while her lawyers tried to undermine the anticipated testimony through their questioning of other government witnesses.

The testimony of Douglas Faneuil, an assistant to Stewart's stock broker and co-defendant, Peter Bacanovic, is expected to be pivotal in the government's case. Faneuil is expected to tell the jury about what Stewart learned from whom before she sold shares she held in ImClone Systems in late December 2001, soon before the company announced that a much-anticipated drug had run into serious regulatory obstacles. Stewart does not face a charge of criminal insider trading, but she is charged with lying to investigators about her decision to sell her stock.

The presiding judge, Miriam Goldman Cedarbaum of U.S. District Court in Manhattan, announced Monday morning that Faneuil would most likely testify on Tuesday afternoon.

Bush Budget Proposal Adds Homeland Security Funding

By Richard W. Stevenson
THE NEW YORK TIMES

WASHINGTON

President Bush proposed a \$2.4 trillion budget on Monday that would substantially increase funding next year for national security but would cut or strictly limit spending on most domestic programs and, on paper at least, put the government on a path of declining deficits.

The release of Bush's budget plan for the fiscal year that starts Oct. 1 amounted to a statement of the White House's election-year priorities, and it underscored the degree to which the administration's policy and political focus is on fighting terrorism and building up the military.

The budget immediately drew fire from Democrats, who said that its deficit reduction claims were illusory and that it would shortchange a broad range of national priorities to pay for the tax cuts Bush has pushed through Congress over the past three years.

The plan called for an increase in military spending of 7 percent, or \$26.5 billion, to \$401.7 billion. That figure did not include money, which the administration said could be as much as \$50 billion, for continued

military operations next year in Iraq and Afghanistan, an expense the administration said it would specify and seek funding for only after the presidential election.

For domestic security programs, the White House said it wanted a budget increase of 9.7 percent, or \$2.7 billion, to \$30.5 billion.

By contrast, the budget proposed that the overall growth in spending on other government operations outside of Social Security and Medicare — a category that encompasses everything from the national parks to the National Institutes of Health — be held to one-half of 1 percent, or \$2 billion, to \$386 billion.

Bush's stringent spending plan would make exceptions for some politically sensitive issues like education, but it would generally require his own party, as the majority in Congress, to cut, freeze or kill many programs in the months leading up to Election Day. It asked Congress to hold spending on new and improved highways to \$256 billion over the next six years, \$119 billion less than authorized by legislation proposed by Republicans in the House. It called for the elimination of 65 government programs, including grants to companies pursuing

new technologies and an initiative to tear down dilapidated public housing, and outright cuts in 63 more, including federal assistance to local law enforcement and research into ecosystems.

The budget showed Bush making good on his pledge to cut the deficit in half within five years from its projected level this year of \$521 billion to \$364 billion next year and \$237 billion in 2009.

But the White House did not provide any figures on what would happen to the deficit in the years beyond the next half-decade, when the president's call to make permanent the 10-year tax cuts he pushed through Congress in 2001 and 2003 would show up in the budget. And to show he could meet the deficit reduction target in the next five years, the president left out of his calculations any money for a number of needs that both parties say will have to be met.

Democrats pointed in particular to Bush's decision to delay requesting additional money to pay for the occupation of Iraq and continued military operations in Afghanistan, saying the failure to include any spending estimate for that purpose was just one example of fiscal gimmickry in the budget.

Sharon to Plan Removal of 17 Settlements From Gaza Strip

By James Bennet
THE NEW YORK TIMES

JERUSALEM

Prime Minister Ariel Sharon said Monday that he might seek to evacuate almost all Israeli settlers from the Gaza Strip, outraging members of the settlement movement that he helped create.

"I am working on the assumption that in the future there will be no Jews in Gaza," Sharon told the liberal daily Haaretz. He made similar comments in a tense meeting of legislators from his Likud Party, people who took part said.

It was Sharon's most specific disclosure about what he calls "unilateral disengagement" from the Palestinians, a step that he has said he will take if he judges that

the Bush administration's peace initiative, known as the road map, has failed.

Sharon said he had given orders to plan for the evacuation of 17 of at least 20 settlements in Gaza. But his spokesman, Ranaan Gissin, cautioned that this was the most far-reaching of three options that Sharon was preparing to submit for the approval of his Cabinet.

"It may be less settlements that have to be evacuated," Gissin said. "We have to prepare for an interim plan that will maximize security for our citizens and minimize friction with the Palestinians."

Sharon set no time line for a withdrawal, though his allies said it could begin by summer. His opponents on the right and skeptics

on the left were quick to accuse him of posturing to divert public attention from a bribery investigation. Sharon has not been charged in the scandal.

Settlers warned of political action to bring down Sharon's government, but far-right parties did not immediately bolt his governing coalition, an indication that they did not consider action against settlements to be imminent or inevitable.

Palestinian officials suggested that the announcement might be nothing more than a public relations maneuver.

In the last 18 months Sharon has made a series of statements that have alarmed longtime allies on the right.

WEATHER

The Second Month

By Robert Lindsay Korty
STAFF METEOROLOGIST

Depending on how dour one is, February inspires images of gray skies and dreary weather or skiing and seasonal recreation. Either way, it is definitely winter. The January that just ended was the coldest month in seventy years with a mean temperature of only 20.7 °F (-6.3 °C); February 1934 was the last month to have a lower mean temperature. (In fact, Boston's all-time record low temperature of -18 °F (-28 °C) was set February 1934.) Last year, the first with a cold winter in a while, the temperature dropped to 0 °F (-18 °C) at Logan twice during February.

But after a January during which repeated blasts of Arctic air moved into New England, even normal February weather feels almost spring-like. Temperatures should clear freezing for the next few days, as a storm center passes west. The milder air advected ahead of the storm will be enough to ensure rain rather than snow in Boston Tuesday night. While it will be seasonably cool, a new planetary-scale pattern has replaced the one that dominated last month, which let air to slide from the North Pole down to New England. It is certainly too soon to claim that Arctic outbreaks are over for the season, but none are poised to move south this week. The potential for a winter storm exists for this weekend; it will be monitored this week.

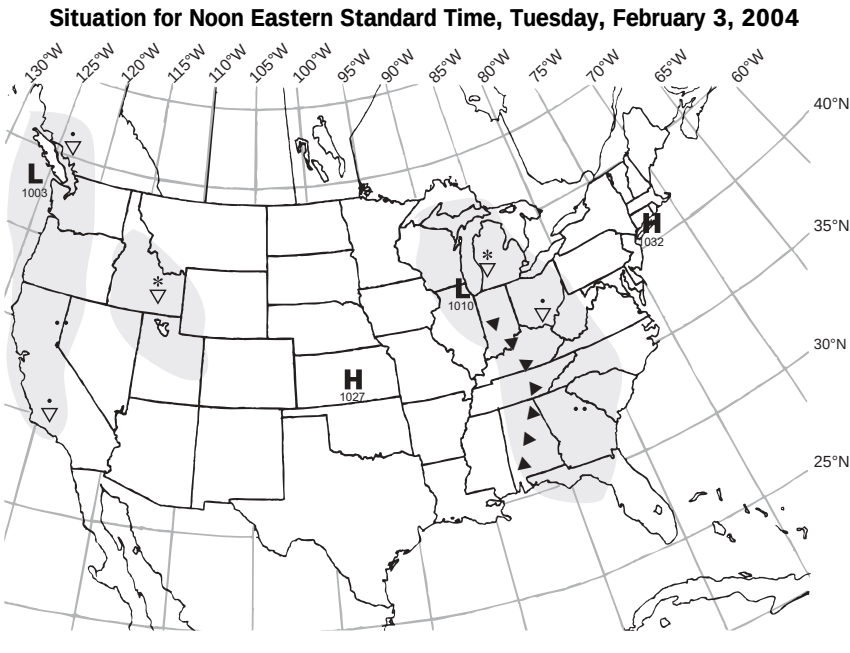
Extended Forecast

Today: Rain mixed with snow developing during the afternoon. High 40 °F (4 °C).

Tonight: Mixed precipitation becoming all rain. Temperatures steady in the 30s °F (0-3 °C).

Wednesday: Becoming partly cloudy. High 42 °F (6 °C).

Thursday: Partly cloudy and turning colder. High 35 °F (2 °C), low 20 °F (-7°C).



Weather Systems	Weather Fronts	Precipitation Symbols	Other Symbols
H High Pressure	Trough	Snow	Fog
L Low Pressure	Warm Front	Rain	Thunderstorm
Hurricane	Cold Front	Light	Haze
	Stationary Front	Moderate	
		Heavy	

Compiled by MIT Meteorology Staff and The Tech

Panel Reserves Right to Review Bush's Claims of Iraqi Weapons

By Douglas Jehl
and David E. Sanger
THE NEW YORK TIMES

WASHINGTON

White House officials said Monday that the commission being created to investigate intelligence shortcomings will decide for itself if it will examine a highly charged political issue: whether President Bush and other senior administration officials exaggerated the evidence that Iraq possessed large stockpiles of illicit weapons.

A draft of the executive order Bush is preparing to sign this week to create the commission makes no explicit reference to a study of how the intelligence assessments were used. Instead, it only directs the panel to compare intelligence findings about Iraq produced before the war with the paucity of stockpiles and weapons found by American inspection teams on the ground in Iraq.

On Monday, Democratic leaders in Congress sent a letter to Bush urging that the scope of the

inquiry include “the collection, analysis, dissemination and use by policy-makers of intelligence on Iraq.” The Democrats, including the minority leader, Sen. Tom Daschle, D-S.D., also said that members of the commission should be appointed “on a bipartisan basis by the congressional leadership” rather than by the president himself.

Bush, the White House said, plans to appoint the members himself, though Vice President Dick Cheney has been calling around Capitol Hill sounding out ideas.

Among the names being mentioned by members of Congress and administration officials as possible candidates are Robert M. Gates, the director of central intelligence under President Bush’s father; Warren B. Rudman, the former senator from New Hampshire and a longtime intelligence expert; Richard Kerr, a former deputy director of central intelligence who has been leading the CIA’s internal review of Iraq intelligence; and

David A. Kay, until recently the chief American weapons inspector in Iraq. William Perry, who has extensive experience in intelligence matters and was defense secretary under President Clinton, has also been mentioned.

Bush had lunch at the White House on Monday with Kay, whose public acknowledgments in the last 10 days that American intelligence agencies overestimated Iraq’s capabilities forced the president to order the bipartisan inquiry, a step he had long resisted. Neither Bush nor Kay spoke publicly after their meeting.

But earlier in the day, speaking to reporters after a Cabinet meeting, Bush sidestepped a question about whether Americans deserved answers before the presidential election in November to questions about the yawning gap between prewar allegations that Iraq possessed stockpiles of chemical and biological weapons and the later failure of U.S. inspectors to discover any such weapons.

Bird Flu Virus Spreading in Asia, Global Health Gaps Are Exposed

By Lawrence K. Altman
THE NEW YORK TIMES

Recently, reports about avian influenza in Asia have come almost daily, creating an impression that the viral disease is spreading among countries as fast as birds fly. Indeed, avian influenza has moved rapidly. The simultaneous appearance of avian influenza in eight countries, particularly in one region, is “unprecedented,” the World Health Organization says.

But avian influenza, or bird flu, may have been present for months in some of these countries. Now the sudden unmasking of government cover-ups and belated recognition of the disease’s presence have led to the perception of a mushrooming spread.

Still, it is a crisis that illustrates a critical need for strengthening the ties between veterinary and human health experts.

The A(H5N1) strain of current concern is a mutation of the same bird flu virus that caused outbreaks among chickens in Hong Kong in 1997 and 2003, when the virus infected 20 people, seven fatally. Now the mutated strain has caused 14 human cases, of which 11 were fatal, and led to the slaughter of 25 million birds. The human cases were

believed to have resulted from direct contact with infected chickens, except for possibly two cases in Vietnam.

Infections in a Vietnamese family that were disclosed over the weekend reinforced fears among health experts that the mutated strain would swap genes with a human influenza virus to create a new virus that could cause a global epidemic. Even if scientists succeed in a crash program to develop a vaccine to prevent avian influenza in people, manufacturers lack the capacity to make enough to protect the entire world.

Most newly discovered viruses that have infected people have evolved from animals. Some, like A(H5N1), have infected a few people. But their inability to spread further among people illustrates how little is known about why some viruses can cross species barriers and then spread widely, while others are stopped cold.

The potential for migratory birds to transmit avian influenza to broader regions and the lack of strong systems to monitor animal diseases as human diseases are tracked further underscore the world’s vulnerability.

“There are big holes in the global public health network to monitor the many animal diseases that have

implications for humans,” said Dick Thompson, a spokesman for the WHO, a U.N. agency in Geneva. “The world needs to understand how much of a stake it has in animal diseases in Third World countries.”

While the WHO studies some animal diseases, countries are not required to report them to the agency. “So we have to rely on information given to other organizations” like the Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations and the World Organization for Animal Health, said Dr. Klaus Stoehr, a veterinarian and influenza expert at the WHO.

Experts say a number of steps are needed to improve surveillance of animal diseases. They include better laboratory facilities, less costly diagnostic tests and more information-sharing among international health agencies.

While veterinarians are an integral part of the teams investigating the Asian outbreak, many experts also see a need for more of them to be integrated into public health. In addition, medical and veterinary schools need to cooperate more, said Dr. Frederick A. Murphy, dean emeritus of the University of California at Davis School of Veterinary Medicine.

Employers Cut Subsidies for Retirees, Leaving Them With Full Cost Burden

By Milt Freudenheim
THE NEW YORK TIMES

Employers have unleashed a new wave of cutbacks in company-paid health benefits for retirees, with a growing number of companies saying that retirees can retain coverage only if they are willing to bear the full cost themselves.

Scores of companies in the past two years, including telecommunications giants Lucent Technologies and Alcatel and a big electric utility, TXU, have ended medical benefits for some or all of their retirees and instead offered to let them buy coverage through a group plan. This coverage is often more expensive than many retirees can afford.

Experts expect that the trend, driven by the fast-rising cost of health care, will continue, despite the billions of dollars that the government will distribute to companies that maintain retiree health coverage when the new Medicare drug benefit begins in two years. In contrast with pensions, companies are not obligat-

ed to set aside funds to pay for retirees’ health benefits, and the health plans can usually be changed or terminated at the company’s choosing, with no appeal available to the retirees.

The costs can be a shock. According to surveys by benefits consultants, companies that offer health benefits to retirees typically have subsidized about 60 percent of the premium. Losing that support all at once can mean hundreds of dollars a month in unexpected costs.

Moreover, in dropping their subsidies, many companies push retirees into insurance pools that are separate from those of younger, healthier workers, executives said. That lowers the company’s costs for insuring its current staff, while raising the premiums charged to retirees even further.

James Norby, president of the National Retiree Legislative Network, an advocacy group that is urging Congress to strengthen legal protections for retired workers, said

companies that charged for formerly covered benefits had found “a clever way of getting out of the contract they made to people who had been retired for 15 or 20 years.”

Employers that are shifting costs to their retirees often present the change as a benefit: Although the company is no longer subsidizing coverage, premiums are usually lower than for individual policies, and the retirees do not have to worry about being rejected by insurers because of their age or prior health problems.

The emergence of these plans “is a very significant trend,” said Frank McArdle, a health policy expert with the Hewitt Associates benefits consulting firm in Washington. “Even though it’s not subsidized health coverage, retirees, particularly early retirees under age 65, still have access to a group product that they could not readily duplicate on their own.” Those with medical problems are often rejected by commercial insurers, he noted.

Highway Spending To Create Jobs

THE NEW YORK TIMES

The administration’s spending plan for transportation is \$58.7 billion for the next fiscal year, up \$4.4 billion from its request for the current year. Transportation Secretary Norman Y. Mineta said it was an employment bill, with each \$1 billion spent on highways generating 47,500 jobs. Minetta also said the request would enhance safety, although the administration has shied from a federal law on failing to use seat belts, which Mineta identified as the single largest transportation problem.

The bill provides \$14 billion for the Federal Aviation Administration. That includes a \$393 million reduction in the budget for facilities and equipment. The agency said it would defer several programs, including one to improve the accuracy of the Global Positioning System so it can be used to land planes in low visibility and another to let controllers and pilots communicate via e-mail instead of voice, which was supposed to improve the capacity of the air traffic system. Minetta said last week that the FAA should triple the capacity of the nation’s air traffic system in the next few years, and he said on Monday that that should still happen, despite the cuts.

The administrator of the aviation agency, Marion C. Blakey, also said her agency was studying whether to change the rule that requires air traffic controllers to retire at 56. Many controllers now on the job were hired in 1981 as replacements for strikers, and they are now approaching that age.

The budget request for Amtrak is for \$900 million. For the current year, the administration had also requested \$900 million, but Congress approved \$1.2 billion.

Chirac's Ally Guilty Of Corruption

THE NEW YORK TIMES

PARIS

President Jacques Chirac passionately defended on Monday his former prime minister and longtime political partner, Alain Juppe, convicted last Friday in a corruption scandal dating from the days when the two served together in the City Hall of Paris.

Ignoring the potential political damage to him and his ruling party and immune from prosecution himself, Chirac paid tribute to his political protege, telling reporters during a visit to Marseille that his feelings for him were of “friendship, esteem and respect.”

He added, “He is a politician of exceptional quality, of competence, of humanism, of honesty. And France needs men of this quality.”

Chirac’s embrace of the man he once called “the best one among us” followed a shower of praise from others in his Cabinet, from Prime Minister Jean-Pierre Raffarin to Foreign Minister Dominique de Villepin.

But the powerful Magistrates’ Union, whose members include judges and prosecutors, on Monday criticized Chirac’s decision to take sides.

Stronger Warning Urged For Anti-Depressants Given To Teens

THE NEW YORK TIMES

BETHESDA, MD.

A scientific advisory panel urged the Food and Drug Administration on Monday to issue stronger warnings now to doctors about the possible risks to children of a newer generation of anti-depressant drugs, rather than waiting until the agency’s review of the drugs is completed.

“Our sense is that we would like in the interim for the FDA to go ahead and issue stronger warning indications to clinicians” about the chance that the anti-depressants might be linked to suicidal thinking and behavior, hostility or other forms of violent behavior, said Dr. Matthew Rudorfer, a scientist at the National Institute of Mental Health and the chairman of the FDA advisory committee.

Rudorfer said that such a warning should not discourage doctors from using the anti-depressants but would alert them to warning signs that a drug might be having harmful effects. The recommendation came at the end of an emotional daylong public hearing on the issue. Most of the anti-depressants belong to the class known as selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors, or SSRIs.

Dr. Thomas Laughren, the team leader for the FDA’s division of neuropharmacological drug products, said the agency took the committee’s recommendation “very seriously” and that it would probably issue such a warning “sooner rather later.”

Bomb Explodes Outside Russian Journalist's Apartment

THE NEW YORK TIMES

MOSCOW

A small bomb exploded on Monday outside the apartment of a journalist who has created a political sensation with a behind-the-scenes account of the Kremlin during President Vladimir Putin’s rise to power.

The journalist, Yelena Tregubova, was not injured, but she said in an interview that she feared the bombing was an attempt on her life. The bomb exploded only moments before she left her apartment for a taxi that was waiting downstairs, she said.

The force of the blast, estimated at roughly one to two pounds of explosives, destroyed a door opposite hers and broke windows and fixtures in the hallway of her apartment building, situated in the heart of Moscow. A police official said the explosion was being investigated as an act of hooliganism and refused to comment further.

It was not clear whether the bombing was related to Tregubova’s book, “Tales of a Kremlin Digger,” which recounts, in gossipy detail, her four years as a member of the Kremlin’s exclusive news media pool, first as a reporter for Izvestia and then for the business newspaper Kommersant.

Tregubova declined to speculate who could have put a bomb outside her apartment, but she obliquely linked it to the presidential elections on March 14. She also said she believed her telephone was tapped and recounted a recent mysterious call in which a suspicious caller wanted to deliver to her apartment a package that she was not expecting.

OPINION



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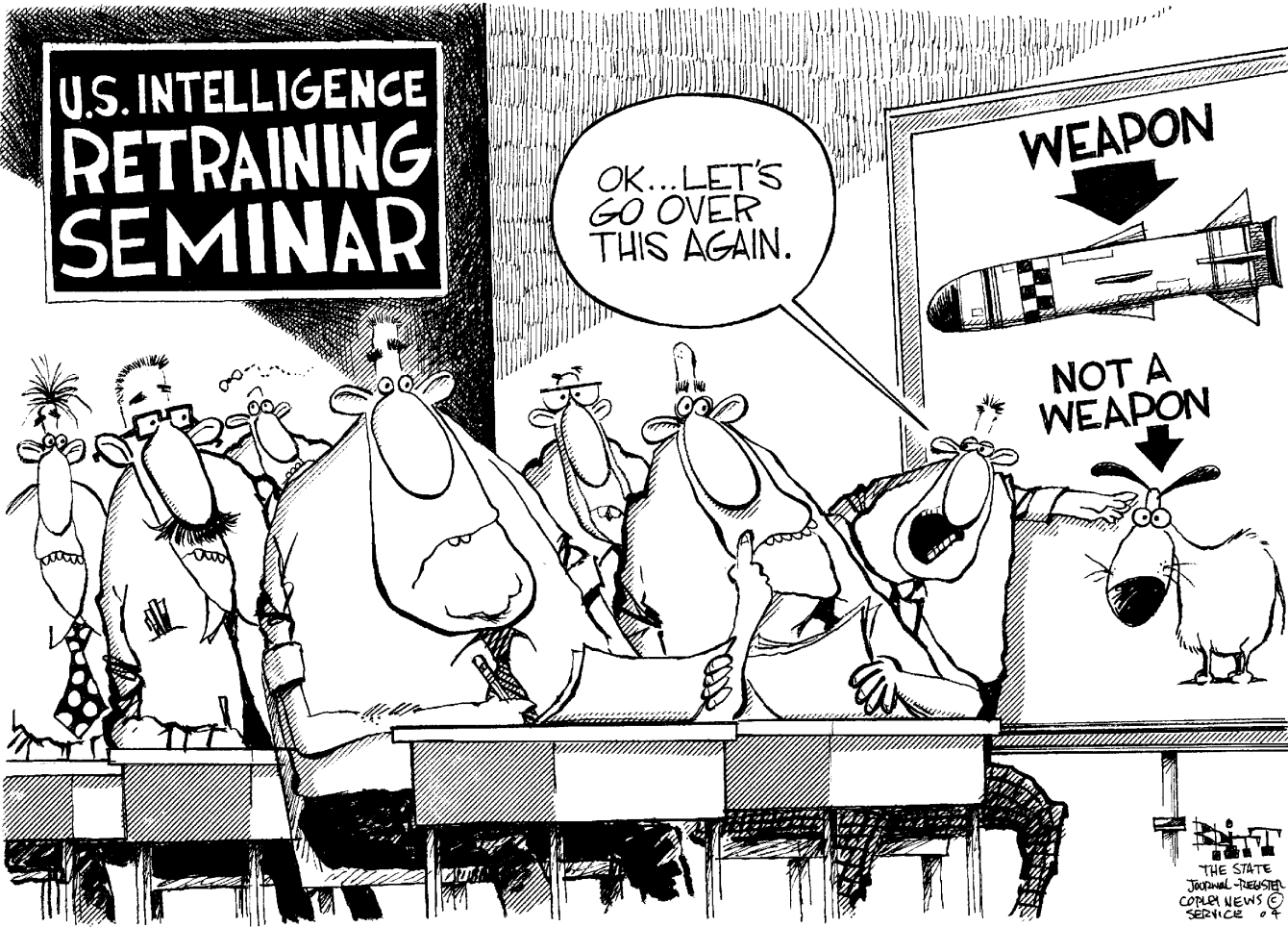
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Letters To The Editor

A Prescription for Ringer Problem

I could not agree more with Ruth Miller's column on IM ringers in D League hockey ("Confronting IM Ringers," January 28). One of my best experiences at MIT was learning to play hockey in the friendly and non-intimidating atmosphere that D League had a few years ago. These days, I assure people with no prior hockey experience that they will have fun on the ice and learn a new sport, only to watch sadly as they are skated around in circles by skaters who certainly do not fall into the D League description — "No significant speed, has trouble turning and stopping, can't shoot." This past fall, I even saw the IM Hockey manager himself, surely not a D league skater, playing against my lab's D-level team, without any restrictions. Wanting to play with your friends in a mixed beginner/advanced team is no excuse to field ringers in D League — this is what the D-

ringer leagues are for.

Everybody at MIT should have a chance to play hockey against others at his or her level. We can all do our part in making this happen:

Experienced players: Taking over D League games is unfair to everyone involved. Please think twice before jumping on the prospect of more ice time, especially if you are already playing with a higher level team.

Team captains: If you expect some higher level players might want to play with you, consider registering for D-Ringer. If you are registered in regular D, resist the temptation of allowing ringers to play in order to counter the other team's ringers; this just creates league inflation and is likely the cause of the current situation. Instead, call the other team's ringers and get them out of the game or place restrictions on them.

Referees: Do not wait for complaints before restricting ringers. Beginning players are often too intimidated to call out ringers.

This makes them more likely to just assume they aren't good enough and quit for good.

D League players: Do your best, enjoy hockey, and don't be afraid to politely point out ringers to the referee and request they be restricted. Send them to play with the big kids. Have fun, skate hard, and see you on the ice.

Nati Srebro G

Tasteless Comic

I am writing about the "Prick" comic section in the January 28th issue of *The Tech*. Depicting religious figures in that manner is demeaning and done in extreme poor taste. It was offensive to me, and I'm certain, to a significant number of your readers. I hope that the editors will take this concern seriously, avoid publishing such material, and at least issue some form of apology.

Christopher Graff '04

Erratum

In a sports column last Wednesday ["Students Blow Away the Stress"], an editing error removed attribution from a quotation. The statement "You don't have to be born with agility or strength to succeed in pistol. This... attracts a lot of students," belongs to MIT Pistol Coach Will Hart.

Because of an editing error, a table of admissions statistics on page 21 last Wednesday gave incorrect figures for the number of freshmen enrolled in the classes of 2003 and 2004. There were 1,048 and 1,012 students, respectively, not one student in each.

Opinion Policy

Editorials are the official opinion of *The Tech*. They are written by the editorial board, which consists of the chairman, the editor in chief, the managing editor, the opinion editor, and a senior editor.

Dissents are the opinions of signed members of the editorial board choosing to publish their disagreement with the editorial.

Letters to the editor, columns, and editorial cartoons are written by individuals and represent the opinion of the author, not necessarily that of the newspaper. Electronic submissions are encouraged and should be sent to letters@the-tech.mit.edu. Hard copy submissions should be addressed to *The Tech*, P.O. Box 397029, Cambridge, Mass. 02139-7029, or sent by interdepartmental mail to Room W20-483. All submissions are due by 4:30 p.m. two days before the date of publication.

Letters, columns, and cartoons must bear the authors' signatures, addresses, and phone numbers. Unsigned letters will not be accepted. *The Tech* reserves the right to edit or condense letters; shorter letters will be given higher priority. Once submitted, all letters become

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Zesiger Center Staff: Sacrificing Community for Profits

Adriane Faust

The self-described mission of the MIT Department of Athletics is “to bring students, faculty, and staff together in educational

Letter To The Editor

activities that promote healthy lifestyles, enhance a sense of community, foster growth in leadership and teamwork skills, and encourage the pursuit of excellence.” I don’t think the Health Fitness Corporation, the company that is running the new and “improved” gym, got the memo. Their mission appears to be to extort as much money from the MIT community as possible.

I’m sure I’m not the only one who is less than happy about recent changes in the way the gym is administered, but I feel like I should speak out for a couple of reasons. I’m an alum, so I actually have some free time to write this. I’ve been at MIT since 1994 and was a varsity athlete, so I remember how cool the gym used to be. Yeah, the facilities weren’t as pretty, but you were free to use them however you wanted. If you had no intention of ever setting foot in the gym, then you didn’t buy an athletic card (which cost something like \$25 per semester). If you wanted to take gym classes, you could pretty much walk into any class you wanted and it was up to the instructor to say whether or not you could stick around based on the size of the class and the availability of equipment. Now that they’ve started offering classes for which you have to pay extra fees, the gym has suddenly turned into a bizarre police state.

First of all, the notion of needing to pay for these classes is simply wrong. This is a gym for students. Students are poor. Students have to take gym classes to graduate, and classes should therefore be covered by tuition. Even gyms in the “real world” don’t do this. Imagine signing up for 8.01 and being told that it’s full, but you can sign up for 8.01L for an additional quarterly fee.

Not everyone wants to work out on a treadmill or with weights, and people who want to take group exercise classes instead, should not be discriminated against and have to pay \$300 more a year. To make matters worse,

the free classes that compete with the pay ones are being restricted so that people who don’t get in have little choice but to take the pay ones.

I have been taking the kickboxing class taught by Shan-Yuan Ho for more than a year. I would highly recommend this class for anyone who wants a serious calorie-burning workout. I’ve enjoyed this class more than any other cardio/aerobics class I’ve taken, mostly because it teaches real kickboxing and you learn something valuable, not just how to flail your limbs about as fast as possible. The class offers an aerobic workout, strength training, increased flexibility, and some serious martial arts skills. Its value is reflected by the fact that my hockey game has improved significantly since I started attending the class. Plus, it’s fun, the music is cool, the instructor is very personable and extremely knowledgeable, and you get to hit things, which is remarkably therapeutic, especially on those days where you get your problem set back and the TA has stapled a drop slip to it.

When I started taking this class, it was about 50 minutes long. It has now been cut to exactly 40 minutes, but the pay classes are still an hour. And now I can’t even get in at all. I showed up to the first class over IAP and signed up for the waiting list early to get in. I’m staff and don’t need the class for credit, so priority should be given to students who do. I understand that and am comfortable with it. But if the room can safely accommodate everyone who is interested, then they

should all be able to take the class. This particular class is held in the floor hockey arena on the third floor of the Z Center, so there’s quite a bit of space. The class

was limited to 45 people by HFC even though there were more than 60 present the first day and everyone had plenty of room.

The following week, on January 13, someone from HFC was there beforehand to make

sure that only people on the enrollment list could take the class. Even though there were 31 people in the room, leaving space for 14 more people to join based on HFC’s limit, students were turned away because they were not on the list. About seven students stayed to follow the class out in the hallway on the linoleum floor. On January 15, 32 people on the roster showed up to class, and the same person from HFC was there checking attendance once again, so four people who were turned away worked out in hallway. This is just absurd. Creating a situation where students must exercise in the hallway is a safety issue and an inconvenience to other gym patrons. It was an unnecessary situation, since there was plenty of space in the class area.

People come to this class because it’s a great class, not necessarily because they need gym credit. The kickboxing class epitomizes the

athletic department’s mission. It’s educational: you get to learn some martial arts from a master instructor. It fosters growth in teamwork skills: you get to work with a partner to practice against an opponent. The fact that HFC doesn’t seem to appreciate that tells me that they are not interested in giving the MIT community a top-notch athletic facility, and I think the decision to contract management of the facilities to HFC should be re-evaluated.

The athletic department should take advantage of the fact that the kickboxing class is so popular. If there were more classes like this one, which came free of additional fees, joining the Zesiger Center would be a terrific value for staff and alumni in the area. Students have to pay for the membership no matter what, but it doesn’t serve any purpose to anger them by tossing them out of a class or trying to get them to pay more money. The long-term effect is that they could easily grow up to be bitter alumni like myself who make life miserable for those poor sods calling from the Alumni Association to ask for money. I doubt that my pocket change will be missed, but MIT has gotten its last donation out of me.

The good news is that I am not obligated to fork over the \$200 Student Life Fee, so if I don’t think I’m getting my money’s worth or I’m not being treated fairly, I can just not renew my membership. It’s a shame students don’t have that option.

Adriane Faust is a member of the class of 1998.

But I’m sorry; I cannot continue defending this idea’s plausibility any longer. It is not physically possible to utilize the chalkboards and urinals at the same time. I tried it. At first, I just could not concentrate on writing anything, and then, when I focused on my work, I made quite the mess of myself. It’s not possible. It’s not some simple pat your head and rub your stomach routine. And if you can do it, if you have inherited this unearthly talent, then I say you are blessed and you, my soon-to-be-friend, will do wonderful things in your life.

The rest of us, however, who are not as talented, should not be surprised by the chalkboards over urinals when looking at them in the context of MIT’s culture. There have been countless times when we heard someone bragging that they pulled an all-nighter or last slept for more than eight hours during summer vacation. There is a pride here in working at the expense of physical health. Chalkboards over urinals. Within all my scenarios, there is this feeling that the physical activity of urinating must be sidestepped lest it quench one’s hunger to work. Since our administrators do not do anything about it, we can only assume that, at least in essence, they encourage it. After all, kids did not put the chalkboard over the urinal. Perhaps MIT’s administrators think that if we can completely disregard our bodies in order to work, then we can do anything. Maybe they think that if we can work while urinating, we can take over the world.

And maybe we can.
Dan Scolnic is a member of the class of 2007.

How Dems Could Win the South

Ruth Miller

Humor is what allows us to cope with life’s problems. We all have a sort of “as long as someone is worse off than me” mentality once in a while. While America is continually adding people to its refuge of political correctness, one group appears poised to remain a victim of American satire forever — the South.

The South has found very creative ways to fight progress. In 2001, the state of Alabama adopted the three-eyed mutant lovechild of creationism and evolution, Intelligent Design, in its biology curriculum. In 2002, a county in Georgia attached disclaimers to its biology textbooks reminding students that evolution is just a theory. In 2003, the Alabama Supreme Court Chief Justice was suspended for having displayed the ten commandments outside the state justice department. Less than a month into 2004, Georgia State Superintendent Kathy Cox has motioned to remove the term “evolution” from public school curricula.

I want to be proud of the South, but I don’t feel like it’s really aware that its actions are so misdirected. So what if evolution is being taught in public schools? Isn’t that what Sunday school is for? Does it really matter that the ten commandments can’t be posted outside a government building? Are you going to forget them? Oh, so a homosexual couple wants to get married? Don’t be so insecure. This obsession with religion and consistent transparency on real issues has made the South the butt of many jokes. Here’s one for you — why would a lower class Southerner vote for a Republican bent on alleviating the pains of the upper class at the working man’s expense?

Apparently the Democrats haven’t heard that one. Preaching public assistance programs doesn’t go over very well with struggling, proud families focused on making their own ends meet. Promoting diversity? Yeah, right. Would you rather vote for someone that ignores you or someone that just insults you?

The Southern mentality strongly embraces the use of scapegoats. Whether it’s the Yankees, blacks, women, gays, foreigners, or liberals, everything is always someone else’s fault. So when the government points the finger abroad, the South looks. The heart of the United States Armed Forces lies in the southern United States. More Southern boys have fought and died in Iraq than from any other region of the U.S. Why continue to support a war that kills your children? War is like football; they’re both hereditary. “My daddy played center in high school, so I’m playing center, too. My daddy fought in the Gulf War, so I’m enlisting, too.” It’s like rooting for the home team, and the home team is as close to divine as any man can get in the Bible Belt.

Probably the worst justification for voting is to base your decision on character. These are politicians we’re talking about. In an interview by Atlanta-based Creative Loafing, a rural Florida man who holds two jobs to support his family while voting conservative was quoted as saying, “Bush is family-oriented ... His stance on faith is bold. He’s got backbone. He’s got integrity. He’s not afraid to do what he feels is right. You don’t get that wishy-washy thing out of him.” Bill Clinton messed around with his intern and hurt himself, but George Bush messed around with America’s role in international politics and hurt our country. If character and faith were the most important factors in determining a president, Jimmy Carter would have been re-elected.

The few Southern voters that do show up at the polls vote for Bush, regardless of the fact that his policies directly undermine their own economic interests. If the Democrats can get their act together to form a message, which they have yet to do, they should garner Southern support by emphasizing economic issues.

Bush isn’t evil; he’s just serving his own interests. Fortunately for the Democrats, a very small percentage of Americans share his interest — the exceedingly wealthy. Whoever can clearly demonstrate to voters that the GOP is at the submissive end of an uneven relationship with corporate America can remind voters that the Democratic Party is the friend of the struggling family. Side issues, like gay marriage, abortion, and stem cell research, are just sideshows to the main act — money. Health care, taxes, and employment are vital issues that the Democratic candidates have effectively ignored. I’d probably find that a lot funnier if I was an oil tycoon.

ARTS

FILM REVIEW ★ 1/2

‘Score’ Fails to Break Away From Conventional Teen Genre

Characters provide more irony than comedy

By Philip Burrowes

The Perfect Score
Written by Mark Schwahn, Marc Hyman, Jon Zack
Directed by Brian Robbins
Starring Erika Christensen, Chris Evans, Bryan Greenberg, Scarlett Johansson, Darius Miles, Leonard Nam

I watched MTV Films’ “The Perfect Score” knowing full well the movie was not meant for me. The story of six high school students who plan to steal the answers to the SAT rather than study for it was simply not something I could empathize with. Furthermore, I’ve always resented MTV’s existence for reasons too numerous to mention here. Still, with commercials featuring Leonardo Nam as a scatterbrained, sex-starved pothead, I was anxious to see just how far his character could go in shattering cinematic stereotypes of Asian-American males.

Thus I was temporarily able to forgive the film for being contrived, predictable, and only occasionally humorous, as I was ever on my seat, waiting for Nam to “get the girl.” In the process, however, I noticed the film was steadily progressing past hackneyed and moving into the territory of fundamental contradiction. One might argue that what I perceived as shoddy storytelling was actually a conscious decision on the part of the screenwriters. We are, after all, dealing with a set of thieves as our protagonists. Unambiguously condoning their actions could “send the wrong message.”

Looking at the horribly miscast crew assembled on screen, I’m willing to assume it’s actually a case of poor production. Erika Christensen has proved through films like “Swimfan” and “Traffic” that she is adept at playing characters with loose morals, yet here her role is Anna, the goody two-shoes salutatorian. As Francesca — Web mistress

of darkness — Scarlett Johansson is at first unrecognizable, which is a waste on both aesthetic and dramatic levels. Chris Evans and Bryan Greenberg are both most famous for playing jocks (in “Not Another Teen Movie” and on “One Tree Hill,” respectively) so of course they play Kyle the architect and Matty the love-sick boyfriend, respectively.

Actual jock Darius Miles sleepwalks as Desmond, a basketball player who wants a college degree to appease his mother. This simply proved too distracting as I found myself constantly debating whether or not this was an ingenious casting decision or merely an ironic one. Miles himself had been drafted out of high school four years ago with much ballyhoo, but has yet to fulfill his potential. Starting alongside fellow high school phenom LeBron James this year was supposed to be the turning point of his career, but eventually he found himself relegated to the bench, and he was quite recently traded. His implicit sorrow in regards to his past decisions is mildly depressing.

Nam is the sole bright spot as Roy, displaying an excellent grasp of aZn apathy despite being an Argentinean raised in Australia. However, the writers seemed unwilling to follow through on Roy’s ini-

tial burnout persona. After he has been firmly established as a class-cutting cipher, Roy miraculously displays an ability to code, an aptitude for math, and an entrepreneurial ambition. By film’s end, he has lost most of charm he held as the anti-Asian.

Indeed, almost every unconventional sense of morality the audience is presented with is subsequently undermined. Kyle is warned by his slacker brother (Matthew Lillard, playing himself) that stealing is wrong. Desmond tells Roy to stop smoking weed, and indeed his herb-hobbled lungs nearly ruin the plan. As for the SAT itself, not only are the grievances that each character held

against the test weak to begin with, but they are also conflicting. Matty, for example, feels he is simply too dumb to get a score high enough and join his girlfriend at Maryland, but Kyle is convinced the exam doesn’t even properly evaluate intellect. These conflicts are largely glossed over rather than resolved for one side or another, which in effect leaves the conventional notions unchallenged.

Back to the question of purposeful paradox, it could be said that the filmmakers’ intent all along was to unveil the characters’ beliefs as misguided. This contention reduces the film’s wavering support for societal short-cuts from poor craftsmanship to prudent ploy. It also aggravates the advertising campaign from adolescent pandering to a disingenuous bait-and-switch. Rather than an ostensibly anti-establishment film produced by Viacom, “The Perfect Score” becomes a cookie cutter teen-ensemble story where everyone learns a lesson in the end.

At least Roy’s lesson nets him a gaggle of women. Score one for blazing, computer programming, Australian math whizzes everywhere.



PARAMOUNT PICTURES

Leonardo Nam as Roy in “The Perfect Score.”

RESTAURANT REVIEW

Magnolias Restaurant: Southern Comfort Food

Fine Southern dining, knowledgeable waitstaff are a throwback to the Old South

By Josiah Q. Seale

STAFF WRITER

Magnolias
Southern Cuisine
1193 Cambridge St.
Cambridge, MA
617-576-1971
Dinner for two, no drinks: \$45-\$75

In today’s society, the much-maligned South of the United States is often sneered at as a backwards region of social ineptitude. Forgotten are the contributions of William Faulkner and Flannery O’Connor, or of Otis Redding and even REM. The concept of the impeccably-mannered Southern Gentleman has sadly been replaced by an image that revolves around Bushisms, NASCAR racing, and gap-toothed bingo.

For the better part of 20 years now, Magnolias co-owner and head chef John Silberman has tried to show the fallacies in this negative stereotype of indigenous Southern culture. The final outcome of his endeavor reflects diverse elements of Cambridge society, producing an amalgamated menu that is neither fully Yankee, fully Dixie/Caribbean, nor fully a fusion of the three. All told, the Magnolias experience is very original, creating a happy niche for itself in the Boston restaurant scene.

Although in Inman Square, the overall feel of the restaurant is that of an underground-trendy Greenwich Village establishment, the sort that is continually being discovered by Manhattan foodies. With only about 25 tables, brightly colored walls hung with a variety of mismatched plates, and a whitewashed pressed-tin ceiling, the surroundings are simultaneously cheery and down-to-earth. The mismatched plate motif continues into the table settings, there joining magnolia buds in vases and serviceable flatware.

In keeping with this theme, the waitstaff also upholds the feeling of cheer, plus authenticity. Although they are very solicitous and attentive to detail, they are also friendly and comfortable with their surroundings. A quick glance at the menu shows the appropriateness of the heterogeneous decor. As one might expect from the restaurants sub-title, old favorites such as Cajun popcorn shrimp and fried green tomatoes are not absent from the appetizer list. More surprising, however, are the oven-roasted Portobello mushrooms stuffed with warm goat cheese and chopped pecans, or the simple Maryland crab cakes and their not-so-simple chipotle tartar sauce.

As prelude and accompaniment to the appetizers, a basket of cornbread, biscuits and banana-pecan bread arrives, all in the shape of muffins. Although seemingly simple, biscuits of high calibre are in very short supply in Boston, making a nice surprise of their unsolicited appearance. The atypical form factor does not detract from their taste, but it does add a dash of unconventionality to the whole experience, making them that much more fun to eat.

Upon embarking on the appetizers, one quickly discovers that the sauces and accoutrements provided with the pieces are not meant as decorative additions; rather, they are integral parts of the dishes, without which the overall experience suffers. For example, when eaten by themselves, the aforementioned crab cakes leave a passably enjoyable impression, but also leave the question as to whether or not they were perhaps too heavy. With the

addition of a goodly-sized dollop of the chipotle sauce, however, the dish comes alive in a contrast of flavors, viscosities and temperatures. By the same token, the shrimp by themselves are merely a pleasant if commonplace staple of Louisianan cuisine; it is with the spices in the sherry-scallop dipping sauce that they stand apart as a worthwhile and interesting dish in their own right.

As enjoyable as the appetizers are, they rightfully take second place when compared to the main course offerings. The server proved to be reliable in her recommendation



—MAGNOLIAS

of beverages to accompany the selected dishes. Filet mignon was matched with a pleasant, lightly tannic Syrah with a long finish. More

complex than most, it opened up very nicely in the glass and set off the steak in a way that was simultaneously unobtrusive and curiosity-provoking. The steak, a pan-blackened filet mignon topped with a pecan and Maytag blue cheese crust and served over a port wine sauce, is cooked to perfection and matched by the sauce in a delectable way that only port can achieve. Sadly, the pecan, cheese crust ensemble proves too much. It is best left to one side to be picked at while one thoroughly focuses on the delectable steak, port sauce combo. Nonetheless, its juices do impart an innovative flair to the meat.

The jambalaya, with its toss of Andouille sausage, chicken, shrimp, oysters, crawfish and spicy rice, is exactly what those familiar with the Louisiana specialty might expect. For full effect, the dish is best enjoyed in large

bites, since the quantity of ingredients makes it difficult to obtain a reliable sample without at least a moderate amount of the mixture. Although the dish is spicy, Silberman’s skill shows through, in that a sip of a well-chosen beer is enough to soothe the fire and prepare the eater for the next bite.

If Magnolias drops the ball anywhere, it is in the realm of desserts. The pecan pie is unremarkable and overly rich, although this is somewhat compensated for by the homemade vanilla ice cream and chantilly. The creamy vanilla bean flan is good, but the mocha chocolate sauce over which it is served is overpowering and best avoided when eating the flan. This gap in Magnolias menu is unsurprising, however. Silberman has no pretense of being or even desire to be a dessert chef; the desserts are clearly there to satisfy those who cannot go without them. While they certainly fulfill the role adequately, they are not a prime reason to visit the restaurant; diners would be best off simply enjoying the dishes for which the restaurant was created.

Throughout the experience, Magnolias stays faithful to its underlying goal. As demonstrated by their two-month regional themes, occurring eight months out of the year, they have managed to go beyond just Cajun and show off the rest of Southern food. Although the physical restaurant is certainly not an excursion into the stuffier stratospheres of haut cuisine surroundings, it is precisely this departure from the painfully stereotypical nouveau-riche business model that makes Magnolias so refreshing.

All in all, Silberman and his (co-owner and manager) wife Amelia have succeeded in their efforts. They have put his training in Louisiana under well-known chef Paul Prudhomme (among others) to good use here in the Northeast, bringing to life an innovative and refreshing ideal, and the Boston restaurant scene is all the better for it.

MEET THE

DATE: Wednesday, February 4, 2004**TIME: 5:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.****WHERE: Building 4 Room 153**

FIRM

NIGHT

The Allstate Insurance Company,
Enterprise Technology team would like to meet you.

We'll be sharing information about the company, our incredible growth and our hiring needs for both Internships and entry level positions. This will also be your opportunity to talk to the Vice President of Enterprise Technology as well as one of the Directors. If you are majoring in Computer Science or considering a career in one of the following fields, don't miss this opportunity to learn more about the organization.

- Strategy and Planning
- Application and systems development
- Enterprise Architecture
- Application and Enterprise Architecture
- Research and Development
- Systems Analysis
- Project Management
- and more

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PERSPECTIVES ON DIVERSITY

Teaching Tolerance by Example

MIT Class Discusses Discrimination with Junior High Students

By Eun J. Lee
STAFF REPORTER

A black male walks up to a restaurant counter and asks for a cup of coffee. The white waitress behind the counter snubs him and attends to the white female who comes in after him. “Excuse me. All I want is a cup of coffee,” pleads the black customer as the waitress rolls her eyes and ignores him. As the waitress continues to disregard the requests of this customer, his protests grow progressively louder and he gets more visibly frustrated.

As the customer eventually storms away from the counter, the dozen or so onlookers all have a good laugh. After all, the waitress and customer are just seventh graders, and the counter is just a desk in Gretchen Brion-Meisels’ language arts class at Fletchard Maynard Academy, which is only a stone’s throw away from MIT’s campus. On this day, her students are participating in discussions of race and diversity with MIT students as part of a class project in the Martin Luther King Jr. Design seminar (17.920).

“It’s always important to make time for conversations about race and diversity,” Brion-Meisels says. “It’s easy for teachers to lose track of this dialogue.”

Teach your children well

When asked to define discrimination, one seventh-grader answered “it’s a way to judge people in a way that’s not cool.” Although some students giggled when the topic of stereotypes and prejudices against sexual orientation was mentioned, the students discussed their own experiences with discrimination and performed skits about class-ism, racial discrimination, and gender discrimination.

“To make broad assumptions about different people is just wrong. There are different

ways to combat the stereotypes, injustice and discrimination that are everywhere, and you guys aren’t too young to make a difference,” said N. Ijeoma Ezeofor ’06.

Examples of discrimination and stereotypes that exist seem all the more harsh when performed by seventh graders. From a minority job applicant whose resume is torn up to lower expectations for girls playing sports, the message is pretty clear that these students are familiar with situations that actually still occur in the real world.

“A good lesson to learn from these skits is that these situations can be switched around. Anyone can be discriminated against,” Louis D. Fouche ’07 told the class.

The presentation ended on a note of encouragement for the students to be proactive in dispelling stereotypes and playing an active role in their community.

“Soon you’ll all be old enough to vote, and make sure you take advantage of that. A lot of people fought for a long time to give you that right,” Christopher L. Smith ’06 said.

The time that MIT students spent with the students illustrate the benefits of mentoring young people.

“Any time they interact with college students, it helps them set long term goals. Having young role models helps them see that they have options and think about what they want to do with their lives,” Brion-Meisels said. “It’s great that the students are being exposed to a diverse group of young people with different opinions.”

“It’s important for children of color to see that they aren’t limited to being basketball stars or rappers. It seems like society puts them into this box and that’s where they stay,” said Nicole Green, a class aid. “This experience is going to give them something to talk about. I’m anxious to hear what they have to

say at lunch.”

The same group of MIT students also visited the Morse and King schools in Cambridge and addressed similar topics through discussion and a role-playing activity on privilege and social class systems.

Becoming a mentor

“Mentoring is about building relationships, role modeling, and paying attention to kids’ needs,” said Sally Susnowitz, Director of the MIT Public Service Center. “Paying attention to people is a very powerful and sometimes transformative gift and that fact that you may be doing it around the context of reading or science makes it even more potent.”

The MIT Public Service Center has several mentoring programs which target children and young adults of all ages, many of which take

place on MIT’s campus or qualify for federal work-study funding.

“What I hear a lot from MIT students is somebody made a difference to them and they want to make a difference to somebody else,” Susnowitz said.

However, Susnowitz gives the advice that because mentors can be so important to a child’s life, anyone interested should make sure that they choose the right opportunity that fits their schedules. “We try to have a range of opportunities so that people can make a commitment they can keep,” Susnowitz said.

For more information about mentoring programs, visit the MIT Public Service Center’s web site at <http://web.mit.edu/mitpsc>. The PSC is located along the infinite corridor in room 4-104.

Local Ways to Promote Diversity

By Ivy S. Morgan

Eager to make a difference in the community? Here are some local agencies that help to promote diversity awareness and social equality:

Action for Boston Community Development

Action for Boston Community Development promotes self-help for low-income people and neighborhoods. It provides opportunities for upward mobility to Boston-area residents through innovative programs and services. <http://www.bostonabcd.org>

Center for Community Health, Education & Research, Inc.

The Center for Community Health Education & Research, Inc. provides AIDS case management and HIV education to the Haitian community in the greater Boston area. <http://www.ccher.org>

Boston Center for Refugee Health and Human Rights

The Boston Center for Refugee Health and Human Rights serves refugee communities and torture survivors, providing care to the whole person. <http://www.glphr.org/refugee>

International Institute of Boston

The International Institute of Boston fosters the success of immigrants and refugees in the United States by providing a range of comprehensive professional and cultural services. <http://www.iiboston.org>

Our Bodies Ourselves

OBOS challenges the institutions that devalue the lives of women. They provide honest information about health, sexuality, and reproduction from a feminist perspective. <http://www.ourbodiesourselves.org>

Boston Rescue Mission

Boston Rescue Mission helps homeless and poor persons move to self-sufficiency by providing meals, emergency shelter, a transitional program, and job training. <http://www.brm.org>

Greater Boston Legal Services

GBLS provides free, non-criminal legal assistance to low-income individuals, families and community-based organizations. <http://www.gbls.org>

Gay & Lesbian Advocates & Defenders

GLAD is a legal rights organization dedicated to ending discrimination based on sexual orientation, HIV status, and gender identity and expression. <http://www.glad.org>

National Gay and Lesbian Task Force

NGLTF is a progressive organization working for the civil rights of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender people. <http://www.ngltf.org>

Habitat for Humanity, Greater Boston

Habitat for Humanity, Greater Boston is a Christian-based housing ministry seeking to alleviate the shortage of quality affordable housing in Boston’s urban neighborhoods. <http://www.habitatboston.org>



Joseph A. Brown '07 and Louis D. Fouche '07 discuss issues of race and diversity with a group of seventh grade students at Fletchard Maynard Academy in Cambridge.

Gay Marriage Gains New Legal Ground

By Lara Rogers

From the Texas to Massachusetts, gay rights supporters have recently gained legal ground.

According to Cambridge City Clerk Margaret Drury, Cambridge will begin issuing licenses to same-sex couples “as soon as it’s legally possible.”

However, Drury said that she did not know when the issuing of licenses would become possible because the state registrar must first create the new marriage licenses that will recognize same-sex couples.

There are individuals at MIT who plan to apply for licenses when they become available, according to Ricky Gresh, staff coordinator of MIT’s Lesbian, Bisexual, Gay & Transgendered (LBGT) group. The availability of gay marriage in Massachusetts may also play some role in the people interested in living and working in Massachusetts. However, Gresh said the legalization of gay marriage “does not represent a policy

change at MIT, which already has most benefits for same-sex spouses.”

Gay rights gain ground in 2003

Two landmark cases upholding gay rights were decided in 2003.

In Lawrence v. Texas, the United States Supreme Court struck down a Texas law criminalizing sodomy between same-sex partners.

John G. Lawrence and Tyron Garner were arrested in their home after police were dispatched to the home to investigate a reported weapons disturbance and observed the two men engaged in sex.

The defendants argued that their conviction violated their constitutional rights to equal protection, liberty and privacy as protected by the Fourteenth Amendment. The Court ruled that the anti-sodomy laws did violate Lawrence and Garner’s rights. Lawrence and Garner “are entitled to respect for their private lives. The State cannot demean their existence or control their des-

tiny by making their private sexual conduct a crime,” Justice Anthony M. Kennedy wrote in the majority opinion.

By doing so, the Court overturned a ruling it had made 17 years earlier in the anti-sodomy case of Bowers v. Hardwick. The Lawrence decision is expected to invalidate anti-sodomy laws in the 13 states where such laws are still on the books.

Mass. gay marriage ban overruled

The second major gay rights decision of 2003 was handed down Nov. 18 by the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court. Each state determines its own laws on marriage, and in November, Massachusetts’ Supreme Judicial Court ruled that the state must provide “the protections, benefits, and obligations of civil marriage” to same-sex couples. Civil unions were already ruled legal in the state of Vermont.

In Goodridge v. Department of Public Health, the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court found that, according to the state con-

stitution, there is no “constitutionally adequate reason for denying civil marriage to same-sex couples.” The 4-3 decision made the Massachusetts gay marriage ban unconstitutional.

“The Massachusetts Constitution affirms the dignity and equality of all individuals. It forbids the creation of second-class citizens,” wrote Chief Justice Margaret H. Marshall in the majority opinion.

The Supreme Judicial Court gave the state legislature 180 days — until May 2004 — to rewrite state marriage laws to comply with the ruling.

Even before the Goodridge decision, the Cambridge City Council affirmed its support for gay marriage in Policy Order 39, issued Aug. 4 of 2003.

Gay marriage draws opposition

Opponents of gay marriage are also seeking legal change.

Dr. King’s Forgotten Dream

Charlotte L. Newman

Martin Luther King, Jr.’s struggles and triumphs were not omitted from our collective national history, yet the details of his legacy are recalled only in part. The annual Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. IAP Design Seminar chose this year to bring MIT’s focus on the civil rights leader to one of the dreams America has forgotten. After the battle King and other leaders waged against the segregation of blacks and whites ended, King’s heart and mind turned to the economic plight of black Americans. King’s forgotten dream was one of economic equality.

King perceived his non-violent battle against injustice as dependent upon righting economic inequalities. King saw poverty as a debilitating force that held black Americans from fighting for their own basic rights. However, in his fight against poverty he called on all Americans regardless of their race or ethnicity.

King fell to the bullet of an assassin in 1968 while planning the Poor People’s Campaign. This campaign sought to provide income or jobs to the nation’s poorest citizens. After King’s death, his closest aides and advisors built Resurrection City, a camp for the poor, on the mall in Washington, D.C. Resurrection city, ultimately disbanded by governmental order, did not achieve the elusive goal of ameliorating the position of the nation’s poor.

Today, MIT’s Design Seminar in honor of King, continues the fight for the impoverished in America. In agreement with the goals King marched for 40 years ago, students participating in the seminar created an installation concerned with the issue of poverty in today’s society and the numerous affects it continues to have on society in Lobby 10. Though poverty in the U.S. was not the single issue that concerned the diverse group of students in the seminar, it stood alone as a significant part of King’s dream which tragic circumstances prevented him from accomplishing.

As with the subject of race relations in America, the economic plight of America’s poor begs the question, how far have we come? In a speech King once argued, “If our nation can spend thirty-five billion dollars a year to fight an unjust, evil war in Vietnam, and twenty billion dollars to put a man on the moon, it can spend billions of dollars to put God’s children on their own two feet right here on earth.”

This imbalanced scenario sounds all too familiar. President George Bush recently announced a \$12 billion plan to send astronauts back to the moon as the U.S. deficit balloons and the war on terrorism rages on with an \$87.5 billion backing.

So while the government hopes to ensure the nation’s well being from the evils of terrorism it undermines the fragile existence of the poor. Our tax cuts undercut the middle-

class and the poor as revenues fall but the already fat pockets of the country’s richest inhabitants continue to swell.

When denouncing the Vietnam War, King declared that “the problem of racism, the problem of exploitation, and the problem of war are all tied together.” Though the particulars have changed, the end result has not. So we must proclaim as King urged many years before that we are “dissatisfied” with the status quo.

MIT administrators, faculty, students, and staff must be dissatisfied with the fact that the United States Census Bureau believes that \$41,000, the yearly cost of MIT, is enough to keep two five-person families with three children under 18 above the poverty line. All of America must become dissatisfied that in 2002, 26.5 percent of single-parent homes headed by women are below the poverty line.

The 2004 Martin Luther King Jr. IAP Design Seminar students invite all of MIT to join us in direct and active disapproval. Going into schools to talk about King’s legacy, working on an installation displaying the fight for economic justice, and writing about current inequities that exist in our society have all been the fruits of our dissatisfaction. Of what will your own consist?

All of you have inherited the rich wisdom of King’s many dreams. How will you use it? King dreamt of lands unscorched by missiles seeking political aims through violent

means, he dreamt of a guaranteed annual income for America’s burdened and exploited citizens, he dreamt of political leaders wielding power motivated by love. So, although poverty is a worthy struggle, there are many more. Dissatisfied individuals must only choose one. Perhaps next year we might make honoring Dr. King a true celebration having fought for the restructuring for which he gave his life.

Currently Americans are complicit in their silence with governmental policies that neglect the poor and harm those abroad. However, because of the civil rights movement, the women’s movement, and the Mexican-American labor movement America has a more able and diverse reserve of human capability. Arguably, our aptitude to overturn corruption and injustice is greater. If the problem has grown, America’s citizens of all races and ethnicities must add their cognitive abilities to create political and social strategies that work.

If we are to get over the mountain of adversity that stands between our country’s present reality and the promised land that envisioned by King, we must surmount the obstacles of racism, sexism, poverty, AIDS, bride burning in India, genocide, corrupt regimes, heterosexism, and all other social pathologies that plague our world together.

Charlotte L. Newman is a senior at Wellesley College and a member of the Martin Luther King Jr. IAP Design seminar.

Diversity in the NFL

Kevin M. Yurkerwich

The National Football League has implemented important policies in the last few years designed to promote minority head coaches throughout the league. For a league that has been dominated for the past two decades by great black athletes, to have so few black coaches is appalling. The current change in policy is the first step in the right direction.

Heading into this NFL off season there had only been eight black head coaches in the NFL out of the hundreds of coaches in the history of the game: Fritz Pollard, Art Shell, Dennis Green, Ray Rhodes, Tony Dungy, Herman Edwards, Marvin Lewis, and Terry Robiskie. That is a remarkable statistic when you consider that the league is made up of 50 to 75 percent black players. If the college game is any indication of the future of the NFL, then the league will continue to be comprised mainly of great black athletes, a la Michael Vick.

Of the black players, there are only a handful of black quarterbacks — highlighted by Vick, Donovan McNabb and Steve McNair. This fall on NFL Countdown, the controversial Rush Limbaugh claimed that Donovan McNabb was an average quarterback and the media tried to present him as a great quarterback because he was black. Donovan has been proclaimed as a great quarterback because he can beat you from within the pocket or scramble for yards outside of the pocket. The media may lose sight of his inaccurate, average throwing arm, but Limbaugh misunderstands this as a consequence of his skin color, not his tremendous athletic ability.

A few months ago, NFL commissioner Paul Tagliabue sent a memo to NFL teams requiring them to interview at least one black candidate in person and demanding that the owners be personally involved in the process. This policy is a progressive step in the right direction. Qualified black candidates will now be provided with the opportunity to interview for head coaching vacancies.

The league’s policy has quickly borne fruit as two black coaches, Lovie Smith and Dennis Green, were hired in January. Smith and Green now accompany Dungy, Lewis, and Edwards as five current black head coaches. Additionally, Edwards was recently given a two year contract extension to stay with the New York Jets through 2007. The league now has more black head coaches than it has ever had, but there are some complaints that the system is inflexible with regard to some issues.

Detroit Lions’ president Matt Millen was fined \$200,000 after he failed to interview a minority candidate. The five minority candidates he contacted to interview rebuffed him, recognizing the Lions outspoken interest in Steve Mariucci. After Mariucci was brought in

as the new head coach of the Lions, the league laid down the heavy fine on Millen. The NFL warned that the next offender of the league’s policy would be charged \$500,000.

While demanding minority candidates be interviewed allows candidates the opportunity to present their skills, some candidates feel they are belittled and just used as a token black candidate. Former player Deacon Jones recognized this problem in a Fox News interview when he said, “You can’t force nobody to interview me. What is that going to do? You can interview me and two other blacks ... (and believe) I’ve done my job. I’ve interviewed the blacks.” Supporters of the policy believe that it is beneficial in the long run since minority candidates who are interviewed frequently have the ability to tune their interview skills and are presented with more opportunities to land head coaching jobs.

Whether you believe in the system or not, the results are undeniable. The five current black head coaches are more then there have ever been in the NFL. There are more and more minority assistant coaches in the NFL every year. An example of a great assistant coach is the Patriots defensive coordinator, Romeo Crennel, who will probably land a head coaching job in the next year or so. The league is moving in the right direction.

This experiment in NFL hiring policies might have the potential to also help to balance out the number of minority coaches at the college football level. There are important problems in college football. When was the last time you saw two black college coaches square off against each other at the college level? If you remember correctly, it was Ty Willingham at Notre Dame against Michigan State’s Bobby Williams. Recently Williams was fired and the only other three black head coaches in the college ranks are San Jose State’s Fitz Hill, New Mexico State’s Tony Samuel, and Mississippi State’s

Sylvester Croom. Of the 115 major division one college football programs there are only four black head coaches — that’s three and a half percent for all you Course XVIII majors out there. How are NFL coaches going to develop out of the college ranks if there are only four black collegiate head coaches? Moreover, there are only 12 minority assistant coaches at those 115 schools whose teams are made up of 43 percent black players. While the NCAA does not possess the power of the NFL to heavily fine schools for not seriously considering minority candidates, it too must reconcile this problem. The NCAA ought to use its ability to reduce the number of scholarships from schools to promote the growth of black head coaches at the collegiate level.

Although minority hirings at the college level are less of an issue to the media than the flaws associated with the Bowl Championship Series, both lingering problems have the potential to degrade a nation’s passion for football.

For a league that has been dominated for the past two decades by great black athletes, to have so few black coaches is appalling.

States Differ on Gay Marriage

Marriage, from Page 9

According to a statement issued by the Vatican on July 31, 2003, “in those situations where homosexual unions have been legally recognized or have been given the legal status and rights belonging to marriage, clear and emphatic opposition is a duty” for members of the Catholic faith.

On Jan. 21, 2004, the Ohio Legislature passed a measure to ban marriage and civil union for same-sex couples. Ohio’s ban will make it the 38th state with a Defense of Mar-

riage Act, an act defining marriage as a union that can only exist between a man and a woman.

Currently, a federal Defense of Marriage Act stipulates that states that ban gay marriages do not have to honor homosexual marriages or civil unions from other states. However, if additional states declare gay marriage to be legal, political momentum could overturn the federal act.

As in Massachusetts, courts in Hawaii and Alaska previously decided that state constitutions did not support bans on gay marriage.

Amendments to both states’ constitutions were subsequently passed to ban gay marriage.

An amendment to ban gay marriage in Massachusetts will come before state lawmakers on February 11th. However, even if supported by lawmakers, the proposed amendment cannot reach voters until 2006.

Though gay marriage may conflict with the spiritual values of some members of the local and national community, Gresh said that LBGT members continue to find support. “MIT’s a pretty welcoming place in general,” he said.

New Focus for a New MIT

Terrence R. Strader

From building and remodeling roads and buildings to evaluating and articulating the goals, content, and structure of the MIT common undergraduate educational experience, MIT is in the process of a complete “makeover.”

One aspect of this makeover that has come out in the open this past semester is the idea of MIT adopting a diversity General Institute Requirement. The lack of education in the areas of race, ethnicity, and culture is a major problem in our society today. Racism, discrimination, and segregation are severe effects caused by this problem, which currently plague communities across the world. Using education as a tool to inform others in our society about the many diverse people in this world would help to eliminate the discrimination and prejudice that cripples our society on a daily basis.

A diversity requirement is not new for most colleges and universities. According to www.diversityweb.org, 63 percent of colleges and universities either have in place a diversity requirement or are in the process of developing one. Some notable schools with diversity requirements in place include Boston College, Brown University, Penn State, UC Berkeley, UCLA, and Wellesley College. Most of these schools require their students to select from a list of designated classes to complete the diversity requirement.

Many colleges and universities are beginning to recognize that they can play a pivotal role in addressing the enduring problems of race relations. For example, the University of Virginia experienced a highly publicized racially charged incident on their campus just last year, when Daisy Lundy, a candidate for a hotly contested Student Council election who is of African-American and Korean heritage, was attacked by an assailant who allegedly used a racial slur during the attack. After this incident, the University of Virginia realized that they could play a role in preventing future racially charged incidents and established a committee to explore a diversity requirement for their school. Will it take something like this to occur at MIT in order for the institute to realize that they play a pivotal role in addressing these enduring racial problems?

For years, MIT has tried to use different approaches to promote awareness and understanding on the issues of diversity and race by offering a number of racial programs, extracurricular activities, workshops, and dis-

Are We Ready for a Minority President?

Natasha N. Rushing

Is the United States ready for a minority president?

It is very easy for people to immediately reply “yes” in response to this question. Yet, if our country is ready, then why has a minority candidate yet to survive the cuts of the party caucuses and primaries to receive the nomination? I venture to say that we are in denial of political inequalities, and the realization of a minority president is nowhere in the near future. There are many things in this country that we overlook that may be holding back our electoral process from reaching its full potential envisioned by our forefathers of representing all citizens of this country. Let us look at the primary example of African-americans in national public offices.

First, the time elapsed since the end of blatant racial discrimination in this country is equivalent to an eye blink in the span of history. Slavery in America, which ended approximately 140 years ago in 1865, was in place for over 250 years. If you consider the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. as the end of the civil rights movement, then there have only been 36 years between then and now. Despite the american ideal that any person can “make it to the top” with hard work, I find it

very improbable that a man can rise from the dregs of society to one of the most reputable positions in the world in the time span of only 36 years.

Secondly, the number of blacks in Congress is pathetically low. White males represent approximately 40 percent of the US population, yet comprise 77 percent of the House of Representatives and 87 percent of the Senate, a total of 79 percent of Congress. African-americans (both male and female) represent approximately 13 percent of the U.S. population, 9 percent of the House, zero percent of the Senate, a total of 7 percent of Congress.

How can we expect the American people to elect a black president when they cannot keep a black Senator in office? Perhaps there just aren’t that many blacks aspiring to public office. Even still, that cannot possibly account for the fact that there are currently no black senators.

Next, we can look at the trends for the blacks who have braved to run for the Presidential office. Jesse Jackson ran for the nomination of the Democratic Party in 1984 and 1988. Both times, he was unable to win the nomination. Colin Powell was speculated to become a candidate in the Presidency in 1996, but did not enter the race. In 2000, Alan Keyes ran for the Republican Presidential nomination, but eventually stepped down from the race. In this year’s Democratic Candidacy

Race, we have seen Al Sharpton and Carol Moseley Braun. Braun, a former US Senator, recently dropped out of the race. Sharpton recently received zero percent voter support in the Iowa Caucus and the New Hampshire Primary. Democratic sources say Braun felt it was time to quit because her campaign failed to catch fire. Solely based on the trends of black presidential candidates, things aren’t looking too good for the possibility of a black president.

Finally, the number of minority voters in the country is disproportionate due to voting restrictions. With the exceptions of Maine, Vermont, and Massachusetts, the remaining 47 states and the District of Columbia prohibit inmates serving felony convictions from voting in any public elections. While a majority of states restore voting rights to convicted felons after they complete their prison terms or probation periods, at least ten states, including Virginia, Delaware and New Mexico permanently prohibit former felons from voting. Due to the war on crime and racial profiling, there is a disproportionate amount of blacks convicted of felonies. Thus, more blacks are losing their rights to vote. This is not to say that these felons would vote for a black presidential candidate or even at all, but it is something to think about. Also, there are thousands of homeless people who are unable to exercise their right simply because they

don’t have an address to register with.

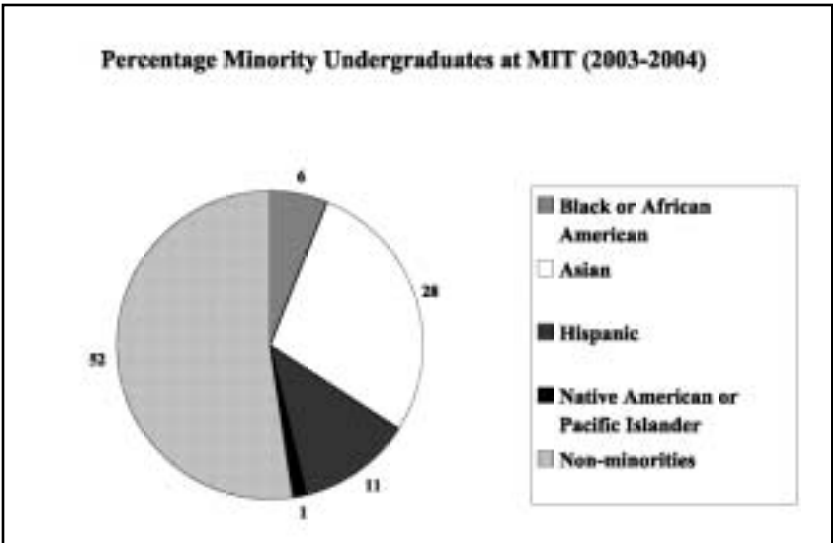
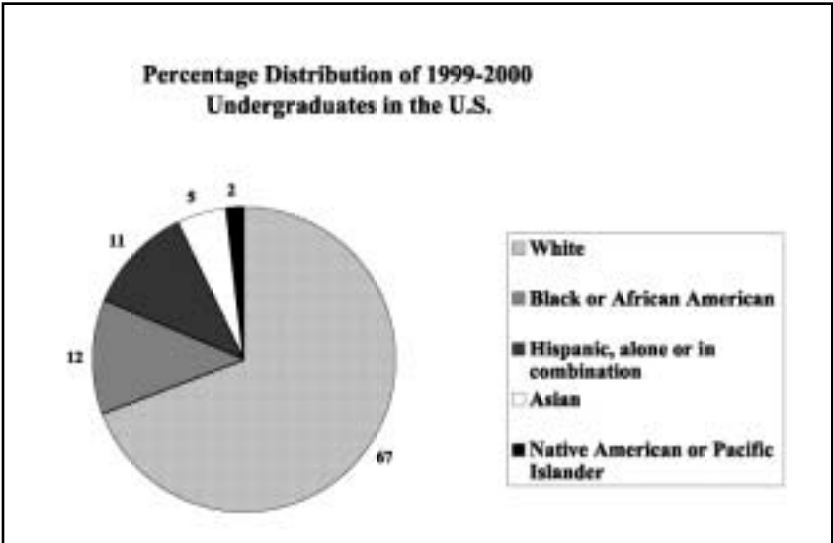
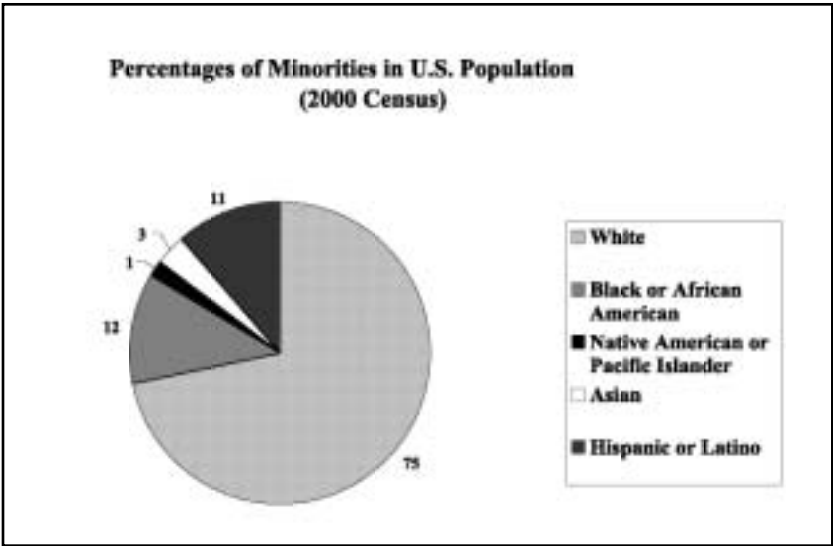
There are probably many other intangible constructs of our society that are working against the election of a black president. Being a black woman, I would love to think that this country has reached a point of equality for all, but then I would only be fooling myself. I do believe that one day this country will have a black president, and apparently I am not the only one. The television drama 24 and the movie blockbuster Deep Impact both have black presidents, so others are definitely open to the idea. But as usual, reality is far behind the imagination of Hollywood.

The question of whether our country is ready for a minority president is one we should all contemplate. The true answer to this question now and in the future will be revealed at the ballot boxes. In closing, I would like to urge all fellow students to vote. Based on the most recent census, only 63.9 percent of the voting population is registered and only 54.7 percent of the voting population actually votes.

There is a problem with that, especially since active participation in government is one of the principles that this country was founded upon. Please make an effort to learn about this year’s presidential candidates and vote. The first step to change is action.

Natasha N. Rushing is a member of the class of 2005.

Race By the Numbers



Diversity GIR Will Benefit MIT Community

GIR, from Page 10

cussions. Many students and even faculty members of our campus have overlooked these opportunities. Now it is time to take a bigger step and increase our efforts.

This necessary expansion of diversity awareness would come from a required diversity class here at MIT. This class would be one of the eight required HASS classes; it could satisfy Phase I (if necessary), and could be listed as a Communications Intensive class. Consider the following benefits:

Alumni are very important people here at MIT. They are motivators and mentors for many students. Alumni could continue to play this role, but on a more active basis. If we have a mandatory class on diversity, we could have alumni come and speak to the classes. Dr. Clarence Williams’ book, “Technology and the Dream,” would be a great place to start searching for alumni dedicated to addressing diversity issues on campus. These alumni could come and reflect on their experiences here at MIT, and inform the students how much has changed or stayed the same since they were here. We must continue to break down barriers and progress forward. Actual testimonials would be great exposure to what is going on or has gone on in our society, instead of simply reading articles or watching videos.

A diversity class would not only improve the first year educational experience, but also the lifetime educational experience. Because most first year students come from high schools that presented students with homogeneous racial settings, they would greatly benefit from a college where there is so much diversity and the opportunity to discuss and explore the different people around them. Taking this class will allow students to learn more about everyone around them and feel more so a part of the crowd. When the class ends and the students begin the transition into their sophomore year, they could begin taking full advantage of the environment MIT provides

and develop into better leaders.

Advocates for Awareness (AFA) held a forum this past November to get the opinion of the MIT community regarding the adoption of a diversity GIR. The audience consisted of about 60 students, faculty, and administrators who generally supported the idea of having a diversity GIR. The structure of the class was the main area of debate. One of MIT’s current courses, 11.023, “Bridging Racial and Cultural Differences,” was suggested as a model for the class. At the end of the forum, a committee was formed to continue to investigate the idea of MIT adopting a diversity GIR.

This past semester, Tobie Weiner’s class Solving Problems in Race and Education (17.907) took on the project of assessing the feasibility of implementing a diversity GIR as its final project.

The class found that many professors who already teach subjects focused on diversity supported the idea and expressed interest in teaching a diversity GIR class. Professor of Writing Kenneth Manning said that he thought it was “scandalous that we don’t already have a diversity GIR.”

The class will continue to investigate the possibility of a diversity GIR this upcoming semester. Members of the committee created after the AFA forum will also work towards the goal of helping to implement a diversity GIR.

We are currently moving towards the light in seeing a diversity GIR at MIT. A number of students who support the idea have applied to join the task force on the educational commons and the student advisory group for selecting the next MIT President in order to provide a voice for the adoption of a diversity GIR. If you are interested in learning more about the idea of MIT adopting a diversity GIR, e-mail Advocates for Awareness at afa-exec@mit.edu.

Terrence R. Strader '04 is a member of the Committee on Campus Race Relations and the founder of Advocates for Awareness.

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Racial Profiling Puts Everyone in Danger

Shawntel B. Hines

The last time I was in an airport was the beginning of January, when I returned for Independent Activities Period. As I stood in the security line of the airport, my thoughts were on how much I enjoyed break, how I really didn't want to come back to MIT, and exactly how cold would it be. Then, like others in line, I began to take off my shoes, my outer coat, my earrings, and checked my pockets for the usual: coins, keys, cell phones.

For one moment, I thought, I don't know why I have to go through this; you have never heard of a black person hijacking a plane. I've joked about such things with my family and friends, watching the news and placing a race to the criminals based on their crimes. The shoe bomber: thought he was a Middle Eastern male. The sniper: militant white male. It all seemed so simple. Blacks and hispanics don't commit those kinds of crimes.

While Sept. 11 has made people from the Middle East the newest victims of racial profiling, the attempts to crackdown on profiling has proven to be ineffective. An article was published in the January 21st edition of *The Boston Globe*, stating that in Milton, Massachusetts, minorities got 58 percent of tickets but were estimated to be 15.8 percent of drivers. In Boston, minorities received 49.8 percent of tickets but were estimated to make up 33 percent of drivers.

Are minorities worse drivers? No. Many believe that minorities get pulled over for absolutely no reason. No "Oh, your tags are expired" or "You were speeding" or "You just ran a red light." None of those. More drivers are being pulled over for DWM: driving while minority. What was once known as DWB (driving while black) has spread to other ethnic minorities. While I realize that the incident in the airport is also racial profiling, my idea of racial profiling goes like this: when someone gets robbed at with a gun (or knife) and the victim says it was a black man in a dark hoodie, the police sketch lacks so many details that any black man happening to be wearing a hoodie could fit the description.

The use of race in airport security procedures as a matter of safety, and the DWM situation are not examples of blatant racism. I realize that both instances of racial profiling are instances of prejudice and stereotyping. There is no way one race can be eliminated in any crime or potential crime without some type of identifying evidence. While racial profiling is not defined as a tool of oppression, it has become one, like so many other things designed for our safety. Admittedly, there are patterns in some crimes, meaning that most persons committing a particular crime may be mostly white, black, etc. But that does not mean that the entire race should be under scrutiny.

Even more appalling is that most of us are guilty of racial profiling in our daily lives. We've stood at the airport at looked at people with the thought in our heads "Someone might need to check that person out. He looks suspicious." Though our biases may not have resulted in people not being let on planes or being pulled over for no reason, they are still just as dangerous. These are still prejudiced attitudes. We are still judging people by the color of their skin, and clearly, not the content of their character. Sure, we don't know the character of every person that we see on the street, in the airport, in the convenience store, but this is all the more reason not to judge.

A matter of safety, is it? Well, when the sniper was assassinating people throughout the Washington, D.C. and Virginia area, the police were looking for a white male. Everyone thought it was a white male. But, as it turns out, he was black. Imagine who could have been saved if authorities had opened their eyes to the fact that anyone, of any race, could have been the perpetrator. Let's not forget about the shoe bomber. The man was white. Enough said. In the midst of celebrating Dr. King's dreams, we need to take note of the institutionalized prejudices that are affecting our lives. These prejudices are allowing us to maintain the idea that we are fit to judge. We are not. While you are judging someone, someone else is judging you.

Shawntel B. Hines is a member of the class of 2006.

Simple Ideas to Promote Diversity Awareness

By Ivy S. Morgan

1. Speak out against racist, homophobic, and sexist actions. Confront perpetrators of discriminating behavior, if you don't, you're sending the message that this behavior is acceptable.
2. Get to know people who are "different" from you. Take advantage of the diversity that exists around you. Make a conscious effort to befriend people who look, speak, act, or worship differently. You have nothing to lose and everything to gain.
3. Learn about issues and concerns of other people. Expose yourself to views of multiculturalism, racism, sexism, or homophobia. By improving your knowledge, you are better equipped to combat discrimination.
4. Consider the impact of your words and actions, not just their intent. Discriminatory jokes can be just as offensive as slurs. Don't perpetrate biases and prejudices in the name of fun.
5. Watch what you say. Some terms and phrases are demeaning to others. Everyone deserves to be addressed respectfully.
6. Understand and accept the differences among people. By denying the differences that make this society so diverse, you could also be denying aspects of someone's character that are very special to them.
7. Through your normal daily interactions, show younger children that diversity is a good thing, show them that it is okay to be around people who are different. Eventually, they will accept this as their own belief and perpetuate that philosophy.
8. Don't stay silent. If you become the victim of discrimination, say something. Don't let the incident slide. Tell your friends and family, tell your co-workers or classmates, they may be able to help and support you.
9. Be open-minded. Challenge your views and way of thinking, try to understand the point of views of others.
10. Don't underestimate the power of money. Boycott places that are racist, sexist, or homophobic, and encourage other people to do the same. Tell the place you're boycotting your reasons for doing so, otherwise they may not get the point.

Free dinner on Sunday nights.



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W20-483, 617-253-1541

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That means you pay less!

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Bookstores buy your books for 25% of the original price and resell them for 80%!
We just sell the books for you... so you keep every dollar the customer pays!

Alpha Phi Omega Book Exchange

Monday Feb 2 - Friday Feb 6
Fourth floor of the Student Center (W20-407)
11 AM - 7 PM

Like community service?
How about power tools,
cookies, and left-handed
aluminum wood screws?

We do.
Get to know us.

Thursday, 2/5, W20-415 7pm
Open Meeting and Project Linus
Learn about us and sew quilts for terminally ill kids.

Saturday, 2/7, W20-415 Time TBA
Open Service Project
Meet in our office and head out to a project.

Monday, 2/9, W20-201 Noon
Open Meeting
Come get to know us.

Alpha Phi Omega
National Coed Nonresidential Service Fraternity



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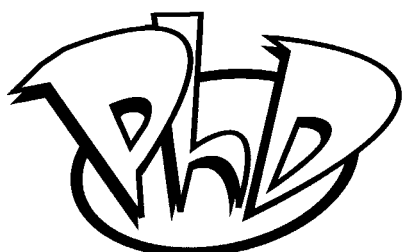
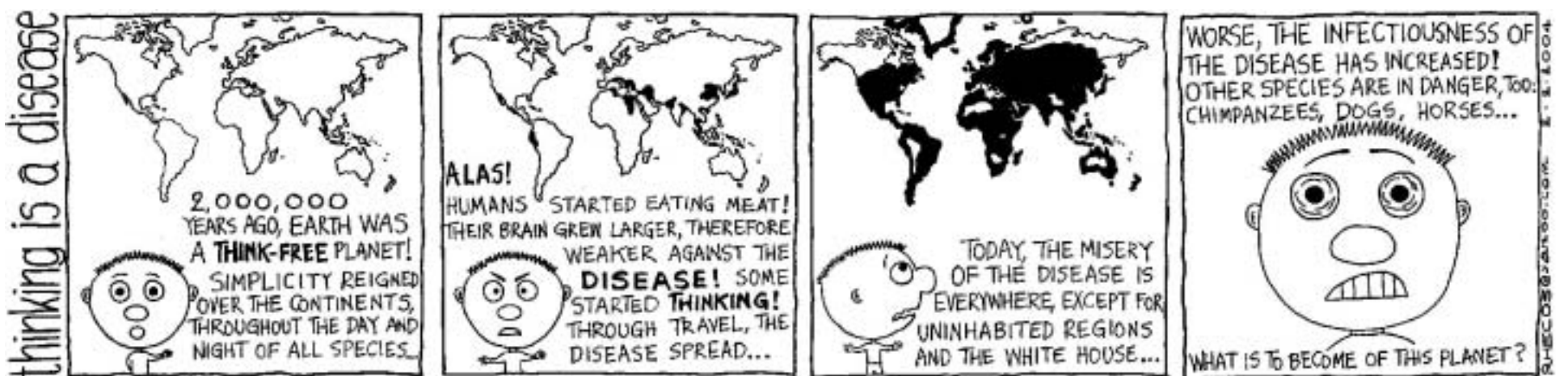
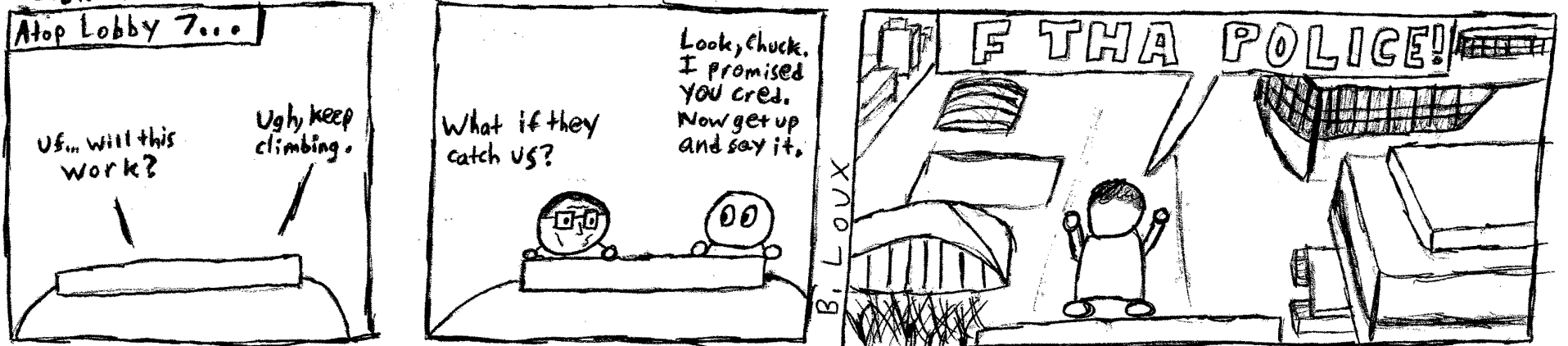
TRIO

Trio gallery: members.aol.com/rickxykes/welcome



Rickxykes@aol.com

Look kids! It's a storyline!



PILED HIGHER AND
DEEPER



www.phdcomics.com

FoxTrot by Bill Amend

WALKING IN PARABOLAS DOESN'T SIMULATE WEIGHTLESSNESS, JASON. FINE. YOU RENT ME AN AIRPLANE.

WHAT'S IN THE SQUEEZE BOTTLE? DINNER.

IT'S A TURKEY-FLAVORED SOY PROTEIN PASTE WITH A COMPLETE DAY'S WORTH OF VITAMINS AND MINERALS.

IF I'M GOING TO LIVE ON A MOON BASE, I NEED TO GET USED TO EATING LIKE AN ASTRONAUT.

YOU MEAN EATING OUT OF A TUBE. CORRECT. PETER, YOUR PASTE IS GETTING COLD.

WHAT'S THAT? A SET OF LIFE-ON-THE-MOON VIDEOS I PICKED UP AT THE LIBRARY.

I'M NOT SURE IF THEY'RE NASA-SANCTIONED OR NOT, BUT THEY LOOK PRETTY INFORMATIVE.

"SPACE, 1999." I ASSUME THE DATE IS A TYPO.

"EPISODE FIVE: DEATH'S OTHER DOMINION." I LIKE HOW THEY DON'T SUGAR-COAT THINGS.

YOU'RE COOKING SAUSAGES?! PORK SAUSAGES.

I TAKE GROUNDHOG DAY SERIOUSLY.

AND LITERALLY. YOU'RE JUST JEALOUS THERE ISN'T A GROUNDTOFU DAY.

DADDY, WHAT'S A CONJUNCTION? A CON-JUNCTION?

CONJUNCTION JUNCTION, WHAT'S YOUR FUNCTION?

HOOKING UP WORDS AND PHRASES AND CLAUSES!

IN NORMAL LANGUAGE, PLEASE. I FORGET.

Dilbert by Scott Adams

IF YOU REFUSE TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT OUR PRODUCT'S SAFETY FLAW, I WILL BE FORCED TO CONTACT OUR CEO! TRY IT.

THIS E-MAIL WILL MAKE HIM DROP EVERYTHING AND CALL ME.

HUNDREDS WILL DIE... BLAH, BLAH, BLAH... WHATEVER. FORWARD THE MESSAGE TO THAT POINTY-HAIRED GUY.

DOGBERT DOES P.R. YOU KNEW YOUR PRODUCT WAS DEADLY BUT YOU DID NOTHING UNTIL YOU WERE SUED.

THE GOAL OF PUBLIC RELATIONS IS TO TAINT THE JURY POOL. WE'LL SHOW THAT THE VICTIMS HAD IT COMING.

MAYBE WE SHOULD DISCUSS THE MORAL IMPLICATIONS OF THAT STRATEGY. BAH!

DOGBERT DOES P.R. THERE'S SOME RISK THAT THE P.R. PLAN WILL CAUSE YOU BAD KARMA.

FOR AN EXTRA FEE, I CAN DO SOME P.R. WORK AIMED AT THE INFINITE FABRIC OF THE UNIVERSE TO INNUCULATE YOU.

AND I THINK I CAN GET BRITNEY SPEARS TO WEAR YOUR HAIRSTYLE. CAN YOU GET HER TO GROW HAIR ON HER BACK, TOO?

YOUR PROJECT IS MY TOP PRIORITY. TELL ME EVERYTHING THAT I NEED TO KNOW.

I'M SO BORED... CAN'T... STAY... AWAKE. I HAVEN'T STARTED TALKING YET.

IT GETS WORSE??! O-O-O-KAY

IT'S BEEN A FEW HOURS SINCE I'VE DONE ANYTHING MANAGERISH.

I COULD CRITICIZE SOMEONE...NAH. I COULD HAVE A MEETING...NAH.

I'M REORGANIZING THE DEPARTMENT! EXCUSE ME WHILE I BEAT MYSELF WITH MY KEYBOARD.

Crossword Puzzle

Solution, page 25

ACROSS

- 1 Arctic Circle dweller
- 5 Panoramic view
- 10 Geometry calculation
- 14 Wheels support
- 15 Wastes time
- 16 Fossil fuel
- 17 Wise guy
- 19 Weightlifting exercise
- 20 Have an inkling
- 21 Parched
- 22 Repulsive
- 23 Tip or Eugene
- 25 Brunch pastry
- 27 Did in
- 29 Park perch
- 32 Obligation
- 35 Hair-care product
- 39 Actor Wallach
- 40 Architectural add-on

DOWN

- 41 Beet soup
- 42 Foldaway bed
- 43 Chairman
- 44 Create a soft spot?
- 45 The ___ the limit!
- 46 Andes people
- 48 Boom's counterpart
- 50 Hershey's candies
- 54 Andre and Goliath
- 58 Quantum theorist Niels
- 60 Eye amorously
- 62 Tease coyly
- 63 Parroted
- 64 Professional investigator
- 66 Tolerate
- 67 Macho types
- 68 Garbage boat
- 69 Rooney of "60 Minutes"

DOWN

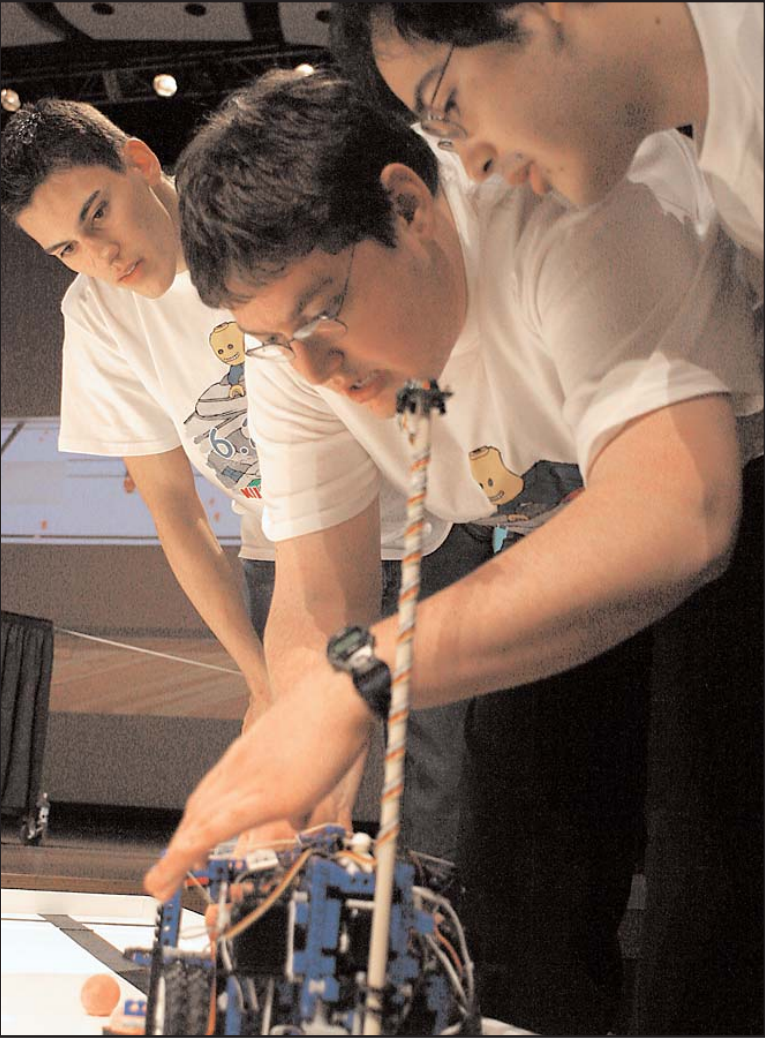
- 1 Roper's rope
- 2 Lumberjacks
- 3 Tool for evening
- 4 Keep on trying
- 5 Exuberance
- 6 Altar vows
- 7 Fishtailed
- 8 Aquarium fish
- 9 Pallid
- 10 Point a finger at
- 11 Oil-rig roustabout
- 12 Jimmy Carter's middle name
- 13 Pact participant
- 18 Legendary archer
- 24 Clunker
- 26 Yeah, sure
- 28 Gentlemen's agreement
- 30 Surfeit

DOWN

- 31 Chart toppers
- 32 Actress Moore
- 33 Panache
- 34 Ignoramus
- 36 Put to work
- 37 Wound covering
- 38 Indicate indifference
- 41 Mrs. Truman
- 45 Most hackneyed
- 47 Hang on the clothesline
- 49 Sort through
- 51 Last year's frosh
- 52 Plumed wader
- 53 Snail trail
- 55 Sister's kid
- 56 Don in the fitting room
- 57 Goulash and ragout
- 58 Rum cake
- 59 Candid
- 61 At any time
- 65 Novelist Beattie

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69					70						71			

Killian Chaos E



PETER R. RUSSO—THE TECH

‘Stata Center Award’ Given For Design Far Beyond Mere Legos

Story, from Page 1

scoring areas or “living groups” were separate for the two robots competing and had 1x, 2x and 3x multiplication factors depending on their distance from the starting area.

ZSR Convertible’s strategy was to collect balls in a cage and go to the 2x multiplier area. Then, it detected the other robot’s position, using its infrared beacon, and determined whether to stay there or go to the 3x multiplier area, which was also the other robot’s starting position.

It was “quite a common design,” Ren said to the audience before the final round. Humble Trouble also used a cage to collect balls and several times ended up in the 3x multiplier area.

The “ZSR Convertible” team said that they spent between 130

and 150 hours on making the machine. They said they were in the lab for 36 hours straight before the machine was impounded.

The 6.270 course organizers also gave awards out to notable robots: “Chickenator,” which had wings on its side, won the “Cutest Award;” “9” won “The Stata Center Robot Award” for its unique design; and “Lawnmower of Justice” won “The Craziest Strategy Award.” Created by Louis Waldman and Matthew Webber, “Lawnmower of Justice” quickly pushed balls into its 1x scoring box, then followed the other robot around and attempted to block its competition’s access to their scoring area using whirling blades.

Slight changes from last year

Two new additions gave contest participants more flexibility in this

year’s design. Students were given \$30 to spend on “anything electronic” for their robot, said Balodia. Also, a gyroscope, which measures the rate change of a turn angle, was provided by Analog Devices, one of the course sponsors. Engineers from the company also helped the students implement the sensors during Independent Activities Period, said Jack Memishian ’65, an engineer from Analog in Cambridge.

The Analog engineers also designed and built their own robot, which competed against a robot created by Steven Schondorf, director of the Ford/MIT Alliance. Both robots were built along with the students in 6.270, using the same laboratory and equipment. The robots competed in exhibition rounds during the night, with the Analog team winning two of three contests.



PETER R. RUSSO—THE TECH



PETER R. RUSSO—THE TECH

The annual 6.270 autonomous robot competition, entitled Killian Chaos this year, was held in Kresge Auditorium last Thursday evening. Clockwise from top left:

Yasuhiro Shirasaki ’06 addresses the audience after his team, ‘ZSR Convertible,’ won the competition.

Robots fill the viewing tables out in the lobby of Kresge Auditorium.

Paul Wanda ’04 (left), Ran Tao ’04, and Albert Lin ’04 watch as their robot, ‘The Cool-Looking Thing That Does Absolutely Nothing,’ defeats its opponent.

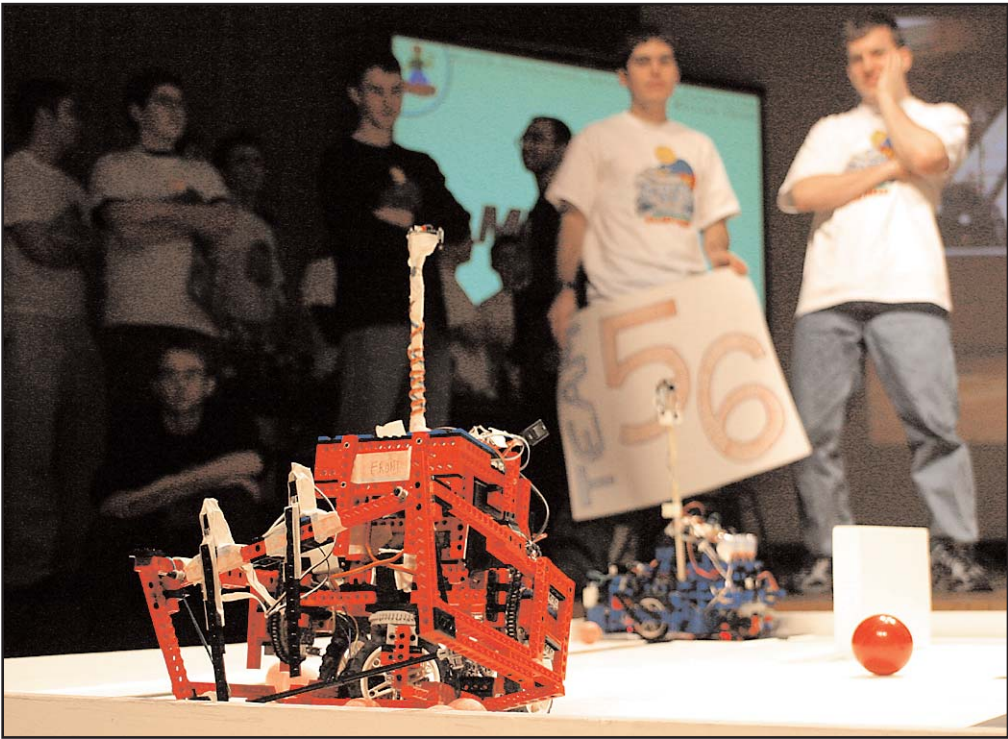
Team 44, ‘But It Worked Fine This Morning’ (Tiffany Dohzen ’04 and Catherine Koveal ’05), faces off against Team 1, ‘That’s What She Said’ (Greg H. Belote ’07 and Abraham J. Evans ’05). Team 1 claimed victory in the round.

Jeffery A. Perez ’07, Patrick Y. Kim ’04, and Nathan A. Pfaff ’07 agonize over their robot’s loss.

Greg H. Belote ’07 of Team 1, ‘That’s What She Said,’ prepares his robot for competition.

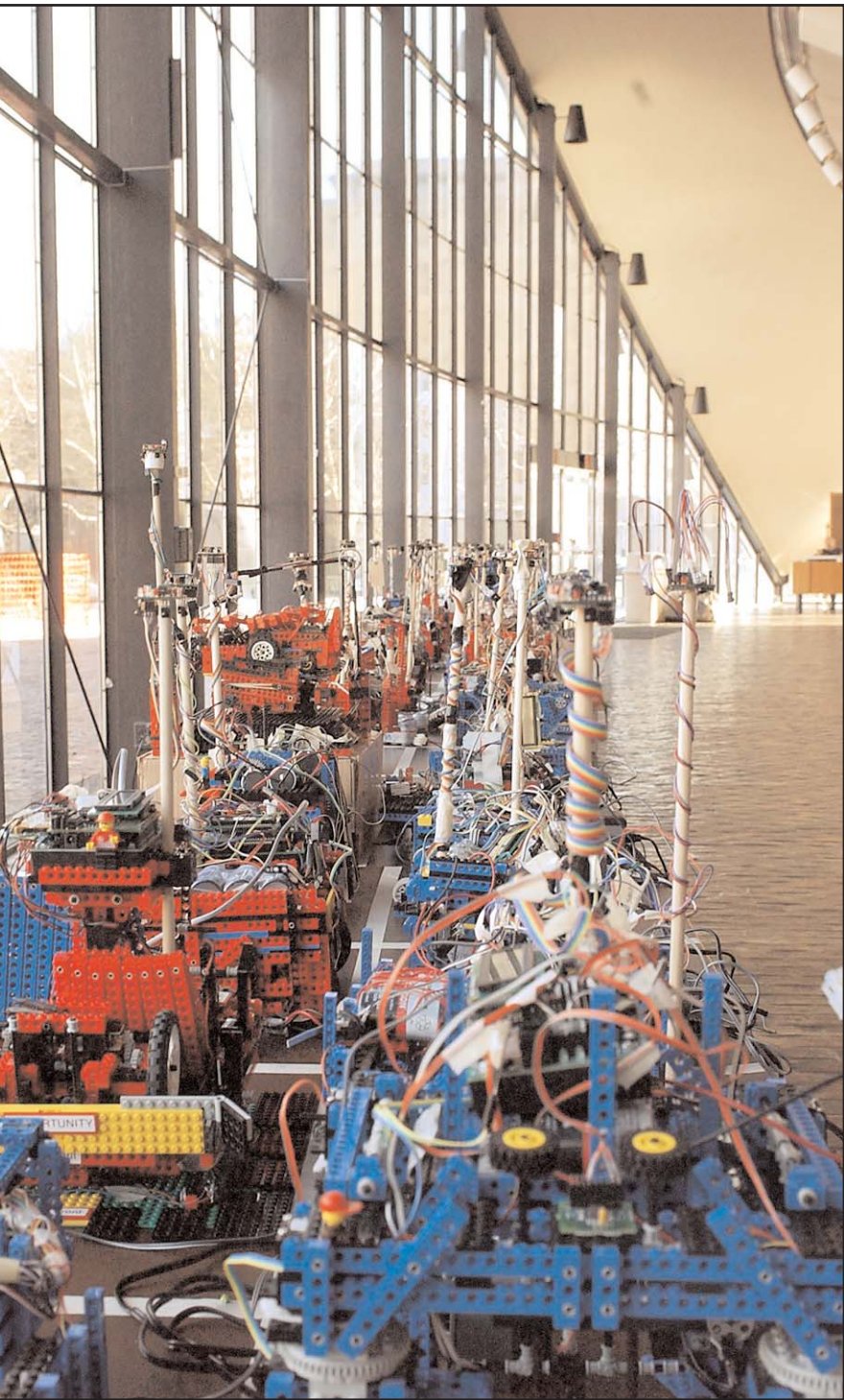
Kevin E. Stolt ’06 (left) and Michel J. Lambert ’04 look on as their robot entangles a wall.

This year’s 6.270 competition was held in Kresge Auditorium because 26-100, the contest’s usual venue, has filled to capacity in past years.



PETER R. RUSSO—THE TECH

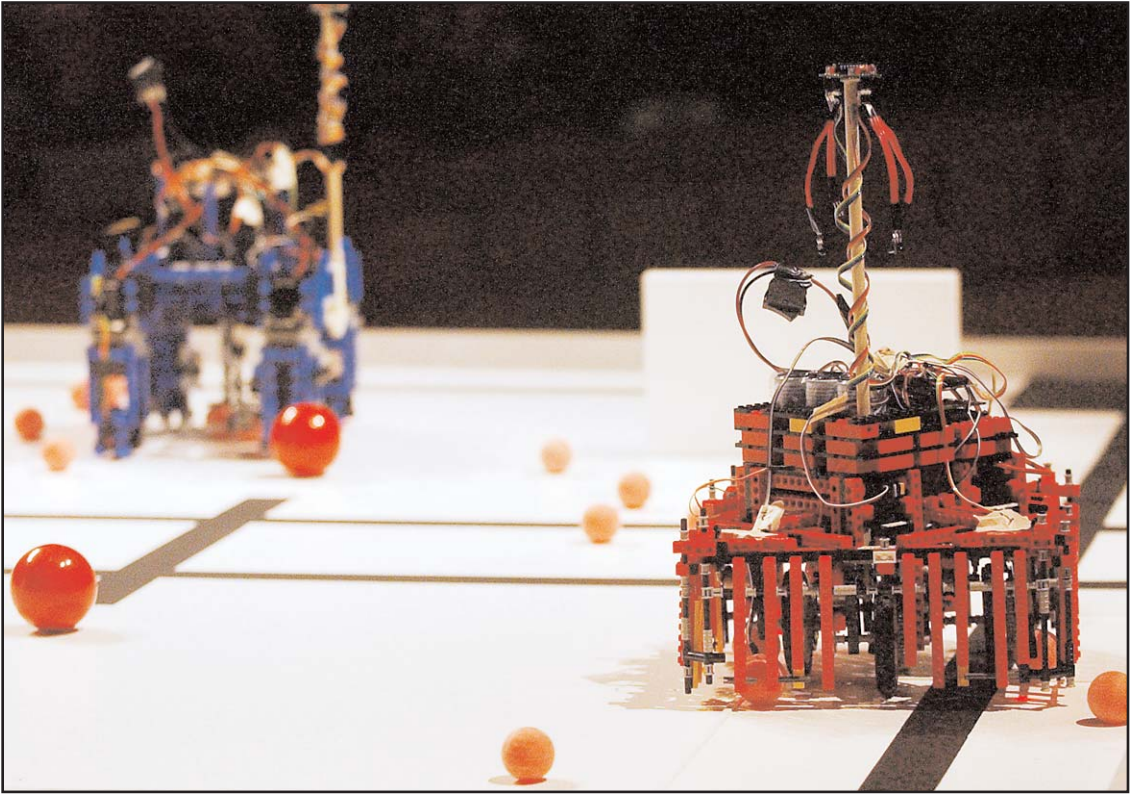
rupts in Kresge



BRIAN HEMOND—THE TECH



BRIAN HEMOND—THE TECH



BRIAN HEMOND—THE TECH



BRIAN HEMOND—THE TECH



DANIEL R. BERSAK—THE TECH

UA Checklist Receives Little Feedback from Students

UA, from Page 1

increases stops at Simmons Hall, and the third brings the shuttle route to Sidney-Pacific graduate dormitories. Allen said the recent shooting incident around Sidney-Pacific may affect the outcome of the shuttle debate.

The UA Q&A, published weekly in *The Tech*, has been carried out by Rose Grabowski '05, UA Senate Vice-Chair, and Harel Williams '05, UA Committee on Student Life Chair. It began to run Aug. 24, 2003.

The Campus Dining and Residential Dining goal to “address concerns about the dining program” was implemented by Reuben Cummings '05, UA Dining Committee Chair. He listed the milestones of the project, which he was able to achieve: “develop a dining council with representatives from each dorm,” “provide online menus,” and “meet with vendor managers and administrators.”

Another goal that has reached completion is the rescheduling of Interphase. Previously, Interphase overlapped with the first days of Freshman Pre-Orientation Programs. However, now Interphase students will be able to participate in FPOPs.

Among the goals completed, the UA also sent delegates to the Boston Intercollegiate Government; established “DormStorm” to promote dinner discussions between UA members and dorm residents; opened paths to and from Simmons; improved the Zesiger Center locker allocation lottery; and maintained a series of monthly lunches for UA officials called “Lunch with Larry.”

Several goals remain in progress

Of the 33 remaining UA goals, the 23 that remain in progress after the projected completion date represent the more challenging UA projects.

Plasma screens displaying information and advertisements will soon line the Infinite corridor, the walls of Lobby 7, and possibly the student center, said UA Senate speaker Ling Wong '04.

The idea, which was proposed as a UA goal in October, is likely to become a reality after the iCampus project agreed to front \$30,000 to fund the project. However, students may not see the screens for a while, far after the proposed UA deadline of January 2004.

TV screens mounted in the student center will display CNN and other campus news information.

Wong said that this will help to keep students in touch with what’s happening in the world outside of MIT.

Williams, who is working on the project, said that students could go to a web site and “upload advertising material” with different location targets. Every screen may have BlueTooth capabilities, allowing student to communicate with with the displays. He expects that next semester will be spent planning and designing, the summer coding, and that hopefully in September it would be released for “public viewing.”

Allen is also working on a project that will establish communication and provide services for off-campus and Senior Segue undergraduates.

Allen wants to create a for-reservation kitchen space for off-campus students and student groups. She hopes that spaces in Walker, once occupied by Sodexo dining, will be renovated into a student kitchen.

Allen said that financial issues are curbing the project’s progress. While renovations may be possible with UA funds, continuing upkeep of the space will need separate funding, possibly by the Campus Activities Complex, Allen said.

She added that the UA is working to establish and upgrade lounge and dance spaces in Walker.

In addition, Allen is compiling a record of students who live off-campus. She hopes that with this list, she can keep in touch with her constituents and better represent their needs in UA discussions.

The Star Market survey, which gauged student interest in Tech Cash support at Star Market, “is completed and the results are compiled,” Cummings said. He hopes to submit the report and proposal to Star Market soon, so that they can review it.

Cummings’ goal for Coffeehouse was to introduce student activities and more use by student groups. Cummings said that “as far as the activities go, a lot of them are being run by ... SaveTFP,” a student organization with which he has worked. He would still like to have more groups using the Coffee-House, but said that “the goals for last term were met.”

A “couple of restaurants,” such as Polcari’s, have been added to the list of places that accept Tech Cash, Cummings reported on the Tech Cash expansion goal. He added that “with the dining board, we have a system set up that additional restaurants can be added.” However,

Cummings thought that “the new restaurants haven’t been marketed very well” and hopes to accomplish this for the future.

Pan-Hellenic Senator Robin Davis is working on a project that will supply dormitories, fraternities, sororities, and independent living groups with signs listing emergency telephone numbers. The signs will be posted on the back of bathroom doors.

Davis hopes that the signs will give students a “flowchart” procedure to follow in the case of an emergency. She said she hopes this will help students who are intoxicated or scared to always know where to find emergency information when it is needed.

Davis has brought up the idea with the UA, and hopes to discuss further plans with Dormitory Council representatives and house managers. While the signs will not be required by MIT, dormitory governments will be suggested to post them in their facilities.

“We’re not trying to shove anything down anyone’s throat,” Davis said. She hopes the signs will go up before Orientation next year.

The UA Student Committee on Education Policy (SCEP) has been primarily working on projects evaluating the accuracy of credit designations for classes and the recent end of pass/no record for freshmen second term. These are expected to be finished in the middle of the term, said Michelle Nyein '04, co-chair of SCEP.

Nyein said they will distribute surveys and conduct focus groups for undergraduates in order to understand how grades, extracurriculars, and other aspects of life were affected by ending pass/no record. MIT would not release any official information about that, she said. SCEP will then give a written report.

SCEP will also study course evaluations to determine whether the units assigned to classes are close to actual worth.

Some goals see little progress

Many goals have made little progress throughout the year.

The UA was unable to establish a Boston Globe contact, Uzamere said.

“Operation Bike Racks,” which would increase the number of bicycle racks near popular campus areas, is not projected to be completed any time soon.

Athena clusters have not been set up in fraternity houses, and sports medicine support for sports

clubs have not been improved. The administrative contact list for students reported progress in the last checklist. However, it has not yet been made available to the public.

Other goals, such as enhancing the role of the Public Relations Committee or enhancing the role of the Nominations Committee, have yet to set goals that will visibly affect the undergraduate population.

UA officials see little feedback

Davis said that the UA Goals checklist “gives an impetus to follow through with projects.”

“I think people do read it,” Davis said. She added that the list in *The Tech* gives students a list of contacts about specific projects.

“It’s representative of individual groups’ and peoples’ projects,” Davis said.

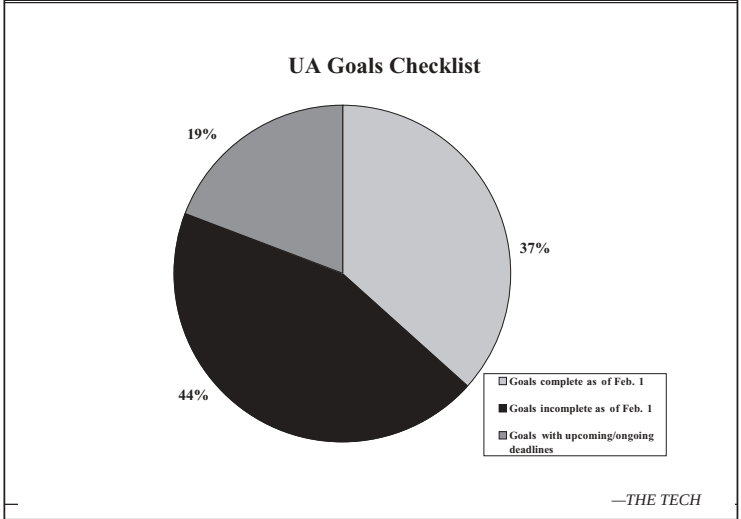
“It seems like people certainly

for next semester will “likely be a continuation of goals from last year.” He thought that the UA goals checked helps “get you focused” and “holds you more accountable.” “For the people who do care, it’s definitely a plus,” he said.

Next House Senator Paul Montgomery '07, completed his goal of improving the Next House Card System and now wants to “work with library systems so students can have access to the Harvard library.” He expects to complete this by the end of spring.

The UA goals checklist may become even more dynamic and effective, Williams said, who is working on revamping the UA web site. He said he thought it was a “great idea but there are different ways to make it more effective.”

Williams said that he has been



are reading,” Allen said. “But not many people are talking to the UA about what they think. It’s much more of a one-way channel which is unfortunate.” Allen said she didn’t know how the UA could work to create more student feedback.

Nyein thought “the first checklist was not so effective because it was so massive.” One solution she mentioned was to highlight a few goals or updates each week. In general, she thought that it “holds all of the committee chairs accountable” and is positive since “the information is there for those that want it.”

Inhan Kang '05 said he sometimes looked at it. “I think it’s better having it there than not,” he said.

Stephanie Yeh '06 said she “glanced at it just to see what was going on, if anything interested me.” She thought it “let the student body know what [Pius] did.”

UA sets goals for next term

Cummings said that his goals

working on an online database where “each UA member will be able to submit projects and updates” in addition to printing the goals checklist in *The Tech*. It would be “easier for students to find what they’re looking for,” he said, as well as more efficient for the UA, which collected goals by e-mail in the past. The Web site might even have an automated way of asking for updates by sending e-mails to UA members.

In addition, Williams thought the web site would “present [the goals] in a more palatable way” given the size of the checklist. However, he added that its current format still helped “facilitate communication between student groups and the student body” and has “made things seem more tangible.”

Williams said that “hopefully the site will go live in mid-February.” The UA is currently in the process of purchasing a server.

UA Goals Checklist

Goals Complete as of Feb. 1

UA Q&A - Rose Grabowski and Harel Williams
Boston Intercollegiate Government - Jacob Faber and John Velasco
"DormStorm" dinner series - Pius Uzamere
Daytime Shuttle - Coordinating Committee
Fields, Fences, and Safety - Cameron Sadegh
Zeisger Center Locker Allocation - Seth Dorfman
Student Government Communication Committee - John Velasco
Improve Finboard Allocations Processes to Student Groups - Finboard
"Lunch with Larry" - John Velasco
Campus Dining/Residential Planning - Reuban Cummings
TechCash expansion - Reuben Cummings
SEVISAC - Pius Uzamere
Reschedule Interphase - Pius Uzamere and Jacob Faber
2006 Class Morale/Unity - 2006 Class Council
2006 Community Service Events - 2006 Class Council
Improve Next House Card System - Paul Montgomery
Open Dupont Weight Room for Club Sports - Jacob Faber
Evaluate Orientation 2003 - UA CHO
Archive Cabinet and Senate Meetings - Harel Williams

Goals Incomplete as of Feb. 1

Establish Boston Globe Contact - Pius Uzamere and Jacob Faber
Enhance role of Public Relations committee - Pius Uzamere, PR Chairs
Enhance role of Nominations committee - Ling Wong and Rose Grabowski
Utilize MITV - Pius Uzamere
Plasma displays in Infinite Corridor - Harel Williams
Student Center Live News Display - Nikhil Nadkarni
East Side Student Space - Jacob Faber
Operation Bike Racks - Jennifer Peng
Coffeehouse Reintroduction - Reuben Cummings
Caretaker Charts for Excess Alcohol Consumption - Robin Davis
Gynecology Appointment Waiting Time Decrease - Hannah Choe
Setting security guidelines across campus - Hannah Choe
Athena clusters in fraternity houses - Tanzeer Khan
Communicate with off-campus, senior segue students - Katherine H. Allen
Resolving Freshmen scheduling conflicts - SCEP
Assessment of Unit Adherence - SCEP
Star Market Survey and Report - Reuben Cummings
Expansion of MIT Cable - Samuel Cole
Administration Contact List for Students - Samuel Cole and Jonathan Rogg
UA Website Revamp Project
Improve Sports Medicine support for club sports - Jacob Faber
Internal party registration system for dormitories - UA CHO
Theft prevention in dormitories - Hannah Choe, Christina Royce, Debbie Watkins

Goals with upcoming/ongoing deadlines

Written evaluation of pass/no record changes - SCEP
Monitoring speeds on Amherst Alley - Vivek Rao
Election Source Code - Election Commission
Clarify Election procedure in UA, Class Constitutions - Election Commission
Kitchen Space for Off-Campus Students - Katherine H. Allen
Improve Candidate's meeting - Election Commission
Modify Platform format - Election Commission
Cultural Groups Coalition - Pius Uzamere
Investigate the new housing system - UA CHO
Orientation schedule for next year - UA CHO

—THE TECH

Depression is a serious threat to anyone that has a brain.

Depression is a suppression of brain activity that can strike anyone. It can make life unbearable, but it is also readily, medically treatable. And that's something you should always keep in mind.

#1 Cause of Suicide

UNTREATED DEPRESSION

http://www.save.org

This space donated by The Tech

Public Service message from SAVE (Suicide Awareness/Voices of Education)

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A new year, a new term.
Isn't it time you tried
something new?

Join *The Tech*!



RTZ BIZ FEA FTO NUZ OPN PROD SPO TECHNO

Open House on Sunday, February 8th.

News Meeting: 5 p.m.

Dinner: 6 p.m.

Photo Meeting: 6:10 p.m.

Student Center Room 483, x3-1541

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PREVENTION COUNCIL**

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of a surgeon,
the dedication of
a marathoner
and
the courage of
an explorer.**

We have a unique opportunity for someone very special. A chance to spend two years in another country. To live and work in another culture. To learn a new language and acquire new skills.

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Course 6	Information Session – Monday, Feb. 9, 4 p.m., 34-401.
Course 7	See Janice Chang in Room 68-120 for an application.
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Course 10	See Mike Mohr in Room 66-305 for an application.
Course 14	See Gary King in Room E52-391 for an application.
Course 16	See Marie Stuppard in Room 33-208 for an application.
Course 18	Information Session – Wednesday, Feb. 11, 5 p.m., 2-102.
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Layoffs To Affect Services

Layoffs, from Page 1

Brown said that one of the reasons there were no layoffs in the faculty side of the administration was because the faculty side was able to save money by cutting the subsidy for graduate tuition by 15 percent, for example.

Layoffs will affect service

“Because of the size of the cuts, we’re going through a pretty significant reorganization,” Grochow said.

“We’ve clearly attempted in this period to bite a big bullet and do it once,” Curry said.

“We are down by a very significant number” of staff, Grochow said. “I think that service will be affected. We are trying are very hardest to minimize this effect.”

He said that the department was currently working to reassign the responsibilities of the vacant positions to the remaining staff.

“Our first priority in everything that we’re doing here is to make sure that the campus networks are operating and that they are secure,” he said.

There are about twenty other information services groups on campus within various departments, such as the Computer Science and Artificial Intelligence Laboratory. Only the central IS&T department will lay off staff, however.

MIT seeks long term cost savings

“Some of the reductions [in staff] should be permanent,” Curry said.

He said that the administration was working to let MIT grow without an increase in support costs, in part by pushing for a greater use of information technology.

“We have a lot of very powerful technology tools,” he said, and it was not infeasible “to create a paperless administration.”

“We reduce huge amounts of paper flow” using the new technologies, he said.

However, he said that some of the jobs of the people who are being fired cannot be greatly optimized, such as in janitorial or gardening staff.

“We will have fewer facilities staff for more square feet” after the layoffs, he said, in part due to the opening of the Stata Center.

After the budget crunch passes, Curry said, “we would begin building back in the most intelligent way we know how.”

He said MIT will “rebuild from a demand basis,” and “we want to be ready to hear about” gaps in services that need to be filled.

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Sir Loops-a-Lot Makes Valiant Try in MASLab Contest

By Gireeja Ranade
STAFF REPORTER

Friday, Jan. 30th was the day all the participants of the Mobile Autonomous Systems Laboratory (MASLab) were anxiously waiting for but at the same time dreading. It was competition night, and our robot "Sir Loops-a-Lot" was ready for action along with his peers — "The Sniveling Little Rat Faced Git," "Unfortunate Mishap," and "Jerry" being some of them.

Reporter's Notebook

MASLab is an annual robotics competition held at MIT during the Independent Activities Period, currently in its fourth year. As part of MASLab, robots must perform certain tasks in an unknown color-coded playing field without any human intervention.

This year, the robots were required to gather red balls from the playing field or extract them from green cylinders. They then had to get the balls through yellow

mouse holes in the playing field wall to score points. The problem was vision based where the camera is the robot's primary sensor.

"Ludicrous Speed," built by Brett M. Bethke '05 and Albert G. Sun '05, emerged as the winner of the competition by a large margin.

"The Grim Gripper," built by Alex J. Crumlin '05, James X. Sun '05, Vincent Shu Hang Yeung '05, and Edmond Lau '03, snagged the prestigious MASLab Engineering award for most innovative and clever engineering for its efficient gripper that picked up both balls and cylinders.

By popular vote, "Over the Rainbow," with a bright yellow sun around its camera and rainbow-colored ball-capturing mechanism, won the best dressed robot award. Its team consisted of Miao Sun '07, Xin Sun '07, Dawn D. Wheeler '07, Chris A. Wilkens '07.

"Jousting With Windmills"

My team, "Jousting With Windmills," was composed of two of my friends who live on my hall — a junior in course VI and a

junior in XVI, and myself — an undecided freshman.

Deciding to participate was slightly daunting. Robotics was completely foreign territory to me, and I had almost no programming experience.

On the second day we were given a one hour crash course in Java and I walked out in a complete daze, thinking, "public void static WHAT?!" My teammates were both great about helping me out and taking it easy. After testing their patience multiple times, I finally managed to get the hang of what was happening.

It was the same sad story at the machine shop. Starting with no experience at all, I learned to use a scroll saw, drill press, sheer, and all the power tools were things. The staff was always encouraging us to be bold and experiment. I felt we were truly building something; it was not just a game to be taken lightly.

"Sir Loops-a-Lot" grows up

For almost all of IAP, we spent our entire day in lab. "Sir Loops-a-Lot" transformed before our eyes from a processor with a camera and motors into his own person, and he was certainly a robot with personality.

We, of course, were the protective parents.

There was always a certain anxiousness when we put him down in the playing field on his own and started him up. The first time he identified a red ball and drove towards it we were all so thrilled — it was a true Kodak moment.

These moments of satisfaction were well balanced by frustration. I realized that we had been spending too much time in lab when I started yelling at our robot for banging into the walls when I was the one who had messed up the calibration. It seemed that every bug we fixed and every problem we solved gave rise to a new challenge.

The essence of MASLab

MASLab Director Edwin B. Olson G said that the organizers "subscribe to the fire hose theory" by asking students to tackle a very hard problem but at the same time providing students with the best equipment they can afford.

Christopher Batten G, the mechanical manager for MASLab, said the level of difficulty is that of a "research-caliber problem." The question the MASLab staff asked themselves is, "What's the coolest thing we can build?" he said. They both emphasized the fact that MASLab is more of a research exhibition and is different from 6.270.

During the first two weeks, the organizers gave lectures to introduce the beginners among us to various aspects of robotics. Olson



JONATHAN WANG—THE TECH

Faaron M. Sokoloski '05 (left), Grant A. Elliott '06, and Helen Zha '07 grimace as the robot they built with Scott D. Torborg '07, named 'You, Robot,' fails to pick up a second tower.

said that they tried to tie what was taught into the students' coursework so that they could appreciate both their classes and MASLab better. As a result, lectures often tended to veer off into the theoretical range, he said.

Our strategy

We initially spent a lot of time deciding how to attack the problem. In the end, our line of approach was different from most other teams. We chose to ignore the red balls in the playing field and attack only the green cylinders, each of which contained

three red balls. This was a risk and an all-or-nothing tactic.

Our idea was met with a certain excitement from the staff. Batten later told me he thought it was a challenging path to take. At the same time he mentioned that this strategy was probably not the best approach to win the contest. "Hmmm..." I thought. "Should he have told us this earlier?"

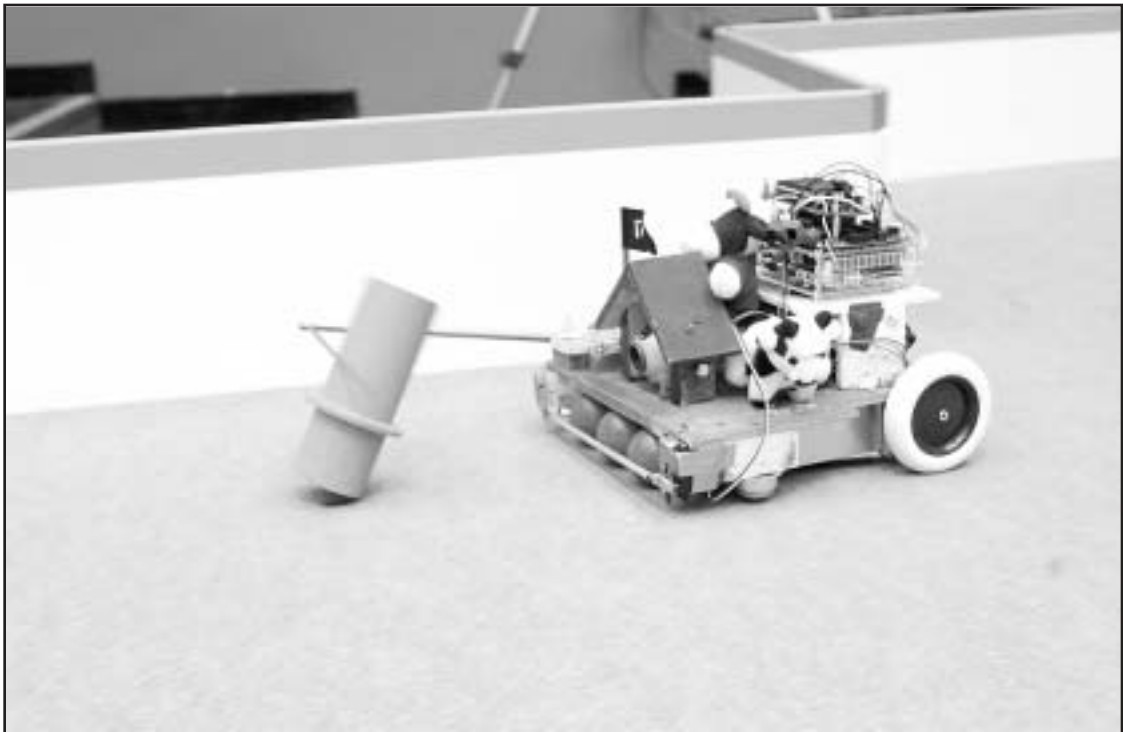
It was amazing to see the large variety in the methods adopted to capture and deposit the balls. Every team had their own innova-

MASLab, Page 26



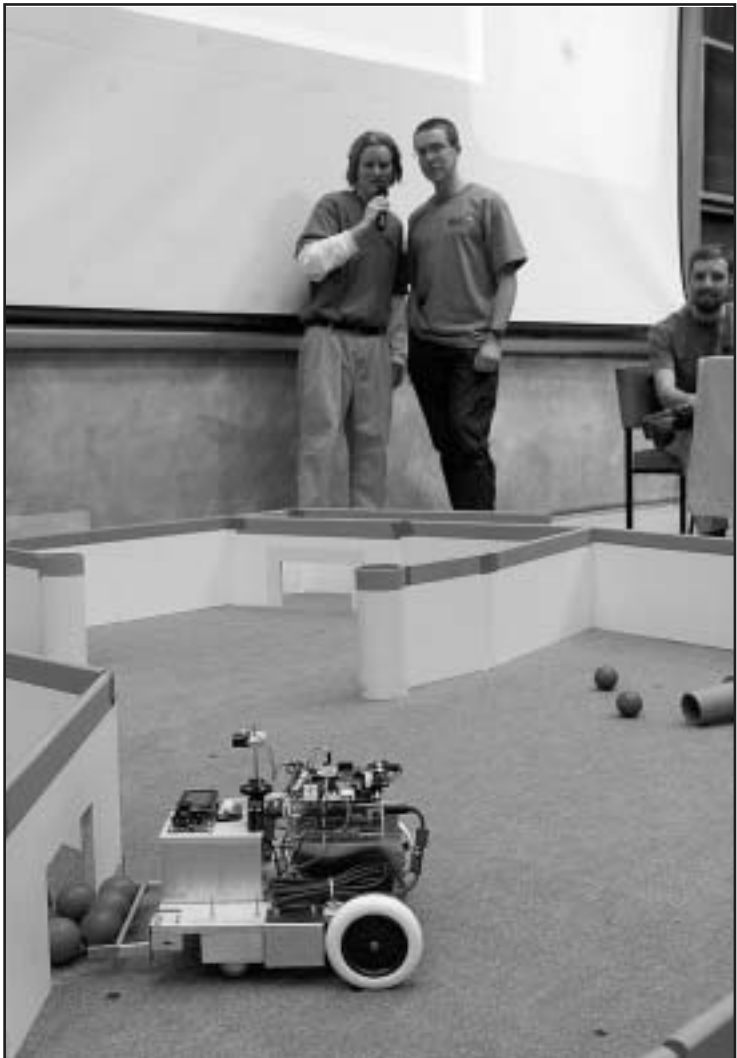
JONATHAN WANG—THE TECH

William H. Williams '05 (left), Christopher A. Wilkens '07, and Lindsey F. Christian '05 explain their robots to the audience prior to the start of the competition. Wilkens' robot, 'Over the Rainbow,' would go on to win the "Best Dressed" award for the night.



JONATHAN WANG—THE TECH

'CowBot,' built by Timothy G. Abbott '07, Joia M. Hertz '06, Yuran Lu '05, and Shuang You '05, tips over a tower to collect the three balls inside.



JONATHAN WANG—THE TECH

Brett M. Bethke '05 explains his robot's strategy as it places balls into a mousehole for additional points. 'Ludicrous Speed,' the robot Bethke built with Albert G. Sun '05, would go on to win the competition.



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Solution to Crossword

from page 15

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Room 4-270

The 2003 Award Winners are:

Bob Yin, '04 Biology

Growing Up in the Shadows of the Cultural Revolution: Short Fiction Inspired By Personal Histories

Maia Mahoney, '05 Electrical Eng. & Computer Science

A Biological Register: The Application of Site-Specific Recombination for the Construction of Biological Memory

Debora Lui, '03 Architecture & Management

Examining the Cycle of Influence Between Architecture & Performance in the Twentieth Century Theater

Noramay J. Cadena, '03 Mechanical Engineering

"Through their Eyes Only: Unveiling the Person behind the Stigma"

Anna Bershteyn, '06 Materials Science And Eng and Kaia Dekker, '06 Physics

Traditional Life and Technological Change: Learning from Dine Voices Across Generations

Monami Chakrabarti, '03 Sloan School of Management

Getting the Boss to Behave: A Comparative Study of Trade Unions and Corporate Governance Reform in the US and UK

Rabi Upadhyay, '03 Mathematics

Redefining Medicine: Modern Healthcare in the Third World

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Deadline for the 2004 Eloranta Fellowships award is February 27th 2004

For more information please visit: <http://web.mit.edu/eloranta/>

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‘Loops-a-Lot’ Bombs

MASLab, from Page 24

tive idea. The winning strategy was comprehensive and went after both balls and cylinders. They developed an ingenious way of having the robot tip the green cylinders towards itself to capture the balls.

The big day

After long hours of tweaking and testing, we were praying that nothing bizarre would happen on contest day as a climax to our long hours in lab.

But it had to happen. Our performance was quite disappointing, as “Sir Loops-a-Lot” failed to capture a single cylinder. We still have not figured out what went wrong. I guess “Sir Loops-a-Lot” just decided to be moody, because

he had been doing a wonderful job the day before.

In the end though, it just did not matter. We still loved our robot.

I am so glad that I decided to participate, in spite of being intimidated initially. I learned just as much through MASLab as I learned in my classes last term, if not more.

For someone who still lives in the land of 8.01, the idea that physics doesn’t really work the way it is supposed to was eye opening. Even though I am still lost when I see Java code, I discovered how wonderful it can be to talk to machines.

The experience was tremendously satisfying. We had built a robot, a pretty smart little guy, from scratch. This was the best way I could have spent my IAP.

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The program will run from June 16 to August 13, 2004. The stipend will be approximately \$300/week for undergraduate students and \$500/week for graduate students. Participants will be housed in MIT dormitories. Students must be sophomore, junior or senior undergraduates or first year graduate students at the time of application and must be United States citizens or have permanent residence status.

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Shutdown Popular With Staff

Shutdown, from Page 1

would go away and leave their equipment shut off and lights shut off.”

Cooper said that based on the electric usage, people did stay away on the Friday after Christmas and also the Monday and Tuesday afterwards for the most part.

“They clearly started coming back and turning things on the day after New Year's, and then the weekend started to ramp up, and were at full blast again the following Monday,” Cooper said.

Cooper said that utilities had calculated an estimate of steam and electric savings during the shutdown, but declined to disclose it, saying that it had been submitted to the chain of command. However, the office of John R. Curry, Executive Vice President, stated that it has not yet received this estimate.

“It's not a big number,” Cooper said.

Data about MIT's power generation and usage can be accessed at <http://cogen.mit.edu>.

Staff receive extra vacation days

Meanwhile, Institute staff received additional vacation time during the shutdown, Avakian said.

“Staff got an additional five days of paid time away, other than the two holidays,” she said. “In reality, I think the Institute would have given them the two Fridays, under any circumstance, if there is a day separating the holiday from the weekend. They've tended to do this,” Avakian said.

Avakian said that the original thought about closing the Institute for some of that time came during budget discussions about the salary freeze. Given the sacrifice it is asking of staff, she said, the administration thought the additional vacation time would show sensitivity to what people were going through.

Avakian said that they tried to give as many people time off while keeping important services going. The MIT Police, as an example, added patrols and staff during that time, because they wanted to make sure that buildings left empty would be safe and secure, Avakian said.

“Places where we have people living on campus never really close. Libraries still needed to stay open,” she said.

She said it would be difficult to calculate lost productivity from the shutdown and additional vacation days. “The reason we felt we could

do the closing at that time is because it's a really light time in terms of work that's going on around campus. The majority of faculty and students are away. Normal meetings don't happen,” she said.

She said that it was difficult to measure exactly what productivity was lost during the shutdown. “I frankly don't know how we'd get our arms around what work didn't get done,” she said.

Positive response to shutdown

“I had enormous numbers of thanks for extending the holiday period,” Curry said.

“Feedback's been interesting. I've gotten many, many e-mails saying ‘Thank you, this was the best gift I could have been given,’” Avakian said. “The provost received a lot of disturbing e-mail from faculty who felt that it was a hardship on them.”

“A lot of people were ... very appreciative,” Avakian said. She said that she expects there to be pressure to do it again.

“This is being put forward as a unique opportunity given the budget climate of the year, and frankly, that Christmas and New Year's fell on Thursday,” Avakian said.

Curry said that he doesn't think there will be such a shutdown in the future.

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you will remember for the rest of your life.

-Gichin Funakoshi

Harvard/MIT Matchup Service Will Keep Contacts Anonymous

By Keith J. Winstein
SENIOR EDITOR

A new MIT online dating service is in the works for Valentine's Day. But unlike last year, the new service will be anonymous, and its organizers will not participate, said Mandeep Singh '05, one of the organizers.

Last year's service, designed and run by Jonathan G. Monsarrat '89, attracted more than 3,200 participants from MIT, Harvard, and Wellesley.

Some Harvard students later complained to MIT and the Harvard police about e-mails they received from Monsarrat, who, in addition to running the service, participated and matched himself up with more people than any other participant, he

said. The complaints did not result in criminal charges. "We believe that Mr. Monsarrat is going to cease and desist the behavior," said Steven G. Catalano, a spokesman for the Harvard police. "There was an investigation," he said. "A decision was made not to bring charges against Monsarrat."

New matchup to launch soon

The new matchup will be available to students at all Boston-area colleges, Singh said, and is planned to open later this week. The organizers will announce the service's Web address when the matchup is ready, Singh said.

This year, the service will not

give participants the names of their matches — instead, it will allow them to contact their matches anonymously, Singh said.

Monsarrat will not be involved in running the service, both Singh and Monsarrat said.

"Because I won't be in the administration anymore, any lingering doubts people might have about this won't be there anymore," Monsarrat said.

"There was a 'boy who cried wolf' problem last year, where someone had a complaint that caught fire in the imagination of the community," Monsarrat said. "But since it was based on nothing, nothing happened with it. There wasn't a charge filed, there wasn't harassment."

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NFL Singers Make Funniest Commercial

Superbowl, from Page 32

For a pointed message, the award goes to “truth” anti-tobacco ad campaign, which compared its sale to sales of glass-filled popsicles. You have to see it to really get the full, biting effect of it.

And that’s the football season. I, thankfully, end with a 8-7 prediction record, which I hope to improve for next season with some high-end free agent acquisitions. Until next year, long live the NFL.

SMILE

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-RICHARD CORLISS, TIME MAGAZINE

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-ROGER EBERT, EBERT & ROEPER

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The Production Department's Word of the Day

Rhonchus: A course rattling sound, similar to snoring.

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Charm School



The MIT Charm School 2004 was held last Friday at the Stratton Student Center.

(above right) SiSi Liu '05 strikes a pose during the Fashion Show.

(above left) The MIT Student Life Program's Lauren Wojtkun models the MIT business casual look.

Photography by Ben Gallup



2004 Choice of Major Fair

When: Monday, February 9th
3:30-5:30pm
Where: La Sala (2nd floor- Student Ctr.)

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DANIEL BERSAK—THE TECH
Andrea J. Dooley '06 drives past a defender to sink a two-point shot during MIT's 56-47 loss to Wheaton College Tuesday evening.

Super Bowl XXXVIII Thrilling to the End

Pats Fans See Repeat of 2002 Victory Run

By Brian Chase
COLUMNIST

It was 2002 all over again. Janet Jackson was performing, U.S. flags were all over the halftime performers, and the New England Patriots won a great football game on a last-minute field goal by kicker Adam Vinatieri. And just like 2002, I was on the edge of my seat for the entire last ten minutes of the game. Super Bowl XXXVIII was great not just because of the last-minute Patriot victory, however. It was great because it was defensive then offensive, because you had two great quarterbacks not willing to give in, because both teams outgrew their supposed weaknesses and used them to score on their opponents.

Going into the Super Bowl, the story was supposedly that the Patriots would take away the Carolina Panther's run game, Carolina would hurt the Patriots pass game, and the Patriots would win because they would have more offense left. For the first 25 minutes of the game, that's exactly how the game progressed. Through that time, the Panthers had negative seven (!) yards of total offense, and their only first down had come off of a New Eng-

land penalty. The Patriots did a little better, getting down field goal range of the Panthers twice, only to see one kick missed and one kick blocked. But then, with five minutes left in the first half, everything changed.

The Panthers had the football at their own 20 yard line when quarterback Jake Delhomme was sacked by Pats linebacker Mike Vrabel, and he coughed up the football. It was recovered by the Pats, and led to their first touchdown of the game. Some might have thought that spelled the end of the game for the Panthers, but they surprised everybody, going 95 yards for a touchdown not on their running game, but on passes by Delhomme. This turnaround of the Panthers offense was completely unheralded, but it kept them in the game. The Pats responded with a drive featuring a 52-yard pass by QB Tom Brady, to go up 14-6 (the Panthers missed a two point conversion). But Panthers answered right back with a field goal before halftime.

The second half started with both offenses punting after their first two possessions, but after that it was all offense. The Pats came out with a balanced run/pass attack, which was very unusual for them, as the running game of the Pats is usually weak. This led to two touchdowns on the half, and one with a two-point conversion. But the Panthers kept coming back, scoring on touchdown drives that featured big plays, one a run by Running Back DeShaun Foster and one an 85-yard pass the receiver Steve Smith. Also, the defense got a good stop with an interception of Brady in the Carolina endzone. At the end, Delhomme, famous for his late-game drives, had two and a half minutes to score a touchdown. It only took him a minute to pass his way to it. That gave the Pats enough time to set up Vinatieri, who made up for his troubles earlier, and solidified his status as the New England Patron (Patriot?) Saint.

Now, time for some awards:

Best Performance: Delhomme. No offense to Super Bowl MVP Tom Brady, but I felt Delhomme played better because it wasn't expected of him. When the Panthers running game was absolutely destroyed by the Patriots, most people assumed they had no offense left. But Delhomme proved them wrong, leading a passing offense rated mediocre at best to 29 points. The reason this was the best Super Bowl of at least the last three years was Delhomme.

Worst Performance: Carolina defensive coordinator Mike Trgovac. When the Panthers' D was trying to stop the last two Patriots drives, Trgovac (and maybe Coach John Fox) kept calling for blitzes. Not only did these not faze Tom Brady, but they left receivers open, making it easy for the Pats to drive into field goal range.

Most Shocking Moment: MTV keeps setting the bar lower and lower for public displays of gratuitous sexuality. This time, at the very end of the halftime show with Justin Timberlake and Janet Jackson, Timberlake reached across Janet's chest and ripped off her right bra cup, baring everything except for the area covered by a silver-star pasty. It was another jaw-dropping, albeit somewhat disgusting, play for publicity and shock value by the people that brought you the Britney-Madonna kiss.

And finally, the most important award of the Super Bowl:

Best Commercial: Tie. For humor purposes, nothing beats various football stars, including Bill Parcells, singing the song "Tomorrow" from the musical Annie. Both intentional and unintentional humor abounds.

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