

Rush Events Limited To Designated Times

By Ray C. He
STAFF REPORTER

A residence midway will not be a part of this year's orientation, according to Johnny T. Yang '04, co-chair of the Undergraduate Association committee on housing and orientation.

UA President Pius A. Uzamere II '04 said that the orientation schedule had been nearly finalized following a meeting last week with the UA, the faculty orientation committee, Dormitory Council, and the Interfraternity Council.

The meeting, held last Friday, marked the latest in a series of six meetings where student groups discussed issues with the orientation committee, represented by Julie B. Norman, associate dean of academic resources and programming, and J. Kim Vandiver PhD '75, chairman of the orientation committee.

A printed version of the current schedule shows allotted time for dormitory rush, officially known as "residence exploration," after 9 p.m. on Sept. 1 and 2, and time for "Low Key REX," or residence exploration, from noon to 6 p.m. on Sept. 2.

New schedule alters event scope

The contained times for dormitory rush will change the extent of planned activities.

"In terms of residence midway, that does not exist in this year's schedule," Yang said. "In terms of large scale events, that's still in the planning process. Whether an East-West party happens on one of those evenings, that's yet to be determined."

During the "low key" time period, dormitories will have "ice cream parties, open houses, and tours," Norman said.

Uzamere said that the events during this period will not be exclusively devoted to residence exploration but will be occurring at the same time as other events.

The rush events are "another opportunity for students to look around, but not large events that would take away" from scheduled events, Norman said.

"By low key, we're speaking of events that would draw freshmen to have an open environment to explore the dormitories and have access to the upperclassmen," Yang said.

Timing of dorm rush restricted

This year, all official dormitory rush activities will be expected to take place during certain predesignated times.

"The student government has been working with the [Academic

Orientation, Page 10

Facilities Lays Off Eighteen

By Beckett W. Sterner
NEWS AND FEATURES DIRECTOR

The facilities department laid off 18 staff last week and has let approximately another 60 positions go empty via attrition since May.

This decision comes as part of the need to save \$35 million in next year's budget and follows a similar layoff of 60 people and ten unfilled positions in the Information Services and Technology department.

Overall, Executive Vice President John R. Curry has said that MIT will decrease its staff by about 230 before next year across all of MIT, although the major cuts are in facilities and IS&T.

The jobs cut span many sections of facilities, including project managers, grounds workers and administrative staff.

Layoff impact to be minimal

Chief Facilities Officer Victoria V. Sirianni said that the "reduction is equal to 13 percent of our staff," or about 80 out of 640 employees in the department.

"Our hope is that the MIT community will not see" many serious consequences, she said.

"We tried to minimize the impact," said Director of Operations James H. Wallace. "The lead time on repair requests may be a little longer."

Wallace also said that with the decrease in grounds workers, "you

might expect that the grass will grow a little longer," but the workload will be spread over the remaining staff rather than losing a specific

Layoffs, Page 15



PETER R. RUSSO—THE TECH

Rochel Kremer (Maria Kamenetska '05) looks at a necklace given to her by Mordecai Solomon (Aaron P. Moronez '04) during the Dramashop's dress rehearsal of 'The Company of Angels' last Wednesday. The show, written by MIT associate provost for the arts Alan Brody, portrays the rebirth of Yiddish theater after WWII. The play runs through Saturday.

Clear Ban on Posters, Flags is Recommended

By Keith J. Winstein
SENIOR EDITOR

An administrator-student committee has recommended that the MIT Housing Department adopt an unambiguous and consistent campus-wide ban on flags, posters, signs, and other materials from being hung from or attached to dormitory exteriors.

The committee, convened last October by Dean for Student Life Larry G. Benedict, was formed in response to last summer's flag controversy, when the Housing Department began to construe its policy on "alterations and additions" to require several students who hung flags outside their dormitory windows to remove them or bring them inside.

trovery, when the Housing Department began to construe its policy on "alterations and additions" to require several students who hung flags outside their dormitory windows to remove them or bring them inside.

Flag debate sparks committee

Several students who had hung flags — American, Canadian, and Israeli — outside their windows were required to take them down or move

Flags, Page 12

Task Force Reports On Housing

By Lauren E. LeBon
STAFF REPORTER

MIT dormitories may be divided into "residence houses" and "conference houses" over the summer, according to a recent report from the summer housing task force.

The dormitories designated as "residential" will house MIT undergraduates as well as high school students attending MIT summer youth programs. Those dormitories designated as "conference space" will be saved for persons visiting academic events, including the Tech reunion and annual department conferences hosted at MIT, said Dormcon president and task force member Emily E. Cofer '04.

East Campus, Bexley, Random Hall, Burton-Conner, and MacGregor will be selected as "residential houses," while Baker House, McCormick, Next House, New House, Simmons, Senior House, and NW30 will be reserved for "conference space." The dormitories were selected "partly on past experience and partly on the physical condition of the buildings," Cofer said.

The task force, which includes members of the Department of Student Life, Dormcon, Conference Services, and housing staff, submitted the report on Jan. 30 to Dean of Student Life Larry G. Benedict.

Summer housing may see changes

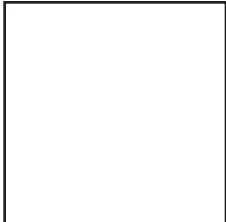
Cofer said that about 800 undergraduates request summer housing, and that at least 800 beds will be provided. However, this year, students from youth programs, includ-

Summer, Page 10



JIMMY CHEUNG—THE TECH

MIT's Javad Golji '06 tips the ball as Newbury College's Dean LaSalle attempts to block during a volleyball game last night in DuPont. The MIT Engineers went on to win 3-1 against the Newbury College Nighthawks.



Provost Brown discusses MIT's budget with the UA.

Page 15



Comics

Page 8

NEWS

A custodian was found deceased in E51 yesterday morning. Preliminary reports show no foul play.

Page 15

World & Nation 2
Opinion 4
Features 6
Events Calendar 9
Sports 16

WORLD & NATION

U.S. Army Begins Its Plan For A Lower Profile In Baghdad

THE NEW YORK TIMES

BAGHDAD, IRAQ

U.S. commanders on Monday outlined new plans for patrolling the streets of Baghdad and said their number one goal was to be less conspicuous.

The Army is closing most of its bases in central Baghdad, withdrawing to the outskirts of the city, exchanging Humvees for tanks and using fewer soldiers, said Brig. Gen. Mark Hertling, the 1st Armored Division's deputy commander. This comes as the division prepares to hand authority for the Iraqi capital to the 1st Cavalry Division, part of a larger replenishing of occupation troops throughout the country.

"We're going to be less intrusive," said Col. Mike Formica, of the 1st Calvary. "We won't have 70-ton tanks running through neighborhoods, destroying infrastructure we're trying so hard to rebuild."

The 1st Armored's commander, Brig. Gen. Martin E. Dempsey, announced the shift on Feb. 1, saying the troops would pull back to the edge of the city, leaving its policing largely to local forces.

Mystery Deepens Surrounding Russian Presidential Candidate

THE NEW YORK TIMES

MOSCOW

The mystery over the disappearance of a presidential candidate deepened Monday.

The Moscow's prosecutor's office announced that it had opened a murder investigation in the case of the candidate, Ivan Rybkin, only to have federal prosecutors overrule them and close the case within an hour, saying there was no evidence yet to suggest foul play in his disappearance.

Rybkin, one of five challengers to President Vladimir Putin in the election on March 14, has not been seen or heard from since Thursday night, the police and campaign advisers said. On Sunday, the police began a search for him, interviewing his wife and others who knew him and searching places he was known to frequent.

By Monday night, a spokesman for the Moscow police, Kirill Mazurin, said investigators had made no progress, despite a statement by a member of Parliament, Gennady Gudkov, that Rybkin was hiding in a spa outside Moscow. Gudkov's remark proved unfounded, Mazurin said.

Plan To Destroy U.S. And Russian Nuclear Weapons Delayed

THE NEW YORK TIMES

WASHINGTON

A project to destroy the plutonium from thousands of retired Russian and U.S. nuclear weapons has been delayed, and some experts say they fear that the work may never be done.

The plan was to have both countries build factories that could mix uranium with plutonium, the material at the heart of nuclear bombs, to be burned as fuel for civilian reactors. It was conceived in the mid-1990s at a time of intense concern over the security of weapons materials in the former Soviet Union; Russia agreed to it in 2000.

The point was to ensure that weapons being disassembled by mutual agreement would never be rebuilt, and that the weapons plutonium, the hardest part of a nuclear bomb to make, could not be sold or stolen.

But the Bush administration's budget plan for the Energy Department, released last week, said groundbreaking for a conversion factory planned for South Carolina had been delayed from July of this year until May 2005.

Kerry Competition Struggles To Remain Popular In Race

By Adam Nagourney

THE NEW YORK TIMES

NASHVILLE, TENN.

Gen. Wesley K. Clark and Sen. John Edwards campaigned furiously through Virginia and Tennessee on Monday, struggling to block Sen. John Kerry from winning two pivotal primaries on Tuesday that Democrats said would put intense pressure on Clark and Edwards to quit the race.

In Wisconsin, Howard Dean abruptly said he would stay in the nominating battle even if he lost there next Tuesday, a stance he acknowledged was in "obvious contradiction" to a vow he made last week. Dean said he was responding to pleas from supporters who, he said, told him they wanted him to keep running.

Dean's shift came after a weekend in which he suffered double-digit losses to Kerry in three states where he had once been in dominant positions — Maine, Michigan and Washington — and on the eve of two primaries in which he did not bother to compete.

For all that, the voting here and in Virginia could go some distance in helping to shake out the race, Democrats said. The chairman of the Tennessee Democratic Party, Randall A. Button, said in an interview on Monday that Clark, who is from neighboring Arkansas, and Edwards, who is from neighboring North Carolina, should quit if they could not beat Kerry in their home turf, the outcome suggested by some polls released on Monday.

"They are both Southerners that have a message that resonates with Southerners," he said. If they lost, he said, "It's gotten down to this: Let's move ahead to our objective — and our objective is unseating George W. Bush."

A senior national Democratic Party official made the same argument, saying that Clark and Edwards would have difficulty raising money to push on should they lose to Kerry in the South. "The voters will have spoken: Let's get on with it," this official said.

Some of Clark's supporters said he was likely, but not certain, to end his first bid for the presidency should he lose Virginia and Tennessee, two states where he has invested a huge amount of time, prestige and money. So far, Clark has only won one state, Oklahoma, and by a very slim margin.

Several national Democratic leaders said that should he lose again, the general would probably come under

pressure from the quarter of the Democratic Party that encouraged his candidacy — the Bill Clinton camp — to clear the field for Kerry.

By contrast, Edwards and his aides rejected admonitions from some Democrats that he step aside if he were to lose. Instead, he said he would push on through Wisconsin on Feb. 17 and onto March 2, when Democrats in 10 states, from New York to California, will choose 1,408 delegates.

Aides to Edwards said they were hopeful that by a week from Tuesday, Clark and Dean, the former governor of Vermont, would either be out of the race or marginalized. After that, they said, Edwards would enjoy a uncluttered one-on-one contest with Kerry for the two weeks leading up to March 2.

"We have a long process going on here," Edwards said on a day that took him from Tennessee in the morning to Virginia in the afternoon. "What we have been preparing for the entire time is a nomination process that's going to go on well into March. We're prepared for that, we have the resources to do that, and most importantly, we have a message that is obvious resonates with voters here."

Pakistani President Announces Personal Suspicion of Scientist

By David Rohde and Amy Waldman

THE NEW YORK TIMES

RAWALPINDI, PAKISTAN

President Pervez Musharraf acknowledged for the first time on Monday that he had suspected for at least three years that the country's top nuclear scientist was sharing nuclear technology with other countries, but argued that the United States had not given him convincing proof.

In an hourlong interview conducted here in English, Musharraf shared blame for the delay with Washington, saying it was not until October that U.S. officials provided him with evidence of the activities of the scientist, Abdul Qadeer Khan.

"If they knew it earlier, they should have told us," Musharraf said. "Maybe a lot of things would not have happened."

At the same time, Musharraf said he had seen signs that Khan was sharing nuclear technology, including "illegal contacts, maybe suspicions of contacts," and "suspicious movement" connected to Khan's laboratory. But he said he was concerned that investigating Khan, a national hero in Pakistan for his role in developing its nuclear weapons, could provoke a political backlash.

"It was extremely sensitive," he said. "One couldn't outright start investigating as if he's any common criminal."

In Washington on Monday, a senior Bush administration official

acknowledged that Musharraf was not given highly specific information about Khan's activities until last fall. But the official noted that the United States conveyed more general warnings about Khan's activities starting in 2001.

On Wednesday, President Bush is expected to give what one senior official at the White House described on Monday evening as a "lengthy, detailed speech on what must change in the area of stopping proliferation." He is expected to include new proposals for dealing with rogue scientists and countries that are not now members of the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty — a delicate subject, because India and Israel, like Pakistan, have refused to sign.

WEATHER

More of the Same

By Nikki Privé
STAFF METEOROLOGIST

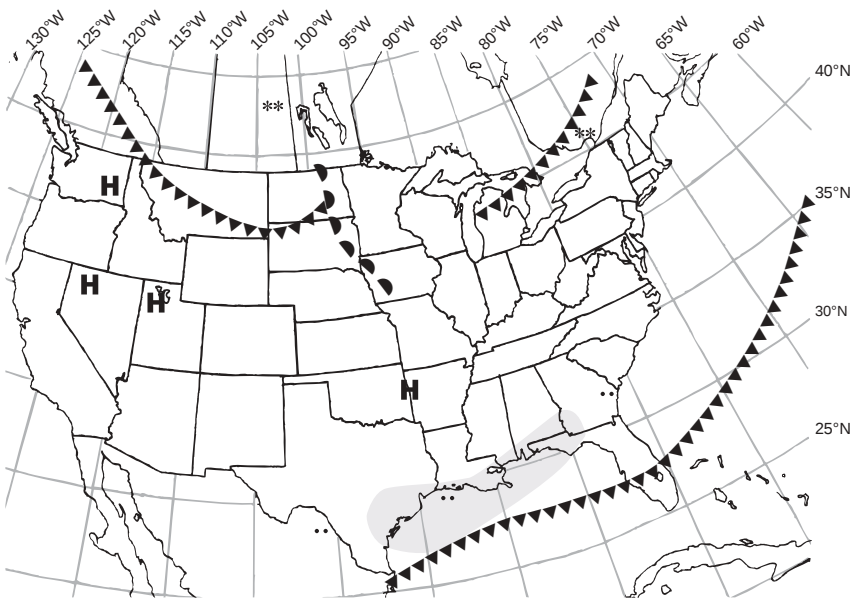
"There's a patch of old snow in a corner
That I should have guessed
Was a blow-away paper the rain
Had brought to rest."
— Robert Frost

High pressure over the Mid-Atlantic area will bring quiet, almost monotonous weather to Boston this week. Skies will be partly cloudy, with near seasonal temperatures. Highs today will be on the warm side, with temperatures in the 40s °F (7 °C) before a weak cold front approaches the area late today. The remainder of the week will be slightly cooler, with temperatures in the 30s °F during the day, but no wintry precipitation is expected until at least next week.

Forecast

Today: Partly cloudy, highs in the mid 40s°F (7°C).
Tonight: Partly cloudy, lows around 25°F (-4°C).
Wednesday: Partly cloudy, cooler, high around 35 °F (1 °C), cold overnight, lows around 15°F (-10°C).
Thursday: Sunny, continued cold, high around freezing (0 °C), low 22 °F (-5 °C).

Situation for Noon Eastern Daylight Time, Tuesday, February 10, 2004



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

Person Suspected of Al-Qaida Ties Linked to Iraqi Bombings

By Douglas Jehl
THE NEW YORK TIMES

WASHINGTON

Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, the Jordanian suspected of ties to al-Qaida, is now thought likely to have played a role in at least three major car bombing attacks in Iraq that have killed well over 100 people in the last six months, according to senior U.S. officials.

Intelligence information including some gathered in recent weeks has provided “mounting evidence” to suggest that Zarqawi was involved in the bombings, including the attacks in August on a Shiite mosque in Najaf and the U.N. headquarters in Baghdad, and the attack in November on an Italian police

headquarters.

One official cautioned that the evidence stopped short of firm proof about involvement by Zarqawi. But the official said that the intelligence had added significantly to concern about Zarqawi, who one official said was now “really viewed as the most adept terrorist operative in Iraq, in terms of foreigners planning terrorist activities.”

The indication that Zarqawi played a role in the bombing attacks adds evidence that the Jordanian has been active in Iraq since the U.S. invasion last March. A U.S. official said that Zarqawi had been “in and out” of Iraq since March, but “at last report” was

operating inside Iraq. One of Zarqawi’s top lieutenants, Hassan Ghul, a Pakistani, was arrested by U.S. officials near the Iranian border last month, and has been interrogated since by U.S. military and intelligence officials.

The U.S. officials who described Zarqawi’s suspected role would do so only on condition of anonymity, and they declined to discuss the nature of the information pointing to a role by Zarqawi in the major bombings. But the officials who described what they called “mounting intelligence” included some who have been skeptical in the past of the idea that foreign militants were playing a major role in the violence in Iraq.

Bush’s Press Secretary Testifies In Case of CIA Identity Disclosure

By David Johnston
THE NEW YORK TIMES

WASHINGTON

President Bush’s press secretary and a former White House press aide testified on Friday to a federal grand jury investigating who improperly disclosed the identity of a CIA agent, the press secretary and a lawyer for the aide said on Monday.

The appearances of the press secretary, Scott McClellan, and the press aide, Adam Levine, reflected what lawyers in the case said was the rapidly quickening pace of a criminal inquiry in which a special prosecutor is examining conversations between journalists and the White House.

When he was asked by reporters

on Monday whether he had been questioned in the case, McClellan said he had been filmed by news organizations as he emerged from the federal courthouse. On Monday, a lawyer for Levine said that the White House aide had also appeared on Friday.

Levine left the Bush administration in December after working as the principal liaison between the White House and the television networks. Levine’s lawyer, Daniel J. French, said: “In keeping with the president’s request, Levine is cooperating with the Justice Department’s investigation and in doing so appeared before the grand jury on Friday.”

In addition to the grand jury

appearances, which are believed to include other Bush administration officials, prosecutors have conducted a series of meetings that lawyers involved in the case have described as tense and sometimes combative at an office used by counterespionage prosecutors several blocks from the Justice Department’s headquarters.

Armed with handwritten White House notes, detailed cellular phone logs and copies of e-mails between presidential aides and reporters, prosecutors have demanded explanations of conversations between White House aides and reporters for some of the country’s largest news organizations that under ordinary circumstances would never be publicly discussed.

Rumsfeld Praises Croatia As Ally And Aspiring Nato Member

THE NEW YORK TIMES

ZAGREB, CROATIA

Wrapping up a four-day European trip, Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld stopped here on Sunday to promote this Balkan nation’s efforts to join NATO, and to pay tribute to Croatia’s security forces, which are fighting terrorism in Afghanistan.

Rumsfeld, the first U.S. Cabinet officer to visit Croatia since Secretary of State Madeleine K. Albright came in 1999, met with Croatian officials, including President Stjepan Mesic and Prime Minister Ivo Sanader, during a nearly four-hour stop on his way back to Washington.

“I look forward to the day when Croatia becomes a part” of NATO, Rumsfeld said at a news conference with Sanader after the meetings.

Croatia has sent 50 military police officers to help the NATO-led security operation in and around the Afghan capital, Kabul, and has donated rifles and ammunition to the new Afghan army. U.S. officials are also exploring whether Croatia might send troops to Iraq. The Croatian military is open to the prospect, but so far such a mission has been politically unpopular here.

Back Pain Costs On The Rise, Causes of Pain Still Mostly Unknown

THE NEW YORK TIMES

Treating back pain costs Americans \$26 billion a year, or 2.5 percent of the total health care bill, according to a new study from Duke University, and far more if disability payments, workers’ compensation and lost wages are taken into account. The costs are continuing to rise, researchers say, as patients get ever more aggressive forms of treatment.

Back problems are the leading reason for visits to neurologists and orthopedists, and the eighth leading reason for visits to doctors overall — ahead of fever, knee pain, rashes, headaches and checkups for healthy babies. More than 70 percent of adults suffer back pain at some time in their lives, studies show. A third have had it in the past 30 days.

Yet for all the costs, for all the hours spent in doctors’ offices and operating suites, for all the massage therapy and acupuncture and spinal manipulations, study after study is leading medical experts to ask what, if anything, is doing any good.

A variety of studies have suggested that in 85 percent of cases it is impossible to say why a person’s back hurts, said Dr. Richard Deyo, a professor of medicine and health services at the University of Washington. And most of the time, the pain goes away with or without medical treatment.

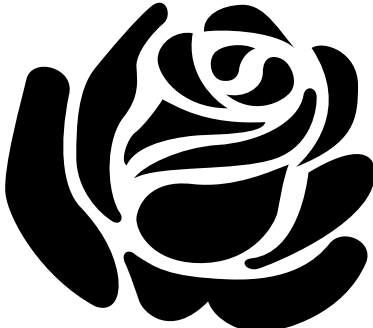
Valentine’s Day Flower Sale



Cut flowers, roses, bouquets, and flowering Valentine’s Day plants



First Floor, Student Center
9AM to 6PM
Friday, February 13 &
Saturday, February 14



OPINION



Chairman
Hangyul Chung '05

Editor in Chief
Brian Loux '04

Business Manager
Roy K. Esaki '04

Managing Editor
David Carpenter '05

NEWS STAFF

News and Features Director: Beckett W. Sterner '06; **News Editors:** Kathy Lin '06, Marissa Vogt '06, Jenny Zheng '06; **Associate Editors:** Waseem S. Daher '07, Gireeja V. Ranade '07, Julián E. Villarreal '07; **Staff:** Jeffrey Greenbaum '04, Eun J. Lee '04, Michael E. Rolish '04, Jay K. Cameron '05, Christine Fry '05, Sam Hwang '05, Issel Anne L. Lim '05, Jessica A. Zaman '05, Brian C. Keegan '06, Lauren E. LeBon '06, Jennifer Wong '06, Ray C. He '07, Tongyan Lin '07; **Meteorologists:** Samantha L. H. Hess G, Robert Lindsay Korty G, Greg Lawson G, Nikki Privé G, William Ramstrom G, Michael J. Ring G.

PRODUCTION STAFF

Editors: Andrew Mamo '04, Sie Hendrata Dhar-mawan '05, Tiffany Dohzen '06; **Associate Edi-tors:** Nicholas R. Hoff '05; **Staff:** Kevin Chen '05, Albert Leung '06, Jolinta Lin '06, Jonathan Rein-harth '06, Jennifer Huang '07, Yaser M. Khan '07, Y. Grace Lin '07, Sylvia Yang '07.

OPINION STAFF

Editor: Vivek Rao '05; **Columnist:** Andrew C. Thomas '04; **Staff:** Basil Enwegbara SM '01, Gretchen K. Aleks '04, Ken Nesmith '04, Atif Z. Qadir '04, W. Victoria Lee '06, Daniel Barclay '07, Ruth Miller '07.

SPORTS STAFF

Editor: Phil Janowicz '05, Brian Chase '06; **Staff:** Yong-yi Zhu '06.

ARTS STAFF

Editors: Christine R. Fry '05, Amy Lee '06; **Associate Editor:** Kevin G. Der '06; **Staff:** Bog-dan Fedeles G, Ruby Lam G, Sonja Sharpe G, Fred Choi '02, Chikako Sassa '02, Jed Horne '04, Pey-Hua Hwang '04, Josiah Q. Seale '04, Petar Simich '04.

PHOTOGRAPHY STAFF

Editors: Peter R. Russo G, Brian Hemond '04, Jina Kim '06; **Associate Editors:** Daniel Bersak '02, Jonathan T. Wang '05; **Staff:** Marcus Dahlem G, Wendy Gu G, Stanley Hu '00, Scott Johnston '03, Miguel A. Calles '04, Jimmy Cheung '04, Ben Gallup '04, Dmitry Portnyagin '04, Hassen Abdu '06, Matt D. Brown '06, John M. Cloutier '06, Grant Jordan '06, Stephanie Lee '06, Edward Platt '06, Omoleye Roberts '06, Rene Chen '07.

FEATURES STAFF

Editor: Akshay Patil '04; **Associate Editor:** Tiffany Kosolcharoen '06; **Columnists:** Bruce Wu G, Kailas Narendran '01, Devdoot Majumdar '04, Danchai Mekadenaumporn '05, Alex Nelson '06; **Cartoonists:** Jason Bums G, Jumaane Jeffries '02, Sergei R. Guma '04, Sean Liu '04, Jennifer Peng '05, Nancy Phan '05, Qian Wang '05.

BUSINESS STAFF

Advertising Manager: Donald H. Wong '07; **Operations Manager:** Lauren W. Leung '07; **Staff:** Jyoti R. Tibrewala '04, Lynn K. Kamimoto '05, William Li '06, Victoria Fan '06, Jennifer Y. Wong '07.

TECHNOLOGY STAFF

Staff: Frank Dabek G, Roshan Baliga '03, Daniel Leeds '05, Lisa Wray '07.

EDITORS AT LARGE

Senior Editors: Satwiksai Seshasai G, Keith J. Win-stein G, Jennifer Krishnan '04; **Contributing Edi-tor:** Jeremy Baskin '04, Devdoot Majumdar '04.

ADVISORY BOARD

Peter Peckarsky '72, Paul E. Schindler, Jr. '74, V. Michael Bove '83, Barry Surman '84, Robert E. Malchman '85, Deborah A. Levinson '91, Jonathan Richmond PhD '91, Saul Blumenthal '98, Joseph Dieckhans '00, Ryan Ochylski '01, Rima Amaout '02, Eric J. Cholankeril '02, Ian Lai '02, Nathan A. Collins SM '03, B. D. Colen.

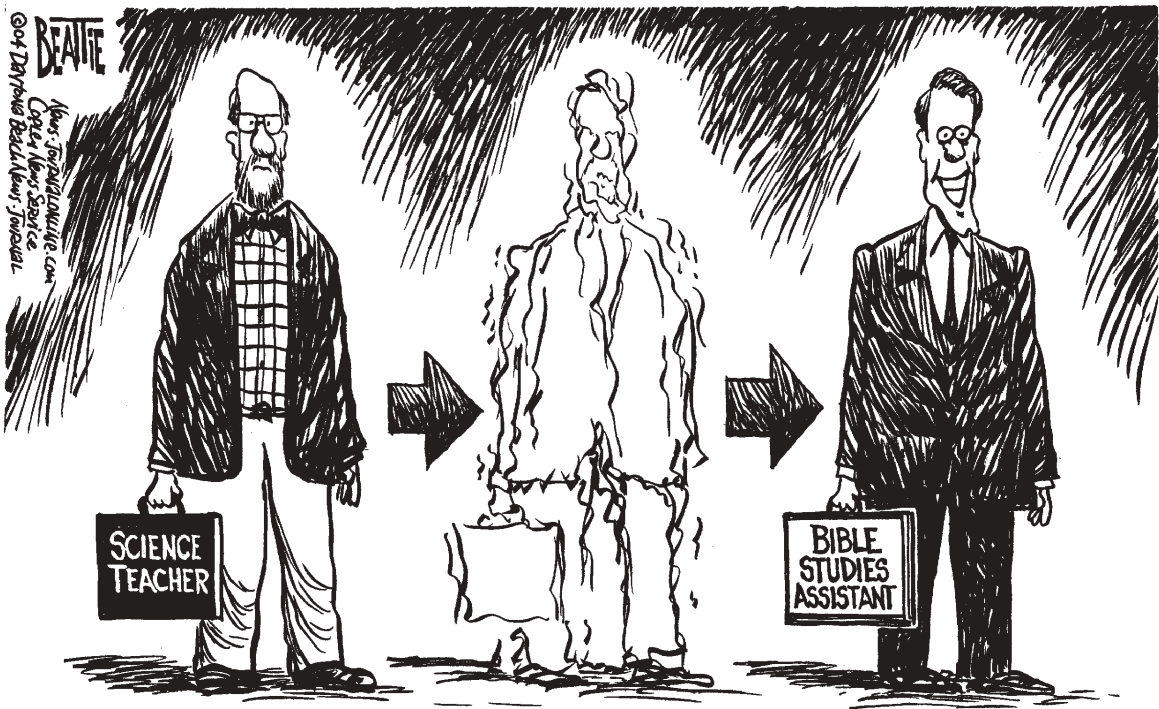
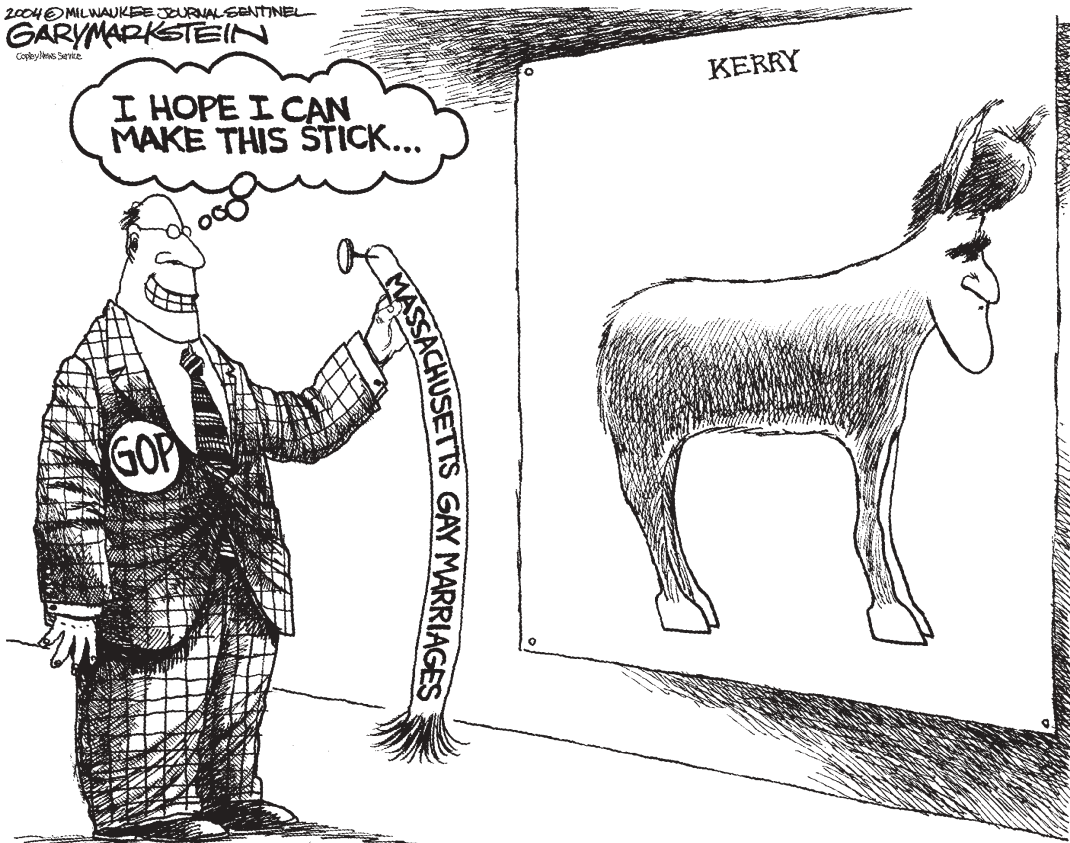
OMBUDSMAN

John A. Hawkinson.

PRODUCTION STAFF FOR THIS ISSUE

Editors: Joy Forsythe '04, Andrew Mamo '04.

The Tech (ISSN 0148-9607) is published on Tuesdays and Fridays during the academic year (except during MIT vacations), Wednesdays during January and monthly during the summer for \$45.00 per year Third Class by The Tech, Room W20-483, 84 Massachusetts Ave., Cambridge, Mass. 02139. Third Class postage paid at Boston, Mass. Permit No. 1. POSTMASTER: Please send all address changes to our mailing address: The Tech, P.O. Box 397029, Cambridge, Mass. 02139-7029. Telephone: (617) 253-1541, editorial; (617) 258-8329, business; (617) 258-8235, facsimile. Advertising, subscription, and typesetting rates available. Entire contents © 2004 The Tech. Printed on recycled paper by Charles River Publishing.



Theory of Evolution in Georgia Public Schools

Letter To The Editor

In Defense of “Tasteless” Comics

I am writing about Christopher Graff's letter in which he complains about the “Prick” comic section [“Tasteless Comic,” February 3]. Presenting the opinions of egocentric, would-be taste-makers is demeaning and in extreme poor taste. It was offensive to me, so therefore I am absolutely and unalterably certain that others simply *must* share my opinions of what is and is not correct to publish in *The Tech*.

In order for a student newspaper to be

interesting, it must have certain necessary ingredients, including an extensive, enthusiastic, and probably even biased sports section, a few amateurish, unfavorable arts reviews, innocent, earnest, and overreaching political writing, and most importantly, a raucous, free-for-all rodeo of a student comics section combining campus slice-of-life observation and surrealist humor with the exciting over-the-top tastelessness and even the borderline obscenity of the new-fledged artist. The comics page is exactly the place for adolescent obsession with violence, sex, large dangerous machines, the infinite corridor of social and academic misery, funny animals, and yes,

even the occasional cartoon rendering of someone's privates.

Let me offer Graff some advice. When I read *The Boston Globe* funnies, I don't read the one about the reactionary duck. I don't ask them to stop publishing it just because it's lame, repetitive, biased, inaccurate and lazy; I just skip it. When you notice that a comic in *The Tech* that appears to have lots of drawings of shmucks, willies, dangles, johnsons, havana specials, or penises, just skip it.

Heck, there's always Dilbert and Dildog — I mean Dogbert.

G.L. Dryfoos

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

property of *The Tech*, and will not be returned. *The Tech* makes no commitment to publish all the letters received.

The Tech's Ombudsman, reachable by e-mail at ombudsman@the-tech.mit.edu, serves as the liaison between *The Tech* and its readers. From time to time, the Ombudsman writes an independent column reflecting the complaints, questions, and concerns of the readership.

To Reach Us

The Tech's telephone number is (617) 253-1541. E-mail is the easiest way to reach any member of our staff. If you are unsure whom to contact, send mail to general@the-tech.mit.edu, and it will be directed to the appropriate person. Please send press releases, requests for coverage, and information about errors that call for correction to news@the-tech.mit.edu. Letters to the editor should be sent to letters@the-tech.mit.edu. *The Tech* can be found on the World Wide Web at <http://the-tech.mit.edu>.

Pondering the Perplexing Nature of Sorority Rush

Ken Nesmith

Sorority recruitment is now at its conclusion. I’ve never been too closely involved with sorority rush, since I’m male and all, but I caught glimpses of parts of it in the course of walking back and forth past screaming girls in the Student Center (unfortunately, that’s not the usual response I get), and a few stories from both recruiters and recruited gave me a moment’s pause to appreciate the whole process and its contrast with fraternity rush. I don’t think I’ve worked out all the subtleties and universal truths about the differences between the sexes that can be derived from those contrasts, but that won’t stop me from speculating haphazardly.

First, a bit of history. The sororities collectively withdrew from the IFC to form the Panhellenic Association a couple of years ago. One theory is that key leaders found out what the letters stood for (Inter-Fraternity Council), got upset, stormed out, and haven’t called since, even though they still have the IFC’s favorite black t-shirt; others say Panhel just wanted a greater degree of self-governance and independence. Either way, it was good for the girls.

Perhaps it’s appropriate that the organizations exist under different governments, as sororities and fraternities are different worlds at MIT. While there are scads of fraternities, there are only five sororities; these female greek organizations are a relatively recent development, thanks to remnants of historical patriarchal oppression here at MIT and in society in general. Sororities encompass more members than fraternities, and so are necessarily less tightly-knit communities. Males seem to have stronger allegiance to their fraternities than do females to their

A houseful of guys seems to live together slightly more harmoniously than a houseful of girls, and determining who is messier depends on who you ask.

sororities. Nearly all members of a fraternity live together, while only a fraction of sorority members do. A houseful of guys seems to live together slightly more harmoniously than a houseful of girls, though determining who is messier depends on who you ask. These differences are all obvious to most MIT students.

Likewise, the processes of recruitment to sororities and fraternities are worlds apart. As heavily regulated as fraternity rush is, it’s an absolute free-for-all compared to the female version. Some girls associated with the organization of sorority recruitment aren’t allowed to speak to any affiliated woman during the days leading up to recruitment. The rest of the sorority members cannot speak to freshmen girls. While some believe that any restriction on female speech is a boon to life in general, I think that’s not an entirely accurate belief, and furthermore, that the restrictions on simple conversation are nothing short of absurd and too great a price to pay to eliminate a small window of potential abuse.

What’s really interesting is the contrast between the bid processes for sororities and fraternities. In fraternity recruitment, if members of a fraternity hold a prospective member in sufficiently high regard, they can offer him a chance to join their fraternity. He, in turn, can accept or decline that offer. There are a few restrictions on the timing of offers and acceptances, but in general, this seems like a fairly rational approach to recruitment. It can indeed produce disappointment; some prospective members devote their attention to getting a bid at one or two fraternities, and fail to do so. That can surely be an extraordinary letdown. Of course, receiving a bid brings a countervailing feeling of elation.

tion.

Sororities have a different system. Choices are ever more restricted as rush proceeds, and prospective members are regulated in how they use their time to investigate sororities. On the first night, for instance, they must spend equal time investigating each sorority. The crucial bit comes at the end of it all, when prospective members rank their top two sorority choices, and sororities rank the freshmen they’d like to receive as members. No offers are extended at this point, and no direct choices are made; these preferences are instead thrown into a computer, effectively surrendered to a central planner, and an algorithm is run to maximize some combination of recruit and recruiter happiness among these preferences. The prospective members have their offers, and they can take them or leave them.

The level of regulation and regimentation associated with sorority rush appears designed to minimize conflict, competition, and the potential for disappointment. I have to imagine that these regulations have been crafted and revised over the years in response to difficulties encountered during and after recruitment. I suppose the less disappointment, the better. But the implication here seems to be that guys can handle the important choice of where to live and what community to join, and can deal with the concomitant trials of competition, clash of preferences, and sharp disappointments, while girls cannot handle those things.

Let me be clear on this, and not sarcastic just for a moment. I have no reason to think that competing sororities will devolve into squadrons of street tough catfighters and/or

emotional wrecks if they subjected themselves to a bit of open competition. But that seems to be the prominent implication of the excess of parenting involved in sorority recruitment.

So what’s the story? Is there a less insulting explanation that I’m missing, or is this the way it is? I have no reason to think girls couldn’t handle a less regulated rush or the conflicts and stresses associated with a more dynamic, open process, but the system, as it is established, discounts that notion. Consider again the restrictions and their implications: are girls not able to both converse with one another and maintain the faculty of rational, independent judgment? Are they not able to allocate their time between houses in which they’re interested? Not curious enough to explore sororities with which they’re unfamiliar?

Let’s imagine for a moment that administrators do not extend the “all freshmen on campus” policy into an “all people on campus” policy, as we can only assume they’re probably planning. Perhaps with enough time, as fraternities are slowly starved of recruits, a community of sororities more comparable to the community that exists among fraternities will develop, and some of these differences will become less prominent. That would certainly defuse my theory that these differences in recruitment reflect universal truths about men and women.

Or perhaps my analysis was just flawed from the beginning; please feel free to tell me as much and explain why. Or perhaps I’m an insensitive cad and shouldn’t talk impolitely about such unstated but widely accepted truths. Regardless, consider this speculation, haphazard as promised, complete for now.

I have no reason to think girls couldn't handle a less regulated rush, and the conflicts and stresses associated with a more dynamic, open process, but the system, as it is established, discounts that notion.

Kerry’s Gameplan for Success

Vivek Rao

Just a few months ago, the second best senator from Massachusetts appeared destined for catastrophic failure in his long-awaited bid for the Democratic presidential nomination. Yet decisive shifts in campaign strategy and management — particularly, a focused and concerted effort in Iowa — have earned John Kerry more momentum than he probably ever imagined, and have placed him in a commanding pole position. With polls showing him in a near dead heat with President George W. Bush when the two are hypothetically pitted head-to-head, it is time for Kerry and his team need to swiftly shift their focus from the Howard Deans and Wesley Clarks of the world to Dubya himself if the Democrats are to have any hope of ousting the current administration.

The buzzword of the current political season has been “electability,” and that is far and away the most important factor pushing Kerry to dominating success in the primaries. Yet if Kerry truly wants to maximize his electability, he needs to perform a tricky balancing act by emphasizing vastly different aspects of his candidacy in the various regions of the nation.

As impressive as Kerry’s string of primary victories has been, his loss to Senator John Edwards in South Carolina — by a large margin, too — confirmed the New Englander’s suspected vulnerability in the South, a weakness that will be further tested by today’s voting in Tennessee and Virginia. While his candidacy appears rock solid in the traditional Democratic bastion of the Northeast and nearly as strong in the moderately

left-leaning Midwest and Northwest, Kerry needs to develop a more effective strategy for winning over voters in traditionally Republican states.

Though Kerry has recently turned to bashing Bush more and more, it is hard to believe that strategy will ultimately prove effective in the South. While railing on the president’s ineffective and unethical foreign policy should be a potent tactic — especially with previously unsailable walls of jingoistic propaganda weakening by the day — it may fall on deaf ears in areas where the president’s allegedly patriotic nature and supposedly solid moral values dominate popular opinion. Kerry’s best bet may be to convince voters that he is just as strongly patriotic and morally sound as Bush, and that the tiebreaker should be his ability to bring a new approach to both fiscal and foreign policy. These changes should strengthen the economy and save American lives overseas, improvements that should appeal greatly to the common voter.

In 1996, President Bill Clinton fed off a flourishing economy to waltz to a dominating victory over Senator Bob Dole. What stands out about that election was Clinton’s moderate support in the South. Granted, Clinton’s Arkansas origins and Tennessean running mate strengthened his hold in Dixie, but they weren’t the clinchers. Instead, matters of personality and economy pushed him over the top. Of course, Clinton had more than his

share of personal problems, but he had the charisma and poise that undecided voters often fall for during the debate season. In addition, he appeared responsible for America’s renewed prosperity during his first term. This potent combination earned him victories in a number of traditionally borderline states such as Florida, Ohio, Kentucky, Louisiana, Tennessee, Missouri, and West Virginia, the seven of which together possess a large number of electoral votes. Four years later, when Senator Al Gore attempted to feed of Clinton’s success, he lost all seven of these hotly contested states, and as a result, the election, as well.

Now that Kerry appears destined to carry the Democratic banner into November, he appears to be better off than Gore but in not quite as favorable a position as Clinton’s. Still, if he plays his cards right, he can carry at least a few of the borderline states, which may very well be enough to pull off an upset that very recently seemed virtually impossible.

When he focuses on beating Bush in states that the president captured in 2000, Kerry will need to beat Dubya at his own game. He will need to shift attention from the issues that Bush will attempt to emphasize — social matters like abortion and gay civil unions, the hopelessly obscure concept of patriotism, and the “successful” overthrow of Saddam Hussein, to name a few — since it is unlikely that the moderate New Englander will be able to

gain leverage on such issues in the South, especially when pitted against a conservative Texan. Instead, Kerry should spend his time expounding on his national experience (two decades in the Senate), illustrious military service, and poised demeanor. Though these qualities are not necessarily paramount, they often command a disproportionately large amount of voters’ respect.

Meanwhile, Kerry should pound away at Bush, criticizing the president’s economic failures, rather than those associated with his foreign policy. While blasting Bush’s foreign policy could swiftly and completely alienate the significant fraction of voters who are uncompromisingly pro-American and constantly “patriotic,” an economic attack would be far more effective. Not only would it appeal to a far larger segment of the voters in borderline states, but it would take away the potential for critics to harp on Kerry’s original support of the Iraq war.

Just a few months ago, Bush’s public support seemed so high that any Democratic candidate would likely need a risky and radical approach. Recently, however, with the a host of American deaths in Iraq, a less than rapid economic recovery, and a series of damning accusations against the current administration’s handling of intelligence information before Sep. 11 and the war in Iraq, Bush appears susceptible to an upset. The weakening of the president’s position has provided Kerry an opportunity to win the election with a moderate rather than radical political gameplan. And a moderate approach based on character and the economy instead of the polarizing issues of foreign policy is exactly the type of approach that could carry Kerry to success in crucial competitive states.

Kerry should pound away at Bush, criticizing the president's economic failures, rather than those associated with his foreign policy.



Poppycock!

The next President of MIT should be the head of dining services!



Let the world know your opinions.
Write for The Tech.
join@the-tech.mit.edu

FEATURES

Sex and the Saferide

Better with Age

By Alex Nelson
FEATURES COLUMNIST

The majority of women find a certain appeal to dating older men. When we're still in our teens, we look to older men to make us feel more mature and independent. If we're under-age, that special someone can take us out, get us into clubs and bars, and, most importantly,

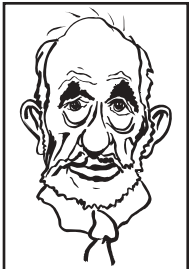


get us alcohol. If we're looking for something a little more serious, an older man can provide a greater sense of security. He has a full-time job and a place of his own. To a younger woman, this stability is quite appealing. An older man may have control of his life. He knows what he wants and how to get it. He's already found himself, now he just needs to find you. You may ask yourself: why does an older man turn to a younger woman? That's a complicated question. A man might fall for a woman who just happens to be younger. On the other hand, some men actively seek out younger women who still hold the beauty of youth and vivacity of girlhood. But remember ladies: beauty is ephemeral. A man who is attracted to you only for your looks or youth will soon leave you behind for someone even younger. How can you identify the intentions of an older man? It can be difficult at first, as it is in all relationships. Obvious signs that he cares about you are introducing you to his friends, taking you out on dates, expressing interest in meeting your friends, *and* actually meeting them. If you have an open relationship, chances are that his interest is sincere. If you find that your man is truly interested in you for who you are, then kudos to you for winning him over. But keep in mind that there is still a lot to overcome. Dating someone of a different age presents many challenges. It is often hard to relate to one another, especially when you find yourselves at different stages in your lives. You will each have different goals and responsibilities. If

these goals do not coincide, it's often difficult to proceed as a couple. Make sure you are aware of his intentions and he is aware of yours. How serious is your relationship? Where is it headed? Are you pursuing a fun spring fling or are you digging for the diamond? Whatever you desire, make it known. But not all older men are sincere. If your man avoids being seen with you in public or introduces you as a friend while failing to mention any romantic interest or commitment, flashing lights should go off in your head. For those of us finding ourselves in this position, all hope is not lost. Although not all older men will be comfortable with a younger woman, there is still plenty of room for fun. Despite his attraction to you, an older man may not be looking for the woman of his dreams. He may just see you as a fun and flirtatious female to romp with and recollect his college years. At first this may sound like a hideous position to be in, but consider the benefits of dating an older man. His extra years give him additional experience in relationships and life. This may mean two things: (1) they know how to get what they want from you, and (2) they have more experience in the bedroom. This could help or hurt you depending on what you want from them. If you don't mind being an older man's sex kitten, take him... and take him again. But remember that this relationship is based solely on lust or, more plainly, sex. He might buy you nice things — you gold digger, you — but do not forget what he expects in return. The moment you enter into this type of "relationship," you are accepting the fact that you're using each other for sex (or maybe you want his money). At any rate, do not get emotionally attached. Above all, these older men have been through more of life's problems. They have already dated around — they know what they want. A select few know how to treat a woman right, mostly because they've already been trained. If you find yourself pursuing an older man, make sure you know what you want out of it before you get in too deep. Older men come in different flavors, so depending on your mood, why not try one today?

By Danchai Mekadenaumporn
FEATURES COLUMNIST

So you want to sleep with Mrs. Robinson? As enticing as that sounds, it may end up being trickier than you would've thought. Traditionally, younger women seek out older men because of things that usually come with age: intelligence, financial stability, and maturity. These relationships are also less taboo because younger women date older men all the time. I remember someone telling me once that



it was okay as long as she was half your age plus seven. When it comes to young men and older women, though, relationships are less common for many reasons. Since many women are seeking stability by the time they're in their late twenties, they usually aren't looking at younger men, especially college guys, for fulfillment. I'm also sure that not many college-aged guys are going after older women. Why? Let's face it. If women are looking for older men, then girls are looking for college guys. Before we discuss how to date someone older than you, let's weigh the pros and cons. I've already discussed a couple of the cons: you aren't in their target age range and it's not as common. Older women may also be carrying a lot of baggage. Hell, if I was divorced with a couple of kids, I might be carrying baggage, too. Not to mention credit card debt, failed relationships, and a propensity to hate men. Many college men are not equipped to be that kind of baggage-handler. Many people also believe that it's easier for an older woman to manipulate a younger man in a relationship. If you're used to being in power, maybe this isn't the right thing for you. I've probably scared off most of you by

now, but the brave few who remain can benefit from the rest of the column. The pros of dating an older woman can be worth the trouble. Those that have recently been divorced may be looking to have some fun with no strings attached. She may tend to be more open-minded because she's seen it all, and she knows what she likes. She's already gone through the maturity process that high school and college girls are still going through. She may be looking at you and seeing a man who doesn't need Viagra, Cialis, or anything else to satisfy her needs. Did I mention that an older woman also has experience? I won't say how much or in what areas, but I'm sure a college-aged guy can imagine those things for himself. She may also see you as a trophy boyfriend; Demi Moore shows off Ashton Kutcher all the time. But then again, you're probably far from being handsome, rich, or a celebrity, so we can just throw that idea in the recycle bin. If you're intent on getting an older woman, then you may have to think like an older man. You'll have to hit all the hotspots intended for twenty-five to thirty-somethings — or you could visit your local nursing home if you're that desperate. As much as many of your friends can appreciate your toilet humor, it won't bag you someone ten years older than you. You wouldn't want to give away your age up-front, because although they may be open-minded, they may also have to warm up to the idea of a younger man. You'll have to dazzle her with your charm, let her pick at that MIT brain of yours, and show her that although you're only eighteen, you act like a man who's forty — except in bed. This is probably where youth is your most valuable asset. If you've read this far, then you're either really intent on dating an older woman or you're procrastinating on your work. In either case, I can't really say if that's good or bad, but you'll have to make the decision for yourself. Hopefully you'll get what you want.

As much as many of your friends can appreciate your toilet humor, it won't bag you someone ten years older than you.

Not getting your child all her shots is like leaving her out here alone.

At least 11 shots by two. How sure are you?
Questions? Call 1-800-232-2522.

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

This space donated by The Tech

UA Q&A

By Harel Williams and Rose Grabowski
UA COORDINATING COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Dear UA,

Do you think you have failed in your capacity as UA officers because you did not meet all, or even half of your goals as printed in the Goals Checklist? Did you go home and cry when you found out?

—Techtless

Harsh, but let the record stand that the authors of this column did in fact complete all their listed goals, despite what was written in *The Tech* ["UA Completes Under Half of Fall Projects," Feb. 3].

There were, in fact, a number of goals that were incorrectly listed as incomplete in *The Tech* article.

To name a few, the enhancement of the UA Nominations Committee, enhancement of the UA PR committee, CoffeeHouse re-introduction, and plasma displays projects are all either completed or have become more significant long-term endeavors.

[Editor's Note: The Tech is currently discussing with the UA the nature of the discrepancies and will publish errata should the article prove to include inaccuracies.]

The UA Goals Checklist is meant to open up the UA to constructive criticism and feedback, and although we appreciate *The Tech's* analysis of our accomplishments thus far, we hope that in the future they would be a bit more accurate. We are hopeful that *The Tech* article will prompt more students to send us feedback on the goals checklist and/or on how good-looking the UA Senators are.

And guess what? If you send your feedback to UA Q&A, it'll become a part of the prestigious public record that we like to refer to as *The Tech*, and we will be forced to respond. The gauntlet has been thrown. Bring it on.

Dear UA,

Hi there. I want the next president of MIT to be Janet Jackson. She is not afraid to bare it all in front of millions of people, and I think she has the confidence and the integrity to lead MIT through the next decade. Who can I contact to influence the decision?

—Charles M. Brest

Harel: Yea!
Rose: Uh... what is wrong with you?
Harel: What?
So it seems the authors are at a cultural divide, but fortunately neither of them has direct input into this decision. However, the UA and Graduate Student Council have appointed a student advisory committee to the Presidential Search Committee. To find out more about the search process and to lend feedback to the student advisory committee, please feel free to e-mail UA President Pius A. Uzamere '04 (pius@mit.edu).

Rose: That's it, this column is done.
Harel: But, this is my creative outlet!
Stay tuned and see if they resolve their differences over Janet Jackson and her titillating performance. Send your questions to uaqa@mit.edu.

You Will Write For The Tech.

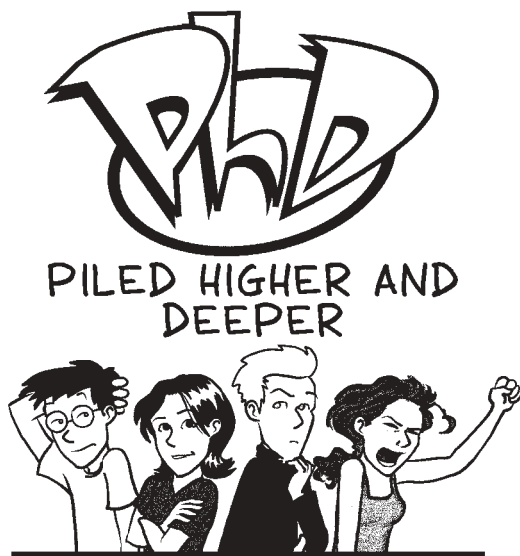
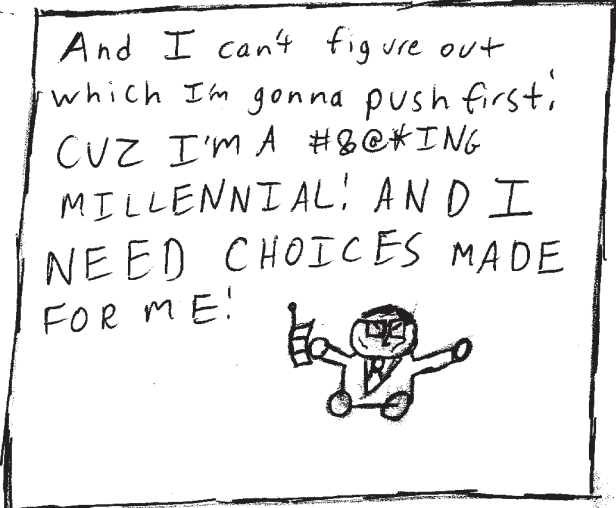
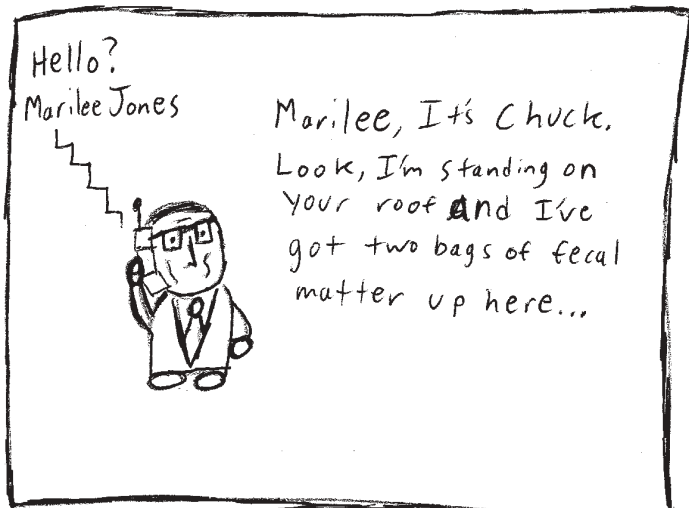
subliminal message

subliminal message

join@the-tech.mit.edu

Now Back to the Show!

By Brian Loux



www.phdcomics.com

Crossword Puzzle

Solution, page 12

ACROSS

- 1 Level to the ground
- 5 Mow closely
- 10 Taj Mahal site
- 14 Biblical garden
- 15 Makes well
- 16 Whiskey shot
- 17 Gilded watches?
- 19 Kierkegaard or Borge
- 20 Zeal
- 21 "Smooth Operator" singer
- 22 Symbol
- 23 Drew closer
- 25 Wicked
- 27 Pass over
- 29 ___-ski
- 32 Advantage
- 35 Darjeeling server
- 39 Grand ___ Opry
- 40 Mama ___!
- 41 Exploits

DOWN

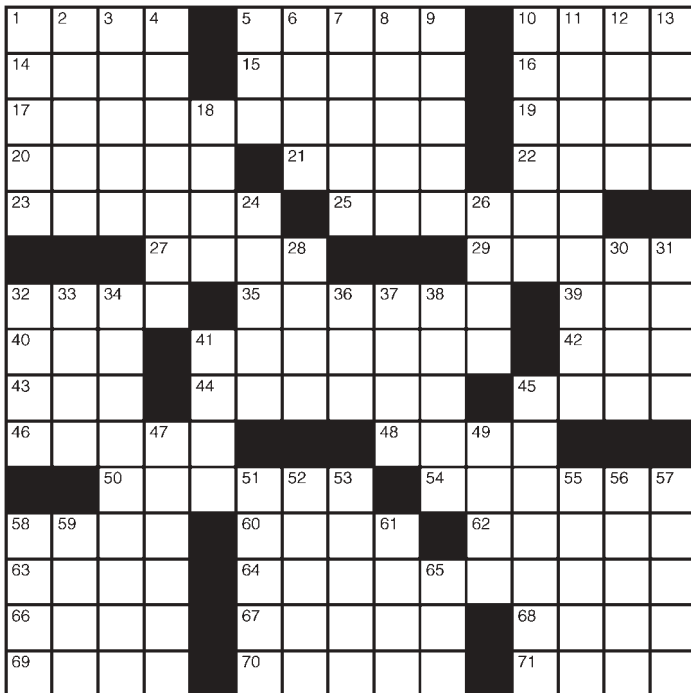
- 42 Candler of Coca-Cola
- 43 Internet address
- 44 Beach collection
- 45 Middle Eastern gulf
- 46 Stitched lines
- 48 Retained
- 50 Like sitcom laughter
- 54 Yakked it up
- 58 Singe
- 60 Remove wrinkles
- 62 AWOL part
- 63 Portion
- 64 Best man and ushers?
- 66 Leg. eagle
- 67 Civic maker
- 68 Submerge
- 69 Soothsayer
- 70 Cornered in branches
- 71 Ms. Trueheart

DOWN

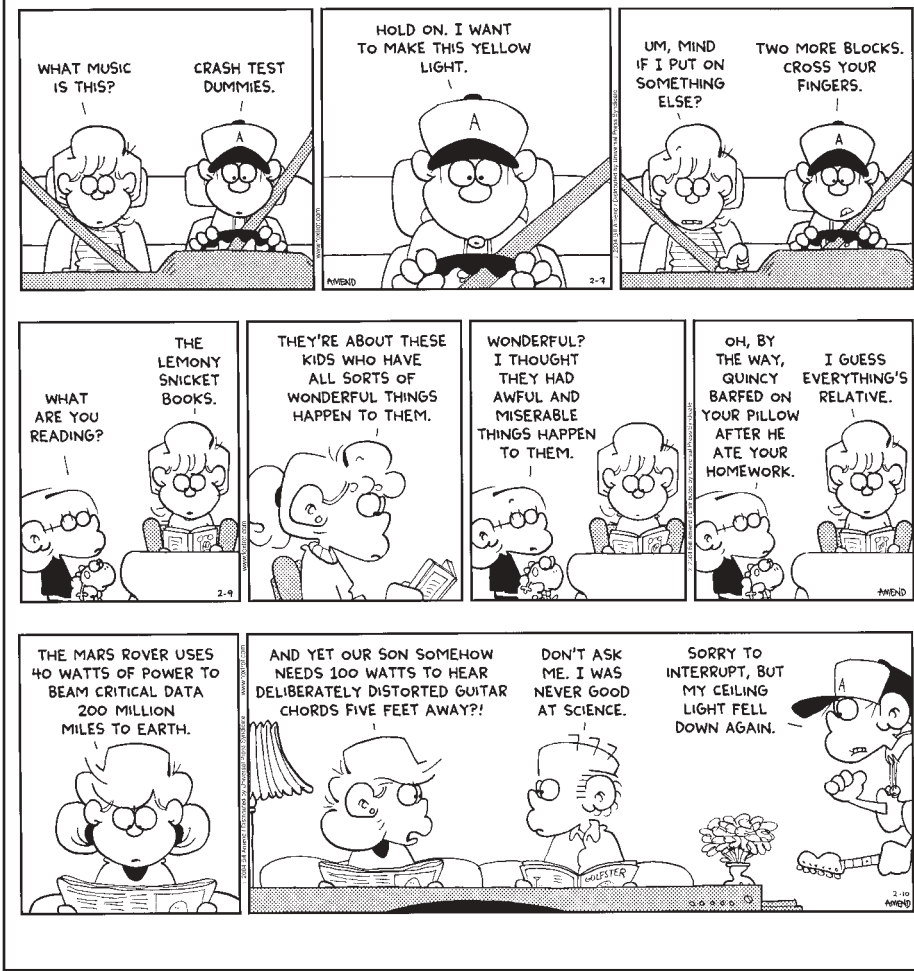
- 1 One of Lear's daughters
- 2 Love deeply
- 3 Mrs. Fitzgerald
- 4 Sanction
- 5 Half of B.S.
- 6 Carries a tune wordlessly
- 7 Localities
- 8 "La Traviata" composer
- 9 City on the Ruhr
- 10 Makes sense
- 11 Parsifal's route?
- 12 Pealed
- 13 You said it!
- 18 Arduous journey
- 24 Roadside furrow
- 26 Waller or Domino
- 28 Sneaky guy?
- 30 Otherwise
- 31 Writer O'Casey
- 32 Ostrich kin

DOWN

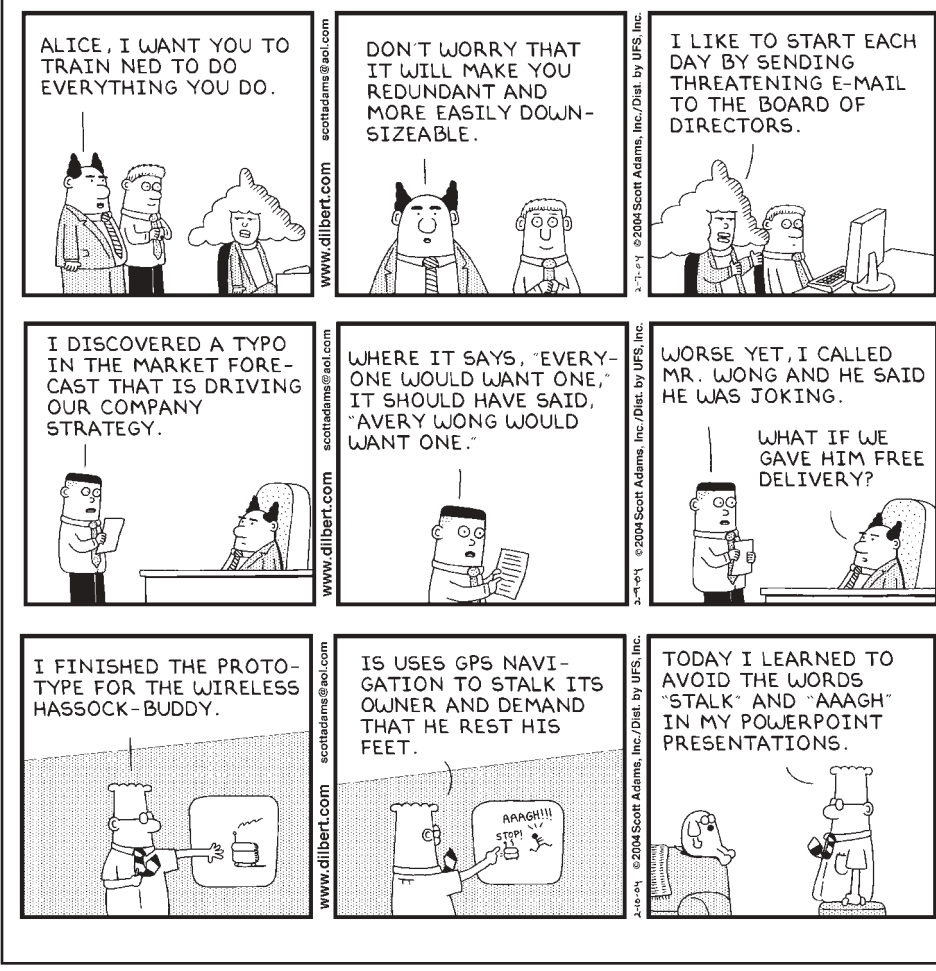
- 33 Calamitous
- 34 Festive menu?
- 36 Feel poorly
- 37 "54-40 or fight" president
- 38 Beginning
- 41 Org.
- 45 Minimally
- 47 Long-suffering one
- 49 Pick up stealthily
- 51 Dark time
- 52 Baseball bobble
- 53 Blackmore's "Lorna ___"
- 55 Couric of TV
- 56 Levels off
- 57 Office furniture
- 58 Audit pros
- 59 Despise
- 61 Protuberance
- 65 Loony



FoxTrot by Bill Amend



Dilbert® by Scott Adams



Events Calendar

Visit and add events to Events Calendar online at <http://events.mit.edu>

Tuesday, February 10

10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. - WHOI Donut and Coffee Hour. Come join your classmates for some pre-classes refreshments! Free. Room: Student Center. Sponsor: WHOI Student Organization.

12:00 p.m. - 1:30 p.m. - SAPweb: Purchasing on the Web. This course covers all aspects of using SAPweb for purchasing, including requisitioning from external vendors and internal providers, as well as ordering from Partner Vendors' online catalogs. Topics include: Business rules governing requisitions, creating and displaying requisitions in SAPweb, accessing partner vendors' online catalogs. Room: N42 Demo Center. Sponsor: Information Systems.

2:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m. - Bending Leaves and Flapping Flight: Tansitions in Flow-Body Interaction Problems. Refreshments at 3:30 p.m. in Room 2-349. Free. Room: 2-338. Sponsor: Physical Mathematics Seminar. Department of Mathematics.

3:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. - MITea Time - Culture Exchange - English Chinese Class. Our English Class is good for new comers to get start their English conversations in a very friendly environment. It is also good for people who have interest on learning the American culture. Lots of interesting topics and discussions will be a good start for your English learning. Feel free to come and have wonderful discussions with our native English speakers. Refreshments will be served. Free. Room: 5-134. Sponsor: Chinese Student and Scholar Association, Graduate Student Council. MIT CSSA & GSC.

4:00 p.m. - MIT Astrophysics Colloquium: Scott Ransom. The Incredible Double-Pulsar Binary J0737-3039: A Pulsar "Holy Grail" at Last. Free. Room: Marlar Lounge, 37-252. Sponsor: Astrophysics.

4:00 p.m. - Mech Seminar: Regimes of Propagation of Fluid-Driven Fractures in Rock: Similarity, Incomplete Similarity, and Singularity. Free. Room: 1-350. Sponsor: Geomechanics and Geomaterials.

4:30 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. - Bulver Lytton's Athens: The First Radical and Romantic History of Greece. Dr. Murray published in the TLS an account of the rediscovery of Bulver Lytton's Athens: Its Rise and Fall (1837), the first serious modern history of Greece. He will be discussing the importance for literature and history of this forgotten text of the Romantic Age. Free. Room: E51-275. Sponsor: History Office.

4:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. - Bustani Seminar: Israeli Peace Options: Thinking Outside the Box. A session of the Emile Bustani Middle East Seminar. Free. Room: E51-095. Sponsor: Center for International Studies.

4:30 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. - Urbanization, Poverty, and Health in the Developing World. The Inter-University Committee on Intenational Migration presents Dr. Mark Montgomery, Professor of Economics, State University of New York at Stony Brook and Senior Associate, Policy Research Division, Population Council on "Urbanization, Poverty, and Health in the Developing World." Free. Room: Center for International Studies (292 Main St./ E38), 6th floor conference room. Sponsor: Center for International Studies.

4:30 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. - Ask-A-Health-Educator. Drop in for a confidential visit to find out about stress reduction and wellness topics like sleep, time management, tension relief, or concerns about a friend facing eating disorders, depression, or other issues. Free. Room: Z Center first floor-Kasser Sports Medicine Center. Sponsor: MIT Medical, Department of Athletics, Physical Education and Recreation.

5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. - Women's Studies Intellectual Forum. Towards a Requiem for Communism: Lessons for Feminism. Free. Room: MIT Media Lab, upper atrium. Sponsor: Women's Studies Program.

5:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. - Taking Nanotech from the Lab to the Soldier. Room: E51 Faculty Club. Sponsor: MIT Club of Boston .

6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. - The MIT e-club weekly tuesday meeting. The regular weekly tuesday meeting of the mit entrepreneurs club, aka: the e-club, an MIT service organisation, where students, faculty, staff and alum gather to pitch, hear, crit and discuss their new science and technology start-up ideas, network, build 50k or independent founders' teams, and more; stay for our MIT 6-credit seminar sem.095 on tech start-ups (sem.089 in fall term). Free. Room: 56-114. Sponsor: Entrepreneurs Club.

6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. - Tuesday Evening Toastmasters @ MIT: Weekly Club Meeting. At Toastmasters, members learn by speaking to groups and working with others in a supportive environment. Typical meeting consists of: prepared speech session (2-3 members present speeches based on projects from the Toastmasters International Communication and Leadership Program manuals). Free. Room: 2-142. Sponsor: Tuesday Evening Toastmasters @ MIT.

6:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m. - Perspectives on the World Christian Movement. Learn more about God's purposes in the world. See link for details. Pickup from Alewife at 6 p.m. Please e-mail eric@neperspectives.org to confirm a ride. Rides back to Alewife guaranteed, Rides directly back to MIT are possible. <http://www.neperspectives.org/tuitionMA.htm>. Room: CBCGB, Lexington, MA. Sponsor: Chinese Bible Fellowship, Asian Christian Fellowship.

6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. - Green Hall Dinner. Join us in an informal meeting with Blanche Staton and Lynn Roberson. from GSO. Dinner will be served. Free. Room: Green Hall Basement Kitchen. Sponsor: Green Hall, GSC Funding Board.

6:30 p.m. - Follies, Recent Works - Lecture by Valeska Soares. Talk by Ida Ely Rubin Artist-in-Residence Valeska Soares, artist/architect, USA/Brazil. Soares, a Brazilian artist residing in New York, has made a name for herself with subtle, spare works that evoke emotions and associations. As one critic wrote in Art in America, Soares "is dedicated to exploring experience in which tactile and olfactory sensations are of equal importance to visual apprehension." The Ida Ely Rubin Artists-in-Residence Fund was established in 1998 by Margaret McDermott in honor of veteran Council for the Arts at MIT member Ida Ely Rubin. It supports Artists-in-Residence programs in Visual Arts. Free. Room: Rm 10-250. Sponsor: Office of the Arts, Department of Architecture.

7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. - Origami Paper Folding - Competition. Preparation for the 2nd annual student origami exhibition/competition (organized by the Office of the Arts) on Feb. 23. From sea-life to colorful, geometric structures for shows, we fold it all. Come fold paper with us at our bi-monthly, low-key origami sessions. Often one of our more advanced members begins with a short talk about folding theory/research or presents an original model. Bring your favorite origami books and come see ours. Confront your fears - a therapeutic way to get your mind completely off your day for an hour with fun people who will teach you anything you need to know. Free. Room: 4-146. Sponsor: Origami.

7:00 p.m. - MIT Western Hemisphere Project: Open Meeting. We hold informal sessions throughout the year to discuss events in the news and to work on Project activities. If you want to just chat about these things, or if you want to join in and help organize, we'd love for you to attend. Free. Room: MIT 4-231. Sponsor: MIT Western Hemisphere Project.

7:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. - Mars Gravity Biosatellite Info Session. Learn about becoming involved with the student-led biosatellite program that will study the effects of Martian gravity on mammals. Check out our website to learn more! Free. Room: 33-218. Sponsor: AeroAstro.

7:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. - MIT Radio Society. Connect with fellow hams, learn how to get your license, participate in club business, and pursue fascinating projects to advance radio. Free. Room: 50-358. Sponsor: MIT Radio Society.

7:45 p.m. - 9:15 p.m. - Graduate Christian Fellowship Bible Study. Currently studying "Experiencing God" (Blackaby and King). Free. Room: Eastgate. Sponsor: Graduate Christian Fellowship.

8:00 p.m. - 10:30 p.m. - Contra Dance for All. Valentine's Day Party Live Music Dance with a partner (we'll provide) and a group to jazz live music. All dances taught; all skill levels welcome. Contra Dance is a traditional American form of folk dancing, directed by a caller and accompanied by exciting live music. MIT students free; other students \$3; non-students \$5. Room: Stratton Student Center: Lobdell Dining Hall. Sponsor: Folk Dance Club. Music for Robin.

8:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m. - MIT Concert Band Rehearsal. The Concert Band, a student-run performance group, rehearses twice per week. We welcome students of all levels of musical experience. Free. Room: W20-3rd Floor, 20 Chimneys. Sponsor: Association of Student Activities, Concert Band.

8:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. - MIT Debate Team Meeting. MIT Debate Team Meeting. Free. Room: W20-423. Sponsor: MIT Debate Team.

9:00 p.m. - 11:00 p.m. - LIVEmusic@theEAR: FJE. Enter through the courtyard. Must be over 21. Proper ID required. Free. Room: The Thirsty Ear Pub. Sponsor: The Thirsty Ear Pub.

Wednesday, February 11

12:00 p.m. - 1:30 p.m. - ITAG Lunch Time Seminar. ITAG Lunch Time Seminar. Free. Room: W20-20 Chimneys. Sponsor: InfoSys.

12:00 p.m. - 1:30 p.m. - The Looting of Iraq's Cultural Treasures. Free. Room: MIT's Wong Auditorium, Tang Center, Building E51, 70 Memorial Drive, Cambridge (Near the Kendall Square T stop). Sponsor: Center for International Studies. MIT Security Studies Program.

12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m. - Orientation to Computing at MIT. This seminar provides basic information about the MIT computing environment, presented in language accessible to anyone. Room: N42 Demo Center. Sponsor: Information Systems.

12:15 p.m. - 12:45 p.m. - Mid-Day Prayer. Brief service of prayer in the Episcopal/Anglican tradition. All are welcome. Free. Room: MIT Chapel. Sponsor: Lutheran-Episcopal Ministry.

12:30 p.m. - 1:30 p.m. - Chatter by the Charles Toastmasters Meeting. At Toastmasters, we improve our communication and leadership skills through prepared and impromptu speaking opportunities. Gain confidence as a public speaker and have fun at the same time!

Events Calendar appears in each issue of *The Tech* and features events for members of the MIT community. *The Tech* makes no guarantees as to the accuracy of this information, and *The Tech* shall not be held liable for any losses, including, but not limited to, damages resulting from attendance of an event. Contact information for all events is available from the Events Calendar web page.

Guests are always welcome at Chatter by the Charles meetings. Free. Room: E19-429. Sponsor: Toastmasters, MIT Organization and Employee Development, Human Resources, Training at MIT.

2:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m. - String/Gravity Seminar. Anti-de Sitter black holes. Free. Room: Center for Theoretical Physics. Sponsor: Laboratory for Nuclear Science.

3:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. - Isshinryu Karate Workout. Traditional Okinawan Karate in a Small Club Environment. Free. Room: Rockwell Cage Half-Court. Sponsor: Isshinryu Karate-do at MIT.

3:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. - 16.S26 Seminar (Prof. Jeffrey Hoffman). Free. Room: 37-212. Sponsor: AeroAstro, Massachusetts Space Grant Consortium.

3:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. - spouses&partners@mit weekly meeting: Extreme New England Weather . Lodovica Illari (Lecturer in Meteorology from the Earth, Atmospheric and Planetary Sciences Department) explains Boston's weather patterns. Childcare provided. Free. Room: W20-400. Sponsor: spouses&partners@mit.

3:30 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. - Smart Resumes and Cover Letters. Learn the fundamentals of creating strategic resumes, cover letters, and CVs. All workshops require pre-registration. Register for workshops at <http://web.mit.edu/career/www/services/workshops.html>, select Calendar of Workshops. Free. Room: 4-237. Sponsor: Career Services Office.

4:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. - LGBT Issues Group Meeting. The Issues Group is a committee of faculty, staff, and students committed to ensuring that LGBT individuals are welcomed and affirmed by MIT and its community. Free. Room: Rainbow Lounge (50-306). Sponsor: lbgt@mit.

4:15 p.m. - 5:30 p.m. - Understanding Firefighting in New Product Development. Lean Aerospace Initiative Research Seminars. Free. Room: 41-218. Sponsor: AeroAstro. Lean Aerospace Initiative (LAI).

4:15 p.m. - 5:15 p.m. - A Quiver for the BGG Category O: Recent Developments and a Combinatorial Challenge. Refreshments at 3:30 p.m. in Room 2-349. Free. Room 2-338. Sponsor: Combinatorics Seminar. Department of Mathematics.

5:10 p.m. - 6:15 p.m. - Worship Service (Holy Communion). All students, staff and faculty are welcome at our weekly worship service. Free. Room: MIT Chapel. Sponsor: Lutheran-Episcopal Ministry.

5:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. - Biotech: RNAi Technology. RNAi Technology. Case Study: Anylam Pharmaceuticals, Inc. Panelists: Todd Foley, MPM Capital, Steve Holtzman, CEO, Infinity Pharmaceuticals, and Christoph Westphal, Polaris Venture Partners. Evening Sponsor: Foley Hoag, LLP. Free for Students with Valid ID. \$20 For Members. \$25 Non-Members. Room: Building 10 Room 250. Sponsor: MIT Enterprise Forum of Cambridge, Inc.

6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. - Graduate Christian Fellowship Bible Study. Come join us for Bible study, prayer, and fellowship! We are currently studying the book of Acts. Free. Room: 66-369. Sponsor: Graduate Christian Fellowship, GSC Funding Board.

7:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. - Bible Study. Weekly Bible study held by the Baptist Student Fellowship. Free. Sponsor: Baptist Student Fellowship, Baptist Campus Ministry.

7:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m. - Tech Model Railroad Club Meeting. This is an informal meeting when we design and build the layout and run trains. Visitors welcome. Students welcome to join. Free. Room: N52-118. Sponsor: Tech Model Railroad Club (TMRC).

7:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m. - Chicks Make Flicks. The 2004 Chicks Make Flicks screenings will begin with Laurel Chiten presenting her thought-provoking and award-winning documentary Touched on February 11. Touched explores the story of people who think they've had contact with aliens and the Harvard professor who believes them. Free. Room: 6-120. Sponsor: Women's Studies Program. Women in Film and Video/New England, WILG.

7:00 p.m. - Chicks Make Flicks: Laurel Chiten. Screening and discussion of "Touched," a documentary about people who think they've had contact with aliens and the Harvard psychiatrist who believes them. Free. Room: Rm 6-120. Sponsor: Women's Studies Program. WIVF/NE.

7:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. - Mars Gravity Biosatellite Info Session. Learn about becoming involved with the student-led biosatellite program that will study the effects of Martian gravity on mammals. Check out our website to learn more! Free. Room: 33-218. Sponsor: AeroAstro.

7:30 p.m. - 11:00 p.m. - Israeli Folk Dancing beginner's night (participatory). Israeli Folk Dancing Beginner's teaching from 7:30 to 8:30 pm, followed by teaching and requests until 11PM. Beginners are always welcome. For up-to-date announcements about each week's dance, see <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/mitfdc/messages>. Free for MIT students; donations welcome. Room: Lobby 13. Sponsor: Folk Dance Club.

7:30 p.m. - The Realm of Vanishing Cultures. Light at the Edge of the World, from National Geographic's Wade Davis, takes us around the globe to visit ancient cultures. Free. Room: 3 Church St, Harvard Square. Sponsor: Board of Chaplains. The Cambridge Forum.

8:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m. - IFILM Film Seminar. Screening of a movie followed by a discussion. Light refreshments provided. More information (including movie titles) on our web site. Free. Room: 4-237. Sponsor: International Film Club, GSC Funding Board.

8:45 p.m. - 11:30 p.m. - Swing Dancing. Beginners welcome, no partner necessary. Free. Room: Student Center 2nd floor. Sponsor: Lindy Hop Society, GSC Funding Board.

Thursday, February 12

10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. - WHOI Donut and Coffee Hour. Come join your classmates for some pre-classes refreshments! Free. Room: WHOI Student Center. Sponsor: WHOI Student Organization.

12:00 p.m. - MIT Chapel Concert. "Firenze Sil" Music from Florence, 1480-1600. Andrei Caracoti, countertenor with the Phillips Consort of Viols:Michael Hamill, treble; Sheila Beardslee & Hannah Davidson, tenors; Sarah McManaway, bass. Free. Room: MIT Chapel. Sponsor: Music and Theater Arts Section.

12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m. - English Bible Class. You are welcome to attend this free Bible class led by Barbara Beevers of Baptist Campus Ministry. International spouses are welcome especially, but open to all. Come practice English, ask questions and make friends. Free. Room: W11 Board Room. Sponsor: Baptist Campus Ministry.

12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m. - Object Lessons: Two Packet Ship Paintings. Hart Nautical Collections Curator Kurt Hasselbalch examines the rich stories embedded in two exceptional paintings by the famous Liverpool school artists, Miles Walters and his son Samuel. The paintings depict the Black Ball packet Fidelia homeward bound in 1845 and the Massachusetts-built Robert Pulsford arriving at Liverpool 1832. Hasselbalch highlights the artists lives, explains the Liverpool School, discusses packet ships in general, and touches on the interesting circumstances that brought these magnificent paintings to the MIT Museum. Free. Refreshments provided. Room: MIT Museum. Sponsor: MIT Museum.

12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m. - Dreamweaver 2004 New Features Quick Start. Room: N42 Demo Center. Sponsor: Information Systems.

12:30 p.m. - 1:30 p.m. - Eastgate Cookie Hour Kick-off Luncheon. This luncheon will kick off Eastgate's cookie hours. Free. Room: Eastgate Penthouse Lounge. Sponsor: Eastgate Community Association. GSC Representatives.

1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. - Free Conversational English Class. International students, scholars and spouses are welcome to attend a free conversational English class. Come exchange culture, learn about American culture and holidays and make lasting friends. Free. Room: W11 Board Room. Sponsor: Baptist Campus Ministry.

2:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m. - Winning Interviewing Techniques. Free. Room: 4-153. Sponsor: Career Services Office.

4:00 p.m. - 5:30 p.m. - Rights of the Body and Rhetorics of War: The Many Faces of Globalization. Free. Room: 4-251. Sponsor: Women's Studies Program, Social Justice Cooperative, MIT Pro-Choice, MIT Western Hemisphere Project. Women in Health and Medicine at MIT.

4:15 p.m. - 5:30 p.m. - Physics Colloquium Series: Clocking Millisecond X-Ray Pulsars: A Speed Limit for the Fastest Spinning Stars in the Universe. The Physics Community is invited to a pre-lecture reception at 3:45 p.m. in room 4-339. Free. Room: 10-250. Sponsor: Physics Department.

4:30 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. - Promoting Export Credit Agency Accountability to International Human Rights Law. Free. Room: E38-615. Sponsor: Center for International Studies, Program on Human Rights & Justice.

5:00 p.m. - Harvard / MIT PChem Seminar Series, Professor Gil Nathanson, University of Wisconsin. Room: 6-120. Molecular Beam Studies of Gas-Liquid Reactions in Bare and Surfactant-Coated Sulfuric Acid. Professor Gil Nathanson, University of Wisconsin Harvard / MIT PChem Seminar Series.

Eat Bananas.

Join America's #1 Survival Tour Operator
America, Mexico, Bahamas, and Florida
1. Sell Tips, Earn Cash and Go Free!
Call for group discounts.

For more information,
contact STA Travel
at 617-225-2555
1-800-648-4849 / www.statravel.com

MIT

Department of
FACILITIES

CAMPUS CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

brain and cognitive sciences project

Steel erection continues on the eighth floor. Fire protection work is in progress. Installation of metal stairs continues. Albany Street between the Albany St. garage and Main Street will remain closed through spring/summer 2004. Vehicles exiting the garage must turn left. Erection of steel continues on the north and south portion of the site and above the railroad tracks.

Building 48

Public access to the building is limited to the third and fourth floors. All other areas are restricted to construction personnel. Hard hats and sign-in are required for access to first and second floors and basement. Occasional shutdowns for fire protection water, chilled water, and fire alarm testing are expected to continue through the end of the project. Parties who will be directly impacted by the shutdowns will be notified in advance.

Stata Center

Interior finish work (tile, glass, etc.) and fit-out (office partitions) are underway in both the Dreyfoos and Gates towers. Paver installation is proceeding as dictated by weather conditions. Interior work on office partitions and finishes (tile, interior glass, etc.) is underway in the Gates and Dreyfoos towers.

Waverly Street/West Campus

Drainage work continues along Waverly Street from Chestnut to Albany Street. Drainage work is scheduled to begin from Sidney Pacific Streets to Meriam Street.

For more information on MIT's building program, visit web.mit.edu/eolving.
This information provided by the MIT Department of Facilities.

WASHINGTON

INTERNSHIP

P · R · O · G · R · A · M ·

Looking for your Dream Internship?

Here are just a few of the places where interns in the program have worked:

NBC	The White House	MCI
U.S. Commerce	Democratic/Republican	Center
Department	National Committees	Congress
Georgetown	Trial Lawyers for	NIH
Medical Center	Public Justice	UN
U.S. Senate	American Film and	JP
CNN	Video	Morgan
ABC	National Geographic	U.S.
FDA	Magazine	Senate
	The Smithsonian	FCC
	Kennedy Center for the	
	Performing Arts	

For over twenty years, the Washington Internship Program has been placing individuals at the highest levels of government and industry. No matter what your interests and career goals are, we can help you secure the perfect internship. Work in the most prestigious offices of government, law, media, business, science, the arts, education, medicine, public relations, and more...

Come to our information session:
Thurs, Feb. 12 at 6 pm
Pratt School, Room 5-134
or visit our website,
www.washingtoninternship.com
Phone: (202) 829-5364
e-mail: washinternships@aol.com

SPERM DONORS NEEDED

California Cryobank, the world's leading reproductive tissue bank, is looking for healthy males, in college or with a college degree, to become a part of our anonymous sperm donor program. As a donor you will be compensated up to \$900 per month. In addition you will

- receive a free comprehensive health and genetic screening
- experience a minimal time commitment with flexible hours
- help infertile couples realize their dreams of parenthood.

For more information or to see if you qualify call 1-800-231-3373 ext 41 or visit us on the web at www.cryobankdonors.com.

CALIFORNIA CRYOBANK

1-800-231-3373 Ext. 41

www.cryobankdonors.com

The Smart* Motor Controller



- * Closed Loop PID Control w/Driver
- * 8 saved trapezoidal motion profiles
- * I²C bus, Cricket bus, or Serial
- * Motor current (torque) feedback
- * Firmware upgradeable

www.gamatronix.com

GroupBrainProject

seeks volunteers for research in team-thinking tasks. earn a \$5 gift certificate on Amazon.com for filling out a 30-minute pre-screening survey online, and if eligible you may earn up to \$50 more for a 1-hour study on Harvard campus.



This study has been approved by Harvard's Institutional Review Board of Human Subjects.

<http://groupbrain.wjh.harvard.edu>

Don't Gamble With Your Future

Graduate Student Career Symposium

Saturday, February 28th

9:30 AM - 5:00 PM

Stratton Student Center, Third Floor

For Masters & PhD Students Exploring Non-Academic Careers

Alumni Panels and Discussion of Careers in:

- Biopharm/Medical Devices
- Intellectual Property/Technology Transfer
- Government
- Finance/Venture Capital
- Consulting(Management, Technical, Environmental)

Networking Lunch with Panelists

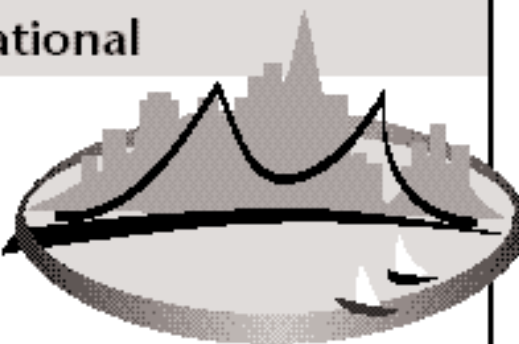
For More Details & Registration - <http://web.mit.edu/career/www/gradsym.htm>



Sponsored by Office of Career Services, Graduate Students Office, & Graduate Student Council

Oracle's Summer Invitational

Launch Your Career this Summer!



Interested in the challenge of developing cutting-edge software?

If so, send your resume to Oracle.

Oracle regularly hires outstanding computer science summer interns to work in our beautiful HQ campus near San Francisco in Northern California.

In addition to offering a lucrative salary, Oracle covers full housing and transportation costs, including car and bicycle.

E-mail your resume in text or doc format to interns_us@oracle.com.

Learn more about working at Oracle and our Summer Internship program at www.oracle.com/college

ORACLE

Oracle supports workforce diversity.

Exterior Posting Not ‘Two-way Discussion’

Flags, from Page 1

them inside under the new interpretation of the rule, which forbids dormitory residents to “alter or add to any part of the building structure, mechanical, or electrical systems.”

Previously, the Housing Department had not interpreted or enforced the rule to forbid students from hanging flags out of their windows. But a student’s July 2003 complaint against Jonathan A. Goler G, who had dangled an Israeli flag from his window at Sidney-Pacific, eventually prompted the new MIT-wide enforcement of the “alterations and additions” rule to forbid students from hanging flags, and in one case led Benedict to require the removal of Israeli flags that had hung at Bexley Hall for more than three years, said Jonathan Battat ’05, the current occupant of the room above the flags.

With Goler threatening legal action and a heated discussion playing out at a series of Undergraduate Association forums and in *The Tech’s* opinion pages, Benedict convened the committee in October “to review the current policy in housing about not making any additions or alterations to our residence halls.”

The committee, chaired by associate dean Julie B. Norman, included representatives of the UA, Graduate Student Council, and Dormitory Council.

“I have circulated it among some staff and have had no suggested changes so barring anything really surprising at the [Housing Strategy Group] meeting we are prepared to accept the report,” Benedict wrote in an e-mail. The Housing Strategy Group includes several students and administrators and will discuss the report on Feb. 18. “I find the report to be very thorough and sensitive to the needs of our community,” he wrote. (See excerpts, page 13.)

Committee sought clarity in rule

The report lists as its first recommendation: “No materials may be placed, affixed, hung or extended from any exterior surface of a MIT residence, including rooftops.”

Norman, the committee chair, said clarity and uniformity were the motivations for the committee’s recommendation for a universal ban on exterior materials.

“We wanted to be very clear on what the policy is so there isn’t a lot of gray area,” Norman said.

Ease of enforcement was also a motivation, she said. “We felt we needed something that the whole campus had to live by, that was clear and uniform. If there were unique exterior rules and regulations for Bexley and then they move to Next House, well, it becomes confusing and it becomes hard for Housing to enforce.”

The committee listed as its guiding principles “Preservation of the architectural integrity of the exterior of buildings on the MIT campus complex,” and “Preservation of the cultural uniqueness of MIT residential communities,” and also recommended that “Each

residence, through their house government, develop their own guidelines for materials that may be displayed within their residence.”

Emily E. Cofer ’04, the dormitory council president, said the Council would discuss the committee’s Jan. 23 report at a future meeting and had not reached an opinion on it.

Posters not two-way, members say

An important consideration, committee members said, was that the group believed it should encourage two-way communication and mutual understanding, and that posting materials on the exterior of dormitories would not foster such two-way communication and understanding.

“Things on the outside of a building aren’t a two-way medium,” said Benjamin Navot ’07, the UA representative on the committee. “They’re not a discussion. It’s just a statement.”

Goler’s Israeli flag is “just an in-your face thing, and that’s not what personal expression should be about,” he said. “He wanted just to state things and not to have a reply. It becomes almost harassing in a sense,” he said.

“It’s not a matter of discussing,” Navot said, “and it’s a forum of discussing and understanding people that was being aimed for. And that doesn’t come across in the report,” he said.

Norman voiced similar sentiments. “If someone’s offended, it’s inappropriate for us to stay in their face,” she said. “We can all voice an opinion, but we all have to allow someone who doesn’t agree with us to respond and engage us in dialogue,” she said.

“I think one of the underlying ideals is that we can’t put our individual desires in front of the community,” Norman said. “We certainly believe in free expression, but I think you have to look at, ‘What is expression, and what is communication?’” she said.

UA rep. supports compromise

Navot, who in October introduced a resolution in the UA Senate to ask the Housing Department to permit flag-hanging, described the committee’s final report as a compromise he would support.

“Not everyone agrees wholeheartedly with everything that’s there, but that was the compromise that was reached between undergraduates, faculty, graduate students, and everyone,” he said.

“I personally don’t disagree with people posting on the outsides of windows,” he said, but “there are so many thousands of small issues that arise when you open that door, and there are so many liabilities,” he said.

“The most important thing that needs to be noted is that we were not dealing at all with the specifics of Jon Goler’s case,” Navot said. “The policy on alterations and admissions was vague and outdated, and needed to be looked at.”

Exceptions possible, members say

Despite the stark language of the recommendation to ban all “materials” from the exterior of dormitories, Norman said the Housing Department might develop some exceptions.

“The Housing Department would have to develop all the specifics of how they would enforce this policy,” she said. “If there were any periods of exceptions, that would be again a housing implementation policy,” for instance, “whether or not, during Orientation, hanging banners would be acceptable or not.”

“That is not part of the discussion we wanted to get into because we believe that’s implementation,” she said.

**Nuclear Engineering
UROP FAIR**
Thursday, Feb.12th
1:30 - 3:00pm
Lobby 13

Exciting new research in:

- Energy
- Fusion
- Quantum Computing
- Bio-Nuclear
- Much More

Undergraduate Research Opportunities (UROPs) guaranteed for all freshmen interested in Nuclear Engineering!



Contact Professor Andrew C. Kadak for more information: Kadak@mit.edu
Building 24-202, (617)253-0166

Top 10 Pre-IPO Cambridge Software Firm Seeks Big Fish

Endeca, the leading, next-generation provider of information search and retrieval software solutions featuring Guided NavigationSM seeks highly energetic, smart and outgoing MIT graduates to perpetuate and expand on our already winning track record.

- Named as one of VentureWire's top ten private software companies "most likely to succeed"
- #3 customer solution in InfoWorld's Top 100
- Winner of Computerworld's 2003 Innovative Technology Award
- Named by Forrester Research as strategy leader in our market

To learn more, attend our:

Endeca Employment Open House

Thursday, February 12, 2004
6:00PM

Building 4-145

Bertucci's Pizza and soft drinks will be served
Bring your resume

Recent Endeca MIT grads will be on hand to provide an overview of the company and answer your questions.

We look forward to having you as a big fish in our small and most rewarding pond.

ENDECA ■ 55 Cambridge Parkway ■ Cambridge, MA 02142 ■ www.endeca.com



Solution to Crossword

from page 8

R	A	Z	E	S	H	A	V	E	A	G	R	A
E	D	E	N	C	U	R	E	S	D	R	A	M
G	O	L	D	T	I	M	E	R	S	D	A	N
A	R	D	O	R	S	A	D	E	S	I	G	N
N	E	A	R	E	D	S	I	N	F	U	L	
			S	K	I	P			A	P	R	E
E	D	G	E	T	E	A	P	O	T	O	L	E
M	I	A		A	C	T	I	O	N	S	A	S
U	R	L		S	H	E	L	L	S	A	D	E
S	E	A	M	S		K	E	P	T			
		C	A	N	N	E	D		T	A	L	K
C	H	A	R		I	R	O	N		L	E	A
P	A	R	T		G	R	O	O	M	M	A	T
A	T	T	Y		H	O	N	D	A		S	I
S	E	E	R		T	R	E	E	D		T	E

Flag Committee Report Excerpts

Excerpts from the Jan. 23 “Final Report of the Ad Hoc Committee of the Housing Strategy Group Additions and Alterations Review,” submitted to Dean for Student Life Larry G. Benedict.

The committee was chaired by Associate Dean Julie B. Norman, and included Assistant Dean Katherine G. O’Dair, Burton-Conner Housemaster Halston W. Taylor, and Gabrielle Abelard, the program manager of graduate residences. Nikki Johnson ’04 represented the Dormitory Council, Benjamin Navot ’07 represented the Undergraduate Association, and Vikas Anant G and Jennifer M. Farver G represented graduate students.

The MIT Housing Policy — Alterations and Additions — was reviewed for its purpose and appropriateness, particularly with respect to adornment inside or outside of a building. The policy reads, “*Alterations to physical conditions of rooms and hallways (including painting, building lofts, etc.) must be approved by the House Manager. The majority of Residence Halls prohibit such alterations. Residents are not permitted to alter or add to any part of the building, structure, mechanical or electrical system.*” This policy has been enforced, although reportedly inconsistently, to mean nothing may be hung outside any residence hall window. Although MIT has interpreted this policy to include hanging something outside a window, the committee felt the description of “altering or adding” was vague in this application. A more specific policy on adornment is warranted to supplement the “Additions and Alterations” policy.

Symbolic Materials and Personal Expression

The specific situation that led the Institute to a review of the housing policy was the flying of a flag outside a dorm window that resulted in a student filing a complaint raising concerns of the flying of this flag and respect issues. The complainant maintained the flag represented an unwelcoming environment. The student who hung the flag claimed he had a right of freedom of speech or expression.

Principles of the First Amendment like freedom of speech, relate to protection of indi-

vidual rights from governmental interference, and do not apply directly to private institutions. Many people have an impression that students have a constitutional right to free speech at private institutions; however, most of the press regarding this issue relate to issues at public universities which are subject to very different legal standards. However, while the First Amendment and all its legal standards are not applicable as such, private universities like MIT have long standing and deeply held traditions of academic freedom and encourage the free exchange of ideas and beliefs, including ideas that others disagree with. At the same time, private universities like MIT are concerned about respecting all members of the community, and in particular, in providing remedies for words or actions that constitute improper harassment. They also distinguish between debate in the classroom and other public forums, and the fact that dormitories are the students’ homes, to which different considerations apply. An innocent communication may ultimately be potentially offensive or harassing to an individual or group.

MIT prides itself in being a very diverse and open community. We have clear policies or guidelines on personal conduct, responsibility for safety and harassment. A community member must not put their own interests above consideration of the impact their actions may have on another. Cultural sensitivity and consideration of the potential impact of unwelcomed, offensive or even intimidation on another individual/group must be considered.

It is clear that an educational institution, such as MIT, has a deeply held interest in protecting the educational atmosphere and the work or living environment for all groups while engaging in the free exchange of ideas and beliefs. While a banner or poster may express one person’s view, such communication does not allow for feedback or exchange of ideas. It is the failure to allow an exchange or response to a display/communication that damages relationships and, in some instances, may create an intimidating or offensive environment.

Housing Policies at Other Institutions ...

A review of the housing policies of twelve

universities was completed. The objective was to assess policies of other institutions regarding displaying materials on the exterior of a campus residence. Seven universities prohibit students from hanging or affixing anything from the exterior of a window, ledge, wall, etc. These include Brown University, Cornell University, Harvard University, University of Pennsylvania, Princeton University, Suffolk University and Tufts University.

Three Universities had rather ambiguous policies, but specifically prohibited students from opening or removing screen windows in their dormitories. These institutions include Boston College, Boston University and the University of Massachusetts. Dartmouth College and Northeastern University have no policies addressing windows, screens or displaying signage outside a campus residence.

Literature Review and Legal Principles

... One specific case that the committee reviewed was Abramowitz vs. The Trustees of Boston University. This case, although a superior court action with limited value, discusses [sic] the unusual and limited way in which the Massachusetts Civil Rights Act (MCRA) can extend certain protections for traditional First Amendment rights into the private setting. In 1986, the Massachusetts Superior Court determined that Boston University violated student rights under the Massachusetts Civil Rights Act (MCRA) by removing specific items hanging from dorm windows. A summary of the facts in the decision include that undergraduate students, residing in Boston University housing, hung posters or banners either outside or inside their dorm windows. Boston University asked for the objects to be removed. When they were not, BU officials entered the rooms and removed the items. Boston University’s Residence License Agreement, which each student had signed, contained a policy prohibiting students from hanging objects from “windows, fire escapes, doors or other parts of the residence facility.” The Court stated Boston University had not previously enforced this policy prior to the circumstance.

The Court held that with the specific facts, BU violated MCRA because, in enforcing a policy that it might have been otherwise able to enforce, it entered the rooms without permission, confiscated plaintiffs signs/posters/banners and threatened eviction. These actions, the un-welcomed entry into the rooms, were found by this judge to have constituted “threats, intimidation and coercion” under MCRA. This case has been followed by rulings, including decisions by the Supreme Judicial court, that enforcing established rules in a private setting is not in and of itself threats or intimidation, and therefore problematic under the MCRA. Thus, Abramowitz case is not that relevant to MIT’s decision how to regulate these issues. It only prevents the campus police or others from breaking down doors, as we understand they did at BU, to carry out enforcement of established rules.

Statement of Guiding Principles

The committee recognized that there are many perspectives that influence issues surrounding this housing policy and its enforcement — the diversity of the community, free exchange of ideas, the unacceptability of harassing or intimidating behavior, and respect for the maintenance and use of our facilities.

Two principles were established that guided the recommendations of the committee:

1. Preservation of the architectural integrity of the exterior of buildings on the MIT campus complex.
2. Preservation of the cultural uniqueness of MIT residential communities.

Recommendations

The following recommendations are submitted to Dean Larry Benedict and the Housing Strategy Group:

1. No materials may be placed, affixed, hung or extended from any exterior surface of a MIT residence, including rooftops.
2. Each residence, through their house government, develop their own guidelines for materials that may be displayed within their residence.

SAVE THE DATE

VALENTINE SKATE!

Date: Friday, February 13th

Time: 10:00pm

Location: Johnson Skating Rink

Sponsored by SaveTFP & Club Z

MARS & CO

“I work with a lot of smart people.”

Mars & Co is a strategy consulting firm serving top management of leading corporations. Since our inception in 1979, we have chosen to work for a limited number of leading international firms with whom we build long-term relationships

- ◆ We apply **fact-based, quantitative analysis** to competitive problems and get involved in the **implementation** of our recommendations;
 - ◆ we develop consultants with **cross-industry** and **cross functional** experience;
 - ◆ we **promote from within**;
 - ◆ we are looking for **well-balanced individuals** with **exceptional** and **demonstrable quantitative abilities**.
-

If you are a graduate of a BS, MS, or PhD program in engineering, math, economics or hard sciences, please send your résumé to:

Mars & Co, Director of Administration at “Mars Plaza”, 124 Mason Street, Greenwich, Connecticut 06830.

www.marsandco.com

NEW YORK • PARIS • LONDON • SAN FRANCISCO • TOKYO

Provost Brown: MIT Finances Improving

By Pon-Pon Yeh

Provost Robert A. Brown addressed the Undergraduate Association Senate last night at its first meeting of the semester, saying he has an optimistic view of MIT's financial state.

"Everything is fine," Brown said. Following his talk, Brown took questions from the audience. Discussion topics included the future of fraternities, sororities, and independent living groups, plans for Course XIII, and Biological Engineering's potential status as a new major.

Brown says worst times are over

Provost Brown addressed the fall budget reductions, which totaled 70 million dollars. Brown said that the most difficult financial times were "behind us."

He then went on to discuss the budget cuts, and said that they were made with the primary intent of preserving academic quality.

In addition, Brown assured the senators that the decline in MIT's endowment was nothing to worry about, stating that he trusted it enough

to place his retirement fund in it.

Further FSILG support unknown

Brown was unable to answer questions about the future of funding for the FSILG system.

A three-year financial transition plan approved in 2001 gave money to FSILGs to assuage the losses incurred from the lack of a freshman class.

Even though the plan is only in place for one more year, Brown was not certain whether MIT would continue supporting FSILGs in years to come, or whether MIT would use that money to build new dormitories.

Course reorganization discussed

However, Brown did answer questions about changes in majors at MIT. He estimated that Biological Engineering would become a major by Fall 2005 and that Course XIII would merge with another course. However, Brown said that this new course would retain an Ocean Engineering option.

In addition, the UA spring 2004 budget and three bills were presented to be voted on at a later meeting.



UA Senate Speaker Yun-Ling Wong '04 and UA Senate vice chair Rose Grabowski '05 look on as Provost Robert A. Brown speaks on the impact of MIT's budget cuts on students at the UA Senate meeting Monday night.

Budget Cuts Expected, Impact to be Minimal

Layoffs, from Page 1

service.

Budget cuts planned in advance

"Our strategy began over a year ago" for meeting the budget cuts, Sirianni said.

She said the department had to cut 7 percent of its budget for fiscal year 2004 and 17 percent for 2005.

Despite the cuts, facilities may still hire new heating and air conditioning mechanics and electricians if the need arises, Wallace said.

Facilities will "assess the effect on campus" of the layoffs from July to November, Wallace said, and will "make arguments for additional funding" during the next budget round next year.

He said that the department would need roughly five to ten per-

cent more staff to provide a full level of service by previous MIT standards.

Cost saving alternatives suggested

Wallace said that facilities will try to make MIT more aware of the possible cost savings in simple changes, such as recycling.

He said that the cost of picking up and disposing of recycling was about half of the cost for normal waste.

He said that MIT spends approximately one million dollars a year disposing of its waste, so the savings could total several hundred thousand dollars.

MIT saved about \$80,000 by switching paper towels alone, he said, the equivalent of two or three custodial jobs.

The goal is "to save service and to save jobs," he said.

Custodian Found Dead

The body of an MIT night custodian was found in a men's bathroom in Building E51 early Monday morning, MIT police said.

MIT Police Chief John Di Fava said the MIT police received a call at 8 a.m. reporting that a men's room door was "partially blocked." According to the MIT police log, a caller reported a person in the men's room of the first floor of E51 "in need of medical assistance."

Di Fava said that the man was later identified as an MIT custodian, and that the cause of death at the time appeared "to be natural causes."

The investigation has been handed over to the city medical examiner and the District Attorney's office in accordance with Massachusetts law, Di Fava said.

—LAUREN LEBON

Coop Student Board Election Update

The following student Coop members have been nominated by the Stockholders as candidates for the Board of Directors for the 2004-05 academic year.

M.I.T. UNDERGRADUATE AND GRADUATE STUDENTS:

Jessica Rabin (Undergraduate)
Jina Kim (Undergraduate)
Mariya Genzel (Graduate)
Bryce Poland (Graduate)

HARVARD UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS:

Ashley Ma
David Eisenberg
Christina Adams
Josh Cable

HARVARD GRADUATE STUDENTS:

Fernando Vigil HBS
Ty Schultz HBS
Bryan Blew KSG



HTTP://www.thecoop.com

For Information call or email:
Allan Powell, 617-499-2025,
aepowell@thecoop.com

Any student Coop member may still petition to be on the ballot. Petition papers are available at the customer service desks at all Coop locations or at the Members Services Office, 4th floor, Harvard S Bookstore, Monday thru Friday, 9am-5pm.

Sponsored By:
Office of the Dean for Student Life and Chocolate City

KRESGE AUDITORIUM
February 20, 2004
Friday @ 7:15PM
\$2.00 for ALL

COMEDY COLLAGE

****starring****

- *Sherrod Small-Comedy Central*
- *Kenny Williams-BET's Comicview*
- *Steve Byrne- Star Search*
- *Ruperto Vandapool-"Cook Out"*

FOR MORE INFORMATION EMAIL COMEDYCOLLAGE @ MIT.EDU
TO BUY TICKETS IN ADVANCE CALL AT THE SOURCE: 617.252.1994

SPORTS

Poor Criteria Used for ESPN's Ultimate Standings

By Brian Chase
SPORTS EDITOR

Sports fans, the really dedicated ones, love to argue about their favorite teams. I have heard endless conversations comparing the merits of the Yankees and the Red Sox, or the Kansas City Chiefs and the Denver Broncos. Even better are the arguments about the best players or teams of all time, such as whether the Patriots of the most recent football season are better or worse than the 1972 Dolphins team that went undefeated. Debates like this rage constantly around the water cooler and on the web.

Well, ESPN has just thrown fat on the proverbial fire, with their second annual "The Ultimate Standings," a list that ranks every major

sports franchise of professional football, hockey, basketball and baseball by eight major categories, ranging from Bang For The Buck (fan revenue divided by wins) to players, ownership, fan relations, and how many recent championships have been (or are expected to be) won. ESPN surveyed 3,000 fans for their opinions, ranked each team from 1-120 in each category, and then compiled the standings to get the ultimate standings. How do Boston sports teams rank? The answer may surprise you.

Boston's best known sports team, the Red Sox, come in at 22 out of the 30 Major League Baseball teams, and 95th overall, the worst of Boston's four teams. Why? They rated quite low in affordability and

bang for the buck, because no matter how successful they are, baseball's most expensive tickets offset their accomplishments. They also scored low in coaching and championships. Apparently, Boston fans don't think they will win it all anytime soon.

Boston's best team, the New England Patriots, ranked as the fourth best football team and the 13th team overall. Their worst score was again in affordability, and without that weighing them down, they could have easily moved up a few spots, because they had excellent player, coach, and (obviously) championship scores. The only football teams rated ahead of them were the Green Bay Packers, the Kansas City Chiefs, and the Tennessee

Titans. The Boston Celtics were the 17th basketball team and 61st team overall, while the Boston Bruins were the 25th National Hockey League team and were 89th overall. Those two teams also scored worst in the affordability category, by a wide margin. Sensing a pattern?

Despite the extremely high ticket process for Boston sports, I can't help feeling that the Red Sox and Patriots got shortchanged, somehow. The Patriots are the most dominant and team-oriented football program, winners of two Super Bowls in the last three years; they deserved to be first in the NFL rankings. The Red Sox have also been very successful in the last year, and surely don't deserve a ranking below the Celtics and in the bottom

half of the MLB. Why the discrepancy?

As ESPN writer Rob Neyer opined, the ultimate standings piece places more emphasis on all the varied aspects of fan enjoyment, and don't make winning a huge part of the process. But winning is the process. Even if a sports team has a grumpy coach, greedy players, and a cramped stadium, their fans will love them if they win. Just look at the Yankees. If ESPN really wanted to make an ultimate standings, they should put winning percentages and championships on a much higher pedestal than nearly everything else. Then maybe the Red Sox and Pats would get the higher recognition that they deserve, as would the city of Boston.



MIT Men's hockey defeated the Connecticut College Club team 8-1 at Johnson Athletic Center last Saturday.

(left) Goaltender Tom Hopkins '07 (#1) smothers the puck for a save.



(below) John J. Bergin '06 (#25) keeps the puck away from a Connecticut College player.

STANLEY HU—THE TECH

STANLEY HU—THE TECH

Register to Vote
in the Primaries by
Tomorrow!



Caltech-MIT Voting
Technology Project

Help out at the
polls and watch
democracy
in action!

for more information
<http://theory.lcs.mit.edu/voting>

This space donated by The Tech

The School of Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences
Congratulates

THE 2004 BURCHARD SCHOLARS

Johnathan Boysielal '05
Jesse Collins '06
Marion Dumas '06
Erkko Etula '05
Raphael Farzan-Kashani '06
Nao Gamo '05
Mahni Ghorashi '05
Elizabeth Greenwood '05
Tristan Hayeck '06
Haruka Horiuchi '05

Samuel Hwang '05
Jessica Lee '05
Yong-Hwa Lee '05
Emily Levesque '06
Kathy Li '05
Marta Luczynska '06
Farhan Merali '05
Adam Miller '06
Juliana Olmstead '06
Aarti Patil '06

Mary Presley '05
Lara Rogers '05
Kenneth Roraback '06
Swati Saini '05
Thomas Schilling '06
Smita Singh '05
Tai-Weng Sio '05
Beckett Sterner '06
Stephan Stiller '06

The Burchard Scholars Program brings together distinguished members of the faculty and promising sophomores and juniors who have demonstrated excellence in some aspect of the humanities, arts, and social sciences. The Burchard Program format is a series of dinner-seminars held during the academic year to discuss topics of current research introduced by MIT faculty members.

THE BURCHARD SCHOLARS PROGRAM IS SPONSORED BY
THE DEAN'S OFFICE, SCHOOL OF HUMANITIES, ARTS, AND SOCIAL SCIENCES