

Sources of Reporter's Technology Review Articles Investigated

By Beckett W. Sterner
NEWS EDITOR

MIT's *Technology Review* has withdrawn 10 stories from its online publication after an investigation could only verify that three of the stories are wholly accurate. The articles were written by freelance journalist Michelle Delio, who has also written over 700 articles for *Wired*'s online publication. *Wired* has opened an investigation to verify the accuracy of her articles. According to a source familiar with the details of the situation, "a significant portion" of Delio's work for *Wired* contains unverifiable informa-

tion, including sources that couldn't be located by investigators. *Wired* Managing Editor Marty Cortinas said that *Wired* has received the initial report from the investigation, but that more work is needed before the results can be made public. "We care very deeply" that *Wired* set everything right, Cortinas said. Questions initially arose last month over Delio's reporting for two articles about Hewlett-Packard's former CEO Carly Fiorina that quoted an anonymous source with the initials G.S. HP contested the existence of such a per-

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PKS Punished by IFC For Alcohol Violations

By Kelley Rivoire
NEWS EDITOR

The MIT chapter of the Phi Kappa Sigma fraternity, also known as Skullhouse, has been placed on probation for one year and will be required to perform 2,000 hours of community service by the Interfraternity Council. PKS was found responsible for numerous, mostly alcohol-related, violations of IFC policy that occurred at a March 4 fraternity retreat held in New Hampshire, said IFC President Christopher P. Child '06. The International PKS Headquarters has also imposed sanctions on the MIT chapter, including one year of probation and a \$50 fine per member, said PKS International Headquarters Executive Director Hamilton Smith. MIT was notified about the incidents through a complaint that the

fraternity had left the site of the retreat messy, including leaving beer cans, Child said. PKS President Kevin R. Chevalier '06 could not be reached for comment. **PKS on IFC probation for one year** Among the violations that the IFC found PKS responsible for were the use of bulk quantities of alcohol, serving alcohol to minors, and serving alcohol to intoxicated individuals, said IFC Judicial Committee Chair Robert D. Batten '06. The IFC sanctions are "pretty severe," Child said. The one-year period for the probation, during which the fraternity cannot hold events or keep alcohol in the house, is the longest duration of probation that the IFC JudComm

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Mrs. Lane, played by Youngsun Cho '05, runs to scold her daughter Rosemary, played by HuiYing Wen '08, for sneaking out of her room, as their world comes crashing down around them in Dramashop's production of *The Demolition Downtown* by Tennessee Williams. The play opened last Thursday and runs until Saturday, April 30. See review, page 9.

Hockfield Advisory Board Releases Report

By Marissa Vogt
NEWS EDITOR

The Student Advisory Board to President Susan Hockfield is releasing its final report today, as well as an abridged executive summary to be distributed around campus. Among the recommendations of the report are an analysis of core requirements and "balancing quality and quantity of the student workload." The report also mentions the concern of "profitization" of the commons, the pricing of basic services, and the squeezing out of vibrant traditional providers. "We feel that this report is pretty representative of the state of MIT right now on these topics, at least from the student perspective," said Barun Singh G, who co-chaired the

committee. The report is divided into three sections: Academics, Research, and Professional Development; Extracurriculars and Community Life; and Global Connections, the Long Term, and Strategic Planning. For each issue, the report summarizes the general student viewpoint, including minority opinions. **No course of action recommended** While the report addresses current issues such as orientation and the General Institute Requirements, Singh said that the statements in the report are purposefully general. He said that the report does not make suggestions for implementation like the report of the Student Advisory Committee to the Task Force on the Undergraduate

Educational Commons does. "Our job is to say, 'this is the situation, and we need to look at these issues,'" rather than to encourage a certain course of action for the future, said Singh. Instead, the hope is that administrators will read the report and decide to reexamine certain policies, he said. Singh said that 5,000 copies of the executive summary will be distributed on campus today, and bound copies of the final report will be delivered to Hockfield and other administrators. "We figured most students aren't going to read a 40-page document, but a lot of them will read a three-page summary," he said. The final report is available at <http://web.mit.edu/committees/sab/finalReport.shtml>.

Lecturer in Concourse Is Accused of Plagiarizing

By Hanhan Wang
STAFF REPORTER

Christopher Sawyer-Lauçanno, a lecturer in the MIT program in writing and humanistic studies in the Concourse program, has been accused of plagiarism in his book *E.E. Cummings: A Biography*, published in 2004. In a May 2005 *Harper's* magazine book review, Wyatt Mason, a contributing editor of the magazine, points out several similarities to excerpts from *Dreams in the Mirror*, Richard S. Kennedy's 1980 biography of E.E. Cummings. Mason writes, "Sawyer-Lauçanno does not sufficiently acknowledge his indebtedness to Kennedy's biography ... if one examines Sawyer-Lauçanno's book alongside Kennedy's — comparing them line by line, section by section — one

finds that Sawyer-Lauçanno's is largely the result of Kennedy's research, Kennedy's writing, and Kennedy's interpretations." **MIT lecturer denies he plagiarized** Sawyer-Lauçanno defended his book, writing in a statement that his 600-page book contains 1,406 notes, with 28 of them citing Kennedy's book. In the statement, he wrote, "I have not plagiarized Mr. Kennedy's book." "Mr. Mason's selected passages indicate, at most, that I failed to cite properly Kennedy's contributions in a few of my 1,406 notes." He also notes "Mr. Mason's ability to use ellipses creatively to produce the effect he wants to achieve." "I found his article a vile attack

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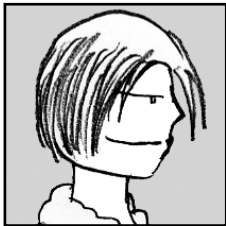


A group installs the interactive "White Noise/White Light" display for the inauguration of President Susan Hockfield, set to take place next Friday, May 6. The display, created by professor J. Meejin Yoon, will open in Kresge Oval this coming Monday, May 2.

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WORLD & NATION

Bank Admits Irregularities In Oil-for-Food Payments

By Eric Lipton
THE NEW YORK TIMES

WASHINGTON

The bank that the United Nations hired to handle finances for the Iraqi oil-for-food program made hundreds of payments to companies in a way that violated the bank’s internal rules, a top executive testified Thursday before the House Committee on International Relations.

“Some mistakes were made,” said the witness, Everett Schenk, chief executive of the North American branch of BNP Paribas, a global-investment bank based in Paris. “They should not have occurred.”

In 403 of the 54,000 payments that BNP Paribas handled during the six-year program, he said, instead of the funds going directly to the companies that had been designated by the United Nations to deliver goods to Iraq, the money was improperly paid to third parties or their banks.

But Schenk said the supplies that these payments financed were in fact delivered as intended, according to documentation the bank has located. And none of these payments, he said, appeared to have been corruptly diverted, such as kickbacks to Saddam Hussein’s government.

Iran Hints Talks on Ending Its Nuclear Program Are Near Collapse

By Nazila Fathi
THE NEW YORK TIMES

TEHRAN, IRAN

A day before major negotiations were to resume in London over Iran’s nuclear program, the foreign minister increased the pressure for a quick deal, warning that his country would resume uranium enrichment if there was no progress Friday in the discussions.

“If talks with European Union are not successful tomorrow, negotiations will collapse and we will have no choice but to restart the uranium enrichment program,” Foreign Minister Kamal Kharrazi said, after a meeting with his Dutch counterpart in The Hague.

He said Iran was not willing to accept what he called “delay tactics” by the Europeans, and he reiterated Iran’s position that his country had a right to nuclear technology.

Iran has signed the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty, which allows nations to produce nuclear fuel for energy production but not for weapons, which require a much higher level of enrichment. Iran has said its nuclear intentions are peaceful, but has admitted it hid major elements of its nuclear program. As a result, the United States and Europe want it to renounce all uranium enrichment, in order to guarantee that it is not secretly preparing to make weapons-grade fuel.

Putin Visits Israel And Tries To Allay Its Security Worries

By Greg Myre
THE NEW YORK TIMES

JERUSALEM

On the first visit by a Kremlin leader to Israel, President Vladimir V. Putin of Russia on Thursday tried to allay fears that Israel’s security was threatened by Russia’s nuclear assistance to Iran and missile sales to Syria.

Israel gave Putin a red-carpet welcome, including separate meetings with President Moshe Katsav and Prime Minister Ariel Sharon and a somber visit to Israel’s Holocaust memorial, Yad Vashem. But Israeli leaders also made it clear that they viewed Russian help for Israel’s enemies as a serious danger.

Putin’s trip is a concrete sign of improved ties between Russia and Israel as they work to overcome a complicated and troubled relationship dating back decades. Yet their differences kept surfacing.

After the meeting with Katsav, Putin was asked about Russia’s plans to sell anti-aircraft missiles to Syria.

“The missiles we are providing to Syria are short-range anti-aircraft missiles that cannot reach Israeli territory,” Putin said.

North Korea Able to Create Nuclear Weapons, U.S. Says

By David S. Cloud and David E. Sanger
THE NEW YORK TIMES

WASHINGTON

The head of the Defense Intelligence Agency said Thursday that American intelligence agencies believed North Korea had mastered the technology for arming its missiles with nuclear warheads, an assessment that, if correct, means the North could build weapons to threaten Japan and perhaps the western United States.

While Vice Adm. Lowell Jacoby, the Defense Intelligence Agency chief, said in Senate testimony that North Korea had been judged to have the “capability” to put a nuclear weapon atop its missiles, he stopped well short of saying it had done so, or even that it had assembled warheads small enough for the purpose. Nor did he give evidence to back up his view during the public session of the Senate Armed Services Committee.

Still, his assessment of North Korea’s progress exceeded what officials have publicly declared before.

When asked by Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton, D-N.Y., during a hearing on Thursday whether “North

Korea has the ability to arm a missile with a nuclear device,” Jacoby responded, “The assessment is that they have the capability to do that, yes ma’am.”

At a White House news conference on Thursday, President Bush said that given the uncertainties, he was worried about the progress North Korea had made on its nuclear program under its leader, Kim Jong Il. “There is concern about his capacity to deliver,” he said. “We don’t know if he can or not, but I think it’s best when dealing with a tyrant like Kim Jong Il to assume that he can.”

In 2003, the United States warned South Korea and Japan that satellite imagery had identified an advanced nuclear testing site in a remote corner of North Korea where equipment had been set up to test conventional explosives that could compress a plutonium core and set off a compact nuclear explosion.

Since then, American investigators have been pressing Pakistan for details about the kind of technology North Korea might have been given, perhaps in conjunction with visits to Pakistani nuclear sites. North Korea supplied Pakistan with many missiles it uses for its own nuclear arsenal.

Building a nuclear warhead that can be delivered by a missile requires the technical sophistication to make it small and light. North Korea has never conducted a test that would prove it could manufacture a warhead, though in recent days anxiety has risen in Washington and among North Korea’s Asian neighbors that the country could conduct a test in an effort to force the world to deal with it as a nuclear state.

To field a working nuclear missile, North Korea would also have to conduct new tests of its missiles themselves and of their payloads, including such complex components as heat shields for re-entry of the warhead. North Korea’s last significant missile test, in 1998, overshot Japan and would not have been able to reach U.S. territory. North Korea is considered one of the most opaque intelligence targets for American analysts, and the absence of reliable human spies had made it more difficult to understand the progress of its program.

Jacoby said that North Korea’s ability to deliver a nuclear warhead to the continental United States remains “a theoretical capability” because its Taepo Dong 2 missile has not been flight tested.

Bush Calls for Cutting Benefits To Save Social Security Future

By Richard W. Stevenson and Elisabeth Bumiller
THE NEW YORK TIMES

WASHINGTON

President Bush called on Thursday night for cutting Social Security benefits for future retirees to put the system on sound financial footing, and he proposed doing so in a way that would demand the most sacrifice from upper-income people while insulating low-income workers.

Saying the retirement program is headed for “bankruptcy,” a term his opponents on the issue say is an exaggeration, Bush edged tentatively — but for the first time explicitly — into the most politically explosive aspect of the debate over how to assure Social Security’s long-

term health: the benefit cuts or tax increases needed to balance the system’s books as the baby boom generation ages and life expectancy increases.

“Social Security’s provided a safety net that has provided dignity and peace of mind for millions of Americans in their retirement,” Bush said in a statement at the beginning of a news conference at the White House. “Yet there’s a hole in the safety net because Congresses have made promises it cannot keep for a younger generation.”

He also forcefully defended his nominee for U.N. ambassador, John R. Bolton, and rejected assertions that Democrats opposed to his judicial nominees are anti-religion. He also pledged to do everything possi-

ble to make gasoline, and again declined to put a timetable on withdrawal of troops from Iraq.

Bush held the news conference on the 99th day of his second term and in the closing days of his 60-day national tour to convince workers and retirees that Social Security has to be addressed now and that investment accounts should be part of the solution.

It represented an effort by Bush to regain control of the national dialogue at a time when the White House is struggling to push his Social Security plan ahead on Capitol Hill, his approval ratings are falling, the economy is showing signs of slowing, and Democrats have become more combative on a number of fronts.

WEATHER

Instant Replay

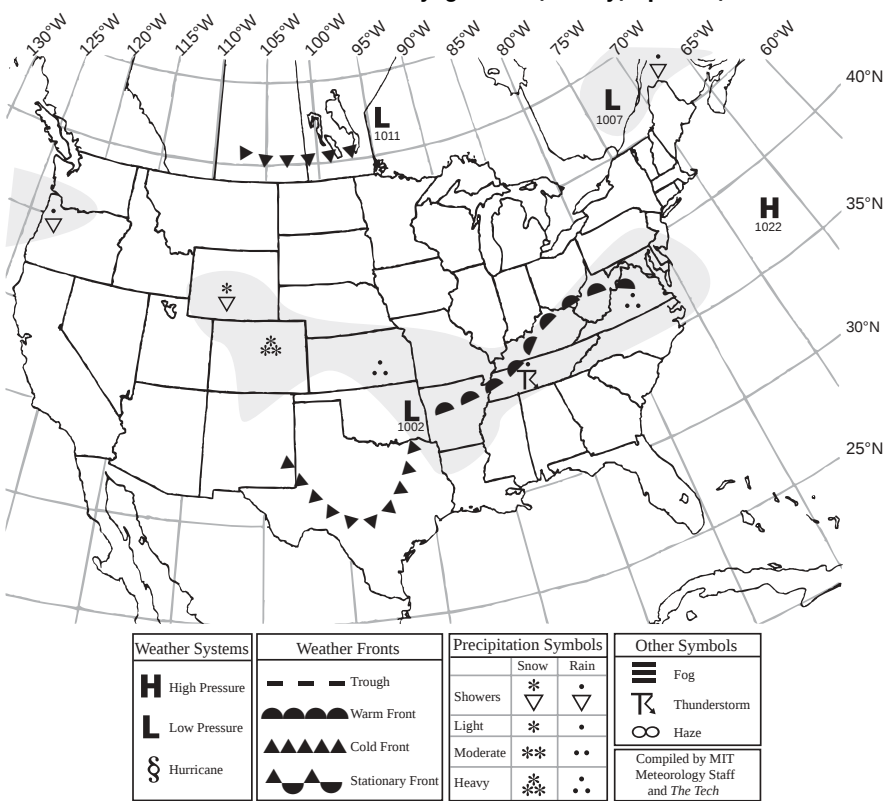
By Jon Moskaitis
STAFF METEOROLOGIST

If you remember the weather from last weekend, you already have a good idea of what is going to occur this weekend. Although the atmospheric flow never exactly repeats itself, the events over the next few days will closely mimic what happened a week beforehand. Fair weather will persist today in advance of a rather strong storm system approaching from the southwest. The warm front associated with this storm will pass through the region tonight, bringing with it a chance of rain. However, the primary batch of rain will not arrive until the afternoon and evening hours of Saturday. Like last Saturday, look out for some heavy downpours, driven sideways by a gusty southerly wind. Passage of the storm’s cold front Saturday night will then make way for the return of pleasant springtime conditions for Sunday and Monday.

Weekend Outlook:

Today: Mostly sunny early, then increasing clouds. High: 64°F (18°C)
Tonight: Light rain likely. Low: 45°F (7°C)
Tomorrow: Rainy and windy, especially in the afternoon. High: 61°F (16°C)
Tomorrow night: Rain early, then clearing. Low: 51°F (11°C)
Sunday: Partly cloudy, breezy. High: 65°F (18°C)
Monday: Mostly sunny. High: 61°F (16°C)

Situation for Noon Eastern Daylight Time, Friday, April 29, 2005



Iraqi Assembly Accepts Shiite Led Cabinet Despite Tensions

By Robert F. Worth
THE NEW YORK TIMES

BAGHDAD, IRAQ

Almost three months after nationwide elections, Iraq’s National Assembly voted overwhelmingly to approve a Shiite-led Cabinet on Thursday, creating the first fully and freely elected government in Iraqi history.

The assembly chamber burst into wild applause after a show of hands revealed that 180 of the 185 legislators in attendance had voted in support of the proposed government. A traditional Islamic chant of praise — “God’s blessings be on Muhammad and on his family” — went up soon afterward.

But the divisions that delayed the government’s formation for so long became apparent almost immediately after the vote, for which almost a third of the National Assembly was absent.

The leader of the Shiite political alliance that dominates the assembly and the cabinet, Abdul Aziz al-Hakim, delivered a fiery speech that

hinted at purges to come in the government’s security forces.

A Sunni assembly member later stood up to accuse the Shiites of dividing the country, and even said one member had threatened to gather evidence that would send him to the gallows. The Sunni Arabs, who dominated Iraq’s government under Saddam Hussein, largely boycotted the January elections.

“This is not a national government, it is a government of the winners,” said the Sunni member, Meshaan al-Juburi. “I am here to say that the Sunni Arab members have been marginalized, and the Sunni Arab political forces should be aware of that.”

Lingering tensions were visible even in the list of Cabinet members, which still remains incomplete. Ahmad Chalabi ’65, one of the country’s most controversial figures, was named a deputy prime minister. Four important ministries — defense, oil, electricity, and human — were given to place holders because the assembly’s political fac-

tions have not yet agreed on candidates.

Under pressure from the White House as well as Iraqis, the Shiite and Kurdish leaders agreed to submit an incomplete list rather than delay the new government any longer. Two deputy prime minister’s posts have also not been filled.

Ibrahim Jaafari, the new prime minister and a Shiite, said he expected to fill those positions in less than a week.

Despite the gaps, the assembly’s vote placed Jaafari at the head of a Cabinet that will include 17 Shiites, eight Kurds, six Sunni Arabs, and one Christian, with at least six women among them. Iraq’s president, Jalal Talabani, a Kurd, and his two deputies approved the Cabinet list late Wednesday night, allowing it to proceed to the assembly vote.

When it assumes power early next week, the new government will face an extraordinary array of challenges, from guiding the effort to write a new constitution to rebuilding Iraq’s shattered cities and fight-

Commerce Department Concludes Economy is Slow in First Quarter

By Eduardo Porter
THE NEW YORK TIMES

The economy braked sharply in the first three months of the year, the government reported Thursday, expanding at its slowest pace in two years as rising energy prices spurred a burst of increased inflation and dragged down spending by businesses and consumers.

The Commerce Department estimated that the nation’s gross domestic product grew at a 3.1 percent annual rate in the first quarter, substantially slower than the 3.8 percent growth of the final three months of 2004 and the slowest pace since the first quarter of 2003.

Investors in financial markets were taken aback by the unexpected sluggishness, sending stocks tumbling and pushing bond yields down as the new data cemented expectations that the Federal Reserve will increase interest rates by another quarter of a percentage point at its meeting on Tuesday even as growth is decelerating.

On Wall Street, the Standard & Poor’s 500 index fell 1.14 percent to close at 1,143.22, while the Dow Jones industrial average dropped more than 128 points to 10,070.37.

“I wouldn’t panic at this point, but I think we do have to get used to the idea that growth is going to remain substantially slower than in the earlier part of the recovery” that has been under way since late in 2001, said Nigel Gault, chief U.S. economist at Global Insight, an economic research firm in Lexington, Mass. “Unfortunately, we will have to get used to seeing softer growth numbers as interest rates go up because of higher inflation.”

Activity slowed across most of the economy from consumer spending to government consumption but the sharpest retreat was in corporate investment, which expanded at barely a third of the pace of its growth in the last three months of 2004.

Final demand — real purchases by companies, governments and individuals — expanded merely 1.9 percent. The rest of the expansion was due to an \$80 billion surge in the accumulation of inventories, from cars parked in dealer lots to clothing piling up on retailer shelves, as businesses were wrong-footed by slower-than-expected demand for their wares.

The new data provided strong evidence that the rise in the cost of oil has begun to feed into prices of

other goods throughout the economy. The price index for personal consumption expenditures minus food and energy, a favorite inflation gauge of the Fed chairman, Alan Greenspan, jumped to an annual pace of 2.2 percent, the steepest climb since the fourth quarter of 2001.

“The inflation risk clearly tilted to the upside now,” said David Greenlaw, chief U.S. fixed income economist at Morgan Stanley. “This report provided ammunition for the camp that says there is a risk of stagflation,” the combination of stagnant growth and high inflation.

A slowing economy is not entirely unexpected. Most economists consider that the United States has the potential to grow at about 3.5 percent, on average, over the long term, substantially less than the 4.4 percent expansion recorded last year.

Consumer spending, the main buttress for economic growth over the last three years, has been expected to slow somewhat as rising interest rates take some steam out of the housing market and consumer lending. Businesses, however, were expected to invest heavily and pick up some of the slack.

International Criminal Court Faces First Test With Sudan Investigation

By Marlise Simons
THE NEW YORK TIMES

THE HAGUE, NETHERLANDS

Almost three years after the International Criminal Court opened over U.S. opposition, the U.N. Security Council asked it to investigate atrocities in Sudan and, in the process, placed the court squarely in the international spotlight. By any measure, the request was an important vote of confidence in the new tribunal.

But at the court’s glass-and-steel headquarters in The Hague, the reaction has been less than euphoric. Still wrestling with the mechanics of how to carry out its mandate to deal with large-scale human rights abuses, the new institution faces high expectations but lacks practical experience. Unlike temporary tribunals, like those dealing with Yugoslavia, Rwanda and Sierra Leone, this is the world’s first permanent and independent criminal court for judging war crimes. So far, the chief prosecutor, Luis

Moreno-Ocampo, has taken up two cases, involving large-scale killings in Uganda and Congo, but neither case is expected to come to court any time soon.

On the conflict in Darfur in Western Sudan, however, where as many as 300,000 people have been killed and more than 2 million others displaced, the court is under pressure to act swiftly, not only in the hope of ending the bloodshed, but also, some diplomats have said, because it will allow the Security Council to postpone direct intervention and nonetheless appear to be taking action.

Darfur will put the court to its first major test, as it carves a legal path from accusation, through investigation and indictment, all the way to trial, verdict and punishment.

Christian Palme, a spokesman for the prosecution, said he did not know when the Darfur investigation would formally begin. “But you can count on the work being expedi-

tious,” he said.

In mid-April, court analysts began poring over nine boxes of material collected by a U.N. commission of inquiry that spent three months scrutinizing Sudan’s ethnic killing campaign and its humanitarian crisis.

Antonio Cassese, an Italian law professor, led that commission, and he knew just what to look for, having served for almost eight years as a judge of the war crimes tribunal for the former Yugoslavia.

He said the boxes contained the type of material used to document past war crimes, including photographs and videos of weapons, ammunition and war damage, as well as hundreds of statements from military officers, rebels, prisoners and witnesses to atrocities.

“The prosecutor will use this as he deems fit, but our material can provide clues, where to investigate, how to identify perpetrators,” Cassese said in an interview.

U.S. Reports on Piracy in China

By Chris Buckley
THE NEW YORK TIMES

BEIJING, CHINA

The U.S. trade representative will not immediately press for World Trade Organization action against China over widespread unlawful copying of patented and copyrighted products when it announces the results of an investigation today, a U.S. executive informed of the decision said Thursday.

The office of the trade representative, which monitors the United States’ trade agreements, will instead place China on a “priority watch” list of countries that it says fail to adequately respect intellectual property rights and may be subject to future action, said the executive, who was involved in the investigation. He spoke on condition of anonymity, citing the sensitive nature of the announcement.

News that the Bush administration will not take its dispute with China to the WTO seems likely to disappoint business organizations and members of Congress who have advocated action to stamp out the counterfeiting of films, music and software.

But the trade representative’s review, which began last year, failed to generate enough evidence demonstrating the specific losses caused to U.S. industry by particular cases of unauthorized copying, the executive said.

Officials at the trade representative’s office in Washington confirmed that they would announce the results of the investigation into China’s piracy of intellectual property on Friday, but they declined to discuss details.

U.S. business groups like the National Association of Manufacturers and the Recording Industry Association of America have called for the Bush administration to complain formally about China’s piracy of intellectual property before the WTO, which adjudicates trade disputes between countries.

Massachusetts Governor Presents New Death Penalty Proposal

By Pam Belluck
THE NEW YORK TIMES

BOSTON

Gov. Mitt Romney introduced a bill Thursday that would bring back capital punishment to Massachusetts, and would do so by creating a death penalty that he said would be virtually “foolproof.”

The bill includes several provisions that have never been tried in any other state. It would require that there be “conclusive scientific evidence,” such as DNA or fingerprints, to link a defendant to a crime. And it would allow a death penalty to be imposed only if a sentencing jury finds there is “no doubt” about a defendant’s guilt, a standard that is stricter than “beyond a reasonable doubt.”

“To the extent that is humanly possible,” Romney said at a news conference, “this would not ever result in a questionable execution.”

The bill, which would reinstate the death penalty in a state that abolished it in 1984, would restrict capital punishment to murders that involve terrorism, prolonged torture, multiple killings, or the killing of police officers, judges, witnesses or others involved in the criminal justice system. Defendants who had previously been convicted of first-degree murder or were serving life sentences without parole would also be eligible.

Another unprecedented provision would give the defendant the option of having two juries — one for the trial and one for the sentencing. That would allow a defendant to plead not guilty before the trial jury, but, once convicted, to admit guilt and show remorse before the sentencing jury in hopes of getting more lenient treatment.

Scientists Call for Expanded Volcano Monitoring

By Les Blumenthal
TACOMA NEWS TRIBUNE

WASHINGTON

Armed with a new report, federal scientists will ask Congress today to expand the mostly inadequate monitoring of the nation’s most dangerous volcanoes, including Mount Rainier, Mount Baker and Glacier Peak in Washington state.

The report, prepared by the U.S. Geological Survey, listed 18 “very high threat” volcanoes in the nation, many of them in the Cascade Mountains stretching from northern California to the Canadian border.

Rainier, Baker, and Glacier Peak were among the nine Cascade volcanoes that were “significantly under monitored,” the report said, warning of the consequences unless improvements were made. “Cascade volcanoes do not erupt frequently, but they threaten major populations and development,” the report concluded.

The only adequately monitored volcano in the Northwest is Mount St. Helens, but there were problems even there when the mountain erupted last fall.

Berlusconi May Demur On Iraq Inquiry

THE NEW YORK TIMES

ROME

Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi said Thursday that he might issue separate “conclusions” about the fatal shooting of an Italian intelligence agent in Iraq by American troops if American and Italian officials could not agree on who was responsible.

“If the conclusions differ, we will go with different conclusions,” he told reporters here, Reuters reported. He said Italy “will not sign anything that does not convince us.”

Tensions between Italy and the United States, close friends and allies in Iraq, have been rising over a joint inquiry into the shooting death in March by American soldiers of the intelligence agent, Nicola Calipari, in Baghdad. There has been a furor among politicians and the news media here over reports that the inquiry would clear the American soldiers, and Berlusconi twice visited the American ambassador here, Mel Sembler, on Tuesday to discuss the report.

The dispute comes at a politically difficult time for Berlusconi, who was forced to resign and to try to form a new government last week after his coalition fell apart.

Some of the immediate pressure lifted Thursday, after a final confidence vote in Parliament approved the new governing coalition that Berlusconi assembled.

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Letters To The Editor

It Has to Be Earned

Nick Baldasaro's opinion ["Privileges, Not Rights," April 26] is self-contradictory. Going back even before America's Great Depression, there was a time in which what he believes to be "rights" were just "privileges."

A hundred years ago, women were not allowed to vote; two hundred years ago, many people were enslaved by others; and a thousand years ago, most people were not allowed to choose their jobs, move to where they wanted to live, or say what they wanted to say. However, in those days, there were "extremely radical" people who "dared to say" that everyone is equal, and everyone has to be free. The reason we can enjoy our "life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness" is that those radicals fought for such privileges.

Now it is the time to answer Mr. Baldasaro's question, "How can a right change in time and place?" Unfortunately, a right

does change in time and place, because it is not just given, but it has been earned and has to be earned.

Joungkeun Lim G

When It's Time To Let Go

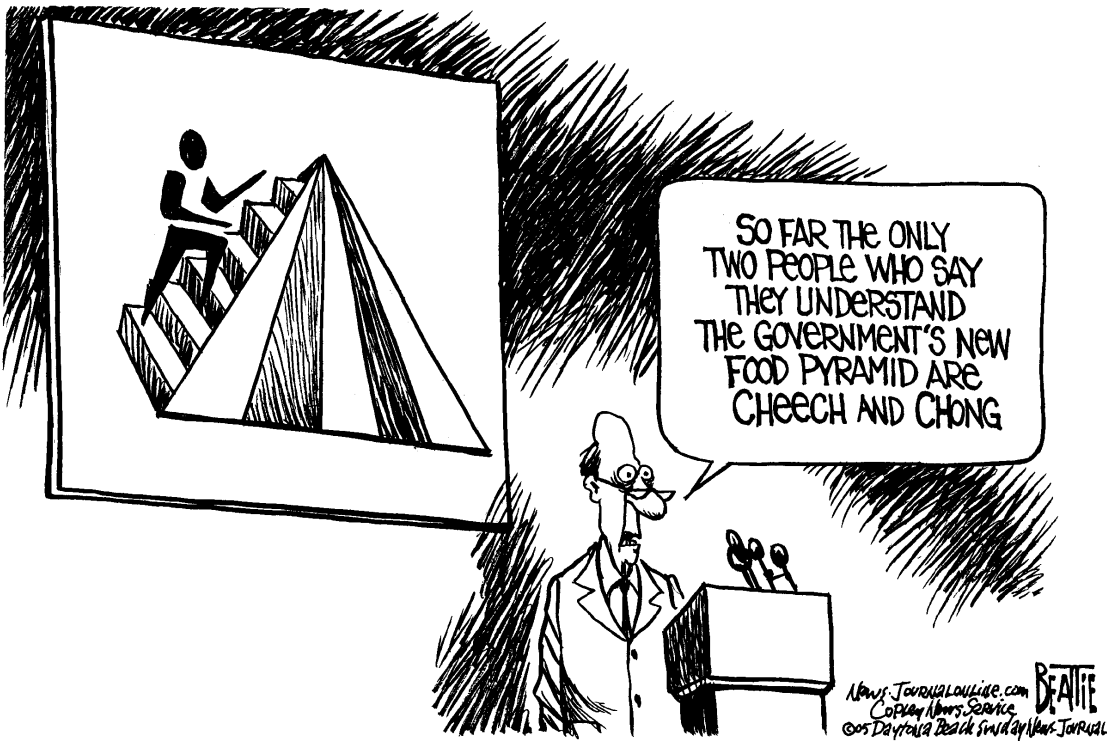
Last week, I passed a poster hanging opposite the Muslim prayer room of W11 advertising "Palestinian Awareness Week," which is being held this week. "The Intifada Goes On" was typed in large block letters right below a dramatic picture of a Palestinian in mid-action as he hurls a rock, presumably at an Israeli soldier, in the classic "David vs. Goliath" pose for which this Intifada is now so famous. The poster, among others with a similar message, was in a locked glass casing that belongs to the Muslim Student Association. The most offensive posters have since been removed, though one still remains.

Following the death of Yasser Arafat, a

new chapter has opened in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, one which may very well be the best chance for relative peace in the Middle East in our lifetimes. Israel is currently in the process of making painful concessions by evicting 8000 of its own citizens from the Gaza Strip and Northern Samaria. At the same time, the Palestinian government is trying to contain the influence of radical Islamic groups such as Hamas and Islamic Jihad in its own territories.

Is this really the time to be declaring that "The Intifada Goes On"? It is both sad and disturbing to think that students on this campus would actively promote war propaganda and that normally peaceful groups like the Muslim Students Association would publicly associate themselves with such vile hatred. I hope that all level-headed individuals will disassociate themselves from this campaign to keep alive a dying conflict, a conflict which will hopefully be buried for the last time in the very near future.

Chaim Kutnicki '07



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

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Psychology and Politics

Juan M. Pedraza

Nick Baldasaro presents an interesting psychological, not political, argument in his opinion piece “If You’re Over 40, and You’re Not Conservative ...,” which ran on April 22. His argument boils down to the following: older people are more knowledgeable, older people tend to vote more conservatively, hence conservative ideas are probably better.

Let us first debunk the political fallacy before going into why it still seems to me to be an interesting argument. I ask the reader for indulgence in my using words like “the young” in place of “the small average preference of people under age 35” in the rest of this text.

In Cuba, older voters tend to favor communism more than younger voters. How does this fit in? I don’t have the numbers, but when women were granted voting rights, it was probably a less favorable position

among older voters than younger ones. Is this just a fluke in an otherwise sound argument? My point is that it is not a particular political system that is endorsed by older voters; it is whatever the current established system is.

There are a few other problems in Nick’s arguments, and again I’ll take a sidestep to point them out before getting to the main point: He asserts that 45–50 is the age at which people are “at the apex of their energy and accomplishments,” whereas research indicates that, for example, “two-thirds [of all scientists] will have made their most significant contributions before their mid-30s.” (See

Journal of Research in Personality 37, (2003), 257 or *Evolution and Human Behavior* 21 (2000) 317). He asserts that the young represent the least well-read portion of the electorate, thus correlating knowledge with conservatism, and supports this by the fact that 52 percent of voters aged thirty to fifty-nine voted for Bush, whereas 45 percent of voters 18–29 voted for him. But from the same poll, we see that 52 percent of people with only a high-school degree voted for Bush, whereas only 44 percent of the people with post-graduate degrees voted for him, so well-read hardly translates into support for Bush.

However, the fact remains that voters preferences do seem to change with age. Is it just due to advancing definitions of “center”? If someone wanted same-sex civil unions ten years ago, she was a liberal; if in ten years someone wants only civil unions, she will probably be deemed a conservative. But still, society doesn’t advance fast enough for it to be the only

explanation. This has probably been studied in detail by psychologists and political scientists, but as a layman it seems an interesting question. Nick’s answer is that the young have “smaller roots in society” and hence can turn to idealism. I think he is on the right track. But the beauty of his line of thought is that the conclusion is not that the old know better what’s best for all, but that the old care more about what’s best for them.

But I’m grossly oversimplifying on two counts. First, perhaps some of the young are not being idealistic at all, but just going for what’s best for them; if you are 25, you are far

more likely to want the option of an abortion than if you are 55, and you are more likely to directly benefit from government scholarships than from corporate tax breaks. Second, many voters probably don’t know in either case the exact cost or benefit to them or society of any given policy. Of course, some benefits are more evident than others; two percent of my income is more visible than a corresponding advance in medical technology.

The reason I called it a psychological problem is that the reason might be something akin to fear of the dark. Think about scientific progress; as Max Plank put it, “An important scientific innovation rarely makes its way rapidly winning over and converting its opponents; it rarely happens that Saul becomes Paul. What does happen is that its opponents gradually die out and that the growing generation is familiarized with the idea from the beginning.”

New scientific theories, like evolution or quantum mechanics, have been supported by the young and rejected by the old, not because of their greater experience, but because they have invested a lot of effort in the previous theories and are emotionally attached to them. Is this effect enough to cloud their judgment? Or are they just knowingly protecting their investment at the cost of progress? These are questions to which I would love to hear some answers.

But let’s go back to the political consequences. Nick mentions existing age requirements for political office to support a point, implicitly assuming that the rules are right because they are there. I have heard people from many different countries say that their system/religion/culture has been there for a while, so that proves that it works. This doesn’t mean they have reason to believe that no other option is better, just that what they know as normal is good enough not to risk upheaval. But the young have less to lose, so

they are less risk-averse.

How much risk is reasonable? Think about the Civil War: equality and freedom were idealistic causes, and the landowners of the South were probably right that for them, it was not beneficial to free their slaves. The members of the Union had less to lose, just like our hypothetical young, and most people probably didn’t realize the full extent of the risk involved in pushing for liberation until the war was upon them.

This is an arbitrary example, loaded with emotional manipulation, but the point is that not only is it too hard to predict the benefit to society of a given policy (for the average voter of whatever age), but even if we knew how to calculate it, the average effect might be negative for an entire generation but beneficial in the long run. I wouldn’t expect age to make people significantly better at estimating the results of long-term policies, but I would agree with Nick that the young would be more willing to go for a policy that would be costly to them but better for future generations.

One last example: we are stuck with our current inefficiently arranged keyboards, because changing them would be too costly. But if they were to be changed to a rational design, I would expect far greater opposition from those that have typed for twenty years than from those who have typed for two.

To summarize, in this simplistic analysis, policies supported by the young are not “probably flawed,” they are probably conducive to benefits for the young or for society at large, whereas policies supported by the old are probably beneficial to the old or designed to prevent change or reduce immediate cost. And Nick should trust me on this, since I’m about fifty percent older, and therefore wiser, than he is.

Juan M. Pedraza is a graduate student in the Department of Physics.

Lack of Transparency Alarming

John-Paul Ferguson

Like many MIT students, I got an e-mail from President Hockfield on April 15 asking me to complete a survey about MIT’s health care and health services. I just finished the survey (<http://web.mit.edu/surveys/medical/>), and I am alarmed.

I suspect, given the types of questions asked in the survey, that the university’s Task Force on Medical Care for the MIT Community has been weighing the costs and benefits of closing down several services now offered on campus and instead referring students to off-campus facilities. For example, many of the questions begin with phrases like, “Many universities do not offer [service] on campus and instead have students use designated off-campus, third-party facilities ...” These particular questions go on to ask how moving these services would affect respondents’ use of them. These questions are bracketed with other questions about how often we use the service and

how we would rate it.

This kind of survey is deeply suspicious. There is a good tradition in social-science surveys of not explaining the uses of a survey to the respondents before they fill the survey in. This, however, may not be a social-science survey. If it is not, then its administrators have an ethical responsibility to explain to the respondents to what use their responses will be put.

If the task force wants to figure out how often a service is used or how it is rated in order to learn more about the structure of campus medical services before thinking up policies, then it should ask such questions. Students can then rest assured that the task force’s stated goal, “to review and articulate appropriate goals in providing health care and health insurance to MIT students, employees, and retirees,” is what they should have in mind when they fill out the survey. If, however, the task force wants to figure out whether there will be strong opposition to closing down some on-campus services, then its survey

should ask whether the respondent supports closing those services. If it instead asks the questions that it does, then it should preface the questions by pointing out that those responses will be used (contrary to appearances) to gauge opposition to closings. To frame the survey as they have smacks of misdirection.

There is a related problem with the design of the survey. It asks about frequency of use and ratings. Yet, frequency of use is a silly statistic to gather for services like infirmaries and triage wards. Most students will never use these things, and those that do will use them infrequently; but they can be extremely important when they are used. Shutting down an emergency room solely on the grounds that it gets few visitors misses the

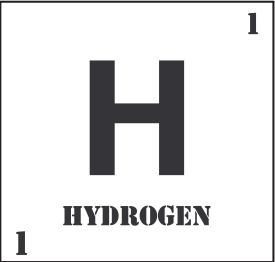
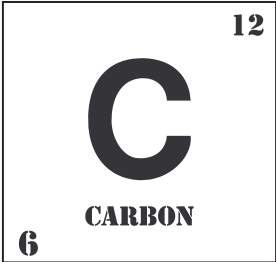
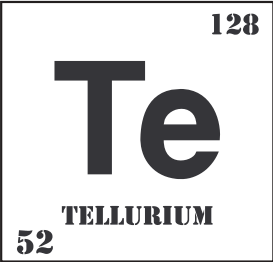
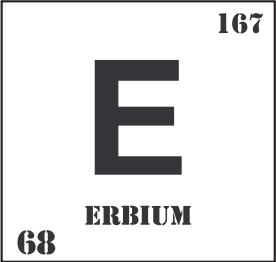
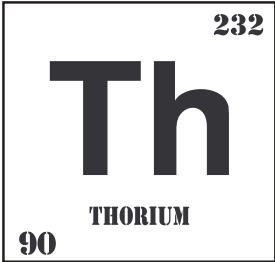
point. I am leery of someone using my response that I have never used, say, the MIT infirmary as evidence that I would not mind the infirmary’s being closed.

Given the contents of the task force’s survey, I think we as students can reasonably be suspicious of its motives. I think we should demand that the task force say a) whether it is considering moving various medical services off campus and b) whether it plans to use responses from this survey to construe support or opposition to that idea. Even if it has no such intentions, the task force should confirm that it is neither trying to mislead respondents nor planning to take their responses out of context.

John-Paul Ferguson is a graduate student in the Department of Management.

I am leery of someone using my response that I have never used, say, the MIT infirmary as evidence that I would not mind the infirmary’s being closed.

The Elements of a Good Newspaper

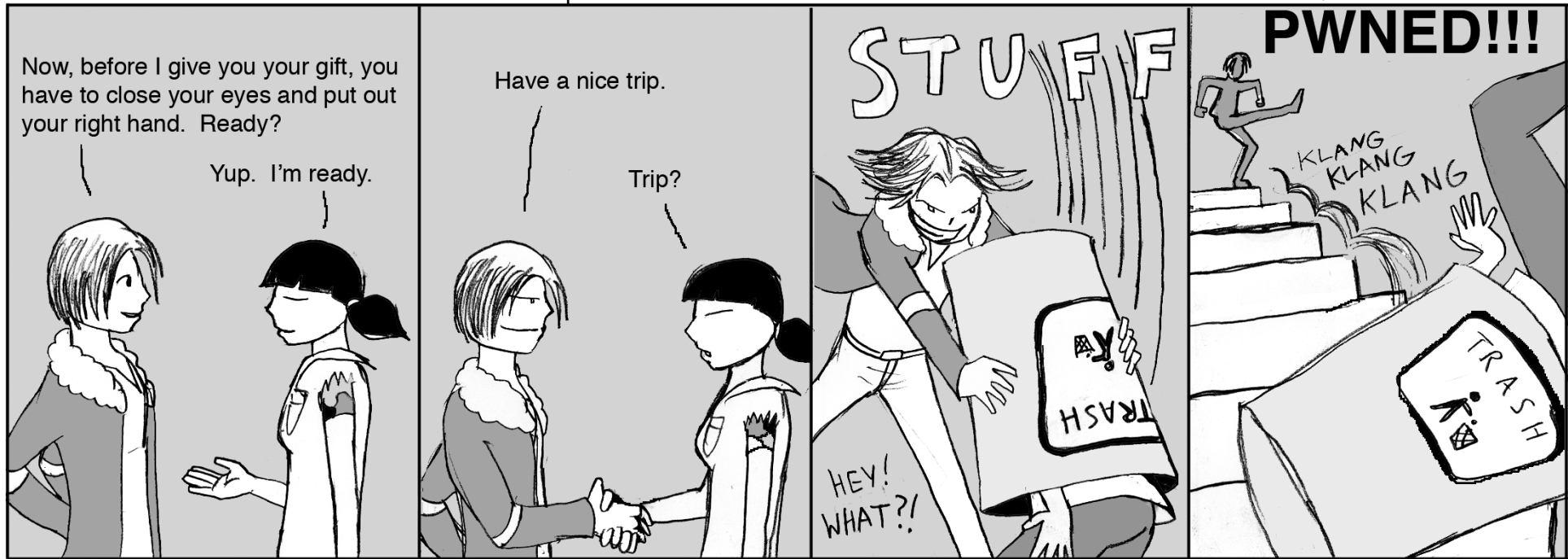


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Trio

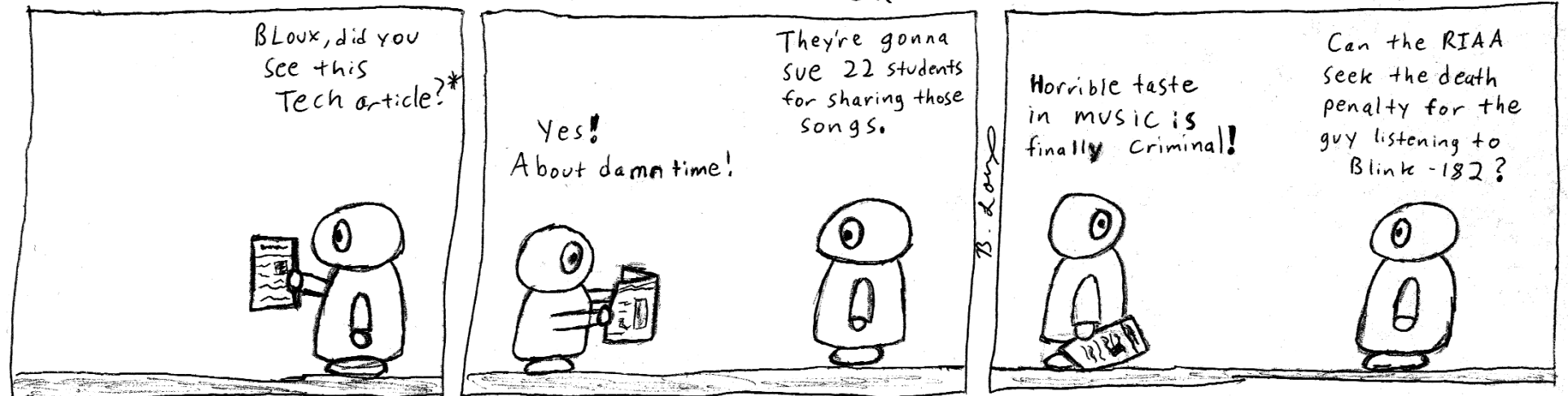
An EXTRA comic posted at ALUM.MIT.EDU/WWW/EMIE

by Emezie Okorafor



The opinions expressed here do not represent those of WMBR

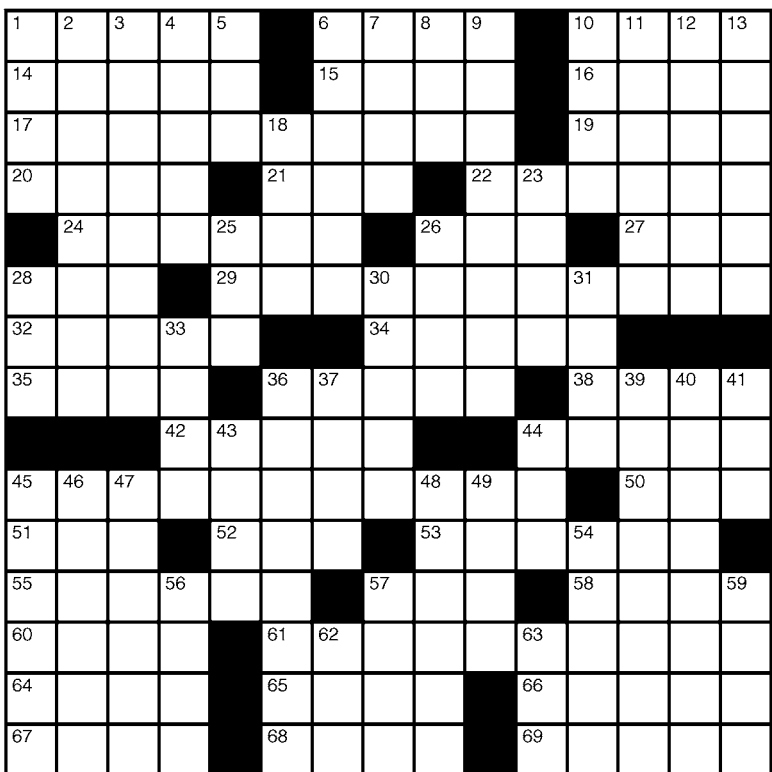
by Brian Loux



* April 22 edition, page 22

KRT Crossword

Solution, page 17



ACROSS

- 1 Touches down
- 6 Small vipers
- 10 Flows back
- 14 Greek market
- 15 Simpson boy
- 16 Sign on for another hitch
- 17 Start of Bill Stern quote
- 20 Strapped footwear
- 21 Mixing utensil
- 22 Letters for ABC's daily program

DOWN

- 23 Castle protector
- 24 Tuesday god
- 25 Part 2 of quote
- 30 Superman foe
- 31 Squiggly swimmer
- 32 Inundated
- 36 Fashionable as pie?
- 39 General pardon
- 41 Rolling Stones bassist Bill
- 42 The Greatest
- 43 With it

ACROSS

- 44 Part 3 of quote
- 49 Indian title
- 52 Stridex target
- 53 Tell it like it isn't
- 54 Flipped out
- 56 Speech impediment?
- 60 End of quote
- 62 Form droplets
- 63 Up a __ (cornered)
- 64 On high
- 65 Band together
- 66 "Auld Lang __"

DOWN

- 1 Thailand neighbor
- 2 Water in
- 3 Norse goddesses of fate
- 4 Deepen, as a channel
- 5 Antipasto staple
- 6 Kindergarten recitation
- 7 Gained a lap

ACROSS

- 8 Big house
- 9 Visit
- 10 Formerly, once
- 11 Humdinger
- 12 Big and strong
- 13 Stalk of asparagus
- 18 Jubilant
- 19 Mr. Detroit
- 23 Acad. type
- 25 Defect

DOWN

- 26 Depend (on)
- 27 Pop quiz
- 28 Told you so
- 29 Ram's lady
- 33 Arthur of tennis
- 34 Begin moving
- 35 Promotional excess
- 37 Damage a bit
- 38 Kind of play
- 39 PC key

ACROSS

- 40 Put in the wrong place
- 42 Tavern brew
- 45 Wagon train employees
- 46 Off guard
- 47 Tepee cousin
- 48 Through this means
- 49 Biblical queendom
- 50 "Bolero"

DOWN

- 51 Perfect
- 55 Williams or Gibb
- 56 Tickled-pink feeling
- 57 Informed about
- 58 Kilauea flow
- 59 Potato features
- 61 Novelist Deighton

Splatform

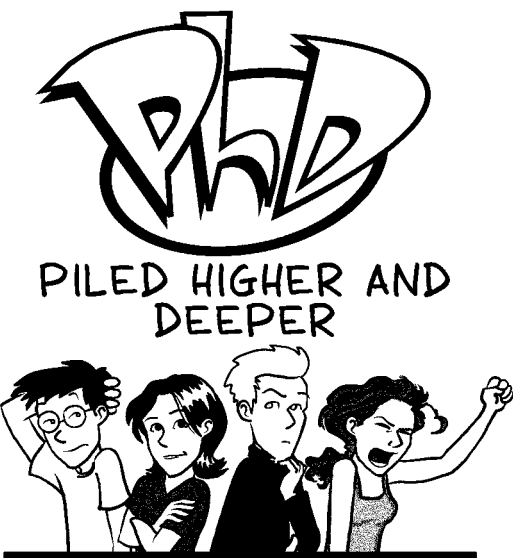
by James Biggs



Ties allow me to express my fun, creative side.

BIGGS 6-04

web.mit.edu/jbiggs/www/



FoxTrot

by Bill Amend

Dilbert®

by Scott Adams

Bonus Crossword

Solution, page 13

- ACROSS
- 1 Entreaty

5 Hindu teacher

10 Crooned

14 Korea/China border river

15 "___ of Athens"

16 Zeno of ___

17 Take a big chance

20 Nice summer?

21 Deputy

22 Countertenors

23 Upper limb

24 Three in Trieste

25 Take a big chance

33 H.S. dances

34 Meara and Bancroft

35 Bagel topper

36 Dumbo's wings

37 Gather gradually

38 Pierre's father

39 Perform

40 Rude ones

41 1st letters

42 Take a big chance

45 Aged

46 Church sister

47 Shorthand, in short

50 Book div.

53 Election winners

56 Take a big chance

59 Part of ABM

60 Wynonna's mom

61 Malayan outrigger

62 Part of a hammerhead

63 Thus far

64 Hiking housing
- DOWN
- 1 Combustible pile

2 Cafe au ___

3 Word in a threat

4 Arctic seabird

5 Mark of infamy

6 Marriage partner

7 Prayer closer

8 Ring around a fortress

9 Travelers' stop

10 Merchant

11 Stepped down

12 "Finding ___" (2003 animated hit)

13 Chatters

18 Capers

19 Pub game

23 Donations for the poor

24 Subsequently

25 Destruction

26 Principal artery

27 Eagle's claw

28 Like some gases

29 Grind, as one's teeth

30 Derived from oil

31 ___-cohere (sheltered entrance)

32 Alimony recipients

33 Little legumes

37 Well-behaved

38 Nabokov novel

40 Under

41 North Slope dweller

43 South China Sea gulf

44 Sense

47 Trade

48 Musical sound

49 Art Deco artist

50 Sch. groups

51 Sailor's call

52 Eternal City

53 About

54 Las Vegas light

55 Color-man's comment

57 Actress Claire

58 To the point

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Pulmatrix, & MEND

*Introduction by Tom Leighton,
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ARTS

THEATER REVIEW

An Action-Packed, But Ultimately Lacking, ‘Demolition’
Is Intelligibility Preferable to Chaos? No, Says This Work

By Ken Nesmith
STAFF WRITER

The Demolition Downtown
MIT Dramashop
By Tennessee Williams
Directed by Jay Scheib
April 21–23 and 28–30

Explaining what I do is actually an insurmountable task, in some ways,” said Jay Scheib, director of the MIT Dramashop play “The Demolition Downtown,” at a recent MIT arts colloquium. After seeing the play performed last weekend, I’m inclined to agree. Though crowded with the shadows of meaning and profundity, there is ultimately little to nothing to this work; it is almost completely unadulterated with any of the coherence or meaning that is a precursor to intelligible discourse.

I’d tell you about the play that Tennessee Williams wrote, but the script was only a small detail in the production, so we can save that for later. On stage, behind a plexiglass screen separating the stage from the audience, actors leapt around, exploring an explosive physical dialogue that usually supplanted, rather than complemented, the content of the play. Often, the physical dialogue seemed arbitrary, as if someone had just thought of these movements and then added the spoken dialogue later. Indeed, if a dominant theme emerged, this was it — the arbitrary collection of percepts, the random arrangement of elements of human physical, emotional, and spoken discourse, thrown together in a collage, leaving the viewer to invent, rather than discover, some meaning behind them, as thinking people are apt to try. Viewers will work so hard, though, at elucidating meaning from randomness that such sheer force of effort, combined with whatever nuggets of signal emerge from the noise, may trick them into thinking they’ve found something — something deep, something artistic and avant-garde. Scheib owns up to the process: often, he says, he’ll think of something to do onstage, some movement or set of actions, and simply add them to the play, letting meaning and relation to the text fall into place after the fact. Richard Feynmann observed, “What I cannot create I do not understand,” to which Scheib might reply that understanding is the only haphazard (and unnecessary?) accessory to random creation.

Sometimes, Scheib’s approach works; the collage of emotional and physical elements coheres into something intelligible and meaningful. Other productions of his, like “The Power of Darkness,” featured compelling, nontraditional means of crafting characters, recreating abstractions and prodding at their

limits in a complex but coherent, even insightful and rewarding, multimedia dialogue. “Downtown” just doesn’t cut it — the process doesn’t work this time. Early in the play, Mr. Lane (Ben Margo, Harvard ’05) stares into one of the several onstage cameras, which provide images for two television screens placed before the audience — a technique meant to blend the worlds of film, reality television, and theater. The camera zooms in on his drooling mouth, watching his collected spit steadily fall to the floor in front of him, in what may be a metaphor for the work we’re about to see. Then, we have an opening scene of a wife returning home, and an interplay of reactions and emotions between husband and wife; this scene is repeated around five times (I stopped counting) for us, with slight differences, each beginning with the dutiful drool.

The repetition of scenes, movements, and emotions occurs frequently as events unfold. What events? Written for a racially torn 1970s America, the script imagines a national coup, with some ensuing chaos. We watch a husband and wife who worry about the complete uncertainty of uncivilized existence, not knowing if stores and businesses will operate again, if basic supplies for living will be available, if the next explosion will destroy the house, if a knock at the door comes from militants or friends. It is a chaos utterly foreign, even unthinkable, in the context of our stable liberal democracy, at least in the good neighborhoods — and now that alien chaos visits itself upon an American ‘good’ neighborhood, where children attend elite schools and bottles of alcohol are of the classy variety. Life, liberty, pursuit of happiness: none of these are guaranteed any longer, not even for white people.

I’d like to tell you about the great, convincing characters the actors built, but there really weren’t any, because the actors weren’t given the chance. Characters were broken not into understandable human beings with emotions, but into programmable automatons possessing arbitrary, dictated (but to the actors’/actresses’ credit, usually convincing)



STEPHANIE LEE—THE TECH

Mr. Lane, played by Ryan Low ’04, holds the hand of Mrs. Lane, played by Youngsun Cho ’05, between explosions after revolutionaries take over the government in The Dramashop’s production of The Demolition Downtown, a play by Tennessee Williams.

emotions, selected and substituted with no cause or continuity. Upon concluding, the play begins again from the beginning, but this time, the characters speak an impressive variety of world languages. If the viewer didn’t know this was coming, it might take him or her a short while to recognize the repetition of events, but if recognized from the outset, it’s a bit less interesting, since there’s less fog of confusion to fight off and keep the mind busy. Some viewers might find this interesting, since this affront to text as a privileged carrier of meaning challenges our assumptions about the nature of communication, the underappreciated importance of nontextual, emotional, and physical means of communication, and so forth. I think it’s a trite point that can be made and set aside in about ten seconds — not an hour. In the end, I simply wasn’t entertained or engaged by the play, but simply bored. Trivialities drew big, undeserved laughs: a soldier shakes his head like those guys on Saturday Night Live when the song “What Is Love” comes on, and the laughs pour out. That just isn’t funny. Ephemeral bits of physicality and emotion, weakly linked to reasons for those emotions, are given voice and expression, but with no

prompting and no follow-through. That just isn’t interesting.

It’s a shame that all of the interesting dilemmas in this text weren’t given room to breathe, except by accident. An apparently talented cast of actors could have given us an absorbing enactment of uncertainty, of the shattering enactment of uncertainty, of the shattering and complication of posh domestic life in the face of resurgent militance and barbarism. Mrs. Kane (Virginia Corless ’05) could have explored the interplay between society’s breakdown and the destruction of the sexual and emotional mores of civil relations. Miss Nebraska (Ashlie Brown ’07) could have more starkly contrasted naïve upper-class beneficence with a global reality of conflict. Instead, lots of things get knocked over, and lots of emotions...happen. How unnerving! I’m barely familiar with Williams’ work, but some critics apparently regard his later plays as a satire of avant-garde theatre’s minimalism and nihilism. This production, an awkward stitching together of half-baked drama ideas and experiments, might be a candidate for just such a critique. I don’t mean to be a Negative Nancy, and maybe I just missed the boat. You might find a way to enjoy this play. I couldn’t.

TV REVIEW

TV Viewing Guy

The Scoop on ‘Eyes,’ ‘Housewives,’ Google

By Akshay Patil
SENIOR EDITOR

“Uncancelled” is the “resurrection” of television

The beloved return of my, your, and seemingly every college student’s favorite television show, “Family Guy,” is happening this Sunday, May 1 at 9 p.m. on FOX. The first episode has already been leaked onto the internet, the other probably being where “Family Guy” episodes feel most at home. It’s going to be good — not amazing, but solid. Certainly better than what we’ve seen of creator Seth McFarlane’s new series “American Dad.” As usual, the small gags are the best part, and there are cameos by the evil monkey, sketchy-old-popsicle guy, and my favorite weather forecaster, Ollie Williams. I’m looking forward to watching it on Sunday, then eventually with Seth McFarlane’s pointless and profane audio commentary on the DVD.

So bad, it’s good

Probably the best and worst television you’ve heard nothing about, ABC’s new show “Eyes” (Wednesdays at 10 p.m.), has got me hooked. Now let me just say that I don’t like “Desperate Housewives” and hate “The OC,” but now I totally understand why people watch those shows. If I were in a different demographic, maybe I’d love those shows, but

I’m a geek who wishes he were sexy and suave, and so I watch “Eyes.” The acting is marginal, the dialogue cliched, and the plots cheesy, but somehow I find guilty pleasure in it — much in the same way “Housewives” and “OC” fans do with their own addictions. The show is about a “risk management” firm that investigates and rectifies for the client (whoever that ends up being by the end of each show) anything — blackmail, extortion, hate crime, government corruption, embezzlement. It’s an hour of fast talk, deal making, power flexing, and unexpected plot twisting that looks way more entertaining than computer programming. As long as you can forgive yourself for watching television that’s so bad, it’s good, I’d give it a watch.

My unasked two cents

Google (and a few other services) will soon be launching an online system that will allow netizens quick and easy access to a database of video programs. Creators maintain copyrights, can limit access, and can charge for viewing. Could this lead to the iTunes of TV? And if so, will we pay for television, or are we willing to put up with enough advertisements if it means television when and where we want it, without the TiVo? I think I could handle a few commercials if it means HDTV when and where I want it.

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THE HUNGRY BEAVER

Petit Robert Bistro

New French Bistro has Great Potential in Kenmore

By Yao-Chung King

The Hungry Beaver examines area restaurants in search of hidden gems to expose to the student community every other week. Among its aims is to uncover obscure restaurants that provide good food and service, appeal to a broad section of students, and are accessible to students both geographically and financially. Look to the Hungry Beaver to expand your repertoire of good, local dining options, and live by the Hungry Beaver Credo: “Eat well with good company. Live well with good company.”

Petit Robert Bistro
468 Commonwealth Avenue
Boston, MA 02215
617-375-0699
Open seven days a week from 11 a.m. to 11 p.m.

Opening just four weeks ago on Commonwealth, Petit Robert Bistro has already begun to attract some attention. I first picked up the story in Stuff@Night, when its Deep Dish column caught my eye. Petit Robert Bistro is located in Kenmore Square and opened its doors on April 1 amid a vitalizing flurry of restaurant openings in Kenmore near the Hotel Commonwealth. Taking the former Il Bico space next to Ankara’s, Petit Robert Bistro adds a dash of class and flavor to Kenmore’s limited selection of possessively-named dining options, which consisted of Uno’s, Bertucci’s, McDonald’s, and Ankara’s just weeks ago.

If it weren’t obvious already, Petit Robert Bistro serves French food. What isn’t so obvious is that, despite the dress of whomever you might see in their front windows, the staff will welcome you inside when you’re wearing decent college attire. (I first visited in jeans and a polo and nearly about-faced after seeing older men in suits at its windows.) Kenmore Square is home to several MIT fraternities and sororities as well as a large part of BU’s student body, a fact that executive chef and co-owner Jacky Robert has acknowledged. He hopes to bring in the younger population by avoiding the prohibitively high prices found at similarly nice restaurants. Though I can’t be a judge of “authentic French cuisine” (I just like to eat good food), both he and co-owner Loic Le Garrec are French, and most of the wait staff at least speak the language. Good enough for

INTERVIEW

In the Absence of Fabolous, an Interview With Nemiss

By Brian Loux
STAFF REPORTER

There I was, no more than five feet away from Fabolous’ dressing room door after his performance, waiting for the go-ahead to conduct my interview with Fabolous. This seemed to be a second shot at life, as there had not been enough time to interview him before the performance as we had originally planned. Now, I finally seemed to be set to interview Brooklyn’s prince of rap.

And then disaster struck. Everyone could see the verbal argument between G-Unit and the event staffers. No more than two minutes later, we were asked to clear the backstage area along with just about everyone else. There was pretty much no choice. My chances were once again slipping through my hands like sand.

But even in despair, there was hope. The backstage wait and subsequent rush to the door had introduced me to a very attractive, talented woman named Nemiss, who put on an outstanding opening act for Fab. As we both commented on the situation at hand, we realized we could help each other out.

Nemiss, a graduate of the University of Chicago, is currently out promoting her first 12-inch, set to hit vinyl stores mid-June. While based in Brooklyn, she’s spent a lot of time in venues up and down the eastern seaboard, including the impressive House of Blues. Currently, she travels between her home in Chicago, her base out in New York, and our home of Boston for her performances. While her entire crew was quickly preparing for their trip back to New York, she was gracious enough to talk about her start, her hopes for success, and the perception of

me (for now.) I first visited during lunch hours and have since visited several more times for their lunch and dinner menus.

Their upper level is their main dining area, with red brick and a mellow yellow to their walls. Towards the back is an open serving area, with a large space in the wall that gives patrons a peek into the goings-on of the kitchen. (You should be able to spot the eponymous Jacky Robert, in dark thick-rimmed glasses, preparing and arranging your meal before passing it to a server to be brought to your table.) French music is played audibly in the background, and a candle lights each of the tables, covered in white table cloth and white paper. The space is small and room is used liberally, seating about fifty without the danger of rubbing elbows with your neighbor. The staff are warm and welcoming, and the servers work at a leisurely pace when bringing water, bread, and butter to the tables.

The bread and butter are an excellent combination. The bread has an exceptional flavor, and the butter has a richness I haven’t tasted before. Each visit has warranted a remark about one or the other from my companions, and their baguettes are sold off the menu.

Start off your meal with an appetizer. I recommend the Tuna Tartar (7.50), with five small mounds of raw, shredded tuna, capers, and spices, each atop its own waffle potato crisp, neatly arranged around greens, halved grape tomatoes, and dots of balsamic vinegar. Each bite of tuna is salted enough to give flavor and hints of additions of wasabi.

If you like p  te, try their Assiette Charcutiere (8.50). (I just pointed at the menu listing instead of trying to pronounce it.) You’ll be served slices of sausage and a salty prosciutto-like smoked ham, next to a boat of mustard and three slices of p  te: chicken liver, pork, and country (duck, chicken, pork, and herbs.) Having never consumed such a dish, I asked our server Michelle for her help. You split a baguette piece down the middle, spread on a little mustard (their mustard is spicier than what I’m used to), and add some p  te or sausage, like our hoagie of lunchtime tradition. The star of this plate is the chicken liver p  te (I’ve never been a fan of liver, but try this.) It’s pink in color and easily spreadable. You’ll know it by its richness when you taste it.

As for entrees, I recommend the Duck Confit (15.25). Crisped in fat, the meat inside

was moist, tender, and full of flavor. The dish is served with a soft, juicy sausage (meat-like and not over-salted like its American counterpart), cabbage, and green beans. For the meat lovers, I’d recommend the Saddle of Lamb (19.50), the Beef Bourguignon (14.95), or the Skirt Steak (19.75). All provide great flavor at a moderate price.

Depending on your mood, you can try the New England Bouillabaisse with Lobster (19.75), basically a bowl of oysters, scallops, lobster, and other bits of seafood. There was little flavor added to this, which can be either a good or bad thing depending on your stance on proper seafood seasoning. The Asparagus (4.75) also suffered from the same purity. The Hollandaise added only creaminess, but little flavor, to the asparagus. Normally a big seafood and asparagus fan, I prefer more flavor than I had been given here, and for those similarly disposed, look to the meat dishes instead.

The Rabbit Moutarde with Julienned Leeks (18.75) sits at the opposite end of the spectrum. The rabbit is encrusted with the bistro’s spicy mustard, which was a little much for both me and my companion that day. Mustard lovers revel, but all others stand clear.

After the entr  e, don’t settle for ordering your dessert from your table. Ask instead to go downstairs to visit Kristen. Kristen Lawson, formerly of Sandrine’s in Harvard Square, mans the pastry bar, a unique twist to the dessert scene. Like at a sushi bar, patrons can sit at the pastry bar and watch Kristen create and arrange their order on the spot.

The most expensive dessert item is the Gateau Petit Robert Chocolate Eiffel Tower (7), but it is well deserving of the top spot. Place an order, and Ms. Lawson will place before you a rich chocolate cake topped with white chocolate shavings, sitting next to a small four-inch chocolate Eiffel Tower.

Just as good is their Trio of Sorbet (4.50). Kristen carefully stacks three scoops of sorbet (rhubarb, apricot, and mixed berry) alternating with four pieces of meringue, slowly tips the tower over, and adds a signature chocolate butterfly on top. Give everything on the dessert menu a try, though take note that the Silken Tofu (4.50) is a vegan option. I prefer my desserts a little fuller and sweeter, however, and everything else has fit the bill.

Looking for a nice lunch place in Boston as well? Try Annie’s Gruy  re Croque-Mon-



sieur (4.50). Named after the chef’s mother, the Gruy  re Croque-Monsieur is a tasty ham and cheese on buttered and toasted bread, served with waffle chips and bitter salad. Their Sardines a l’Huile Tartines (6.25) spread on a grilled baguette is also worth a try.

Don’t expect to fill up on their entrees, since their portions responsibly leave room for their dessert. Do, however, expect to wait some time for your food. Their kitchen takes a while to prepare your meal for you, so you’ll spend an hour and a half to two hours over good food.

Over these first weeks of its opening, I’ve seen Petit Robert Bistro adding to and changing its menu, and they’ll continue to do so in the coming weeks to make the menu better (though hopefully not bigger.) You’ll often find co-owner Loic Le Garrec wandering from table to table, answering questions and receiving feedback, so tell him what you think. And if it’s a slow day, you may have the privilege of a visit to your table by executive chef Jacky Robert himself.

Final Word: Petit Robert Bistro serves great food at more than reasonable prices. With dinner entrees priced between 14–20 and lunch options from 5–10, Petit Robert is the kind of place you’d go to treat yourself, guilt-free, while still leaving enough in your wallet to come back again and again. A great option for the students based in the Kenmore area, and a short walk from 77, Petit Robert has the potential to blossom into a consistent hit-up for prospective college duos. If you’re looking for a sweet, late snack or your restaurant’s dessert menu wasn’t attractive, just drop by for the dessert. It’s closer than Finale’s and a bit cheaper as well.

There’s a lot of potential for this restaurant for students because of its prices, quality, accessibility, and versatility. Over the past week, you could have found me there sharing an intimate candlelit dinner or casual week-end lunch, talking to Kristen at the pastry bar about her sweets, or just dropping by to pick up a baguette. Hit it up to give it a try. Petit Robert has the makings of a success.

Directions: For those who know where Ankara’s is, it’s right next door. For others, walk from 77 down Mass Ave. across the Harvard Bridge. Turn right onto Commonwealth and walk under the overpass. Continue a little farther, and Petit Robert Bistro will be on your left.

hip-hop in America.

TT: The Tech: So, how did you actually get started?

Nemiss: Well, I’m Chicago-born and Brooklyn-based, and I’ve been rockin’ for quite a while now. I’ve been working at House of Blues in Chicago, and Metro. I started working for this producer Dero, pretty much he was hosting shows at the Metro, House of Blues, the Double Doors, all of the main venues in Chicago. So ... he was really feelin’ me, and he started putting me on, and I started performing for people and that’s how it kicked off.

My brother was also a hip-hop fanatic. He had to be at all the fresh-fests. He was a Run DMC, LL [Cool J] fan, so I was introduced to some of the early rap, like MC Lyte and Run DMC. I used to do raps then, and he used to call ‘em bubble gum raps. Now he’s holdin’ me up, saying “Nobody can mess wit you!”

TT: Are you part of the House of Blues tour that Fabolous is doing?

Nemiss: No, I’ve just performed at the House of Blues venues, which are in Chicago and Boston, and a lot of other major areas. I’ve opened for Black Sheep there. I’ve also opened for Common and the Roots at the Metro.

TT: What’s your favorite venue to work at, or which city has the best feel to it?

Nemiss: I really loved Miami when I went there. But really, I love home. I love Chicago. That’s probably where I perform the most, and the kind of energy that you get in Chicago, especially when I was rockin’ there a couple years ago, they are just hungry for some real talent. Brooklyn, you got so many talents in New York it’s really hard

to [get in].

But you get in where you fit in, and it’s a cool place because it’s competitive so it makes you more competitive, but in terms of just representin’ it for the ladies and performing in Chicago, people are definitely feelin’ that. Seems like people up here in Boston.

TT: Yeah, we try. When you’re producing much of your stuff, do you freestyle most of it in the studio or not?

Nemiss: Some of it is freestyle, but a lot of it is just 16 bars and hooks, like you really gotta know how to make a song when you’re an artist. Like a lot of rappers and freestylers only get for so far. Actually, my guy Rhinefest — he co-wrote Jesus Walks [by Kanye West] — he’s from Chicago and a really good friend of mine, he is like a battle rapper and a freestyler. But it’s like a curse of the freestyler; a lot of those guys who win freestyle battles don’t end up being a professional artist. So you gotta learn how to really write songs.

TT: So the two rap stories to receive wide coverage this year have been the 50’s beef with The Game and the fight at the VIBE Music Awards. Usually, I see those same entertainment segments make note of rock stars or Pop 40 icons getting married or dating somebody. Do you feel that rap gets portrayed in a racist manner by most media sources?

Nemiss: I totally agree with you. There is a ton of racism in the press, and in one of my songs, I call out the New York Post. A lot of times, they portray things in a lopsided way — that’s the best way to put it. Things get skewed. For example, when Ol’ Dirty Bastard

died. OK, we know his name is Ol’ Dirty Bastard, but the caption for him was like, “Dead Dirty Bastard.” I mean, have some respect. That’s just a small example, but there’s a lot of sensationalism in the way rap music is covered, and if there’s like a little bit of beef, it’s going to be exploited simply because that’s what some people do want to read. But it’s a two way street, you can also put some positive energy into hip-hop out there. There are a lot of positive things happening in hip-hop, so let’s focus on that, too. Let’s give it a nice balance.

TT: So who should be the most responsible for changing the image? Is it the artists themselves? Is it the labels marketing and choosing their talent differently? Is it the news coverage shifting its focus?

Nemiss: Well, the labels don’t want to do it. The labels feel like the controversy is working. I’m talking about the major labels now. Some of the smaller independent labels, those are the labels that really care about the integrity of the artist. That’s where I’m trying to go with it. I don’t necessarily have to be on a huge major label, because so many people are doing it independent and it’s really about self-sufficiency, especially being a female rapper. I mean, these major labels, honestly, they’re not really checking for female rappers. They want a certain kind of rapper that they can put in a box. So, I’m kinda working my up to being an independent artist. I’m definitely down to be on a label, but I don’t have to be on a major label. I mean, some of the great independent labels like EB records — like different record labels — where you know, it doesn’t have to be all about the mainstream.



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Wired Finds Articles' Penalties Considered for Strikers

Sources Unverifiable

Delio, from Page 1

son, and when *Technology Review* discovered it could not locate G.S., it opened a broader investigation.

Infoworld, a computer news publication, has removed quotes, which could not be confirmed as accurate, from four stories written by Delio.

Delio did not reply to multiple requests for comment. Previously, Delio has told the *Associated Press* that “I certainly didn’t make up sources.”

“Leaving aside the huge issues of ethics,” she told the *AP*, “you’re always going to get caught. Possibly I was lax in record keeping, but it doesn’t mean people don’t exist.”

News publications, both online and print, have faced a number of high-profile cases of falsified stories in the past few years, including Jayson Blair at *The New York Times* and Stephen Glass at the *New Republic*.

“In general, I think there are some problems at the moment” with online news publications, said Jason Pontin, Editor in Chief of *Technology Review*. “Editors and publishers need to devote more resources to online journalism.”

“All online and print publications have different standards,” he said. “Online publications are checked to news services standards, which means that we trust to the accuracy and honesty of our reporters.”

“An excessive reliance on freelancers in online journalism is problematical,” he said.

Tech Review stories retracted

Once questions had been raised by Hewlett-Packard about the anonymous source cited in Delio’s articles about the company’s former CEO, *Technology Review* hired Susan Rasky to fact-check Delio’s other stories. Rasky is a professor of journalism at the University of California Berkeley.

In her report, published on *Technology Review*’s Web site, Rasky, working with five of her graduate students, was able to verify three stories entirely, but found problems with the other seven Delio had written.

“Two of the stories had fabricated, but named, quotations,” Pontin said. In another five stories, two of which used anonymous sources, “we could not find the sources Michelle Delio said she spoke to. In the case of the two anonymous quotations, I am quite confident that the source never existed.”

According to the report, a source quoted in Delio’s article “The Future Shock,” published March 7, 2005, said that Delio had never contacted him for the article.

“The Future Shock” and three other stories also use sources whose identities and quotes were verified, according to the report.

Online and print standards differ

All of Delio’s stories were published only in the online version of *Technology Review*, which is subject to different editing standards from the print version.

The printed *Technology Review* follows magazine standards, which require a fact-checker to phone back

every source, including anonymous sources, and check quotes and information to ensure accuracy. This checking process has the secondary benefit of making it very difficult for sources to be faked.

Due to time constraints, news service standards for checking online articles do not typically undergo such rigorous checking and rely primarily upon reporters to ensure accuracy. Fact checking an article for a magazine can take two weeks, Pontin said.

The major obstacle to applying stricter fact-checking for online publications is not just the number of articles published but also the “operational tempo” of how fast the articles must make it online, he said.

We “try to have stories that are responsive to the day’s events,” he said. However, he said “the need to respond to every media event, to scoop everyone, I think is not entirely conducive” to high fact-checking standards.

The online *Technology Review* “cannot move the site over entirely to magazine fact checking,” Pontin said, but has banned the use of anonymous sources. In extreme circumstances, “when we do do it, we will additionally commit” to confirming information with the anonymous source.

Technology Review changes focus

The Review expanded its publication schedule last winter from 10 to 12 issues a year and 56 pages per issue to 72. The publication also re-gearred to cover science news with a more serious tone.

“The magazine and the site are both more interesting and analytical, more spirited and comprehensive,” Pontin said.

He said the retractions of Delio’s articles were unfortunate in light of the recent redesign.

“However, what I am proud of is that while this could have happened to any publication,” he said, “we moved fairly aggressively to identify the problem and to openly explain to the readers how it happened.”

“The message I would like to leave the MIT community is that we took this very seriously,” he said. “In the future, all I can additionally do is ban the use of anonymous sources” without verification, “but that would not have caught the five other stories written by Delio.”

By Karen W. Arenson
THE NEW YORK TIMES

Columbia University officials considered imposing stiff penalties against any graduate teaching assistants who skipped their teaching assignments during a strike.

The penalties, outlined in an internal memo that recently became public, included requiring the assistants to teach an extra semester or year or making them ineligible for summer stipends or for special awards.

Columbia officials yesterday confirmed the authenticity of the memo, which was reported in *The Nation* this week and posted on its Web site. But they said they had ultimately decided not to impose any penalties on graduate students who staged a five-day strike last week.

“This was a list of proposals to be considered if we were going to take action,” said Alan Brinkley, Columbia’s provost. “Obviously, doing nothing was always an option, too.”

Some graduate students, faculty members, and union organizers said they were outraged that Columbia was willing to consider penalties like those outlined in the memo, which was signed by the provost and sent to 17 officials, including several deans, in February.

Timothy Patrick McCarthy, a graduate student in history, said that both the tone and the content of the memo had surprised him.

“Any time workers go on strike, they understand that there will be consequences, like their pay being docked,” he said. “But to say that access to summer funding or money for thesis writing will be threatened is totally beyond the pale. That’s hardball.”

Other students said the memo had intensified their feelings of vulnerability when they were already con-

cerned that Columbia administrators had not defended academic freedom forcefully enough.

“It is a very, very striking thing for Columbia students to realize that they could be treated in this manner — that we have no protection from retribution,” said Dehlia Hannah, a third-year graduate student in philosophy, who was on strike last week. “I think people are very sensitive to this, especially when academic freedom has been such a contentious issue recently.”

That debate over academic freedom has grown after charges by pro-Israeli students that some pro-Palestinian professors had intimidated them in discussions in and out of class. A Columbia committee found that at least one of the complaints was credible, and the university has created new procedures for students to register grievances against professors.

Maida Rosenstein, president of Local 2110 of the United Auto Workers, which represents the support staff at Columbia and has been working to organize graduate student assistants, said a National Labor Relations Board decision last summer that graduate assistants at private universities were not eligible for unionization left them unprotected from the kinds of actions suggested in the memo.

“It is really upsetting that the university even contemplated such actions,” Ms. Rosenstein said.

She said that students and professors were very angry and were “still determining what our response will be.”

The provost and others said the memo had grown out of meetings by a working group that Dr. Brinkley headed last winter to consider how Columbia might respond if there

were a strike. At the time, they said, Columbia officials thought that a strike might be imminent and last all semester. The question on the table, they said, was whether there might be ways to soften its impact.

“We didn’t know what would happen, and we were trying to figure out how make sure we could deliver an education to the undergraduates,” said Henry C. Pinkham, a member of the Brinkley committee and dean of the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, where interest in unionization is greatest.

“That was the key issue,” he added. “What eventually developed was very different, a one-week walk-out, and we decided to do nothing as soon as we found out what nature of strike it was.”

Other sections of the three-page memo addressed how Columbia might cover its courses if its graduate assistants walked out, how to tell the assistants of the consequences they faced if they struck and how to tell parents “about the steps being taken to avoid the disruption of their children’s education.”

Eric Foner, a history professor who is a friend of the provost, said he considered the proposals in the memo outrageous but did not believe they represented Dr. Brinkley’s personal views.

Professor Foner said that when Dr. Brinkley was chairman of the history department, before becoming provost, he strongly opposed any kind of punishment for striking students.

Dr. Brinkley said that the ideas he had put into the memo had grown out of conversations among members of his working group and others and that they had been assembled in a memo he sent out to make further conversation easier.

Lecturer Denies Plagiarism Charges

Plagiarism, from Page 1

on me personally, and on my scholarship,” Sawyer-Lauçanno wrote in his statement. “Any comparison of my book to that of Kennedy would show that I supply a great deal more detail on a number of important events in Cummings’ life and present substantive and substantially new information. Part of the reason for that (as well as the excitement about my book) is that I had access to sources that were largely unavailable to Kennedy.”

Program Administrator for Concourse Cheryl A. Butters and Concourse Director Robert Michael Rose, as well as other members of the Concourse program, declined to discuss the accusation.

Committee will review charges

According to a statement from Denise Brehm of the MIT News Office, MIT’s policy for academic misconduct is to appoint a committee to review the factual basis of the accusations. Actions are taken only at the conclusion of the investiga-

tion. Since this case was brought to light from published articles, extra care will be taken to maintain confidentiality for those involved, she said.

Sawyer-Lauçanno’s book has been lauded in literary reviews by *Publisher’s Weekly* and *The Christian Science Monitor*, according to the *Harper’s* magazine article.

Sawyer-Lauçanno currently teaches Memory and Literature (SP.317) and has taught Writing and Experience (21W.731). He has taught at MIT since 1982.

Solution to
KRT Crossword

from page 6

L	A	N	D	S		A	S	P	S		E	B	B	S
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<http://tmrc.mit.edu> - tmrc-officers@mit.edu

Science Group Offers Stem Cell Guidelines

By Alex Barnum
SAN FRANCISCO CHRONICLE

The nation's most respected scientific organization proposed ethical guidelines for human embryonic stem cell research Tuesday, offering a system of institutional self-policing as a way to move the politically contentious research forward.

The guidelines — developed over the last nine months by a 10-member panel assembled by the National Academies — would be voluntary but would apply to all stem cell research, both privately and publicly funded, and are aimed, in part, at filling a void in federal and state law.

Stem cell research has shown great medical promise but has stirred intense controversy because it requires the destruction of embryos. Currently, scientists operate under a patchwork of regulations, none of which was designed specifically for the field.

Central to the National Academies plan would be new oversight committees at every research organization, whether a medical school or a biotech company, that would review stem cell research proposals. The panel also recommended creating a national committee to address new ethical issues as they come up.

The guidelines also call for a ban on introducing human stem cells into the embryos of animals.

Attempts to pass federal legislation governing stem cell research have stalled for several years. Even the rules the Bush administration imposed in 2001, which restrict the cell lines available for research, said nothing about what can and cannot be done with stem cells.

In its 131-page report, released Tuesday, the National Academies panel said uniform national guidelines are needed to reassure the public that the research is being conducted ethically, whatever the funding source, and to assure scientists of reliable standards for conducting and sharing their work.

"A standard set of requirements for deriving, storing, distributing and using embryonic stem cell lines — one to which the entire U.S. scientific community adheres — is the best way for this research to move forward," said Richard Hynes, a cancer researcher at MIT and a co-chair of the panel. The panel included scientists, doctors, bioethicists, patient advocates and lawyers.

The National Academies is an independent organization chartered by Congress to advise the government on scientific matters. The group took on development of the guidelines at the request of the scientific community, without government involvement.

The guidelines are critical to the progress of California's stem cell research enterprise, the California Institute for Regenerative Medicine, which must adopt ethical rules before it can disburse any of the \$3 billion in grants authorized last year by Proposition 71 to fund stem cell research.

Robert Klein, institute board chairman, said the National Academies panel had accelerated its work to meet the institute's deadlines for making grants. He said he expects the institute board to vote on adopting the guidelines at a coming meeting.

"This effort is a tremendous step forward for California in advancing stem cell research," Klein said. "Some of the best and brightest scientists in the country have put forward a new benchmark for medical and ethical standards."

The guidelines also drew praise from the scientific and medical community, and from political leaders who have been pushing for similar standards.

Sen. Dianne Feinstein, D-Calif., welcomed the report, saying she hoped it would lend support to a bill she and others reintroduced in the Senate last week that contains many of the same provisions.

But political opponents of stem cell research slammed it.

"These so-called guidelines for destructive human embryonic stem cell research try to put a good face on an unethical line of research," said Sen. Sam Brownback, R-Kan. "We should not be destroying young human lives for the benefit of others."

Stem cells, which form in the first few days of a developing embryo, are capable of becoming any type of cell in the body. Researchers hope that one day the cells can be used to regenerate many types of cells and tissues damaged by disease and injury.

Typically, the embryos used in the research are left over from fertility treatments and donated by couples who no longer need them. The cells are cultured in the lab after they've been removed from the embryo.

The new guidelines deal largely with ensuring ethical creation of new stem cell lines, and they establish standards for obtaining donor consent, ban payment for donated embryos and standardize methods for handling and sharing stem cell lines between research labs.

In all cases, the guidelines recommend, donors should give their consent before any material — eggs or sperm — can be used to create an embryo that would generate stem cells. The effect of that rule would be to eliminate some stem cell lines already in use because they were obtained from embryos created with sperm from anonymous donors who were not informed about their use.

The National Academies panel did not deal with the issue of cloning, except to reiterate the conclusion of a 2002 report that cloning for reproductive purposes is unethical and should not be done.

The panel's guidelines would, however, cover a cloning technique used to create embryos for therapeutic purposes. Researchers say that ultimately the technique, called nuclear transfer, may be needed to cultivate a patient's own stem cells so as to avoid rejection by the body's immune system.

The guidelines also deal with how far scientists can go in using stem cells in animals, which may be needed to test the potential of stem cells for treating disease.

The panel recommended that while it may be permissible to use human embryonic stem cells in mice, researchers would be prohibited from introducing human stem cells in the brains of monkeys and other primates because of concerns about how it might affect their mental function or brain structure.

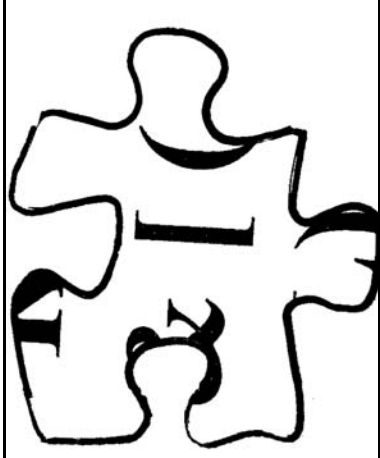
Implants of human cells into animals should be viewed cautiously, and no animal receiving human stem cells should be allowed to breed, the panel said.

At Stanford, stem cell researcher Dr. Irving Weissman recently asked an ethics panel to review a proposal to create mice with brains containing human neural stem cells. The panel recommended moving forward carefully and ensuring that the mice don't take on an altered brain structure.

Although Weissman says he isn't planning to pursue the research, he noted that both Stanford and the National Academies came to the same conclusion.

"I welcome both recommendations as they are thoughtful and well considered. I would fully comply with them," he said in a statement.

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PKS Under One-Year Probation for Alcohol Violations

PKS, from Page 1

can impose, Child said. Members of the chapter must perform 1,000 hours of community service before the fraternity can hold a rush, as well as an additional 1,000 hours, he said. Fraternity members must also make a presentation to the IFC Presidents' Council about how to hold a

safe retreat.

At an initial April 15 hearing, JudComm had set the number of community service hours to 4,000; an appeal by PKS on Monday, formalized on Wednesday, cut that amount by half.

PKS appealed the initial decision with respect to facts, procedure, and severity of punishment, Batten said.

Only the appeal of the third was successful, with the original punishment being found "particularly severe with regard to number of community service hours required," Batten said. The current punishment is final, he said.

Headquarters imposes sanctions
PKS International Headquarters

has also placed the MIT chapter on probation for one year, which became effective the week of March 21. The fraternity must show satisfactory progress toward meeting the stipulations of the probation and at the end of the year must petition for the probation to end, Smith said.

Headquarters is fining the fraternity \$50 per member of the organization, Smith said. In addition, the fraternity will be required to provide alcohol training for all members, send four members to a leadership conference in January, supply two members to coordinate a regional retreat, and co-sponsor an alcohol awareness program on campus, he said.

The "allegations relative to the retreat were of grave concern to the board," particularly with regard to "upholding the law relative to alcohol consumption," Smith said. Headquarters' "primary concern was for the safety and well-being of the members."

Headquarters was notified about the incident on March 14 by the Fraternities, Sororities, and Independent Living Groups Office, Smith said. David N. Rogers, assistant director and dean of FSILGs, said that informing the national office and alumni board of a fraternity about violations is standard procedure "in cases where the violation is serious or egregious," though the office waits several days to

allow all the fraternities to come forward on their own.

PKS alumni disappointed
William Denhard '42, president of the PKS board of alumni, which owns the PKS house and serves as landlord, said he learned about the incident from MIT.

Bruce D. Wedlock '56, house manager of the alumni board and an MIT lecturer, said that news of the incident "came down as a total shock and disappointment" and that the alumni had been at the house shortly after the retreat, and "nobody said one word to us about this."

Denhard said that since learning about the incident, the alumni have met with members of the house, warning them that such behavior "could lead to extinction" of the fraternity. The alumni have reinforced the national policy of not having alcohol in the house, which is stricter than MIT's rules for fraternities, he said.

The alumni have placed "emphasis on the amount of trouble that could have occurred," reminding members about the alcohol-related death of MIT Phi Gamma Delta freshman pledge Scott S. Krueger in 1997.

"We're going to follow up and keep pressure on the house," and the alumni expect the house to "straighten up and fly right," Denhard said.

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OPENS IN THEATRES APRIL 29

POLICE LOG

The Tech will be printing a weekly summary of incidents reported to the MIT Campus Police every Friday.

4/22: Lot 2, 20 Albany Street, car keyed while parked; Bldg N52, laptop stolen; Bldg 10, electrical equipment stolen; Bldg 3, projector stolen.

4/24: Bldg W33, wallet stolen.

4/25: Bldg W20 (Student Center), cell phone stolen; Bldg 66, damage to tapestries in lobby; Bldg 26, bicycle stolen from rack.

4/26: Bldg 35, trespass notice issued.

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Red Sox Lose to the Orioles 11-8



The Boston Red Sox played the Baltimore Orioles on Tuesday night in Fenway Park. The Sox lost 11-8. (top) Sox pitcher Matt Clement pitches against the Orioles on Tuesday. Clement, 2-1, gave up twelve hits and seven earned runs over 4 2/3 innings. (bottom) Luis Matos of the Orioles makes it to home plate on a dive, moments ahead of the Sox throw to home plate. Photography by Liang Hong

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Ask a MedLink

My birth control pills got trashed!

Dear MedLink: The cleaning lady threw out my birth control pills when I was halfway through taking them. I heard it's okay just to start another pack and skip my period. Is that true? —**Cleaned Out**

Dear Cleaned: That is a great question! Everyone knows you are supposed to take the pill every day, at the same time, without missing pills. But pill packs can be thrown out accidentally or left behind when traveling. And what about those times when your period is going to coincide with a vacation or sports competition? Is it okay to use another pill pack back to back?

I took these questions to MIT Medical OB/Gyn physician Dawn Anderson, M.D, and MIT Medical health educator Laura Stuart. Both emphasized the importance of talking with your clinician about the instructions for your specific prescription, but they were able to provide some general answers to these questions.

First, they told me, if you lose your pack of pills, it is always okay to start another pack—either in the same place, or, if you don't remember where you left off, from the beginning of the pack. As long as you haven't missed any days of taking pills, your risk of pregnancy is not increased by continuing on from the same spot in a new pack.

In addition, Anderson said, it's often safe to skip placebo week and just go on to the next pack of pills. "With most types of birth control pills," she noted, "you can actually take active pills daily for up to 12 weeks and schedule a withdrawal bleed at your convenience." (After 12 weeks, she cautioned, one would risk the overgrowth of uterine lining cells—a condition known as endometrial hyperplasia—which can cause unusually heavy menstrual flow and bleeding between normal menstrual periods.)

Many physicians have begun advocating modified pill regimens of this sort, Anderson noted, because recent research indicates that experiencing fewer periods a year can actually cut your risk of ovarian and endometrial cancer. Why? Because fewer ovulations mean fewer cell divisions, and that means fewer opportunities for cancerous cells to be activated. "In fact," Stuart added, "the new brand of birth control pills, Seasonale, is not a new hormonal formulation at all, but a simple repackaging of a commonly used pill that covers three months' time, instead of one."

Remember, it's never safe to make changes in your oral contraceptive routine without first talking with your physician, but I hope this answer gives you some idea about your options and a few potential topics for discussion with your clinician. And on your next visit home, I'd also recommend tucking away your current pack of pills in a spot the cleaning woman is unlikely to stumble upon! —**Ingrid '06**



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JINA KIM—THE TECH

Stephanie J. Wu '07 (left), co-founder of the new Network of Sloan Undergraduate Women (NSUW), talks to Susie Lee '05 (right) about taking Course 15 classes and working in finance. NSUW hosted its first major event as a student organization, "Inside Sloan: A Woman's Perspective," on Tuesday, April 26.



OMARI STEPHENS—THE TECH

Jessica A. Flores '08 discusses her final project for Experimental Study Group seminar SP.240, Composing a Life. The opening reception for the Weisner Gallery SP.240 exhibit will be held from 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. this afternoon on the second floor of the Student Center.

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Solution to Bonus Crossword

from page 7

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MIT Celebrates Earth Day With Festival in Kresge Oval



The Earth Day Festival was held yesterday in Kresge Oval. (above right) Jose H. Soltren '07 trues a bicycle wheel. Soltren and other bike mechanics helped fix bikes that owners brought to Kresge Oval during the Festival. (above left) Steven M. Lanou, from the Environmental Programs Office, reads excerpts from the results of the 2005 RecycleMania competition. MIT placed 10th out of 34 with 40.29 pounds per student in the traditional competition. The Institute did not compete in the recycling rate competition, which compared recycling weight to trash weight. (below left) Professor J. Meejin Yoon oversees Eric Howeler (left) and Lisa Smith (center) as they help install the "White Noise/White Light" interactive display that she created for the 2004 Olympics. The display will operate from the evening of Monday, May 2, to Friday, May 6. (below right) Ross Donald explains the practical uses of solar heaters to a passersby. *Photography by Omari Stephens*



Alan R. Millner '69 shows a small transformer to (left to right) Jeremy S. Hurwitz '08, Yue Yang '08, Yingdan Gu '08, and other students of 8.022 in the Experimental Study Group on Wednesday, April 27. Millner explained the transformer design process during a supplementary design seminar for the class.

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LETTERS to THE TECH

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SPORTS



YUN WU—THE TECH
Jaclyn E. Cichon '05 fires a ball at a Skidmore opponent in a match held last Saturday. Cichon won both her doubles and singles matches, helping MIT to secure a 9-0 victory over Skidmore.

UPCOMING HOME EVENTS

Saturday, April 30

Men's Lightweight Crew vs. Rutgers University
Varsity Sailing Geiger Trophy
Women's Openweight Crew vs. Boston University and Radcliffe
NEWMAC Men's Tennis Championship Tournament
Varsity Men's Lacrosse vs. Western New England College

Charles River, 8 a.m.
Charles River, 9 a.m.
Charles River, 9 a.m.
du Pont Tennis Courts, 11 a.m.
Steinbrenner Stadium, 1 p.m.

TKD League Champs Again, for Third Year

By Alicia Zhou
TEAM MEMBER

Every Patriots fan knows that after winning for the third time, it's a dynasty. This past Saturday, April 23, marked the beginning of a new MIT dynasty in the Ivy Northeast Collegiate Taekwondo League (INCTL). MIT Sport Taekwondo sent a group of almost 40 competitors to the final tournament of the season, hosted by Columbia University. Nine months of intense training, four previous nail-bitingly close INCTL tournaments, and a half-decade rivalry against Cornell University all came down to twelve hours of fierce competition to determine the best. At the end of the day, the MIT athletes emerged victorious, clinching a first place win at the tournament and securing the title of INCTL League Champions for the third year in a row.

The day took off right away with forms competition in the morning, in which MIT traditionally does very well; this tournament was no exception. MIT took home a total of nine medals. In the black belt division, Richard Sinn '06 won a gold medal on the men's side, while Erica Y. Chan '07 used her side kicks to clinch a bronze on the women's side. In the women's white/yellow belt division, Sara P. Kama '08 took third place, while in the women's green belt division, JoHanna N. Przybylowski '05 worked her way to a silver. Rene R. Chen '07 and Ziyan Chu '07 eliminated all hopes of Cornell medaling in the women's blue belt division; they placed first and third respectively.

Feeding off the momentum of the team, the MIT red belts finished up the forms competition with a bang. Sandra M. Yu '06 and Jerry W. Chao '05 each secured a bronze, while John C. Ho G captured the men's red belt gold. "I felt confident that we would win. Everyone was pumped from the start, and we were more than ready to compete," said Chao.

Even with these strong performances, Cornell was still in a close second as the sparring competition began. The MIT competitors knew that between Cornell, who brought twice as many competitors, and the other strong schools, such as Harvard and West Point, it was going to be tough. However, MIT remained undaunted. "We've got more spirit," said Ryan B. Huang '06. "Cornell is a formidable team, but numbers can't even begin to compete with our team

spirit." C-team sparring started strong, with women's C1 (Laura A. Daher '07, Przybylowski, Kama) and men's C1 (Darren M. Chun '07, Tri M. Ngo '06, Vladimir V. Barzov G) and C3 advancing easily past the first round. Przybylowski used her nationals-level sparring experience to dominate in both her matches. The two-man C3 team of Iliya T. Tsekov '08 and Javier F. Burgos '08 defeated the John Jay College team with a combined score of 16-1. Despite these strong efforts, MIT was unable to capture a medal in the C division.

In the black belt sparring division, the women's A2 (Radhika Jagannathan '05, Grace Y. Kim G, Rosemary E. Pike '07) lost a tough match against the eventual champions from West Point, while the A1 team (Chan, Yu, Wendy M.G. Pierce '05) captured a fourth place finish after defeating Cornell A2 and losing to Cornell A1. The men's A1 team (Bobby B. Ren '05, Conor F. Madigan G, Andrew D. Selbst G) also captured a fourth place finish after losing their heavyweight to injury in the first round.

The rest of the tournament was up to the B division teams, who proved they could pull through in a pinch. Men's B1 (Huang, Ho, Barzov) and B3 (Chao, Stephen J. Kao '05, Jordan B. Brayanov G) fought through the largest bracket of the tournament to win gold and bronze, respectively. MIT B1's run ended in the finals over their rival, Cornell B1. Huang shut out the lightweight 8-1, while Ho clinched a 1-0 overtime nailbiter to give MIT the lead in the tournament standings.

At the end of the day, MIT had not only won enough points to earn gold at the tournament but also enough to pull ahead into first place in the season team totals, thereby securing them the title of League Champions for the third year in a row. In addition, MIT team member Ren was awarded the league male MVP for his outstanding season as one of the leading lightweights in the league.

Reflecting back on the season and thinking about next year, team co-captain Sinn commented, "We're definitely going to lose a lot of key players this year, but that happens every year. What is important is that the younger players will get the chance to step it up and fill in the voids. That's what makes our club so resilient."

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