

Guy Family and MIT Settle Lawsuit, Plan New Memorial Fund

By Kelley Rivoire
EDITOR IN CHIEF

The family of Richard A. Guy Jr. '99 has settled its wrongful death lawsuit against MIT outside of court, establishing the Rick Guy Fund to sponsor students in pre-orientation programs.

Guy died in 1999 of asphyxiation by nitrous oxide inhalation in the East Campus dormitory. His parents, Richard A. Guy Sr. and Janet V. Guy claimed in their lawsuit, filed in 2002, that MIT should have known about drug use at the dormitory, in particular on the fifth floor of the east parallel; MIT denied the allegations in a response filed in 2003.

MIT plans to hold a dedication ceremony, which is still being scheduled, for the Fund, said Denise Brehm, senior communications officer of the MIT News Office.

The settlement will establish the Rick Guy Fund to provide a minimum of 10 years of funding for at least five incoming freshmen to attend pre-orientation programs, Brehm said. Establishing the fund will make "something good come out of [the family's] experience," she said. Brehm did not know if the

program would start this fall because the "pre-orientation programs are already getting their enrollments going" for this year.

Richard D. Glovsky, a lawyer for the Guy family, declined to comment, but released a statement from the family that the settlement has "resolved our concerns" and "we are pleased that the memory of our son, Rick Guy, will be memorialized."

Senior Legal Counsel Jamie Lewis Keith and Daryl Lapp, MIT's attorney in the lawsuit, did not return multiple requests for comment. MIT News Office spokesperson Patti Richards said MIT has no official comment at this time, beyond a statement that appears on page 13. Julie B. Norman, associate dean of academic resources and programming, whose office administers the pre-orientation programs, and Robert M. Randolph, senior associate dean for students, were not aware of the settlement as of last week.

The Guys' 2002 complaint stated that "although Richard was not blameless in this tragedy," MIT's lack of dormitory supervision and

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Undergrads Criticize New MIT ID, Lack of Voice in Decision Process

By Kelley Rivoire
EDITOR IN CHIEF

Some students have vocally criticized the new designs for MIT's personal ID cards, saying the cards inadequately represent MIT and are too cartoon-like. However, others have praised the design's colorful style, which allows for easy identification among types of card users.

The designs were posted on the MIT Card Office Web site and were approved by the Card Council, a committee comprised of MIT community members; nonetheless, the changes came as a surprise to many students.

"I wish that students had known what was going on before now," said Jessica H. Lowell '07, Undergraduate Association vice president and East Campus senator. She said there had been "at least a few dozen" complaints on East Campus and Senior House e-mail lists. An e-mail regarding the card designs was also sent to a Next House discussion e-mail list.

Members of the Card Council generally approved of the new designs, and said they were surprised at the negative reaction from some students.

Prior to recent weeks, John M. McDonald, associate director of Enterprise Services and member of the Council, said he had heard only favorable comments about the new designs.

Joseph F. Gifun, a member of the



BRIAN HEMOND—THE TECH

Incoming freshmen will receive the newly-designed MIT ID card this fall.

Council and assistant director of facilities for infrastructure and special projects, said in an e-mail that he was "more concerned about the function of the card as opposed to its aesthetics," and had asked questions about easy identification and cost effectiveness.

Undergraduate representative for the Card Council Manisha Manmohan '08, who has compiled police logs for *The Tech*, said "I do take responsibility for not getting enough input ... It was my job. There's definitely a failure on my part." However, she said, "I definitely feel that there are other issues that came up that have more substance."

The Card Office sought a new set

of designs to reduce printing costs by switching to a different printing process. The change will reduce the cost of printing a card from \$7 to between \$3.50 and \$4.00, McDonald said.

Representatives appointed by the UA to committees such as the Card Council have had little oversight and few opportunities for formal feedback, something the UA plans to change in the upcoming semester. The Nominations Committee "really want[s] to have a web-based forum" for student advocates to committees, said Mitra Lohrasbpour '07, the 2004-2005 NomComm chair. Committee representatives will also be

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MIT Admissions Cancels Waitlist For Third Year, Yield Reaches New High

By Jenny Zhang
NEWS EDITOR

The incoming freshmen class filled quickly this year, as MIT achieved a recent high of 67 percent yield on admissions.

As of last Friday, the Class of 2009 had 1,003 students, 96 of whom are international. For the third consecutive year, no applicants were admitted off the waitlist, said Matthew L. McGann '00, assistant director of admissions.

Last year's class had an unexpectedly high yield of 65 percent, which led to one of the largest classes in recent history, 1,081 students. The larger class size created trouble for MIT's pledge to eliminate crowded rooms in undergraduate dormitories. Some increase because of a change in other schools' admissions policies had been expected, but the magnitude of the increase led to an overenrollment of 50 students.

To compensate, the Admissions Office admitted only 1,495 of 10,439, or 14 percent, of the applicants this year. This was two percent lower than the admission rate for the Class of 2008.

The yield, however, increased enough to take up any slack, leading MIT to cancel its waitlist yet again.

McGann said between 400 and 600 students were put on the waitlist, and that although the high yield is "pleasantly surprising ... we think it's unfair to have a waitlist" and not take students from it.

The yield of international students was 86 percent, a rebound from the dip in 2004 to 67 percent. McGann said he believes the increase was the result of special recruitment efforts from the International Students Association.

For the first time, MIT undergraduates from the student group made an organized effort to contact admitted international students by e-mail and phone. McGann said he hopes to better coordinate with the ISA and other groups in the future.

The size of the Class of 2009 may dwindle slightly before September as a result of the "summer melt" if some students change their minds about attending MIT.

McGann said he does not yet know the target size for the Class of 2010.

The male to female ratio has slowly been approaching even, from 55 percent to 45 percent for the Class of 2007, to 46 and 54 percent last year, to 47 and 53 percent this year.

Pipe Bursts In Stratton, Water Pours Into Student Club Offices

By Kelley Rivoire
EDITOR IN CHIEF

Water poured into parts of the fourth and fifth floors of the Student Center last Monday when the cap on a chilled water pipe ruptured, said Bernard Richard, manager of mechanical, electrical, and plumbing operations.

The leak caused water to gush into the Student Information Processing Board's office on the fifth floor, he said, from which it then drained down to the fourth floor, damaging the content of several student groups' offices in the northeast corner.

The Insurance Office is currently assessing damages, said Michael W. Foley, associate director of the Campus Activities Complex in an e-mail.

Water "poured down for a good 15 to 20 minutes," said Matthew S. DeBergalis '00, an associate SIPB member, who arrived at the SIPB office during the leak. About two inches of water collected on the floor of the entire room, he said, damaging books and computers. The carpet

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ASHLEY FINAN

A spectacular fireworks display over the Charles River capped a day of Fourth of July festivities in Boston.

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WORLD & NATION

Prosecutor in Leak Case Calls For Reporters' Jailing

By Adam Liptak
THE NEW YORK TIMES

Matthew Cooper of Time magazine and Judith Miller of *The New York Times* should be jailed for refusing to cooperate with a grand jury investigating the disclosure of the identity of a covert CIA operative, the special prosecutor in the case said in court papers filed Tuesday.

Last week, Time magazine provided Cooper's notes and other documents to the special prosecutor, Patrick J. Fitzgerald, after the U.S. Supreme Court refused to hear appeals filed by the magazine and the two reporters. In Tuesday's filing, Fitzgerald said he had reviewed the documents and determined that Cooper's testimony "remains necessary."

The reporters filed papers on Friday asking that they be sentenced to home confinement if incarceration is required. In case the presiding judge denied that request, Miller asked to be sent to a federal prison camp in Danbury, Conn., and Cooper to one in Cumberland, Md.

Senators Question Johnson & Johnson About Grant Use

By Stephanie Saul
THE NEW YORK TIMES

The Senate Finance Committee on Tuesday began an inquiry into whether Johnson & Johnson used educational grants to promote the pediatric use of its former heartburn medication, Propulsid, even as internal company concerns mounted during the 1990s about the drug's safety in some children.

The inquiry follows a June 10 article in *The New York Times* describing how, despite growing evidence linking the drug to heart problems and deaths, the company helped pay for a physician's book recommending Propulsid's use in children and gave grants to pediatric gastroenterology organizations that favored such use. Johnson & Johnson withdrew Propulsid in 2000 after reports of 80 heart-related deaths and 341 injuries among patients taking the medication.

In a letter on Tuesday to the company's chief executive, William C. Weldon, Sens. Charles E. Grassley and Max Baucus cited the June 10 article and requested information and documents disclosing who received the grants, the amount of those grants and their purpose.

Levitt Named a Consultant to AIG

By Jenny Anderson
THE NEW YORK TIMES

The American International Group has hired Arthur Levitt, a former Securities and Exchange Commission chairman, as a consultant to the board in an effort to quell dissent from institutional investors.

He will help evaluate potential nominees to the board and advise on corporate governance issues.

The appointment of Levitt is the latest step taken by the board to repair AIG's reputation in the face of state and federal investigations. The New York attorney general and the New York insurance department have sued the company, a giant in commercial and life insurance, and its former top two executives, accusing them of manipulating financial statements and misleading regulators. At the same time, a New York grand jury has been convened to weigh criminal charges against individuals in the AIG case. The Justice Department and the Securities and Exchange Commission are also investigating.

While the board has been praised by regulators for moving quickly to force out its chairman and chief executive, Maurice R. Greenberg, it has also been criticized for not being vigilant and independent enough for years under Greenberg.

Republicans Tell Right-Wing Allies to Tone Down Rhetoric

By David D. Kirkpatrick
and Carl Hulse
THE NEW YORK TIMES

WASHINGTON

The White House and Senate Republican leadership pushed back Tuesday against pressure from some of their conservative allies about the coming Supreme Court nomination, urging them to stop attacking Attorney General Alberto R. Gonzales as a potential nominee and to tone down their talk of a culture war.

In a series of conference calls on Tuesday and over the last several days, Republican Senate aides encouraged outside conservative groups to avoid emphasizing the searing cultural issues that social conservatives see at the heart of the court fight, subjects like abortion, public support for religion and same-sex marriage, participants said.

Instead, the aides, including Barbara Ledeen of the Senate Republican Conference and Eric Ueland, chief of staff to Sen. Bill Frist, the majority leader, stressed themes that had been tested in polls, including a need for a fair and dignified confirmation process, these participants said, insisting on anonymity to avoid exclusion from future calls.

Ueland acknowledged that

he and others had been working almost since the vacancy occurred last Friday with Justice Sandra Day O'Connor's resignation to persuade conservative activists to steer clear of divisive rhetoric.

"Every contact we have with these folks is 'stay on message, stay on purpose,'" Ueland said. "The extremism of language, if there is to be any, should be demonstrably on the other side. The hysteria and the foaming at the mouth ought to come from the left."

In other calls, emissaries from the office of Harriet Miers, the White House counsel, are urging conservatives to stop discussing individual nominees, especially Gonzales, whose views on abortion and affirmative action are viewed with wariness by some conservatives. Steve Schmidt, a White House spokesman working on the confirmation battle, joined some calls, participants said.

In an interview Tuesday in *USA Today*, President Bush said, "Al Gonzales is a great friend of mine. I'm the kind of person, when a friend gets attacked, I don't like it."

The disagreement underscored the delicate balancing act confronting Republican leaders seeking to

rally passionate social conservatives behind a nominee while casting the candidate as moderate and middle of the road.

"The only ones who could make somebody sound extreme," said Grover Norquist, president of Americans for Tax Reform, a conservative group, "are some of the president's allies talking in an inappropriate way and themselves sounding extreme, which then gets tagged to the nominees."

Scott McClellan, the White House spokesman, said on Tuesday that Bush had begun reviewing files of biographical information and legal background about potential candidates — more than a dozen. McClellan said that Bush read them during his flight from Washington to Copenhagen, and discussed the possibilities with his chief of staff, Andrew H. Card Jr. His top political adviser, Karl Rove, remained in Washington.

More strongly than ever, the White House suggested that the timing of an announcement would play out over several weeks, with a nominee probably named at the start of August, in time for four weeks of background checks ahead of confirmation hearings that would begin after Labor Day.

Diplomats Attacked in Ambush As Iraqis Work on Constitution

By Edward Wong
THE NEW YORK TIMES

BAGHDAD, IRAQ

Gunmen ambushed the senior Bahraini and Pakistani diplomats in separate attacks as they drove through the capital on Tuesday, spurring Pakistan to announce the withdrawal of its ambassador from Iraq.

Even as insurgents tried to undermine the new government by striking at Muslim envoys, Iraqi politicians made some progress on writing a new constitution, in an attempt to give Iraq political legitimacy. In a meeting, Shiite and Kurdish politicians accepted 15 Sunni Arabs who had been named to increase Sunni representation on a constitutional committee.

In Tuesday's attacks, the Bahraini diplomat, Hassan Malallah al-Ansa-

ri, was struck in the right hand by a bullet and taken to a hospital, while the Pakistani ambassador, Muhammad Yunis Khan, escaped unharmed, though a car in his convoy was raked by bullets. The ambushes came three days after the top Egyptian diplomat here was kidnapped as he drove alone through western Baghdad. Insurgents appear to have begun an organized campaign to drive Muslim diplomats out of Iraq as the American and Iraqi governments are pressing Arab countries to send ambassadors here and upgrade their diplomatic ties.

The militant group led by Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, the Jordanian terrorist, said in an Internet posting late on Tuesday that it had kidnapped the Egyptian diplomat, Ihab al-Sharif. The message said

Sharif was abducted "by the hands of our mujahedeen, and he is under the control of the mujahedeen." The group made no immediate demands.

At least 10 Iraqis and one American soldier died in other guerrilla attacks on Tuesday.

The meeting of the constitutional committee ended a brief impasse that had developed because a few committee members had tried to disqualify some of the Sunnis because the Sunnis might have been senior Baath Party officials. In theory, Sunni Arabs will now have more say in the writing of the constitution, though it is unclear how representative these politicians are of other Sunnis and whether they will be able to work smoothly with the rest of the committee.

WEATHER

STICKINESS TO STAY

By Cegeon J. Chan
STAFF METEOROLOGIST

After a dry and pleasant stretch coinciding perfectly with the 4th of July weekend, the humidity has increased. The dew point, a measure of the comfort-level, has increased from the 50s this past weekend to the mid 60s today. (The dew point is the temperature at which air in the atmosphere becomes saturated. Thus, a low dew point corresponds to less moisture than a high dew point, and an increase in moisture will cause the air to feel more 'sticky.') The humidity level will decrease on Thursday but will increase back up by the weekend.

FORECAST:

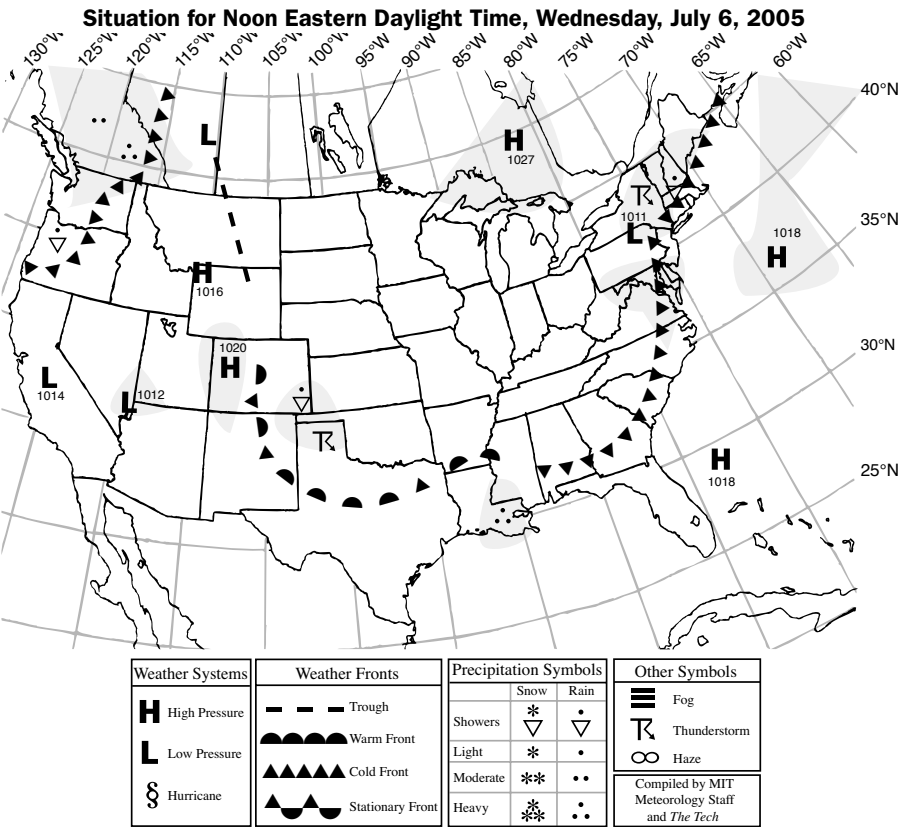
Today: Showers likely with a low chance of thunderstorms. Humid with highs in the upper 70s F (25°C). Southwest winds 5 to 10 mph.

Tonight: Cloudy. Showers and thunderstorms likely in the evening, then a chance of showers after midnight. Humid with lows in the lower 60s F (16°C). North winds 5 to 10 mph.

Tomorrow: Mostly cloudy in the morning, then becoming partly cloudy. A chance of showers. Highs in the mid 70s F (23°C). North winds 5 to 10 mph.

Tomorrow Night: Partly cloudy. Lows around 60°F (15°C). Northeast winds around 5 mph.

Friday: Partly cloudy. High in the mid 70s F (23°C).



Committee Asks Justice Dept. To Broaden Inquiry of Lobbyist

By Philip Shenon
THE NEW YORK TIMES

WASHINGTON

Criminal investigators at the Justice Department have been asked by a House committee to consider broadening their corruption investigation of a Washington lobbyist whose ties to Tom DeLay, the House Republican leader, and other prominent lawmakers are the subject of inquiries throughout the government, congressional officials disclosed Tuesday.

The request about the investigation of the lobbyist, Jack Abramoff, was made in a letter last week to Attorney General Alberto R. Gonzales from the Republican chairman and the senior Democrat of the House Resources Committee.

That letter, dated June 30, cited a flurry of accusations of wrongdoing involving Abramoff's multimillion-dollar lobbying on behalf of the Northern Mariana Islands, a small American commonwealth in the Pacific, and said that "any allegations of criminal matters of this sort are

best addressed to the Department of Justice."

The Justice Department has refused to discuss details of its investigation of Abramoff, which began more than a year ago. Congressional officials who are trying to monitor the investigation say that it has focused until now on accusations that Abramoff defrauded American Indian tribes who paid him millions of dollars in lobbying fees on behalf of their gambling operations.

The Resources Committee request could suggest new scrutiny for DeLay, because he worked closely with Abramoff for years to block Washington from imposing the federal minimum wage on large clothing factories in the Northern Marianas. Human rights groups have long criticized the factories, which employ mostly migrant Asian workers.

On a trip to the islands with Abramoff in 1997, DeLay told a meeting of local officials that the lobbyist was among "my closest and

dearest friends" and promised to continue to defend the islands' interests in Congress. Abramoff's billing records show that he frequently met with DeLay and his top aides to discuss the Northern Marianas. In a 2001 e-mail message to the islands' general counsel, Abramoff described DeLay as "our biggest supporter on Capitol Hill."

DeLay is facing other ethics accusations involving ties to Abramoff and has asked the House ethics committee to review the propriety of lavish overseas trips that Abramoff organized for DeLay, his wife and his aides to Britain and Russia.

The letter, from Richard W. Pombo, R-Calif., chairman of the Resources Committee, and Nick J. Rahall II of West Virginia, the panel's ranking Democrat, is the first known request by a Congressional committee for prosecutors to review accusations of criminal conduct in the lobbying activities of Abramoff, who was one of the most powerful and best-paid Republican lobbyists in Washington.

Afghan Government Criticizes U.S. Over Air Raid That Killed Civilians

By Carlotta Gall
THE NEW YORK TIMES

KABUL, AFGHANISTAN

Afghanistan's government condemned the U.S. military on Tuesday for a recent airstrike that killed as many as 17 civilians in the northeastern province of Kunar.

The government's rare public criticism of its main international sponsor came as more details emerged about the airstrike and about heavy fighting in the province, where two Navy Seal commandos were killed and another is listed as missing.

President Hamid Karzai's main spokesman, Jawed Ludin, said Tuesday at a news conference here that the president was saddened by news of the civilian deaths in Kunar and that under no circumstances could such a toll be justified.

"We know terrorists kill people, destroy mosques and schools," Ludin said, "but we should be careful not to cause harm or to kill people. That is not acceptable."

The deaths came Friday when an American B-52 bomber struck a compound with guided bombs, according to an American military spokesman in Kabul, Col. James Yonts. "It was the compound of a

midlevel anti-coalition militia commander," he said.

The military has admitted killing civilians in the bombing, including women and children, and expressed regret. Exact figures are not known yet, Yonts said. Local officials have said 17 people were killed, among them women and children. The colonel said American troops were in the area to investigate the bombing and assess the damage.

The compound was in the general area where a reconnaissance team of four Navy Seal commandos called for help during heavy fighting on June 28. An American Special Operations Chinook helicopter was sent in later that day to provide assistance, but it came under fire and crashed, killing all 16 aboard.

The crash happened just two or three miles from the suspected militia compound, Yonts said, suggesting that men from the site might have been involved in the fighting.

Heavy fighting has continued all week over a large part of Kunar province, and soldiers have kept up search and rescue operations for the missing sailor.

The bodies of two members of the reconnaissance team were found Monday, military officials said. "The two service members were taken to

the U.S. military hospital at Bagram airfield, where they were pronounced dead," a military statement issued in Kabul said. "Their names are being withheld until notification of their next of kin."

One member of the reconnaissance team was found wounded and was rescued Saturday after days of evading insurgents in the area. He is now at Bagram, north of Kabul, and he has provided an account of the battle, Yonts said.

The colonel said the team was investigating reports of a Taliban presence in Kunar on June 28 when it ran into a large force of fighters, came under fire and called for support. The fight turned into a running battle, with members of the team trying to get out to report their discovery. But when the reinforcements arrived that afternoon, they were all killed when the Chinook crashed — the worst single American combat loss since the beginning of the war in 2001. Yonts said the fourth Navy Seal member remained unaccounted for. He said the latest intelligence reports seemed to contradict accounts by local Afghan officials who said Monday that the sailor was in the hands of villagers in the region. Troops are still trying to find him, the colonel said.

Israel Contradicts Rice Over Houses Abandoned in Withdrawal from Gaza

By Steven Erlanger
THE NEW YORK TIMES

JERUSALEM

After her trip here last month, Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice announced on June 19 that Israel and the Palestinians had agreed to demolish the 1,600 or so houses in Israel's settlements in Gaza, with the Palestinians to be paid to clear away the rubble.

But a senior Israeli official says there is no such agreement, his government has yet to decide whether to demolish the houses and the Israelis and Palestinians continue to disagree over what might happen to the rubble.

More likely, he said, given the political sensitivity of the issue, Israel will simply avoid making a decision and leave the houses. He said Rice may have been misinformed by overeager officials, and what started as a hazy agreement in principle is foundering over specifics.

Sean McCormick, a State Department spokesman, responded on Tuesday, saying in a telephone

interview: "The agreement on the principles announced by the secretary stands. I understand the two sides are working on the details of implementing the agreement."

The confusion is a prime example of the crucial decisions left unmade only six weeks before Israel is to pull nearly 9,000 settlers out of Gaza and 600 out of four small settlements in the northern West Bank. It also shows the need for a strong U.S. presence in the negotiations that is currently missing, critics of the Bush administration say.

Muhammad Dahlan, the Palestinian minister in charge of coordinating the civilian side of the disengagement, is both angry and astonished. "With 45 days to go, we can't get an answer from the Israelis on any serious question," he said in an interview on Saturday in his Gaza City office. "They say they want to coordinate, but to every question we ask, we cannot get an answer."

The senior Israeli official, when told about Dahlan's complaint, said

simply, "He's right."

The Israeli military and civilian bureaucracy, seeking a balance between leaving Gaza entirely and trying to maintain customs and security control over its boundaries, has been busily debating issues while the government of Prime Minister Ariel Sharon itself is split, he said.

"There is a real tension between our desire to control and our desire not to be responsible for Gaza," said the official, who is involved in supervising all aspects of the Gaza withdrawal. He agreed to speak freely only if his name were not used because of the extreme sensitivity of the negotiations.

He has a list of some 10 major and still undecided issues about the withdrawal, including Dahlan's urgent questions about how Palestinian workers and Palestinian products, both manufactured and agricultural, will be able to move in good time between Gaza and Egypt and Gaza and Israel, and thus to the West Bank and the rest of the world.

Attack at Temple in India Leaves Six Dead

By Somini Sengupta
THE NEW YORK TIMES

A brazen attack on India's best-known tinderbox of Hindu-Muslim strife, the heavily fortified Hindu temple compound in the northern town of Ayodhya, left six suspected gunmen dead on Tuesday and raised the specter of a fresh bout of sectarian tension in this country.

After a two-hour firefight in the morning, the police said the temple compound had been secured, six men killed and six weapons, mostly AK-47 assault rifles, recovered. Neither the identities of the men nor their motives have been established.

The compound at Ayodhya, less than 400 miles southeast of the capital, was the source of deadly riots between Hindus and Muslims that shook the nation in the early 1990s and ultimately helped carry the Hindu nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party to power in 1998.

A statement from Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, whose secular, left-of-center Congress Party defeated Bharatiya Janata in elections last year, urged calm and called the attack "a threat to our security and polity." The government said several cities, national monuments and religious sites had been put on high alert in anticipation of potential clashes.

Right-wing Hindu political groups immediately seized on the attack, alternately calling for the resignation of a cabinet member responsible for domestic security and calling for Indian military action against Pakistan. Lal Krishna Advani, the leader of Bharatiya Janata, called for a nationwide strike to be held on Wednesday.

Psychologists See Ethics Risk At Guantanamo

By Neil A. Lewis
THE NEW YORK TIMES

The American Psychological Association, responding to reports that some of its members may have advised officials on how to conduct harsh interrogations of detainees, issued a report Tuesday telling its members of the ethical dangers of such activities.

The report by a special group convened to study the ethical boundaries for psychologists at places like Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, concluded that it was acceptable to act as behavioral consultants to interrogators of the prisoners from Afghanistan who are held there.

The report said the psychologists should not use a detainee's medical information "to the detriment and safety of an individual's well-being." It also said that psychologists serving as consultants to interrogations involving national security should be "mindful of factors unique to these roles and contexts that require special ethical consideration."

The new report thus appears to avoid explicit answers to questions as to whether psychologists may advise interrogators on how to increase stress on detainees to make them more cooperative if the advice is not based on medical files but only on the observation of the detainees.

The report comes after accounts from former interrogators at Guantanamo who said that doctors had advised them on how to "break" the detainees and make them more cooperative. *The New York Times* reported last month that former interrogators said in interviews that doctors, who may have been either psychiatrists or psychologists, counseled them on how to use a detainee's fears and longings to increase distress.

Central Asians Call On U.S. To Set A Timetable for Closing Bases

By C.J. Chivers
THE NEW YORK TIMES

Russia, China and four Central Asian states called Tuesday for the United States to set a deadline for withdrawing from military bases in Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan.

The wording in their declaration, made by members of a regional alliance known as the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, was veiled but clear, and it marked anew the shifting diplomatic ground in Central Asia since mid-May, when Uzbekistan used gunfire to put down an uprising and anti-government demonstration in Andijon.

The declaration came on the eve of a meeting of the Group of Eight industrial nations in Scotland. At the meeting, President Bush, whose administration has signaled that it wishes to remain a military presence in Central Asia, is expected to meet the leaders of two nations that backed the declaration, Vladimir V. Putin of Russia and Hu Jintao of China.

The Shanghai Cooperation Organization is composed in large part of nations that have both defended Uzbekistan and been critical of the revolutions over the past two years that have swept away corrupt governments in Georgia, Ukraine and Kyrgyzstan.

9,000 Employees Are Idled By Minnesota State Shutdown

By Michael Wilson
THE NEW YORK TIMES

The first partial government shutdown over a budget dispute in Minnesota's 147-year history, entering its sixth day on Wednesday, has kept 9,000 of the 48,000 state employees home as lawmakers remain divided along party lines over financing for education and health care.

The effects of the shutdown on the public seemed minor on Tuesday and through the holiday weekend. A court order kept services deemed critical to health and safety open, leaving the transportation department with the most closings, affecting 4,000 workers. All but eight highway rest stops were closed, and people could not get new drivers' licenses.

But parks remained open over the weekend, and the centennial celebration for the Minnesota state Capitol went off as planned on Monday. Colleges and universities remained open, as did historic sites.

The partial shutdown began last Friday, when the previous budget expired without a replacement. Officials say there is a \$200 million gap in the \$30 billion, two-year budget. Talks resumed Tuesday afternoon in the Capitol, with representatives of Gov. Tim Pawlenty's office and four legislative caucus leaders receiving a report from the tax working group of the Legislature.

OPINION

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New Card Not Welcome

This letter was sent on June 28 to the Card Office and Publishing Services Bureau and was subsequently forwarded to e-mail discussion lists at East Campus and Senior House.

The recent redesign of the MIT Card has been garnering a certain amount of attention on undergraduate mailing lists in the past couple of weeks. Having been unaware of the fact that the design of the MIT Card was up for revision, I found myself dismayed both by the new designs posted on the MIT Card Web site, and by the apparent lack of real student input on the affair.

As an incoming student, I remember being struck by the simplicity of MIT's graphic identity. When compared to the complex seals and special serif fonts that other well-known schools sported, MIT's logo (and its supporting materials as a whole) were simple, functional, and elegant. It seemed to me that put together, these things projected exactly the right sort of attitude for a world-renowned technical university. The old design featured on MIT cards lived up to that aesthetic.

Unfortunately, I can't say the same for the new designs. They seem like something a second-rate institution might use to try to bolster their image as "cutting-edge." The generic 'science' backgrounds have little to do with MIT, and the frankly garish color choices seem more related to the original iMac than to the actual school colors. The designs overall look like something off of a badly-constructed Web page. The impression that one gets from the new design is that MIT is insecure, and feels a need to shout out its importance to the world. However, that's not necessary. MIT doesn't need to use its graphic identity to prove to the world that it's an innovative world-class technical university. The world already knows that, and respects MIT accordingly. The understated elegance of the older aesthetic (and, for that matter, the older and more legible logo) did a lot more to communicate that uniqueness than the stock-photograph backgrounds and fancy text-placement of the new cards.

I understand that a redesign was in order, in part due to the technical process by which cards are issued. However, I'm sure that I don't need to tell you that the way MIT chooses to present itself is important. I don't believe that the new design represents MIT very well, and I've heard similar concerns from a large number of students. This brings me to my second point: the fact that the cards were being redesigned was not well-publicized, and perhaps as a result, there seems to be some sentiment that students (and possibly other portions of the MIT community) were not consulted in the new design of the MIT Card.

Consider: the entire MIT community carries an MIT Card. A frequent constant complaint around campus is that decisions made by com-

mittee often don't reflect the actual opinions of the community, because they're too dependant on the opinions of individual committee members, and the members' level of commitment to gauging the opinions of the people they represent. When making decisions that affect the entire MIT community, as well as the way MIT presents itself to the world, it seems that some greater effort to gather input from the community is needed.

Although it is, of course, impossible to allow every interested person a spot on a committee, technology provides some more efficient ways of gathering information. An article or two in the campus newspaper, *The Tech*, with contact information and a link to a Web site with the candidate designs would have been a good first step in raising awareness of the redesign process and soliciting opinions. An online survey, or even an online bulletin board (like the board recently used to gather undergraduate input on GIR redesign) would also have been good ways of getting a better feel for the opinions of the community. Depending on the method used, it could have been fairly easy to figure out what the community as a whole liked or disliked. When a decision affects the entire community (and when technology makes it fairly easy to get direct feedback from much of that community), it seems almost irresponsible to assume a handful of representatives can accurately represent the community, and to eschew any effort to gather direct information.

I devoutly hope that future attempts to alter MIT's graphic identity, or subsets thereof, will feature a much broader effort to consider the opinions of the community as a whole. Furthermore, although I realize that there might be logistical difficulties, I hope that the Card Office and Publishing Services Board will consider delaying the rollout of the new design until after they have made a more active effort to solicit opinions regarding the design. Furthermore, I hope that, pending that data, they will consider the possibility of coming up with a revised version of the new design. I'm proud to have my photograph on the current MIT card, but sadly I can't say the same about the new cards, and I'm concerned that when they realize that the current MIT card is soon to disappear, many others will feel the same way.

Grace Kenney '07

Crisis for Women's Crew

This letter was sent on June 9 to Athletic Director Candace L. Royer and copied to Dean for Student Life Larry G. Benedict.

I have now had time to digest the e-mail [member of the board of directors of the Friends of MIT Crew Board] Kim Marvin distributed to the FOMITC Board on Wednesday [June 8] which summarized his [June 7] meeting with

you and Dean Benedict, along with [President of the FOMITC and former MIT Crew Coach] Jack Frailey '44 and [member of the Rowing Analysis Committee convened by DAPER this spring to examine the state of the rowing program] Dick Millman '62. I was struck that apparently no mention was made of the fact that MIT has no Women's Crew coaches on its staff at this time.

Perhaps energetic measures searching the country for a competent coach to fill those positions have been underway since Coach Lindholm resigned in May, or when Coach Congram was unceremoniously let go in March. However, this is my profession, and as such, I routinely check the sources colleges usually use to advertise openings such as these — not to mention the Novice Coaching positions, which to the best of my knowledge are vacant as well. And, nothing has come to my attention, not on <http://www.row2k.com>, nor <http://www.ncaa.org>, nor <http://web.mit.edu>.

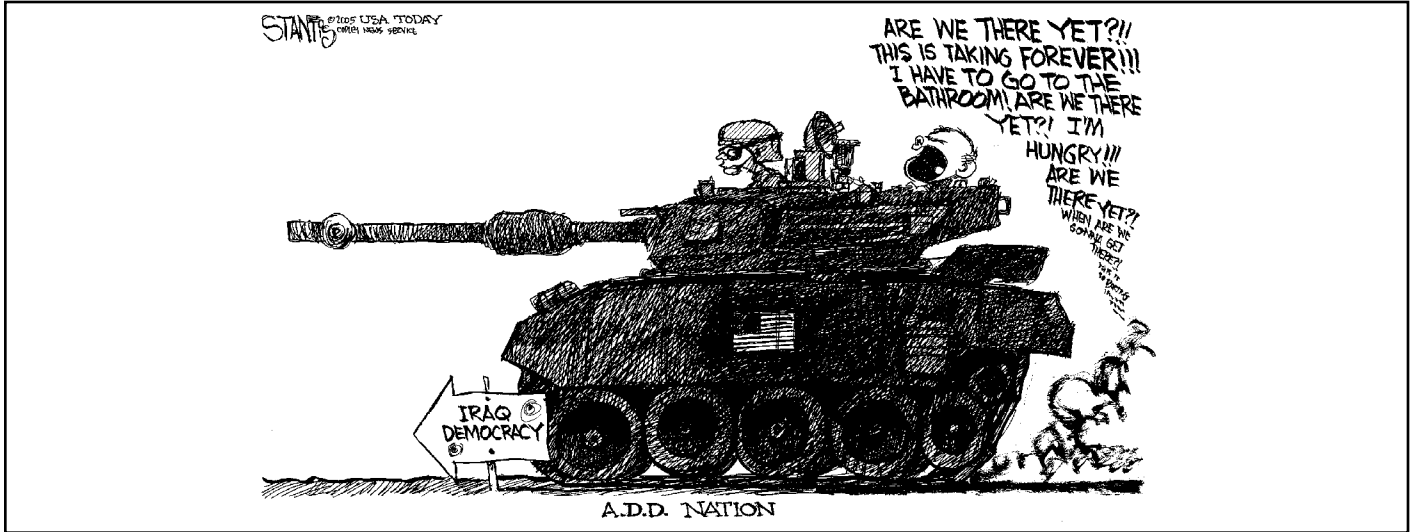
If, at this late point in time, nothing has been initiated along those lines, I can tell you from my own personal experience that MIT's Women's program is facing a dire and an unnecessary calamity. It would seem obvious to me, under these circumstances especially, given the shortage of time and the great effort required to mount a thorough search for a Head Women's Coach, that Coach Congram simply be recalled to fill that position, even on an interim basis, if need be. The momentum he created within the whole Women's program while coach of the Lightweight squad took two years to get going as would be expected, completely turned the program around, and will be lost more rapidly than those two years allowed without the immediate attention to hiring a qualified and competent coach.

I cannot stress how appalled I am that there are no Women's coaches on staff. I find this matter deeply troubling to be happening at MIT, what I can only describe now as a so-called leading university — at once at the forefront of excellence in academics, and now priding itself on its so-called commitment to the quality of student life. Now, it is at MIT, where former President Vest undertook a timely study to examine the role of women at the Institute when other colleges have fallen and continue to fall short, where we have our first woman president in Susan Hockfield, now where MIT is not doing what it should to provide the women at MIT as well as the men what they deserve in order to receive the best education possible.

I strenuously urge your serious consideration of my suggestion to rehire Coach Congram and to fill the other positions as soon as possible with qualified candidates before it is too late. I doubt that many other alumnae understand how serious the situation is right now, but it is only a matter of time before they realize the state of affairs.

Linda Muri '85

Coach of Harvard Lightweight Men's Crew



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Eminent Domain ... Not Eminent News

Nicholas Haschka

The other day, as I was flipping through the cable news networks over my typical ramen dinner, I was caught off guard by a warning that I was in grave danger. It wasn't just me though; all Americans were in grave danger. Our homes were going to be taken away, and there wasn't a damn thing we could do about it.

After deciding that the term "public use" could be interpreted as "public purpose," the Supreme Court upheld a city's right to force citizens from their homes for the purpose of commercial development. A civil rights attorney was bashing the decision in a fury of passion on MSNBC. The implications of this decision are far-reaching, she said, and all Americans are now in danger of losing their homes to large corporations that are out to squeeze as much profit as possible. Cities had been given broad deference to do whatever they please with their citizens' property.

The media's spin doctors were at it again, I thought, blowing small changes way out of proportion like they always were. And this performance was one effort even Karl Rove could appreciate. Boy, she was livid!

Despite my skepticism of the media's ability to fairly cover the important issues, this coverage caught and held my attention. It truly was an interesting issue, and the consequences, exaggerated as they may have been depicted,

really did have potential to change the lives of many Americans. I watched for a while, finished my dinner, and went back to my room figuring I'd hear more about it in upcoming days.

A few days later, I flipped through the cable news networks again. Slew of east coast shark attacks, who's next? Kids play T-ball on the White House lawn. Tony Blair's son takes internship at House of Representatives. Suspect in Holloway case released due to lack of evidence, mother outraged. No eminent domain case? The day the decision was issued this was a hot topic, and was covered by seemingly every cable news network. I gave it another day.

Sure enough, more shark attacks. But it's a good thing I checked because there was an even bigger story: that's right; they've taken down the Ten Commandments in Kentucky.

I pulled up the Web sites of CNN, MSNBC, and Fox News. Other than the few outdated articles on Fox and the original Associated Press report on the others, I found little on the eminent domain case and its aftermath.

It seemed that before the debate could really unfold, a weekend passed and new issues surfaced. Luckily these were important things like shark attacks, T-ball, and static murder cases ... you know, the things that don't happen at least every year, or there might be reason to be upset. Yeah, right.

I was disappointed. I wanted to know what would come of this ground-breaking ruling.

So, I did some musing of my own.

At its core, this decision is frightening. Not only is it troubling to see even greater government support for the largest corporations in America, but the fact that the decision to seize private property for commercial use now rests solely in the hands of interested parties (i.e. community elites easily swayed by corporations with deep pockets) really got to me.

For those citizens of New London, Connecticut fighting to save their homes and putting everything they own at stake to do it, it's truly a tragedy. When it began, all they wanted was to keep the property they rightfully owned and loved. But, once the costs of resisting far exceeded the personal cost of giving in and moving out, it became a fight for a nobler cause: pitting disempowered against powerful and testing power with principle.

Now, only time will tell how the future unravels. For those of you in zip code 90210, not to worry, you are fine. Back Bay, Boston, likewise. The rest of you, I'm not so sure, but consider the following.

States can individually attenuate eminent domain authority to protect rights as federalism allows. Externalities such as potential legal battles and PR fights will make abuse of eminent domain less attractive to potential devel-

opers and large companies seeking to expand. After all, nobody wants the reputation of being a home wrecker.

And hopefully, people will be more cautious about choosing their local officials, a change many cities could benefit from.

Yet, I still worry about the disempowered. Lacking the finances to stage a legal battle, the political clout to raise a media stink, and the resources to pursue other options, many will probably be forced to give in. This isn't the worst of it.

The truly sad story is that now we care more about seeing or not seeing the Ten Commandments in our local courtroom than the future of our most fundamental protections. Our news carriers care more about glamour,

ratings, and controversy for the sake of controversy than they do about delivering the political dialogue that makes democracy effective. And, as much as I'd hate to admit it, the spin doctors had it right one day. At least somebody cared.

Spin doctors, if you're out there, thank you. Oh, and one other thing, if it really matters, spin your little brains out, but in the meantime, calm down! You'll have a heart attack.

Nicholas Haschka, a Nuclear Engineering major, is a member of the Class of 2008.

And, as much as I'd hate to admit it, the spin doctors had it right one day. At least somebody cared.

Breaking the Impasse

Ali Wyne

Although relations between the United States and North Korea have almost invariably been tense, they have, by now, degenerated greatly enough that neither invests much effort in concealing its hostility towards the other. The Bush administration has famously branded North Korea a member of the "axis of evil" and an "outpost of tyranny"; North Korea has replied by condemning American leaders as "aggressors" and "imperialists." Such ping-pong exchanges are reflective of increasingly imprudent policies on the part of both countries' governments, policies which unnecessarily compound the difficulty of renewing good faith negotiations.

President Bush recently authorized an executive order that would seize the American assets — totaling approximately \$32 million — of two North Korean corporations and one North Korean bank. North Korea, for its part, has restarted construction on two nuclear reactors whose production had been suspended in accordance with the 1994 Agreed Framework. Is there a way for these two countries to extricate themselves from this cycle of escalating tension? If such a route does exist, there are two critical assumptions that should help policy makers to navigate its bumps and meanders.

The first is that North Korea's central imperative is the survival of its regime. There is a wide consensus that North Korea is a "failed state on the verge of collapse." The Central Intelligence Agency reports the existence of "desperate economic conditions" in the Stalinist country, and argues that without immense, sustained inflows of international humanitarian

aid, North Korea's people would almost certainly suffer "mass starvation." The prospect of famine is only one of several sources of potential instability. The Fund for Peace — a nongovernmental organization — and Foreign Policy just completed a rigorous and methodical ranking of the countries in the world that are most susceptible to "violent internal conflict." Of the 60 that made the list, North Korea ranked 13.

Given that its internal situation is so dire, it is not surprising that North Korea's primary objective is to continue to exist as a viable nation-state. The executive summary of the 2001 Northeast Asia Peace and Progress Conference clearly affirms this notion, as does a National Intelligence Council (NIC) report that was issued in February of that same year. The BBC commented that "Pyongyang's diplomatic bluster is inextricably linked to its need to keep what remains of its economy propped up by donations ... The endgame is simple — regime survival. It is a long-term strategy using diplomatic belligerence and military threat to secure enough aid to maintain power and isolation."

Postures that are militant or seek to hasten the demise of the North Korean regime are more likely to induce it to deploy its stockpile of nuclear weapons against the United States, in a moment of desperate blunder, than to convince it to interdict its current efforts to construct such weapons. Unfortunately, however, the Bush administration has adopted precisely such postures. One need only review documents such as the December 2001 Nuclear Posture

Review, the September 2002 National Security Strategy, or "Plan 5030" to see evidence of this contention. Pyongyang, fearful that the United States increasingly represents a credible threat to its national security and vital interests, has responded to the issuance of these (and other) documents by openly declaring itself a nuclear power and announcing its intention to develop a "self-defensive" nuclear deterrent.

The North Korean response, while lamentable, follows directly from the second of the aforementioned assumptions: namely, that North Korea's one and only request throughout its negotiations with the United States has been that the United States provides its regime with formal security assurances. It should be noted that North Korea first began expressing serious interest in developing nuclear weapons in the 1950s, in response to threats from

the Truman and Eisenhower administrations to deploy nuclear weapons on the Korean Peninsula. Although, of course, none of these threats ever manifested, North Korea was justified in its belief that they could have. Close to four decades later, without the Soviet Union as its bulwark, North Korea became more convinced of its vulnerability to foreign penetration. Thus, its feelings of insecurity are not cleverly contrived, but rather, historically grounded. Indeed, its desire to acquire security principally motivated its decision to accede to the 1994 Agreed Framework, whereby "The U.S. will provide formal assurances to the DPRK, against the threat or use of nuclear weapons by the U.S."

There is a wide consensus that North Korea is a "failed state on the verge of collapse."



Many public officials and mainstream intellectuals contend that, by continuing to develop nuclear weapons after 1994, North Korea reneged on its side of the bargain. While this statement is true, to state it in isolation is disingenuous, for the United States certainly did not abide by its principal commitments. It failed to provide the financial assistance that it had promised, did not help to fund the light-water reactors which were guaranteed North Korea, and failed to lift or even ameliorate trade sanctions against the already impoverished country. Given these fundamental breaches, those individuals who criticize the policy of engagement should consider that the United States' efforts at normalizing diplomatic relations in the aftermath of the Agreed Framework have been, at best, reluctant (To be fair, it should be noted that the aforementioned breaches, in part, owed to domestic political pressure.).

Even so, President Clinton's administration did achieve two critical successes: during its eight-year tenure, North Korea not only signed onto the Agreed Framework in 1994, but also placed a moratorium on all testing of ballistic missiles in 1999. Furthermore, the Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists reported that "By October 1997, the spent fuel rods [which can be converted into nuclear weapons] were safely encased in steel containers, under IAEA [International Atomic Energy Agency] inspection. The [Yongbyon] reactor remained closed, construction on two other, larger reactors had stopped, and the reprocessing plant sat idle." Indeed, a study authored by the Carnegie Endowment for Peace arrived at the following conclusion: had North Korea's nuclear program not been suspended through the terms of the Agreed Framework, North Korea could have been able to produce between 500 and 700 kilograms of weapons-grade plutonium by the end of 2001. This would be enough to produce more than 100 weapons and would have given Pyongyang sufficient amounts of material, conceivably, to export some to other countries while retaining a sizable nuclear arsenal of its own.

The above analysis yields one clear conclusion: that prospects for eventual reconciliation between the United States and North Korea are rooted in bilateral negotiations, which have exhibited great potential. In October 2002, for example, North Korea hosted the Assistant Secretary of State for East Asian and Pacific Affairs, James Kelly. During the exchange, it offered to terminate its enriched uranium program and submit to renewed inspections by the IAEA, if the United States signed a nonaggression pact and worked towards normalizing relations. The offer, had it gone through, would have facilitated close monitoring of central North Korean nuclear weapons sites, thereby allowing the United States, to a large extent, to contain the threat posed by North Korea's nuclear weapons. For reasons that are unclear, the Bush administration declined it.

The aforementioned offer outlines precisely the concessions that each side must make to the other. At this juncture, however, neither President Bush nor Kim Jong-Il appears to be ready to broker such a compromise. Indeed, both are charting a course of brinkmanship, one which will eventually reach a precipice. We can only hope that basic sensibility prevails.

Humility and Courage

Missing Elements in MIT's Tackling of Global Energy Problems

Martin Hunter

I read with great interest and hope about the Energy Research Council just established by President Hockfield, to study how MIT can contribute to "solving the world's energy problems" [*The Tech*, June 10, 2005; *Tech Talk*, June 8, 2005]. The Council will be co-chaired by Chevron Professor Robert C. Armstrong, head of the Department of Chemical Engineering, and Professor Ernest J. Moniz of physics and engineering systems and director of energy studies at the Laboratory for Energy and the Environment. Its task is to develop an outline for an Institute-wide response to the global energy crisis by next February.

I commend the impulse to focus MIT's resources on practical applications of immediate global relevance. In particular, I am heartened by the official acknowledgment of climate change as an urgent problem intimately tied to excessive fossil fuel consumption. This echoes President Hockfield's recent inaugural speech, in which energy issues and environmental concerns were linked and seen as one of the great challenges facing the world today.

I am concerned, however, that the charge of this newly-appointed Council suffers from a common malady of modern science that will preclude it from effectively dealing with these issues: namely, a disregard for humanist, non-technological parameters, blindness to our own doings, and a little too much dancing with the devil of the economic bottom line.

My basic problem here is in defining what the "world energy problem" is. The Council's view is plainly put by co-chair Moniz, who states, "The confluence of problems we see today — climate change and the energy demands of the emerging economies — are going to require longer-lasting responses." He elaborates on this elsewhere: "Fossil fuels make up 85 percent of the world's present energy use, and developing economies will greatly increase their use of fossil fuels to meet their economic and social goals."

There are two things that trouble me about these statements. First, the energy "problem" is presented as a fundamentally economic problem (demand will soon exceed supply), whose "solution" then follows trivially i.e., increase the energy supply. There are complications, of course: care must be taken not to cook the planet while we do so, but Moniz takes solace in the modern science mantra that technology will save the day ("Technology is ultimately the solution," he professes faithfully). Somehow, we will come up with clever ways of meeting that goal in time, as long as we get started on it soon.

What is conspicuously lacking, though, is any consideration of the other possibility of dealing with this economic energy problem, i.e., that of reducing demand. Not once is the word "conservation" mentioned in either article. This approach would require political courage, however; for to question the very level of current and future global energy consumption is a dangerous exercise (perhaps even unpatriotic!) that might bring us uncomfortably close with our personal responsibility towards it.

Which brings me to my second concern with the Council's stated assumptions: that the anticipated increase in global energy demands derives from the growing needs of developing economies alone. The fact that the U.S. has by far the largest energy needs in the world, though, presently accounting for one quarter of total fossil fuel consumption, seems unworthy of mention to the Council members. The silent omission of this fact presumably portrays an untouchability of this statistic, an assumption that there is nothing to correct or modify in it. We ourselves could not possibly be doing something wrong right now, could we?

No room is left to consider whether long-term, global sustainability may require everyone (and especially us in the U.S.) to limit, or even reduce, energy consumption patterns. No room is left to consider the ethical significance of US consumers who annually buy millions of vehicles with the lowest aggregate fuel efficiency in over 20 years; or the more than 1.5 million new US homes, of ever-increasing size, built yearly over the past decade, seldom with energy efficiency in mind. No room is left to consider the lack of a coherent national policy to deal with these issues, let alone our disregard of major international efforts to address them.

I am not opposed to technology. I am a

physical chemist with 20 years of experience in academic research, and I love and value the scientific trade. However, I have a mounting conviction that science and technology alone will not be enough to address the growing complexity of world problems, such as the looming energy crisis. Human factors need to play a larger role, politically as well as individually, spiritually as well as materially. The lack of these elements, I find, is the greatest weakness of MIT's Energy Research Council initiative.

I have a mounting conviction that science and technology alone will not be enough to address the growing complexity of world problems, such as the looming energy crisis.

The Council is nominally interdisciplinary, and may at first glance be perceived to have a holistic perspective. However, upon closer examination this diversity seems superficial and self-serving. Quoting Moniz, "Technology is ultimately the solution, but we don't

have time to wait decades for it to make its way into the marketplace. Policy is important to help deploy the technologies more quickly." Inclusion of political science, management and urban planning experts in the Council can thus be understood as collecting specialists to lubricate and push through a pre-determined agenda (i.e., new energy production technologies) through the policy/political system.

I do not presume to have alternative magic bullet answers. I would be glad to start by redefining the world energy "problem," to begin

consideration of demand as well as supply issues, and to bring attention to the personal responsibility we each carry in effecting change towards true sustainability, as voting citizens and consumers. In the current political and economic climate, this will require great courage.

As scientists, I agree we must pursue the best sustainable energy technologies, and we must educate and advise policy-makers and laymen alike, just as President Hockfield proposed. But we must also liberate ourselves from the timid muteness and neutrality which our political and economic allegiances so often press upon us. As John F. Kennedy put it (inspired by Dante), "The hottest places in hell are reserved for those who, in a period of moral crisis, maintain their neutrality." There is so much at stake here, well beyond an economic bottom line: the growing possibility of widespread environmental and ecological disruption, extinction of species, geopolitical instability.

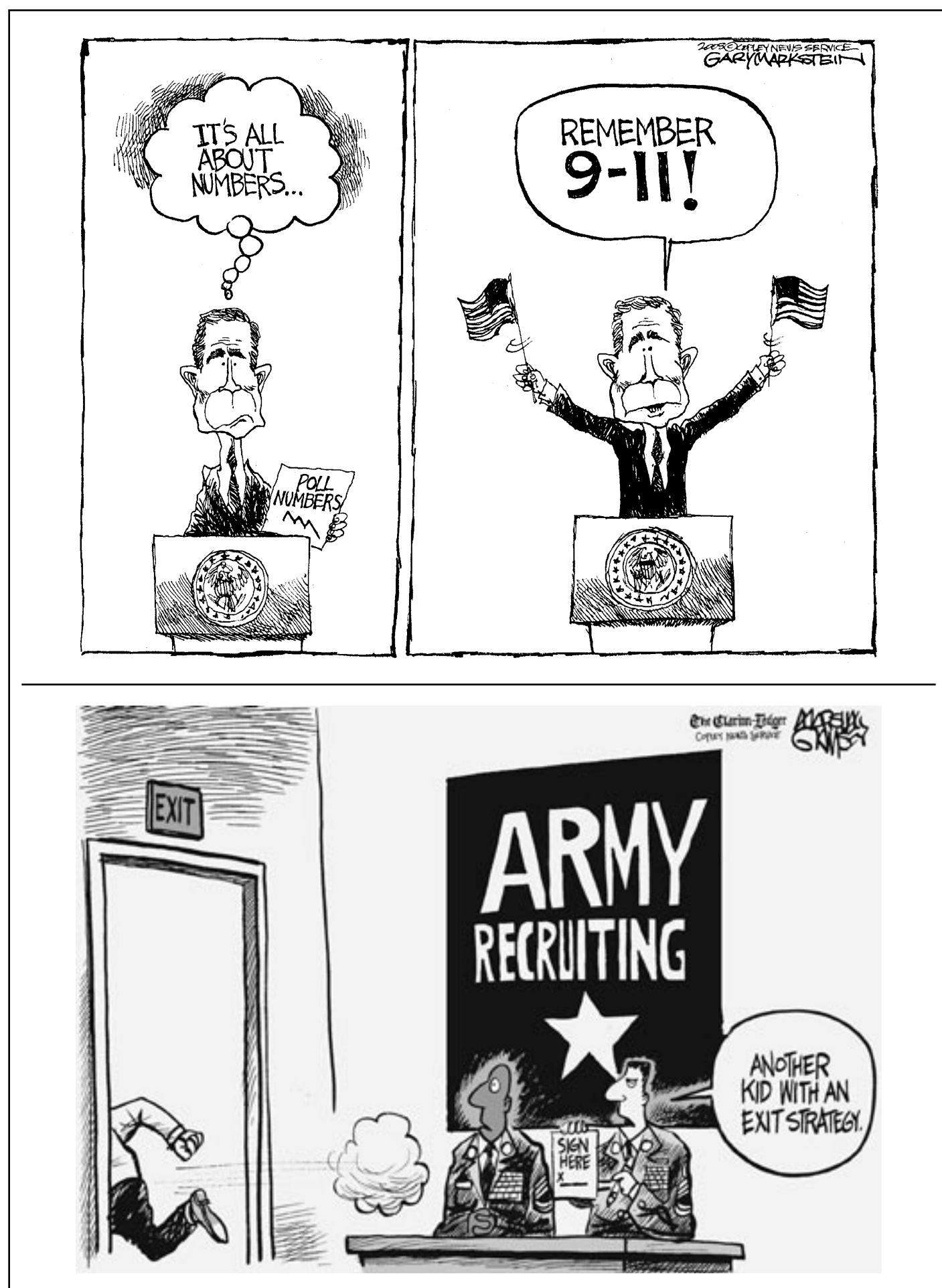
I close with a living anecdote that embodies my basic recommendations to the MIT Energy Research Council: to (re)consider our individual and social responsibility as energy consumers, scientist and layman alike, and to balance working with energy corporations with meaningful pressure on their institutional inertia to change. Large corporations have historically resisted change, often to the detriment of public health e.g., the U.S. lead, chlorine and tobacco industries. Currently, the fossil fuel industry is under great public and scientific pressure to accept its role in global climate change.

So far, however, it has predictably and successfully hindered legislative efforts (both national and international) to call it to accountability, primarily through lobbying and PR organizations such as the Global Climate Coalition (GCC), which strongly opposed adherence to the Kyoto Protocol and undermined the conclusions of the international scientific community on climate change. In 1999, though, during a shareholders' meeting of the Chevron oil corporation (a member of the GCC), 28 percent of shareholders voted against management on a resolution demanding the company document its emissions that cause global warming, and assess the resulting financial liabilities. Later, in 2003, another shareholder resolution requesting that ChevronTexaco adopt a plan to invest in renewable energy received a record 32 percent of the vote. These historical voting campaigns were coordinated by a broad-based group of interfaith religious organizations, pension funds and environmental groups, and demonstrate a growing mainstream support for climate change mitigation and responsible energy use.

It is my hope that MIT will show not just its celebrated brains in working towards a sustainable energy future, but that it will also add a good measure of humility and integrity to the endeavor; to remain open to all wisdoms, technical as well as non-technical, and to serve as a haven and epicenter for the unabashed truth.

So mote it be.

Martin Hunter, PhD, is a research scientist in the Spectroscopy Laboratory at MIT.



ARTS

MOVIE REVIEW ★★★★★

A Tale of Love, Life, and Death in the Antarctic

In This Stunning Documentary, the Story Lives Up to the Images

By Kelley Rivoire

EDITOR IN CHIEF

March of the Penguins

Directed by Luc Jacquet

Narration written by Jordan Roberts

Narrated by Morgan Freeman

Rated G

Environmentalists should take note: the most convincing, if unwitting, advocates for their cause may be the stars of *March of the Penguins*. Capturing a range of stunning images from the light-hearted, with penguins coasting along the ice on their bellies, to the majestic, with a seemingly infinite line of penguins marching to the sea amid jagged walls of ice, this documentary surely pulls at the heartstrings of all who watch it.

Directed by a Frenchman with a scientific background, the film chronicles the perilous, yet touching, mating ritual of the emperor penguins. During the annual ritual, the penguins embark on a trek back and forth across a numbingly frigid expanse of the Antarctic and to the verge of starvation. All this effort produces just one chick, which may or may not survive, for each pair of penguins. In each mating season, the mother and father alternate between journeying as far as 70 miles each way to the sea for food and taking care of the egg or newly-hatched chick in the inland colony, always returning to their mates. It is a startlingly anthropomorphic relationship — “in the harshest place on earth, love finds a way,” the film’s advertising claims.

March of the Penguins succeeds where most documentaries fail: in maintaining the tenuous balance between displaying a stream of aesthetically appealing but unexplained im-

ages, and rattling off a list of nothing more than scientific jargon. The narration, voiced by Morgan Freeman, focuses on the humanlike behavior of the penguins, avoiding scientific names and detailed numerical data. This story-like style helps the film grab and hold the attention of everyone from child to senior, scientist to layman.

While sentimental in both narration and presentation, the film does not shy away from presenting the inevitable harshness of the Antarctic — not every egg survives the delicate transfer over the ice from the mother who produced it to the father who will keep it warm, and not every chick lives through the frigid temperatures and evades its predators.

The cinematography, the result of one year of work and over 120 hours of images, is nothing short of breathtaking. Close-up shots detail the texture of the feathers, under which the eggs and young chicks bury themselves to avoid the cold; distant overhead shots show the vastness of an ethereal Antarctic; and underwater images reveal the speed and grace of the penguin in its motions beneath the land. Only during the end credits, without a doubt worth staying in the theater to watch, do we see those who made the documentary possible: the cameramen, who withstood 100 mile per hour winds and temperatures below zero degrees Fahrenheit, who were unable to



WARNER INDEPENDENT PICTURES

Young penguin chicks huddle close to their doting parents in *March of the Penguins*.

see any of their images prior to their return to France. The score, composed by Alex Wurman, serves as a companion to the imagery with lyrical flute solos, the soft plucking of harp strings, and graceful melodies sweeping through strings and piano.

The film dazzles with images that proffer any number of reactions. One moment, one might smile at the cute, but not quite kitsch, groups of young penguins at play; the next, perhaps become incredulous at the thought of

the male penguin, who, while protecting the egg, forgoes food for more than four months; the next, perhaps mourn the loss of a new life. *March of the Penguins* is a documentary from which the audience leaves with not only facts, but also with an understanding of the remarkable species that annually performs this devoted mating ritual in the depths of the Antarctic.

'March of the Penguins' is playing at Loews on Church Street in Harvard Square.

MOVIE REVIEW ★★★

The Animation Master Strikes Again, Though Only in Plot, Not in Form

By W. Victoria Lee

STAFF WRITER

Howl's Moving Castle

Written and directed by Hayao Miyazaki

Based on the book by Diana Wynne Jones

Voices in dubbed (English) version starring

Christian Bale, Emily Mortimer, Billy Crystal,

Jean Simmons, Lauren Bacall, and

Blythe Danner

Rated PG

Imagine you're a plain-looking teenage girl who expects to spend the rest of your boring life as a hat-maker. One day, on your way to visiting your more comely sibling, you encounter two overzealous soldiers in a dark alley. Suddenly, a handsome wizard, himself pursued by amoebic dark goos wearing purple suits, comes to your rescue. On command, you two leap into mid-air and stroll above the town, and ...

And you have to watch *Howl's Moving Castle* to see what happens.

But unless you watch animation solely for the visual appeal, you might be in for a disappointment. *Howl's*, the latest work by Japanese animation maestro Hayao Miyazaki and his Studio Ghibli, marks a departure from most of his previous works, which most recently included the Academy Award-winning *Spirited Away* (2001). And the changes are not for the better.

Based loosely on a Diana Wynne Jones book of the same name, *Howl's* is a hodgepodge of fairy tales with an ill-placed anti-war message. On top of that, it's an adaptation, not an entirely original work by Miyazaki-san.

Miyazaki's previous works all feature their own unique creatures and showcase different sides of his imaginative mind. *Howl's Moving Castle*, however, stars some suspiciously familiar Miyazakian characters. The amoebic dark goos, for example, recall the evil twins of No-Face from *Spirited Away*, and dark-haired wizard Howl bears close resemblance to Haku, also from

Spirited Away. Howl's moving castle, although just a moving pile of junk on top of a dilapidated cottage, could be associated with a similar architectural unit in *Castle in the Sky* (1986). Even the settings of the story seem to be a deja vu of *Kiki's Delivery Service* (1989). The single most original feature in the film is a dial-controlled magical door that takes the occupants of the castle to different locations.

Yet perhaps the greatest disappointment of all is the assimilation of western culture, particularly the Disney-like characteristics, in this work. The fire demon Calcifer, for example, seems to be the reincarnation of Mushu, the dragon sidekick of Mulan; he assumes the same comic relief role with the same bad-attitude laden personality, which is far too exaggerated for a Miyazaki film. There are even two true-love-kiss-breaks-evil-curse scenarios. Since this film is based on an English children's book, some appearances of the cliché scenes that appear frequently in western animated features are understandable. But for a Miyazaki work, which is always a

conglomeration of fantastical new ideas featuring multi-faceted characters with complex emotions, the western fairy tale components undermine the captivating power it could have had otherwise.

Most of Miyazaki's films are targeted at a specific age group. *Spirited Away* is for 10- or 11-year-olds, while *My Neighbor Totoro* (1988) targets the younger audience of age five or six. *Castle in the Sky* (1986) and *Kiki's Delivery Service* (1989) are targeted at early teens. Although made for the more youthful population, the stories of most of Miyazaki's works can be enjoyed by anyone. But *Howl's* will join *Princess Mononoke* (1997) as an animated film with themes more suitable for a slightly older population. Romance is clearly depicted in the film, another deviation from most of Miyazaki's works. The boy-loves-girl (or girl-loves-boy) element unfortunately does not fit well with the premise of the story, and neither does the anti-war message. Unlike *Princess Mononoke*, which has a clear love-your-earth theme with a strong plot to sub-

stantiate it, *Howl's* proves to be too ambitious to cover subject matters of love, antiwar, and coming-of-age simultaneously and therefore fails to deliver them successfully.

Story premise and plot aside, the film is still a great pleasure to watch. Studio Ghibli is known for its hand-drawn animations, and Miyazaki purposely limits the number of digitally-manipulated frames. As a result, *Howl's*, as well as other Ghibli productions, is a true testimonial to the craft of animation.

Two significant merits that set Miyazaki films apart from the more familiar western animated features are the range of colors and level of details. Breaking the tradition of using only the most pronounceable shades that will look good in plastic when the film characters are made into toys, Miyazakian works explore all colors imaginable. The aim is not to produce photo-realistic pictures, but to create refreshing images that both reward intelligent viewers' visual hunger and rejuvenate the audience's tired eyes that have been dulled by commercialized bright colors.

The attention to details also enlivens each frame in the animated sequence. Instead of reducing the backgrounds to a blur, the films capture each leaf, each insect, each button with the same vigor and care as with the main characters. As a result, the films feature scenes that not only add to the works' overall sophistication, but also enable each frame to become a stand-alone artwork.

It was rumored that *Howl's* would be Miyazaki's last film. But the animation master has come in and out of retirement before, so a new Miyazaki work in the future is not entirely impossible. With all the prior works leaving viewers hungry for more, hopefully Studio Ghibli will recognize the blunder of adapting a western novel and return to enchanting viewers worldwide with its imaginative and original works.

'Howl's Moving Castle' is playing at Kendall Square Cinema, in both dubbed (English) and subtitled (Japanese) versions.



WALT DISNEY STUDIOS

Howl's moving "castle" is parked outside the kingdom.

MOVIE REVIEW ★★★

'War of the Worlds' Thrills and Chills

Fanning the Shining Star in Summer Blockbuster

By Yong-yi Zhu

STAFF WRITER

War of the Worlds

Directed by Steven Spielberg

Screenplay written by Josh Friedman and

David Koepp

Based on the book by H.G. Wells

Starring Tom Cruise, Morgan Freeman,

Dakota Fanning, Miranda Otto, and

Justin Chatwin

Rated PG-13

The master of grandeur, Steven Spielberg, has produced yet another science fiction masterpiece — *War of the Worlds* is the edge-of-your-seat summer thriller that we've been awaiting. Spielberg has a history with out-of-this-world aliens, and although it may not live up to the likes of *Close Encounters of the Third Kind* (1977) or *E.T. the Extra-Terrestrial* (1982), *War of the Worlds* is still entertaining and action-packed.

The movie is about a divorced father, Ray Ferrier (Tom Cruise), left with his teenage son Robbie (Justin Chatwin) and his ten-year-old daughter Rachel (Dakota Fanning) for the week when aliens suddenly start coming out of the ground and killing everything in sight. We see the struggle to survive as well as the terror humanity must face.

Of course, we cannot talk about the movie without discussing the merits of its adaptation from H.G. Wells' novel. Sure, the setting is no longer England and time has been fast-forwarded into the 21st century, but the overall effect and feel of the book is well-replicated. Wells sought to instill fear into those that listened to the radio broadcasts; Spielberg gener-



PARAMOUNT PICTURES

Ray Ferrier (Tom Cruise) protects his daughter (Dakota Fanning) in *War of the Worlds*.

ates the same level of intensity with the special effects and fast pace of the movie. In fact, the movie is essentially a modernized version of the book running at hyperspeed.

Even though the modernization causes holes in the plot, *War of the Worlds* makes up for them by sucking you in and drawing you close to the drama produced by Cruise and Fanning. Spielberg, of course, adds his own flare by altering a significant portion of the plot. The characters are completely different, and many of their adventures are drastically changed. He does preserve most of the important scenes in the book, though, especially the ones that help develop Cruise's character.

Be forewarned that those watching the movie without previous knowledge of the plot may become confused. The overall plot is not well explained, and the second half of the movie is even vaguer than the first. Outside of knowing that Cruise and Fanning are running from the martians that have come to Earth to destroy it, much of the rest of the movie is ambiguous. In that, Spielberg stays true to Wells' novel; Wells never intended the readers to know where he was going, just that they were on a journey.

For those who love the technically advanced, this movie is for you. The special effects certainly are not the crisp and clean kind found in the *Star Wars* movies, but they stick true to

Spielberg's other films, like *Jurassic Park* (1993, 1997) and *Indiana Jones* (1981, 1984, 1989). The aliens are big, very big. They are menacing from afar, but up close, the details are tremendous. The only thing more amazing than the aliens themselves is the trail of destruction that they leave behind. Whether their Heat-Ray or their tentacles, everything looks real and feels alive. The camera work in the movie is also fantastic. Some of the most creative shots zoom in and out without awkwardness while providing a more complete view of everything that's happening. The music and sound flow well with the movie, keeping you entirely engaged with the mayhem occurring around the main characters.

But the best part of the movie is not the huge aliens that destroy mankind, nor the presence of the big-name actor Tom Cruise, but his small co-star Dakota Fanning. Her performance in the movie is absolutely chilling at times; the close-up shots of her make you want to jump out of your seat, and she alone makes the movie an absolute thrill ride. Every time you calm down enough to sit back, she rattles you once again with her screams, scared looks, and overall demeanor. Fanning has really matured since *I Am Sam* (2001), and she has the presence of a great movie star.

Tom Cruise is merely a second-class citizen to Fanning's brilliance. His character is mechanical, and at times, instead of the suffering citizen running from danger, he reminds you of the suave gentleman from *Top Gun* (1986). But he has his moments, especially when paternalistically protective of his daughter, Fanning.

Overall, the movie is entertaining as both an action movie and a thriller, and it's definitely worth a trip to the theater.

MOVIE REVIEW ★★★★★

A Series of Fortunate Events

By Bill Andrews

STAFF WRITER

Crash

Directed by Paul Haggis

Written by Paul Haggis and Robert Moresco

Starring Sandra Bullock, Don Cheadle,

Matt Dillon, Jennifer Esposito, and

William Fichtner

Rated R

If it hadn't been for a series of coincidences and luck, I might never have seen the movie *Crash*. My girlfriend first found out about it a month ago from an old issue of *Entertainment Weekly* that she found lying around. She told me, "Hey, this seems like a weird idea for a movie: the screenwriter and his wife had their car stolen after renting something from Blockbuster, a weird movie about Norwegian fishermen or something, and after he recovered from the shock of it, he wondered what the carjackers must have thought of them for having rented such a weird movie." Intriguing, sure, but so what? Intriguing tidbits are what *Entertainment Weekly* is all about, and besides, there are bigger, better movies to watch.

One month later, the next bit of luck happened. A friend told us there would be free hot air balloon rides in the Boston Common. My girlfriend and I brought movie passes that I'd recently won since we were going to be so close

to the Loews at the Common; we figured heck, you never know. When we found out it was too windy for hot air ballooning, we decided to see what was playing. At a theater that big, odds are that something good's playing soon. We saw that *Crash* was playing in 15 minutes and cashed in our passes.

What luck! The movie rocked; both my girlfriend and I loved it. It featured a star-studded cast including (but not limited to) an unusually mean Sandra Bullock, a refreshingly adult Brendan Fraser, and a shockingly legitimate Ludacris. The soundtrack was perfect, only adding to the emotional energy, never taking away. But the true greatness, we both felt, lay in the story.

Set in L.A., a myriad of characters with only the barest connections to one another face two difficult days. At first glance, that doesn't seem like much to get excited about. "And," you might be asking, "what does that have to do with the intriguing tidbit revealed to us by *Entertainment Weekly*?" The answer, of course, is everything.

Most obviously, two of the main characters are carjackers who have a great conversation with social and religious commentary while evading the police. After watching the movie, it's almost too easy to imagine them talking about what kind of person would rent such a dumb movie (answer: a white one) and mocking them to no end. But more subtly, talking about what makes other people, other ethnicities, weird

is one of the driving forces behind the movie. Many of the characters are part of the LAPD, which is notorious for racial discrimination and bigotry; if we are to believe *Crash* (and *Avenue Q*'s famous song), everyone's a little bit racist.

While it would be too grandiose to say that *Crash* teaches us that everyone is equal, it would be fair to say it shows how similar everyone is. Every character is socially aware, all too conscious of the position that society (or The Man) puts him in. Of course, not everyone accepts it the same way. Also uniting the characters are the tenuous links that bind them, showing how closely everyone is related, even in a big city like L.A. One of the carjackers bumps into a television producer, whose wife was harassed by a cop, whose partner picks up the other carjacker. The whole movie's like that.

But I think the "we're all related, we're all the same" theme is the lesser of two. At one point, a character the audience has been despising has a nasty fall, maybe even a deadly one. My girlfriend was in the middle of bad-mouthing this character to me ("That bitch! I can't believe she —") when she took her fall; immediately, that switched to "Oh no, I hope she's okay." It's occurred to me that this reaction is one of the great things about people; as much as you may hate someone, deep down, you still want them to be all right, or at least alive. Many of the characters (though not all by any means)



LIONS GATE ENTERTAINMENT

Jean Cabot (Sandra Bullock) practices her bitchy stare in *Crash*.

are odious, spiteful, terrible people, but they still do good things and help others. They suck, but they're still human.

In showing us this, *Crash* reminds us what it is to be human. Yes, we are capable of terrible things (my girlfriend burst into tears at one particularly sad moment, something I'd never seen her do before), but we're capable of good things too, things like mercy, compassion, and forgiveness. Kind of a grandiose statement, sure, but it was a grandiose movie. And it was pretty funny, too.

MOVIE REVIEW ★★½

First Summer Blockbuster Falls Short of Expectations

By Kapil Amarnath

Mr. and Mrs. Smith

Directed by Doug Liman

Written by Simon Kinberg

Starring Angelina Jolie, Brad Pitt, Adam Brody,

Vince Vaughn, and Angela Bassett

Rated PG-13

The Smiths appear on the screen, awkwardly sitting in plush leather couches. Why? A marriage counselor asks them pointed questions about their (ahem) sex lives. But really, I see the two hottest stars in Hollywood, Brad Pitt and Angelina Jolie, answering questions about their sex lives. With such a juicy opening, my expectations of Mr. and Mrs. Smith soar.

In the next scene, the film reveals Jolie and Pitt's first and crucial meeting in the exotic locale of Bogota. Their beautiful heads see one another, and they slide effortlessly into the roles of lovers. This second scene segues into a mixture of a romantic comedy and an action film. Unfortunately, Simon Kinberg's script dilutes the best elements of both genres, resulting

in an underwhelming film.

Five or six years after they first meet, the Smiths, John (Pitt) and Jane (Jolie), are having trouble with their marriage. That's not surprising, since neither can reveal to the other a huge secret: they're assassins, and for rival firms at that. During a routine day on the job, John and Jane try to take out the same person (Adam Brody), and in the process, they discover each other's true vocations. Their disbelief causes the discontentment in their marriage to pour out, and each directs much anger towards the other.

The credits after the film don't suggest the mediocrity that preceded them. For example, Doug Liman is a proven director, capable of making high-quality, entertaining films such as *Go* (1999) and *Bourne Identity* (2002). Liman directs a couple of decent action scenes, goads quality performances, and uses close-ups of our pretty stars to good effect.

Pitt and Jolie? They're both quite good. We've come to expect this out of them — they're two of the most reliable stars in Hollywood, and they do it again here, creating distinct characters that have a tangible on-screen chemistry. Vince Vaughn and Kelly Washington (who gave

a solid supporting performance in *Ray* (2004)) appear in small supporting roles as friends of the couple. There's also a small part for *The O.C.* star Brody. He does his schtick, promising Liman (an executive producer of the show) some product placement.

The final element is the screenplay written by the aforementioned Kinberg, whose only writing credit before *Smith* was for *xxX: State of the Union* (2005). Kinberg tries to combine two genres, as Simon Pegg and Edgar Wright successfully did in their "rom-zom," *Shaun of the Dead* (2004). In the film, a zombie attack occurs at a key moment in the main character's life — when he has to win his girlfriend over — and the two genres seem essential to the film's arc. In *Smith*, the action occurs because of the Smiths' jobs (which aren't believable), and the combination of genres is forced and lacks subtlety. As a result, the plot is



FOX

The Smiths (Brad Pitt and Angelina Jolie) combine work with pleasure.

contrived, and the picture suffers.

Despite its deficiencies, *Smith* is moderately entertaining because of Pitt and Jolie. Still, the film's quality doesn't match the pre-release press frenzy, which included buzz about an erotic scene between the two stars that was deleted from the final cut. I would suggest waiting for the DVD to see it and the movie.

RESTAURANT REVIEW

A Taste to Remember

L'Osteria's Ambiance And Value Make It Worth A Return Trip

By Elizabeth Zakszewski

L'Osteria
104 Salem Street
Boston, MA 02113
(617) 723-7847

Let me begin by saying that if you like Italian food and you've never been to the North End, you're not currently living. If you are here this summer, please do yourself a favor: take the T to Haymarket and enjoy an evening stroll in this Italian neighborhood. Be adventurous and walk into the first restaurant that strikes your fancy.

That is exactly what I was doing, with a group of friends on a birthday mob, about a year ago when I first ate at L'Osteria. We were impressed at how polite the hostess was about accommodating a group of over 10 in their small dining area (though it was a Tuesday night). I decided to be brave; rather than order an old standby like Chicken Parmesan, I picked the first pasta dish that looked exciting, Pasta Diavolo (\$10.95). It was, if you'll pardon the expression, love at first bite.

When I took my parents to the North End in August, the memory of that Diavolo sauce lingered in my mind. The spicy tomato sauce had so much flavor. It was spicy, but not the kind of spicy that numbs your taste buds so you can't tell whether or not you're eating roadkill. I also remembered how much I loved the bread they brought to the table with olive oil to dip; it had been hard for me to resist hoarding a whole basket for myself. Unfortunately, when I was with my parents, I couldn't remember the name of this fabulous restaurant, so we picked another place that was fine, but just wasn't the same.

A few months ago, I tried to convince my boyfriend to play the "random restaurant in the North End" game with me, but he proposed that we be a bit more organized and choose a restaurant before leaving. After perusing restaurant listings online, we finally decided on one called L'Osteria.

Imagine my surprise when we arrived at the address and stepped into what I instantly recognized as the restaurant of my memories! After about an hour's wait for a table (even with an 8 p.m. reservation on a Friday night), I was finally reunited with my savory sauce, this time in the person of Shrimp Diavolo (\$18.95). My boyfriend had Chicken al Burro e Limone (\$14.95), which had a delicious lemon butter and white wine sauce. For those of age, the White Zinfandel (a rose or blush-colored wine, \$6.50/glass) was excellent, though I wish I'd been warned it did not go well with a spicy dish. And the bread with olive oil was as good as I'd remembered it. We had found a new favorite restaurant.

And so we returned last Sunday with a 7 p.m. reservation. This time, we were seated without a wait. I have recently come to the conclusion that one should never pass up the chance to eat stuffed mushrooms, so I ordered some (\$7.95) as an appetizer. While good, I must sadly say that they were not the best I've ever had. For my entree, I tried Chicken Pizaiola (\$14.95). The tomato, garlic, and parsley sauce became bland after only a few bites. My boyfriend had Chicken Braciolettine (\$16.95), a piece of chicken wrapped in prosciutto and cheese with lemon, butter, dry wine, and mushrooms. He liked it, though I am not as big a fan of meat and felt that the double layer was a bit much. We did, however, find a half-carafe of the house white wine (\$11.00) to have an excellent taste and be of good value, filling more than two glasses for a dollar less than the price of two glasses.

I enjoyed the ambiance of the restaurant, with its dim romantic candlelight and a small, intimate home dining room feeling. The wait staff was a bit standoffish, (it was annoying to have to ask for water refills a few times) but not at all rude. I would definitely recommend L'Osteria to North End restaurant fans, especially since the prices are reasonable compared to those of many other restaurants in the neighborhood.

Be prepared to wait on a Friday or Saturday night, though you'll probably find it worth your while. Despite the few disappointments of my recent visit, I still plan to return. Next time, though, I'll be sticking with the Diavolo sauce.

MOVIE REVIEW ★★★

From a Computer Scientist, A Movie About Chinese Lesbians

Well-drawn Characters in 'Saving Face' Are a Pleasure to Watch

By Kelley Rivoire

EDITOR IN CHIEF

Saving Face

Directed and written by Alice Wu

Starring Michelle Krusiec, Joan Chen, and Lynn Chen

Rated R

Saving Face is a far cry from a typical summer movie, both in content and production. It's the story of a young, lesbian Chinese-American doctor who struggles to balance interactions with a widowed, traditional, yet mysteriously pregnant mother and with a girlfriend who would like to push their secretive romance into a full-fledged relationship. Yet despite its rather unusual premise, *Saving Face* dwells in believable characters and subtleties of expression rather than typecast characters and flamboyant declarations.

Director and writer Alice Wu, herself a lesbian, briefly attended MIT before transferring to Stanford, where she earned bachelor's and master's degrees in computer science. Wu quit her job at Microsoft to pursue her dream of becoming a screenwriter, giving herself five years to succeed. With *Saving Face*, she met her goal.

The characters in *Saving Face*, despite or perhaps because of their well-intentioned flaws, are without exception likeable. (In her director's note, Wu writes that she is fascinated by "human ineptitude.")

The young doctor, Wilhelmina Pang, played by Michelle Krusiec in her first lead movie role, tries to be everything to everyone — a hard-working doctor, a devoted daughter and granddaughter, and a conscientious girlfriend. Ultimately, the roles come into conflict, and Wil finds herself constantly disappointing someone. While hiding her sexual identity from her family, she disappoints her girlfriend; when revealing it, her family.

Her widowed mother, played by Joan Chen of *The Last Emperor*, likewise faces the prejudices of the Chinese community when she becomes pregnant but refuses to reveal the father's identity. She soon finds herself alienated from her parents, moving in with her daughter. (She shows up on Wil's door, armed with a vast supply of toilet paper — perhaps she encountered



SONY PICTURES CLASSICS

Wil (Michelle Krusiec) and Vivian (Lynn Chen) share a long-awaited dance in *Saving Face*.

a sale en route? — and expects to be taken in.) Her family tries to fix her up with a husband so that her child will have a father, effectively forcing upon her what society demands rather than what she wants.

The third of the trio of leading ladies, Vivian Shing, played by Lynn Chen, differs from Wil and her mother. Vivian, a dancer, exudes confidence and self-assurance, and she finds herself frustrated by a girlfriend who can't seem to commit to the relationship.

Like the characters themselves, the scenes demonstrate Wu's perceptiveness in pinning down this natural "human ineptitude." Often, we see Vivian and Wil sitting feet apart on a bench, each facing forward, showing the separation and awkwardness remaining between them. We see Wil and her mother in this same position, sitting on the couch, facing forward toward the television, rather than toward each other. In the interactions of all her characters, Wu masterfully captures this gap between what people think and would like to communicate, and what they can actually bring themselves to say and do.

Though seemingly heavy in subject mate-

rial, the film is remarkably light-hearted, with many comedic exchanges. Though some of the laughs stem from Wu's ability to recognize and recreate stereotypical Asian behaviors, Wu's characterizations don't seem either mean-spirited or ridiculously exaggerated. And she completely avoids any inclusion of stereotypical gay behaviors; while billed as a "comedy," this certainly isn't the Chinese, female version of *Will and Grace*.

Like its characters, this film isn't perfect. The dialogue seems a bit unnatural at times, and picking up the subtleties of the script is difficult in the numerous exchanges that occur in Chinese. The feel-good, largely predictable ending treads the line of the realistic. But this film isn't about methodically copying human reality; rather, it's about keenly demonstrating what makes us human, across race, gender, sexual orientation, or any other demographic. With enjoyable characters and an unusual story, *Saving Face* charmingly reminds us of the inevitable foibles and stumbling blocks on the road to happiness in life and love.

'Saving Face' is playing at Loews on Church Street in Harvard Square.

RESTAURANT REVIEW

Classy Atmosphere But Affordable Food In Bangkok City Restaurant

By Sie Hendrata Dharmawan

STAFF WRITER

Bangkok City Restaurant
167 Massachusetts Avenue
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My not-so-busy summer schedule has encouraged me to venture out more often and try restaurants across the river. One particular restaurant recommended to me was Bangkok City Restaurant, located on Mass. Ave. near the Berklee College of Music. It turned out to be a nice Thai restaurant with good food and reasonable prices, a place that I would frequent often if I were a Berklee student.

The restaurant has a classy, regal atmosphere; the carpeting, wallpaper, and decorations — golden ornaments — make you feel like you are in a Southeast Asian palace. They even have a special elevated seating area where you can sit on the floor, similar to those in many sushi places. The waitresses, dressed in semi-formal attire, are polite and approachable. The service is generally fast, though it sometimes slows down when the restaurant is crowded.

Lunch at Bangkok City Restaurant is really affordable. The dishes range from \$5.95–8.50, and for an additional \$2.50, you can add any appetizer and a bowl of the soup of the day. My favorite dish is the Massaman Curry (\$5.95–7.50, depending on what kind of meat you get; I would recommend pork). The greenish coconut milk is thick and tasty, and the cashew nuts and pineapples in it offer an interesting mix of tropical tastes. The menu lists this curry as moderately spicy, but I don't find it spicy at all.

Another good dish is the Pla Preow Wan. The menu lists it as crispy catfish filet with mixed vegetables in sweet-and-sour sauce, though the

sauce ought to be called sweet-and-not-so-sour sauce. Nevertheless, the taste of the sauce is good and rather appropriate for the vegetables in the dish (mushrooms, pineapple, pepper, baby corn, cucumber, and tomatoes). The fish, cut in small pieces and buried under the vegetables, is disappointingly sparse given that this dish is the most expensive lunch choice.

The dish that you shouldn't get is Yum Nua. It's a sliced flank steak mixed with salad, but it tastes like fruit salad with unnecessarily sour dressing. It is also quite spicy, though not unbearably so. It's too bad, because the steak would have been delicious without the salad.

As for the appetizers, my top pick is Shrimp Mermaid. Imagine a fried shrimp meatball, shaped like a submarine, on a skewer. The tenderness of the "meatball" combines perfectly with their cucumber dip sauce. Another top choice is the beef satay, a grilled beef skewer. The accompanying peanut sauce is so good that I can eat it even without the satay. Chicken satay is also good, but beef is better.

If you come when the soup of the day is Tom Kah (coconut milk soup), then you're in luck. The coconut soup is full of taste — sweet, not sour — and packed with chicken bits and vegetables whose texture fit the soup perfectly. However, if the soup of the day is Tom Yum, you may not want to get the combo. Tom Yum soup is supposed to be sour, but this restaurant makes it too sour and spicy, not to mention with too little content.

Dinner at Bangkok City starts at 5:00 p.m. during the weekdays and at 3:00 p.m. during the weekends. It's a bit pricier — around \$8–10 per person, more if you get appetizers and desserts. But with the dinner menu, you have more choices. One notable addition is the Papaya Salad, which includes assorted vegetables, roasted peanuts, and, of course papaya. The

dressing is a unique mix of sourness and peanut taste, with a strange spice that I can't name, that is quite good. If you can't take spicy food, though, I wouldn't recommend it.

If you don't know what to have for dinner, you can't go wrong with the Chef's Specialties list. Some of the better dishes there are Shrimp Paradise, Bangkok Duck, and Crispy Duck. Don't worry about picking the ones listed as spicy. With the exception of the previously-mentioned Papaya Salad, most dishes here are not as spicy as the menu implies. For those who prefer traditional Thai dishes, there is a special section on the menu with dishes more faithful to original Thai food. I've never tried them, but I've heard that unless you grew up in Thailand or have lived there for a long time, you may want to stick with the Americanized version, that is, the rest of the menu.

Bangkok City also offers a wide range of desserts, the highlights of which are Fried Ice Cream and Golden Banana. The Thai Fruit on Ice is good too, and you can choose lychee or rambutan (a tropical fruit, somewhere between lychee and longan) on your ice. Sometimes, though, they give you lychee when you ask for rambutan or vice versa.

Apart from the food itself, the presentation and atmosphere deserve a standing ovation. The plates, bowls, and silverware are intricately ornamented and surprisingly well-matched with the regal interior. Rice comes with a slice of orange, and water comes with lemon. I even like the candle holders on the tables. The only out-of-place aspect of the atmosphere is the music, which consists of American hits from the 70s and 80s. Overall, Bangkok City probably has the best atmosphere among the restaurants near Symphony Hall. Even when crowded, it still feels peaceful and calming. That, combined with the great food, makes for a pleasant visit.

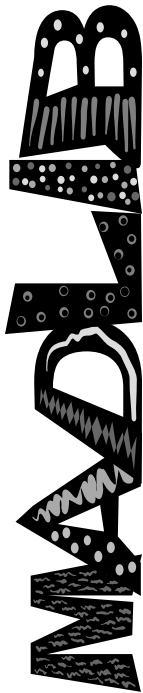
Trio

"The Best of Sugar Ray" in stores now!!! ALUM.MIT.EDU/WWW/EMIE

by Emezie Okorafor



www.phdcomics.com



- 1. noun, male at MIT: _____
- 2. verb, past tense: _____
- 3. adverb: _____
- 4. amount of time: _____
- 5. verb, past tense: _____
- 6. number: _____
- 7. adjective: _____
- 8. feeling (adjective): _____
- 9. verb, past tense: _____
- 10. MIT location: _____
- 11. adjective: _____
- 12. clothing item: _____
- 13. feeling (adjective): _____
- 14. noun, plural: _____
- 15. verb: _____

By Kathy Lin
CONTRIBUTING EDITOR

Instructions: Fill in words of your choice for the parts of speech listed to the left. Then, fill in the story below with those words. Send your Mad Lib to madlibs@tt.mit.edu!

Disclaimer — None of this actually happened!

President Susan Hockfield announced today that _____ (1. noun, male at MIT) will be the next MIT provost. “_____ (1. noun) has _____ (2. verb, past tense) our community _____ (3. adverb) for the past _____ (4. amount of time), Hockfield said. “I have personally _____ (5. verb) with him _____ (6. number) times, and it has always been a very _____ (7. adjective) experience.”

_____ (1. noun) will be replacing current Provost Robert A. Brown, who will be the next president of Boston University. “I am very _____ (8. feeling) with this choice,” Brown said. “I have known _____ (1. noun) since we were both boys and _____ (9. verb, past tense) together in _____ (10. location).”

“Bob Brown will leave (a/an) _____ (11. adjective) _____ (12. clothing item) to fill,” said Hockfield, “but I am _____ (13. feeling) that _____ (1. noun) will step up to the job.”

On a related note, Brown has announced that his first move as president of BU will be to mandate that all _____ (14. noun, plural) must _____ (15. verb) on campus.

Crossword Puzzle

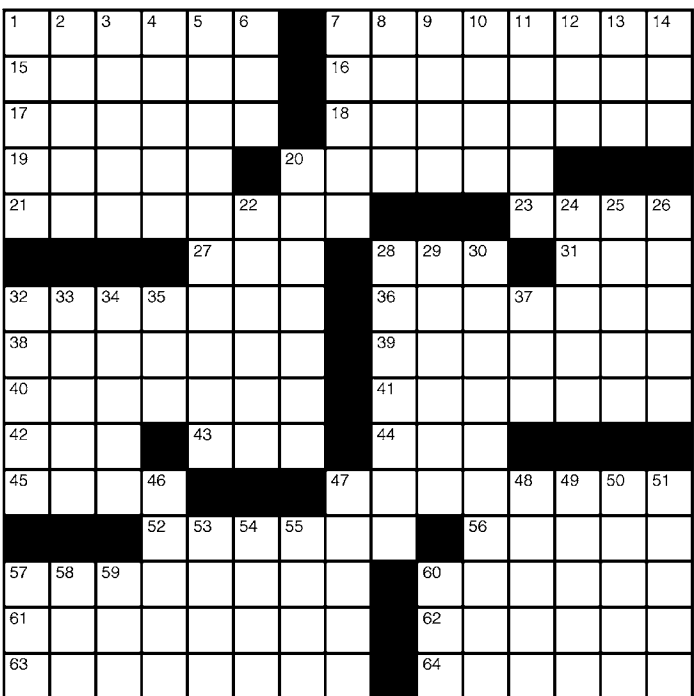
Solution, page @@ solution page @@

- ACROSS**

 - 1 Half dentures
 - 7 Eye problem
 - 15 Marine mollusk
 - 16 Young ruffian
 - 17 Excessively self-assured
 - 18 Audaciously rude
 - 19 Fill an empty flat
 - 20 “___ Fideles”
 - 21 Weapons buildup
 - 23 Unwanted lip
 - 27 Trajectory
 - 28 Once owned
 - 31 Took a chair
 - 32 Side view
 - 36 Musical sweet potato
 - 38 Changed neighborhood classifications
 - 39 Raspy voiced
- 40 Comic Coca
 - 41 Brown pigments
 - 42 O.T. book
 - 43 ___ Plaines, IL
 - 44 Wrap up
 - 45 Plant stalk
 - 47 Without a paycheck
 - 52 Counteracting agent
 - 56 Country house
 - 57 Deep-fried pastries
 - 60 Wing of a bird
 - 61 Supporter
 - 62 Dodged
 - 63 Bumpkins
 - 64 Take stock of

DOWN

 - 1 Shadow of an eclipse
 - 2 More virtuous
 - 3 Sacred poem
- 4 Switchback curves
 - 5 In shackles
 - 6 Cunning
 - 7 Reprove
 - 8 Top-rated
 - 9 Discard
 - 10 Large indefinite quantity
 - 11 Irritates
 - 12 Lengthy time period
 - 13 Is able to
 - 14 Explosive letters
 - 20 Gives one's consent
 - 22 Francis or Dahl
 - 24 Flu type
 - 25 ___ Catalina Island
 - 26 Remains
 - 28 Position under scrutiny
 - 29 Yearning painfully
 - 30 Thrill-seekers
- 32 Smug puritans
 - 33 Came across again
 - 34 Endangered layer
 - 35 Obscuring cloud
 - 37 Silver or Howard
 - 46 Hebrew lawgiver
 - 47 Adam and Rebecca
 - 48 Chemist Pauling
 - 49 Slur over
 - 50 Blackthorn berries
 - 51 Abrades to smoothness
 - 53 Fairway warning
 - 54 Run off
 - 55 E-mail button
 - 57 Cheerleader's word
 - 58 Crete's highest peak
 - 59 Bashful
 - 60 Type of soup or shooter



FoxTrot by Bill Amend

Dilbert® by Scott Adams

GIR Task Force Student Board Releases Addendum to Report

By Kathy Lin
CONTRIBUTING EDITOR

The final output of the Student Advisory Committee to the Task Force on the Undergraduate Educational Commons was e-mailed rather than presented to the task force and leaves several questions undressed.

Instead of a final draft, SAC produced an addendum to their April preliminary report that includes student feedback on the initial draft.

The committee felt that it could not complete a final report in a timely way that would deliver the feedback to the still-active Task Force, said John R. Velasco '06, a member of the student committee and the Task Force. The addendum is based on feedback from discussions with about 10 student groups, conversations with administrators, and online feedback.

Although the addendum makes mention of future work and issues left to address (for example, "there are several concerns that the SAC needs to address as it moves forward..."), the committee does not have any plans to make further recommendations, Velasco said. Instead, the Task Force will be responsible for addressing any concerns that they

deem important.

According to the addendum, there was agreement by students that the Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences requirement is complicated and in need of improvement.

Students mentioned that the communication requirement discourages students from taking classes with the designation, and that making Communication Intensive assignments, along with the designation, optional would be a possible solution. In addition, the addendum mentioned student suggestions about implementing a "strict prerequisite chain" for HASS classes, evaluating the scheduling of HASS classes, and making the HASS concentration optional.

For the Science General Institute Requirements, students "appreciated our attempt to allow more flexibility in choosing the courses to fulfill the requirement by having a 'basket' of options," according to the addendum. There was, however, negative feedback regarding the proposal that students would be required to "take at least six science GIRs regardless of past AP or advanced standing tests," according to the addendum. The committee offered an amended proposal, in which students who took advanced placement tests would

have to take an advanced standing exam, the introductory class, or a more advanced class to fulfill the requirement.

Lastly, the addendum reports that students felt changing the GIR structure might increase the course load required for some students because certain GIRs are prerequisites for classes within many majors. The committee responds in the addendum that only students in four majors, comprising 16 percent of the undergraduate population, would be required to take an additional course.

There is no comment in the addendum about advising. Most of the comments that Velasco received were regarding the HASS and science requirements, he said. "I can't say that we got any notable feedback other than 'Oh, we agree advising should get better,'" he said.

Velasco said that he anticipates that a small group of students will gather student feedback about the Task Force report this fall when it is released in preliminary form.

Committee Chair Kevin McComber '05 could not be reached for comment.

The addendum is available at <http://web.mit.edu/committees/ed-commons/students/index.html>.

Two Other Wrongful Death Suits Still Being Pursued Against MIT

Guy, from Page 1

poor coordination among Health Services, psychiatric staff and others were the "real and proximate causes of Richard's untimely death."

MIT admitted in a response to the suit that Guy had "engaged in experimental drug use and had sought treatment and counseling from MIT's medical and health service staff for this problem." The complaint alleged that the canister of nitrous oxide inhaled by Guy was kept inside the dormitory and was referred to as the "dorm bottle."

MIT convened a mental health task force on problems with psychi-

atric care at MIT Medical in 2000, following the suicide of Elizabeth H. Shin '02, and has since made progress in addressing the task force's concerns.

The statutory cap on damages that MIT, as a charitable corporation, could have been required to pay in the wrongful death suit was \$20,000, a limit the Guys made no attempt to circumvent. After agreeing to the settlement, the attorneys of both the Guys and MIT signed a statement dismissing the suit dated June 16.

In 2000, MIT paid \$6 million to the family Scott S. Krueger '01, who died in 1997 of alcohol poisoning af-

ter excessive drinking at an event at his fraternity Phi Gamma Delta (Fiji). The settlement also led to the decision to house all freshmen on campus. Former MIT President Charles M. Vest publicly apologized to the family for MIT's role in Krueger's death. Of the \$6 million, \$1.25 million was to be used to for a scholarship in Krueger's memory, with the remaining \$4.75 million compensatory damages to his parents.

Two other wrongful death lawsuits against MIT are active. After Shin's death in 2000, her parents filed a highly-publicized lawsuit against MIT and employees of MIT in 2002 seeking \$27.65 million in damages. In January and February of this year, the defendants made a motion for summary judgment, which means the defendants claim there are no contested issues of fact that would merit the deliberations of a jury. The judge can then render the verdict without further debate.

The parents of Julia Carpenter '03, who committed suicide in 2001, also filed a suit in 2003 seeking more than \$20 million in damages.

Kathy Lin contributed to the reporting of this story.

MIT AND FAMILY OF RICHARD GUY ANNOUNCE FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FUND

Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) and the family of Richard Guy II are pleased to announce MIT's establishment of the Rick Guy Fund. The fund is named for a former MIT student who died tragically on August 31, 1999. Guy is survived by his parents, Richard A. Guy Sr. and Janet V. Guy of Mission Viejo, California, and a sister, Suzanne, also of Mission Viejo, California.

Each year, the Rick Guy Fund will provide financial assistance to enable five or more incoming freshmen to attend one of the pre-orientation programs that MIT offers for the purpose of assisting incoming freshmen in their adjustment to college life.

MIT began offering pre-orientation programs to incoming freshmen in 1996, with the Freshman Leadership Program. Over the years MIT has added the Freshman Urban Program, the Freshman Arts Program, and two Freshman Outdoor Programs. In addition, pre-orientation programs are offered by seven of MIT's academic departments or programs: biology; civil and environmental engineering; earth, atmosphere and planetary sciences; history; mechanical engineering; nuclear science and engineering; and ocean engineering.

The Rick Guy Fund is a tribute to Rick's promise as a gifted student, an outstanding athlete, and a young man who cared deeply about others and about the academic opportunities that were afforded to him at MIT. MIT's establishment of this fund also resolves a lawsuit that the Guy family filed in August 2002. The lawsuit was filed in order to preserve the family's rights to pursue claims arising out of their son's death. The Guys did not pursue those claims, and instead worked with MIT to develop this fund to assist other MIT students in making the adjustment to college life, and thereby serve as a tribute to their son. With MIT's establishment of the Rick Guy Fund, the lawsuit has been dismissed.

The Rick Guy Fund will be dedicated at a ceremony at MIT at a date not yet determined.

SOURCE: MIT NEWS OFFICE

Have something to say?
letters@the-tech.mit.edu

Accident Sends 300 Gallons of Oil Into Power Plant's Basement

Three hundred gallons of oil spilled in the MIT power plant (Building 42) on June 27, said Director of Utilities Randall Preston.

The spill was entirely contained within the plant, he said. The spill occurred because a piece of wood fell on and snapped a gauge line, which is a pipe that serves as a pressure gauge off a main line. Workers spread absorbent material and contained the oil in a pool in the basement, having covered the floor drains.

"There's really nothing that needs to be replaced," he said, though the cost of the damages has yet to be determined. The spill was a "pretty unusual event," but "accidents do occasionally happen." The last oil spill in the plant was several years ago, he said.

—Kelley Rivoire

New Provost to be Chosen by August

President Susan Hockfield has said she expects to name MIT's next provost in mid to late July.

For the next provost, "excellent scholarship is a must, as is the ability to listen carefully to the faculty, and to translate that listening into policies and practices," Hockfield wrote in e-mail.

Hockfield has collected extensive feedback regarding the next provost, having met with dozens of members of the faculty and administration. She wrote that she has received written comments from more than 125 MIT community members on the "role of the provost, on the challenges they believe the next provost should address, and with names of people they believe should be given serious consideration."

Current provost Robert A. Brown will become president of Boston University on Aug. 1.

—Kelley Rivoire

Hockfield Discusses Education With Vietnamese Prime Minister

President Susan Hockfield reaffirmed MIT's status as a beacon for international students and education efforts in a meeting with the Vietnamese Prime Minister Phan Van Khai on June 24.

"MIT is committed to keeping our doors open to the students of Vietnam — and of countries around the world — as we advance our mission of service to the nation and the world," Hockfield wrote in an e-mail. "The Prime Minister appreciates the value MIT places on openness and on the importance of need-blind admission."

The two also discussed ways in which programs such as OpenCourseWare "might help advance the development of excellent higher education institutions in Vietnam," Hockfield wrote. Presently, some OCW materials are being translated into Vietnamese by a Fulbright-sponsored program.

Khai met with Hockfield as part of his recent tour of the U.S., which also included meetings with President George W. Bush and Harvard University President Lawrence H. Summers '75. Khai's visit made him the highest ranking Vietnamese official to visit the White House since the end of the Vietnam War.

—Kelley Rivoire

Budget Cuts Lead to New Fee For Deposits to TechCASH

The Card Office recently announced that a \$1.50 charge will be imposed for credit card TechCASH deposits made online. The Web site for online account management is run by a third-party company, which charges a MIT two percent commission for credit card deposits, said John M. McDonald, associate director of enterprise services.

The creation of the fee was made in an eleventh-hour decision prior to the new fiscal year, which began July 1, because budget cuts were necessary, McDonald said.

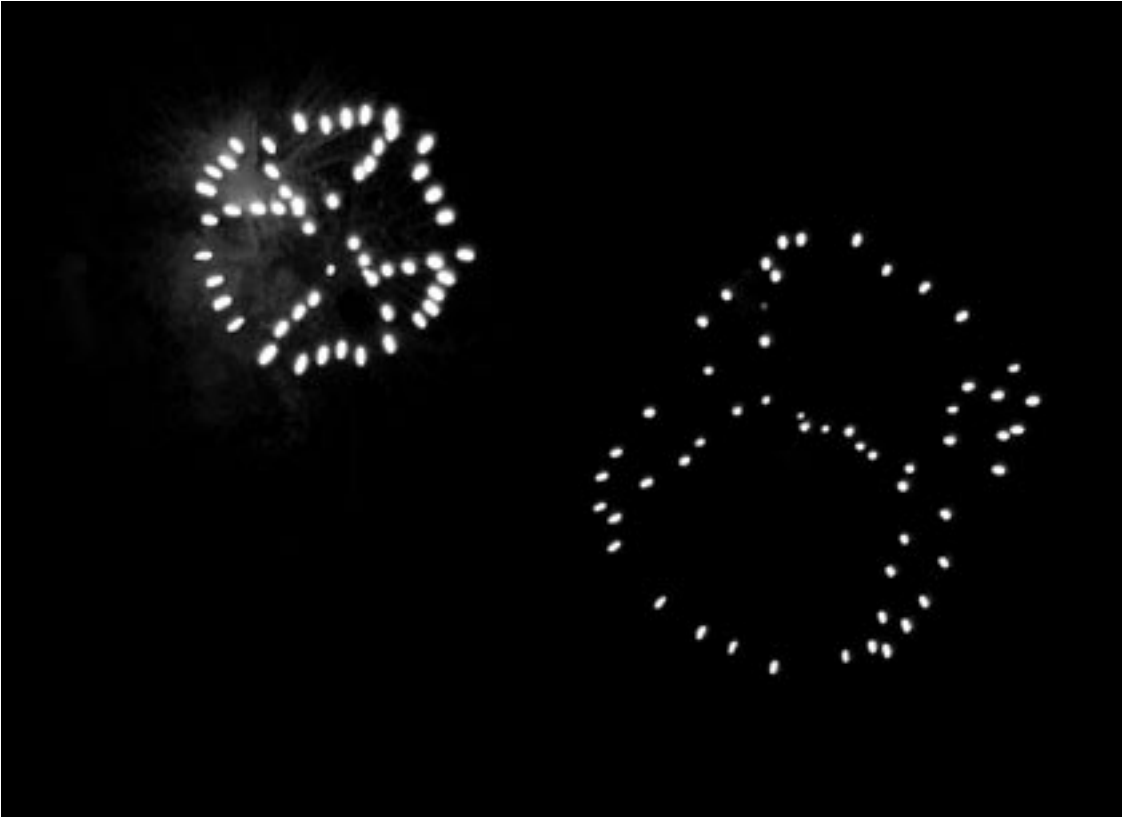
To avoid the fee, money can be added to the card accounts either by mail or in person at the card office, as a signature is required, McDonald said. The Card Office would have liked to announce the changes before students left at the end of the semester, he said, but the decisions had not been made at that time.

—Kelley Rivoire



BRIAN HEMOND—THE TECH

Boston Red Sox first baseman Kevin Millar fields a throw to first base just in time to tag out the Cleveland Indians' Ben Broussard. The Red Sox lost to the Indians, 12-8, after a top-of-the-ninth inning grand slam by Indians' Travis Hafner.



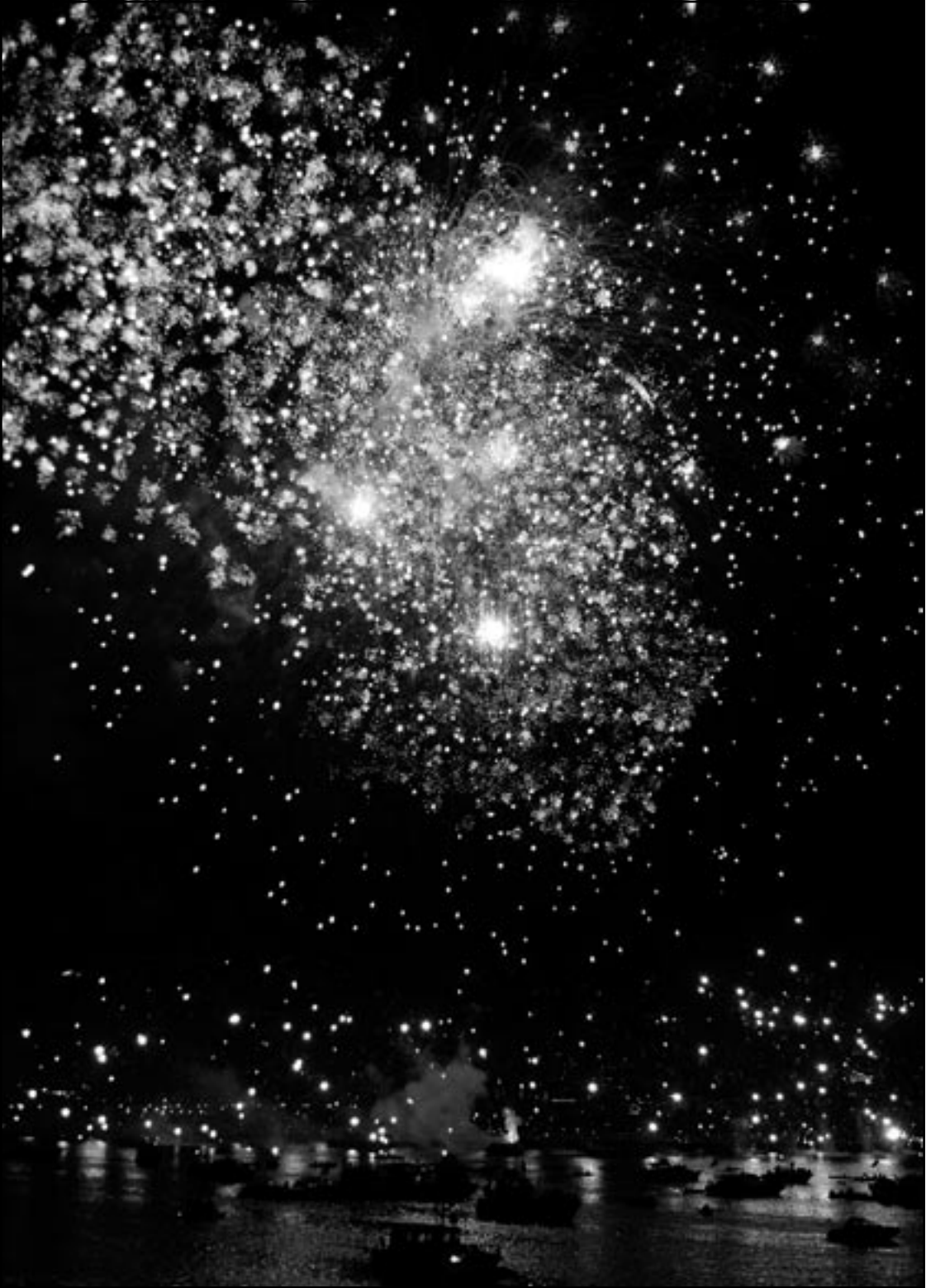


Boston Celebrates July 4th

Boston's Fourth of July celebration included concerts on the Esplanade and fireworks over the Charles River. Clockwise from top left:

- To the crowd's delight, the Army National Guard fires its howitzer cannons during the Boston Pops' performance of the 1812 Overture at the Hatch Shell.
- Three-dimensional box-shaped shells burst over the Charles River. Fireworks burst in artistic patterns.
- The Charles River basin is illuminated with thousands of glowing fragments.
- A girl waves an American flag during the Boston Pops' concert at the Hatch Shell.
- Smiley-face shaped shells were included the fireworks display this year.
- Shimmering remains of fireworks shells fall into the Charles River, illuminating the flotilla of boats at anchor around the launch barge.
- A fireworks shell streaks upwards and bursts.
- (center) From high atop the Green building, fireworks fill the air.

Photos by Ashley Finan, Brian Hemond, and Andrew Yip



Courses VI-1, X-B More Popular For 08's Than in Previous Years

By Tongyan Lin
STAFF REPORTER

Course X-B (Chemical Biological Engineering) and Course VI-I (Electrical Science and Engineering) attracted an unusually large number of freshmen this spring, according to data from the Registrar's Office.

There was a corresponding drop in popularity of the Course X (Chemical Engineering) and Course VII (Biology) majors. The number of Course X majors decreased from 62 to 32. Six percent of the Class of 2008 declared Course VII, compared to 8 percent of the Class of 2007 and 10 percent of the Class of 2006.

The Nuclear Engineering department has continued to steadily increase in size, from only 11 students of the Class of 2005 last fall to 25 new undergraduates from the Class of 2008.

The rest of the majors have remained fairly steady in size.

The data includes undergraduates who chose sophomore standing early.

Chem-Bio major sparks to life

Course X-B showed the greatest growth, more than tripling in size after its first year as an undergraduate major, and establishing it as one of the larger majors at the Institute.

The overall number of freshmen in Chemical Engineering (including X, X-B and X-C) increased to 107 students from 86.

Professor of Chemical Engineering Gregory C. Rutledge, executive officer of the department, said that a class of over 100 was large, but not unusual for the department, which had a similar class size about 10 years ago. The department typically sees cycles in class size, and the current trajectory didn't seem out of place, he said.

Rutledge said the popularity of X-B was a confirmation of a longtime trend the department saw in Course X majors to also pursue biology-related studies or career paths.

Moreover, the two majors have identical core classes, which have been evolving to include biology-related examples, he said.

EECS finds bottom of cycle

The percent of freshmen choosing Course VI grew from 20 percent last year to 23 percent this year, reversing a multi-year decline for the department. Course VI-II (Electrical Engineering and Computer Science) remained the most common major selected by freshmen.

Course VI Department Head L. Rafael Reif speculated that the increase has "little to do with MIT or the department and more to do with outside forces," though he said that the environment in the department has improved in the past year. Students were more involved in department events, he said.

Reif said that previous class sizes

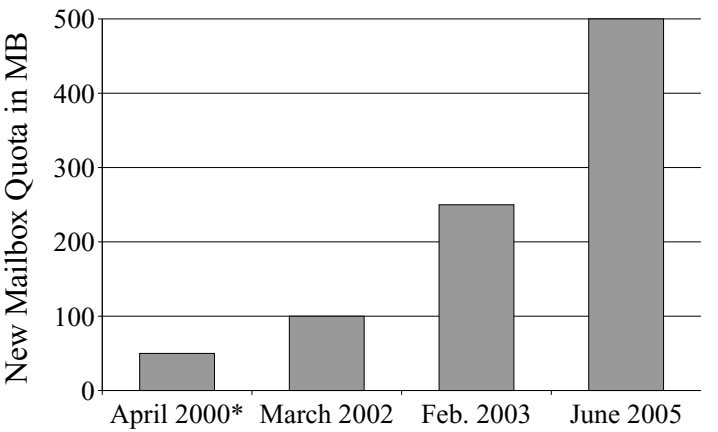
of around 35 percent of the class "stressed the department a tremendous amount" and made it difficult to promote excitement about the major.

Last year's 205 students was "much easier [to handle] with our resources right now," Reif said.

The increase is a stretch on their abilities, but "it's still reasonable we can do a great job," and the administration will help if necessary, he said.

Course	Number of Students
1	26
2	125
3	39
4	21
5	25
6	242
7	65
8	71
9	33
10	107
11	3
12	10
14	14
15	77
16	71
17	4
18	66
21	3
22	25
24	2
Undeclared	20
Did not turn in forms	20

SOURCE — REGISTRAR'S OFFICE



On June 27, Information Services and Technology increased the Webmail quota from 250MB to 500MB, said Theresa M. Regan, director of Operations and Infrastructure services for IS&T.

Regan said that the 250 megabyte quota had not been a problem for most of the approximately 20,000 Webmail users, but that IS&T had been planning a quota increase for some time anyway.

Users "didn't have many complaints" about the previous 250 MB quota, and not many people had reached or exceeded the limit, she said.

The Webmail storage has been switched from a Sun Microsystems T3 array to a Storage Area Networks (SAN) system, which is more flexible and capable of handling larger quantities of data.

—Jenny Zhang

Police Log

The following incidents were reported to the MIT Police between May 5 and June 24. This summary does not include incidents such as suspicious activity, false alarms, general service calls, medical shuttles, or isolated incidents of theft.

- May 5: Bldg. 3, 3rd fl. (122 Memorial Dr.), hackers found.
- May 10: Bldgs. 56-66 (21 Rear Ames St.), hack by students.
- May 11: Next House (500 Memorial Dr.), larceny by credit card; Student Center (84 Mass. Ave), bike stolen.
- May 12: Next House (500 Memorial Dr.), MIT ID stolen.
- May 16: Next House (500 Memorial Dr.), attempted breaking and entering; door super-glued; Zesiger Center (84 Mass Ave), wallet stolen from locker.
- May 17: Zesiger Center (100 Vassar St.), MIT ID, bank card, and cash stolen from unlocked locker.
- May 18: Bldg. 56 (21 Rear Ames St.), attempted breaking and entering.
- May 19: Next House (500 Memorial Dr.), camera stolen.
- May 21: Wadsworth St. near Eastgate (E55), assault and battery of female MIT student by three white males. Following a minor road-rage incident, offenders approached victim and her fiancé; one offender struck victim in the eye.
- June 5: McCormick (320 Memorial Dr.), breaking and entering; Bldg. 9 (105 Mass. Ave.), bike stolen from rack; 5 Cambridge Ctr., youths flee on foot after abandoning two bikes; Amherst Aly. (540 Memorial Dr), two suspicious persons heading west from McCormick, three bikes, backpack, and bolt cutters confiscated.
- June 7: Bldg. 56 (21 Rear Ames St.), two males sleeping in classroom.
- June 15: Student Center (84 Mass. Ave.), camera stolen; Zesiger Center (100 Vassar St), wallet stolen.
- June 16: Main St. near Kendall T, assault and battery by four males, high-school age. Offenders approached victim and asked to use his cell phone; victim said that he did not have one; one offender pulled on victim's shirt, asked if he wanted to fight, and struck him in the jaw.
- June 18: Student Center (84 Mass. Ave.), bike stolen.
- June 21: Sigma Nu (28 the Fenway), burglary.
- June 22: Bldg. 2 (182 Rear Memorial Dr.), video camera and tapes stolen; Bldg. NW16 (167 Albany St.), breaking & entering, magnet stolen.
- June 24: Bldg. 2 (182 Rear Memorial Dr.), tools stolen.

—Compiled by Marjan Rafat, with assistance of members of the MIT Crime Club.

UA Changing Student Advocacy, Feedback Mechanisms a Priority

Card , from Page 1

required to give monthly updates, she said.

Unless they are requested, new cards will not be issued to current card holders. The new card will definitely roll out in August, but the Card Council would collect additional feedback during the fall, and consider another redesign, McDonald said.

Designs, process criticized

To allow for fast identification, the new card designs use words and background patterns to differentiate among five categories of users: students, faculty, employees, alumni, and spouses or partners.

The designs in general are brighter and feature more colors than the old designs, which used a dark gray and maroon for student ID's. The changes are not well received in all quarters, however.

The new designs are "kind of gaudy," said Benjamin J. Bloom '08, an East Campus resident. "I was just surprised that they'd do something like this. I thought it was going to be more of a traditional card," he said. He sent a complaint via e-mail to the Card Office and the Publishing Services Bureau, which designed the cards.

Grace E. Kenney '07, also an East Campus resident, said the designs "lack seriousness" because of the boldly-colored bottom stripe, that the cards feature colors different from MIT colors, and that they "don't really seem to evoke MIT."

Students also decried their lack of representation and involvement in approving the card redesign.

"People on campus should know what's going on," Kenney said, and obtaining feedback from students via

e-mail or a survey would have been "really easy to have."

A preliminary form of the new design was first proposed at a Feb. 1 meeting of the Card Council. The final versions were presented at the May 3 meeting of the Council, and committee members were given sets of cards to show to others, McDonald said. "We're trying to put this information out to everyone," but either the mechanism for feedback wasn't right" or the "people we were inviting weren't the right people," he said.

Card Council members themselves expressed satisfaction with the new cards, including the new designs.

Manmohan, who attended both the February and May Card Council meetings, said she showed the designs to a few people that she knew, as she did not realize the designs would be so controversial. She said she was more concerned at the time by other matters discussed at the May meeting, such as a request to allow DAPER to digitally view images of cardholders who enter athletic facilities, which the committee is currently addressing.

The Graduate Student Council representative to the Council, Hector H. Hernandez, said that he presented the card designs to the 50 to 60 attendees of the June 2 GSC meeting, and received "very favorable comments." The graduate students he spoke to "like the distinctions" of the new card, he said. The new cards are secure and cost-effective, and allow for "more selection for who you are on campus."

The Card Council is composed of representatives from the UA, GSC, Human Resources, Housing, DAPER, Libraries, the Alumni Association, Information Services and Tech-

nology, Facilities, the MIT Police, and the Registrar's Office.

UA revamping student advocacy

This past semester, the UA began improving its mechanisms for student feedback and representation, and passed a Senate bill on student advocacy in February.

Harel M. Williams '06, 2004-2005 UA President, said that "before last year, there were no protocols for any of this," and it was not clear to student representatives what their rights and responsibilities were.

"I think they should definitely have to submit some sort of regular report," perhaps to the UA Senate, he said.

Beginning this upcoming year, NomComm will send committee nominees a copy of their rights and responsibilities, Lohrasbpour said. "We've been planning this all year," but "don't have the infrastructure yet." Committees are presently decentralized, with no main office, which makes communication "really difficult for everyone involved," she said.

"Committees have to realize students need a chance to collect feedback," Lowell said. "Committees should make more of an effort to get feedback from all students," for example through web-based forms, she said.

The UA held a mandatory banquet last fall for student representatives, though only about half attended, Lohrasbpour said. At the banquet, members, including Manmohan, talked about what their committees had done. NomComm had planned to, but did not, hold a banquet in the spring, she said.

Alexander J. Werbos '07, a UA Senator for Senior House and the

After Flooding, SIPB and ESP Must Replace Furniture, Carpet

Flood, from Page 1

in the office, as well as the damaged materials, will need to be replaced, he said. DeBergalis said it was his understanding that MIT would pay for the damages.

The Educational Studies Program office was also affected, with water

"coming in from the ceiling and the hallway," wrote Chairman Michael Shaw '07 in an e-mail. Most files and computers were moved or covered, but "we lost an indeterminate amount of less critical paperwork, all of which had to be reprinted," in addition to damage to the ceiling, floor, and furniture in the office, Shaw said.

ESP plans to pay for replacement of furniture and papers from its capital budget, and "work out an arrangement with CAC in the fall" with regard to damages to the ceiling and floor. Shaw said he had not seen the office himself, and was speaking from his "best understanding of the situation."

Queries to the officers of the Lec-

ture Series Committee and Outing Club, which have offices in the affected corner, were not returned. Technique, which also has an office near ESP on the fourth floor, was not affected, said member Colin Dillard '06.

To clean up the water, vacuums and dryers were used, the walls were wiped down, and standing water was

secured to minimize damage, Richard said. "We have leaks periodically," said Richard, who said future leaks were "likely." Richard said typically about six ruptures occur per year throughout the campus. Mechanical rooms are inspected monthly, though equipment is not necessarily tested, he said.