

Twenty-One New UA Candidates Sign Up Some Senate Seats Still Lack Candidates

By Mei-Hsin Cheng

To fill vacant positions remaining after last Thursday's candidacy petition deadline, the Undergraduate Association extended the deadline to 5:00 p.m. yesterday. With the addition of 21 Senate candidates since Thursday, each constituency has at least one candidate. The online ballot is open at <http://vote.mit.edu>.

The deadline Monday was final for those who wished to be official candidates, with their names appearing on the ballots.

Two Senate constituencies, Baker and New House, have fewer official candidates than senator positions, but write-in candidates have historically been common. In the case that a Senate position remains unfilled after elections, the president of the living group is asked to choose a representative, said Andrew T. Lukmann,

UA Senate speaker.

This is not the first time there has been a shortage of participation in UA Senate elections. Last year, for example, East Campus did not have any official candidates and instead had seven write-in candidates. However, there was only one write-in candidate slot for each dormitory senator, limiting the number of write-ins residents could vote for to two.

This year, a new system for determining number of write-in slots on the ballot will increase voting flexibility. Under the new rule, if there are enough official candidates to fill the open positions, there will be one more than the number of open positions available for write-ins. If there are too few official candidates, the number of write-in slots is twice

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STEPHANIE LEE—THE TECH

The Great Glass Pumpkin Patch, an annual sale of glass pumpkins created by MIT students, was held in Kresge Oval last Friday and Saturday and featured colorful and unique works of art. See photos, page 13.

'Big Jimmy' Scholarship Created

By Diana Jue

Since the death of James "Big Jimmy" E. Roberts, East Campus and Senior House security guard, last January, students and family have worked together to establish a memorial fund in his name.

The first scholarship from the James ("Big Jimmy") E. Roberts Sr. Memorial Scholarship Fund will hopefully be distributed late October or early November this year, said Alumni Fund Officer Jennifer Wilinsky. The amount of the scholarship has not yet been determined. "Big Jimmy" scholarships will be admin-

istered through the MIT Financial Services Office, which will select the recipient from a pool of qualified undergraduate students based on financial need.

This annual scholarship, which is commonly known as the "Jimmy Fund" by its founders, will be given preferentially to East Campus and Senior House residents, provided that there is a financially eligible candidate from one of the two dorms, said Mary K. Thompson G, who is working on the Jimmy Fund effort. The recipient is encouraged to get in touch with Roberts's family.

Many helped by "Big Jimmy"

Big Jimmy was a popular and beloved security guard who patrolled the East Campus and Senior House residence halls. East Campus president Harvey C. Jones '06 described him as a fixture at the dormitory who took interest in the students. "He was someone who really cared and made an effort to stop and talk to people who were having a down time," Jones said.

"Big Jimmy spent 20 years talking to students, bringing them dinner

Big Jimmy, Page 14

Defibrillator Thief Might Be In for A Nasty Shock

By Marissa Vogt

SENIOR EDITOR

Most students left last week's career fair with giveaways like free pens and T-shirts, and a lucky few scored job offers or arranged interviews. One person, however, walked away from the Medtronic booth with \$25,000 worth of potentially dangerous equipment.

Kateri A. Garcia '03, who was working at the Medtronic booth, said that a working cardiac defibrillator and working cardiac pacemaker had been on display, though they were not meant to be removed.

Garcia said that she realized they were missing at some point during the career fair. She said that she has filed a report with the Campus Police, though the main concern at this point is safety.

The defibrillator is used to send a shock to the heart of a patient with a heart flutter, said Garcia. The shock from the missing device can

be as much as 35 Joules of energy. If left on or used incorrectly, the defibrillator could potentially heat up or explode, and poses a "danger to whoever mishandles it," Garcia said. She said that the pacemaker could also be dangerous.

It is possible that someone may have inadvertently taken the devices, thinking they were giveaways, or that they were taken intentionally, Garcia said. She said that never before had display devices been taken from career fairs, and that the incident "reflects poorly on MIT students," though Medtronic has usually had good luck with MIT career fairs.

Garcia said that people with knowledge of the event are encouraged to speak to the Campus Police or return the devices to Patrol Officer Barbara A. Haven. She said that Medtronic will not prosecute those involved and that returning the items is "just a matter of safety."

Student Biked Through the Americas

By Jiao Wang

STAFF REPORTER

A lone 21-year-old crawls out of his tent at 4:30 in the morning and starts to pack his belongings: tent, sleeping

bag, spare bike parts, stove, food, water, coffee.

He loads his 100 pounds of gear onto a bicycle and rides non-stop for two days, starting in Bolivia at 5 a.m. and ending the following day at 11 p.m. just north of Santiago, Chile. It is the last stretch of his journey to catch up with his girlfriend and friends; he has been averaging 150 miles per day for the past five days.

Move over, Lance Armstrong. That week alone, Orian Z. Welling '08 completed more than a fifteenth of his 15,000 mile bike trip — 1 bike, 2 frames, 4 cassettes, 5 chains, 7 tires, 12 currencies, 15 countries, 355 days of adventure.

Welling left his hometown in Stevens Point, Wisconsin on May 16, 2004 and traveled to the starting point of his journey, Prudhoe Bay, Alaska, where he had already mailed his seventy pounds of gear, including his bike, tent, and spare parts. The bike route he eventually took from the oil wells in Prudhoe Bay to Ushuaia,



ORIAN Z. WELLING

Orian Z. Welling '08 stands with his bike, which he rode along with 100 pounds of gear 15,000 miles from Alaska to Argentina in 2004.

Argentina is the longest longitudinal route of the world. Commenting on its popularity, Welling said approximately twenty cyclists and one hundred motorists of various ages travel the entire route every year.

A transfer student from University of Wisconsin in Stevens Point, he applied to MIT in late January 2005 from Ecuador. "The night I got into

MIT, I celebrated with my friends with a two dollar bottle of Argentinean Malbec in a drainage culvert underneath a road in Patagonia," he said.

Biker subsists on the minimum

Welling said he tried to spend an

Biking, Page 19

William Bottiglia

THE MIT NEWS OFFICE

William Bottiglia, former head of the Department of Foreign Literatures and Linguistics and a distinguished scholar of French and Italian literature, died Aug. 19 at Avery Manor in Needham. He was 92.

Bottiglia, who joined the MIT faculty in 1956, specialized in Dante, the French Enlightenment and the philosophy of civilization. He was head of foreign literatures and linguistics from 1964 to 1973, when he transferred to the Sloan School of Management. At Sloan he was a professor of management and humanities until his retirement in 1991.

He was the author of *Voltaire's Candide: Analysis of a Classic*, and an article called "Dante at MIT: A New Pedagogical Approach," published in the journal *Italica*. He also edited and contributed an article to a book of essays called *Voltaire: Twentieth Century Views*. His last work was a four-volume philosophical novel titled *Heroic Symphony*.

Before coming to MIT, Bottiglia taught at Princeton University and at Ripon College. He worked in industry from 1942 to 1947 and was general manager of J&S Tool Co. in East Orange, N.J., from 1946 to 1947.

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FEATURES

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WORLD & NATION

Afghanistan Says It Is Considering Licenses to Grow Opium

By Carlotta Gall

THE NEW YORK TIMES

KABUL, AFGHANISTAN

Afghanistan, the world's biggest producer of opium and its derivative, heroin, acknowledged Monday that it has considered licensing its vast illicit crop and using it to produce opium-based medicines, though it ruled out such a move in the immediate future.

The government said it welcomed the release on Monday of a feasibility study about the subject by a European-based drug policy research organization, the Senlis Council. But Afghanistan's counternarcotics minister, Habibullah Qaderi, ruled out adopting such a program until security conditions in the country improve.

The idea of licensing poppy cultivation completely goes against current counternarcotics policy in Afghanistan, designed with Britain's help, which calls for eradicating poppy fields and persuading farmers to adopt alternative crops through assistance programs, much of it financed by the U.S. Agency for International Development.

Spain Issues First Prison Sentence for 9/11

By Renwick McLean

THE NEW YORK TIMES

MADRID, SPAIN

A Spanish court Monday sentenced a Syrian man to 27 years in prison for conspiring to commit the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks in the United States and leading a cell of the terrorist network al-Qaida in Madrid. The sentence is the only one to date in connection with the attacks.

In addition to the main defendant, Imad Eddin Barakat Yarkas, 41, also known as Abu Dahdah, 17 other men were found guilty of either belonging to or aiding his terrorist cell. Those men, including Taysir Alony, a correspondent for the Arabic satellite network Al-Jazeera, received sentences of from six to 11 years.

Though the convictions were considered a victory for Spain's aggressive campaign of anti-terrorism arrests since the attacks, it fell short of prosecutors' goals. They had sought a sentence of more than 74,000 years for Yarkas, based on an estimated death toll of nearly 3,000 when hijacked jetliners were crashed into the World Trade Center in New York and the Pentagon in Washington on Sept. 11, 2001.

The three-judge panel rejected the prosecution's charge that Yarkas was directly responsible the attacks, agreeing only that he had participated in the plot's "criminal formation."

In an interview after the verdict was read, Jacobo Teijelo Casanova, a lawyer for Yarkas, said he will advise his client to appeal the decision.

IRA Destroys Its Weapons

By Brian Lavery

THE NEW YORK TIMES

BELFAST, NORTHERN IRELAND

The Irish Republican Army has completely and permanently dismantled its weaponry, the agency that oversees paramilitary disarmament in Northern Ireland said Monday, signaling the end of an era in which the group killed more than 1,700 people in assassinations, bombings and guerrilla warfare.

"We are satisfied that the arms decommissioned represent the totality of the IRA's arsenal," John De Chastelain, the retired Canadian general who heads the independent agency and directly supervised three previous rounds of IRA disarmament, said at a news conference here.

The IRA ceased its major attacks in the late 1990s, and pledged to disarm two months ago, when it also declared an end to its campaign against British control of Northern Ireland.

But De Chastelain offered few details that would convince Protestants that they should resume sharing power with Sinn Fein, the IRA's political wing, in the province's stalled legislature.

Bush, Shifting Gears, Urges Americans to Conserve Fuel

By David Leonhardt, Jad Mouawad and David E. Sanger

THE NEW YORK TIMES

With fears mounting that high energy costs will crimp economic growth, President Bush called on Americans on Monday to conserve gasoline by driving less. He also issued a directive for all federal agencies to cut their own energy usage and to encourage employees to use public transportation.

"We can all pitch in," Bush said. "People just need to recognize that the storms have caused disruption," he added, and said that if Americans are able to avoid going "on a trip that's not essential, that would be helpful."

Bush promised to dip further into the government's petroleum reserve, if necessary, and to continue relaxing environmental and transportation rules in an effort to get more gasoline flowing. On Capitol Hill, senior Republicans called for new legislation that they said would lower energy costs by increasing supply and expanding oil-refining capacity over the long run.

Even though Hurricane Rita

caused much less damage to the oil industry than feared, the two recent hurricanes have disrupted production in the Gulf of Mexico enough to ensure that Americans are facing a winter of sharply higher energy costs. The price of natural gas, which most families use to heat their homes, has climbed even more than the price of gasoline recently.

Households are on pace to spend an average of \$4,500 on energy this year, up about \$500 from last year and \$900 higher than in 2003, according to Global Insight, a research firm.

Bush's comments, while similar to remarks he made shortly after the disruption from Hurricane Katrina pushed gasoline prices sharply higher, were particularly notable because the administration has long emphasized new production over conservation. It has also opted not to impose higher mileage standards on automakers.

In 2001, Vice President Dick Cheney criticized conservation as "a sign of personal virtue." Also that year, Ari Fleischer, then Bush's press secretary, responded to a question about reducing American energy

consumption by saying "that's a big no."

"The president believes that it's an American way of life," Fleischer said, "and that it should be the goal of policy makers to protect the American way of life."

Bush, speaking Monday after he was briefed at the Energy Department, did not use the dour tone or cardigan-wearing imagery that proved politically deadly for Jimmy Carter during the oil crisis of the 1970s. Nor did Bush propose new policies to encourage conservation. But he was more explicit than in the past in saying that Americans should cut back.

Oil companies spent much of Monday assessing the damage from Rita, which seemed to spare many oil and gas facilities. Still, the gulf's entire oil output and about four-fifths of its natural gas production remained shut down Monday, less than a month after Katrina left the industry stretched thin.

The Gulf of Mexico produces about 7 percent of the oil consumed in the United States and provides 16 percent of the nation's natural gas needs.

Israeli Prime Minister Narrowly Wins Vote Within Likud Party

By Greg Myre

THE NEW YORK TIMES

TEL AVIV, ISRAEL

Ariel Sharon narrowly won a crucial vote on Monday in his right-wing Likud Party, fending off a challenge from his main rival, Benjamin Netanyahu, who was seeking to oust him as party leader and prime minister.

The issue was seemingly mundane: the Likud Central Committee's 3,000 members voted on whether to hold an election for party leader in April, as Sharon wanted, or move it up to November, as Netanyahu sought.

But with many Likud voters angry over Sharon's withdrawal of Jewish settlers from the Gaza Strip, the issue became a referendum on his leadership. If Netanyahu had won the vote on Monday, he would have had a strong chance of replacing Sharon as party leader in just two months,

and in turn, Sharon's coalition government would have faced an almost certain collapse.

However, Sharon eked out a slim victory, as Likud decided to hold the primary in April by a vote of 52 percent to 48 percent, according to Likud officials.

As a result, Sharon and his government appear safe, at least for the moment. Israel is not required to have national elections until November 2006.

Still, the close race showed that Sharon can expect a tough battle if he faces Netanyahu in the race for party leader next spring, in advance of national elections.

Heading into the voting on Monday at the Tel Aviv Exhibition Grounds, several opinion polls gave Netanyahu a slight edge. But a large turnout, with more than 90 percent of the Central Committee members

voting, appeared to help Sharon.

Sharon said it would be "suicide" for Likud to drive him from office and force early elections, which would risk the party's control of the government.

"I hope that members of the party will come to vote against this proposal, which will badly harm Likud," Sharon said Monday afternoon when he arrived to cast his ballot.

Opinion surveys show that Sharon remains broadly popular with the Israeli public, and that Likud would fare much better in national elections with him as party leader rather than Netanyahu, who was prime minister from 1996 to 1999.

Netanyahu, who quit as finance minister in August, wanted a vote on the party leadership as soon as possible to capitalize on the frustration that many Likud voters felt over the Gaza withdrawal.

WEATHER

Rita's Wrath Ended

By Angela Zalucha

Rita moved onshore Friday night near the Louisiana-Texas border as a category 3 hurricane, dumping 10-15 inches of rain in some parts of southwestern Louisiana and southeastern Texas before dissipating in the lower Mississippi Valley. Baton Rouge, LA recorded a rainfall total of 9.30 inches over the period of last Friday and Saturday, while Shreveport, LA set a daily rainfall record of 5.52 inches on Saturday. The North Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico are mainly quiet at the moment, though there is still time for more tropical excitement as hurricane season does not officially end until Nov. 30. Weakening Tropical Storms Norma and Kenneth churning away in the Eastern and Central Pacific do not pose a serious threat to land.

At home, Boston is on track for having one of the top ten warmest Septembers since records began in 1872. Yesterday's afternoon high of 74°F was five degrees above average. Don't let this "hot" weather fool you — autumn is trying to push its way in, and we might see temperatures dip into the 40s°F overnight. The system that brought yesterday's ran will exit the area and leave behind pleasant weather today and tomorrow as high pressure moves in from the Midwest. The next system brings a chance of rain Thursday night.

Extended Forecast

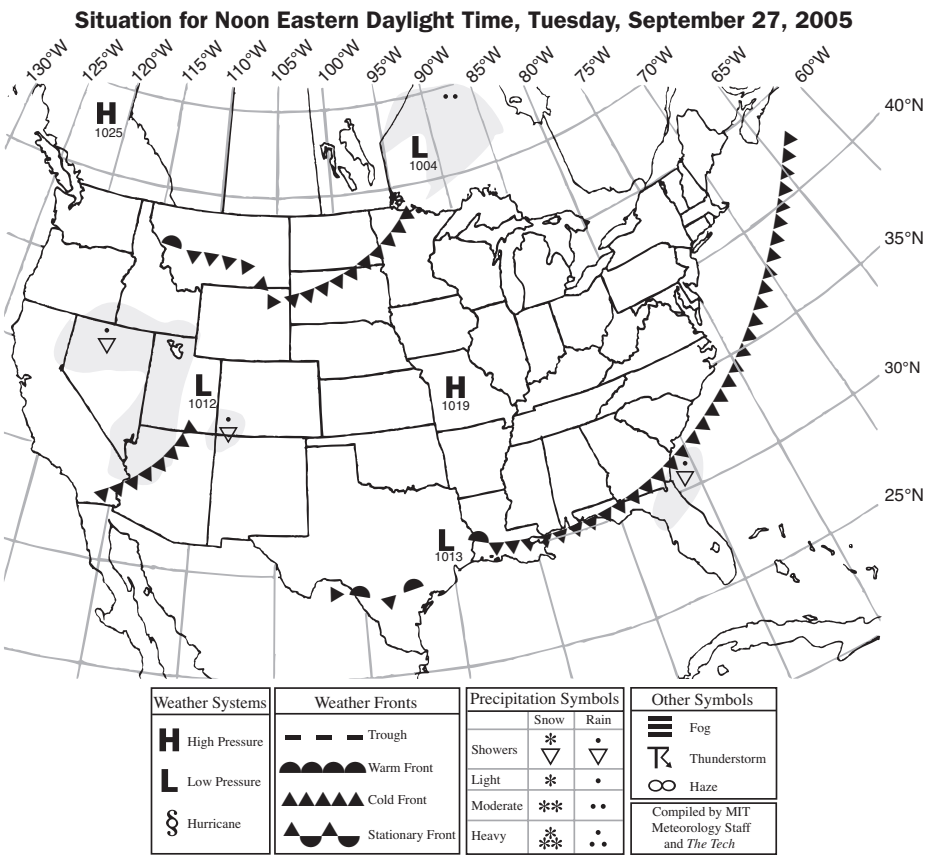
Today: Mostly sunny and less humid. Highs in the low 70s°F (22°C).

Tonight: Mostly clear. Lows in the upper 40s°F (9°C).

Tomorrow: Mostly sunny with clouds increasing. Highs in the low 70s°F (22°C).

Tomorrow night: Partly cloudy. Patchy fog. Lows in the mid 50s°F (13°C).

Thursday: Partly to mostly cloudy with a chance of showers. Highs in the upper 60s°F (20°C).



Men Disguised As Police Kill Five Shiite Teachers At School

By Sabrina Tavernise
THE NEW YORK TIMES

BAGHDAD, IRAQ
Armed men dressed as police officers burst into a primary school in a town south of Baghdad on Monday, rounded up five Shiite teachers and their driver, marched them to an empty classroom and killed them, a police official said.

Classes had just finished for the day at the Jazeera primary school in Muwelha, a Sunni Arab suburb of Iskandariya, south of Baghdad, when the gunmen entered the building at 1:15 p.m., forced the six men into the room and shot them dead.

The killings took place while some children were still at the school.

In the past, teachers have rarely if

ever been singled out, and this attack raised fears that Iraqi schools, largely unprotected, could become targets. But the killings appeared to have been motivated more by sectarian hatred than any animosity toward the profession, said the official, who identified himself as Capt. Abu al-Hars.

He said the gunmen were disguised Sunni Arab fighters. Shiite civilians of all types have been victims of insurgent attacks in recent weeks.

The killings were the most startling in a string of attacks in and around Baghdad that left at least 16 people dead, including Oil Ministry workers, day laborers and three American soldiers. On Monday night attackers struck again in Iskandariya, detonating a suicide bomb that only partly exploded. Six people were

wounded.

Rifts between Iraq's two main religious groups have deepened considerably since January, when Shiite religious parties were elected to head the government, leaving Sunnis with a minor role. U.S. military officials have said they expect the violence to increase as Iraq prepares to hold a national referendum next month on a new constitution that is largely opposed by Sunni Arabs.

Sunni Arab radicals carry out most of the attacks and in recent weeks have explicitly called for the killing of Iraqi Shiites.

Some of the worst attacks have taken place in the area around Muwelha, a swath of territory south of Baghdad known here as the Triangle of Death.

Army Clerk is Convicted For Acts Of Maltreatment at Iraqi Prison

By David S. Cloud
THE NEW YORK TIMES

FORT HOOD, TEXAS
Pfc. Lynndie R. England, a 22-year-old Army file clerk whose smirking photographs came to personify the Abu Ghraib prison scandal, was convicted Monday of joining in the abuse when she posed next to detainees who had been stripped and put into humiliating poses.

After deliberating for slightly more than two hours, the jury, made up of five male Army officers, found England guilty of six out of seven counts of conspiracy and maltreatment of Iraqi prisoners, including an episode when she was

photographed holding a strap tied as a leash around a naked detainee's neck.

The jury acquitted her of a single conspiracy charge related to the leash photograph.

Standing at attention in her Army dress uniform, England remained stoic as the verdict was read, as she has throughout the five-day trial. She could be sentenced to nine years in military prison; the trial's sentencing phase begins Tuesday.

Faced with the evidence in the photographs, her defense lawyers never sought to deny that England had participated in the mistreatment. After the verdict, her lawyer, Capt. Jonathan Crisp, sounded un-

surprised at the conviction.

"I guess the only reaction I can say is, I understand," he said in brief comments to reporters.

Although appeals are possible, the conviction closes the main chapter in the Army's prosecution of nine reservists who were charged with mistreating prisoners at Abu Ghraib. Two others, including England's former boyfriend, Pvt. Charles A. Graner Jr., who held the rank of specialist at Abu Ghraib, were convicted in trials, and the remaining six reached plea deals.

England, who is from West Virginia, had sought to plead guilty to the charges in May, in exchange for a reduced sentence.

Military Officer Picked to Head Defense Intelligence Agency

By Eric Schmitt
WASHINGTON
THE NEW YORK TIMES

President Bush has nominated Maj. Gen. Michael D. Maples of the Army to be director of the Defense Intelligence Agency, the first time in decades that someone who is not a career intelligence officer has been picked to lead the agency.

The appointment, announced on Monday by the Pentagon, reflects Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld's desire to put an officer who has used intelligence in the field extensively, but not produced it, in charge of an agency that is responsible for supplying information to battlefield commanders.

Maples, a West Point graduate, would succeed Vice Adm. Lowell E. Jacoby of the Navy, who is stepping down in November after heading the agency for more than three years.

Maples, who will be promoted to lieutenant general if his nomination is confirmed by the Senate, is now vice director of the military's Joint Staff. In that job, he has tackled several politically sensitive assignments for the Joint Chiefs, and impressed Rumsfeld and top military and civilian aides with his unflappable demeanor and near-photographic memory.

For instance, Maples has been the point man for the Joint Staff on detainee policy and operations. He also coordinated the testimony of Gen. Richard B. Myers, chairman of the Joint Chiefs, before the independent commission investigating the Sept. 11 attacks.

Auto Strike Still Possible In Canada

By Ian Austen
OTTAWA
THE NEW YORK TIMES

General Motors and the Canadian Auto Workers made some progress in contract negotiations on Monday, but the company's continued demands for job cuts and reduced work breaks left open the prospect of a strike on Tuesday.

While GM dropped its opposition to pension increases already accepted by its main U.S. rivals, Ford Motor and DaimlerChrysler, it was standing firm on the other issues in the face of a possible walkout by 17,200 workers at 11:59 p.m. on Tuesday.

"Am I a little more optimistic? I guess you could say yes," Buzz Hargrove, the union's president, told reporters during a conference call from Toronto. "The only problem we still have is there are still some offsets we find offensive."

A strike would have direct repercussions for the company's factories and dealers in the United States. GM's main assembly plant in Oshawa, Ontario, where up to 1 million cars are built a year, is the company's only producer of several Chevrolet, Buick, and Pontiac cars. It also makes full-size pickup trucks and sport utility vehicles, mostly for American buyers. Similarly, parts and engine plants in St. Catharines, Ontario, and an automatic transmission factory in Windsor, Ontario, supply components to several assembly operations in the United States.

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Welcomed Progress

“Freshmen Do Worse on ’05 FEE” [*The Tech*, Friday, Sept. 23, 2005] brought back a vivid memory of a discussion with Les Perelman in the fall of 1988. I held that my score of 5 on the Advanced Placement Literature Exam should have qualified me for passing credit on the Freshmen Essay Evaluation. Contrary to his acknowledgment in your article that “literature review skills are more useful for MIT students than narrative,” his explanation at the time was that the literature exam tested one’s ability to analyze literature, not one’s ability to write an essay. My response was that a poorly written literary analysis would never earn a score of five, but

I was still asked to prove my writing skills by taking the FEE.

I’m glad that seventeen years after my own FEE experience, MIT sees the value in having a literary component to the essay exam and awards credit for either the AP Language or Literature English Exam.

Susan Margulies Beiter ’92

Questionable Inspiration

Instead of starting off with “In case you missed last week’s C-SPAN3 coverage ...”, Josh Levinger might have said “In case you missed last week’s David Brooks Op-Ed in

The New York Times.” [“Card-Carrying, Pinko-Commie-Liberal Can’t Force Self to Hate John Roberts,” *The Tech*, Tuesday, Sept. 20.] It seems that Brooks had the exact same idea as Levinger, namely to provide a bitingly satirical “transcript” of the Roberts confirmation hearings. Not only did the Brooks piece outshine Levinger’s stylistically, it was published on Sept. 15, three days before the submission deadline on the September 20 *Tech*.

Ian Z. Jacobi ’06

Author’s Response: While I acknowledge the similarity between David Brooks’ column and my own, the truth is that I had not read his before I submitted my own. I assure the readers that I was unaware of either the topic or the text of Brooks’ column. —Josh Levinger

Global Warming: Lukewarm Policy, Red-Hot Politics

Barun Singh

Over the past decade, there has scarcely been an environmental issue as concerning to the general population as the threat of global warming. With two of the worst hurricanes on record now having hit the U.S. within weeks of each other, the debate is likely to escalate once again.

One cycle of above-average intensity hurricanes is far from conclusive evidence to prove any assertions regarding the impact of global warming, but it is more than enough political ammunition for those looking for it. Which leaves us to decide: are the policy decisions of our oil-loving government dooming us to increasing weather-related catastrophes, or is global warming just an over-hyped excuse to push against the political right-wing that we can’t do much about anyway?

The existence of global warming is now a well accepted (on both sides) fact — the Earth has in fact warmed over the past century by about 0.7 degrees Celsius. Any statement beyond that, however, remains a source of contention. As is always the case, politicians and interest groups relay portions and stretched versions of the true situation through their public statements and appearances. This time around, many in the science community have also gotten in on the act, playing salesmen to the masses.

For those of us who have not devoted our lives to the study of global climate change, it is still possible to gain some understanding about the true situation, but one must research both sides of the debate and be willing to read between the lines. Doing so reveals that while we can accept with great certainty that global warming is a reality, and that deforestation and emissions have had a noticeable effect on greenhouse gases, the same level of certainty does not exist regarding the extent of humanity’s role in causing the warming to occur. Science is less certain still regarding what we can expect for the future, and even how much of an effect temperature variations will have on our civilization.

Given the lack of certainty regarding global warming, how can policy makers ever hope to make any real decisions? On one side it is argued that lacking proper conclusive evidence, it would be unreasonable to make any sort of policy decisions (why hurt our economy because of a science-fiction fantasy?). Another side argues that given even moderate evidence, it is crucial to act (if the worst case scenarios are true, couldn’t it mean the potential destruction of our entire civilization?). Such binary reasoning is, however, a result of extreme over-

simplification of the situation.

Putting the politics aside, a policy maker must make decisions through risk analysis, and global warming is no exception to this general approach. Given all of the available evidence, a rational agent whose goal is to produce the most optimal policy must analyze things in terms of their probability. How probable is it that a change in human activity can do anything about global warming? If a particular policy decision is made (for example, if we did agree to the Kyoto protocol), what is the expected cost and benefit? If we fail to act, what will the expected cost be? For those of a sta-

What do this administration’s environmental policies tell us?

tistical bent, consider this a simple hypothesis test. As the science progresses, the values of the probabilities involved constantly change and the test must be performed again.

So where does this leave us when examining the Bush administration’s policies towards global warming? The most contentious area of dispute regarding global warming has been the Bush administration’s refusal to agree to the Kyoto Protocol. Too high cost with too little gained, they say. This may in fact very well be the case. The variation in cost estimates for Kyoto from the Clinton administration to the Bush administration is staggering. Further-

more, there are many conflicting claims about how helpful Kyoto would actually be.

Let’s expand our consideration beyond Kyoto. What do this administration’s other environmental policies tell us? This administration has severely weaken or eliminated numerous clean air and water provisions, removed countless animal and habitat protections, allowed deforestation and drilling in areas previously protected from such abuses, failed to provide any meaningful leadership (and in many cases drastically reducing funding) towards the development of sustainable energy — and the list goes on and on.

All of the evidence from the previous five years points towards a blatant disregard for environmental concerns by this administration, and strongly suggests that its various policies regarding global warming have, in fact, been driven more by various political interests than the desire to make decisions that are optimal for the future of the nation. The result? — we all end up as losers. After all, not everything that we do to our environment is necessarily reversible. One can only hope that the political fighting that is sure to come as a consequence of Rita and Katrina can have some positive impact and help us make some more intelligent environmental decisions before it’s too late.

Barun Singh is a graduate student and former president of the Graduate Student Council.

Singh welcomes comments at his Web site (<http://barunsingh.com>).



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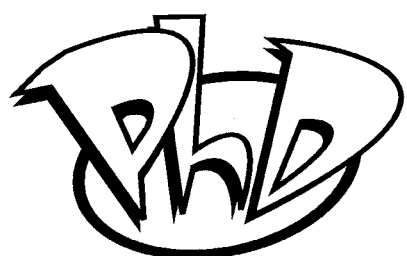
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Solution, page 17

CAMPUS LIFE

Imminent Collapse

A Hard Subject to Talk About

By Bill Andrews
STAFF COLUMNIST

I don't know if I can get away with this. We never really discussed what I could or couldn't write about when I signed on with *The Tech*, so we'll see. But, honestly, I'll try to be serious (as always) and not just bring things up for the sake of vulgarity or cheekiness; you can be cocksure of that. You see, my problem, as of late, is that I have been seeing entirely too much penis.

A few words of legal explanations: I am not homophobic. I have absolutely nothing against gay people, or think the penis is a horrible sight; not at all! In fact, it can spruce up any dull relationship. And if you happen to enjoy seeing penises (sadly, spelll check says that one of my favorite words, penii, is incorrect) then good for you; maybe you should pay particular attention to my words, so you can follow in my footsteps.

For me, though, there is a definite line separating normal penis-sightings from entirely too many, and that line has been crossed. For any scoffers and naysayers among you who think I am making a mountain out of a molehill, let me clarify that this is entirely real-life, up-close and personal penis that I've been witnessing. Looking at porn is one thing, as I'm sure I don't have to tell you, but to see such things, only inches away, is quite the thrill. And I mean thrill in a bad way, as in "It would be thrilling to meet Michael Jackson" (I'm sorry for bringing up Michael Jackson in a column about penises).

Why has this been happening? Have I been going to bad places, where a little penis is to be expected every now and then? Or, more

grandly, have I been involved in immoral activities, for which I must now be penitent? Broken some obscure penal code? No! The sightings are a direct result of trying to live a better life, of doing something for myself and, in the end, of being a better person: I have started exercising. Despite years of previous experiences with exercise (hoping the answer was in the back of the book), I was unprepared for the consequences of my new activities. As is all too often the case in life, I was suckered in; with sweet talk of losing weight and looking and feeling good, how could one refuse? Never was there even so much as a hint of penis, even after reading the fine print.

But what does penis have to do with exercise, you might be asking yourself? If so, I suspect your upbringing was similar to mine, and locker rooms were a place not for nudity, but merely changing clothes for P.E. Sure, you stayed a bit smelly after class, but it was only for a semester or two and you sure weren't gonna strip down to the buff in front of other people right; certainly not people you actually know. "Hit the showers" was nothing more than an idiom, like "this book weighs a ton" or "I'm going to kill you." In fact, even if we'd wanted to shower, we were too afraid the spiders that had built elaborate networks of webs around the drains would catch and torture us, possibly with forced nudity. Well my friends, I'm afraid I have some possibly upsetting news: things are different here.

I thought I had prepared for my trip to the Z-Center pool; I'd brought my swimsuit, goggles,

towel, and flip-flops. Little did I know I should have packed some penis block. As soon as I walked into the locker room a naked dude just mosies on over right by me. I moved around, hoping to find a more private area, currently penis-free, but found none. I was shocked at how casually penis was laying about, seemingly everywhere. Finally, I just picked a spot and changed, very quickly, and while facing the wall. After swimming I came back, took a quick shower, dried myself off, changed again, and left, all in the space of maybe three minutes. But that's not even the hard part, if you will excuse the expression.

I find it difficult not to look right at them. Some primal instinct tells me I'm being watched, like when you're in the forest and can sense when someone — or something — is looking at you; I can feel them, the penises, staring at me with their beady little eyes, and it's all I can do not to reciprocate. (I would not be confident writing this, by the way, if I did not have a girlfriend). It's not that I want to look, I know it's an invasion of privacy, and I certainly don't want someone looking at mine, but it's an urge with which I am so rarely confronted that I have some trouble suppressing it.

So what can I do? Nothing. I like swimming so much that even a few penises won't stop me. Also, I like to think I am getting better at suppressing my stares, which should cut down on how much I see. But is it enough? Can I ever truly feel at peace with everyone else's staring me down? We shall see. But hopefully without seeing too much.

Gratuitous By Nature

Career Fairs Make Me Sad

By Ruth Miller
OPINION EDITOR

One hundred and twenty-nine days out of the school year, it's pretty sweet to be double-majoring in Political Science and Urban Planning — both majors are so small, I don't even bother referring to course numbers anymore.

There are people on my floor that average 4.5 pssets a week. WTF, mate? Personally, I peruse JStor and Keenan casually, and almost guiltily, as I watch my dear, once-optimistic freshmen realize that their world is crashing down around them in the form of 8.01. Yeah, at some point I took 18.03 for fun, ordered pizza to an Athena cluster, and was nearly driven to insanity by mind-numbingly pedantic parentheses, but I'm finding it harder and harder to evoke the "hardcoreness" that my course 6, 18, 16, and 10 friends seem to ooze so readily.

But in the midst of my readings, class discussions, and photographic adventures, there's Career Week. For my freshmen year, I was "undeclared, seriously considering Computer Science, maybe something in software design." I was a debutante at her ball (I even had a cute Southern accent that the recruiters loved). I scored more T-shirts, pens, and breakable doodads than I knew what to do with, and though no one had an internship for me, nVIDIA kindly gave me a bigger bag to put my smaller Shell bag in, because it was busting at the seams. Sophomore year, I was busy or something, but this year, with one or two final majors in mind, I was one of the first to arrive, and had a single goal in mind — find a summer internship.

In the future, when I colloquially refer to something that is difficult, rather than employing a phrase such as finding "a needle in a haystack," "a Democrat in Upson County, Georgia," or "parking in the North End," I will now casually refer to "a political science job at an MIT career fair." It was depressing. For one, all the cool stuff is at the software engineering tables. Unfortunately, I'm not desperate enough for a pen that I'm willing to lie, so I have to walk hungrily by and suppress my jealousy of the new freshmen "pre-6ers." While I was patiently waiting on a friend, a recruiter for the Boston Consulting Group asked my major, and out of pity gave me a sweet Nalgene bottle.

While I was looking for an internship, I ended up doing much better in the swag hunt. Walking past every booth proved horribly inefficient — a decision perhaps befitting my eventual humanities degree. I finally realized that "political science and urban planning" is too broad a field, so I started being specific. My concentration is international security studies and urban design, but in the din of a thousand giddy software engineers, this was interpreted as "security studies," which investors interpret to mean "security trading." This made no sense the first few times, and then I scooted out of Sloan Alley after realizing there was one and I was in it.

All in all, the National Security Agency has an internship for 16 lucky students, but I don't know if my GPA is up to the challenge. It's worth applying anyway, and to the consulting group that noticeably perked up when I mentioned my major. Act or not, they earned themselves an application.

So now, while I enjoy my Vera research for a thesis topic and watch my engineering friends do their pssets, I can smile. I know that in the long run, they'll be the people with jobs, and my aimless wandering will leave me in either grad school, eternal research, or God knows where.

That's the bad thing about not having any direction — it's only fun until you have to get a career. Maybe if they didn't call it a "Career Fair," but a "Job Fair" it would seem less threatening. Of course, getting more people for all the course 1, 4, 7, 22, 11, 17, 21's, 24, CMS, and STS kids out there would fix the problem, too.

I mean, forcing me to take tons of HASS—Ds with uninterested engineers is one thing, but giving them tons of attention is another. I find it hard to believe that any engineer coming from MIT will have trouble finding a job upon graduation. Unless Career Week is really a party for engineers and Sloan people to get together and talk about all the money they're going to make, how about some of that "minority awareness" we keep talking about? I've got your minority right here: a junior with three years experience working with GIS, looking for an internship, and willing to relocate.

Gadget Review

Logitech Bluetooth Desktop MX

By Kailas Narendran
STAFF COLUMNIST

Pros

- No Wires!
- Connects Automatically
- Highly Reliable

Cons

- Overly Buttonized
- Compatibility Issues

The Lowdown

The advent of Bluetooth has ushered in a new era of convenience for the computer user. The Logitech Bluetooth Desktop MX allows you to leverage the fruits of Bluetooth, and chuck the wired woes of the conventional mouse and keyboard. This Bluetooth system (comes with a Bluetooth hub and mouse charger) gives you everything you need to liberate yourself from the 32AWG copper chains that bind.

Usage

The convenience of connecting the Desktop MX to a laptop with an internal Bluetooth card is incredible. One can literally set down one's laptop on the desk, hit the keyboard, shake the



LOGITECH, INC.

The Bluetooth Desktop MX offers an easy to configure wireless keyboard and mouse.

mouse, and everything is connected. Installation was equally simple, placing the mouse and keyboard in discovery mode, and finding them with the computer. The reception and reliability of Bluetooth is fantastic, and I've never had a problem with the connection. Both the keyboard and mouse are battery powered, with the recharging cradle for the mouse integrated

with the Bluetooth hub.

The addition of a full sized keyboard to my laptop has really made it an effective desktop tool, allowing me to do all of my extensive typing without fear of RSI. Given how small and sleek notebooks are nowadays, an external keyboard is needed more than ever before (unless you're a midget ... or a giant with midget hands).

Bluetooth Blues

My biggest disappointment with this system was my education about how non-standard the Bluetooth standard is. The keyboard and mouse come with all the extra buttons that let you do everything from pull up a "shopping" Web page, to targeting impoverished third world countries for U.S. invasion and neo-colonialist policies.

Unfortunately, if your computer comes with Windows and has an integrated Bluetooth card, you can use neither the supplied hub and software, nor the special features of the mouse and keyboard. While this was an annoyance, the quality of the keyboard and mouse make up for the lack of the functionality. Some of the basic media and scroll buttons work, at least enough to get by. If you are one that does like their instant "shopping" button, beware that you may have to make do with a few clicks of the mouse if your hardware isn't compatible.

The Bottom Line

Getting your hands on this desktop setup will set you back about \$100. While the loss of extra key functionality due to incompatibility problems seemed a bit ridiculous, I found it to be more of an annoyance than a show stopper. If you exclusively use your laptop for extensive typing, a full sized keyboard and mouse will save you a lot of wrist-ache. One that connects automatically and without wires is sure to impress the ladies (and is an amazing convenience). You can find out more at <http://www.logitech.com/>.

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E-Mail Lists: Banes and Gains

By Benjamin P. Gleitzman
STAFF REPORTER

Anyone have a book for 5.111? Can I borrow a hammer for 10 minutes? Who put my laundry on the floor for the 15th time?

Feature

If you're a student at MIT, chances are you've fallen victim to this sort of e-mail. Mailing lists can be an integral part of communication and a major force in disseminating information, but their abuse creates hordes of annoyed, irate students.

The choice between staying informed and having a jumbled inbox is a tough call for most students. "I don't want to remove myself from the mailing lists because there are some things I need to know," said Morgan J. Cummings '09.

Ask any student their opinion of mailing lists, and you may get a rather negative response. "I'm almost ready to quit every mailing list," said Raymond Y. Cheng '09, who is irritated by the quantity of messages he receives that fall into the categories of stupid, pointless, or annoying.

There are a wide variety of lists freely available to the MIT population. Students may wish for class e-mails from professors delaying problem set due dates, while clubs members advertise upcoming events. Other popular lists ending with @mit.edu include reuse (a service for exchanging free items within the MIT community), mit-talk, lsc-info

(announcements of MIT's lecture series committee movies), and the self-explanatory free-food. More obscure lists cater to students with more specific interests; these include atlantic-puffins, eatyourwaythroughboston, tvtalk (not to be confused with buffy), tiddlywinks, and bcs-subjects (where you can take an MRI, look at your brain, and get paid for it). Mailing lists can be ultimately helpful to their subscribers, as long proper etiquette is recognized.

A major bane of many students is internal spam — dormitory lists appear to be most heavily infected, with requests for everything from French horns and T-shirts to hammers and course books.

One wayward soul made a sketchy request to the Baker forum, requesting a fake ID, preferably Asian and over 21, for a weekend of general debauchery. Dormitories, living groups, and clubs typically have mailing lists created specifically for event notification, and students should take care before sending an e-mail to such a large number of people.

Freshmen and even upperclassmen have particular trouble after being inundated with mail from lists they casually signed up for during Orientation. However, even if you don't know how your e-mail got on a mailing list, you're not stuck with its spam if you understand how to manage list memberships.

The most commonly used list types at MIT are Moira and Mailman. Moira lists, otherwise known

as Athena lists, can be accessed by typing mailmaint into the Athena prompt. Users can also access Moira accounts by using MIT certificates at http://web.mit.edu/moira/. Mailman lists, an alternative to Moira, offer moderation as well as filtering and can be accessed through a similar Web interface.

A key issue concerning mailing lists involves proper procedure regarding addition and removal. The appropriate method of removal is not to e-mail the entire list asking to be removed — this often creates an avalanche of similar requests, followed by another one of angry e-mails informing the guilty to stop. The same applies to subscribing to a list.

According to the Student Information Processing Board, "to add yourself to or remove yourself from a Mailman list, you can visit http://mailman.mit.edu/mailman/listinfo/listname/ (replacing listname with the name of the Mailman list)." An alternative is to type the blanch command into an Athena prompt.

Mailing lists can be easily created by anyone with an Athena account via http://web.mit.edu/accounts/www/make-a-list.html.

MIT has a lot to offer, and staying informed will help you make the most out of your time spent inside this nerddom. Use lists responsibly, and maybe you'll keep your neighbors from blowing down your door with that French horn you so desperately wanted.

Google Staff Lay Bets On Company's Future

By Ian Austen
THE NEW YORK TIMES

Like all search engines, Google helps people sort through information from the past. But a new service, being used inside the company, tries to forecast the future.

Google has created a predictive market system, basically a way for its employees to bet on the likelihood of possible events. Such markets have long been used to predict world events, like election results. Intrade, part of the Trade Exchange Network, allows people to bet on elections and even the weather, for example.

In Google's system, employees can bet on how the company will perform in the future, forecasting things like product introduction dates and new office openings. It was devised under a program that allows engineers to spend one day a week on a project of their choice.

To help develop the system, Google consulted Hal R. Varian, an economist at the University of California, Berkeley. Varian (who also writes the Economic Scene column for The New York Times) said that the final product was not entirely what he anticipated.

"I was a little surprised," he said. "I expected this to be accurate because there's a lot of literature and experience with these systems. But this has been even better than I expected."

Google has not offered precise data on the system's accuracy, but a

chart posted on the company's blog last week showed that, in the words of its accompanying entry, prices set for events through employees' wagering were a "pretty close" indication of the probability of events.

The market is based on the idea that a price established for an event will reflect bettors' consensus of the likelihood that it will happen. Thus, something priced at 20 cents should happen 20 percent of the time. The system accepts bets in 10-cent increments up to a dollar (no actual money is involved).

On its blog, Google compares the market to its search engine software. "Our search engine works well because it aggregates information dispersed across the Web, and our internal predictive markets are based on the same principle: Googlers from across the company contribute knowledge and opinions which are aggregated into a forecast by the market," the blog said.

Varian, who has consulted with Google on other projects, attributes the higher-than-expected levels of accuracy to the large number of employees participating. In general, the higher the number of bettors in such systems, the better the predictions.

There is one issue, however, for which Google's market offers no prediction. "It's a fun thing," said Varian. "Now one of the things we're thinking about is what to do with it."

A 'Singular' Man, Ray Kurzweil Aims for Human Omnipotence

By Drake Bennett
THE BOSTON GLOBE

Kurzweil Technologies takes up two floors of a low office building in Wellesley Hills, near where the Charles River crosses and then recrosses Route 128. In the reception area are a vintage Thomas Edison dictation machine and a large flat-screen monitor on which a computer program draws angular, cartoon-like portraits. Across from the entrance sits an alarmingly life-like man made of wax, bearded and brandishing a pipe as if in conver-

sation.

Ray Kurzweil '70, the company's founder, is an inventor, and has been one for as long as he can remember. "When I was 7 or 8 my inventions actually began to work," Kurzweil told me recently in his large, cluttered office. "I'd build these robotic devices, like a theater that would move scenery and props and characters in and out of view by elaborate mechanical linkages."

He was still a high school student when, in 1964, he created a computer that composed music in

the style of Chopin, Mozart, and other great composers. In the early 1970s he invented the first flatbed scanner and the first practical character-recognition software, paving the way for everything from digital photography and graphic design to online newspaper archiving. Combining those two technologies with a text-to-speech synthesizer (another of his inventions), he made the Kurzweil Reading Machine. He sold the very first one to Stevie Wonder — for whom he then developed the first music synthesizer able

to fool professional musicians into thinking they were listening to real instruments. In 1987 his company Kurzweil Applied Intelligence was the first to market large-vocabulary speech-recognition software.

By any measure, Kurzweil has had an exceptional career. Now, however, he has a new project: to be a god. And not just because he thinks he can live forever. Within decades, he predicts, he will be billions of times more intelligent than he is today, able to read minds, assume different forms, and reshape his physical environment at will. So will everyone. Today's human beings, mere quintessences of dust, will be as outmoded as Homo Erectus.

All this, Kurzweil believes, will come about through something called The Singularity. Popularized more than a decade ago by the mathematician, computer scientist, and science fiction novelist Vernor Vinge, who borrowed the term from mathematics and astrophysics, it refers to the future point at which technological change, propelled by the explosive growth of artificial intelligence, will accelerate past the point of current human comprehension. In Vinge's prevision, once artificial intelligence surpasses human intelligence there will be no turning back, as ever more intelligent computers create ever more super-intelligent offspring.

Among the programmers, scientists, and philosophers concerned with the larger contours of technological evolution, the term quickly caught on. The Singularity became an axis around which debates on technology, human nature, genetic enhancement, and the future of consciousness all turned. Figures like Marvin Minsky and Hans Moravec, the artificial intelligence pioneers, and K. Eric Drexler, the father of nanotechnology, took it up.

Today Ray Kurzweil is the most radical and most visible prophet of The Singularity. In talks, public debates, articles, postings on his website, and in a series of increasingly provocative books — The Age of Intelligent Machines (1990), The Age of Spiritual Machines: When Computers Exceed Human Intelligence (1999), Fantastic Voyage: Live Long Enough to Live Forever (2005) — he has

done more than any other thinker to make the case for both the desirability and the imminence of The Singularity. According to Doug Lenat, a leading expert on artificial intelligence, "Ray is one of the few people who can step back and see the big picture for what it means for our species and for the planet."

This week Kurzweil has a new book out, with the self-consciously millennial title The Singularity Is Near: When Humans Transcend Biology (Viking). It is the most detailed brief he has yet written for the nearness of the unimaginably strange future, and it arrives with approving blurbs from Minsky and Bill Gates ("Ray Kurzweil is the best person I know at predicting the future of artificial intelligence," writes the Microsoft founder.) At a time when political debates over the ethics of stem cell research, genetic modification, cloning and even nanotechnology are growing at once more fervent and more complicated, Kurzweil offers a vision of technology as destiny, of transformative change that has slipped the bonds of politics, culture, and — for many — credulity.

That his predictions make moot most of the cultural norms and physical limits of today's world is, he believes, only a testament to the power of the forces he describes. To his many critics, however, Kurzweil is simply spinning fairy tales, preaching transcendence but propagating ignorance.

Opposing the linear

Arrayed around Kurzweil's office and in the hallways outside are a few of his inventions. When I asked, he readily showed them off. He had an old Kurzweil Reading Machine flatly declaim the opening of the Gettysburg Address. He played the first few measures of a Beethoven piano sonata on an early-model Kurzweil synthesizer, stumbled, started over, stumbled again, then switched to Gershwin. He arranged a demonstration of a pocket reading machine for the blind that he plans to roll out in January. He told me about FatKat, his artificial-intelligence investment program: Over the past two years, he claims, it has brought in stock market returns of 80 to 100 percent.

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Humans Destined for Immortality, Kurzweil Predicts

Kurzweil, from Page 11

with full cheeks, a small smile, and a knot-like nose drooping toward a broad chin. The tone of his voice, deep and deliberate, is somewhat at odds with his eyes, which narrow and furiously blink as he talks. He is 57 years old, nearly the age at which his father died of a heart attack. According to a battery of controversial tests administered by Terry Grossman, the anti-aging expert who co-wrote *Fantastic Voyage*, Kurzweil has not aged appre-

ciably in the past 17 years. Every day, Kurzweil takes hundreds of nutritional supplement pills, and once a week he takes several others intravenously. He is, as he puts it, “reprogramming my biochemistry” and claims in so doing to have conquered his Type 2 diabetes. More importantly, he insists, he is stretching his natural lifespan until either genetic therapies, microscopic “nanobots” (hypothetical robots on the scale of single atoms and molecules that Kurzweil believes will be able, among many other

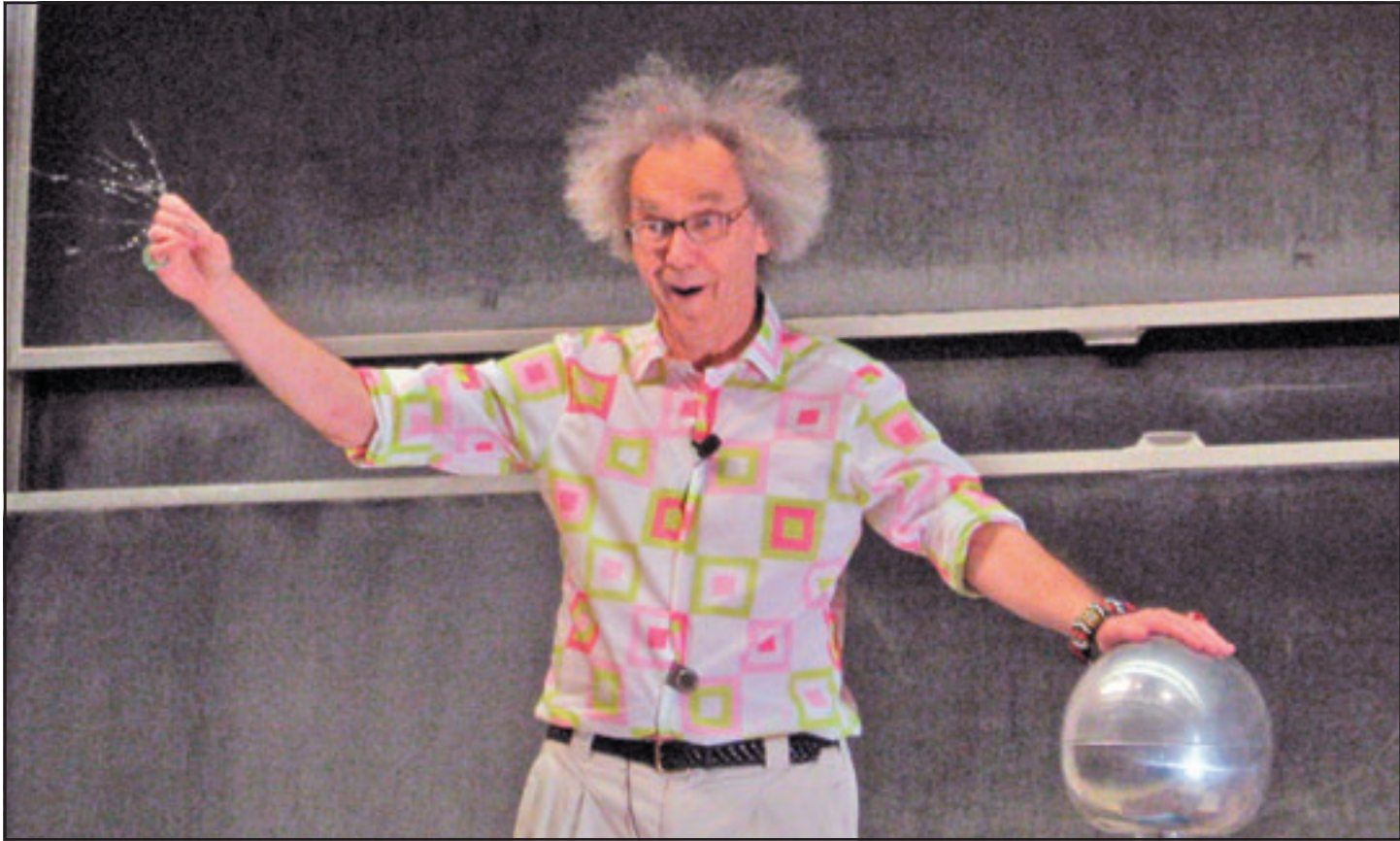
things, to take over some of the vital functions of the human body), or simply the ability to download one’s mind onto a computer make immortality a reality. What links all of Kurzweil’s creations is the concept of pattern recognition: recreating the human ability to distinguish signal from noise. As he sees it, the predictions he’s making are simply pattern recognition applied to history. The pattern he sees is a simple one: He calls it the law of accelerating returns. To explain, Kurzweil

uses the example of Moore’s Law, the storied 1965 prediction by Intel cofounder Gordon Moore that the power of computer chips would double roughly every two years. In 1972 there were 2500 transistors in an Intel chip, in 1974, 4500, and by 2004 there were 592 million. For Kurzweil, however, the explosive power of exponential growth goes far beyond transistors: Human technological advancement, the billions of years of terrestrial evolution, the entire history of the universe, all, he argues, follow the

law of accelerating returns. He has put a team of researchers to work gathering technological, economic, historical, and paleontological data. All of it, he claims, graphs neatly onto an exponential plot, starting out slowly, then nosing sharply upward through the “knee of the curve” into higher order and greater complexity, arcing toward infinity. “Ultimately,” he promises in *The Singularity Is Near*, “the entire universe will become saturated with our intelligence. This is the destiny of the universe. We will determine our own fate rather than have it determined by the current ‘dumb,’ simple machinelike forces that rule celestial mechanics.” How he is not sure, but he trusts his math.

At such moments, Kurzweil’s predictions have the ring of eschatology, of half-cocked end-times rapture. For him, though, it’s surreal to hear people talk about the size of the Social Security shortfall in 2042 — by then, he believes, advances in nanotechnology will allow us to ward off disease and senescence and to manufacture all the goods we want for a pittance. By then, in other words, aging and poverty may hardly exist and people may not retire or even work in a way that’s recognizable to us.

For Kurzweil, stubbornly linear habits of mind explain why, for example, so few neuroscientists share his conviction that we will soon be able to reverse-engineer the brain. “A lot of scientists,” he told me, “Nobel Prize-winners included, take a linear perspective. They just intuitively do the mental experiment of what will it take to achieve certain goals at today’s rate of progress, with today’s tools.” Kurzweil points to the skepticism that greeted his forecast, in 1990, that in as few as nine years a computer would beat the world chess champion. He was too conservative, as it turned out: Deep Blue beat Garry Kasparov in 1997.



Professor Walter Lewin shows how the charges from the Van de Graaff generator cause the tinsel in his hand to separate along with his hair at a F.A.S.T. lecture on “The Wonders of Electricity and Magnetism,” held last Sunday afternoon.

RICKY RAMIREZ—THE TECH

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RICARDO RAMIREZ—THE TECH



STEPHANIE LEE—THE TECH

On Friday, Sept. 23, groups of people gathered in front of Kresge for the annual Great Glass Pumpkin Patch sale. The intricate and unique designs, made by the MIT Glass Lab, were completely sold out by the end of Saturday. Clockwise from top left:

Kent Edwards '67 and Laury Edwards gaze upon a beautiful glass pumpkin in the annual Glass Pumpkin Patch in Kresge Oval Friday evening.

A traditional orange pumpkin sits surrounded by green pumpkins.

Frances Choi '08 examines one of the hand-blown glass pumpkins at the exhibition.

Each pumpkin is individually hand made and blown, with a unique color, shape, and pattern.

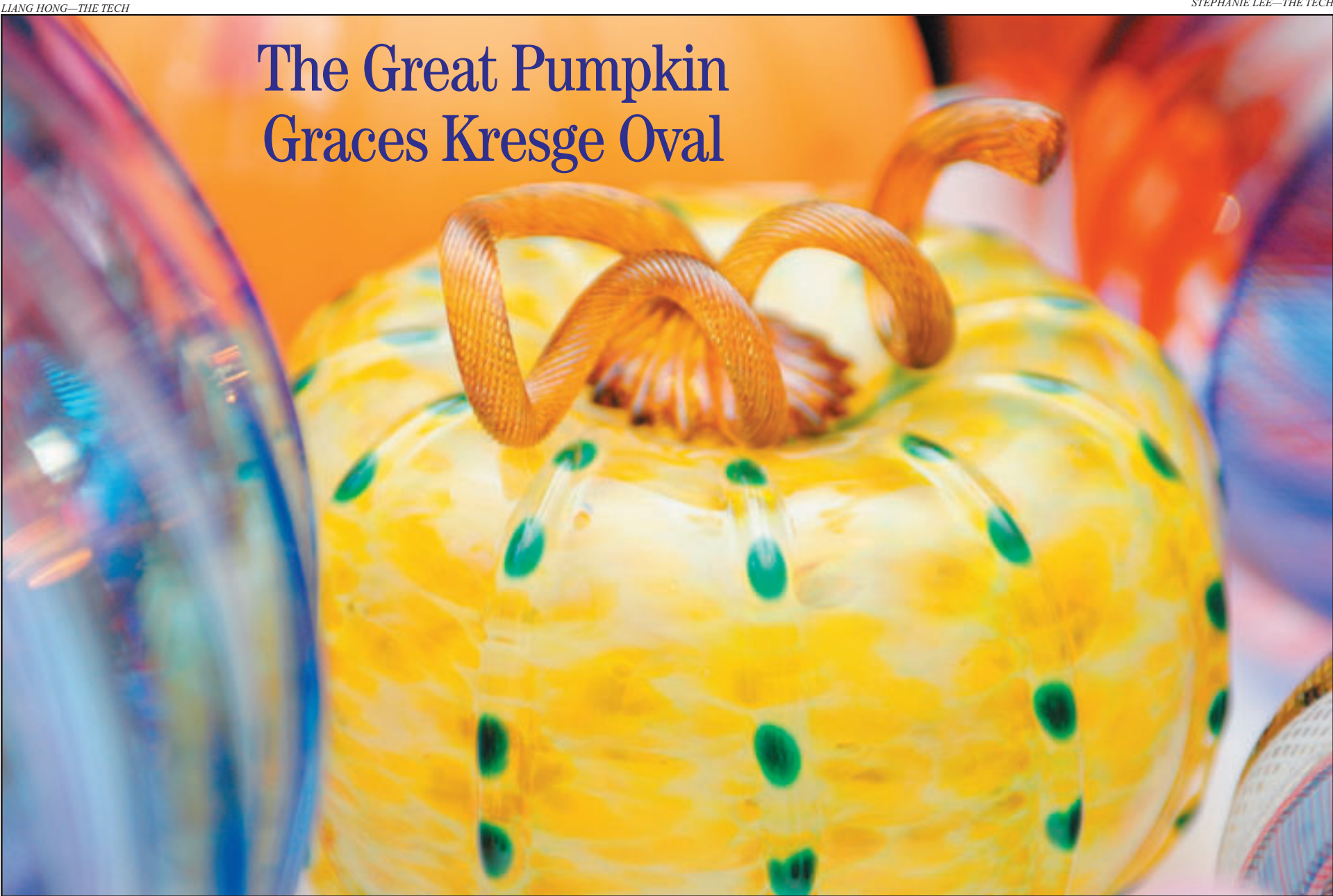
Blue tinted pumpkins glitter in the afternoon sunshine.



STEPHANIE LEE—THE TECH



STEPHANIE LEE—THE TECH



The Great Pumpkin Graces Kresge Oval

LIANG HONG—THE TECH

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Jimmy Fund to Help
EC, Sr. House 'Kids'

Big Jimmy, from Page 1

and late night snacks, helping them through difficult times, standing up for them when he could, and making them laugh," Thompson said. "He looked out for everyone."
East Campus and Senior House residents wanted to find a way to pay tribute to him following his death in January, so the decision was made to set up a scholarship fund.
"The fund is one of the best memorials," said Thompson. "It is a way for us to honor his memory, to thank him for everything that he has done for the students, and to allow him to continue helping the community that he loved so much."
The residence-based restriction was placed on the scholarship because the students who helped create it "felt that it was appropriate for [Big Jimmy's] memorial to benefit the students he thought of as 'his kids' now that he is no longer here to watch over them himself," she said.

Over 100 contribute to fund
So far, the Jimmy Fund officially has \$19,915 of the \$50,000 that is necessary to consider the schol-

arship fully sustainable, meaning the scholarship would be paid by annual interest off of this principal amount, Thompson said.
Most of the money came from 125 individual donors to date, which include parents, students, alumni, and staff from the Dorm Patrol and the Service Employees Intern Unit, Wilinsky said.
Students also initiated fundraisers to raise money for the fund. Jones and Christopher M. Vogt '06, hosted multiple "Hot Dogs for Jimmy" events in the East Campus courtyard over the summer that raised \$300 for the fund. Other events, including a sushi night, contributed \$300, bringing the total unofficial amount of money in the fund to \$20,515. Individual donations have ranged from \$5 to \$1,000.
Contributions and gifts of any amount can be directed to the Jimmy Fund via <https://giving.mit.edu/givenow/GiftStart.dyn>.
Big Jimmy would have wanted to give some of the scholarship to as many people as possible, and in order to do that, "we need as large a principal as we can get for the fund," Thompson said.

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RESUME DROP DEADLINE
Wednesday, September 28

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This past Friday, Sept. 23, “An Evening of Vietnamese Guitar” was held in the Coffeeshouse.

(above) Vo Thanh Binh plays the vietnamized guitar with Nam Chinh (not pictured). Binh finished the Evening with a classical guitar exhibition.

(right) Dang L. Vu '06 of the band Living Incense plays the guitar with Ben Enos and David Enos (not pictured). During the performance, Vu combined elements of traditional Vietnamese music with rock.



Photography by Omari Stephens

The Coffeeshouse Features ‘An Evening of Vietnamese Guitar’

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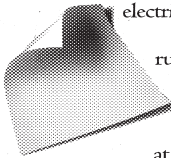
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electricity is being used to run computers that are left on. Look at how much water is being wasted in the restrooms. And

how much solid waste is being thrown out in the trash cans. We bet it’s a lot. Now, here are some simple ways you can produce less waste at work. When you’re at the copier, only make the copies you need. Use both sides of the paper when writing a memo. Turn off your light when you leave. Use a lower watt bulb in your lamps. Drink your coffee or tea out of mugs instead of throwaway cups.

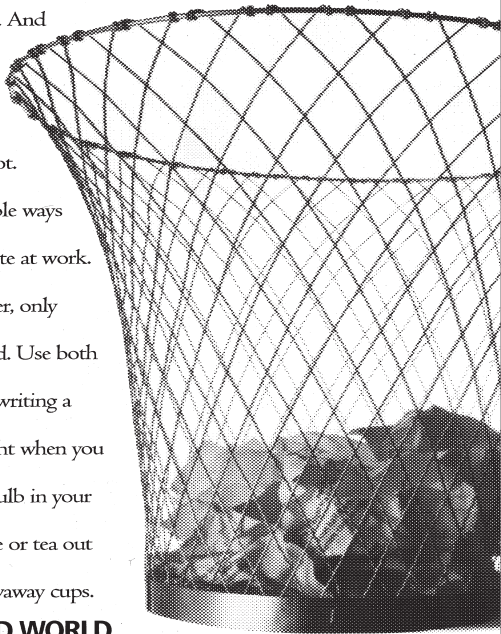
Set up a recycling bin for aluminum cans and one for bottles. And when you’re in the bathroom brushing your teeth or washing your face, don’t let the faucet run. Remember, if we use fewer resources today, we’ll save more for tomorrow.

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Bottiglia Treasured Music, Opera, Ballet

Bottiglia, from Page 1

Born in Bernardsville, N.J., he was elected to Phi Beta Kappa during his junior year at Princeton and graduated summa cum laude in 1934. He earned his M.A. and PhD from Princeton in 1935 and 1948, respectively, and belonged to the Phi Beta Kappa Society and the Dante Society of America.

Bottiglia was appointed an Officier in the Société des Palmes Académiques by the French government and has been listed in Who's Who in America since 1966.

He was an avid reader and writer and enjoyed classical music, opera, ballet performances, museum exhibitions, playing the piano and taking long walks.

Bottiglia was the husband of the late Mildred (MacDonald) Bottiglia. He is survived by his daughter, Janet Bottiglia of Needham; a stepdaughter, Martha Morris of Ripon, Wis.; a sister, Adele Molinaro of Bernardsville, N.J.; three grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

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McCormick Loses A Senate Seat

Elections, from Page 1

the number of open positions. For example, Baker, which has two Senate positions, would get four write-in slots if it had zero or one official candidates.

Public Relation chairs worked on spreading the news of the extended deadline through posters and e-mails sent to all undergraduates, said UA President John M. Cloutier '06. Candidate platforms for the UA and the 2009 Student Council are posted on the voting Web site, and on the last day of voting, the UA will provide printed packets of the candidate platforms in Lobby 10.

Senate allocations roughly same

This fall marks the first election in which members of Fraternities, Sororities, and Independent Living groups who live in dormitories could choose to vote or run with either their FSILG or residence; in the past, they had automatically been designated with their residence.

As of the deadline last Friday for choosing a constituency, 317 eligible undergraduates were designated with their FSILG, and 230 with their residence, according to Gary L. Sivek, technical coordinator of the election commission.

Those who had not designated voting constituency by Friday were assigned randomly with equal probability into one or the other. Sivek did not have information on how many of the 537 dual members had actively chosen a constituency.

Despite the influx of constituents into the FSILG's with this change, the number of UA representatives assigned to each constituency, which is based on number of members, did not change much from last year. The only difference is that McCormick Hall lost one Senate representative because its number of residents dropped slightly, Lukmann said.

The electronic ballot closes on Thursday, September 29, 2005, at 11:59 PM. Paper ballots will be available on Friday, September 30, 2005 from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM in Lobby 10.

Solution to Crossword

from page 7

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



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Burton-Conner (2)	Benjamin Navot '07 Ali S. Wyne '08
East Campus (2)	Christopher J. Varenhorst '09 Ruth A. Shewmon '08
McCormick Hall (1)	HyeMee Shin '09 Irina Shklyar '09 Namrata Verma '08
MacGregor House (2)	Martin F. Holmes '08 Irene B. Murimi '07 Heather M. Conroe '07
Next House (2)	Hans E. Anderson '08 Ali Farahanchi '07
New House (2)	Andrew S. Clare '08
Random Hall (1)	Kevin E. Caldwell '08
Senior House (1)	Alexander J. Werbos '07 Dennis V. Perepelitsa '08
Simmons House (2)	Agustya R. Mehta '08 Christopher K. Hoffman '08 Jennifer L. Wong '06
Interfraternity Council (5)	Zain A. Gulamali '06 Steven M. Kelch '08 Humberto Evans '08 Forrest J. Funnell '09 Pravin R. Palaniappan '07 Keith A. Yost '08 Dwight M. Chambers '07 Christopher A. Fematt '08 Deke Hu '09 TaiHo Kang '08
Living Group Council (1)	Dylan A. Consla '07
Panhellenic Association (1)	Joy M. Dunn '08
Off-Campus (2)	Justine Wang '07 Adam J. Miller '07

SOURCES: TIFFANY L. SETO '06, ANDREW T. LUKMANN '06

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Publicity Chairs	Ting Ting Luo & Wendy Wen

SOURCE: TIFFANY L. SETO '06

Meet admissions representatives from

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Time: 4:00-6:00 p.m.
Place: Boston University Career Services Office
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Biking, from Page 1

average of \$5 a day for food, using his own pots and pans to cook rice, pasta, potatoes, onions, and split pea soup. He bought whatever was cheap, and drank mostly tap water. Clothes were hand-washed in rivers, and air-dried as he rode his bike.

He spent a total of \$3,000–\$4,000 on his year-long trip, some of it on boat rides from La Paz on the Baja Peninsula to Mazatlan to Mexico and from Colon, Panama to La Isla Fuerte, Columbia, and on a plane ride back from Ecuador to Chicago at the end of his journey.

Welling, who took two years of Spanish in high school, initially resorted to using hand motions to communicate with locals, who helped him by providing clothes and sometimes housing. In populated towns, the natives' curiosities about the guy on the bike often paved the way for overnight stays at local homes.

"People could see I was living on my bike. I wasn't just going home for the day," said Welling. However, for the most part, he camped alone in his tent, slept on hammocks, and hid from the rain in abandoned houses, drainages, ditches, and baseball dug-outs.

He used hotels very infrequently.

once on the Baja Peninsula in Mexico, twice in Columbia because of the civil war, and a few times in southern Argentina due to the cold, he said.

Depending on road conditions, Welling usually rode six and a half to seven hours per day, covering an average of 75 miles.

So how did someone who planned to go to MIT live without a computer or cell phone?

"As soon as you get out of the United States, every town has an internet cafe," said Welling. He said it was easier to find an internet cafe in South America than a Starbucks in Seattle. There was a public phone and internet source every five blocks, he said. He carried very little cash with him as his U.S. debit card allowed him to withdraw local currency from almost any ATM in Latin America.

During the summer in 2002, Welling biked from Oregon south to California, west across the United States to New Jersey and finally back to Wisconsin, a total of 6,000 miles, in 3 months. The following summer, he biked 2,000 miles from Stevens Point, Wisconsin to Seattle, Washington in two weeks. For a long time, Welling said, he thought about biking from Alaska to Patagonia. He decided six months before he started to carry the idea through.

LETTERS

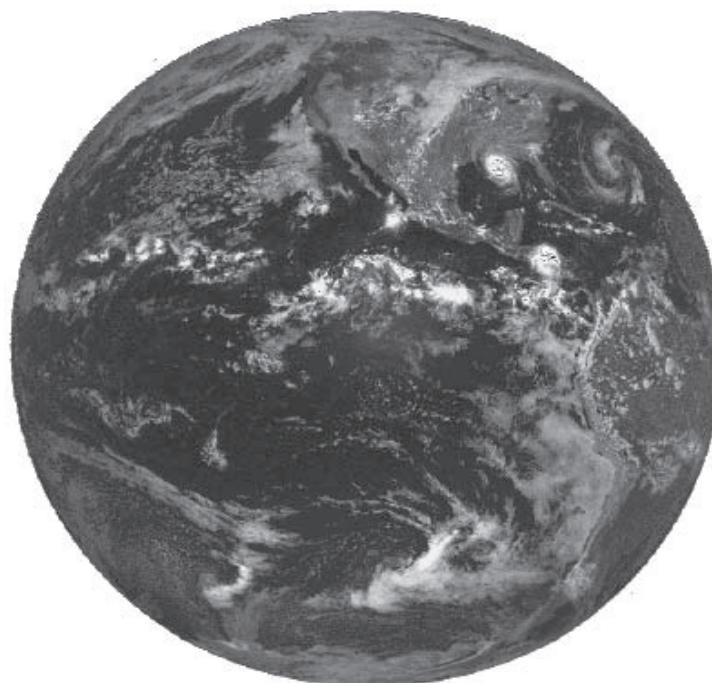
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MITMedical

Universities Ponder Facebook Etiquette

By Sarah Schweitzer

THE BOSTON GLOBE

Last school year, Brandeis University junior Emily Aronoff tapped this sentiment into a computer: "I enjoy the festive greens."

The reference to marijuana became part of her profile on facebook.com, the online student catalogue that allows Aronoff and tens of thousands of collegians to share photos and idiosyncratic odds and ends of their lives, intended for viewing by other students.

But others were reading as well — including "an individual in the community," she said, who shared the reference with her parents in Marietta, Ga. Eventually, word reached her grandmother.

"My bubbe," she said, using the Yiddish word for grandmother, "told me her seniors home was abuzz with the news, and I was like: 'I hate the Facebook.'"

As the Facebook has become a phenomenon at schools across the country — a virtual bible for campus socializing and networking — the unintended consequences of overly comprehensive, brutally frank, or mischievous entries are surfacing.

Colleges and universities are increasingly taking steps to help students avoid pitfalls — most critically, those that put students at risk for stalking and harassment. At Tufts University this year, freshmen-orientation leaders encouraged students to omit detailed personal information from their profiles, such as dormitory room numbers and class schedules. Boston College plans to do the same next year, and Boston University has instructed residential advisers on offering guidance on Facebook matters.

Meanwhile, Brandeis held an hour-long seminar last week on Facebook savvy — recommending

safety tips, but also telling students to consider future employers, professors, or family members who might read Facebook entries. Indeed, some Brandeis administrators said at the meeting — to open-mouthed reactions of students attending — that they have begun reading Facebook entries before hiring a student for campus positions.

School officials noted that they are in an odd position when it comes to the Facebook. The online site is privately operated and not officially affiliated with colleges or universities. Some administrators say they believe the site should be a student domain in which young people feel free to express themselves in language and photos that are authentic representations, and not dressed up for adult eyes.

"This is a community forum, and I don't want to goof it up," said Kenneth Elmore, dean of students at Boston University. "I think that would put some people in a real tough spot."

And yet, administrators say they feel some obligation to ensure that students do not unintentionally step into an online minefield — such as the rants or brusque language on blogs, personal Web sites, and public message boards that have led some businesses to fire or discipline employees.

"It's not appropriate for us to be policing the site," said Alwina Bennett, the associate dean of students at Brandeis. "But we do need to educate them about how to make good choices and foresee consequences."

Entries in the Facebook, launched in February 2004 by Harvard undergraduates who started the same service for high school students this month, have propelled some students into trouble.

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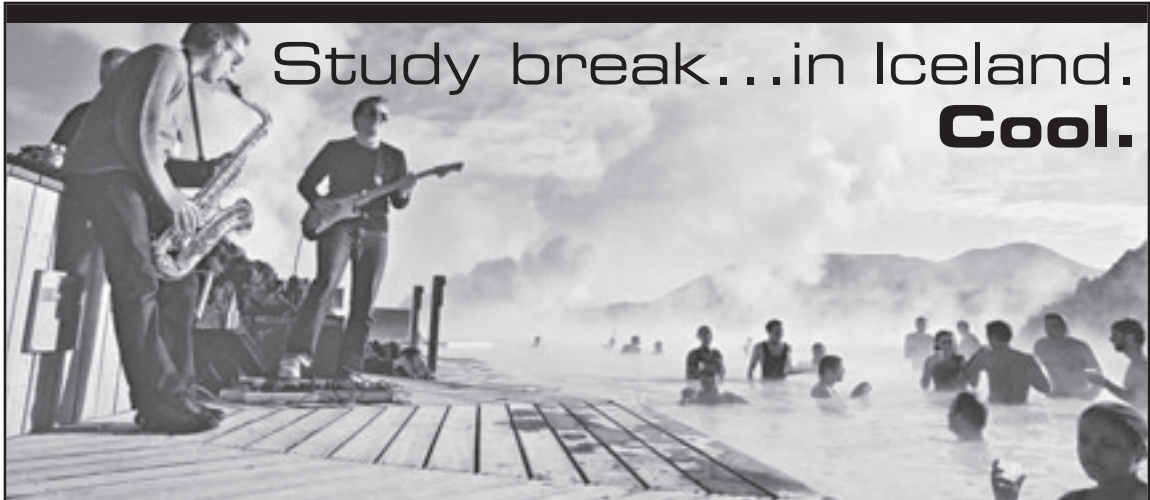
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Ask a MedLink

I am NOT pregnant; why do they keep asking?

Dear MedLink: Whenever I see a male doctor at MIT Medical, they always ask me if I'm pregnant. I'm sick of this question. I haven't had sex yet, so I know I'm not pregnant. Why do they keep asking? It's embarrassing. —**Feeling Pestered**

Dear Pestered: I've also been asked this question by MIT Medical clinicians—both male and female. Like you, I wondered why they were asking me. So I asked them!

Turned out, it wasn't just me. Clinicians routinely ask this question of all female patients, because the answer can often determine decisions about diagnostic tests or treatments. For example, if your doctor is considering something as simple as an x-ray or certain prescription drugs, he or she absolutely needs to know if there is any chance you might be pregnant. Certain drugs taken during pregnancy can cause health problems in a pregnant woman and birth defects in a baby; radiation from an x-ray can also harm a developing fetus.

I totally understand that it is not always easy for people to discuss more intimate issues with their doctors (or their parents or friends, for that matter). That's why it's so important to choose a personal physician with whom you feel comfortable. Once you've met with your personal physician a few times and developed some trust, it will be easier to discuss all your health concerns.

—**Pam**



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MIT Shoots for Katrina

The MIT Pistol and Rifle team held a Fun Shoot in the DuPont Pistol and Rifle range last Thursday and Friday evening, a charity event to raise money for victims of Hurricane Katrina. Five rounds sold for \$1.

(left) Waldo Szczupak '07 trains his eye upon the target as he prepares to shoot a .22 caliber pistol.

(below) Andrew Muth '07 lies prone, trying to steady a .22 caliber rifle.

Photography by Ricardo Ramirez



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Weili
Business Analyst

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Catalina
Business Analyst

I was impressed by the firm's commitment to developing its people through various mediums – formal training, targeted projects, and valuable mentor relationships.

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Yankees Need a Leg Up On Sox to Make AL East Post-Season

Baseball, from Page 24

Chacon has been solid, and so has the 9-0 Aaron Small. Mike Mussina is off and on, but he should bounce back. The one super-staple to the team in terms of their pitching is Randy Johnson. He has dominated and has been pitching no-hit games consistently through the opening innings of every game.

The Sox are probably going to throw David Wells, Curt Schilling and Tim Wakefield against the likes of the Yankees' Chien-Ming Wang, Randy Johnson and Mike Mussina. The way I see it, the two teams will split the first two games of the series, and I'd give the edge to Wakefield and the Red Sox in the third, simply because of how effectively he has been throwing the ball lately.

That means that the Yankees must be one game up on the Sox in order to make it to some sort of playoff for the American League East. But they are playing the rock-bottom Baltimore Orioles. There is no real telling who will walk away from this into the postseason.

Those other playoff races

AL Central: Can the Indians catch the White Sox, who were light-years ahead of the pack two months ago? Now the Sox are stuck in the pit waiting for repairs, their lead shrinking to almost nothing.

The coming showdown between the two has not highlighted as much as the Red Sox and the Yankees, but it will be just as exciting. I still look for the White Sox to end up on top in the division.

AL West: The Angels have put the youngster A's back in their place. Billy Beane's genius almost paid off. As they say, close but no postseason.

AL Wild Card: It's between the Indians, the White Sox, the Red Sox and the Yankees. I think the Indians, playing Kansas City before hosting the Southsiders, have the easiest schedule and should take this away, leaving one AL East team home for the festivities.

National League East: Do we ever need to worry about the Braves? Regular season superiority, but post season mediocrity.

NL Central: Two words: St. Louis.

NL "Worst": Not much has changed in this pathetic little world. The leader, San Diego, is still hovering around .500, looking to wrap it all up.

NL Wild Card: Houston is still the leading candidate. The Phillies are trying to make a push, but with the Astros' rotation for last couple of games, it will be difficult to overtake them. I still think Roger Clemens, Andy Pettitte and Roy Oswalt are the best 1-2-3 punch in the majors.

Adapting to UMass' Strategy, MIT Takes Control of Field for a Win

Field Hockey, from Page 24

Starting the second half behind 2-1, MIT made a half-time adjustment to UMass's style. "I think they they were able to set up their passes a little bit better ... we really, really needed to go to a one-touch redirect passing game, and that's one of our strengths," said Silva.

The results were immediate. MIT quickly converted two of their many shots to goals, both tallied by Cap-

tain Deanna M. Lentz '05. The first came on a pass from Anna E. Ayuso '06 and the second when a deflection lifted the ball above the unsuspecting Corsair goalie.

MIT controlled play throughout, even in the first half when their shots weren't going in and their passing wasn't as crisp. Some telling statistics are MIT's 47-8 advantage in shots, and that Herman only needed to make one save the entire game.

Two days later MIT faced confer-

ence opponent Babson, who had a similar non-conference record coming into the game. MIT lost 3-1 and fell to 7-2 overall, 0-1 in the New England Women's and Men's Athletic Conference.

With a good start to the season and a favorable schedule full of home matches against top competitors, MIT has a chance of winning the NEWMAC, particularly if they are able to improve their defense and passing.

www.degreeTRADE.com

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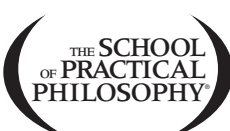
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On-campus interviews, October 3

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SPORTS

UPCOMING HOME EVENTS

Tuesday, Sept. 27

Varsity Men's Soccer vs. Gordon College Steinbrenner Stadium, 4 p.m.
Varsity Women's Volleyball vs. Mount Holyoke
duPont Gymnasium, 7 p.m.

Thursday, Sept. 29

Varsity Women's Tennis vs. Tufts University duPont Tennis Court, 4 p.m.



STANLEY HU—THE TECH
Rose Zhong '08, left, and Briana J. Stephenson '07 celebrate a point during the women's volleyball 3-1 (28-30, 30-23, 30-18) victory over Williams College on Friday, Sept. 23.

Field Hockey Maintains Strong Start With Victory Over UMass

By Travis Johnson
ASSOCIATE SPORTS EDITOR

The MIT Women's Field Hockey team continued their best start since 1995 when they defeated the University of Massachusetts at Dartmouth 4-2 on Thursday. MIT's dominating ball control has improved their record to 7-1 on the season.

The first half was frustrating for MIT as they got off shot after shot but Dartmouth's goalie and defense

left them largely empty handed. The Engineers got off 22 shots but only one goal in the thirty-five minute first half. Coach Cheryl Silva attributed their struggles to having to adapt to UMass' style of play, which she described as "take away the center of the field, 3-3-3" defense.

The other side of the field, though rarely visited because of MIT's ball

control, was equally frustrating. The Corsairs of UMass scored on their first penalty corner even as MIT faltered on their first three. Also, Engineer goalie Alexa C. Herman '08 guessed wrong on a breakaway, going for the ball carrier just as the ball was passed to a wide open teammate.

Field Hockey, Page 23

Red Sox, Yankees Fight For AL East Victory

By Yong-yi Zhu
ASSOCIATE SPORTS EDITOR

With three games to go until the big showdown between the Yankees and the Red Sox, the question on everyone's mind is who will win the

Column

American League East? It is somewhat surreal how the Yankees, for the first time in ages, are trying to gnaw their way through the competition into the lead. The looming possibility that no New York team will make the postseason is shocking.

The Yankees are still struggling to find their starting rotation. Jaret Wright was devastated during his last outing, but the rest of the rotation has done a much better job even amidst multiple injuries. Shawn

Baseball, Page 23

NEWMAC SCOREBOARD

Men's Soccer

Place	Name	NEWMAC Only			Overall		
		Wins	Losses	Ties	Wins	Losses	Ties
1	Clark	2	0	0	7	1	0
	Wheaton	2	0	0	5	3	0
3	Babson	1	0	0	6	1	2
	Coast Guard	1	0	0	4	3	1
5	MIT	0	2	0	2	4	0
	Springfield	0	2	0	1	6	0
	WPI	0	2	0	2	4	0

Volleyball

Place	Name	NEWMAC Only		Overall	
		Wins	Losses	Wins	Losses
1	MIT	3	0	14	3
	Smith	3	0	9	2
	Springfield	3	0	12	3
4	Coast Guard	2	1	8	3
	Wheaton	2	1	4	6
6	Wellesley	1	2	7	5
	WPI	1	2	7	9
8	Babson	0	3	2	6
	Clark	0	3	3	10
	Mount Holyoke	0	3	2	5

Women's Tennis

Place	Name	NEWMAC Only		Overall	
		Wins	Losses	Wins	Losses
1	Wellesley	4	0	4	0
2	MIT	3	1	3	1
	Babson	3	1	4	1
4	Mount Holyoke	2	2	2	2
	Springfield	2	2	2	5
6	Wheaton	1	2	4	3
7	Clark	0	3	2	5
	Smith	0	4	0	5

Field Hockey

Place	Name	NEWMAC Only			Overall	
		Wins	Losses	Ties	Wins	Losses
1	Babson	1	0	0	7	2
	Mount Holyoke	1	0	0	6	1
	Springfield	1	0	0	7	1
	Wellesley	1	0	0	6	1
5	Smith	0	0	0	4	2
6	Clark	0	1	1	1	5
	MIT	0	1	0	7	2
	Wheaton	0	1	0	3	5
	WPI	0	1	0	5	3

Women's Soccer

Place	Name	NEWMAC Only			Overall		
		Wins	Losses	Ties	Wins	Losses	Ties
1	Babson	1	0	0	6	1	0
	Clark	1	0	0	4	3	0
	Smith	1	0	0	3	2	1
	Wellesley	1	0	0	3	2	1
	Wheaton	1	0	0	5	4	0
6	Coast Guard	0	1	0	2	4	0
	MIT	0	1	0	2	6	0
	Mount Holyoke	0	1	0	4	2	0
	Springfield	0	1	0	3	3	2
	WPI	0	1	0	3	5	1

Worcester St. Routs MIT 49-6



BRIAN HEMOND—THE TECH

In a game last Saturday, Sept. 24, at Steinbrenner Stadium, the Engineers suffered their worst loss in 15 years as Worcester State pulled away with a 49-6 victory.

(Left) Wide receiver Thomas J. Kilpatrick '06 leaps for a long throw.

(Below) Running back Robert C. Utz '09 runs downfield. Utz had 54 yards on 16 carries.



RICKY RAMIREZ—THE TECH