

Over 2,000 Degrees to Be Awarded Today

President Hockfield and Federal Reserve Chairman Bernanke to Address Graduates

By Marie Y. Thibault
EDITOR IN CHIEF

Over 10,000 guests will look on today as about 2,000 students receive their diplomas in Killian Court. Roughly half of these students (1,025) will be receiving Bachelor of Science degrees, 1,036 will be receiving Masters' degrees, 9 will earn their Engineers' degrees, and 270 will receive their doctorates. The total number of people receiving degrees is 2,089.

2,270 students will attend commencement, since some students who received degrees in September or February will walk across the stage today. The number of students who had been on the degree list but are not graduating was not available, according to Registrar Mary Callahan.

Class of 2006 President Kimberly W. Wu '06 and Graduate Student Council President Sylvain Bruni G will deliver salutes and President Susan Hockfield will deliver a charge to the graduates. The featured speaker is Ben S. Bernanke PhD '79, the chairman of the Federal Reserve, who assumed the position in February 2006. The level of security during the exercises will be the same as it has been for MIT commencement ceremonies since September 11, 2001.

John B. Nonnamaker, associ-



President Susan Hockfield addresses the Class of 2006 at "Breakfast with the Professors" yesterday.

ate director of the careers office, said that he did not know the exact percentage of students continuing on to graduate school or going into employment. However, he said that "anecdotally, we have been hearing from students saying they are getting more offers" from employers. As

the economy has improved in recent years, the percentage of students going on to pursue graduate school has decreased, according to data from previous year, Nonnamaker said. Last year 47 percent of students went on to graduate school, 40 percent went to work, and the remaining 13

percent earning a second bachelors degree, taking time off, or traveling. Nonnamaker said that he would predict about 45 percent of students are going on to graduate school, with "the nature of the economy being

Commencement, Page 12

Doonesbury Online Poll Hacked in Favor of MIT

By Hannah Hsieh
STAFF REPORTER

Alex Doonesbury, the daughter of the main character in Garry Trudeau's popular *Doonesbury* comic strip, will be coming to MIT next year after the Institute won an online poll that

allowed the comic's readers to choose among MIT, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, and Cornell.

When the poll closed at midnight on May 22, MIT had 48 percent of the total votes, thanks to what the official *Doonesbury* Web site called "insane, rampant, ingenious, and impressively ruthless" voting. RPI received 32 percent of the votes, and

19 percent of the votes went to Cornell.

Apparently there were a few MIT students who attempted to "hack" the online poll, with one script that was successful in voting multiple times from a single computer. According to an official post on the *Doonesbury* website, the main MIT hacker was identified by the *Doonesbury* crack

tech crew as "a 5'8", 115-lb. freshman from New York."

This MIT student, (who wishes to remain anonymous, so will hereby be referred to as The Hacker) is a Course 6 major, but in an interview described himself as "not exactly the stereotypical computer nerd."

The Hacker said he is unsure how many people on campus were running his script, but "it was sent to all the dorm lists on campus and spread to several frats as well."

The infamous script was written in Flash ActionScript, and according to The Hacker, was "really pretty simple" and only took him 15 minutes to write. When run, the script reproduced the submit action on the *Doonesbury* online poll, but prevented the Web site cookie from being placed on the individual's machine. This cookie is what usually prevents multiple votes from one machine.

The Hacker would like to give his roommate some credit for helping him test the script once it was completed. According to The Hacker, there was a script preceding his that was sent out to the Baker House e-mail forum, but was "fairly complicated" and required previous coding experience to install.

In an interview with David Stan-

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Dean's Assailant Won't Graduate

By Benjamin P. Gleitzman
NEWS EDITOR

Criminal charges have been filed against an MIT senior following the assault of Robert M. Randolph, senior associate dean for student life, on May 24. Albert W. Leung '06 was arrested last month on charges including assault by means of a dangerous weapon according to John DiFava, director of security and campus police services.

According to the MIT Police report, Leung used pepper spray as a weapon at 70 Pacific Street in Cambridge on the evening of May 24. Leung's name has recently been removed from the degree list, according to Assistant Registrar Daniel T. Engelhardt. It is unclear if this occurred before or after the incident and whether it is related to the charges. Both Leung and Randolph declined to comment about the incident. It was unclear what caused the attack.

Leung, a senior in electrical engineering and computer science, is currently the webmaster and historian for Tau Beta Pi, a national engineering honor society.

Twenty-one assaults were reported on campus in 2004. In each of the four previous years, 21 on-campus assaults were also reported, according to the Safety, Security, and Crime Prevention Handbook published by the MIT Police.

Reading Room Renovations Begin

By Angeline Wang
NEWS EDITOR

Renovations to the reading room on the fifth floor of the Student Center began on Monday with the removal of trace amounts of asbestos in the ceiling. Actual construction of the new 24-hour reading room should begin next week and will be completed "absolutely no later than September 1," said Director of Campus Activities Complex Phillip J. Walsh.

The asbestos was in a thin layer of paint primer on the ceiling, which was removed while the room was sealed off, according to Undergraduate Association President Andrew T. Lukmann

Reading Room, Page 14



Professor of Mechanical Engineering Alex H. Slocum (center) congratulates Gregory C. Schroll '08 (left) and Orion Z. Welling '08, first and second place winners in the annual 2.007 competition, titled IHTFP, held May 23 in the Johnson Athletic Center.

The Tech publishes on Fridays during the summer: June 16, July 7, and Aug. 4. During Orientation, *The Tech* will publish daily, starting on Aug. 28.

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In Short

¶ **10 additional students** were admitted off the waitlist for the Class of 2010 on May 26, joining 30 who came off the waitlist on May 9, according to Associate Director of Admissions Matthew L. McGann '00. This year marked the first time MIT has gone to the waitlist since 2002. Additionally, 16 transfer students were admitted for the fall semester.

¶ **Under the proposed T fare hike**, subway prices would rise from \$1.25 to \$1.70, and bus fares would jump

from 90 cents to \$1.25. The last two of five public hearings on the MBTA's proposed fare hike are scheduled for next week, on June 12 in Attleboro and June 13 in Arlington. Most commuter rail passes would also cost 22 percent more, according to an article in last month's *Boston Globe*. If approved, the new fares would go into effect in January.

Send news information and tips to news@the-tech.mit.edu.

WORLD & NATION

Study Sees Increase in Illegal Hispanic Workers in New Orleans

By Leslie Eaton
THE NEW YORK TIMES

About a quarter of the construction workers rebuilding New Orleans are illegal immigrants, who are getting lower pay, less medical care and less safety equipment than legal workers, according to a new study by professors at Tulane University and the University of California, Berkeley.

These workers reported making an average of \$6.50 an hour less than legal workers and had more trouble collecting their wages, the study said. While few workers reported run-ins with the police, it said, their employers sometimes threatened to have them deported if they complained about missing pay or dangerous working conditions.

The study, which included more than 200 interviews at work sites, is an effort to document working conditions and to measure the influx of Hispanic workers into the city, where they have traditionally been only a small fraction of the population.

Phuong N. Pham, an assistant professor of international development at Tulane and an author of the study, put the number of new Latino workers at 10,000 to 14,000. That increase has probably doubled the percentage of Latinos in the city, to perhaps 8 percent. And that does not include any family members who may have come with the workers.

FDA Warns Against ACE Inhibitors In First Trimester

By Denise Grady
THE NEW YORK TIMES

A popular class of drugs for high blood pressure, ACE inhibitors, may cause birth defects if taken during the first three months of pregnancy, doctors are reporting. Pregnant women and those who are planning to become pregnant should avoid the drugs, the researchers and officials at the Food and Drug Administration warn.

ACE inhibitors have long been known to cause birth defects if taken later in pregnancy, but until now were considered safe if taken in the first trimester.

The new information comes from a study of the medical records of 29,507 infants, being published Thursday in The New England Journal of Medicine by researchers from Vanderbilt University and Boston University. The study found 209 infants who had been exposed to the drugs in the first trimester, 18 of whom had birth defects; in half, the heart was affected.

The rate of defects among infants exposed to the drugs was 2.7 times that of infants who were not. Infants whose mothers had taken other blood pressure medicines had no increased risk.

Gambling Scandals Have World Cup On Guard

By Jere Longman
THE NEW YORK TIMES

HAMBURG, GERMANY

A series of betting and match-fixing scandals in Europe and South America has led soccer's world governing body to institute extraordinary measures to ensure the legitimacy of the World Cup, which opens Friday in Munich.

For the first time, players, referees and coaches are being required to sign pledges that neither they nor their immediate families will wager on the sport's global championship. One online sportsbook estimated that as much as \$1.89 billion will be bet with British bookmakers alone during the World Cup.

FIFA, soccer's world governing body based in Zurich, Switzerland, has created a company called Early Warning System. It is designed to work in concert with the international gambling industry to spot attempts to manipulate the outcome of World Cup matches.

CIA's Covert Efforts Failing In Somalia, Officials Charge

By Mark Mazzetti
THE NEW YORK TIMES

WASHINGTON

A covert effort by the Central Intelligence Agency to finance Somali warlords has drawn sharp criticism from American government officials who say the campaign has thwarted counterterrorism efforts inside Somalia and empowered the same Islamic groups it was intended to marginalize.

The criticism, expressed privately, flared even before the apparent victory this week by Islamist militias in the country dealt a sharp setback to American policy in the region, according to U.S. government officials with direct knowledge of the debate.

The officials said the CIA effort, run from the agency's station in Nairobi, Kenya, had channeled hundreds of thousands of dollars over the past year to secular warlords inside Somalia with the aim, among other things, of capturing or killing a handful of suspected members of al-Qaida believed to be hiding there.

Officials say the decision to use proxies was born in part from fears of committing large numbers of American personnel to counterterrorism efforts in Somalia, a country

that the United States hastily left in 1994 after attempts to capture the warlord Mohammed Farah Aidid and his aides ended in disaster and the death of 18 American troops.

The American effort of the last year has occasionally included trips to Somalia by Nairobi-based CIA case officers, who landed on warlord-controlled airstrips in Mogadishu with large amounts of money for distribution to Somali militias, according to American officials involved in Africa policymaking and to outside experts.

Among those who have criticized the CIA operation as short-sighted have been senior foreign service officers at the U.S. Embassy in Nairobi. Earlier this year, Leslie Rowe, the embassy's second-ranking official, signed off on a cable back to State Department headquarters that detailed grave concerns throughout the region about American efforts in Somalia, according to several people with knowledge of the report.

Around that time, the State Department's political officer for Somalia, Michael Zorick, who had been based in Nairobi, was reassigned to Chad after he sent a cable to Washington criticizing Washington's poli-

cy of paying Somali warlords.

One American government official who traveled to Nairobi this year said officials from various government agencies working in Somalia had expressed concern that American activities in the country were not being carried out in the context of a broader policy.

"They were fully aware that they were doing so without any strategic framework," the official said. "And they realized that there might be negative implications to what they are doing."

The details of the American effort in Somalia are classified, and American officials from several different agencies agreed to discuss them only after being assured of anonymity. The officials included supporters of the CIA-led effort as well as critics. A CIA spokesman declined to comment, as did a spokesman for the American Embassy in Kenya.

Asked about the complaints made by embassy officials in Kenya, Thomas Casey, a State Department spokesman, said: "We're not going to discuss any internal policy discussions. The secretary certainly encourages individuals in the policymaking process to express their views and opinions."

Terror Arrests Reveal Reach of Canadian Surveillance Powers

By Anthony Depalma and Ian Austen
THE NEW YORK TIMES

MISSISSAUGA, ONTARIO

The disruption of a suspected terrorist cell that was believed to be plotting to take hostages, use truck bombs and even cut off the prime minister's head has shed light on how Canada is fighting terrorism after the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks.

Despite suggestions by officials in the United States that Canada is lax when it comes to immigration and anti-terrorism laws, Canadian law enforcement agencies enjoy broad surveillance powers.

Indeed, surveillance appeared to have been crucial to the investigation of 17 men, including five minors, accused of plotting a series of attacks against government targets.

The police intercepted communications and tracked the suspects for

months, according to The Globe and Mail, a major newspaper.

The Canadian Broadcasting Corp. said on Wednesday that one of the men had enrolled in a flight training program, Reuters reported.

Until December 2001, the Canadian Security and Intelligence Service, the agency created to handle terrorist surveillance, was permitted to conduct electronic surveillance of Canadians, including wiretaps, intercepting mail and covert searches, after obtaining a warrant from a judge. But a new anti-terrorism law enacted at that time also allowed a secretive, civilian agency of the Canadian military, the Canadian Security Establishment, to intercept Canadians' private communications on top of its traditional eavesdropping.

That law is now under a mandatory review in Parliament.

The CSE, which has long cooperated with other countries' spy agencies,

including the National Security Agency in the United States, can monitor only communications going in or out of the country. The agency also needs authorization from the minister of defense.

But once it has authorization, the CSE's powers are sweeping. Rather than being restricted to intercepting the calls and e-mail of a specific person or group, the agency is allowed under law to broadly monitor "activities" with possible terrorist implications.

Last year, the Liberal government began an effort to update surveillance laws and expand them to include technologies like cell phones, personal data devices, and the Internet. Anne McLellan, who was Canada's justice minister when the anti-terrorism laws were enacted in 2001, and who was the Minister of Public Safety until January, said businesses and civil liberty advocates opposed any extension of police powers to cell phones and the Internet.

WEATHER

Wet Weather Continues

By Jon Moskaitis
STAFF METEOROLOGIST

The latter half of Spring has been exceptionally wet in Cambridge (over 17 inches of rain since the beginning of May), with no sign yet of the rainy pattern abating. Today looks to be a transition day between storms, as the system that brought unsettled weather to the region over the past two days dissipates and a new storm forms to our southwest. This new low-pressure center is likely to make its closest approach to us on Saturday morning, making rain probable for Friday night and early Saturday. The storm could also influence our weather today, depending on how rapidly it can organize and its exact location. I think the most likely scenario for today is a dry morning and a rainy afternoon, but bear in mind that I had to make this prediction on Wednesday afternoon. By the time you read this, much more detailed information will be available concerning the formative storm, so please check up on the latest forecast from the local media before deciding if it's worth toting around an umbrella today.

Extended Forecast

Today: Slight chance of showers in the morning; rain likely in the afternoon. High 64° F (18° C).

Tonight: Rain likely. Low 53° F (12° C).

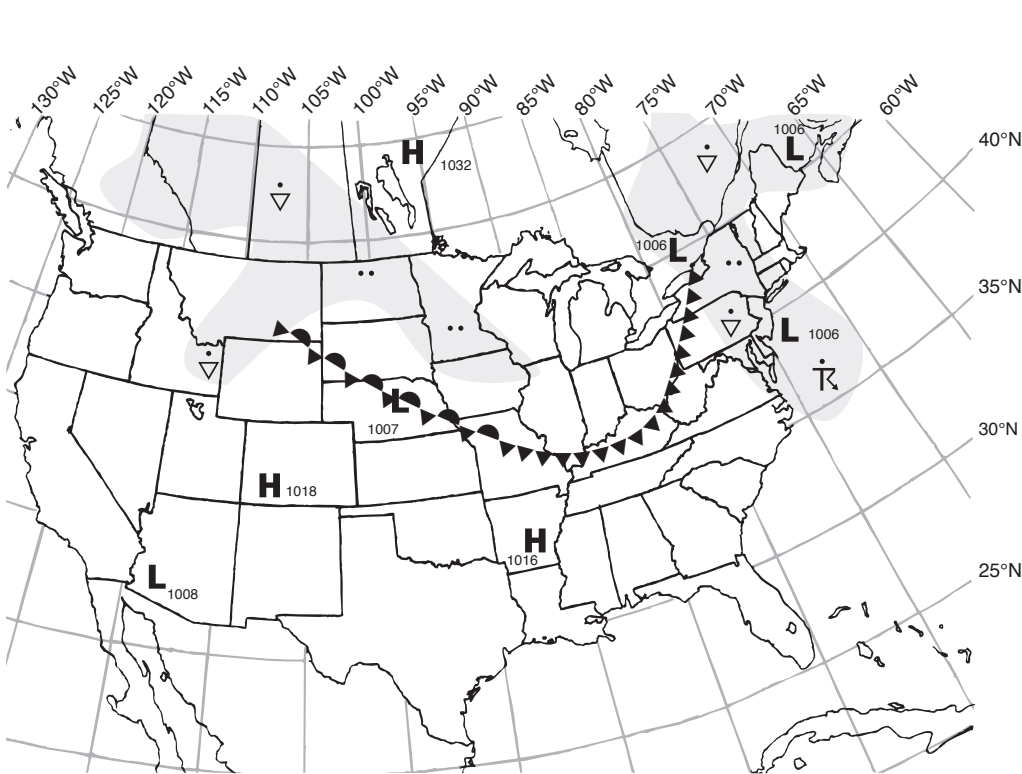
Saturday: Morning rain likely, tapering to afternoon showers. Breezy. High 68° F (20° C).

Saturday Night: Mostly cloudy. Low 52° F (11° C).

Sunday: Gradual clearing. High 74° F (23° C).

Weather Systems	Weather Fronts	Precipitation Symbols	Other Symbols
H High Pressure	--- Trough	Snow * Rain	Fog
L Low Pressure	Warm Front	Light * Moderate ** Heavy ***	Thunderstorm
S Hurricane	Cold Front		Haze
	Stationary Front		Compiled by MIT Meteorology Staff and The Tech

Situation for Noon Eastern Daylight Time, Friday, June 9, 2006



Democrats Criticize Handling Of Computer Data Theft Case

By David Stout
THE NEW YORK TIMES

WASHINGTON

Democrats on Wednesday accused the Bush administration of incompetence amid revelations that the recent loss of computer data from the Department of Veterans Affairs involved far more active-duty military people than was originally thought.

“Such incompetence is as bad or worse than anything I’ve seen in six administrations,” Sen. Patrick J. Leahy, D-Vt., said. “At some point, the administration has got to stop saying we’ll hire or appoint political cronies, but we’ll actually appoint somebody who knows how to make the government work.”

Leahy appeared at a news conference with Sens. Patty Murray of Washington and Jack Reed of Rhode Island in the aftermath of the latest revelation in the data-breach episode, in which information on as many as 1.1 million military people on active

duty, 430,000 members of the National Guard and 645,000 members of the Reserves may have been compromised.

The Department of Veterans Affairs originally said the lost data involved 26.5 million veterans discharged from about 1975 onward. Later it said that a relatively small number of active-duty people might be included in the 26.5 million. And finally, the agency disclosed on Tuesday that the actual number of active-duty people, Guardsmen and reservists involved may be well over 2 million.

Murray, a member of the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs, said the troubles within the agency threatened to undermine faith in it.

“Can you imagine being a young woman with a couple of children, your spouse is overseas in Iraq, and now you find out that your address has been stolen and your personal safety is at risk?” she said.

A Veterans Department spokesman, Matt Burns, said Wednesday that the agency would continue to release information on the data breach “as additional details are learned.”

A laptop computer and external hard drive containing the data were stolen on May 3 in a burglary at the suburban Maryland home of a department data analyst. Some department officials learned of the theft almost immediately, but Jim Nicholson, the secretary of veterans affairs, was not notified until May 16.

Because of the time lag, the FBI did not learn of the incident until about two weeks after the burglary, which was under investigation by the police in Montgomery County.

The data includes names, birth dates and Social Security numbers. Although there has been no indication that the information has been misused, there have been widespread concerns that it could be used for credit card fraud and identity theft.

Investigators Say Arizona Pitcher Admitted To Steroids Use

By Jack Curry
THE NEW YORK TIMES

Jason Grimsley, a journeyman pitcher with the Arizona Diamondbacks, took only two hours to disclose what he surely hoped would remain a secret, and what other major leaguers also wanted to keep private. About two months ago, according to federal investigators, Grimsley revealed that he had used performance-enhancing substances for several years and that other players did, too.

When three investigators arrived on Grimsley’s doorstep on April 19 with the suspicion that he had just received a shipment of human growth hormone, it did not take long before he admitted that he had used anabolic steroids, amphetamines and human growth hormone, according to documents filed in the U.S. District Court of Arizona.

Thirteen federal agents searched Grimsley’s home in Scottsdale, Ariz., for six hours on Tuesday. Mark Lessler, an agent with the Internal Revenue Service, would not divulge what was uncovered. The agents are investigating Grimsley for illegal possession of drugs, illegal distribution of drugs and money laundering of the profits.

During Grimsley’s interview with agents, he admitted to receiving and using performance enhancing substances 10 to 12 times, according to the court papers. Grimsley also named other players who were users, but those names were blacked out in the documents.

Schwarzenegger Voices New Confidence

By Jennifer Steinhauer
THE NEW YORK TIMES

SAMOA, CALIF.

Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger began his re-election campaign on Wednesday by racing through the state, boasting about budgets and bond issues and expressing confidence that he would defeat the newly minted Democratic contender, Phil Angelides, the state treasurer.

Angelides beat Steve Westly, the state controller and a former eBay executive, on Tuesday with 48 percent of the vote in the primary. In their race, the two spent the better part of their budgets on television advertising to accuse each other of malfeasance and general incompetence.

Angelides, the more liberal of the two, had the strong support of a majority of unions in the state and its top-ranking Democrats.

Schwarzenegger, whose constituents thought so little of him last winter that it seemed anyone with a bank account and a pulse could remove him, ran without serious opposition in the Republican primary and won nearly 90 percent of the vote. He said he was unafraid of the campaign against Angelides.

The governor, looking relaxed, well coiffed and a shade somewhere between sun-kissed and Sunkist, added: “I don’t look at it as a campaign against somebody. I’m looking at it much more a campaign for the state of California.”

U.S. Ambassador Calls Upon U.N. To Repudiate Critical Comments

By Warren Hoge
THE NEW YORK TIMES

UNITED NATIONS

John R. Bolton, the U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, called on Secretary-General Kofi Annan SM ’72 on Wednesday to repudiate “personally and publicly” the critical remarks a senior official made about the United States, but Annan turned aside the challenge.

Calling the matter “very, very grave,” Bolton said he had made the demand in a morning phone call in which he had told the secretary-general, “I’ve known you since 1989, and I’m telling you this is the worst mistake by a senior U.N. official that I have seen in that entire time.”

The official, Mark Malloch Brown, the deputy secretary-general, took the United States to task in a speech on Tuesday, saying Washington had failed to stand up for the United Nations and had let its harshest detractors go unanswered.

The showdown was provoked when Malloch Brown said that although the United States worked closely with the United Nations in many areas, the American public was

kept in the dark about it by Washington’s tolerance of what he called “too much unchecked U.N.-bashing and stereotyping.”

Bolton denounced Malloch Brown’s “condescending, patronizing tone about the American people.”

“Fundamentally, very sadly, this was a criticism of the American people, by an international civil servant, and it’s just illegitimate,” Bolton said. He added that “even though the target of the speech was the United States, the victim, I feel, will be the United Nations.”

The confrontation threw into blunt relief tensions between the Secretariat and Bolton, who is known for single-minded assertiveness with ambassadors and disdainful comments about the United Nations.

Malloch Brown did not mention Bolton by name, but in a critique of a working style that many diplomats associate with Bolton, he said, “The U.S. tends to hold on to maximalist positions when it could be finding middle ground.”

Malloch Brown said Wednesday that the point of his speech had not been to provoke the United States

but rather to urge Washington to become more involved.

He said he had spoken up out of concern over the polarizing effect on U.N. members of a looming showdown over a six-month budget cap that could theoretically shut down U.N. operations at the end of June.

The cap, agreed to under pressure from Washington, is generally supported by wealthy nations, which want to see reforms in the U.N. management, but is opposed by developing countries, which say such changes would diminish their power.

Senate Rejects Proposed Amendment That Would Ban Same-Sex Marriage

By Carl Hulse
THE NEW YORK TIMES

WASHINGTON

As expected, the Senate on Wednesday rejected a proposed constitutional amendment to ban same-sex marriage, rebuffing both President Bush and the social conservative movement.

After two days of sometimes-emotional argument, the Senate voted 49-48 to shut off debate on a call to bring the amendment to the floor. The total fell well short of the 60 votes needed to overcome the procedural obstacle, let alone the 67 votes required to approve a constitutional amendment.

The decision effectively killed the issue for the year in the Senate, though the House is expected to consider its own version this summer.

Democratic critics of the proposal said its Republican authors had advanced it to rally conservative voters, even though lawmakers knew it would be defeated. They said it was tantamount to writing discrimination into the Constitution.

Opponents also said that marriage should remain regulated by the states, dismissing assertions that

federal intervention was needed to protect the traditional union between a man and a woman.

“All over the country, married heterosexual couples are shaking their heads and wondering how exactly the prospect of gay marriage threatens the health of their marriages,” said Sen. Russell D. Feingold, D-Wis.

Supporters of the ban gained one vote from the last time the Senate considered the issue, before the 2004 election. But they were still unable to break the symbolic 50-vote threshold despite an increase in the Republican majority, the lobbying pressure by religious conservatives and Bush’s repeated calls for approval of the amendment.

In a statement after the Senate action, Bush expressed disappointment but said the vote “marks the start of a new chapter in this important national debate.”

“Our nation’s founders set a high bar for amending our Constitution — and history has shown us that it can take several tries before an amendment builds the two-thirds support it needs in both houses of Congress,” he said.

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NOW LEASING

OPINION

MIT Faculty Statement on the Visualizing Cultures Web Site

As faculty members of MIT, we endorse in the strongest terms the scholarly value of the Visualizing Cultures project directed by Professors John Dower and Shigeru Miyagawa. This prize-winning web site was

created by two of the world's leading scholars. By going to visualizingcultures.mit.edu, readers of this letter can see for themselves how, by bringing together textual explanation with thousands of images, the web site explores in detail the development of Japan's relationship to Western powers and China since the mid-nineteenth century.

It also evokes broader questions about the cultures of war, imperialism, and nationalism. Many of the subjects it analyzes are painful to recall, but since the authors are professional scholars of the highest caliber, the site in its entirety enlightens everyone who examines it carefully about the deepest questions of social and historical change. Because it brings advanced technology together with humanistic research, it is a jewel of the MIT curriculum, and the Open Course Ware project makes it available to the entire world.

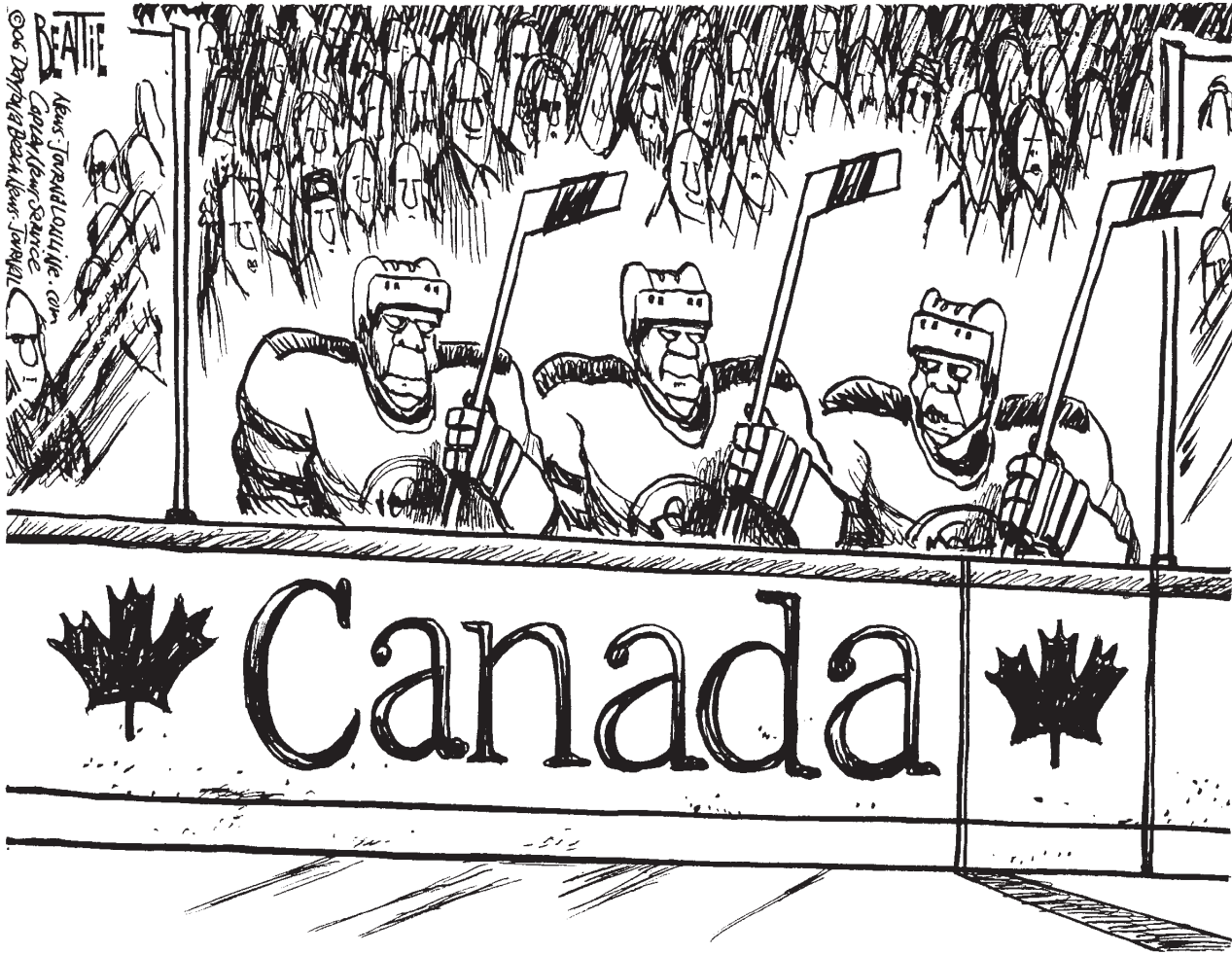
A small group of individuals took one image on this site out of context and broadcast it across the Internet. By doing so, they fomented an email campaign directed against MIT's educational mission that quickly exploded out of control into a global incident. The site was temporarily shut down in response to these attacks. Some critics claim that the

site endorses Japanese racism and militarism and therefore urge that it be permanently shut down or substantively revised. In fact, the site describes and strongly condemns the racist propaganda that supported Japanese militarism.

The challenge to this project threatens the core values of MIT's educational and research mission. We commend the eloquent statement from President Susan Hockfield in support of the project. We call on all interested parties to join with us to ensure that the Visualizing Cultures web site will remain in its entirety and be protected against any future attacks. We also express our strong sympathy to Professors Dower and Miyagawa for the ordeal they have suffered, and reaffirm our commitment to MIT's basic values of academic freedom and scholarly integrity.

Signed,
Hal Abelson, Class of 1922 Professor of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science; Alice Amsden, Barton L. Weller Professor of Political Economy; John Belcher, Class of 1922 Professor of Physics, MacVicar Faculty Fellow; Rafael Luis Bras, Edward A. Abdun-Nur Professor Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering; David M. Ciarlo, Assistant Professor, History Faculty; Joshua Cohen, Professor of Philosophy, Political Science; Isabelle de Courtivron, A.F. Friedlaender Professor of the Humanities, MacVicar Fellow, Foreign Languages and Literatures; Jesus Del Alamo, Professor of Electrical Engineering, MacVicar Faculty Fellow; Peter Donaldson,

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“Terrorists?! You gotta be kidding me! WE are supposed to be the only violence that ever happens around here.”

Opinion Policy

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

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

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

Letters, columns, and cartoons must bear the authors' signatures, addresses, and phone numbers. Unsigned letters will not be accepted.

The Tech reserves the right to edit or condense letters; shorter letters will be given higher priority. Once submitted, all letters become property of *The Tech*, and will not be returned. *The Tech* makes no commitment to publish all the letters received.

Guest columns are opinion articles submitted by members of the MIT or local community and have the author's name in italics. Columns without italics are written by *Tech* staff.

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Infinitely Different

A Look Back at Eight Years at MIT

Kevin R. Lang

The Infinite Corridor looked decidedly finite the other day. Countless times since I first arrived in the fall of '98 have I walked the Infinite, but last week for the first time I thought it rather short after all. This realization was surely fostered by my recent tendency toward reminiscence and reflection; I am graduating today, for the third and final time – may I be struck down from on high if I return for an MBA. Since turning in the final, acid-free copies of my Ph.D. thesis I have had plenty of time to look back on my eight years here.

MIT was changing fast before I arrived; a year prior, the Institute's about-face on its attitude toward alcohol forever changed the campus culture. No more Work Hard, Party Harder. Almost the moment I arrived for Rush, the housing system was thrown into turmoil that is only now settling down. Nearly every administrator from my early years here is long gone. The Stata Center, Simmons Hall (my home for four years as a GRT), the Z Center, the new BCS building (whatever it is called – who can keep track of its several names), the Warehouse, Sidney-Pacific – all these were conceived and built in my time here. I thought as an undergrad, "It will be really nice to come back in a few years and see everything when it is finished." Today I realize I will return to an orderly, intact campus only at some grey-haired reunion, if then.

Not that the world outside MIT has stagnated; the changes here seem trivial at best in comparison to those beyond the campus.

My first two years here were such a remarkable time of hope and optimism: America was at peace, terrorism was something that happened in other countries, the economy was booming, graduates were deciding between multiple job offers with obscene signing bonuses, and all seemed right with the world. It was a great time to be young, a time of limitless possibility, like much of the '90s. So what happened? That is, aside from the 2000 election, the imploding bubble, 9/11, the Afghanistan war, the Iraq war, global warming, the impending world energy crisis, and the outsourcing/downsizing of millions of high-paying, skilled U.S. jobs. After growing

up in the '90s, living in a world that seemed to be headed in the right direction, it's a strange feeling to lie awake at night genuinely worried about what the future might hold.

And that, my fellow graduates, is where we come in. The Greatest Generation is living it up in Palm Beach; they did their part. The Baby Boomers (our parents) have really made a fine mess of things – don't believe me? Look who is running the country; look who is driving all those SUVs; look who decided to ship all those high-tech, formerly-high-paying jobs to China and India. As for Generation X, can we really count on a generation of slackers?

No, my fellow Gen-Yers, or Echo Boomers, or Millennials, or whatever the hell we are called, it is up to us. We are the ones who must be smart enough and tough enough to solve the world's energy problems, tackle global climate change, put some life back in the U.S. economy (record corporate profits at the expense of jobs and wages does not constitute life), and generally make things right again. Call me selfish, but I want that same wonderful feeling I last had at the start of the millennium.

I know my time here is through because all too often I find myself saying fogey-ish things, sentences that begin with, "Back when I was an undergrad," or "That's not the way things used to be." I always hated That Guy when I was an undergrad, and I really don't want to become That Guy any more than I already have. Sometimes, though, I wonder if That Guy was right all along. I wonder if the people and culture that turned the Massachusetts Institute of Technology into MIT still exist – this is not the MIT of five years ago, let alone twenty-five years ago. Even in my geologically-insignificant time here, this place has gotten much, much cooler. Where are all the nerds? Certainly they must still exist, somewhere, but if MIT is getting less nerdy, what hope is there for the world?

Please, my fellow graduates, I beg of you, prove me wrong. Tell me you've been acting cool, putting on airs, but deep down you're as nerdy as they come, and you can't wait to take on the huge problems facing the future – our future.

Kevin R. Lang was editor-in-chief of *The Tech* in 2002.

Leading by Example

Jessie H. Lowell

Throughout my time at MIT, I've noticed that all too often, the people who truly care about campus issues do not view the UA as a mechanism for solving them. I have been there. I remember my frustrated freshman self. I was not interested in student government, as the only student government I was familiar with was high school prom-planning, not one that dealt with the Ghetto Party, the flag policy, the irregularities of the discipline system, or any other matter that concerned me at the time.

What eventually motivated me to get involved with the UA were examples of those who came before me. My heroes, in the context of my UA work, are individuals from the late '90s who worked to preserve student culture and freedom in the wake of Scott S. Krueger '01. A couple of these activists were personal friends, and I talked to them and read the old stories about them in the Tech. I read about what they had been able to accomplish and against what odds. Through these accounts of their actions I saw what student activism could accomplish via the UA and other forums.

There is a lot of angst in the UA about how we can get more people who care involved. One of my major goals as UAVP, and before that as a senator from East Campus, was to provide the kind of example for others that I had followed in my alum friends. I wanted to do more than fix problems. Everywhere I turned I saw passionate but disillusioned undergrads, and I wanted to show them, by example, what could be done by the UA. My most satisfying moment this year was when I released that the rooftop penalty was being changed from a \$500 fine to community service. Many told me the fines could never be changed: that the administration could not be convinced. Thus, more rewarding than the actual change in legislation was the renewed faith in the UA and

student activism.

The UA has taken steps to increase its legitimacy, but it has a ways to go. Next House Senator Hans Anderson, in his May 12 column, suggested that senators do not bring resolutions on controversial issues because of the UA's dependence on administrative funding. I respectfully disagree. I believe that senators do not present controversial resolutions because they do not think change is possible. In order to address this, the new UA leadership (and the rest of the UA government as well) will need to change students' attitudes through the force of their own examples.

Reform is important, but the UA must not become so preoccupied with reforming itself that it forgets about its community and its purpose. UA reform is only useful to the extent that it produces better advocacy, as there are many issues in the pipeline that will require effective advocacy. The Task Force on the Undergraduate Educational Commons continues its evaluation of the GIRs. The Office of Student Life continues its search for a new Dean of Discipline. Time for Dorm Rush during Orientation is renegotiated every year. A new undergrad dorm is being planned in Ashdown. Undergrads desperately need an increase in effective student advocacy. This increase will be affected by both the efforts of those currently in office and the recruitment and training of new UA members.

It has truly been my privilege and honor to work for and with the MIT community over the last year - both those of you in student government and those outside of it. There is a popular belief that MIT students do not care enough to give feedback when asked for it, but every time I have posed a question to you guys, I have been flooded with dozens of insightful and impassioned responses. You have been wonderful. Keep fighting the good fight, and in the words of ILTFP, keep MIT special.

Jessie H. Lowell '07 is the outgoing UA Vice President.

My heroes, in the context of my UA work, are individuals from the late '90s who worked to preserve student culture and freedom in the wake of Scott S. Krueger '01.

Hey Graduates!

Want to keep up with the news at your new alma mater?

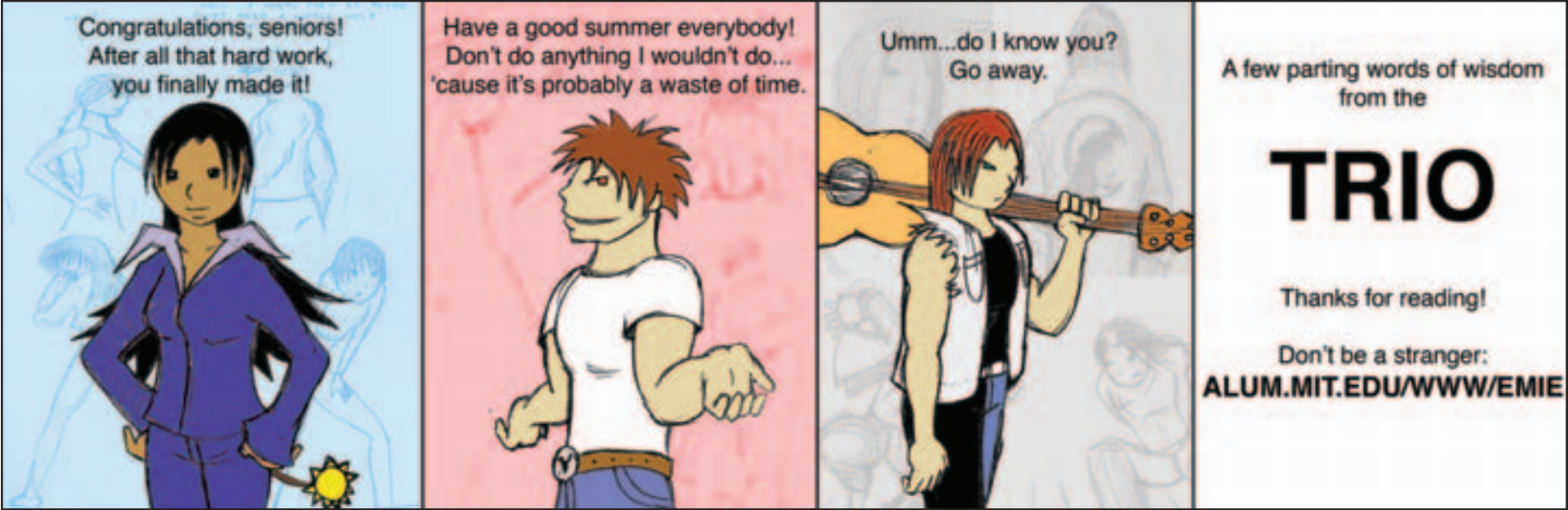
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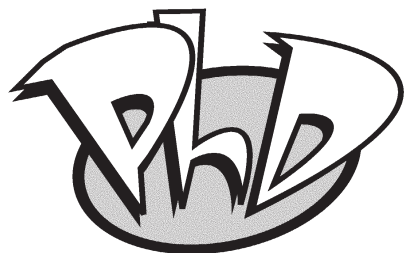
Trio

by Emezie Okorafor

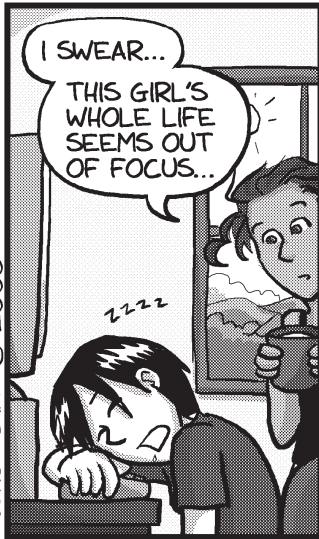
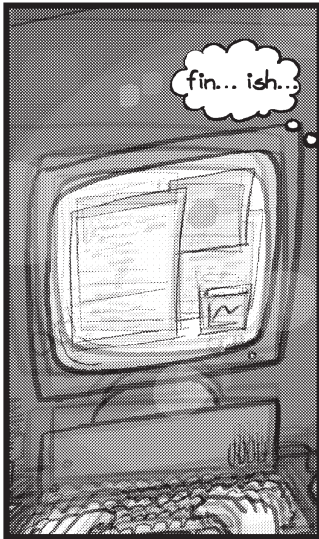
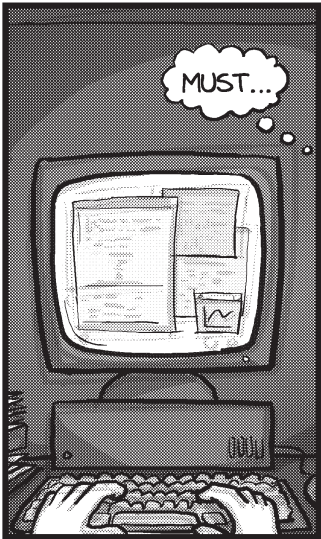
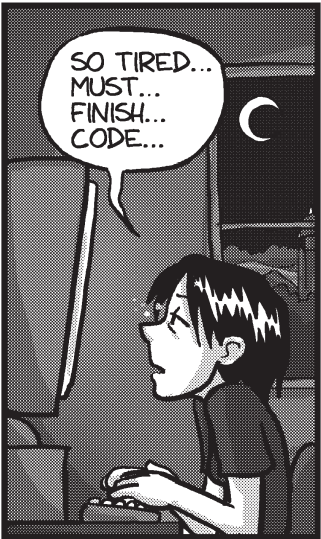


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FoxTrot

by Bill Amend

Dots and Boxes

Instructions: Two players alternate drawing horizontal or vertical lines between adjacent dots. When a player draws the fourth side of a one by one box, he or she may claim that box by putting his or her initials in it and may proceed to draw another line. When all possible lines have been drawn, the player with the most boxes claimed wins. Note that the grid below may be subdivided into smaller grids for more games.

Dilbert® will return in next week’s issue of *The Tech*.

su | do | ku

© Puzzles by Pappocom

Instructions: Fill in the grid so that each column, row, and 3 by 3 grid contains exactly one of each of the digits 1 through 9.

Solution, tips, and computer program at <http://www.sudoku.com>; see also solution on page 15.

***The Tech* congratulates our class of 2006**

Sarah Buckley
Brian Chase
John M. Cloutier
Frank Dabek
Kevin G. Der
Colin Dillard
Tiffany Dohzen
Andrew Guerra
Brian Hemond
Liang Hong
Brian Keegan
Jina Kim
Yao-Chung King
Kevin R. Lang
Lauren LeBon
Stephanie Lee
W. Victoria Lee
Lucy Li

Juan Pablo Mendieta
Caitlin Murray
Lakshmi Nambiar
Jacqueline O'Connor
Edward Platt
Marjan Rafat
Kelley Rivoire
Ricarose Roque
Nikhil Shenoy
Beckett W. Sterner
Josie Sung
Marissa Vogt
Yun Wu
Jessica O. Young
Fan Yu
Jenny Zhang
Elizabeth Zakszewski
Yong-Yi Zhu



CAMPUS LIFE

Imminent Collapse

Part of the Nerd Herd

By Bill Andrews
CAMPUS LIFE EDITOR

Did you know that many of us here@mit.edu are considered nerds? It's shocking, I know, but true. The thing is, though, it might be true. Whenever I pass by EC or Random Hall, for instance, much as I love those dorms (and you folks inside them) I am reminded of my nerdy heritage. Even just walking down the Infinite sometimes, I see (or smell) an obvious nerd walking by and think, "boy, they're in the right place."

But never am I so forcefully reminded of our inherent nerdity as during conversation. I suppose you might think I'm ahead of the game, that the people with whom I converse can't be too nerdy because of the very fact that they're out somewhere, and talking to me. But you forget not only that I myself am a nerd and we all know nerds aren't scared to talk to each other, but also that being surrounded by nerds all day increases any nerd's confidence, making conversations that much more likely in all cases. But it can't make them interesting.

I'll be honest. This entire column is based on a conversation I overheard near the student center recently. Two guys were hanging out, perhaps even chilling, and one of them said, "Man, I had a rough day today." The other, presumably his friend said, "Really?" The first said, "Oh, yeah." There was silence for a few minutes. Finally, the friend said, "So, what happened?" To quote my west campus friends, OMG.

Now, it's not just this one, boring, awkward conversation that struck me. It's what it represents: all of us. That's not to say we're all shy, socially awkward, smelly engineers, of course; there are a few non-nerdy people I can think of @mit.edu, and I've had nothing but lovely conversations with them. And sure, I myself like to think I know my way around an interesting conversation, that I can keep my friends entertained and informed, without making them feel bored or lectured... sure. But I've had my share of "So, what happened?" moments too.

I'm sure I've gone on and on, refusing to let a bad conversation die, unknowingly prolonging the torture my victim feels. I bet I've brought everybody down inadvertently, talking about the death of my orphaned-widowed-differently-abled puppy, or something, at a once lively party. I've probably caused an

awkward silence or two with a weird comment that was much funnier inside my head (as you well know, dear readers). Like I say, we all do this, not just because we're human, but also because we're nerds.

Of course, to be perfectly frank (if somewhat immodest), I don't really have bad conversations all that often. It helps that I'm somewhat artistically inclined of course, but it also helps to know what to look out for. And I do look out, because much as I enjoy being a nerd/MIT student, I don't think the bad-conversation directive is worth preserving. It perpetuates a negative stereotype that, while based in fact, is still deleterious to the nerd nation. That is the image people (non-nerd people) have of us already, and we don't need to add to it.

But, if we as a people are able to overcome this conversation deficiency of ours, it could be the first step on a glorious path. Imagine: today nerds start talking casually and being interesting, tomorrow we might start overcoming other obstacles (general awkwardness, bad hygiene) and perhaps run for political office, and then the day after tomorrow won't be like The Day After Tomorrow (because nerds wouldn't let global warming happen all at once like that). Just imagine a world run by this new breed of friendly, sociable nerds that we'll become; it'll be a paradise. Even if it isn't, and we don't literally end up changing the world (like society always tells MIT students they have to), it can still be pretty nice to be able to talk casually to other people and to be interesting.

As might have occurred to you by now, especially if you are sitting in the middle of Killian Court sweating or getting rained upon, I bring this all up today for a reason. Many of you are commencing soon, and leaving MIT perhaps forever, like my fiancée always threatens to do. You are about to become professional nerds in some capacity (probably), but you have some time before it happens. Make the most of it. See if you can work on your conversations a little bit, try and make sure you're not boring anyone when you talk, or interrupting them, or being confusing. I know all that's hard for us, but since when does that stop an MIT student?

After all, a friend of mine once told me (in what I'm sure was not a bad conversation) "pizza is like sex: even if it's bad, it's still pretty good." Trust me: conversations are not.

Giving As Good As You Got

By Cassi Hunt

As our seniors prepare to say goodbye, I wonder if, somewhere stuffed in their brains with all the Greek letters and equals signs, is the one important skill possessed by all successful scientists, engineers, and businessmen alike: the fine art of begging for money. Whether it be for a grant or raise or accounts to manage, money makes things happen, and the same is true at the Institvt. That's why every senior class creates and funds a class gift, something to leave behind for generations of tools to come.

The TechCallers program, led at the time by Rosheen B. Kavanagh, first introduced me to the world of the Alumni Association — where MIT gets its bling from. Two nights a week, I marched into Building 10 and called up alumni to keep them up to date on the goings on here at 77 Mass. Ave. and, ultimately, to convince them to give back to MIT by donating to one of the school's funds, including their class gift. But getting a senior class gift started isn't easy.

"The senior gift is very difficult to get students involved in," says Rosheen. And no wonder — graduation is just the time when student loans come back to haunt seniors. Putting more money into MIT might seem like too great a strain.

But other top schools still manage a high percentage of participants in their senior gift. Up the river Harvard averages 60%, and across the country CalTech brings together about 58%. Last year, only 27.5% of MIT seniors contributed to their class gift. I was shocked when I heard these numbers, especially because, let's face it: an MIT degree is far more awesome.

Rosheen agrees, and this year she decided to do something about it. She got together a group of seniors to come up with a campaign to promote the senior gift. Their chair is Ryan F. Allard '06, a former TechCaller and therefore skilled in the art of convincing people they've got some cash to spare.

"It's not the amount of money they're giving, it's that they are giving," Rosheen explained to me. It's about building a "spirit of philanthropy" towards the school and students who've made this place the amazing experience it is. The class of 2006, via online polls, decided overwhelmingly that they wanted to support scholarships. "Student life was also a priority" to students, Rosheen says, so these

two ideas were combined into a scholarship to be awarded to a senior that contributes to MIT student life. But could the senior gift committee make it a success?

Once, as the semester was winding down and the amount of work was winding up, I remember wandering back from Hayden during those vague hours when today becomes yesterday. I saw committee member Charlie Val charging down the infinite with a stapler in one hand and a pile of posters in the other. "I have to hang these by tomorrow or Rosheen's going to kill me," he explained in passing.

Now that's dedication. Besides posters, the committee used e-mail and postcards to get word out about the gift. You've probably seen their booth in Lobby 10. The result?

As of Wednesday, the Class of 2006 had already set a record with 50.6% participation, raising \$11,710. "People don't realize how much of a big deal the Alumni Association and Susan Hockfield think this is," Rosheen told me, getting more animated as she spoke. "A lot of that has to do with the committee... and we have cool t-shirts!"

She has reason to be excited — every five percent of the class means an extra \$5,000 for the senior gift. This money comes from Scott Marks '68, the 2006 "Class Challenger." Because of the hard work of the senior gift committee and the generosity of the class of 2006, Rosheen decided to raise the goal to 50% participation. "An extra \$20,000 would be great," she beamed.

Well, the period for the Class Challenger has ended and the results are in — the class of 2006 did it! They surpassed the 50% mark and the figure is still rising. Rosheen had no doubts. "This class has united to make a difference at MIT. They know how important giving is."

All too soon, the only image we'll see of MIT will be the one etched on the side of our brass rats. Four years ago, the class of 2006 was sold on MIT and descended on Cambridge like so many pigs to the slaughter. This spring they exited as prize hams and the senior gift committee has sold them on MIT all over again. So here's to the class of 2006, the senior gift committee, and the incomparable Rosheen Kavanagh for showing MIT and the world what this school means to us. IHTFP!

Gadget Review

NeatReceipts Professional Scanner and Software

By Kailas Narendran
CAMPUS LIFE COLUMNIST

- Pros**
- Digitize your paper-filled life
 - Digitally collects, categorizes, and stores receipts using OCR

- Cons**
- Somewhat slow and newbie-oriented software

The Lowdown

The Neat Receipt Professional Scanalyzer is a software and hardware package that enables you to unclutter a life mired in paper. Any fellow entrepreneur, student group leader, or anal individual that is compelled to save receipts can relate to my desiposition (I know, that's not a word, but it's the feeling of despising something) of paper receipts. Every meal, every home improvement, every T token results in an inch by inch advance in the machines' war on trees. Not that this system fixes that problem, but it does provide me a quick way to organize the paper trail into some manageable fashion, rather than a discombobulated Diaspora of dis-

parate documents. In short: scan, the software processes & organizes, you stick receipt in folder and forget.

The Proven Process

The process of using the scanalyzer system is like having your very own, 12"x2"x2" secretary that connects to your USB port, and scans receipts when you press a button (and you place the receipt in their conveniently located, 11" opening). After she scans the receipt, she hands the digital image of the receipt off to her cousin that you hired to live under your desk (nepotism is alive and well in your work force). Her cousin isn't perfect, but for almost all standard receipts he can find the total, tax, vendor, etc. and add it to your database. You, being the boss, get to look over the output, and provide beatings when necessary.

I was quite impressed with the accuracy of the whole system, as it made digital storage of receipts effortless! We're in the process of doing substantial house renovations (a large part ourselves), and my desk is swimming in receipts. Less than an hour with this device and software condensed a huge mess to a neatly in-

dexed database, linked to digital images of all receipts. The company claims that the digital image is enough for the IRS, but I throw the originals back in an unorganized folder, just in case. Also, being an entrepreneur without a family of secretaries, this system gives me the ability to store receipts for easy reference later, allowing you to organize by project, etc. The totals for cost and tax are recognized by OCR and can be totaled by project quickly and conveniently.

The software comes with the added bonus that it can also scan in business cards, and pull all the interesting bits off of them (I did limited tests, with good success). This helped clear the fallout from a couple of networking event dust storms.

The Bad & Ugly

Of course, nothing is perfect, and this system does have its flaws. The software was a bit clunky at times, with a lot of interface necessary to access the functionality. Even simple searches took longer than you'd expect, and the scanning and processing step can take over one minute, if the receipt is large (8.5"x11",

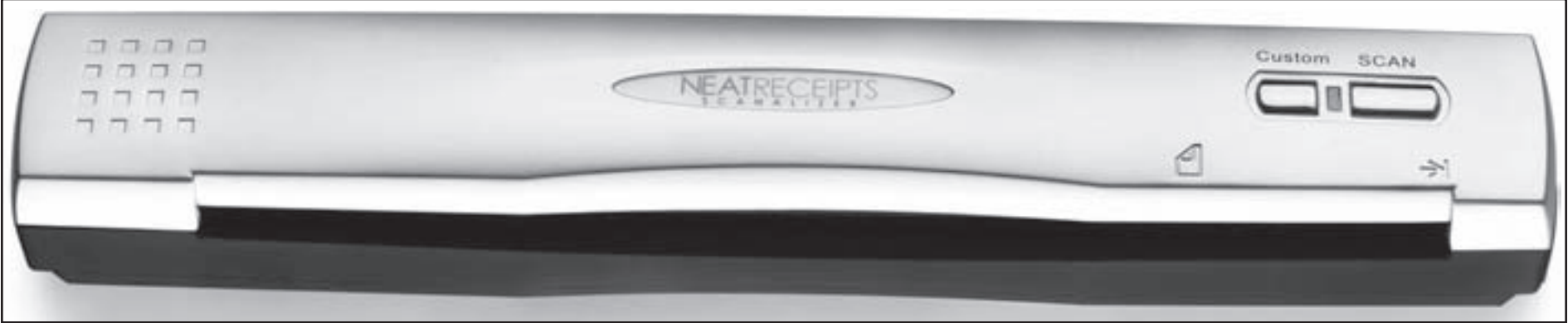
for example). As is the case with all software, these issues are often related to specific computer configuration and state, so the individual performance probably depends on a lot of factors. The system is also full of tutorials and help boxes. Someone's heart was definitely in the right place, but I found the messages to be a bit annoying at first (until I checked "don't show this again" for all of them).

It's clear that someone put a lot of good time and thought into the design of the software, and it does show. It's available in various flavors and price points, for everything from personal use to enterprise deployment.

The Bottom Line

Using Froogle, the cheapest scanner I could find was around \$170, but it wasn't clear if the software was included (the real value-adder in this system). Most vendors hit around \$200, including Amazon and other reputable distributors. There's also the option of buying direct from the manufacturer, but it's about \$20 more than elsewhere on the net.

You can find out more at the manufacturer's website at www.neatreceipts.com.



The NeatReceipt Professional Scanalyzer: here to help you organize your receipts and, among other benefits, prevent you from overdrawing on your checking account.

ARTS

CLASSICAL REVIEW

*Bidding Farewell to Dante Anzolini**MITSO's Heartfelt Version of Mahler's Seventh Symphony Marks a True Maestro's Departure*

By Tony Hwang

STAFF WRITER

MIT Symphony Orchestra
 Dante Anzolini, director
 May 17, 2006, 8 p.m.
 Kresge Auditorium

MITSO concerts typically have a somewhat decent showing, but on Wednesday, May 17, Kresge Auditorium seemed almost full. The audience was well-aware that this evening's event held great significance: it was the final opportunity to see the talented music director, Dante Anzolini, conduct one of his signature pieces, Mahler's "Symphony No. 7 in E minor." For MITSO fans, it was an opportunity not to be missed.

The members of the orchestra, knowing that their delivery should be a fitting farewell to their beloved conductor, seemed to have more spirit and drive overall. They began the first movement, "Langsam — Adagio," with a powerful demonstration from the winds and brass, while the strings provided a satisfyingly thick and low foundation. This movement progressed into tradeoffs of beautiful singing melodies from the strings that contrasted with bright fanfares from the brass. Perhaps the brass were too eager to impress, as their sound often drowned out other sections, but no one could doubt their stamina in the context of such a tiring piece to perform as Mahler.

The strings had remarkably good intonation on many chords and seemed more accurate at sustaining their sound. The harmonic construction of these chords was unique (built on fourths) and because of the precise tuning of the orchestra, created the desired sense of urgency. Anzolini fed off of this positive energy from his musicians, dancing animatedly on the podium.

The second movement, "Nachtmusic — Allegro Moderato," was characterized by interesting switches between major and minor even within a melody of phrase. As stated by its title, "Night Music," this movement explores Mahler's interest in the emotions associated with nighttime. Not only did the modulation of key add to this effect, but also some interesting devices such as col legno (bouncing of the wooden part of the bow on the strings) in the second violins, harmonics in the cellos, and an isolated section of melody in the bass helped to create the atmosphere of whimsy. The strings could have worked on their articulation in this movement, as short notes were frequently not together. However, MITSO was able to capture most of the quick changes in mood.

A strangely dark and foreboding "Schatenhaft — Scherzo" was an odd segue into the second "Nachtmusik" section. This movement was more lyrical and even incorporated instruments such as the mandolin, guitar, and harp. And yet, the melodies often did not resolve, creating tension even within the midst of the serenade-like qualities of the movement. The winds presented some elegant solos to com-

plement the mood, while the concertmaster occasionally peppered the sound with haunting solos.

After some loud shuffling from the audience (clearly restless from the lack of intermission, yet still engaged by the concert's content), Anzolini raised his baton to finish off the symphony with "Rondo — Finale." At first, the resounding chords of the brass and punctuation of the percussion made the movement seem more like a march than a rondo. However, Mahler's movement structures have never been conventional, and after building to a triumphant chord in C major, he makes a surprise drop to a more serene A minor section.

MITSO kept the audience on the edge of their seats, executing the many crescendos that ended in an unresolved drop to yet another quiet section effectively. Each time this buildup and instantaneous decline was approached in a different way that prevented the movement from becoming repetitive. The orchestra ran on pure adrenaline, sprinting in the final stretch to the conclusion. The finale was met with great applause, and it was well-deserved. Anzolini, looking exhausted, turned and acknowledged Mahler by raising the score, and made his way off the stage. Yet the audience would not let him get off so easily, and in way of tribute, continued a standing ovation until Anzolini had walked on and off the stage five times to receive the applause. The maestro had earned nothing less.

Anzolini has been a great asset to MITSO and the Institute's musical development. He has always been willing to sacrifice his time and energies for the betterment of MIT's mu-

sicians although he recognizes that they are often too busy to put in the kind of effort that is found in conservatory students. As a former concertmaster of MITSO, I can vouch for his fantastic technique and presence on stage (during rehearsals and concerts) that raised MITSO's level from just another college orchestra to a group capable of true musical expression.

Anzolini never shied away from programming the most difficult orchestral repertoire (such as Mahler Symphonies), and led the orchestra through these challenges with the expertise of one who completely understands the music. He will be deeply missed by many members of the MIT community, and we wish him luck with his future musical pursuits.



YALU WU—THE TECH

Dante Anzolini conducts the MIT Symphony Orchestra in his final performance here at MIT. MITSO performed Mahler's Symphony No. 7 in Kresge Auditorium on May 17.

BOOK REVIEW

*'Before the Mortgage' a Must Read for Graduates**Hilarious Collection Makes Me Happy I'm Not a Liberal Arts Major*

By Jacqueline O'Connor

ARTS EDITOR

Before the Mortgage
Real Stories of Brazen Loves, Broken Leases,
and the Perplexing Pursuit of Adulthood
 Edited by Christina Amini and Rachel Hutton
 Published by Simon Spotlight Entertainment

When you read this, I will be donning my cap and gown. After four long, hard years at MIT, I've really come to appreciate what people mean when they tell me that these are the best years of my life. Aero/Astro is my family, MIT is my home, and now I'm leaving to go to graduate school at Georgia Tech and I find myself wistfully wondering, "what now?"

"Before the Mortgage" is a compilation of stories about that nether-period of a young person's life after college but before one settles down, the period I find myself now barreling into without a clue. Perhaps graduate school makes this period all that more confusing (Am I a student? Am I an adult? What's up with those Yale folks forming a union?), or maybe it just allows me to avoid the "real world" for another five years. In the midst of my lack of

finals and my post-collegiate musings, it was a blessing to find this book.

First and foremost, this book showed me that I'm not alone. The transition to adulthood seems to affect everyone in some way, and the eclectic mix of stories the editors chose show the best and worst of this time. In a very candid and honest manner, this book deals with some very serious issues. Finding your soulmate is addressed in the touching chapter "On Finding the It Guy: An Inquiry into the You'll Know Theory" by Shoshana Berger. She discusses the challenges of relationships and the uncertainty of making big decisions while imparting her wisdom and experience the reader in a non-patronizing way. "Last Twenty-four Hours in New York," written by the editors, accurately depicts the mixed feelings of moving from one life to another. In the form of a schedule, this chapter gives an unguarded minute by minute update of their last hours in their adopted hometown of New York City.

This book also highlights the little things in life that make this stage special. One tale by Sarah Vowell, a sometimes guest columnist for the *New York Times* and well-known cultural observer, recounts the first Thanksgiving that

she hosted for her parents. Everything seemed to go surprisingly well until she realized that her mother had left her to make the stuffing, a sacred recipe in her house, and she dreaded disappointing her family. Another author, Ethan Watters, explains the mystical ways of inner-city "tribes," or groups of friends, like on the show "Friends," that take the place of families or significant others. He accurately describes the closeness and the importance of these tribes and made me realize how important my friends are to me.

Most of all, "Before the Mortgage" shows the hilarity of being a twenty-something. One particularly funny story is by Brian Grivna, a software engineer who decides to take a year to teach English in Japan. Anecdotes of language barriers and unruly students show readers the lighter side of these "enriching" experiences. Another chapter is from columnist Joel Stein of *The Los Angeles Times* and *Time* magazine in which he acutely describes the sensation of being an "adult" but feeling like a teenager at heart. Many of the 26 narratives reveal the comedic and light-hearted side of this trying age.

Interspersed throughout the text are short

interludes: quotes from interviews and overheard conversations at work, roommate stories, relationship tips, and "budget recipes," ways to eat on a dime. Short and sweet, these quick intermissions break up the book nicely and help transition between each engrossing story.

A lesser but still important benefit of reading this book was the boost my ego got from not going to a liberal arts school. My love for engineering has saved me from the misery that is living as an aspiring writer. Many of the authors in this compilation have creative writing degrees, and while I applaud their art and respect their talent, I'm glad I chose a more practical and industrially applicable career. Fortunately, each of the stories is extremely well written. The writing style is fluent and fresh, and it made me hope that after this book they'll land something big — though of course, some of them are already quite successful.

"Before the Mortgage" is a must read for every graduate. It even features an MIT alumna, Jessica Nordell, and her story about finding inspiration in life. Highly entertaining and extremely insightful, this book has helped me move into this period in my life with a little more grace and levity.

BOOK REVIEW

'The Glass Castle' Sparkles in a Sea of Memories

Walls Describes Crazy Childhood with Poignant Details

By Jillian Berry
ARTS EDITOR

The Glass Castle
Written by Jeannette Walls
Published by Scribner

Known for her stunning portrayals of the lives of others, Jeannette Walls finally gives the dish on her own history. In her memoir, "The Glass Castle," she recounts her unique childhood with brilliant, but crazy, parents. Her father was an alcoholic who loved his children, but was never able to keep a job long enough to provide for them. Her mother was an artist who believed children should be given the opportunity to fend for themselves in order to build character. In addition, Mrs. Walls appeared to suffer from bipolar disorder, convinced that she was a martyr who had given up her art to raise her children. This led her to think

that she ought to be able to focus on herself, even as her children went hungry. A typical example of Mr. and Mrs. Walls' atypical parenting is described in the beginning of the book. Jeannette Walls explains that her earliest memory is of burning herself while steaming hot dogs at the age of three. She recounts the questioning from the nurses and doctors about the burn: "They asked what I was doing cooking hot dogs by myself at the age of three. It was easy, I said. You just put the hot dogs in the water and boil them. It wasn't like there was some complicated recipe that you had to be old enough to follow ... 'Mom says I'm mature for my age,' I told them, 'and she lets me cook for myself a lot.'" Since her parents were always running out of money, the Walls and their four children were repeatedly doing the "skedaddle," in which they

would pack up in the middle of the night and move to a distant town in the middle of nowhere. As a young girl, the author did not realize how unusual her situation was, and she believed in her parents' dream of finding gold and building a glass castle. However, as she grew up, she slowly grasped that her life was not normal and that her parents were never going to lift themselves out of poverty. In fact, she learned that she had to escape her parents in order to make something of herself. This book is an entertaining memoir that often seems more outrageous than fiction. I began the book knowing that the author is a contributor to MSNBC and has worked at *Esquire*, *USA Today*, and *New York* magazine, but for much of the novel I could not comprehend how she ended up so successful after her bizarre and impoverished childhood. As the work progresses, the subtle changes

in the language show the author's gradual accumulation of knowledge. While she explicitly narrates her own thoughts, she describes the other members of her family perfectly. Furthermore, her tone never begs for pity. Instead, she seems to have moved long past her traumatic childhood and is just trying to tell her story to the world. The major flaw with the work is the ending. Walls never explains how she ends up in her job, living in Virginia, or meeting her husband. The last ten years she describes seem particularly rushed. I know the memoir is meant to focus on her childhood, but there just should have been something more. Aside from the ending, this is an excellent read, and I highly recommend it for the summer during our respite from exams and problem sets. I am sure you will be as shocked and amazed as I was to find out just how crazy a life can be.

ON THE SCREEN

— BY THE TECH ARTS STAFF —

★★★★: Inspired brilliance
★★★: Solid filmmaking
★★: Mild entertainment
★: Embarrassing dreck

★★★½ **American Dreamz**
This is one of the few comedies in recent years that doesn't give away its funniest moments in the previews. What makes this film so enjoyable is the amazing cast, which includes Dennis Quaid, Hugh Grant, Willem Dafoe, and Mandy Moore. It would be incomplete, though, without the plethora of minor characters and impressive unknowns, like Sam Golzari and Tony Yalda. "American Dreamz" is delightfully satirical; the writers didn't hold back. Pretty much everyone and everything is a target: Bush and his administration, Britney Spears, Ryan Seacrest, the entertainment industry, the army, immigrants, terrorists, and gay stereotypes. (Alice Macdonald)

★★½ **Ice Age: The Meltdown**
This sequel begins where "Ice Age," the first film, left off; the animals have found a warmer paradise and discovered that the ice age is coming to an end. More appealing to a younger audience, "Meltdown" has a straightforward plot — and unlike recent animated features that dabble in pop culture — doesn't require viewers to be hip to get a good laugh. Despite the second-class graphics and predictable story, the movie is filled with creative humor, and it accomplishes one goal with ease: entertainment. (Hendrata Dharmawan)

★★★ **Inside Man**
Think of "Inside Man" as a Da Vinci Code-esque film, with a huge mystery hidden behind small clues revealed every so often. The film draws us in right from the get-go, and it doesn't release us until the final secret is unveiled. Clive Owen excels as a calm and collected bank robber; he gives the impression that his character is

conducting a well-rehearsed orchestra instead of pulling off a heist. Jodie Foster's character, on the other hand, is superfluous, and Denzel Washington is also disappointing. The plot and the idea behind the movie, though, are addictive — this may be not only the perfect robbery, but the perfect thriller as well. (Yong-yi Zhu)

★★ **Keeping Up with the Steins**
"Mazel tov" would not be an appropriate way to toast this bar mitzvah film; "oy vey" would be much more appropriate. This is a comedy with only a few funny jokes and many unnatural scenes. Jeremy Piven and Jami Gertz may be the only two positives, but even Gertz appear unrealistic at times. This movie may be good for only one thing: reminding studios that they are capable of creating a completely awful film. (Yong-yi Zhu)

★★★½ **Lucky Number Slevin**
A boss, a rabbi, a man in a purple-flowered towel, a cop, a perky neighbor, an assassin, and a missing friend: sounds like a recipe for total disaster. Somehow, though, this group of misfits comes together in one of the most brilliant films of the year. Director Paul McGuigan pieces together the stories of all these characters to make a disorienting dark comedy about a man who just happens to be in the wrong place at the wrong time — all the time. In a strong male cast, Lucy Liu steals the show, and the superb acting is crucial; it makes this film come out just right. (Yong-yi Zhu)

★★½ **The Notorious Bettie Page**
Gretchen Mol plays Bettie Page, one of the most famous pinup models of the 1950s, who transformed from an innocent Tennessee girl into the queen of bondage. In addition to presenting her blossoming career, the movie shows the trials and tribulations Bettie endured as a woman with so much sex appeal. The acting is relatively weak, and some of the scenes come out of nowhere without adding anything to the movie, but the makeup and cinematography do a convincing and authentic job of identifying the decade. (Yong-yi Zhu)

★★★★ **Thank You for Smoking**
This film is absolutely brilliant in making everything wrong seem right, everything disturbing seem funny, and everything pointless seem meaningful. Not until the end of the film did I realize that there was no plot — just one laugh-out-loud scene after another in the life

of evil tobacco spokesman Nick Naylor (Aaron Eckhart). The list of talented performances is endless; from the amazingly creative opening credits to the last words, every part is selected with such care that the resulting creation is a contemporary work of art. (Yong-yi Zhu)

★★★½ **Water**
"Water" is the latest installment in Deepa Mehta's critically acclaimed elements series, and it is no ordinary film. It explores the politics and morality of religion, and tells the story of three widows and how the Indian Independence movement affects their lives irrevocably — making them question the set of beliefs on which their existence rests. The movie was breathtaking; though films themselves can't change the world, Mehta hopes to begin the dialogue that will lead to that change. (Parama Pal)

Compiled by Nivair H. Gabriel



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whose Senior Gift challenge inspired us all.

Thank you!
The Senior Gift Committee

SENIOR Gift OR

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Senior Gift a Scholarship For Improving Student Life

Commencement, from Page 1

better than last year.”

Brian D. Myhre '06 is one student going on to work after graduation. He said that he will be working for the Boston Consulting Group in Dallas, TX because he “felt the consulting environment is more suited to my personality.” Originally from Dumfries, VA, Myhre founded a consulting group with a friend for a few months last summer in Wildwood, NJ, but hopes to gain more experience before again starting his own business.

Emil A. Cuevas '06, a Course II (Mechanical Engineering) major, has chosen to pursue a graduate degree in architecture. He will enter a sustainable design program at Carnegie Mellon in the fall. Cuevas said he became interested in sustainable design after taking a class on the topic here. Originally from Guaynabo, Puerto Rico, Cuevas said that he is happy to be leaving MIT, but is sad to be leaving his friends.

Seniors Give Scholarship

Each year the senior class donates

money to a group of each individual's choice or to a Senior Gift. This year's senior gift will be a scholarship, to be given to a senior starting next year, who is involved in improving student life.

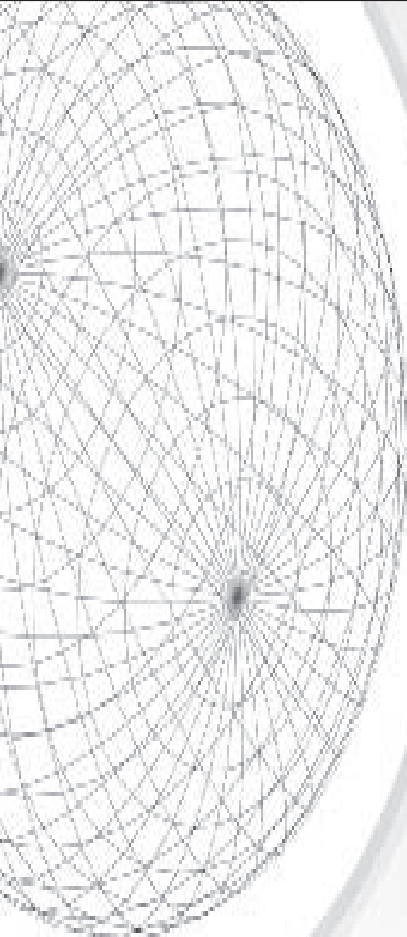
Over 513 gifts, amounting to \$11,720, have been given by members of the class of 2006 so far, said Ryan F. Allard '06, a member of the senior gift committee. Over 50 percent of the senior class donated, beating 39 percent, the previous record for participation that was set by the Class of 2001.

Concession stands will be set up in Killian Court for the first time, and it is possible that the money from concessions will go toward the Senior Gift, said Associate Director of Enterprise Services John M. McDonald. He said that it is possible that the money from concessions will go toward the Senior Gift.

The commencement exercises will take place as planned in Killian Court, barring weather that could be a threat to safety, according to Gayle M. Gallagher, executive officer for commencement. If there

is inclement weather, the graduates will sit in Rockwell Cage to hear the speeches. Guests, including parents, will watch the exercises on closed-circuit televisions around campus. Guests may view the exercises on these televisions, which can be found in certain classrooms and lecture halls, regardless of weather conditions, according to the commencement Web site.

The ceremony can also be viewed online at <http://web.mit.edu/amps/spotlight/commencement-web-cast06.html> today and after today.



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Since 1885

Other Schools Also Tried to Hack Doonesbury Poll

Doonesbury, from Page 1

ford, the Doonesbury Town Hall duty officer, once the Doonesbury crack tech crew realized that their poll was being hacked, it was fairly easy to trace the source back to MIT. Instead of “outing” The Hacker, they decided to simply deny MIT network access to their servers and thereby prevent any further MIT voting.

“In light of our understanding that misusing university computers sometimes results in the offender being expelled, outing the culprit (who seemed from his hack site to be a genial fellow with a sense of humor and good taste in music) hardly seemed an auspicious way for Alex to start her MIT career,” said Stanford.

“I feel a little guilty when I read some of the blogs written by angry Cornellians, but overall I think what we did was pretty cool. Trudeau

must have realized that this kind of thing would happen when he put those three schools on the poll together and he was obviously ok with it judging by his response,” said The Hacker.

MIT was not the only school to attempt to influence the Doonesbury poll. According to the Doonesbury Web site, several RPI students attempted to accomplish exactly what the MIT script had done, but were less successful. By the time the RPI students tried to hack the poll, it was too late and “the ballot box was adequately unstuffable.”

The Cornell community seemed to be closely following the script war between MIT and RPI, but chose to try a different route. According to the Doonesbury Web site, the Cornell alumni office had alerted alumni and urged them to vote. This effort, however, was not

enough to pull Cornell up in the poll. As consolation to the many Cornell students and alums who posted “passionate, articulate, humorous, and convincing posts” on the Doonesbury feedback page, the Doonesbury Town Hall awarded Cornell the Doonesbury Straw Poll Congeniality Award.

When asked about the validity of the rumor that Alex Doonesbury was going to take a year off to follow a band around before starting at MIT, Stanford commented, “It depends on whether she can find a band worth following. She was devastated when Phish broke up. Also, her creator would be the first to point out that he doesn’t even know what his characters are doing next week, much less next September.”

According to Alex Doonesbury’s online cast biography, she

is a “seriously competent hacker”. In addition to maintaining her own successful Alex-cam Web site, she runs myVulture.com, which obtains “intellectual assets of failed dotcoms.” She seems to be a typical programmer who fights with her father over file-sharing.

According to the Doonesbury Web site, “by tradition, engineers, hackers and techfolk will assume that in a problem-solving situation of this nature, there is no box out of which they are not expected to climb.” It seems Alex will fit in at MIT just fine.

Solution to Bonus Crossword

from page 7

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

Solution to Happy Crossword

from page 7

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

Campus Police Association Files Charges Against MIT

The MIT Campus Police Association filed charges of unfair labor practice over wages against MIT this week. According

to Joseph S. West, vice-president of the MIT CPA, MIT has refused to go back to the bargaining table and reopen wage negotiations. Director of Human Resources Jonathan E. Barnes, representative for MIT, could not immediately be reached for comment.

The campus police have not received a raise in two years, West said, while other union employees have received raises recently. MIT is offering a three percent raise to the campus police, but the association is asking for a five percent raise. Negotiations took place for the past couple of months. The base pay for campus police is \$22.68 per hour, while the average base pay for campus police in Massachusetts is \$25-26 per hour, said West.

“We’re not asking for anything major,

we’re just asking for the same as other union employees,” West said. He also added that the MIT Campus Police is one of the lowest-paid police departments in Massachusetts.

If the CPA accepts the three percent raise, officers will receive retroactive pay from July 1, 2005 on. This date is when the raise should have been given, West said. If the CPA rejects the three percent raise, retroactive pay will be lost, he said.

According to a flyer that was handed out at 77 Massachusetts Avenue yesterday morning, “the National Labor Relations Board will fully investigate MIT’s conduct to determine whether it has engaged in trickery and threats at the bargaining table in violation of federal law.”

—Marie Thibault

Reserve Account Policy To Cap Interest

A new student reserve account policy drafted by the Association of Student Activities and Dean for Student Life Larry G. Benedict, effective this July, will cap interest for student groups at \$1,200 yearly. Currently, Benedict pays 4 percent interest compounded monthly on student

reserve accounts. There is no explicit upper limit on interest.

Under the new policy, 3 percent interest will be paid for the first \$5,000 and 2 percent on the next \$52,500, up to \$1,200 in interest a year. The policy will be effective for the next two years, according to ASA President Jennifer D. Lobo ’07, as the ASA searches for better alternatives. One such alternative is to find a way for student groups to receive interest from the investment of the money rather than from payments made by Benedict.

Reserve account money is held in MIT’s interest-bearing Pool C account. In a change instituted when the Institute was in tough financial straits about three years ago, Pool C interest no longer goes back to account holders but instead goes towards paying for graduate student stipends, according to Philip A. Rolfe G, ASA Graduate Member at Large.

At that time, Benedict began to pay the 4 percent interest from his discretionary fund so that student groups would not lose out. This proved too costly as students began to build on reserve account balances. The target under the new system is to have Benedict pay between \$10,000 and \$12,000 a year, rather than the approximately \$17,000 he paid last year.

Reserve accounts require a minimum

balance of \$5,000 and are designed for large, infrequent expenditures.

—Jenny Zhang

Renovations For Food Vendors to Begin in July

Renovations to add a Subway in Lobdell Food Court and a Dunkin’ Donuts on the first floor of the Student Center are scheduled to begin in July and will be completed in late August, according to Richard D. Berlin, director of campus dining. The three vendors currently in the food court will stay open for the duration of the renovations, while Alpine will be closed.

The new Subway location will serve lunch, dinner, and late night, while Dunkin’ Donuts will be open around the clock.

In an e-mail to undergraduates in May, UA Dining Committee Chair Sisi Zhu ’08 also announced the opening of Pacific St. Cafe at Sidney-Pacific and a possible Au Bon Pain kiosk at the Zesiger Center. Other vendors are being considered for the remaining space in Lobdell. “Thai food has been the primary suggestion, but recent feedback suggests that perhaps something else may be desirable,” Berlin said.

—Angeline Wang



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Investigation Clears Officials of Delaying Missile Fraud Study

By Marcella Bombardieri
BOSTON GLOBE

An internal MIT review has found university officials largely blameless for a three- to four-year delay in examining allegations of research fraud at Lincoln Laboratory.

The investigation into the possible fraud in a missile defense study began two months ago, five years after the allegations were raised by Theodore Postol, a professor at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Postol has criticized MIT for dragging its feet, but university officials have said they were hamstrung by the US government’s refusal to allow them access to the necessary materials. Postol argued that a team that included MIT scientists could not have acted in good faith when they used what he said was flawed data to deem “basically sound” the results from a 1997 test of an infrared missile sensor.

A panel of four MIT professors began looking into the delays in the fall.

The committee affirmed MIT’s assertions that the US Defense Department was responsible for most of the delay. After an initial MIT inquiry concluded in 2002 that a more detailed investigation was warranted, the government refused to allow MIT

to investigate and classified some of MIT’s documents related to the case.

MIT and Defense Department officials finally worked out a compromise, announced in March, under which the Pentagon will investigate and share its conclusions with MIT. Postol, however, believes MIT should do its own independent investigation.

The panel also found that Postol contributed to delays and complications by failing to offer a clear and detailed explanation of his charges at the outset, adding to his allegations over time.

“The absence of a clear, concise and consistent definition of the allegation complicated the conduct of the inquiry,” the panel said. They faulted Postol further for revealing confidential information to the media and others.

The panel recommended a few small changes to MIT investigative procedures. They identified a few minor factors that slowed the university’s initial inquiry, including a period of uncertainty about whether MIT’s research misconduct policy applied to the situation, given that the work was done for the government, not for MIT. But the panel did not find that MIT made any significant mistakes.

Postol dismissed the panel’s findings on May 19.

Study Area Will Offer New Lounge, Lockers

Reading Room, from Page 1

’07, who said the UA has been gathering student input and involved with the project since 2001.

The architectural plans by Signer Harris Architects were finalized in late April with a final review by the CAC Advisory Board, Walsh said. The approved budget total for the project is slightly below \$1.2 million.

Walsh said the renovations will essentially divide the reading room space into three different study environments: a lounge, individual study area, and group study area. The fur-

nished lounge will be located near the entrance, and will include ID-activated lockers. The policy for use of the lockers as temporary storage, especially for people who live off the main campus, has yet to be finalized, Lukmann said.

An acoustically-sealed partition will divide the big room into two sections. The majority of the space will still be reserved for individual study, furnished with tables that can be converted into desks with carrels. An example desk has been sitting in the reading room for the past few months for students to preview and provide feedback.

The new group study space will include seven work rooms along the walls, surrounding a lounge. In an open session about a year ago, the CAC and a group of MIT staff “solicited student input on working in groups and brought together people who have experience with group study spaces” to get a sense of what a group study area should be like, Walsh said.

Lukmann noted the technology to be incorporated, including LCD panels for presentations and electronic white boards that allow recording and downloading of what is written.

New lighting fixtures and retractable shades will also make their debut once the renovations are complete.

“My hope is that the room will be a much brighter space than it has been in the past,” Lukmann said.

Lukmann also said that an Athena printer, and possibly a scanner, would be included.

One of the biggest challenges is the ventilation and heat in the group study area, as the large space is being divided into work rooms. Acoustic walls that do not quite reach the ceiling will solve this problem, Walsh said.

The reading room was constructed in 1965 as a resource library, and has been equipped with its original furnishings until last week when they were removed in preparation for construction.

Ceremonies to open both the reading room and the new lounge replacing the Cashier’s Office in the Infinite Corridor will be held in late August, Walsh said.

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Michael Mori, Gilbert D. Nessim and Naveen Verma

2006-07 Intel Foundation Ph.D. Fellowship Award Recipients

Michael Mori, Gilbert D. Nessim and Naveen Verma were awarded Ph.D. fellowship grants from the Intel Foundation for the 2006-07 academic year. Mori’s fellowship research will focus on Materials Science in Semiconductor Technology and Manufacturing. Nessim’s fellowship research will focus on Nanotechnology in Semiconductor Technology and Manufacturing. Verma’s fellowship research will focus on Analog CMOS Circuit Design in Systems Technology and Design.

This year, the Intel Foundation Ph.D. Fellowship Program awarded 40 fellowships totaling more than \$1.8 million to outstanding Ph.D. candidates pursuing leading-edge research at 18 U.S. universities. Michael Mori, Gilbert D. Nessim and Naveen Verma were selected from more than 210 applicants.

To learn more about Intel’s commitment to higher education, visit:
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'PicoCricket Kit' Provides a High-Tech Spin on Crafts

By Michel Marriott
THE NEW YORK TIMES

At first blush, the PicoCricket Kit resembles a plastic box of arts and crafts supplies, crammed with colored felt, pipe cleaners, cotton and Styrofoam balls.

But this is a craft kit for the digital age. It includes electronic sensors, motors, sound boxes, connecting cables and a palm-size, battery-powered, programmable computer.

By combining the traditional materials with high-tech ones, children as young as 9 can invent interactive jewelry, fanciful creatures that dance, musical sculptures and more, said Mitchel Resnick, an assistant professor of learning research at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology Media Lab.

Resnick, whose work with children and learning at the Media Lab helped the Lego Group create its highly successful Mindstorms robotic construction kits in 1998, said he wanted to produce something in which the emphasis was not on the building of mechanical objects.

Instead, he said he was more interested in encouraging the creation of something artistic, and delivering a technology and programming language that would let young people take more control of how their creations would behave.

"The hope is to get people started with simple projects and let their imaginations run wild," Resnick said. "I do think young people are very quick to dive in and experiment." The PicoCricket Kits, he said, "are designed to encourage that sort of experimentation."

One of the PicoCricket guides, for instance, instructs users on how to turn a birthday cake made mostly of felt, cardboard and drinking straws into an ingeniously interactive one, a cake that can be programmed to shut off the lights in its electrical candles when someone blows on them.

With a few adjustments in the

cake's programming, its artificial candles will even flicker before they go out. With more programming tweaks, the cake can play birthday tunes or be joined with another homemade contraption that will toss confetti into the air.

The \$250 kit is the first effort of the Playful Invention Co., or PICO, a Montreal-based company of which Resnick is a co-founder; Lego is a financial backer. (The kit will be available next month from www.picocricket.com, where orders are now being accepted.)

Besides all the parts, the kit includes building guides printed on double-sided placemats, but little more in terms of instructions.

Its central tool is PicoBlocks software, a point-and-click, drop-and-drag programming language. It appears like colored puzzle pieces that can be arranged and combined on a computer screen (PC and Mac) with a mouse. Stringing the labeled pieces together into interlocking sequences can create simple or complex commands.

A USB "beamer," which is plugged into the computer, transmits the commands to the PicoCricket computer through a series of flashing lights. Motors and sensors are plugged into the PicoCricket, which then performs according to the programming stored in its solid-state memory.

The PicoCricket's core technology, Resnick said, dates from the 1980s, when MIT and Lego were developing the programmable Lego brick, which led to Mindstorms.

"Putting kids in control is what's so important to us," Resnick said, noting that girls as well as boys are drawn to the kit's creative engineering, according to MIT's research and workshops globally.

Other developers, too, are producing more open-ended building kits aimed at letting young people create and program their own computerized designs.

The Vex Robotics Design System, developed last year by Innovation First and RadioShack, was created to spur young people to have fun while being inventive. Along the way, many are given hands-on lessons in how mathematics, physics and computer programming can be useful and practical, said Joel Carter, vice president for marketing at Innovation First, a robotics company in Greenville, Texas.

Vex robot kits include instructions, but they encourage young people — generally high school age and older — to tackle problems. "Talk to the average high school students, they are a lot smarter," Carter said. "They like open-ended problems, and a lot like to take the tools that are available to solve open-ended problems."

The Vex starter kit, which costs \$300, includes more than 500 parts, enough to build remote-controlled robots as well as programmable ones, Carter noted. Programming, he said, is written in easyC, a graphical variant on the C language used by professional programmers.

"It is a cool tool that works with Vex," he said of easyC, which works on Windows-based personal computers. "It makes Vex accessible and demystifies programming. Relatively young kids can program robots to get them to do what they want them to."

The programming is transferred to the robot's microprocessor by way of a serial cable plugged into the computer.

VexLabs systems, which offers more than 20 accessories (including the easyC programming kit, sold separately for \$99), have recently been acquired by Innovation First (www.vexlabs.com). This means, Carter said, that the robotics kits will not be sold exclusively in RadioShack stores, but also through other channels.

He also noted that Carnegie Mellon University had developed a curriculum that uses Vex robotics to teach math and sciences.

David Greenbaum, owner of Robot Village, a robotics store and workshop on the Upper West Side of Manhattan, said the attraction of young people to robotics was only natural.

"These are such exciting times for kids when they can see robots all around them doing things like exploring the oceans and outer space, and helping the sick and elderly in hospitals," he said. "They want to be a part of that. Learning robotics technology skills gives them a big advantage in unlocking their future possibilities."

Homemade robots have become such a hot topic lately that Mark Frauenfelder, editor in chief of Make magazine, said much of the magazine's latest issue was devoted to guiding readers in building their own.

"One thing that really made a big difference is the kits," Frauenfelder said about the rising popularity in designing, building and programming personal creations. "They have whetted people's appetites. They see them online, other people homebrewing these really cool robots."

One robot featured in Make is a

"soccer-bot" made from a Lego Mindstorms kit that can be programmed to chase a ping-pong ball and bump it into a goal.

Caleb Chung and Bob Christopher, the co-founders of Ugobe, a robotic technology company in Emeryville, Calif., said they were developing an infant robotic dinosaur, Pleo, that they say will behave so believably that it will invite a relationship as much as play. (Chung was co-inventor of the Furby, the interactive plush toy.)

Solution to Sudoku									
from page 7									
2	7	9	8	6	5	4	3	1	
6	4	5	2	3	1	8	7	9	
3	8	1	4	7	9	5	6	2	
1	5	3	6	8	4	2	9	7	
4	2	6	1	9	7	3	5	8	
8	9	7	3	5	2	1	4	6	
7	3	2	9	4	8	6	1	5	
5	6	8	7	1	3	9	2	4	
9	1	4	5	2	6	7	8	3	

Police Log

The following incidents were reported to the Cambridge or MIT Police between May 19 and May 24, 2006. This summary does not include incidents such as suspicious activity, false alarms, or medical shuttles.

May 19: Student Center (84 Massachusetts Ave.), 12:42 a.m., Dennis G. Maina, homeless, and Kelly Jones, homeless, arrested for domestic assault and battery.

May 19: E56 (38 Memorial Dr.), 4:10 p.m., a strong odor of gasoline was discovered behind Building E56; Cambridge Fire Department notified.

May 19: M24 (60 Rear Vassar St.), 10:30 p.m., David Scrima, 240 Albany St., Cambridge, arrested for trespassing and resisting arrest.

May 24: NW86 (70 Pacific St.), 3:35 p.m., Albert Leung, 70 Pacific St., Cambridge, arrested for assault by means of a dangerous weapon — pepper spray.

May 24: 500 Technology Square, [No time given], MIT Police assisted Cambridge Police on industrial accident.

Compiled by Angeline Wang '09.

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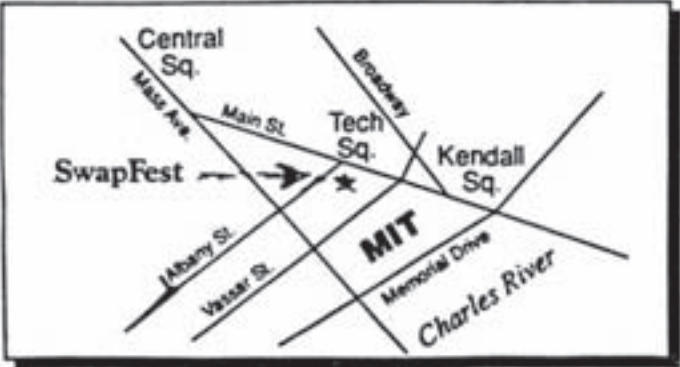
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SPORTS

MIT Athletics Unveils New Logos Featuring Beavers

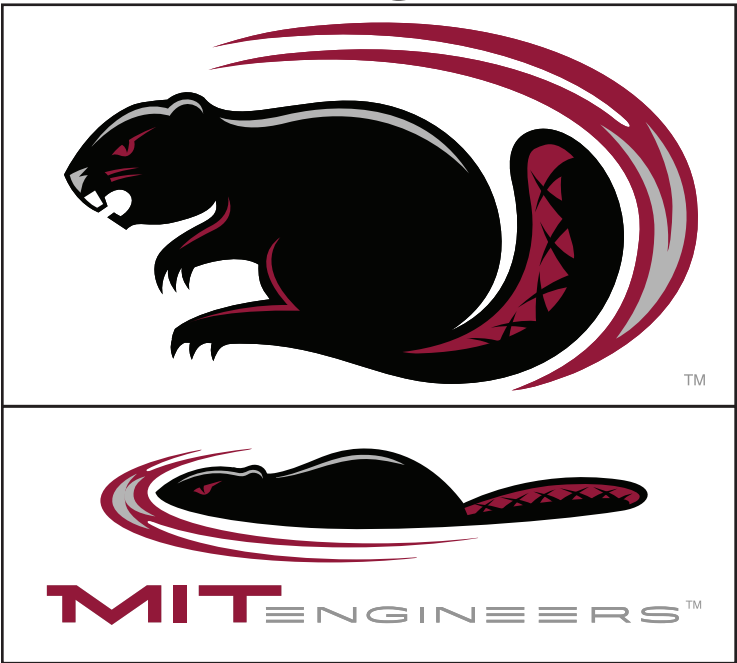
By Christina Kang
STAFF REPORTER

The Department of Athletics, Physical Education, and Recreation (DAPER) has three new logos, which are part of a plan to create an MIT brand. The primary logo features a sleek black red-eyed beaver zooming off toward the left, undoubtedly to meet an opposing team's mascot in battle. All the logos and the beavers in their various poses and colors were made available on the

Department of Athletics, Physical Education, and Recreation's Web site on June 6, along with a link to an online store of clothing and accessories bearing the new emblem. According to Candace L. Royer, director of athletics, this is only the starting point for a new brand. "The brand will continue to appear in all of the places where athletics brands usually appear at other colleges and universities," Royer said. "It will be on varsity

and club sport uniforms, venues on the courts, flags and walls, DAPER publications, clothing." In developing the new brand, DAPER wanted to create an MIT athletics identity, "one which encompasses the hopes and aspirations and identities of so many stakeholders, both past and present," according to Stephen D. Immerman, senior assistant dean of student life. After years of conceptual work, production first began in March 2004. The brand was developed by SME Inc. Branding of New York, which relied on information-gathering and focus groups consisting of students, faculty, staff, and alumni to identify what characteristics the MIT community considered important.

"I think they really did a great job of incorporating as many of our opinions as possible in the final design," said one focus group participant, Leah A. Bogsted '08 of the varsity women's softball team. "I think every student athlete at MIT will find some part of the new logo that they like and can identify with." Head coaches of the various varsity teams also contributed their opinions, up until the design was finalized this January.



Above: One of two "secondary marks" designed for MIT athletics. Below: The "primary mark."

But despite DAPER's best efforts, the logo has been met with mixed reactions from students, especially those in athletics programs. The majority of the complaints seem to be based around DAPER's incarnation of the MIT beaver.

Kevin M. Kelley '09 of the varsity men's crew team, for one, feels that the beaver doesn't even look like a beaver. "One of my teammates described it as a swimming rat with a beaver's tail," Kelley said. Rajat Bhalla '08 of the varsity men's tennis team expressed the opposing opinion. "I'm a fan," Bhalla said. "I think this beaver reflects MIT well with its intensity." One other topic of debate is the decision to focus the brand around the beaver. "We're actually the MIT Engineers, not the MIT Beavers," said Praveen Pamidimukkala '08 of the varsity men's volleyball team. MIT Cycling member Mark B. Cote '07 also noted that the use of the beaver tends to cause confusion because most MIT sports teams are a part of the same conference as the Babson College Beavers. "Overall, I think the logo looks cool," Cote said, "but it doesn't define DAPER as clearly as I would have hoped." Yet another difference of opinion arises from debate on the allocation of funds. "Why are we spending money on this?" Kelley said. "I'd have no problem putting the however many thousands of dollars we spent to better use. We need to focus on getting taken seriously as athletics, not in 'branding' MIT athletics." Bogsted feels differently. "I'm glad that MIT decided to invest the money into designing the logo," she said. "I hope that this logo will promote unity and pride throughout DAPER and help to increase fan attendance and student support of the many varsity teams." Immerman, despite the objections, sees the project as hugely successful. "I was impressed and gratified by the care, respect, and completely dedication that the DAPER leadership gave to this project. I was equally impressed by the intelligent, passionate, and insightful feedback that the involved students invested in the process."



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Solution to Crossword

from page 6

Z	E	R	O	G	A	F	F	S	J	D	A	S
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