

UA Election Candidates Discuss UA, ASA, Textbooks

By Nick Semenkovich
STAFF REPORTER

The Undergraduate Association Presidential/Vice Presidential debate drew a small crowd, as three pairs of candidates lobbied for community votes. During the debate, the candidates did not stray far from their platform statements.

Candidate pair Manisha Manmohan '08 and Fernando Funakoshi '09 wanted the UA to work more visibly to improve undergraduate life. The pair described a need for additional funding for the Association of Student Activities, proposed expanding SafeRide coverage and hours, and said they felt qualified despite a lack of student government experience.

Martin F. Holmes '08, president of the 2008 class council, and running mate Ali S. Wyne '08, UA Senator from Burton-Conner and a *Tech* opinion staff writer, aimed at improving communication with the administration, implementing more proximity card readers, and establishing an FSILG-Police dinner fund to improve police relations. The pair also suggested adding office hours for UA representatives and improving mid-term course evaluations.

Lauren E. Oldja '08, UA Treasurer and Steven M. Kelch '08, the UA Senate Speaker, had a platform focused on preserving the duration

and style of Residential Exploration, protecting MIT's community from forced "community building" by the administration, and strengthening current UA programs. They also suggested establishing an alcohol policy for small events.

The debate, which was moderated by members of The Tech, had three key focal points: changes in ASA funding, the effectiveness of the UA, and the rising cost of textbooks.

After opening statements, the discussion began with ASA funding and increases in the student life fee. Both Oldja/Kelch and Manmohan/Funakoshi were in favor of additional support for the ASA. Manmohan and Funakoshi wanted additional funding for the ASA and considered it inappropriate that the ASA denied funding to some student groups, according to Manmohan.

Kelch said that he and Oldja wanted additional staff and student backing of the ASA. "Throwing even more money at them isn't going to necessarily get them to do more," said Kelch.

Holmes and Wyne, however, were opposed to increasing ASA funding, concerned that any increase in the student life fee would "put an added burden on students," said Holmes.

Debate, Page 13



DAVID TEMPLETON—THE TECH

The candidates for UA president and vice president: (left to right, with the presidential candidate on top) Lauren E. Oldja '08 and Steven M. Kelch '08, Manisha Manmohan '08 and Fernando Funakoshi '09, Martin F. Holmes '08 and Ali S. Wyne '08.

The Tech Interviews the UA President and VP Candidates

By Mandana T. Manzari

Elections for Undergraduate Association President and Vice-President will begin this week. Electronic voting begins at <http://vote.mit.edu/> on Thursday, March 15 and ends Tuesday, March 20. Paper balloting will start Wednesday, March 21 in Lobby 10. Read on for *The Tech's* interviews with the UA candidates for President and Vice President: Martin F. Holmes '08 and Ali S. Wyne '08; Manisha Manmohan '08 and Fernando Funakoshi '09; Lauren E. Oldja '08 and Steven M. Kelch '08.

Oldja and Kelch

"I feel at home in the UA," said Oldja. "I think ... what's very important for the role of a president is to have the proper experience ... That way, you can hit the ground running."

Knowing the right people is also key, they pointed out.

"I see the utility of the UA," said Kelch. "With constant effort we can push [the UA] into the mainstream."

Both of these candidates have ex-

Oldja/Kelch, Page 13

Manmohan and Funakoshi

Manmohan and Funakoshi said that they believe they can bring a fresh perspective to the UA because neither has been directly involved in the UA administration.

"Being outsiders, we're more worried about what the UA does for the undergraduates," said Funakoshi.

Manmohan and Funakoshi said that they are the best ones for the job because as the only "outsiders"

Manmohan/Funakoshi, Page 13

Holmes and Wyne

"I feel that there are a lot of inefficiencies and problems with the UA and I'd like to reform them," Holmes said. Wyne pointed out that "some people don't even know the UA exists. ... we really want to make this the student body's association. It's about pushing the agenda of the students." Both emphasized the need for change within the UA.

The important thing, they believe, is empowering the students.

Holmes/Wyne, Page 13

Downed Mail Server Up Saturday, Then Another Fails, Webmail Too

By John A. Hawkinson
STAFF REPORTER

The mail server outage that began last week Wednesday drew to a close on Saturday morning, but then was followed by an unrelated outage of another of the five post office servers on Monday afternoon. In a third outage, early Tuesday, two of the six Webmail servers were down for about half an hour.

On Wednesday morning, po14.mit.edu crashed leaving all 4,000 of its users without access to e-mail. By Thursday morning initial repairs on "firebrick," one of four filesystems on po14, had not completed. Information Services and Technology staff changed to a new plan: bring po14 up with its three intact file systems, and copy the

remaining mailboxes from the damaged file system to a new file system. The resulting mailbox-by-mailbox restoration began on Thursday morning, and did not complete until Saturday morning, at about 8 a.m.

Throughout the outage, IS&T provided updates on the 3-DOWN outage information service, <http://3down.mit.edu/>, though it was not until 6 p.m. on Friday that IS&T published any information about the rate of restores. No estimates for restore times were ever provided. Friday's 6 p.m. update reported that there were "below 300" mailboxes awaiting restoration. By 10 p.m., 3-DOWN reported that less than 75 mailboxes were still affected, but the restores did not complete until the following morning.

According to Jeffrey I. Schiller '79, restores were prioritized, with faculty accounts first and guest accounts last. The firebrick file system held about 843 gigabytes of data across 27 million files, Schiller said.

Beginning Wednesday, IS&T provided technical details of the overall outage in a Web page linked from the main 3-DOWN page, <http://3down.mit.edu/fcgi-bin/3down?showpage2=email>.

po10 ran out of disk space

On Monday afternoon at about 3:43 p.m., IS&T experienced another mail server failure. According to Schiller, a filesystem on po10 (named

E-mail, Page 14

Former President Vest Will Be Commencement Speaker

The commencement speaker for the Class of 2007 will be former MIT president Charles M. Vest, according to Kirk D. Kolenbrander, vice president for institute affairs and secretary of the Corporation.

Vest served as MIT's president from 1990 to 2004 and is now a professor in the Mechanical Engineering department. He has also been nominated as president of the National Academy of Engineering and if elected, will start in that position on July 1, 2007, according to a press release supplied by Michael Baenen, special assistant to the President.

President Susan Hockfield said that "As he [Vest] anticipates the

Commencement, Page 13

NEWS

MIT-trained Iranian nuclear scientists reflect on their time at the Institute and the days of the Iranian Revolution.

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WORLD & NATION

Ford to Sell Aston Martin to Group Led by Ex-Racer

By Nick Bunkley

THE NEW YORK TIMES

DEARBORN, MICH.

Ford Motor Co. will raise \$848 million toward its overhaul plan by selling Aston Martin, its British luxury sports car brand, the automaker said Monday.

The principal buyer is David Richards, a former British racing champion who described the transaction as beginning “a new era, perhaps a new chapter in this extraordinary story of Aston Martin,” a 94-year-old nameplate best known as the preferred ride of James Bond.

Joining Richards in the deal are the American banker John Sindere and two Kuwaiti investment firms, Investment Dar and the Adeem Investment Co.

Ford, which has owned at least 75 percent of Aston Martin since 1987, will retain a stake worth \$77 million, held in a separate class of preferred shares.

Ford, which put Aston Martin on the market six months ago, closed out the worst year in its history in January, losing \$12.7 billion amid slow sales of its biggest moneymakers, pickup trucks and sport utility vehicles.

Court Blocks Snowmaking At Indian Sites

By Randal C. Archibold

THE NEW YORK TIMES

LOS ANGELES

A federal appeals panel Monday blocked a ski resort’s plan to make artificial snow by spraying treated wastewater on mountains that Indian tribes consider sacred.

In a unanimous ruling, a three-judge panel of the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals, in San Francisco, overturned a lower court ruling from January 2006 that would have allowed the resort, the Arizona Snowbowl, to proceed with the snowmaking and other upgrades on the San Francisco Peaks near Flagstaff.

Thirteen tribes, along with the Sierra Club and other environmentalists, had appealed the decision. They said using wastewater, no matter how clean, would offend deities and spiritually contaminate herbs and other plants used for medicine and religious ceremonies.

In addition, the tribes said, the resort and the U.S. Forest Service, which has jurisdiction over the mountain and had approved the plan, had failed to study adequately the safety and effects of the wastewater.

Chief Army Medical Officer Ousted in Walter Reed Furor

By Thom Shanker and David Stout

THE NEW YORK TIMES

WASHINGTON

The Army’s top medical officer was forced into retirement Monday, yet another aftereffect of the disclosure of shoddy conditions for outpatients at Walter Reed Army Medical Center.

The ousted officer, Lt. Gen. Kevin C. Kiley, the Army surgeon general, became the third high-ranking official to lose his job because of shabby living quarters and bureaucratic tangles endured by wounded troops returned from combat.

“I submitted my retirement because I think it is in the best interest of the Army,” Kiley said in a statement released by the military. “We are an Army Medical Department at war, supporting an Army at war. It shouldn’t be and it isn’t about one doctor.”

Before Monday’s announcement, Kiley had indicated a desire to continue serving. Just last Tuesday, he told the Senate Armed Services Committee, “I still think I’ve got the right skill sets and the right experience to fix these problems.”

Army officials said Kiley would most likely suffer the financial penalty of retirement benefits at two-star level, one rank lower, since he had not completed the required three years’ service as a three-star general.

UN Council: Sudanese Gov’t Participated in Darfur Crimes

By Warren Hoge

THE NEW YORK TIMES

UNITED NATIONS

A U.N. Human Rights Council mission to Darfur said Monday that the Sudanese government had organized and taken part in human rights crimes against its own population, and that international action to stop the killings and rapes had been inadequate.

The government in Khartoum, the Sudanese capital, “has manifestly failed to protect the population of Darfur from large-scale international crimes and has itself orchestrated and participated in these crimes,” the 35-page report said. It added that rebels were also to blame for abuses, including the rape and torture of civilians. The report urged the implementation of all resolutions from the U.N. Security Council and the African Union, “including those relating to travel bans and the freezing of funds, assets, and economic resources of those who commit violations.”

Human rights advocates welcomed the unusually tough tone of the report and its recommendations, but they warned that steps were already under way to block its effect when the report comes up for adoption by the Human Rights Council on Friday in Geneva.

The rights council has been widely criticized for being no more effective than the discredited Human Rights Commission it replaced this year. Taking action on Darfur is seen by rights groups as a measure of whether the council can start to build credibility during its formal session, the fourth it has held, which began Monday.

So far, all eight of the condemnations of human rights performance it has issued since its creation in June have been against one country, Israel. The mission to Darfur, led by Jody Williams, an American campaigner against land mines and a Nobel Peace Prize laureate, was denied entry to Sudan by the government and had to base its report on interviews with refugees and aid workers, rebels across the border in Chad and officials of the African Union at its headquarters in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

“This report is Jody Williams and her team members, and this is definitely not the council,” said Hilal Neuer, executive director of U.N. Watch, an organization based in Geneva that monitors U.N. activity. “The council will probably throw

this report into Lake Geneva.”

Reached at her home in Virginia, Williams said, “Given the hostility to the mission almost from the moment it was born, I would not be shocked if there were maneuvers not to allow the report to be presented.”

She said she was traveling to Geneva this week to lobby for the adoption of the report. “But I understand there has already been tabled a resolution to try to block the presentation of this report and call for a new quote, unquote balanced and objective mission,” she said.

The original decision to send the six-person team to Sudan was made only after a bitter debate among council members, with some Arab and African countries on the 47-member group protesting the singling out of Sudan.

Commenting on that, Williams said: “The most difficult part of this mission was not the travel or the worry about getting visas for Darfur, nor the interviewing of refugees and listening to five women out of 20 in the space of an hour about being gang-raped. It was dealing with the politics of the Human Rights Council from the minute I received the call.”

The Classic British Sports Car, Reincarnated as Chinese Model

By Craig S. Smith

THE NEW YORK TIMES

LONGBRIDGE, ENGLAND

MG, the legendary British brand that expired after a lengthy illness, will be revived this month as a Chinese sports car, when the Nanjing Automobile Corp. begins to produce convertible sports cars under that name in China.

The rebirth of MG is the latest and most splashy example of how China’s growing economic might is reaching carefully into foreign markets, buying up troubled companies with established brands and using them to build bridgeheads for some of the billions of dollars that the country has to invest overseas. “Within a very small period of time, you will see a lot of industries following the same strategy,” said the chairman of Nanjing Automobile in the United Kingdom, Wang Hongbiao. It is a cau-

tious, even stealthlike approach, and a stark contrast to Japan and Korea, which spent billions of dollars over decades to build recognized brands through exports before establishing a high-profile corporate presence overseas. That era reached its peak with the purchase by Mitsubishi Estate of Rockefeller Center in 1989.

Still, China is in a hurry and as it increases outward investment, many of its companies hope to leapfrog the expansion process by acquiring technology and distribution networks together with well-known names on which to build larger businesses.

The investment agency China is setting up to diversify its \$1.1 trillion foreign exchange holdings, could provide another boost, particularly as the government sees the entire world, including developing countries in Africa and Latin America, as its stage for acquisitions.

Many of China’s foreign purchases have been focused on energy resources, dominated by big state-owned enterprises such as the national oil giants PetroChina and CNOOC, which have spent billions in recent years acquiring oil and natural gas fields. Those deals have helped swell the value of China’s outbound acquisitions to nearly \$14 billion on more than 100 deals last year from just \$18.6 million in 1990, according to Thomson Financial, which tracks global investment trends.

But with the largest foreign exchange reserves in the world putting upward pressure on the yuan, China is now happy to have smaller companies invest some of that money overseas.

The political backlash that China faced as it tried to acquire high-profile natural resources was enough to scuttle some deals. That has provided a lesson for smaller companies in China.

WEATHER

17 Feet Under

By Brian H. Tang

STAFF METEOROLOGIST

When precipitation is measured in feet, it’s usually when it snows. For example, a severe Nor’easter may bring 2-3 feet over a day or two to New England, but how about 17 feet of rain in six days? A small island in the Indian Ocean, La Reunion, received an incredible amount of rainfall from Tropical Cyclone Gamede late last month. A new world record was set at Commerçon’s Crater, a volcano on the island, with a staggering three day rainfall total of 155 in. (3.9 m) and a one week total of 213 in. (5.4 m). Compare this to the yearly average precipitation in Boston of 41.5 in. (1.1 m). Although Gamede never made landfall on La Reunion, the excessive rainfall was caused by persistent rain squalls continually lashing the island as the tropical cyclone moved slowly toward the southwest.

Closer to home, much more benign weather is in the forecast. The memory of -20°F (-29°C) wind chills a week ago will be replaced by above average temperatures as southerly winds import warmer air over the area. With enough sun on Wednesday, we may be enjoying downright balmy conditions for March. However, things will return back to a seasonably cool and wet pattern toward the latter half of the week as a cold front pushes over the area.

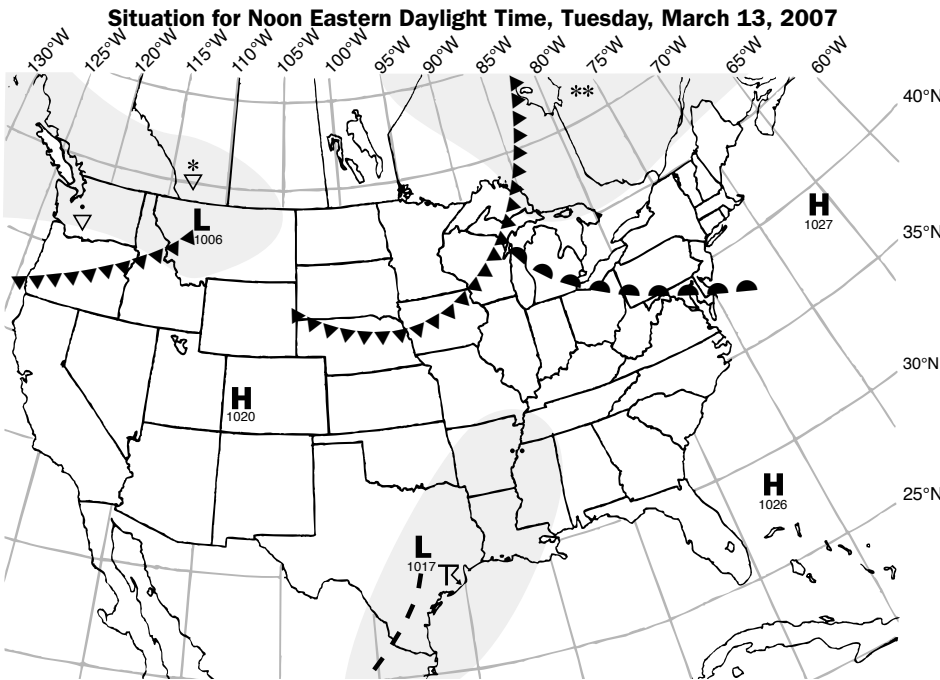
Extended Forecast

Today: Mix of sun and clouds. Breezy in the afternoon. High 59°F (15°C).

Tonight: Cloudy. Low 43°F (6°C).

Tomorrow: Mostly cloudy, breezy, and mild. High 65°F (18°C).

Thursday: Cloudy with rain showers likely. High 50°F (10°C).



Weather Systems		Weather Fronts		Precipitation Symbols		Other Symbols	
H	High Pressure	- - -	Trough	*	Snow	☁	Fog
L	Low Pressure	—•••••	Warm Front	▽	Rain	⚡	Thunderstorm
§	Hurricane	▲▲▲▲▲	Cold Front	*	Light	∞	Haze
		▲▲▲▲▲	Stationary Front	**	Moderate		
		▲▲▲▲▲		***	Heavy		

Compiled by MIT Meteorology Staff and The Tech

GOP Voters Voice Anxieties on Party's Fate; Iraq War Strategy

By Adam Nagourney and Megan Thee
THE NEW YORK TIMES

After years of political dominance, Republican voters now view their party as divided and say they are not satisfied with the choice of candidates seeking the Republican presidential nomination in 2008, according to the latest New York Times/CBS News Poll.

In a survey that brought to life the party's anxieties about keeping the White House, Republicans said they were concerned that their party had drifted from the principles of Ronald Reagan, its most popular figure of the past 50 years.

Forty percent of Republicans said they expected Democrats to take control of the White House next year, com-

pared with 46 percent who said they believed a Republican would win. By contrast, just 12 percent of Democrats said they thought the opposing party would take the White House next year.

Even as Republican voters continued to support President Bush and the war in Iraq, including the recent increase in the number of American troops deployed there, they said a candidate who backed Bush's war policies would be at a decided disadvantage in 2008. And they suggested that they were open to supporting a candidate who broke with the president on a crucial aspect of his Iraq strategy: Asked what was more important to them in a nominee — a commitment to stay in Iraq until the United States succeeds or flexibility about when to withdraw — 58 percent of self-identi-

fied Republican primary voters said flexibility versus 39 percent who said a commitment to stay. The three leading Republican candidates are strong supporters of the war and the increase in American troops there.

The Times/CBS News Poll, which was designed to survey more Republicans than it normally would to provide a better statistical look at the mood of the party, found signs that it was uneasy about its future.

"There is going to be so much anti-war in the news media that there is no way the Republicans are going to win," Randy Miller, 54, a Republican from Kansas, said in a follow-up interview after participating in the poll. "The Democrats will win because of the war. I think the Republicans just won't vote."

Kennedy, Eager For GOP Support, Reconsiders Tactics on Immigration

By Rachel L. Swarns
THE NEW YORK TIMES

WASHINGTON

Facing a rebellion from some key Republicans, Sen. Edward M. Kennedy has abandoned efforts to produce a new immigration bill and is proposing using legislation produced last March by the Republican-controlled Senate Judiciary committee as the starting point for negotiations this year, lawmakers said on Monday.

Kennedy, the Massachusetts Democrat who is principal architect of immigration legislation in the Senate, now controlled by Democrats, said he was shifting gears in hopes of winning Republican support and speeding the passage of immigra-

tion legislation this spring. Four of 10 Republicans on the Senate Judiciary Committee voted last year for the committee's bill, which would tighten border security, create a temporary worker program, and legalize the nation's illegal immigrants.

President Bush said on Monday in Guatemala that he hoped to see an immigration bill completed by the fall and that he was working with Republicans to define a position most could support. "If we don't have enough consensus, nothing is going to move out of the Senate," Bush said.

Kennedy and a Republican colleague, Sen. John McCain of Arizona, had spent several months trying to produce a new immigration bill

that was expected to be introduced this month. But several Republicans protested that they were shut out of the negotiations. They began drafting their own bill, led by Sen. Arlen Specter of Pennsylvania, the Republican moderate who led the debate on immigration in the Judiciary Committee last year.

Meanwhile, McCain, who led Republican lawmakers in championing immigration legislation last year, has appeared to be backing away from that role, several congressional aides said.

Conservatives have sharply criticized McCain, a leading Republican presidential candidate, for supporting efforts to put illegal immigrants on a path to citizenship.

After Evicting Members, Sorority is Itself Evicted

By Sam Dillon
THE NEW YORK TIMES

DePauw University severed ties Monday with a national sorority that evicted two-thirds of the university's chapter members last year in what the sorority called an effort to improve its image for recruitment, but which the evicted women described as a purge of the unattractive or the uncool.

"We at DePauw do not like the way our students were treated," DePauw's president, Robert G. Bottoms, said in a letter to the Delta Zeta sorority. "We at DePauw believe that the values of our university and those of the national Delta Zeta sorority are incompatible."

The sorority evicted 23 members of its DePauw chapter in December, and half a dozen other women later quit in protest. The action greatly diminished the chapter's diversity. The women the sorority allowed to stay were all slender and conventionally pretty. Those evicted included some overweight women, and several minority members were evicted or left the sorority on their own.

In an interview, Bottoms said that beginning this fall Delta Zeta would no longer be permitted to house students in its Greek-columned residence on the DePauw campus in Greencastle, Ind. Only a handful of undergraduates are currently living in the Delta Zeta house, and four of them are seniors, Bottoms said, adding that the university would help any women who had been planning to live in the residence next year to find alternative housing.

French Premier Throws Support For Presidency to Political Rival

By Elaine Sciolino
THE NEW YORK TIMES

PARIS

Prime Minister Dominique de Villepin on Monday formally endorsed his political rival, the center-right candidate Nicolas Sarkozy, for president.

"Today I am with Nicolas Sarkozy to defend the ideals of our political family and so that the choice for the French people is as clear as possible," de Villepin told Europe 1 radio a day after President Jacques Chirac announced that he would not seek a third term.

He added, "We have been together in government, we will be together in this battle."

The endorsement is important because de Villepin, who once had been considered a potential presidential contender, put party unity ahead of the personal and political differences he has had over the years with Sarkozy, who is the interior minister and the head of the governing party, the Union for a Popular Movement.

In the past, de Villepin has criticized Sarkozy's proposal to institute a modest limited affirmative action program for France, which de Villepin believes runs counter to the republican ideal that ignores race, religion and ethnicity.

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web.mit.edu/ensemble/www/current.html

\$8 general, \$6 students

The MIT Shakespeare Ensemble

OPINION



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Institute
Wisdom Watch

By The Tech Editorial Board



E-mail Failure: Gmail saves the day.



Rumors of B-C Kitchen Removal: Why is everything a tentative proposal until it happens? (Hint to the administration: “Trust us” won’t work forever.)



Sloan Dean Selection: Why is Carly Fiorina on the selection board?



Uncontested Class Council Elections: It’s really hard to have a popularity contest when there’s no contest.



UAP/VP Debate: Enough hot air to heat the Institute for a week.



Nothing on the Dome: Hockfield, this is all your fault.



Class of 2011: 1000 new Facebook friends.



UROP Funding: Will soon be guaranteed for financial aid recipients. That’s a lot of burritos.

Letters To The Editor

Religion Provides
Meaning

I would like to respond to Rahmat Muhammad’s letter entitled, “In Search of Meaning: Beyond the Veritas Forum.” Ms. Muhammad correctly states that the Veritas Forum on Science, Faith, and Technology sought to address whether religious belief, specifically a belief in Jesus Christ and Christianity, can exist in intellectual harmony with scientific pursuit. I am writing this letter because Ms. Muhammad affirms that resolving “the need for a meaningful life and a career in science” is an important issue. In addition, she welcomes critiques of her definition of “meaning,” which I will attempt to offer.

To explain the perspective from which I assert my opinion, I am a Christian, and I assisted with organizing parts of the Veritas Forum at MIT. It has been said that “who you are informs what you write on a very deep level.” Therefore, I do not claim my letter to be perfectly unbiased, but rather trust that the arguments are logical, rational, and compelling.

Ms. Muhammad defines “meaning” as an

abstract term attributed to lives and actions “when they are directed at something bigger than themselves.” Yet if meaning could be found by simply directing your life outwardly, people would not still be searching for it, and no “deeper examination” would be required. People already direct their lives to external things: power, careers, money, fame — things larger than themselves. But in the sight of death, most people would agree that these things are vain and meaningless.

However, if meaning were instead defined as “directing your life outwardly, towards your Creator,” then indeed deeper examination would be required. “Where do we come from?” is a question in the heart of every human being. That’s why we want to know who our ancestors were and where they were from, that’s why we study the earth and the stars, and that’s why we ask questions about evolution and creationism. “I am one small person in a sea of people,” you think. “There must be more than this.”

But more generally, how does “directing your life outwardly, towards your Creator” give “meaning” to science and engineering? This is where truth becomes important. Scientists would naturally agree that truth cannot be rela-

tive. It is circular logic; the statement “truth is relative” needs to be absolute fact to be correct! I agree with Ms. Muhammad that “science places great significance on the freedom of inquiry and discovery.” Such freedom relies on the fact that absolute truth is also eternal truth. For that reason, absolute truth will outlast you and me and any inquiry that we make of it. Scientists take this for granted, as shown by the number of questions they pose to the physical world. Any religion declaring to be the absolute truth should be of the same mind, and the Veritas Forum at MIT is presented in this context. As followers of Jesus Christ, we believe that Christianity is absolute truth, and so we welcome all truth-seekers and their questions.

Jennifer M. Needham G

Veritas Column
Presents Flawed
Arguments

Last week, *The Tech* published an opinion

Letters, Page 5

I'M THINKING OF
PARDONING THE
GUILTY PARTY IN THE
CIA LEAK MESS...



THANKS... BUT WON'T LIBBY
BE JEALOUS?



Opinion Policy

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What Impact Will Engineers Have in a Flat World?

By Manish Bhardwaj

Over the past few years, the paean to the rapid expansion of emerging economies has reached a crescendo. The excitement is palpable and everywhere. And unlike the similar frenzy about “Asian Tigers” in the mid-90s, this seems to be no swan song. The fate of the first world is now inextricably linked with these countries. The debate if the world is, or should be flat is passé. The more interesting question concerns our impact in this world.

About a month and a half ago, I heard Rich Templeton, the CEO of Texas Instruments, speak at MIT on “Building Technology that Matters: Global Opportunities in Engineering.” Mr. Templeton argued that the rise of economies like India and China meant that technology now had billions of new consumers. He was of the opinion that this might be the “best time in history” to be an engineer. Mr. Templeton’s excitement is well founded. Inevitable hiccups aside, the growth is real, has led to prosperity for the large middle class in these economies, and fueled unprecedented demand.

However, what often goes unmentioned is that despite this breakneck growth over the last decade, the World Bank estimates that about 1.5 billion Indians and Chinese, out of a total 2.3 billion, earn less than two dollars a day. Growth has not always translated to prosperity for the countryside, where the majority in these countries still lives.

These are not a pessimist’s statistics, the glass half empty, and they are not meant to discount the real and large populace with spending power in these economies. But these numbers do suggest that opportunities for great impact exist outside of engineering the next cell phone or washing machine. They exist in using technology to tackle challenges like basic health and literacy that two-thirds of the people in these countries face.

Engineers usually consider these developmental problems the purview of social workers, economists, and policy makers. The instinct is not completely misplaced. An important reason why India has been inept at combating poverty (unlike China which, the past decade notwithstanding, has made great strides) is lack of education and infrastructure that would allow the rural population to migrate to the more prosperous urban areas. Also, technology is no solution for many systemic problems like corruption and often bloated or broken bureaucracies in these countries.

It is important for engineers to realize that despite all this, the potential for technological impact in these underserved communities is tremendous. Consider, for instance, disease. There are 9 million new cases of tuberculosis every year. TB is a curable disease whose treatment has been known since the 1950s, and antibiotics offered free of cost for years (governments subsidize them). Yet 1.7 million people die of TB every year. The problem is vast and complex, and on the surface it seems technolo-

gists can do little to change the situation. But the approaches being considered by volunteer groups at MIT suggest otherwise.

Rapid and reliable diagnosis of TB using cheap, portable kits continues to be a challenging problem with great potential impact. One approach is mass spectrometry followed by sophisticated pattern analysis to detect mutant strains of the TB bacteria. This requires collaboration between virtually every engineering field — from signal processing and pattern recognition to intelligent design (the mechanical kind) and low-cost manufacturing.

More typically, it is not technology per se but its intersection with human behavior that has significant potential. A model being explored in TB treatment encourages small groups of patients to get together, share the ups and downs of their treatment progress and encourage one another to take their pills. Every patient is periodically given an incentive based on the drug compliance of their entire group. It is a model motivated by the micro-loan paradigm, and its power lies in reaching ever larger populations by significantly decreasing volunteer effort (who often travel 30 miles to ensure drugs are taken). A challenge is verifying that a group

does in fact come together and take their pills. I am part of a volunteer group organized under the MIT Public Service Center’s Yunus Challenge, exploring a low-cost pillbox with the ability to detect its peer pillboxes and its own usage (i.e. when it was opened, and what doses were dispensed). We believe that such a box could efficiently enable collaborative compliance.

These are efforts I know of, and there are certainly other, even more compelling ones. The MIT Public Service Center, the Development Lab, and Dimagi, a health informatics firm which often pioneers innovative approaches in rural developing economies, are some examples of local organizations that facilitate engineering

These numbers do suggest that opportunities for great impact exist... in using technology to tackle challenges like basic health and literacy that two-thirds of the people in these countries face.

for social impact.

I agree with Mr. Templeton’s exhortation that this is perhaps the best time in history to be an engineer. It is important to ensure that our impact is not limited to islands of urban prosperity. The ravages of indigence and disease do not wait for prosperity to trickle down to underserved communities. They are not patient. We must be equally impatient.

Bhardwaj is a graduate student in electrical engineering and computer science.

Bill Andrews
and Katherine L. Klesch

Some issues actually have two sides. Global warming, though? Not so much.

We just watched *An Inconvenient Truth*, and are amazed that people disagree with its message. Whether or not you like Al Gore as a person, this movie goes beyond politics and personalities. It is a clear condemnation, not just of the corrosive practices that led to the current situation, but also of the general public’s apathy, ignorance, and ambivalence toward global warming.

The vast majority of the scientific community supports some variation of the global warming theory. That is, due to human activity, carbon dioxide levels in the atmosphere are rising to unprecedented levels and leading to dangerous changes in global weather phenomena. According to the film, out of 928 scientific articles on the issue, none took the

Nothing is more frustrating than seeing someone who thinks “astronomy” is a typo for “astrology” challenge scientific evidence.

opposing side. Maybe it’s just us, but that seems like pretty persuasive evidence. And yet, due to political maneuvering and journalists’ lack of investigation (or, perhaps, journalists’ attempts to strike a balance between both sides of any issue, even if there really is only one side), much of the general public believes global warming to be some kind of unconfirmed hypothesis.

Perhaps the skewed public perception regarding global warming has to do with the fact that the two most powerful people in the country, the Vice President and President of the United States, both made their fortunes in the oil industry. Actually, VP Dick Cheney is still making his. It’s no surprise that they’re

reluctant to risk their own interests by taking action. (Classic fossil fuels, let’s not forget, are among the chief reasons we have all this extra carbon dioxide in the atmosphere to begin with.)

What is surprising is that this administration would go so far as to manipulate science

and its presentation to reflect their own political agendas. Dr. James Hansen, a top official at NASA and the world’s leading global warming researcher (according to CBS News), made headlines last year by announcing that the White House had been censoring his reports. Imagine someone with no expertise in your field having such extreme influence over what you publish. Now imagine how damaging this could be when you’re writing about something as potentially cataclysmic as global warming. Of course, this administration’s track record with science is not so good to begin with, given its willingness to distort facts in abstinence-only education and intelligent design, as well as its general hostility toward stem cell research. So, like the breaching of the levees in New Orleans, maybe we should have seen this coming.

As scientists, and scientists-in-training, *The Tech’s* readership is unusual in that the majority are more qualified to comment on this issue than is the average person on the street. Nothing is more frustrating than seeing someone who thinks “astronomy” is a typo for “astrology” challenge scientific evidence. It would be like one of us offering Barry Bonds batting tips. That’s not to say they’re not entitled to their opinion, of

course, but some opinions are more informed than others. Since neither of us specializes in global warming research, and our opinions may not be fully informed, we are willing to concede the possibility that our conclusions are wrong. If that is the case, and there is a legitimate reason to be skeptical of global warming (beyond the standard “We can’t trust the scientists!!!” sort of allegations), those within the scientific community with evidence to support this skepticism have a responsibility to enlighten us.

Even if there is reason to doubt the scientific consensus about global warming, we ask: what is the harm in taking appropriate action regardless? If the consensus is proven to be wrong, we would have done nothing but become more energy and fuel efficient, and reduced carbon dioxide emissions. Otherwise, we may yet avert global catastrophe.

We are accustomed to excellence at MIT and are encouraged to believe we can change the world. It is time to give this important issue the consideration and thought it deserves.

Andrews is a member of the Class of 2005 and is The Tech’s Campus Life editor. Klesch is a member of the Class of 2007.

A Convenient Forum

Letters To The Editor, continued

Letters, from Page 4

piece entitled “In Search of Meaning: Beyond the Veritas Forum,” purportedly to address the meaning of life, how some sort of “value system” is required for an outwardly directed action, and how some form of ethical (and, for Ms. Muhammad, apparently nonreligious) philosophy is necessary to direct the search of technology. I will argue Ms. Muhammad’s definition of meaning is at the least incomplete, and is not self-consistent, and her comments on an ethical system to guide scientific research are presumptuous.

From the very beginning, Ms. Muhammad’s argument is flawed: her definition of meaning is incomplete. It lacks the granularity at which the argument is to be interpreted. The motivations of a banker and a security guard are illustrative of the importance of granularity. The banker pays the guard, so the guard can afford to eat and in turn, the guard protects the banker’s funds; each action is individually meaningful. The banker and the guard perform an outwardly useful action, but from the perspective of the bank as a whole, the system of the banker and the guard is closed and therefore meaningless.

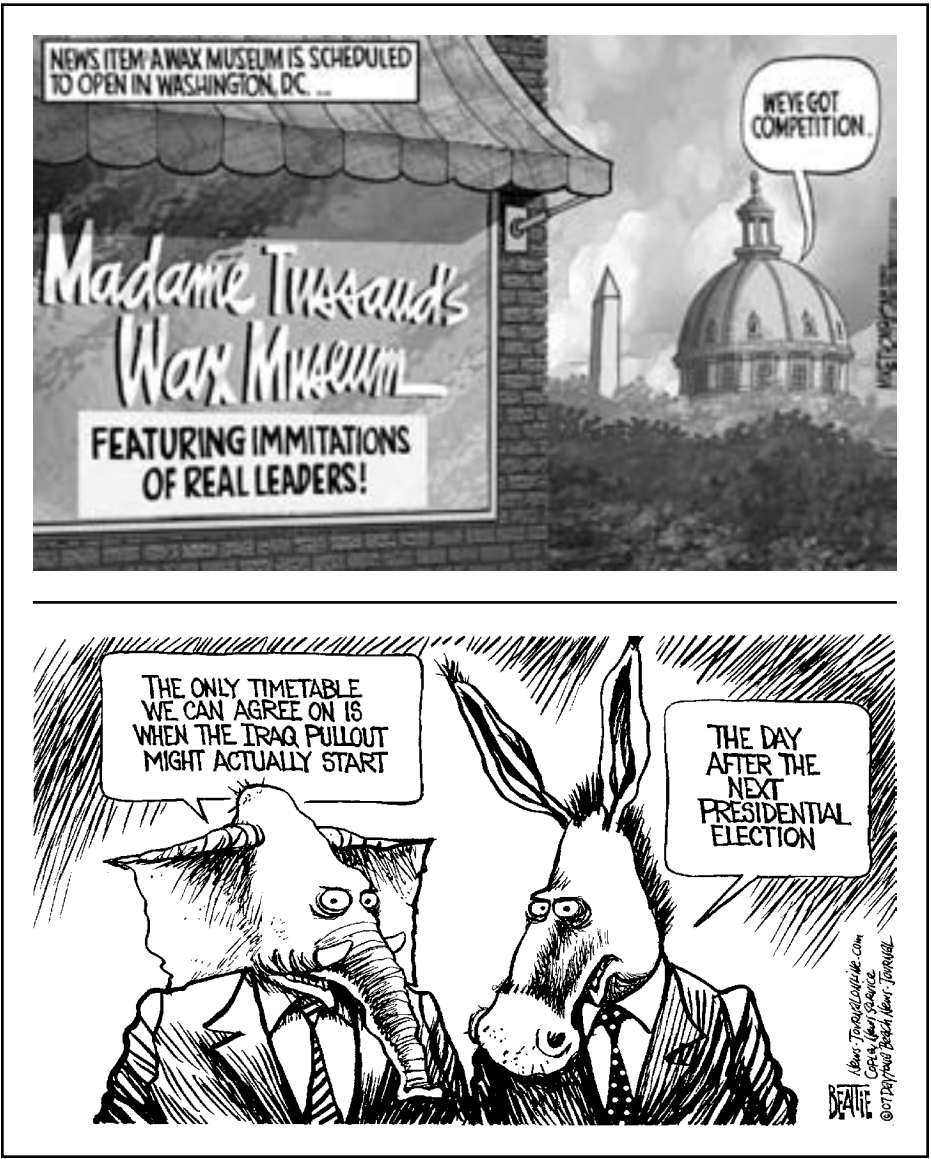
This aside, Ms. Muhammad’s claim that the quest for scientific knowledge is meaningless is not self-consistent. All technology is derived from some sort of science, and therefore the science used to create that technology has meaning. This is especially true if research was specifically undertaken with the intent to create a technology from the results. Technology is not necessarily directed outward, as Ms. Muhammad implies; the only purpose of some technologies is to beget more technology, which is internally directed and meaningless.

To argue that the search for scientific truth in all contexts is meaningless is not a thorough inspection of the motivation of every scientific researcher.

Given that scientific truth is not necessarily meaningless, a generally accepted notion that research limits are necessary and required, and that we cannot wait until we develop a universal ethical code before we begin any form of scientific research, we must develop or select an interim set of values to guide us until we can find the one unifying code by which all research is conducted. But, if some form of present ethical values are purposeful for limiting science (and they probably are), which set of values is right? It is unjustified to preclude a religious philosophy from guiding research limitations, solely on the fact that it is a religion. Ms. Muhammad’s notion that such an ethical code should be not religiously motivated, because philosophy predates religion, is poorly founded. Whether or not philosophy actually predates religion has not been sufficiently determined. In the case of Aristotle and Lao-Tzu, religions had long predated either of them (including Judaism, and other early and pre-civilization religions). Potentially even at some point popular philosophy and religion were one in the same. To argue that religion is the “Cliff Notes” version of the popular philosophy is an argument without solid evidence.

It is unlikely that Veritas is the sole influence on researchers at MIT. Waiting for us to find a universal ethic code before we research anything is counterproductive, and as something must suffice for the interim, we must consider Veritas as providing one such ethical framework.

Hans E. Anderson ’08



ARTS

THEATRE REVIEW

“Scoundrels” Will Sneak Into Your Heart

Musical Has Many Departures From Film — Is That Wrong?

By Bill Andrews
CAMPUS LIFE EDITOR
“Dirty Rotten Scoundrels”
Boston Opera House
Through Sunday, March 18, 2007

Perhaps it says something about me, but *Dirty Rotten Scoundrels* has been one of my favorite movies since the age of seven. Starring Michael Caine and Steve Martin, this movie about two con-men trying to one up each other in the French Riviera was just about the funniest thing I’d ever seen. Thus when I heard a musical based on it was coming out, I was both thrilled and worried. Since I love the original and I love musicals, it had the potential to be magnificent. Of course, if they messed it up and tarnished the good name of *Scoundrels*, it would be a bitter disappointment on the order of *The Matrix Reloaded*. Finally, after years of fear, I bit the bullet and saw the show. My hopes were realized: it was really good.

Now, before we get to the biggest issues, let me summarize one thing for you. This musical was one of the musical-iest shows I’ve ever seen. If you were to make a list of things that musicals are known for (clever lyrics, catchy tunes, random dance numbers, impressively mobile and minimalist sets, etc), *Scoundrels* has them all. The comparison I really want to make is for you *Simpsons* fans: remember the one where they go to New York and see a musical called *Checking In?* Remember how well it fit all the musical stereotypes? This is just like that. Whether that’s good or bad is up to you, but like I’ve said, I like musicals, so I didn’t mind.

This one, though, is easy to like, even if you’ve never seen the original movie. British con-artist Lawrence Jameson has just returned from the bank after convincing yet another rich heiress that he’s a prince, fighting for his country’s freedom, when he comes across lowly American huckster Freddy Benson, who tricks girls into buying him meals and giving him money. Jameson, sensing that the pond isn’t big

enough for two fish (even if one’s just a guppy), does what he can to get rid of Benson, and instantly a rivalry is born. This isn’t one of those boring, Ivy League rivalries, though; this is more like the MIT-West Point rivalry, where anything can happen and it’s all tons of fun. Amidst truces, double crosses, and tons of dancing (featuring guns and wheelchairs), their love-hate relationship will entwine with the fate of Christine Colgate, the American Soap Queen. Does that sound crazy? That’s just the first act!

But, not only is the story well-preserved (except for the few random little things that weren’t) and fun to watch, the actors themselves do a great job too. Tom Hewitt as Jameson was able to portray the quiet dignity and rollicking fun that a con-artist of his years should, and D.B. Bonds as Benson was everything you’d expect a crass, boorish, slovenly (but love-able) guy to be. Plus, of course, they could sing like nobody’s business. Laura Marie Duncan as Colgate, though, was particularly impressive, both in music and out of it; her emotional range was incredible, singing a wispy, emotional ballad one moment, and an energetic, power-tango the next.

There are really only two negative things about this show, and neither is major enough to keep you away. First is the surprising amount of vulgarity that I wasn’t expecting; not only was there an F-bomb dropped, but there was more sex than a college comedy. So while it’s a great show to go to with your friends, it is definitely not one to go to with the family, unless you happen to do an act together called “the aristocrats.” The second negative has to do with the pacing, as the entire first act really just serves as a prelude to the second act. Of course, the movie was the same way, but for some reason in the show it just seems to take a long time.

So whether it’s big laughs, great songs, or a blast from the past you’re after, this is a show that delivers on all fronts. As the closing number (called, cutely, “Dirty Little Number”) says, “It was a ball, it was a blast, and it’s a shame it couldn’t last.”



CAROL ROSEGG

(top) Freddy Benson (D.B. Bonds) and Lawrence Jameson (Tom Hewitt) toast their dirty rotten selves.
(bottom) Freddy Benson (D.B. Bonds) is tempted and impressed by some “Real Big Stuff.”



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Joseph Cirincione
Senior Vice President, Center for American Progress

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Victor Reis
Office of the Secretary,
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Moderator: John Durant
MIT Museum

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ATOMS FOR HEALTH & WELFARE:
DIVERSE APPLICATIONS OF
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Moderator: David Kaiser
Program in Science, Technology and Society, MIT

Thursday, March 8, 2007 • 7pm in 32-141 (Note new location)

CAN NUCLEAR ENERGY AND
NON-PROLIFERATION CO-EXIST?

Geoff Forden
Science, Technology and Global Security Working Group, STS, MIT

Matthew Bunn
Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs, Harvard University

Marvin Miller
Center for International Studies, MIT

Moderator: Owen Cote
Center for International Studies, MIT

Thursday, March 15, 2007 • 7pm in 32-141 (Note new location)



The MIT Festival Jazz Ensemble played a concert entitled “The Music of Magali Souriau” last Friday, March 9 in Kresge Auditorium. In addition to composing a number of the pieces played on Friday, Souriau also guest-conducted most of the concert.

Clockwise from above:

Daniel E. Bickerstaff '09 plays guitar during “Herb de Provence,” named for and dedicated to the Festival Jazz Ensemble’s founder, Herb Pomeroy.

Shanker Raman '09 (left), Matthew J. Abrahamson G, and Collin E. Johnson '07 play the tenor saxophone,

bass trombone, and baritone saxophone, respectively.

Magali Souriau discusses her composition “Lady with the Hat” before the ensemble premieres it.

Pianist Matthew J. Rosario '10 plays during “All Baba,” also by Souriau.

Christopher N. Kottke G plays a flugelhorn as Souriau sings in “Herb de Provence.”

Daniel R. Hochbaum '09 plays a soprano saxophone solo during “Rockin’ in Rhythm” by Duke Ellington.

Photography by Omari Stephens



CAMPUS LIFE

Imminent Collapse

Naps of Our Fathers

By Bill Andrews
CAMPUS LIFE EDITOR

Sometimes, in life, you are faced with a great crisis. The forefathers of our country had to figure out on the fly how to invent a country, and they performed admirably. The greatest generation is famed for their resolve in the face of adversity and Nazis. Of course, these are pretty huge crises that we can't really compare our own lives to (at least, I certainly hope not), but there are, still, certain events that try our patience and reveal to the world just what we're made of. This past weekend was one such time for me, as I struggled to adapt to something all of us must endure: Daylight Saving Time.

For years I've harbored a mild grudge against the DST, as I think of it. Since I was born and raised on a tropical island (no, really), I never had to experience the pain and indignity of the DST until middle school. Talk about your rude awakenings (literally!). I still remember the conversation in which the whole idea was explained to me. "You mean," I said, a naive, but very cute, sixth grader, "people all pretend it's later than it really is,

just to make some farmers feel better about themselves?" (It wasn't really explained all that well to me.)

Still, for most of my life the DST was just another horn in the background traffic jam of life. One more inconvenience that wasn't horrible, just pretty darned annoying. I mean, you lose a whole hour of sleep! An entire hour, folks! I beg my alarm clock for just nine more minutes of blissful slumber every time I hit the snooze button; a whole hour is, like, 6 times that! (Okay, course XVIIIers, 6.667 times that.) How unfair life can be. And it isn't like gaining that hour back in the fall is at all worth it, I usually just waste it partying ("yeah! The DST's over, woo!").

But, like so many of life's pains and indignities, you just get used to it. With the coming of springtime and warmer weather, I knew that the DST was coming, and I'd resign myself to my fate. Mentally preparing myself for weeks,

I'd hardly flinch when the fated hour didn't come. I'd use Spring Break, my birthday, and Easter as stepping stones to the Big Day. It was getting so that a guy could finally come to terms with losing an hour of his life, never to get it back again.

Then I heard the news about this year, and my soul made the sound of ultimate suffering. (My fiancée was pretty scared for a second, but thank goodness she doesn't know anyone named Humperdink.) Not only did Congress fail to repeal the DST (as I'd been praying for them to do for years), they actually moved it up. Instead of losing an hour in the relative balm and calm of April, we now lose it in the lion-y wilderness of March. To quote the Internet, WTF mate?

While the reason given was something about saving money on electricity and fuel, and they probably threw terrorism in there just in case, I despaired and tried to fight the inevitable; alas,

my plan just wasn't crazy enough to work. We still had to face the DST this last weekend, and our lives are now the worse for it.

Surely I am not the only student@mit.edu who felt the DST's cold sting. From what I understand, the week we are currently in the midst of is no picnic for many of us, what with mid March being prime exam, multiple lab report, and crazy p-set time. It's as if we're being taunted by the US Congress, "Hey MIT, your lives aren't hard enough, we'll throw this on you too! Hahaha." Man, I hate politics.

Of course, life doesn't close a door without opening a window, and when life hands you lemons you're supposed to make lemonade. We must persevere together, as a nation, or at least as a school, and prove to the world that we can handle whatever curve balls life throws at us. We are the same people who ended slavery on a relative whim, and gave women the right to vote just as casually as we decided to impose an income tax. If we put our minds to it, we can succeed at this too! Sure it's tough, sure it'll be hard, but then, great crises so frequently are.

GDC 2007:

Games, Sex, and Rock n' Roll

By Eitan Glinert

This past week I took a break from *Lemmings* to travel to the mecca of gaming that is Game Developer's Conference. Held in San Francisco, GDC is five glorious days of informative lectures, frantic networking, and awesome previews for the members of the gaming industry.

Perhaps the biggest news from the conference was Sony's dual announcements of *Home* and *LittleBigPlanet*. Similar to *Second Life* in many ways, in *Home* users control a customizable avatar in a virtual world where they interact with other players (no word yet on whether you can play as a furry). You also own an apartment which you can decorate to your liking, as in *The Sims*. Don't like the wallpaper? Change it. Don't like the selection of wallpapers you can use? Buy premium wallpapers from the Sony store. In fact, that seems to be the crux of the service; the free stuff is nice, but if you want the really cool stuff, you're gonna have to pay.

So what's your motivation for using this service? Well, you can hang out with others in common spaces and play games, ranging from pool to old-school arcade games. You can

watch trailers for upcoming movies in Hi Def — though I do have to wonder how they will manage to display them without either requiring long download times or terrible buffering. But perhaps most compelling is your personal trophy room, which displays badges of honor you earn by accomplishing certain goals in PS3 games. Kill 10,000 zombies? That's a trophy! Get 5 stars on Jordan in expert mode? Trophy! Figure out what the ending of Metal Gear Solid 2 means? Trophy!

While a nice feature and a welcome addition, *Home* doesn't seem to be the killer app that Sony is looking for. But *LittleBigPlanet* just might be. Where *Home* fails to allow for user generated content, *LittleBigPlanet* shines. Less a game than a toolbox, *LBP* allows users to create their 2D platformer with 3D objects in a simple and straightforward way. Once created users can play through the levels they've made, and invite their friends along for the ride.

So why is *LBP* so impressive? Well, for one thing, the game looks beautiful. The textures in the game are vivid and lifelike, and evoke a "realistic" feeling. Furthermore, the user interface seems pretty clean — scroll through nested lists to select what you want to create,

then place them in the world using a lasso. But what is most impressive, in my opinion, is what was focused on the least: The game has realistic, working, soft body physics! In other words, users no longer have to settle for unsquishable-type bowling balls, they can now make Nerf balls. It's unclear to me why this point wasn't stressed more. I hope it was a question of the subject matter not fitting the audience, rather than the demo being a Wizard of Oz type "man-behind-a-curtain" thing, where the soft body physics are faked, and don't really work like in the demo.

While Sony's announcements were interesting, most exciting new demos came from the independent game sector. *fIOW*, a production from thatgamecompany, has a unique premise which evokes a feeling of relaxation while at the same time presenting compelling game play. Valve's new offering Portal has inspired gameplay in which the user can connect any two points using a novel "portal gun." This weapon is used to solve numerous puzzles, forcing players to rethink spatial layouts. In a similar vein, Sega's *Crush* is an exciting take on the traditional platformer; players alternate through a 3D landscape, which

they can "crush" (flatten) at any point into a 2D variant based on camera angle. This redefinition allows the user to traverse obstacles that would normally be impossible to get past. Sound cool? It is.

Unfortunately, not everything at the conference was quite as impressive. Beyond a cool new video of *Super Mario Galaxy*, Nintendo didn't really have any major announcements, though the company's creative director Shigeru Miyamoto did give a personal introspective keynote. Microsoft had even less news; in my five days at the conference I didn't hear anything too remarkable out of their camp (though I am incredibly excited for the upcoming release of Guitar Hero on the 360).

There were also several interesting lectures and events in the serious games field, regarding women in gaming, and about game accessibility. For more information on these subjects, take a look the recent posts at www.educationarcade.org.

Eitan Glinert is a graduate student involved with the Teacher Education Program and MIT's new Singapore Alliance lab GAMBIT. For more information, contact Eitan at glinert@mit.edu.

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Chicken A La Nuke

Or How I Learned to Stop Worrying and Love the Microwave

By Janet S. Lieberman

A lot of people make bad frozen food choices. I'm just trying to help prevent that.

Barber Foods

Barber Foods fascinates me. Really. As far as I can tell, Barber Foods does breaded chicken, and pretty much only breaded chicken. But they do it well, and inventively, somehow making an entire freezer section out of a niche market. Now, my mom warns me that their lean dishes are hit or miss, so I have avoided them. Specifically, she said they were okay but lackluster, with the exception of the Marco Polo, which is deadly. Their Chicken Kiev, however, is everything frozen food can hope to be. Dude: chicken, stuffed with butter. Like restaurant quality. Their cheese and broccoli stuffed chicken is almost as good, and has the added benefit of that sense of accomplishment that comes with being able to say "Why yes, I did eat vegetables today."

I've been way too satisfied with these two to try any of the other stuffed chicken options, but you're welcome to do so, and I give them better odds of being good than just about

any other unknown in the frozen food realm. They've recently removed the microwave instructions from the package, however, I suppose having something to do with the fact that the chicken starts out not entirely cooked. There are three or four steps to microwaving these, but it's definitely worth it, and I hereby record these steps for posterity: two minutes with the entrée upside down, one and a half minutes right side up, wait a minute, and then one minute again right side up. That's right — it's so good I have it memorized.

However, the masterminds at Barber foods don't stop at chicken encased entrees. I remember I had something with a ridiculous name like "Potato Chip Breaded Chicken Sticks: Honey Flavored" my freshman year, and that was way better than it had any right to be, though not quite as good as some of their other products. It wasn't even really a quality issue with the chicken sticks, but they didn't always microwave evenly. I just tried their Four Cheese Stuffed Chicken Nuggets, and they are my new favorites. Something about them looking like little chicken volcanoes with molten cheese in the middle really

appeals to me, so the added benefit of their actually tasting delicious is quite exciting.

Sundries

A few final notes that didn't seem to fit into any other category:

- Breakfast foods tend to be one of the categories which are harder to come by in college. Every once in a while someone, maybe even you, will make pancakes, but generally that's about it; even then, it's a little bland. Jones' Golden Brown precooked sausages work well as both an add-on to pancakes and as a breakfast on-the-go, and they're a really good breakfast-food-craving fix.
- Most dumplings don't work out quite right, because they're really not meant to be microwaved. Plus the sauces tend to be pretty bad, as well as hard to heat up and not enough for the quantity in the box. However, the shu-mai you can get at Trader Joe's tend to fare better.
- Quite a few of the good microwavable dishes are just meat, which is yummy, but not exactly balanced. I haven't dabbled much in the vegetable arena, but Green Giant Nibbles

Corn and Butter Sauce works pretty well as an add-on to a side dish. I would say a box probably can serve as a side dish for two people.

- Two things from Trader Joe's that even I couldn't finish: Trader Joe's Chicken Drumettes and some sort of buffalo chicken pasta triangle. One thing from Trader Joe's that was surprisingly good: Broccoli and Cheddar Quiche. Trader Joe's frozen dishes tend to follow the same rules as the more experimental Lean Cuisine's; they're more inventive, so they have the potential to be so much better, but also the potential to be so much worse. I wouldn't recommend doing your frozen food shopping there unless you're going the way of the true scientist, and are willing to try a few things and fail at a good number of them.
- In the not-actually-frozen category: Spaghetti-O's are just as good as you remember but Chef Boyardee is not.

We all have skills which go unused. Talents which lie fallow. Knowledge bases which we never find the venue to implement. Thank you for allowing me this forum to feel like my area of expertise just might have helped someone.

The Cambridge West Saferide:

On the Spatiotemporal Reasonability of Laws

By Danial Lashkari

On another freezing night in front of 84 Mass Ave, a crowd of exhausted students await the SafeRides, those hypothetical saviors from the long walk home in the extreme cold. Among these peoples, we are interested in the unlucky few waiting for the legendary Cambridge West, the one fated to be the latest, and by far, the most 'lawful' of all.

These Cambridge-Westerners look anxious and nervous: with their teeth chattering in the cold, they're counting each other and moving in peculiar ways, to optimize their positioning with respect to the possible stop location. Why? Because "the law" says that nobody can stand up in this particular SafeRide, so only the few blessed people to find seats can enjoy the ride back home, and the rest must watch the vacant-looking van leave.

Our fellow drivers devotedly carry on the task of not allowing any more than "the law" says, even if that involves having serious confrontations with some uncivilized students. Thus, it is extremely important for our frustrated friends to use all their engineering capabilities to find the right position, take their last supplies of energy to react properly to the arrival, push others if need be, and do their best to be among the few lucky people to get in. Such remarkable realizations of survival of

the fittest happen every freezing night, right around the corner: here, on MIT's campus.

There are many issues to study concerning this socio-transportational phenomenon, the most uninteresting of which is why it is impossible to have another vehicle for this route, especially when we know there are many more students trying to use it in the cold seasons. It is straightforward to see that there is not much money to be made here. Most of the Cambridge-Westerners are graduate students going home late at night; thus, the amount of energy or time they would save by getting a ride at that moment can't be used by MIT, and is thus deemed undesirable.

What is of our interest here is how, and under what conditions, laws have non-uniform space-time characteristics. For instance, consider the observation that this law applies only to the Cambridge West SafeRide, although the vehicles used for these routes don't seem significantly different. Or, consider the rather stochastic nature of another law: the size of the vehicles vary from night to night, completely independent of the number of people waiting. Moreover, there is evidence that the first law can sometimes be relaxed by certain drivers. The gifted reader recognizes the fact that all the aforementioned variations of "the law" are beyond interrogation, and gain their inherent legitimacy from the will of the au-

thority issuing them.

Likewise, if we consider the behavior of subjects under different spatial and temporal conditions, some other variations will be discovered. Take, for instance, the complaints received about "the law" that come solely from people living in west campus, and not from the east campus or Boston contingents. Moreover, the first group is more likely to try to ignore the rule, argue with the driver, and insist on getting on at certain times, such as when it is heavily raining, snowing, or there is a significant temperature drop. In order to explain all this, one should bear in mind the psychological instability of students' characters at the end of a possibly unfruitful, and frustrating day of research or problem-setting. That is why none such complaints received by MIT Facilities are worth being considered, and ultimately find their ways to the trash.

From the theoretical point of view, some have argued that under certain space-time conditions, when it seems intuitively more reasonable, or moral, it might be justifiable to alter the law in order to preserve what they call the "spirit of the law." Such people usually point to some inconvenient incidents which happen once in a while, when the poor student starts begging the driver to let him in, and in front of all the onlookers, his plea is rejected and he is kicked out. Another point usually

brought up is that only a small fraction of the many people waiting can actually get on, and when there is no means to determine who is to be among those lucky few, there is a possibility for tension and contention among the students.

It could, then, be argued that it might be possible, for the sake of mercy, to allow the transgression of the law under such circumstances, especially since almost everybody gets off at the first couple of stops. In response to such sentimental arguments, one should note that these sacred laws, sent to us for the common good, are not meant to be influenced by our morals or emotions. Thus, these claims are fundamentally invalid, and such variations in "the law" are forbidden.

Returning to our friends left behind by the SafeRide in front of 84 Mass. Ave. — there are ways to remedy their problem. First, they ought to distinguish between the legitimate and illegitimate alternations in the enforcement of law, and avoid requesting the forbidden ones. Secondly, they should adopt the following variation: instead of trying so hard to take Cambridge West to get home supposedly in 5 minutes, they can take half an hour each night touring the sights of west Boston with the Boston West SafeRide, which allows people to stand. This SafeRide passes Tang Hall at the end of its long journey back home!

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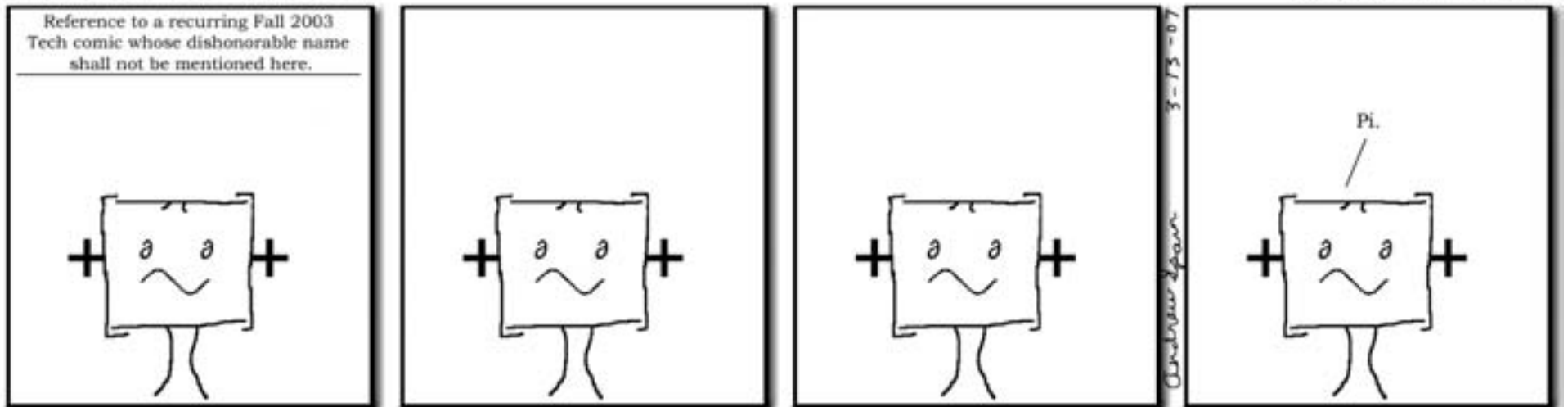
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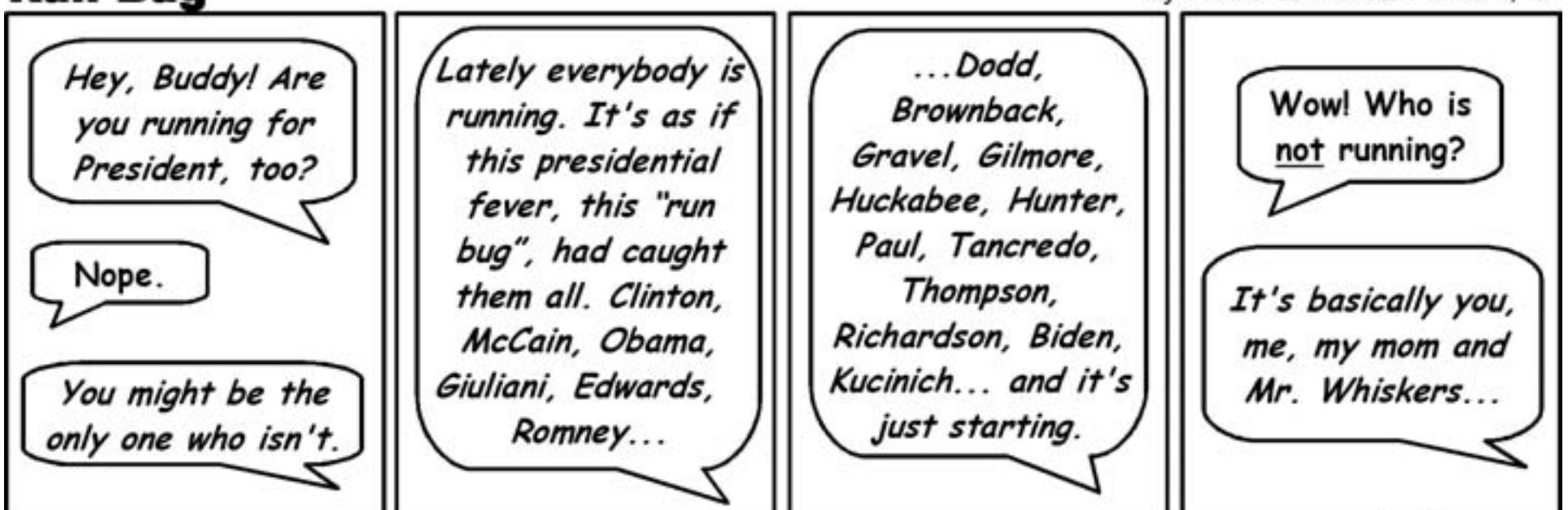
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by Andrew Spann



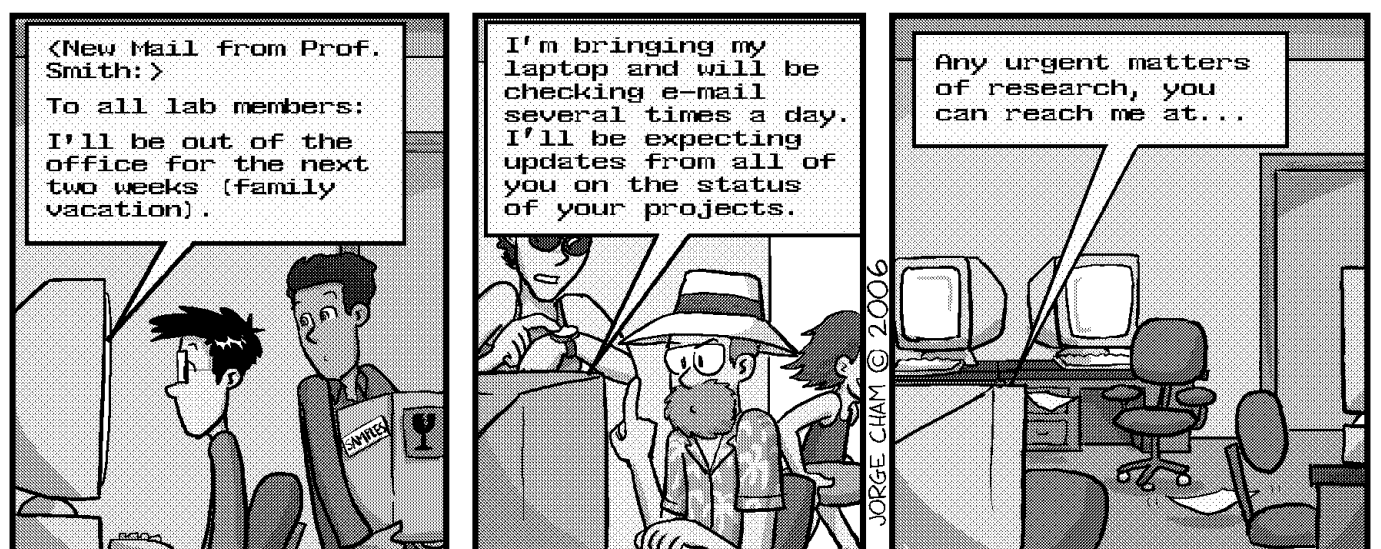
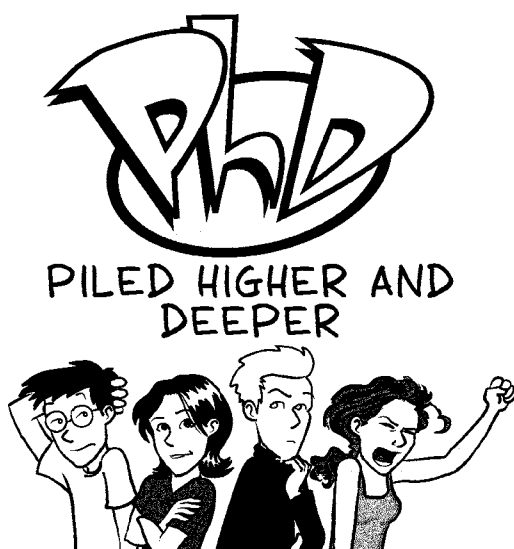
Run Bug

by Roberto Perez-Franco, G

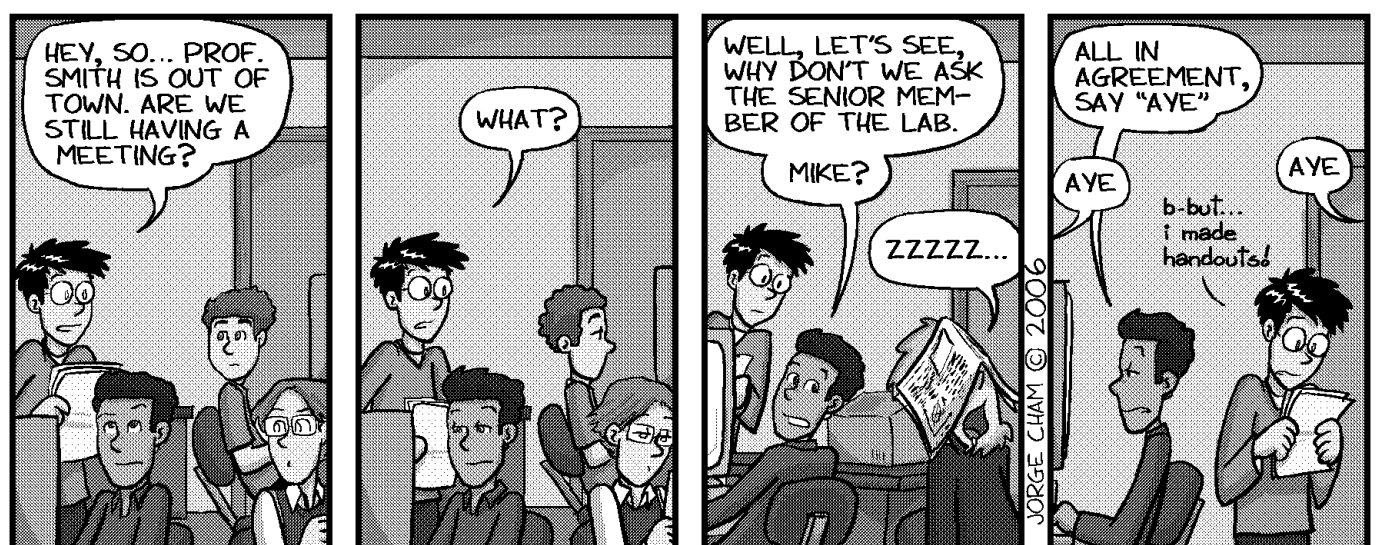
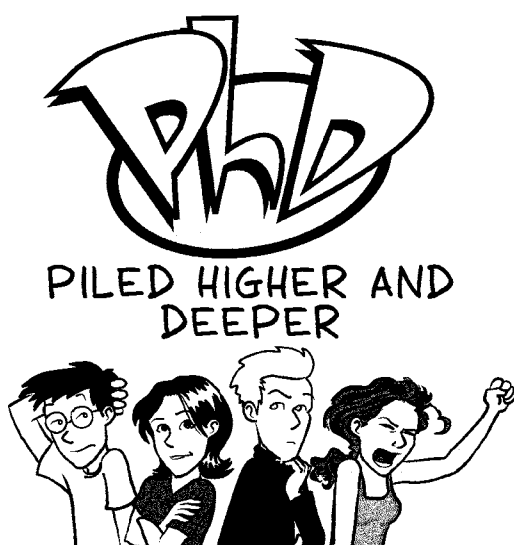


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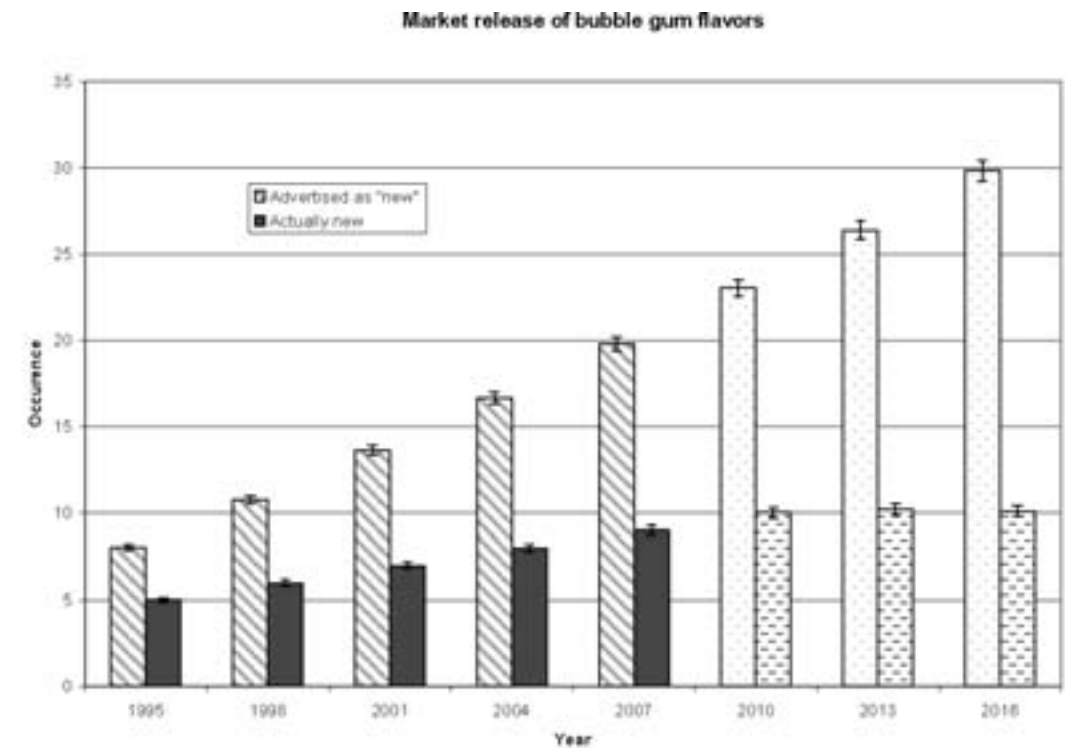


Figure 5. This graph shows the number of bubble gum flavors released in the last 12 years, and the projected data up to 2016. The solid bars represent actual new flavors, whereas the striped bars represent any package advertised with the words “new flavor”. The projected data (dotted and horizontally striped bars) were obtained from models developed at the American Dental Association. Notice that the variety of (actual) new flavors stagnates after 2010, but the number of flavors advertised as new continues to increase, which is, of course, absurd.

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 on page 12.

Solution, tips, and computer program at <http://www.sudoku.com>

Crossword Puzzle

Solution, page 14

Iran's Nuclear Vision Initially Glimpsed at Institute

By Farah Stockman
THE BOSTON GLOBE

The young Iranians arrived in Cambridge in the summer of 1975, part of a historic venture between their government and Massachusetts Institute of Technology to train the first generation of Iranian nuclear scientists. The program began as a symbol of friendship but quickly became a lesson in unintended consequences.

Four years later, the Shah of Iran fell, replaced by an Islamic theocracy that Washington considers an enemy to this day. The stunned students, who had expected to help the shah build a vast network of nuclear power plants, had to choose between America and Iran. Their decisions may have changed the course of history.

At least three have spent their careers building the Iranian nuclear program that Washington is now fervently trying to curtail, according to a *Globe* investigation that tracked down 28 of the program's 35 graduates.

One graduate — Mansour Haj Azim SM '77, remembered by classmates as quiet and studious — was a leader of Iran's nuclear program and, according to one widely cited report, the supervisor of a suspected weapons-related site.

Meanwhile, nearly two-thirds of the graduates are working in the United States, some of them in the US Nuclear Regulatory Commission and for American defense contractors.

Two of them died, one in a car crash in the United States and the other reportedly executed in Iran for forbidden political activity.

The story of the graduates offers a larger perspective on Iran's nuclear ambitions and America's looming nuclear standoff with Iran. The students arrived in Massachusetts at a time of great optimism about nuclear energy but grew to middle age amid fears of proliferation — particularly in their native country.

"It was a wonderful program," said Mohammad "Moe" Moghimi SM '77, who now lives in Newton and teaches at Middlesex Community College. Had history been different, he said, "We would have had five or six nuclear power plants functioning in Iran by now, or maybe more."

Today, Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice frequently questions why Iran would need nuclear reac-

tors when it has some of the largest oil reserves in the world.

But in 1974, US officials made the opposite argument, urging Iran to invest its windfall oil profits in expensive US nuclear technology, according to former MIT students and professors and letters found in the MIT and State Department archives.

"There was a push to say, 'Hey, now you have a lot of money but the oil is going to run out eventually. Why don't you build nuclear power plants?'" recalled Marvin M. Miller, a professor who taught some of the Iranian students.

Mohammad H. Kargarnovin SM '79, a graduate of the MIT program who now teaches mechanical engineering at Sharif University of Technology in Iran, recalled: "All of a sudden, the [Iranian] government decided to have nuclear power, so in order to operate things, they needed human power and they started to send students for education outside. We were told, 'You are responsible to take on this, to take the needle from zero to 100.'"

In March 1974, the shah announced plans to build more than 20 reactors — beginning with two at a site called Bushehr — arguing that they would cover domestic energy needs and free up oil for export.

The Nixon administration was so eager to help that it sent Dixy Lee Ray, the chairwoman of the US Atomic Energy Commission, to Tehran in May 1974 to offer up her agency as a "clearinghouse" for Iranian investments, according to a recently declassified State Department memo.

Ray's team "urged the Iranian side to get on with the job of site selection [for the reactors] as soon as possible," the memo said.

A few months later, MIT got a request from the shah for a large number of Iranian students to be accepted into the next year's nuclear engineering class — nearly doubling the size of the graduate program — recalled Edward Mason, then the head of the nuclear engineering department.

Mason said the US government had boundless optimism about nuclear power.

"US officials said one way to have peace [in the Middle East] was to put nuclear reactors there, raise people out of poverty, make the deserts bloom," he said. "The attitude then was much different than it is today

about the potential dangers of somebody diverting plutonium and making weapons. ... I taught a course in enrichment, reprocessing, fuel manufacture, and the like. We were teaching [the Iranian students] how to do it, as we were teaching people from all over the world."

Later that year, MIT agreed to admit the Iranian students for a three-year master's program in which they could get hands-on experience with MIT's research reactor.

In exchange, Iran would pay more than half a million dollars to cover the costs of extra professors and classroom space. The Iranian students also agreed to serve at least two years at the Atomic Energy Organization.

The deal was struck after the end of the regular admissions process, so MIT professor Kent F. Hansen flew to Tehran to select the students out of a group chosen by the Iranian government.

Their unusual admissions process, and Iran's hefty payments, sparked a debate on MIT's campus. A student referendum voted against the special program, and the issue was hotly debated at three faculty meetings.

Noam A. Chomsky, an outspoken opponent on the faculty, said in an interview that the program amounted to "leasing the nuclear engineering department to the shah in exchange for an unspecified amount of money."

Hansen, however, insists that MIT never relaxed its standards. Yet when the first students arrived on campus many were dismayed by the feeling that Iran had purchased their place.

"It was kind of discouraging because all of us thought we were the best in the country," said Farid Bamdad PhD '84, who now works at the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board in Washington. He said he studied even harder to prove that he deserved his spot at MIT.

That year, half of all faces were Iranian in many classrooms. But the students still struggled to adjust.

Six immediately switched to business school, Mason said. One dropped out after the first semester. But others stayed on, sometimes studying all night, attending monthly tea-and-cookie gatherings in the nuclear engineering department, and flying to Washington for occasional pep talks at the Iranian embassy.

Some students distinguished

themselves, like Roohollah Karimi ScD '80, who took a legendary load of classes, and Hashem Akbari SM '77, who was known for studying for hours.

Bamdad said some of his classmates mingled easily with Americans. A small group was more religious, keeping to themselves and taking the Red Line subway to a mosque in Quincy for Friday prayers.

By 1977, however, the program was foundering due to financial disputes. MIT's chancellor, Paul E. Gray ScD '60, kept sending bills for hundreds of thousands of dollars, according to records in MIT archives. The Iranian government — perhaps burdened by growing resistance to the shah's opulent rule — balked at the cost.

Nonetheless, more than a dozen Iranian students remained in Cambridge in February 1979 when the shah's regime collapsed, succeeded by revolutionary forces devoted to a long-exiled cleric, Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini.

The students, realizing that their lives were changing forever, debated the future among themselves.

"Some were more toward Islamic way of thinking — they were happy," recalled Moghimi. "The others were pro-shah. They were angry. These groups were having discussions all the time."

Many of the first wave of graduates had already gone back to Iran when the revolution occurred.

"A lot of us wanted to go back and marry an Iranian girl," said Moghimi, who recalled that he, Azim, Akbari, and Karimi were in Iran around that time.

Moghimi worked briefly at the Iranian Atomic Energy Organization, where he remembers scientists pouring millions of dollars into expensive, grandiose nuclear research that had few practical applications for either power or weaponry.

"They just wanted to show that they were big, that they were active in the area of nuclear research," he said.

As the political unrest grew, Moghimi decided to return to MIT to pursue a PhD. He got his visa two days before revolutionaries stormed the US embassy.

Karimi and Akbari — stars of their class — also grew dismayed with the chaos. Karimi changed his first name to Roy and moved to Maryland. Akbari went to California, where he is now a specialist in

alternative energy.

But Azim and another MIT student, Mohammad Zaker, stayed in Iran.

At first, their futures seemed dim. After the revolution, all the students got letters saying that their services were no longer needed. The shah's vision of a nuclear future was too Western for the new Islamic Republic.

The companies that had agreed to build reactors for the shah pulled out, and the US government used its diplomatic leverage to block all sales of nuclear technology. To make matters worse, war broke out with neighboring Iraq, whose forces bombed the still-incomplete Bush-eir reactors.

But in the early '80s — near the start of the eight-year war with Iraq — Iran began reconstituting its nuclear program. Azim and Zaker rose rapidly through the ranks. Zaker became head of a research reactor in Tehran. Azim became deputy director of the Atomic Energy Organization.

Soon, government officials began contacting the former MIT students in the United States, trying to persuade them to return. Bamdad said the Iranian government contacted his brother in Iran, demanding that Bamdad either repay his MIT tuition or serve out his two-year obligation to the Atomic Energy Organization. Bamdad didn't return.

Ali-Akbar Salehi, who earned his PhD from MIT in the late 1970s but was not part of the special program, approached several of the program's graduates in America about returning to Iran, Moghimi recalled. It is unclear how many took up the offer. Salehi also rose in the ranks, becoming Iran's representative to the International Atomic Energy Agency.

In 1982, Azim visited Moghimi in Boston and offered him a well-paid position in Iran, Moghimi said.

"He said 'We are going to complete Bushehr,'" Moghimi recalled. But Moghimi wasn't interested.

In the early 1990s, the CIA began declaring that Iran was developing a nuclear bomb. A frequently cited 1992 special report in a publication called *Mednews* named Azim as the supervisor of a secretive weapons-related research center near the Caspian Sea.

But Iranian officials denied any weapons ambitions. One senior official told Harvard University professor Richard Wilson that Iranian scientists were only "trying to continue what they started 25 years ago that they were encouraged to learn at MIT," Wilson said.

In 1992, Moghimi and Azim met again in Iran, and Moghimi asked his friend, point blank, whether Iran was developing a nuclear weapon.

"He said, 'No way. They are only nuclear power plants.' He said, 'If the Iranian government wanted to do that, it would be suicide,'" Moghimi recalled. "I believed him."

Now Moghimi is not so sure, as Iran insists on trying to enrich uranium — which could be used as fuel for nuclear power plants and nuclear weapons.

The last time the two men spoke was about three years ago. Although his friend didn't say it, Moghimi got the impression that Azim was restless. He asked Moghimi for a letter of invitation so he could visit the United States.

Moghimi sent one, but has not heard from Azim since.

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Julia Robinson
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Hilbert's 10th
Problem (1900):
is there an algorithm
(computer program)
for deciding whether
a polynomial equation
with integer coefficients
has an integer solution?

$$x^2 - (a^2 - 1)y^2 = 1$$

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winning documentaries.

Solution to Sudoku

from page 11

Contestants Agree on General Issues But Disagree on Methods

Debate, from Page 1

As in past years, a chunk of the debate was targeted at the UA itself, with candidates criticizing the UA's structure, accountability, and effectiveness.

Manmohan said the "structure [of the UA] isn't actually important." What matters, she said, are "changes you can see in your day-to-day life."

Holmes described the UA as ineffectual. "Right now, the UA is completely messed up," he said. The UA debates "for 20 minutes about the phrasing and wording of a certain bill," he said.

Kelch, however, was skeptical of candidates who criticize the UA. Kelch cautioned that people criticize the UA each year, but "only so that they can get elected ... they don't change it," he said.

Textbook pricing involved a more technical discussion, touching on the financial risks involved in bulk purchases of textbooks.

Holmes and Wyne proposed requiring professors to submit a list-

ing of required texts a month before classes. Oldja and Kelch, however, countered that a plan to reduce textbook costs was already being looked at by the UA. A requirement for professors to post textbooks online through the registrar is "in the office of the Dean of Undergraduate Education," said Oldja.

A series of small discussions also permeated the debate, as candidates shared similar goals with slightly differing methodologies.

Both Oldja/Kelch and Holmes/Wyne considered REX a priority. The candidate pairs wanted to increase REX time and work to decrease the administrative overhead involved in REX. Manisha and Funakoshi offered no position on the REX discussion.

ASA space constraints were considered a priority for the upcoming year, and all candidates were in favor of expanding student space on campus. "We need to make more space available," said Oldja. Manmohan and Funakoshi praised the new lockers in the reading room.

The candidates proposed a handful of methods to increase administrative transparency, wary of executive decrees that exclude student input (such as those involving Ash-down and dormitory renovations).

Holmes and Wyne proposed forming the Committee on Institute Communication and sending a UA representative to administration meetings. Oldja and Kelch argued that those responsibilities were already met by the Student Committee on Administrative Transparency and Relations.

The candidates also discussed MIT culture, cautioning against pressure from the administration to change traditions or restrict hacking. "We don't need administrators coming in and telling us what we're supposed to have," said Kelch. Holmes and Wyne concurred, considering protection of tradition to be the most important part of their platform. Manmohan and Funakoshi suggested the administration establish a single policy toward hacking and fines.

The Tech Interviews the UAP/VP Candidates, continued

Oldja/Kelch, from Page 1

perience in the UA. Kelch has served as a UA Senator and is the current Senate Speaker and Oldja is the current UA Treasurer.

Kelch cited committee apathy as a current negative aspect of the UA. "[Students] start out with a lot of great ideas, and as time moves on [they] drop from committees," Kelch said. "Our main push is accountability."

Due to their experiences in the UA, both candidates have a "very good understanding of what the jobs require," Oldja said.

When it comes to relations with the administration, Oldja and Kelch are set on bringing administrators and students together.

"It is important to inform the administrators of the student's wants ... ultimately, the administrators are the decision-makers," Oldja said.

"Members of the administration make an assumption as to what's best for students," which can be uninformed, Kelch said.

Reports from committees are also a key part of their plan to improve student-administration relations.

"It's very important to survey students and have some sort of reimbursement scheme ... like a live band ... or even pizza. A lot of people enjoyed having an event out of student input," Oldja said.

Manmohan/Funakoshi, from Page 1

to the UA, they bring a unique perspective to this council. "I feel that we can bring a lot of passion to this job," added Manmohan.

"We are more in tune with what the undergraduate population wants," said Funakoshi.

They also said they believe that the UA student representatives should work closely with the administration to "lay out all objectives and avoid misunderstandings."

Manmohan and Funakoshi said they are also concerned with decisions being made with little student input and knowledge of the situation.

"Often, we hear about administrative decisions after the fact," said Manmohan. "What's important is having meetings and discussions" to avoid the problem of administrators making decisions without student opinions being heard.

Holmes/Wyne, from Page 1

Holmes and Wyne feel that there is a "growing disconnect" between elected leaders and the students they represent. They hope to reconnect the representatives with the students by "putting a face on the UA."

"Over the past week and a half, I've met with so many people, members of fraternities, sororities, groups from east campus, west campus, just to clarify the views and establish our priorities," said Holmes.

The role of the UA and how it is viewed by students are also of concern to Holmes and Wyne. The UA is "dealing with a lot of bureaucratic issues that students don't really care about. I'd really like to turn the focus to students and make sure that the UA really does represent them," said Holmes.

Contacts within the administration are also crucial, according to Holmes and Wyne.

"I have a lot of contacts within the administration, ranging from the academic deans to the dean for student life," said Wyne.

Both Holmes and Wyne have experience in the UA and class councils and feel that their experiences as UA Senators for Macgregor and Burton Connor, respectively, will come in handy if they are elected. Familiarity with the job reflects dedication, they added.

Candidates For Class Council

Class of 2008

President	Hachem Alaoui Soce
	Phi T. Ho
	Spencer R. Sugimoto
Vice President	Peter A. Lamb
	Rajat Bhalla
	Prashant K. Dilwali
Treasurer	Qin (chen) Liu
Secretary	Christina S. Kang *
Publicity Chairs	Christopher A. Fematt and Jeffrey T. Kirby
Social Chairs	Connie C. Yeh and Stephen A. Steger

Class of 2009

President	Akash A. Chandawarkar
	Eugene Jang
	Vivian Tang
Vice President	Christine Chin
	Deepa Mokshagundam
	Wendy Wen
Treasurer	Angela L. Cantu
Secretary	TingTing Luo
Publicity Chairs	Arjun Naskar and Demario D. Dayton
Social Chairs	Tina P. Srivastava and Amirah Nabiyah Khan

Class of 2010

President	Jason A. Scott
Vice President	Laura H. Han
Treasurer	Wen Y. Tang
Secretary	Natasha Bosanac
Publicity Chairs	Crystal J. Mao and Tiffany T. Chu
Social Chairs	Steven H. Hong and Thomas W. Hay

SOURCE: UNDERGRADUATE ASSOCIATION ELECTION COMMISSION

Members of these classes may vote online at <http://vote.mit.edu> from Thursday, March 15 to Tuesday, March 20 and in person in Lobby 10 on Wednesday, March 21.

* Christina Kang is also a photographer for The Tech.

Vest to Be Commencement Speaker

Commencement, from Page 1

next chapter of his career in Washington, it is the perfect moment for him to share with our graduates his reflections on the role of MIT in the world," according to the press release.

Professor William E. Grimson, who chaired the Commencement Committee, said in the press release that "... Chuck Vest has much to say to our graduates, while the deep affection and respect that so many in this community have for him will make his appearance as our speaker all the more meaningful."

MIT's 141st commencement will be held in Killian Court on Friday, June 8, 2007.

—Marie Y.Thibault



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12:00 – 1:30pm
W20-CoffeeHouse (3rd Floor)

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If you can't come, email your comments and ideas to randolph@mit.edu

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FSILG Honor Roll

Fall 2006	Spring 2006	Fall 2005	Spring 2005	Fall 2004	Spring 2004	Fall 2003	Spring 2003
Theta Chi Sigma Kappa Kappa Alpha Theta Phi Beta Ep- silon Alpha Chi Omega pika Epsilon Theta Phi Kappa Theta Sigma Chi Zeta Beta Tau Phi Delta Theta Delta Psi (No. 6)	Sigma Phi Epsilon Kappa Alpha Theta Tau Epsilon Phi Zeta Beta Tau Sigma Nu Sigma Chi Sigma Kappa Theta Chi Phi Delta Theta pika Theta Xi Alpha Chi Omega	Theta Xi Kappa Alpha Theta Sigma Phi Epsilon Phi Delta Theta Sigma Kappa Alpha Phi Delta Upsilon Phi Sigma Kappa Tau Epsilon Phi Alpha Chi Omega Theta Chi Epsilon Theta Chi Phi	Student House Epsilon Theta Alpha Epsilon Pi Kappa Alpha Theta Alpha Epsilon Phi Sigma Nu Alpha Chi Omega Sigma Kappa pika Zeta Beta Tau Theta Xi Phi Delta Theta	Tau Epsilon Phi Fenway House Delta Psi (No. 6) Alpha Epsilon Pi Sigma Chi Theta Xi Phi Sigma Kappa Kappa Alpha Theta Alpha Epsilon Phi Alpha Chi Omega Chi Phi Student House	pika Alpha Epsilon Phi Sigma Chi Phi Sigma Kappa Sigma Nu Alpha Epsilon Pi Pi Lambda Phi Delta Psi (No. 6) Phi Delta Theta Delta Tau Delta Theta Xi Alpha Chi Omega Kappa Alpha Theta Sigma Kappa	Alpha Epsilon Phi Fenway House Kappa Alpha Theta Alpha Epsilon Pi Alpha Chi Omega Phi Delta Theta Phi Sigma Kappa Sigma Kappa Epsilon Theta Sigma Nu Delta Tau Delta Pi Lambda Phi Sigma Chi Tau Epsilon Phi	pika Alpha Epsilon Phi Alpha Epsilon Pi Sigma Chi Alpha Phi Phi Sigma Kappa Alpha Chi Omega Delta Psi (No. 6) Kappa Alpha Theta Theta Chi Fenway House Sigma Kappa Sigma Phi Epsilon

Grade Point Average								
Fall 2006	Spring 2006	Fall 2005	Spring 2005	Fall 2004	Spring 2004	Fall 2003	Spring 2003	
4.27	4.28	4.19	4.35	4.24	4.28	4.25	4.36	All FSILG
4.19	4.23	4.11	4.20	4.22	4.24	4.18	4.24	IFC
4.41	4.39	4.38	4.37	4.38	4.35	4.44	4.45	Panhel
4.36	4.36	4.08	4.41	4.25	4.29	4.32	4.39	LGC

SOURCE: KAYA MILLER, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF FSILGS

The FSILG Honor Roll lists the top one-third grade point averages of reporting Fraternities, Sororities, and Independent Living Groups. The averaged GPAs of members of each of these groups — All FSILG, InterFraternity Council, Panhellenic Association, and Living Group Council — are also listed. These GPAs are compiled every academic semester.

Email Outage Results in Delays For All

E-mail, from Page 1

“plum”) ran out of disk space. Schiller explained that IS&T receives daily reports about disk space usage, but in the aftermath of the po14 outage, “things have been a little hectic.” IS&T staff repaired the problem by 5:17 p.m., so the outage lasted about an hour and a half. Schiller said there were “no messages lost.”

Midnight Webmail failure

At least two of the six Webmail servers that support Web-based email access (<http://webmail.mit.edu>) failed around midnight Monday night, shortly before press time. The servers reported “database errors” to users, but the problems cleared up around 12:30 a.m. IS&T representatives were not available for comment.

Mail forwarding disabled

During po14’s outage, it was possible for affected users to forward new e-mail to other mail services, such as Gmail. The mail forwarding generally updates every four hours, but those updates were disabled very early Friday morning. As a result, users on po14 who set up mail forwarding by Thursday could have access to their new mail, but those who tried to set up forwarding after that were not successful. According to Schiller, the update “takes significant resources to process, so it probably would have done more harm to leave it enabled.”

The updates remained disabled through early afternoon Monday, well after the outage ended on Saturday. Schiller was not able to account for the delay.

Widespread delays

During and shortly after the po14 outage, the MIT mail system experienced delays that were visible to all users. Because the mail system was under heavy load as part of holding po14-bound mail, some other e-mail experienced multi-hour delays.

According to Schiller, IS&T focused on delivering on-campus mail, and the delays were primarily in mail originating from off-campus, which undergoes additional spam filtering and uses different servers than e-mail sent on-campus.

When asked if the system was engineered to handle the failure of a single post office mail server (such as po14) without impacting other e-mail, Schiller said “not for this long.” Schiller attributed some of the delays to the open source “sendmail” program, which handles queueing and delivery on most of MIT’s mail servers.

There are many competing alternatives to sendmail, both open source and commercial. Most alternatives are designed to perform more efficiently than sendmail. MIT has been using sendmail for decades.

The remaining three post office mail servers (po9, po11, and po12) have not experienced failures in several years.

Solution to Crossword

from page 11

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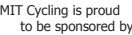
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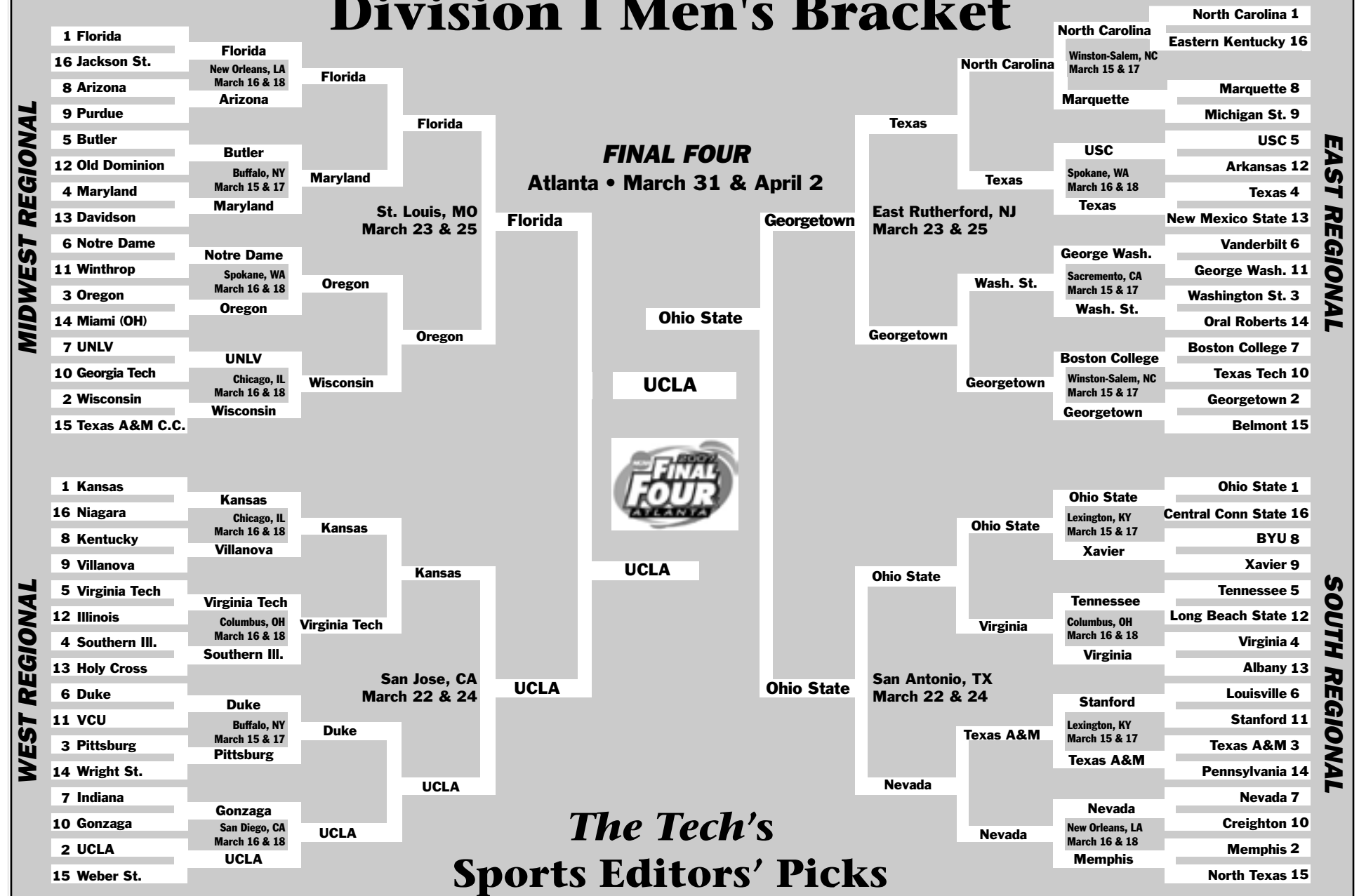
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SPORTS

Lacrosse Falls in Season Opener To Corsairs' Second Period Effort

James Zorich
STAFF WRITER

MIT men's lacrosse could not overcome six consecutive first-half goals by UMass-Dartmouth, falling

9-6 in its season-opener on Saturday at Jack Barry Field.

The Engineers (0-1) opened the scoring 5:01 into the first period when Jonathan P. Stolmeier '07 evaded a Corsair defender behind the net and found a streaking Thomas W. Hay '10, who converted a low shot for his first career goal. It would be MIT's only lead of the game, as UMass-Dartmouth (1-0) dominated ball possession for the rest of the half and surged to a 6-1 lead.

MIT had defeated the Corsairs each of the previous five years, but UMass-Dartmouth's rookies ensured that the streak did not continue. Fresh-

men Matt Leary and Andrew Foster had four points each to pace the Corsairs, who appear ready for a quick turnaround after finishing 4-12 in 2006.

Brennan P. Sherry G pulled the Engineers back into the game with two straight goals to make it 8-5 with four minutes remaining in the game. MIT appeared to have the momentum and continued to apply pressure in the offensive zone, but an errant backwards pass bounced all the way down the field and Foster was able to beat the defenders to the ball and knock it past Zachary E. Brewer '07 for another score.

Brewer collected 12 saves on the game, while his counterpart Steve Chase was particularly impressive for UMass-Dartmouth, making 16 stops. Chase's best save came with just over a minute left in the opening period. After a turnover in the middle of the

field, Sherry came in all alone, but Chase was able to get a shoulder in front of Sherry's high shot to preserve the Corsairs' 2-1 lead.

The second period proved to be decisive, as the Corsairs tightened up on defense and suffocated MIT's attackers. During the period MIT only managed two shots, compared to eight for UMass-Dartmouth, four of which found their way into the back of the net. For the game the Corsairs outshot the Engineers 23-17.

MIT squandered a golden opportunity to cut the deficit late in the first half after UMass-Dartmouth was called for consecutive penalties, leading to a two-man advantage for 30 seconds. Despite maintaining possession, the Engineers were not able to get any solid opportunities on net.

MIT continues its non-conference schedule Saturday, playing host to Salve Regina University at 2:00 p.m.

MIT Weighs in With Only 2 Wins in Dual Match Loss to Colby

By Kyle Atmore
and Caroline Huang

The 22nd-ranked MIT men's tennis team fell to unranked Colby College 7-2 in Sunday's dual match. Thomas H. Dohlman '07 earned a

point for the Engineers at first singles, while the second doubles team of Peden P. Nichols '09 and Mark D. Egan '07 recorded the lone doubles win.

Warm-ups began with an eerie quietness — the only sounds to be heard were the thrum of the fan and the thwack of serves being pounded. After warm-ups were over, the coaches introduced the players one by one. Oddly enough, the coaches also announced the players' weights, almost as if they were checking in for a wrestling competition instead of a tennis match.

The doubles matches initially looked promising for MIT (3-2), as Dohlman opened the competition with a service winner, leading to an easy MIT hold. Looking down the three doubles courts, the scorecards soon all read 1-0 in favor of MIT. Unfortunately, it was the last time the first and third doubles teams would lead against Colby (2-0).

The first doubles team of Dohlman and Eric A. Beren '08 fell down a break after Beren just missed a volley into the top of the net. That became the theme of the day for the team — both players would smack authoritative shots, only to miss the weak floaters their opponents returned. The two never recovered, eventually losing 8-4.

This was a sentiment echoed by the third doubles team, comprised of David E. Iba '09 and Melvin C. Makhni '07. Despite solid opportunities to convert break points, the players were unable to capitalize on these chances and also fell 8-4.

Nichols and Egan fared better than their teammates in the second doubles match, dominating from the outset. Through tireless hustle and patience in setting up points, the pair executed textbook doubles strategy to win the pro set 8-5.

During the singles matches, the atmosphere in the tennis bubble

came alive — spectators showed up for the first time, and quiet chatter broke out along the sidelines. Even the players and coaches got into the act; in particular, one vociferous Colby supporter yelled, "Yeah, Colby!" at least 50 times throughout the four-hour affair.

Dohlman continued his run of strong serving in his No. 1 singles match. Coupled with an excellent return game, he broke twice for an insurmountable 4-0 lead. He eventually won the uncontested set 6-2, but the second set proved much closer.

Opponent Brody Saunders took a two-game lead, but a shout from the sidelines to "keep the pressure on" spurred Dohlman to force a tiebreaker that he eventually won 7-4.

Beren and Peden also played great matches, although their efforts resulted in tight losses. Both players were like boomerangs that simply refused to go away: when Peden trailed 5-2 in both sets, he fought his way back to 5-4 before succumbing to Tim Futiriman's pressure by a score of 6-4, 6-4 in No. 4 singles. Beren displayed a similar fighting attitude, clawing his way back from a 4-5 deficit in the second set to lead 6-5. Ultimately, the two No. 2 singles players became deadlocked in a tiebreaker that ended in favor of the Mules' Bryn Brown, making the final match score 6-3, 7-6.

Egan was not so fortunate, as he was clearly unable to find his comfort zone against a worthy adversary, Zach Schuman, in third singles. Despite a steady cadence to his play in doubles, he was unable to find his rhythm in singles, losing 6-0, 6-1.

In No. 6 singles, Michael R. Price '08 lofted a beautiful lob in the second game to break back to 1-1, but the shot cost him his racquet strings. After replacing the broken racquet, he lost by a score of 6-4, 6-3 to Tom Gildersleeve. Manuel L. Rivera '10 had a similar result in fifth singles, except without the broken strings — he ended up on the wrong side of a 7-5, 6-1 defeat.

The Tech men return to competition against Tufts University on Friday, March 16 at 5:00 p.m.

Holbrook Wins NCAA Title in 3-Meter

Diving Champion Carries Tech Women to 20th-Place Finish in Nationals

By Jeff Lemieux
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF SPORTS INFORMATION

Doria M. Holbrook '08 became MIT's first national champion of the 2006-07 season on Saturday evening,

bringing the three-meter diving title back to Cambridge after winning the event with a cumulative finals score of 480.90.

Her efforts helped the Engineers vault into a 20th-place finish out of 52 scoring schools, equaling the team's highest national finish in 17 years.

Kenyon College won the event for the 21st time in convincing fashion — a return to form after Emory University took the crown the past two years. The Ladies secured the top spot with 538 points, well ahead of runner-up Amherst College, which finished with 320 points. Defending champion Emory rounded out the top three with a point-tally of 295, while Tech earned 46.

Holbrook entered the three-meter finals as the second seed, after her 475.20 in prelims was overshadowed by practice partner Kendall Swett's

new NCAA record 493.20. Swett, a junior at Tufts, had set the previous mark of 489.00 just last season as a member of Lake Forest College.

MIT's diving sensation was at her best in the finals, however, as she nailed all of her dives en route to the first-place finish, edging out Calvin College sophomore Erica Deur, who totaled 476.10 points. Deur, who won the one-meter competition on Friday, was voted Diver of the Championships. Swett finished fourth with 456.05 points in the finals.

It was Holbrook's second national championship in three-meter diving, as she also won the event in 2004-05, her freshman year. Having competed in the three-meter and one-meter competitions at the National Championships each year that she has been at MIT, she has earned All-America honors every time.

Katherine C. Thornton '07 also competed and earned points for the Engineers, rounding out her career in style with a 17:33.76 finish in the 1650-yard freestyle, good for 14th-place. She also earned six points with

an 11th-place finish in the 500-yard freestyle on Friday, marking the first time in her career that she earned points in two different events at the same NCAA Championships.

Head coach Dawn B. Gerken couldn't have been happier with the performances of her competitors, as they came through on the final day of the competition to earn a top-20 finish — one of the team's main goals entering the Championships.

"A top-20 finish was something that we were really aiming for," she said. "To earn that for this team makes the rest of the coaching staff and I just so proud of these two girls."

Gerken also couldn't hide her delight with the way Thornton concluded her MIT swimming career.

"It was a great way for her to go out," she noted. "She has done so much for this program over the course of her four years here, and we just couldn't be more happy and proud of her accomplishments. The fact that it was the first time that she's scored twice at the competition makes it a sweet way to end it."

Water Polo Dominates Bowdoin Tourney

By Analiese DiConti
TEAM MEMBER

The nationally-ranked No. 5 MIT women's water polo team crushed the competition this weekend at their first tournament of the season, winning all five of their games.

Lead by Christine E. Winiarz '07, who scored 20 goals over the course of the weekend, the Engineers swept the competition at Bowdoin College in Brunswick, Maine.

After a close opening game against Boston University that ended in a 5-3 win, MIT stepped it up to defeat Bowdoin College 10-2 and Bates College 12-1 on Saturday night.

Due to the withdrawal of the University of Vermont from the

league, MIT played Bowdoin College and Boston University for second matches the following day. The Engineers came back to beat Bowdoin again by a score of 8-2 and Boston University 11-1, a much larger victory margin than their earlier meeting.

Kristen L. Cook G and Analiese M. DiConti '10 contributed 10 goals each, while Lindsey R. Sheehan '07 and Aditi Nagaraj '10 scored three apiece. Goalie Kelly L. Cavazos '07 displayed a solid performance in holding her opponents to only nine goals the entire weekend. She was rewarded for her efforts with recognition as the North Atlantic Division Player of the Week.

The Engineers' performance earned them a number one seed for the Division Championship, which will be held on April 14-15 at Bow-

doin College. Their next game is against Boston College on March 21 at the Zesiger Center at 7:00 p.m.

UPCOMING HOME EVENTS

Tuesday, March 13, 2007

Men's Volleyball vs. Endicott College 7:00 p.m., Rockwell Cage

Thursday, March 15, 2007

Women's Lacrosse vs. Endicott College 5:00 p.m., Jack Barry Field

March Madness is here!

The Tech's picks and a blank bracket can be found on page 15.

DAVID TEMPLETON—THE TECH

Thomas H. Dohlman '07 makes a backhand-slice during his singles match on Sunday, March 11. The Engineers took on Colby College at the Carr Indoor Tennis Facility.