



DMITRY KASHLEV—THE TECH

MIT men's varsity swim team displays their high adrenaline levels outside the Student Center during their annual Speedo Run down the Infinite Corridor. They will face their toughest rivals at the New England Women's and Men's Athletic Conference championship at Wheaton College this weekend.

Wikipedia Citations Banned at Middlebury

By Noam Cohen
THE NEW YORK TIMES

When half a dozen students in Neil Waters' Japanese history class at Middlebury College asserted on exams that the Jesuits supported the Shimabara Rebellion in 17th-century Japan, he knew something was wrong. The Jesuits were in "no position to aid a revolution," he said; the few of them in Japan were in hiding.

He figured out the problem soon enough. The obscure, though incorrect, information was from Wikipedia, the collaborative online encyclopedia, and the students had picked it up cramming for his exam.

Waters and other professors in the history department had begun noticing about a year ago that students were citing Wikipedia as a source in their papers. When confronted, many would say that their high school teachers had allowed the practice.

But the errors on the Japanese history test last semester were the last straw. At Waters' urging, the Middlebury history department notified its students this month that Wikipedia could not be cited in papers or exams, and that students could not "point to Wikipedia or any similar source that may appear in the future to escape the consequences of errors."

With the move, Middlebury, in Vermont, jumped into a growing debate within journalism, the law and academia over what respect, if any, to give Wikipedia articles, written by hundreds of volunteers and subject to mistakes and sometimes deliberate falsehoods. Wikipedia itself has restricted the editing of some subjects, mostly because of repeated vandalism

Wikipedia, Page 12

Used Grease to Power Shuttles

Biodiesel@MIT in Top 10 For mtvU, GE Ecomagination Challenge

By Kristina M. Holton

Imagine the oil from French fries being converted into the fuel that feeds an MIT SafeRide shuttle.

Feature Biodiesel@MIT proposes to do just that: convert MIT's abundant supply of used vegetable oil (UVO) into processed biodiesel for campus transportation.

The seminar-inspired brainchild of Joseph Roy-Mayhew '08, Biodiesel@MIT has gained national acclaim through an mtvU and General Electric energy contest to make college campuses "greener." The student group hopes to begin implementation in April, as long as

they acquire funding.

Potential biodiesel converts include the new Tech Shuttle and Northwest Shuttle, which together use 11,000 gallons of fuel per year as reported in Biodiesel@MIT's proposal to mtvU and sponsors.

In their proposal, Biodiesel@MIT claims that biodiesel produces 68 percent less carbon dioxide than petroleum-based diesel and eliminates sulfur dioxide emissions. Nitrogen oxide emissions, however, increase by 4 percent. The net result is a greener, cleaner, more environmentally-friendly fuel to add to the nation's alternative energy regimen. Although biodiesel fuel has been implemented elsewhere in the na-

tion, Zedler said that MIT's group has a unique take compared to other colleges: using solar panels to power the bioprocessor that will convert UVO into fuel.

The project has a four-year payback period to cover the initial investment, and when fully implemented, "switching to biodiesel would save MIT \$1 per gallon of diesel," Roy-Mayhew said.

A Course X-B major, Roy-Mayhew participated in the Independent Activities Period seminar Climate in Cambridge in 2006 (11.180). With fellow MIT student Elizabeth R. Ricker '07 and two Wellesley

Biodiesel, Page 14

Francis E. Low

MIT NEWS OFFICE

Francis E. Low, a retired MIT physicist and provost who worked on the Manhattan Project, died of heart failure on Feb. 16 at a retirement home in Haverford, Pa. He was 85.

"Francis was a hero of the physics department," said current Department Head Marc A. Kastner. "His theoretical ideas shaped much of modern particle physics as well as condensed matter physics, and he was a wise, generous colleague who helped many of us when we were starting our careers at MIT."

Low described his teaching and interactions with students as highlights in his long career. His former students include Alan Guth PhD '72, the Victor F. Weisskopf professor of physics at MIT; Mitchell J. Feigenbaum PhD '70, Toyota professor of mathematical physics, The Rockefeller University; and Susan N. Coppersmith '78, professor of physics, University of Wisconsin-Madison.

Low joined MIT's physics department in 1957 and served as provost from 1980 to 1985. During that time, he encouraged a prominent role for the humanities in MIT's curriculum. He was also proud that MIT became affiliated with the Whitehead Institute for Biomedical Research during his tenure as provost, according to his daughter, Margaret Low Smith.

Before becoming provost, he directed MIT's Center for Theoretical Physics and the Laboratory for Nuclear Science. An Institute Professor, he retired from MIT in 1991 but continued to teach physics for a few more years.

In 1969, he became a founding member of the Union of Concerned Scientists. He served as chair for a short period but stepped down over

Low, Page 14

Faculty Discuss Hackers, Education

By Benjamin P. Gleitzman

NEWS EDITOR

Administrators are working with the district attorney's office to seek a means of moving the felony trials involving three MIT students out of the Cambridge court system to an internal Committee on Discipline process, according to Chancellor Phillip L. Clay PhD '75.

The students are facing charges including trespassing and breaking and entering with intent to commit a felony for an incident that took place at the E52 Faculty Club in late October.

Harold Abelson PhD '73, professor of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science, raised the issue at the faculty meeting on Wednesday to determine "what MIT is planning to do now."

In an e-mail, Abelson wrote, "I think that there was a lapse in MIT procedures that resulted in this case getting so far along without the top administration knowing about it."

The decision to move to dismiss the case was prompted following "discussions among various concerned MIT administration and faculty personnel," according to Clay. A meeting was held Wednesday morning to review the case and determine what the next steps will be.

The motion hearing is currently scheduled for 9 a.m. on Feb. 28 at the Middlesex County Cambridge district court.

Task force, global education

Reports on the Presidential Task

Faculty Meeting, Page 15



KRISTINA M. HOLTON

Racquel Armstong of Wellesley College performs "Untitled" during Pulse: Shades of Black last Sunday, Feb. 18. Pulse is a show that "aims to break down stereotypes and promote more interaction with the MIT community through a collaborative effort for Black History Month," according to the show's Web site.

NEWS

MedLinks, President Hockfield, others can be bought at tonight's charity dating auction

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Scarlett Johansson makes an appearance at Harvard

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WORLD & NATION

South African Official in AIDS Controversy Is Hospitalized

By Michael Wines

THE NEW YORK TIMES

JOHANNESBURG, SOUTH AFRICA

Dr. Manto Tshabalala-Msimang, the South African minister of health whose promotion of garlic and beetroot as protection against AIDS came to symbolize her nation's slow response to the HIV epidemic, is in a Johannesburg hospital with severe anemia and a lung infection, the government said Thursday.

Tshabalala-Msimang, 66, was hospitalized for three weeks in October for an unspecified lung infection and had returned to her post full-time only last month. Her readmission, on Tuesday evening, followed an appearance at a press briefing last week in which she appeared weak and sometimes disoriented.

A spokesman for the Health Ministry, Sibani Mngadi, said in a telephone interview that Tshabalala-Msimang was suffering from anemia and residual pleural effusion, a condition in which fluid accumulates in the lining of the lungs and inhibits breathing. He said it was not clear how long she would be hospitalized.

The government has released no further information on her condition, but Mngadi said her physicians would issue a written statement on Friday.

Bush Makes His Pitch For A Land of Home-Grown Energy

By Edmund L. Andrews

THE NEW YORK TIMES

FRANKLINTON, N.C.

President Bush put on a white coat and visited a laboratory here Thursday to promote his goals for making alternative fuels from switch grass, woodchips and other plant waste.

After touring the laboratory, which is developing enzymes to make cellulosic ethanol — fuel distilled from plant byproducts — Bush spoke buoyantly about new technologies that may reduce the nation's thirst for foreign oil.

"It's an exciting time to think about" agriculturally produced fuels, he said. "Farmers not only are going to grow what we need to eat" but will also "grow what we need to run our automobiles," the president told an audience at Novozymes North America, the subsidiary of a Danish technology company.

After listening to company executives describe the role of enzymes in reducing the cost of ethanol, Bush jumped in to ask a layman's question: "So is this like a distillery?"

Cleaning Executives Indicted In \$18 Million Fraud

By Libby Sander

THE NEW YORK TIMES

CHICAGO

Three executives of a national cleaning and maintenance company were indicted Thursday on charges of defrauding the federal government of more than \$18 million in employment taxes owed on behalf of hundreds of illegal immigrant workers.

The company, Rosenbaum-Cunningham International, performed janitorial services for theme-restaurant chains like the House of Blues, Hard Rock Cafe and Dave & Busters, as well as for the Grand Traverse Resort and Spa in Acme, Mich.

Nearly 200 immigrant workers at some of the restaurants were arrested early Thursday in 17 states and the District of Columbia as part of the investigation of the company, which is being conducted by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement and the Internal Revenue Service.

The indictment says the executives hired illegal immigrants, primarily from Mexico, Honduras and Guatemala, and then constructed an elaborate scheme of shell companies, bank accounts and cash-only payroll procedures to avoid paying millions of dollars in federal taxes on the workers' wages from 1999 until today.

Iran Expands Nuclear Effort In Defiance of United Nations

By David E. Sanger and William J. Broad

THE NEW YORK TIMES

WASHINGTON

In open defiance of the United Nations, Iran is steadily expanding its efforts to enrich uranium, the International Atomic Energy Agency reported Thursday.

In response, the Bush administration immediately pressed for more severe sanctions against the country, at a moment of greatly increased tensions between Washington and Tehran.

In a mild surprise to outside experts, the nuclear agency reported that Iran was now operating or about to switch on roughly 1,000 centrifuges, the high-speed devices that enrich uranium, at its nuclear facility at Natanz.

"They are very serious," said David Albright, a former inspector who is now president of the Institute for Science and International Security, a private nuclear study group. "They are installing faster than was commonly expected."

Coming on the heels of the Bush administration's accusations that Iran's Quds force, an elite covert branch of Iran's military, is sending deadly bombs and other weapons into Iraq, the report heightens what has become a growing confrontation.

Since the last IAEA assessment of Iran's progress, President Bush has ordered a second aircraft carrier group into waters within striking distance of Iran, an unsubtle reminder that, if diplomacy fails, Bush could order a strike on Iran's nuclear facilities. But senior administration officials have insisted in recent days that the show of military force is intended only to remind Iran of Washington's options, and they have dismissed the idea that Bush is considering any attack.

On Thursday, administration officials said they hoping to use the IAEA's conclusions to return to the Security Council for approval of deeper sanctions, and they said the United States would work outside of the Security Council to persuade banks around the world to cut off

more lending and export credits to Iran, in hopes of further damaging its oil infrastructure. Undersecretary of State R. Nicholas Burns will travel to London on Monday to begin that process, meeting with the permanent five members of the Security Council and Germany to talk about tougher sanctions.

While Russia and China agreed to the December resolution, which required the inspectors to report back on Iran's compliance within 60 days, they indicated at the time that they were unwilling to escalate the penalties.

The report appeared to confirm that the Iranian government is somewhat behind schedule in its nuclear ambitions: it boasted a year ago of plans to have roughly 3,000 centrifuges up and running by about now. But the 1,000 that it has nearly ready to run is still more than most outside experts believed it had available. If the country could operate 3,000 centrifuges continuously for a year, it could produce about one weapon's worth of highly enriched uranium.

Venezuelan Aid to Bolivia May Surpass \$120 Million From US

By Simon Romero

THE NEW YORK TIMES

LA PAZ, BOLIVIA

To understand Venezuela's growing influence here, consider that more than two dozen ambassadors are in this capital city, including those of Bolivia's leading trading partners like Brazil, the United States and Argentina. Yet none enjoy the direct conduit that the Venezuelan ambassador, Julio Montes, has established with President Evo Morales.

Montes often accompanies Morales on domestic and international trips on executive jets provided by Venezuela's national oil company, say officials who have seen them traveling together. On many days Montes, who arrived in La Paz a year ago, can be found at the presidential palace huddled in meetings with Morales or the president's top aides.

Since Morales became president little more than a year ago, Venezu-

ela has quickly come to rival the United States as Bolivia's main patron. It has provided assistance for the army, cattle ranches, soybean cultivation, microfinance projects, urban sanitation companies and the oil industry.

Perhaps most important to Washington, despite its opposition, Venezuelan financial assistance has helped Bolivia push ahead with plans to increase exports of its industrial production of coca, the main ingredient in cocaine.

The coca financing plan has helped Venezuela accomplish one of its foreign policy goals: limiting the regional influence of the United States, which for years has provided Bolivia with millions of dollars in aid in an effort to curb coca production. The United States recently cut its drug enforcement aid to Bolivia by about 25 percent, to \$33.8 million, after Morales acknowledged that the size of the country's coca-growing areas were about double

official estimates.

A senior U.S. official here, speaking anonymously out of concern that Bolivia's already fragile relations with the United States could erode further, said it was difficult to know the exact amount of Venezuelan aid because many of the agreements between Venezuela and Bolivia were not made public.

Citing Morales' efforts to assert greater government control over the energy industry and to rush a military agreement with Venezuela through the Bolivian Congress, the U.S. official said, "It is clear that Venezuela has strongly influenced policy in Bolivia."

Analysts who have reviewed the various Venezuelan assistance projects say the total may surpass the \$120 million in anti-drug and humanitarian assistance from the United States, which made Bolivia one of the largest recipients in the world of aid from Washington per capita.

WEATHER

Winter, Act III

Jon Moskaitis

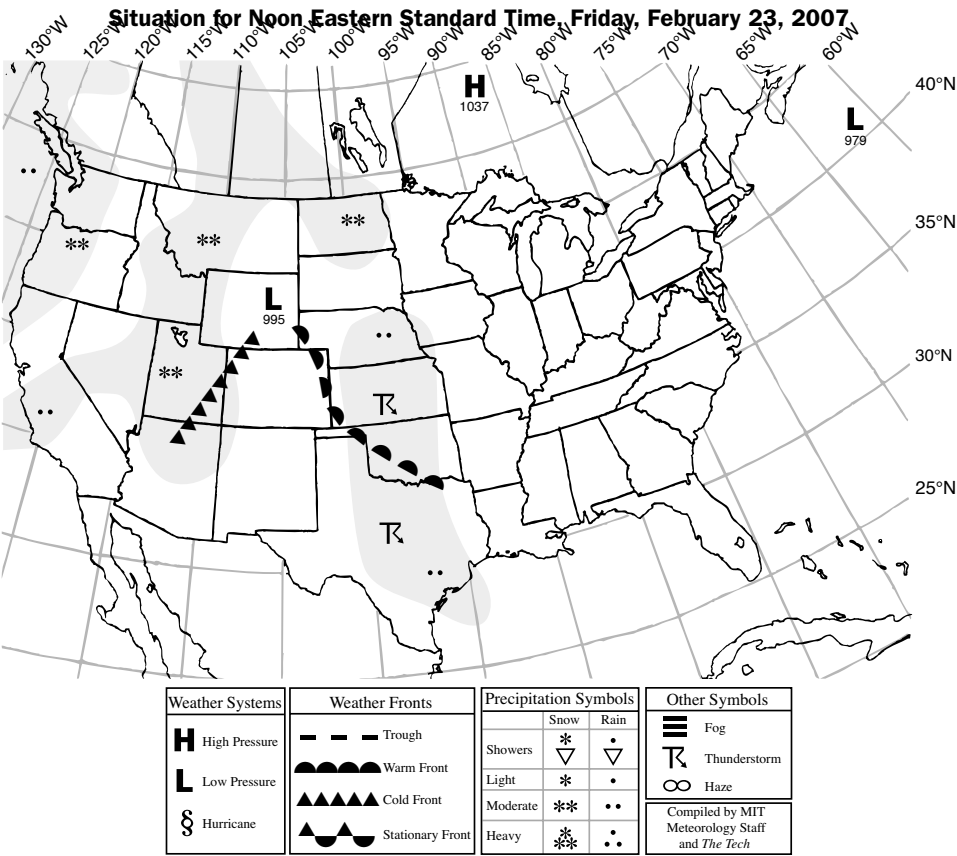
STAFF METEOROLOGIST

The bitterly cold President's Day earlier this week appears to be the final gasp of the cold weather regime we had been stuck in for almost five weeks. During that period the mean temperature in Boston was 6.6°F (3.7°C) below the climatological average. This cold regime was preceded by a warm regime of just over five weeks, in which the mean temperature was 10.0°F (5.6°C) above the climatological average. Now, it appears that we are settling into a flow pattern conducive to temperature variations about the climatological average, rather than persistent warmth or cold.

In the short term, we will get a shot of cold air today and tomorrow, on northwesterly flow behind the storm system that passed the region last night. Temperatures moderate for a rather pleasant day on Sunday, before a weak storm approaches us on Monday. This storm is likely to bring some precipitation to the area, but it is too early to tell whether it will be in frozen or liquid form.

Extended Forecast

Today: Windy, with gradually clearing skies. High 29°F (-2°C).
Tonight: Cold and windy. Low 11°F (-12°C).
Tomorrow: Sunny, but chilly and windy. High 27°F (-3°C).
Tomorrow night: Clear, breezy. Low 20°F (-7°C).
Sunday: Sunny. High 39°F (4°C).
Monday: Snow and rain likely. High 37°F (3°C).



Microsoft Loses Patent Dispute Over MP3 Digital File Format

By Saul Hansell
THE NEW YORK TIMES

Microsoft was ordered by a federal jury Thursday to pay \$1.52 billion in a patent dispute over the MP3 digital file format, the technology at the heart of the digital music boom.

If upheld on appeal, it would be the largest patent judgment on record.

The ruling, in U.S. District Court in San Diego, was a victory for Alcatel-Lucent, the networking equipment company. Its forebears include Bell Laboratories, which was involved in the development of MP3 almost two decades ago.

At issue is the way the Windows Media Player software from Microsoft plays audio files using MP3, the most common method of distributing music on the Internet. If the ruling stands,

Apple and hundreds of other companies that make products that play MP3 files, including portable players, computers and software, could also face demands to pay royalties to Alcatel.

Microsoft and others have licensed MP3 — not from Alcatel-Lucent, but from a consortium led by the Fraunhofer Institute, a large German research organization that was involved, along with the French electronics company Thomson and Bell Labs, in the format's development.

The current case turns on two patents that Alcatel claims were developed by Bell Labs before it joined with Fraunhofer to develop MP3.

"Intellectual property is a core asset of the company," said Joan Campion, a spokeswoman for Alcatel-Lucent. "We will continue to protect and

defend that asset."

Thomas W. Burt, the deputy general counsel of Microsoft, said the company would most likely petition the judge in the San Diego case, Rudi M. Brewster, to set aside or reduce the judgment. If she does not, Microsoft will probably take the case to the federal appeals court in Washington, which hears patent cases.

Microsoft argued that one patent in question did not apply to its MP3 software and that the other was included in the Fraunhofer software that it paid to license. Moreover, it argued that the damages sought by Alcatel were unreasonably high, pointing out that it paid Thomson, which represented the consortium in its dealings over the patent, a flat \$16 million fee for the rights to the MP3 software.

White House Says That New Hedge Fund Regulations Are Unnecessary

By Stephen Labaton
THE NEW YORK TIMES

WASHINGTON

The Bush administration and senior regulators said Thursday that there was no need for new regulations that would make the rapidly growing hedge fund industry more transparent or subject to greater oversight, or to protect the financial system from the collapse of a large fund company.

Market discipline and risk awareness, the regulators said, will best protect investors and the economy from any problems in the hedge fund industry.

To that end, the administration and the regulators proposed that

investors, hedge fund companies and their lenders adopt nonbinding guidelines that they said could make the hedge fund companies more transparent and their investors and creditors more vigilant to shady operators and excessive risk-takers.

Thursday's decision, which followed months of study by a presidential working group, reflected both the strong anti-regulatory philosophy of the administration and the formidable new clout and influence of the wealthy hedge fund industry. Three of the major economic policymakers in Washington — Treasury Secretary Henry M. Paulson, Treasury Undersecretary Robert K. Steel and White House chief of staff

Joshua Bolton — are all alumni of Goldman Sachs, which in the last decade has evolved into perhaps the most significant player in the private equities market.

The explosive growth of hedge funds into an industry with more than \$1 trillion in assets has made them an icon in popular culture, a huge source of philanthropy to the nation's museums and orchestras, and a major new force in political campaigns. Millions of Americans do not qualify to make investments in the funds, which are pools of largely unregulated assets, but they are unknowingly exposed to the risks associated with hedge funds through their pension and retirement accounts.

Boston Police Will Destroy Pepper-Spray Guns

By Katie Zezima
THE NEW YORK TIMES

BOSTON

More than two years after a pepper-spray pellet fired from a police officer's gun killed a college student as a crowd gathered outside Fenway Park to celebrate a Red Sox victory, the Boston Police Department has said it will destroy the pellet weapons.

The police department stopped using its 13 pepper-spray guns immediately after a shot fired from one of them killed the Emerson College student, Victoria Snelgrove, 21, of East Bridgewater, Mass., in October 2004. The police were using the weapons to disperse a crowd that formed outside Fenway Park after the Red Sox won the American League Championship. Snelgrove was struck in the eye with a pellet while standing on the sidewalk and waiting for the crowd to clear so that she could get her car from a garage.

Elaine Driscoll, a Boston police spokeswoman, said the weapons, FN303 pellet guns, will be shipped to a facility where they will be melted down and fashioned into sewer caps.

"The FN303s have basically been sitting in a locker collecting dust," Driscoll said. "The guns were touted as nonlethal, but for us that certainly was not the case. We have no intention of using those in a large crowd situation or any situation for that matter."

Britain's Prince Harry Will Go on Active Duty in Iraq

By Alan Cowell
THE NEW YORK TIMES

LONDON

Britain made headlines on Wednesday by saying it would bring some troops home from southern Iraq. On Thursday, it made even more waves here by saying it would send one soldier in the opposite direction: Prince Harry, second son of Prince Charles and the late Diana, Princess of Wales, and third in line to the throne.

Apart from being known as something of a playboy prince, Harry, 22, is a soldier, a second lieutenant in the upper-crust Blues and Royals Regiment of the Household Cavalry, who graduated from the Sandhurst military academy last year. Despite fears among his official handlers that he would be a "bullet magnet" in Iraq, he has long insisted that he would not countenance the idea of the soldiers under his command in an armored reconnaissance unit going without him.

"There's no way I'm going to put myself through Sandhurst, and then sit on my arse back home while my boys are out fighting for their country," he once told a television interviewer.

On Thursday, he got his wish.

"His Royal Highness Prince Harry will deploy to Iraq later this year," the Defense Ministry and the prince's own office announced jointly in a statement that clearly reflected his superiors' worries that his presence could draw fire on him and those serving with him.

Coop Student Board Election Update

The following student Coop members have been nominated by the Coop Stockholders as candidates for the Board of Directors for the 2007-08 academic year.

HARVARD UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS:

- Margaret (Maggie) Hsu 2008
- Pierpoalo Barbieri 2009
- Jenny Tea 2008
- Ronald Anguas 2008
- Timothy Smith 2008

M.I.T. UNDERGRADUATE AND GRADUATE STUDENTS:

- Rebecca Oman 2008
- Karlen Ruleman 2008
- Kevin Castelo Sloan School 2008

HARVARD GRADUATE STUDENTS:

- Dan Bachner HLS 2008
- Manas Kaushik SPH 2008
- Lulu Wang GSAS/DMS 2011



[HTTP://www.thecoop.com](http://www.thecoop.com)

For Information call or email:
Allan Powell, 617-499-2025,
aepowell@thecoop.com

Any student Coop member may still petition to be on the ballot. Petition papers are available at the customer service desks at all Coop locations or at the Members Services Office, 4th floor, Harvard Square Bookstore. Petitions must be returned by 5:00 p.m., Tuesday, February 27, 2007.

OPINION

Going Too Far

Upon finding a group of hackers in the MIT Faculty Club after hours last October, the campus police reacted by filing charges of felony breaking and entering against the students. In the

Editorial

subsequent four months, MIT's administration has remained callously uninvolved in the situation. Not only is the police's Draconian reaction to a minor infringement by members of our own community wholly unjustified, but the administration's lack of response to the charges is deplorable.

For the MIT police to charge three MIT students who were found exploring after hours indicates a fundamental misunderstanding of their mission: to provide a police presence that is suitable for our community. Given the well-established tradition of hacking at the Institute, the appearance of students in restricted areas of campus should not raise the same level of alarm as finding a group of random people in those same locations. This long-standing community standard was formally enshrined in a policy instituted last year that outlines a procedure for handling such incidents entirely within MIT, enforcing community service as punishment for students caught wandering where they shouldn't. That the MIT Police completely ignored this policy indicates a lack of respect for the student body.

What is particularly alarming is the severity of the charges being leveled, particularly given the circumstances in which the student were caught. There are serious questions as to whether the students are actually guilty of breaking and entering, given their testimony that they simply took the elevator to the Faculty Club without having to bypass any restrictions. It is also important to note that it is ultimately MIT's decision to declare whether

or not students are allowed in the Faculty Club at night or not. If convicted, the students facing charges would potentially suffer a lifetime of closed doors, social stigmas, job refusals, and even the loss of voting rights in some states.

While the MIT Police have overreacted to the situation, the MIT administration has underreacted. Since late October, three MIT students have been unduly subjected to extraordinary fear and stress while the Institute's leaders have stood idly by. This week, senior administrators have indicated that they will try to have this situation resolved internally. Why has it taken MIT four months to make the obviously correct decision? How was it that the MIT Police was able to make such a rash decision without any manner of oversight?

The MIT administration claims to value our hacking culture — celebrations of past hacks are proudly displayed within our halls, along our lobbies, and in our museum. Campus tour guides are directed to highlight past hacks, and new hacks are routinely featured on the MIT homepage. Given all of this, how can the administration possibly justify letting the MIT police ruin three students' lives for doing exactly what it usually glorifies?

It is not too late for this situation to be salvaged. *The Tech* calls upon the MIT Police and the administration to quickly take all steps necessary for charges to be dropped against the three students. *The Tech* also calls on the administration to publicly reaffirm its commitment to deal with such situations through internal reviews, and to use community service as the standard for punishment. Finally, the administration must work with students to review and clarify the role of our campus police. Only then will the MIT community begin to rebuild trust in our police and administration.

Letters To The Editor

2009 Brass Rat: Is the Tech To Blame?

The Brass Rat is a time honored tradition of MIT and a source of much pride for each MIT student that flaunts it on his or her finger. The ring design itself is evidently the most obvious element of this tradition, as it graces the ring finger of many MIT students and alumni for years, but the tradition extends far beyond these ever-evolving and unique designs premiered each year by the successive MIT classes. One equally important element of the tradition is the appointment of a committee of students, the Ring Committee, to design this ring; another, the Ring Premiere, where the class will for the first time see the design of the newest Brass Rat.

Many times in the past, the Brass Rat tradition has resulted in campus-wide controversy, both before and after Ring Premiere itself. Examples include the 2004 Brass Rat, when the fact that the design boasted a woman on its Seal Shank, was, by word of mouth, leaked to the public previous to Premiere, and the 2006 Ring, whose two Greek Letters on the Boston skylines created a reaction that carried over even into the careful selection of the 2007 Ring Committee members. These two recent examples serve to represent the fragility of the tradition, as might be expected when considering anything meant to please over 1,000 students each year.

This fragile tradition has, yet again, been compromised, but in this instance, the vehicle for breakdown was the two recent articles recently published in *The Tech* regarding the Brass Rat and Ring Premiere.

The Tech contacted the Chairman of the 2009 Ring Committee the night before Ring Premiere, threatening to publish the Seal Shank in the following day's Tech. The Chairman attempted to prevent the release of the design by asking what the purpose of publishing the Seal Shank, and thereby betraying the confidentiality of the ring design, would be. The Tech responded that the purpose was to "show some

incompetence on the part of the Ring Committee."

We understand The Tech's obligation to deliver information about campus events and campus news as they become available, and we have taken appropriate responsibility for the mistakes made in the arena of ring design security. However, we also know that deliberate proactive rummaging in the Class of 2009's directory was required to obtain the design, and such actions are disappointing. In fact, the irony surrounding the discovery of the ring design by the Tech is great: a Tech staffer was the sole person to find the design online, as far as is known by the Committee. The design was then circulated not only to the members of The Tech and to several students outside of The Tech for "reaction interviews," but to other MIT students via personal communications with members of the Tech. In addition, the Tech encouraged students to seek the design by describing how to find it on Athena at the end of Friday's article.

In one move, the Tech jeopardized the three main elements that comprise the tradition surrounding the MIT Brass Rat. First, the design's confidentiality was threatened by obnoxious investigative reporting. Second, the Ring Committee's mistakes were, though appropriately addressed in their own right, exacerbated into a much larger conflict than would have otherwise been created if the Tech had, at the very least, kept the design as an internal discovery and not shared it with other MIT students. Third, the excitement traditionally surrounding Ring Premiere was threatened for MIT students by the premature release of the design.

The Tech's actions surrounding this manner demonstrate a surprisingly poor sensitivity to MIT's traditions and undermine the experiences of the MIT student body. We agree that all leaders on campus should be publicly held accountable. However, *The Tech* has an obligation to appropriately address issues without disrupting campus life and MIT student traditions. We hope that in future issues *The Tech* will reinforce MIT's community values by capturing campus life, positively promoting stu-

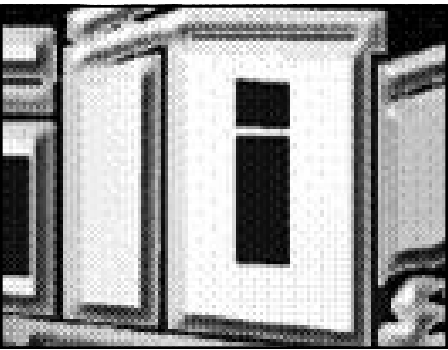
dent events, and respecting student groups. *Akash Chandawarkar is the President of the Class of 2009; Christopher Whitfield is the 2009 Ring Committee Chairman.*

[Editor's Note: The Tech covers stories that are newsworthy, even if the articles criticize a student-run event or student committee.]

Hidden Message Has No Meaning

I'm disappointed in you. It seems as though "The Tech" has had it in for the 2009 Ring Council. With rumors of blackmail in exchange for an exclusive interview, and now the "hidden 08" non-story (on the front page!!!), you are definitely not living this down. At the very least, you could have buried the "hidden 08" in the story—not the headline. When we (Class of 2008) had our design revealed I found a "hidden 10" in the same area as the "hidden 08" (picture included below). Also, I found a "hidden LGBT" in the twigs (picture also included). If you want a scandal, why don't you follow that one up? Personally, I find it more objectionable to force the wearer to advertise, albeit extremely subtly, this alternative lifestyle despite their own opinions on the matter than to have a previous year referenced on the bezel. You'll always find something "hidden" if you look for it, but sometimes a cigar is just a

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Opinion Policy

Editorials are the official opinion of *The Tech*. They are written by the editorial board, which consists of Chairman Michael McGraw-Herdeg, Editor in Chief Marie Y. Thibault, Managing Editor Austin Chu, Executive Editor Rosa Cao, and Opinion Editors Barun Singh and Aditya Kohli.

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

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

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

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

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

To Reach Us

The Tech's telephone number is (617) 253-1541. E-mail is the easiest way to reach any member of our staff. If you are unsure whom to contact, send mail to general@the-tech.mit.edu, and it will be directed to the appropriate person. You can reach the editor in chief by e-mailing eic@the-tech.mit.edu. Please send press releases, requests for coverage, and information about errors that call for correction to news@the-tech.mit.edu. Letters to the editor should be sent to letters@the-tech.mit.edu. The Tech can be found on the World Wide Web at <http://www-tech.mit.edu>.



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The Other Side to Racism

Barun Singh

Prof. James Sherley's hunger strike and charges of racism against MIT have catalyzed a welcome public dialogue on race relations.



We must be careful, however, to ensure balance as we take advantage of this opportunity to improve community standards and understanding: in addition to examining the extent and effect of racism, both within and beyond minority populations, we must also be

willing to discuss the problematic role of race-baiting and hyperbole within the public realm.

Race-baiting, in this context, is defined as the injection of race as a theme or central issue into a debate where it does not bear any significant relevance. Like racism itself, race-baiting is rarely clear-cut, and falls along a continuum. On one end, an individual or organization may maliciously exploit a public desire to correct institutional racism. A less extreme approach may involve the purposeful use of hyperbole as a means of associating a legitimate concern over a relatively minor racist act with extreme historical examples. Least maliciously of all, race-baiting may be no more than a subconscious expression of a feeling of persecution or resentment engendered elsewhere. In all of these cases, guilt and fear, rather than rational argument, are used as tools to force the opposing side to concede.

It can be difficult to disambiguate true cases

of racism from race-baiting, a fact often exploited by politicians. Some charges of racism as an underlying motivation can be reasonably defended, such as the notorious "Playboy party" advertisement that arguably played on racist sentiments against African-American Senate candidate Harold Ford, Jr. in 2006. Others, however, fall apart upon even a cursory inspection, such as Congresswoman Cynthia McKinney accusing police of being racist when they responded to her not walking through a metal detector while entering the capitol, or Senator Joseph Biden being accused of racism for describing fellow Senator Barack Obama as articulate. A more general example of race-baiting would be the accusations of racism leveled against all those taking a strong stance on illegal immigration.

Although politics is characterized by a level of doublespeak beyond the norm, the examples cited above are not atypical of the types of race-baiting found more generally in society. Consider the following example from my own experience within the MIT community. The Graduate Student Council recently discussed the idea of converting the GSC's diversity committee from an ad-hoc to a standing (permanent) committee; I attended the meeting as a former President of the Council who has also worked to promote MIT's recruitment of underrepresented minorities. Although I supported the laudable sentiment and objectives of the proposal, I also found valid arguments against it, and expressed my concerns. To my surprise, a number of GSC representatives approached me only after the meeting to express their own reasons for believing the proposal flawed. They explained

that they had not raised their objections publicly during the open debate for fear of drawing accusations of racism.

The Sherley case itself presents another example within our community. By equating the response of the administration to his hunger strike with the beating and lynching of civil rights activists in the '60s, Sherley is guilty of using racial hyperbole to manipulate the emotions of his audience and further his own objectives, whether they be as personal as getting tenure or as noble as fighting racism everywhere.

Ironically, individuals who practice race-baiting often cause themselves more harm than good. Such techniques may successfully quell dissenting viewpoints, but they also create resentment among those who have been strong-armed into silence. This resentment, with time, contributes to unnecessarily negative views of the minority community at large. Minorities fighting racism cannot afford to squander the good will of those sympathetic to their cause, thus winning the battle by losing the war.

Of course, an individual may incorrectly ascribe racism as a motivation for an offense because he truly believes in what he is saying, not necessarily because he is race-baiting. This fact highlights the importance of understanding that no dialogue is one-sided: responsibility lies with all parties involved to express their views openly, respectfully and honestly. This duty applies as much to those who disagree with accusations of racism as to those who level the accusations. Only by refusing to kowtow to the fear of being called a racist can those who sincerely disagree help foster a productive dialogue.

MIT routinely conducts surveys to gauge the sentiment of minorities in the service of promoting a safe and welcoming environment for all members of the community. Clearly it is valuable to determine whether individuals feel intimidated by attitudes towards their race. Is it not also valuable to ascertain how often people feel intimidated by the threat of being stigmatized as racist for expressing views that are less than politically correct?

Unfortunately, people often do not have the courage of their convictions to be willing to voice their opposition to an idea if they believe that doing so will be result in their being called a racist. Consequently, the true racists — those who disparage or disagree with the minority based on their race and not their arguments — are disproportionately represented among those who do speak out. This gives the false impression that most of those who do disagree are in fact racist, which justifiably angers the minority. It also makes those who are not racist, but disagree with the minority's arguments, even more hesitant to participate in the debate because they don't want to be associated with those who have spoken out.

To the extent that they both hinder free speech, discourage open debate, and result in the judging of individuals based not on their merit, racism and race-baiting are equally destructive to the fabric of our society. If we wish to heal the terrible scar of racial inequality in our society, we must have the courage to confront them both.

Barun Singh is an opinion editor for The Tech.

He welcomes comments and responses to this article on his Web site at <http://barunsingh.com> or to letters@the-tech.mit.edu.

Letters To The Editor, continued

Letters, from Page 4

cigar. So in the future, please reserve the front page for real news.

Omar Molina Jr. '08

[Editor's Note: The Tech originally intended to print a picture of the seal shank, but decided that an article focusing on the leak of the design, rather than the design elements themselves, would be more newsworthy. This decision was somehow misconstrued by the author as a form of blackmail. There was no coverage last year of any controversy over the 2008 Brass Rat because the writer of last year's article did not hear about any such controversy.]



Why Are There No Time Travelers in MIT's Class of 2009?

In the summer of 2005, students at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology hosted a conference for time travelers. Their idea was that, if time travel ever became possible, these travelers would know about the MIT meeting and come. No one provably from the future (or past) did come.

The immediate question is, "Why?" The first and most obvious answer is: time travel is impossible. But that is not the only possible answer.

A second possible answer, inspired by the Doomsday Argument of Oxford University's Nick Bostrom, is that time travel is theoretic-

cally possible, but the earth (or humanity) will be overwhelmed by some cataclysmic event in the near future, before anyone has a chance to invent a time travel device.

A modest proposal for a third possible answer is as follows.

Let us assume that time travel involves travel between many possible worlds, differing from one another in minute ways: for instance, an electron near the center of Alpha Centauri in one universe is spin up instead of spin down; in another universe Napoleon wins the battle of Waterloo; in a third universe Gigli is a runaway blockbuster hit; etc.

We can suppose there is some "distribution" of universes where time travel is developed, and some distribution of universes where the MIT conference takes place. There is no reason to suppose that these sets of universes overlap; but even if they do, since there are so many possible worlds, if time travelers are as likely to go to any universe as they are to one with the MIT conference, then the chance they wind up in Room 2-375 is very small.

Even assuming, however, that time travel is possible, that it occurs in a universe like ours, and that every time traveler arrives at a universe with the MIT conference, there is still a significant probability that, in our universe, no time traveler arrives:

Suppose there is some random assignment of time travelers to universes with the MIT conference. Given certain assumptions, the probability that time travel is possible, but no traveler arrives in our universe, is approximately 0.37 (1 divided by the base of the natural logarithm). Thus, the probability is greater than 1/3 that time travel is possible in a universe like ours, yet no traveler ever comes to our universe.

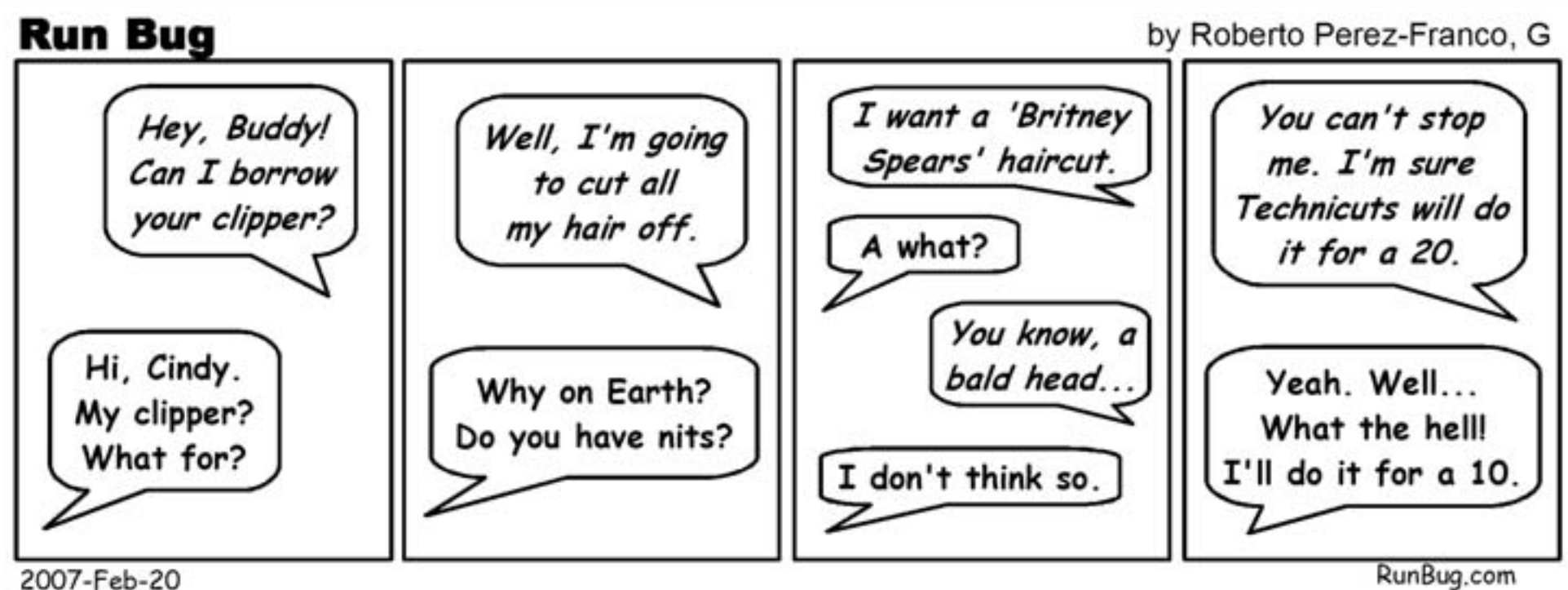
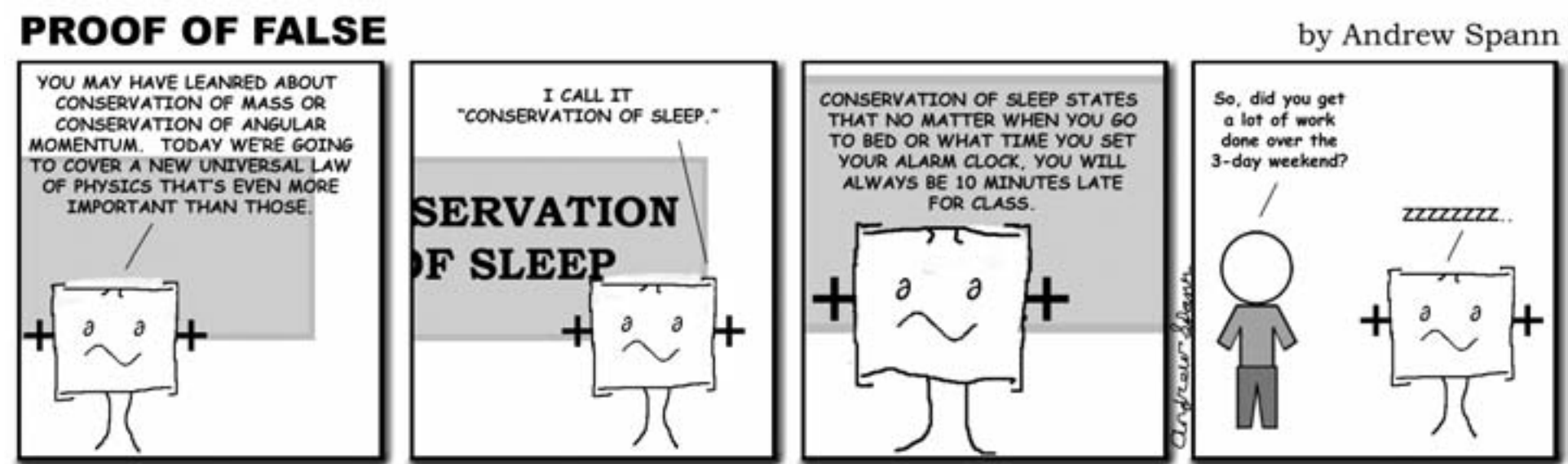
Even if time travelers from a single universe are able to travel to more than one universe, since the number of time travelers (these all being sentient beings) is vastly smaller than the number of possible universes, the basic conclusion must be the same, namely, that the absence of time travelers at the MIT conference is not *prima facie* evidence that time travel is impossible.

Of course, it might be the case that time travelers of the future simply did not know about the conference, or, that they knew about it, and thought it sounded terribly dull.

Jonathan Farley is professor of mathematics at the University of the West Indies in Jamaica and was formerly a Martin Luther King Jr. visiting professor in the Department of Mathematics at MIT.



If you care, write.
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2007-Feb-20

RunBug.com

Some Assembly Required

by Alex Hornstein

su|do|ku

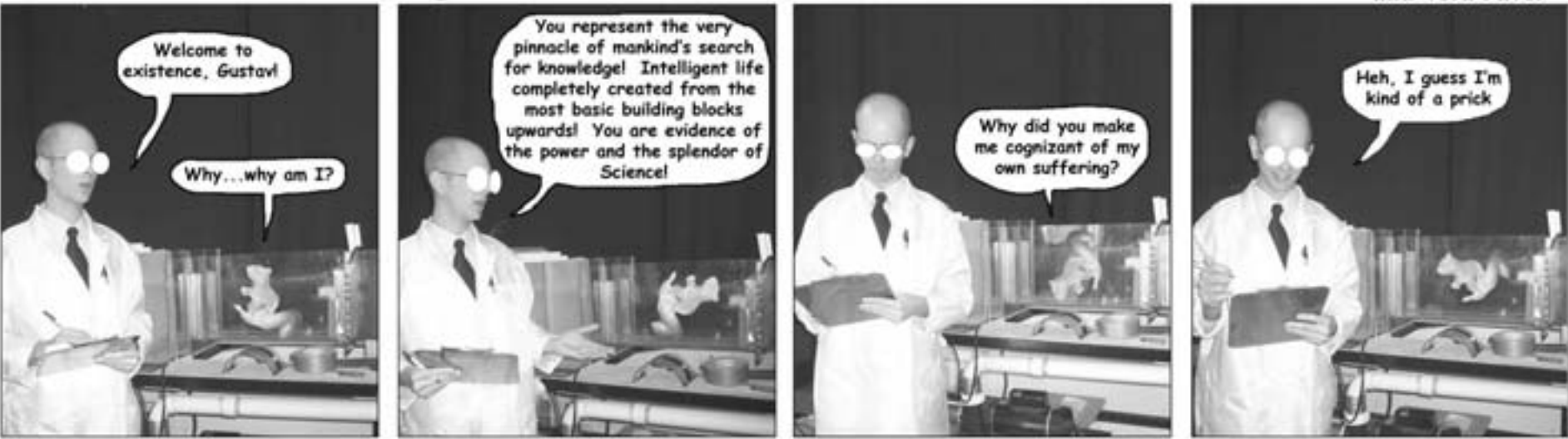
© Puzzles by Pappocom



Instructions: Fill in the grid so that each column, row, and 3 by 3 grid contains exactly one of each of the digits 1 through 9.
Solution, tips, and computer program at <http://www.sudoku.com>; see also solution, page 15.

GUSTAV the ANTISQUIRREL

By Scott Burdick
and Vera Pavel



Crossword Puzzle

Solution, page 14

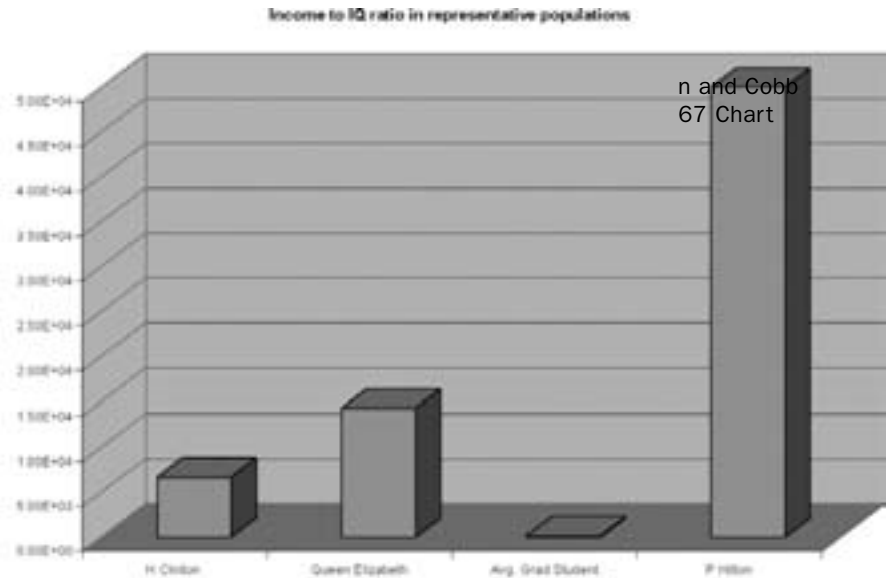


Figure 2. The chart illustrates the ratio of annual income to intellectual quotient. Although the set comprises four cases only, the experimental data reflects model predictions very closely. The third case was by far the lowest, mainly because of the income factor. On the other hand, the last case had a finite income, but the IQ nearly vanished (the axis was cut at 5.00E+04, even though the value for the last case greatly exceeds this number).

Doonesbury

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CAMPUS LIFE

AWARD REVIEW

The Scarlett Starlet

Johansson Named 'Woman of the Year' at Hasty Pudding Awards

By Zachary Ozer

STAFF WRITER

Hasty Pudding Theatricals' "Woman of the Year Award"

Scarlett Johansson

Agassiz Theatre

Thursday, Feb. 15, 2007

Last Thursday, Scarlett Johansson was in Cambridge adding The Hasty Pudding Theatricals' "Woman of the Year" Award (also known as the Pudding Pot) to her entourage of titles for this year, which include *Esquire's* "Sexiest Woman Alive" and *Playboy's* "Sex Star of the Year." The Hasty Pudding, a Harvard student organization known for its performance of student-authored plays of a vaudevillian and burlesque nature, awards the Pudding Pot "annually to performers who have made a 'lasting and impressive contribution to the world of entertainment.'"

As is traditional, the awarding of the Pudding Pot began with a procession through Harvard Square. Despite the freezing temperatures, an army of men in drag, dancing bananas, and super-heroes on very springy stilts followed alongside Ms. Johansson. Whatever pittance of attention had been doted on Miss Massachusetts (who was also present) quickly evaporated as the hushed crowd erupted at the young starlet's arrival. The crowd quickly encircled her car as several of the young men in drag piled in alongside her. Despite organizers' best efforts, the parade's progress was consistently

slowed by onlookers leaping in front of Ms. Johansson's vehicle hoping to get a glimpse, or if they were lucky, a quick photo.

Next, everyone was rushed over to the Agassiz Theatre for the roasting of the recipient and the presentation of the Pudding Pot. The roast featured Joshua M. Brener and Justin V. Rodriguez, (President and Vice President of Hasty Pudding, respectively) cracking jokes about Ms. Johansson's Golden Globes, what the age of the youngest man she was willing to make out with was, and whether or not she would sleep with one of them. While all of this was highly predictable, what was surprising were the terse answers and relative disconnect-ness of Ms. Johansson, especially given her theatrical background.

As the production continued, it became increasingly apparent that Ms. Johansson was entirely at ease playing the absent-minded beautiful blonde. There was one problem, though: Ms. Johansson is not nearly as attractive in person as she appears on the screen. While she is often portrayed as a statuesque model, Ms. Johansson is strikingly short and her head is disproportionately large. This disappointment notwithstanding, as the press corps awaited Ms. Johansson's arrival, this reporter remained optimistic that the young starlet was more charismatic in person than her earlier performance would suggest. Unfortunately, the following is a transcription of the events which transpired at the press conference.

The Harvard Crimson: I'm wondering

about the quality of men that you've met so far at Harvard (laughs from the audience), specifically, whether our reputation as intellectuals gives us a leg up on the men you've met in the film industry.

Scarlett Johansson (playfully): What's that supposed to mean? (Laughs from the audience) Everybody's been very charming. They all came to the lunch in their fabulous suit and tie. I have to say it's the first time I've seen so many 21-year-old men in suit and tie before at a function. Everybody was very charming and I don't know whether I like them more in a suit and tie or the stockings.

Female Reporter #1: What are you going to do with the pudding pot?

SJ: I think it deserves probably ... well it needs a good shine now ... but I think it's probably going to go on the mantle right above the fireplace. Either that, or my mother's fondue pot.

Boston Herald: You can walk out with any man on any given day, and the next day you're in a relationship with them. I was wondering,



DAVID DA HE—THE TECH

Scarlett Johansson responds to reporters' questions at a press conference after Hasty Pudding Theatricals' Pudding Pot award ceremony, .

who would you get the biggest kick out of being romantically linked with?

SJ: Being romantically linked with? Probably Patrick Swayze, I'd have to say. My dream come true.

Female Reporter #2: You enjoy Boston?

SJ: So far so good. Yeah. Except for the icy sidewalk it's all good.

Reuters: Obviously, the weather out there was a bit much for the guys in drag. Any words for them?

SJ: Oh yeah. I wouldn't be caught dead in a bra and panties on a day like this. Oh my goodness. I certainly felt for those boys ... or ladies as it were. They were suffering for their craft.

The Tech: Being around all these young Harvard men and being around the same age, are there any regrets you've had since you didn't have a typical college experience?

SJ: What are you missing? (Audience laughs) I mean it's great to be here and I think it's an incredible honor. It's a once in a lifetime opportunity, meeting with everybody. Certainly, seeing everyone on campus and seeing everybody at the lunch today, it's an amazing production. You know, I think it's really something. I can't believe ... I never had any experience like that. I mean, I never went to college. I don't think ... I wouldn't say that I have regrets about that. My life just was different. It took a different path and it didn't lead to Harvard. To my mother's dismay.

Life & Style: Regarding Justin Timberlake, would you like to address your friendship?

SJ (having not yet said a word about JT): Umm ... I think I already addressed that. We made a video together and we're friends and there's nothing more to say.

Ms. Johansson is obviously no stranger to formal events, regularly attending award ceremonies such as the Oscars and Golden Globes. While the natural condescension in her comments at the Pudding went largely unnoticed, there is perhaps more going on in her oversized head than she lets on.



DAVID DA HE—THE TECH

The 2007 winner of The Hasty Pudding Theatricals' "Woman of the Year" Award, Scarlett Johansson, is accompanied by Justin Rodriguez (left), vice president of the cast, and the President of the Theatricals Joshua Brener (right) — both dressed in drag.

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ARTS

THEATRE REVIEW

My Vagina Is a Tech Article

Reclaiming 'Beaver'

By Tyson C. McNulty

STAFF WRITER

The Vagina Monologues

Written by Eve Ensler

Organized by Stop Our Silence

10-250

Thursday-Saturday, Feb. 15-17, 2007

Last week marked the sixth annual MIT production of the *The Vagina Monologues*, a series of short skits designed to break the cultural taboos surrounding women's issues. Specifically, the production addresses worldwide violence against women and related atrocities by exploiting the power of theater as a forum for uninhibited speech. Young women — typically one at a time, as the title suggests — deliver stories of love, terror, happiness, strife, and hope as told through their adopted characters, most of which are based on the accounts of actual women interviewed by playwright Eve Ensler.

The skits themselves, which are each given individual titles and introductions, vary in subject material from the light-hearted answers given by a six-year-old girl to questions like what her vagina would wear or smell like if it had a choice ("A

six-year-old girl was asked ...," Joyce-Marie Gallagher '08) to vivid descriptions of war-time mutilation and rape ("My Vagina Was My Village," Jessica E. Leon '08) to the story of an old woman who rediscovers herself at the age of 70 ("The Flood," Kathleen McEnnis '07). A clear theme pervading nearly all of the monologues is the idea of women forming self-concepts alongside, or often because of, their vaginas, as opposed to forming their identities despite their vaginas, which the play (not unfairly) implicates as the status quo.

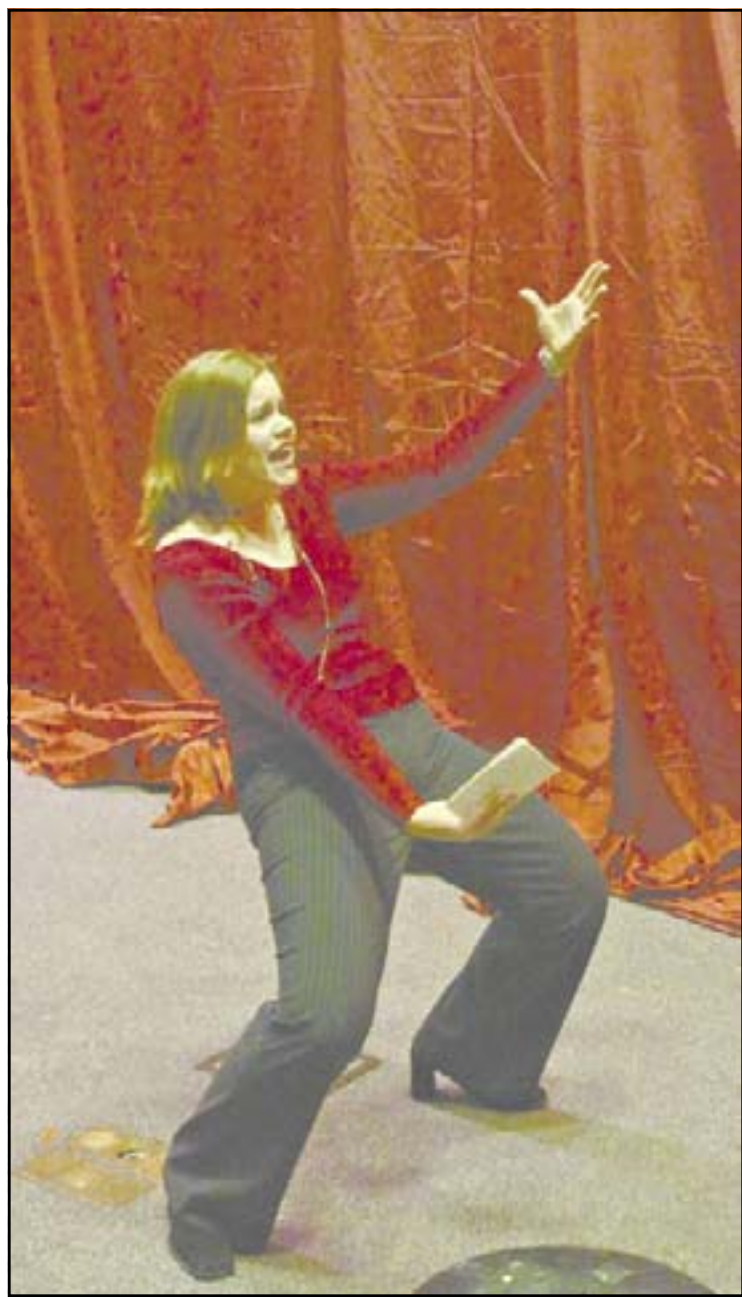
Although intended for mixed-gender audiences, skits like "Reclaiming Cunt" (Sally E. Peach '09) and "My Angry Vagina," (Lizz M. Iffrig '10) may leave males scratching their heads. One of the goals of the production, however, is to challenge propriety outright, such that the constituents of that propriety might be reconsidered. Some organiza-

tions do not support that sort of holistic interpretation, and subsequently *The Vagina Monologues* has often met with a large amount of negative press in various communities. For example, "The Little Coochie Snorcher That Could" (Kelly Upchurch), which overtly praises a homosexual relationship, and "They Beat the Girl Out of My Boy" (Cheryl M. Kwinn '09, Holly B. Laird '07, Julia Kodysh G, Kathleen Connolly '05, Laurel L. Ruhlen '06), a skit centered around transgendered individuals, are often cited with opposition. Alternatively, opponents might simply scorn the general brashness of a production in which the word "vagina" is spoken 128 times. Perhaps, though, being caught off-guard by at least some part of *The Vagina Monologues*, whatever one's beliefs may be, is preferable to repressing any emotional response whatsoever — after all, the creators are trying to convince members of the audience to rethink their beliefs.

Having previously seen *The Vagina Monologues* elsewhere, I was surprised at how much more I liked MIT's presentation. Some real talent shone through in "My Angry Vagina," "The Woman Who Loved to Make Vaginas Happy" (Jenn Martinez), "The Flood," and "My Vagina Was My Village" in particular. Others skits were more memorable for the depth of content, including my personal favorite, "I Was There in the Room" (Helen McCreery G). For the gorier pieces, like "My Vagina Was My Village" and "Crooked Braid" (SiRui Xia '07, Silpa Kaza '07), I found it difficult to separate factual account from poetic license. Just how far does "based on a true story" go? I finally eased my doubts at V-day's Web site (<http://www.vday.org/contents/victory/success>).

Here, women from around the world submit their personal stories of pain and triumph; these are probably not unlike the stories Eve Ensler based the original Monologues on. The domain contains a multitude of other resources as well, including statistics of violence and abuse compiled by the World Health Organization and contact information for organizations working to lower those numbers. In keeping with this spirit, the overwhelming majority of the proceeds from the MIT production went towards organizations working to end domestic abuse.

Under the slogan "Until the Violence Stops," productions of *The Vagina Monologues* are being held worldwide between Feb. 1 and March 8 this year (actually, you have to get special permission to host it on any other dates). So if you missed it here, there's always Melbourne or Kathmandu.



Katelyn E. Giovannucci '07 acts out how difficult it can be to look at one's vagina during MIT's production of "The Vagina Monologues" on Thursday night, presented by Stop Our Silence.

FRED GAY—THE TECH



Katelyn E. Giovannucci '07 and An T. Vu '09 get cozy during MIT's production of "The Vagina Monologues" on Thursday night.

FRED GAY—THE TECH

CD REVIEW

The Shins' Latest is Nothing to Wince At

Indie Rockers Return With Triumphant Third Album

By Andrew Lee

STAFF WRITER

*The Shins**Wincing the Night Away*

Sub Pop

What's different? More specifically, what did the flagship indie pop band of this decade lose or gain by waiting almost four years in between releases? The crest of the Shins' popularity was arguably the prominent use of their songs in the hit 2004 film *Garden State*. A sensible band would've put something out soon after either to capitalize on their newfound recognition or to quickly and decisively steer their music away from any association with idiot-savant/idiot Zach Braff, or — if they're particularly devious — both. Thankfully, the

Shins' newest album, *Wincing the Night Away*, is good enough — great enough, in fact — to make their intentions irrelevant.

Given the gestation time of the album, it is curious that only one track on the album, the lead single "Phantom Limb," gives the impression of being written with deliberation. At the outset, the song's slow-dance melody is almost too elaborate for its own good. The song takes several listens to gain a foothold in your mind, but when it does ... oh, what a treat. Hopeful yet heartbreaking, "Phantom Limb" is an assurance that the Shins can still hit the sweet spot that gives their vulnerability an irresistible quality.

In fact, the entire album is a catalogue of the Shins' marked improvement since 2003's *Chutes Too Narrow*. That album suffered at times from thin production that made the songs

feel like quaint little drawings on unsuitably large canvasses: they were cute, but all that blank space was distracting. On *Wincing the Night Away*, though, the Shins have discovered just how well a deeper sonic palette suits their songwriting. The subtle usage of distant keyboards and background vocals act as a welcome stabilizing influence and navigational aid, preventing the Shins' distinctively brisk mood changes from becoming too arresting, and simply letting the listener enjoy the ride.

With sharper production values, the songwriting breathes in its new freedom right from the opening track, "Sleeping Lessons." This is the song that secures this album's status as the Shins' best and finest. A call to arms for independence, "Sleeping Lessons" is imbued with tension from all sides by studio instruments and understated bass notes. The line "as sure

as you have eyes/they got no right" sends the song into a full-band surge of electric guitar that is at once joyous and cathartic. One of the standout tracks of the Shins' career, "Sleeping Lessons" is like the rest of the record: flawless and blissful.

So to answer the initial question, the reason for the wait is inconsequential. The Shins may have simply not had the songs needed to make this album a couple years ago, but I accept no excuses. After four years, a pop album can no longer be just okay or average. Within that time, something must've happened to the band, and when that something happens, the listener expects that there must be a change for better or worse. They were guilty of gambling with our affections. However, with *Wincing the Night Away*, the Shins redeem themselves several times over.

PREDICTION

And the Oscar Goes to . . .

More Politics Than Art in Awards

By Stephen Cousineau

And the Oscar goes to . . . Marky Mark? Well, it's that time of year again; this Sunday night the Kodak Theater in Hollywood will again be filled with Tinseltown's royalty for the 79th Annual Academy Awards. And it's shaping up to be an interesting one. A quirky family with its perverted, horny grandpa will be fighting with the Boston mafia, Queen Elizabeth, the Japanese Army, and a guy trapped in North Africa for this year's Best Picture statuette.

But alas, awards are often hardly about the movies. Just look at this past year's Emmy nominations: Ellen Burstyn was nominated for her performance in a TV movie. By the way, she was only onscreen for eleven seconds. Clearly, Hollywood isn't paying too much attention to the material. These days, the Oscars have as much to do with the internal politics of Hollywood as they do the movies.

The nominees are all over the map. *Dreamgirls* received eight — count them — eight nominations and still missed out on Best Picture and Director noms. Of the ten Best Actor/Actress nominees, only one stars in a Best Picture nominee. And of the five films receiving Best Director nods, none received a Best Cinematography nod — a rarity at the Oscars.

Today, studios run Oscar campaigns much like political campaigns, with thousands of free DVDs sent to industry professionals and many millions of dollars spent on advertising in industry rags such as *Variety* and *The Hollywood Reporter*. Studios even hire specialized consul-

itants to run Oscar campaigns, just as political candidates hire their own campaign consultants. Imagine that job title — Academy Award campaign consultant. The parallels with electoral politics don't end there. Just think of the Oscars as a political party's national convention. All of Hollywood's lesser awards ceremonies in the run-up to the Oscars function as de facto primaries. By the time we finally get to the Oscars, many awards are simply a foregone conclusion.

So in that spirit, let's take a look at this year's nominees, not from the perspective of who should win, but rather, who will win — all based on the politics and the campaigns rather than the movies.

(Disclaimer: The following predictions are made entirely from hype, momentum, past trends, etc., and are in no way based on the movies. In fact, I haven't even seen many of these movies yet. And I'm betting I get all of this right.)

We'll start with the acting honors, as these are pretty much a no-brainer. Forest Whitaker will win the Best Actor Oscar for his portrayal of Idi Amin in *The Last King of Scotland*. Helen Mirren will win the Best Actress Oscar for her portrayal of Queen Elizabeth II in *The Queen*. And Jennifer Hudson will win the Best Supporting Actress Oscar for her portrayal as Effie White in *Dreamgirls*. All three have been touted from day one as Oscar frontrunners, and all three have swept the lesser awards such as the BAFTA, SAG, and Golden Globe awards. Simply put, their momentum is unstoppable and they will be bringing home Oscar gold. Eddie Murphy will most likely win the Best Supporting Actor Oscar for *Dreamgirls*, despite

his recent run with a fat suit in the unfortunate *Norbit*. He may face some competition from the venerable Alan "It's always the goddamn fucking chicken" Arkin, but I'm sticking with the Beverly Hills cop.

On to the Best Director category, where the great Martin Scorsese is hoping to win his first Oscar in eight nominations for *The Departed*. It's a running joke at this point that the director of *Taxi Driver*, *Mean Streets*, *Raging Bull*, and *Goodfellas* hasn't won an Oscar. In the past he has lost to some stiff competition including Steven Spielberg, Roman Polanski, and Clint Eastwood. The Academy does want to give one to Scorsese; however, some of his recent work simply just wasn't good enough to warrant the statuette. But this is his year, and although I know it's been said before: this time it's true. I think.

The Best Picture Oscar is more of a toss-up. All five films are fantastic, but they aren't necessarily Oscar movies. Many view *The Queen* as a movie-of-the-week, although a terrific one at that. *Babel* and *Letters from Iwo Jima* might have a shot, and although they've both garnered remarkable critical praise, neither have much exposure or hype (and they are both predominantly in foreign languages). Then there is *Little Miss Sunshine*. Now, although it's a fantastic little film, it's still a fantastic little Sundance film, i.e., not an Oscar movie. I could be wrong, but I'm just going with history. That leaves *The Departed*, and it's what Oscar is made of. With the legendary Scorsese at the helm, an all-star A-list cast of DiCaprio, Damon, Wahlberg, and the incomparable Jack Nicholson, it's my pick for the Best Picture

Oscar.

Now let's quickly hit up some other categories. The Best Foreign Language Oscar will go to *Pan's Labyrinth*. It is a great film, but that's not the reason it will bring home the gold. More importantly, it's managed to gain widespread appeal (in other words, the Academy has actually heard of it). For Best Documentary Feature, Al Gore's *An Inconvenient Truth* could pull it off — Hollywood loves Al Gore right now. For Best Original Song, *Dreamgirls* has three of the five nominations, but as with political campaigns, they might split the vote, so who knows. It's a shame *Three 6 Mafia* isn't up again. Just think, it could have been *Three 6 Mafia* - 2, Martin Scorsese - 0. *Apocalypto* received nods for Best Makeup, Best Sound, and Best Sound Editing, and it might even have a shot, if the Academy has forgiven Mel Gibson, that is. And Best Visual Effects will go to *Pirates of the Caribbean: Dead Man's Chest*. Why? Because everyone loves pirates. But that's all I'll say about the rest of the categories. For Best Cinematography, Editing, Art Direction, Costume Design, Score, Sound, and Sound Editing, the nominees' combined previous nominations total to more than 160. It's staggering. Essentially, in these technical categories, there are a select few that dominate the industry. And so, I won't offer any more predictions.

And I won't even bother with the rest of the categories. No one, including much of the Academy I suspect, has even seen the short films or the documentary shorts.

So there you have it. Go get your popcorn, get comfortable, and enjoy the show.

DANCE REVIEW

A Fairies' Night Out

Boston Ballet Does Balanchine

By Tony Hwang

STAFF WRITER

A Midsummer Night's Dream

Boston Ballet

Citi Wang Theatre

Thursday, Feb. 8, 2007

George Balanchine's ballet, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, conveys Shakespeare's tale of love and magic through a compelling interaction of vibrant visuals, exquisite choreography, and Mendelssohn's stirring score. The ballet debuted in New York City in 1962 and has finally found its way to Boston for the first time.

This interpretation of the play devotes the entire first act of the ballet to rigorously following every detail of Shakespeare's original version. Following the intermission, the second act con-

tains minimal plot development, focusing on the joy of each couple involved in the triple wedding that concludes the tale. Balanchine gives each couple a lengthy solo during which the personal connections among lovers truly shine through the structured movements of dance. These solos are set to the backdrop of a grandiose, royal procession that left little room for uninhibited passion and more sensual motions.

At the start of the story, Lysander (Pavel Gurevich) and Hermia (Tai Jimenez) are deeply in love. However, Theseus (Bo Busby), the Duke of Athens, announces that he will marry Hippolyta (Lia Cirio), the queen of the Amazons, and that his daughter, Hermia, must marry Demetrius (Yuri Yanowsky). To escape this fate, Hermia flees with Lysander into the forest. Helena (Kathleen Breen Combes), who loves Demetrius, informs him of the situation, resulting in Demetrius and Hel-

ena following suit. In the opening scenes of Act I where these characters were introduced, I was particularly impressed by the graceful movements of Hermia, who danced with strength and fluidity. Lysander and Demetrius were very solid in lifts and jumps, but at times their bodies appeared stiff while gesturing.

Throughout Shakespeare's original play, as well as in this ballet, Puck is the most entertaining character to watch. In this performance, his movements were exaggerated with motions that were more active than graceful. He used unexpected gestures to convey a sense of humor, which brought forth much laughter from the audience. While Puck stands out, the other characters also show their comedic sides; especially noteworthy was a funny scene that involved a confused Hermia, a love-struck Lysander, and a frightened Helena chasing each other in circles.

In addition to using Mendelssohn's overture and incidental music to *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, Balanchine supplemented the score with other pieces by Mendelssohn. The pit orchestra, led by Jonathan McPhee, followed the dancers precisely and created each scene's mood skillfully.

Overall, the complicated plot was artfully expressed, and easy to follow due to some clever costuming (one couple in red, another in blue). The sets were beautifully crafted, successfully portraying the spookiness of the forest at night (with a little help from some dry ice) as well as the grandiose atmosphere at the wedding. Balanchine successfully intertwined the setting with the action to produce a more realistic performance. I would recommend the show to those looking to enjoy an elegant, light-hearted evening of comedy and romance.

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Science, Faith and Technology



The VERITAS FORUM

The Language of God

A Believer Looks at the Human Genome

Thursday, March 1

7:30 PM, Stata Center 32-123

Francis Collins

Author—*The Language of God:
A Scientist Presents Evidence for Belief*
Head—National Human
Genome Research Institute

Belligerents or Brothers?

Are Science and Christian Faith at Odds?

Friday, March 2

7:30 PM, Kresge Auditorium

Ian Hutchinson

Head—Department of Nuclear Science
and Engineering, MIT

Living Machines

Can Robots Become Human?

Saturday, March 3

7:00 PM, Kresge Auditorium

Rodney Brooks

Director—Computer Science and Artificial
Intelligence Laboratory, MIT

Rosalind Picard

Founder and Director—Affective
Computing Research Group, MIT

Afternoon Events

Thursday, March 1

12:00, E51-345

John Brandon

Long-term Silicon Valley Executive

Saturday, March 3

12:00, 3-270

Annette Kim

Assistant Professor—Department
of Urban Studies and Planning, MIT

Troy Van Voorhis

Assistant Professor—Department
of Chemistry, MIT

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Faith, Academia, and the Developing World:

Finding Linkages



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Charity Dating Auction Tonight

MedLinks will be auctioning off a chance to win a date with students and Institute notables, including President Susan Hockfield, tonight. Twenty students and six faculty members will be auctioned off for the highest bids, with all proceeds going to Tutoring Plus, a Cambridge organization that

News Briefs

provides free tutoring to underprivileged middle and high school students. SaveTFP is co-sponsoring the event. The event will consist of a regular auction for the 20 students, during which emcees of the event will be shouting out bids, said MedLinks President Anupama Bhimavarapu '07. There will be a silent auction for the faculty members. The faculty members who will be auctioned off are Hockfield, Chemistry Professor Kimberly L. Berkowski, Physics Professor Eric Hudson, Concourse Professor

Jeremy M. Wolfe PhD '81, Biological Engineering Professor Linda G. Griffith, and Biology Instructor Megan E. Rokop PhD '04. The highest bidders for the students will win a date with the auctionee to various places, such as Legal Seafood, Shabu-Zen, and Toscanini's. Each of the faculty members will be hosting a lunch or dinner outing with multiple silent auction winners. Hockfield will go to lunch with six students. This is the third annual MedLinks dating auction. Every year, the group raises money for a different charity organiza-

tion. According to Bhimavarapu, the first auction raised \$800-\$1,000 for the Boston Area Rape Crisis Center, which offers counseling, medical, and legal assistance to sexually assaulted or abused women. The second dating auction brought in \$1,200 for the Antimony L. Gerhardt '04 Endowed Scholarship in Mathematics, in memory of a former MedLink who passed away in November 2005. "To keep the upward trend, our aim for this year is around \$1,500," Bhimavarapu said.

—JiHye Kim



ERIC D. SCHMIEDL—THE TECH
Matthew Faulkner '08 sorts through \$400 worth of high end chocolate at the Lab for Chocolate Science's Valentine's Chocolate Tasting on Saturday, Feb. 17.

Students, Faculty Debate Uses, Potential Abuses of Wikipedia

Wikipedia, from Page 1

or disputes over what should be said. Although Middlebury's history department has banned Wikipedia in citations, it has not banned its use. Don Wyatt, the chairman of the department, said a total ban on Wikipedia would have been impractical, not to mention close-minded, because Wikipedia is simply too handy to expect students never to consult it. At Middlebury, a discussion about the new policy is scheduled on campus on Monday, with speakers poised to defend and criticize using the site in research. Jimmy Wales, the co-founder of Wikipedia and chairman emeritus of its foundation, said of the Middlebury policy, "I don't consider it as a negative thing at all." He continued: "Basically, they are recommending exactly what we suggested — students shouldn't be citing encyclopedias. I would hope they wouldn't be citing Encyclopaedia Britannica, either. "If they had put out a statement not to read Wikipedia at all, I would be laughing. They might as well say don't listen to rock 'n' roll either."

Indeed, the English-language version of the site had an estimated 38 million users in the United States in December, and can be hard to avoid while on the Internet. Google searches on such diverse subjects as historical figures like Confucius and concepts like torture give the Wikipedia entry the first listing. In some colleges, it has become common for professors to assign students to create work that appears on Wikipedia. According to Wikipedia's list of school and university projects, this spring the University of East Anglia in England and Oberlin College in Ohio will have students edit articles on topics being taught in courses on the Middle East and ancient Rome. In December 2005, a Columbia professor, Henry Smith, had the graduate students in his seminar create a Japanese bibliography project, posted on Wikipedia, to describe and analyze resources like libraries, reference books and newspapers. With 16 contributors, including the professor, the project comprises dozens of articles, including 13 on different Japanese dictionaries and encyclopedias. In evaluations after the class, the

students said that creating an encyclopedia taught them discipline in writing and put them in contact with experts who improved their work and whom, in some cases, they were later able to interview. "Most were positive about the experience, especially the training in writing encyclopedia articles, which all of them came to realize is not an easy matter," Professor Smith wrote in an e-mail message. "Many also retained their initial ambivalence about Wikipedia itself." The discussion raised by the Middlebury policy has been covered by student newspapers at the University of Pennsylvania and Tufts, among others. The Middlebury Campus, the student weekly, included an opinion article last week by Chandler Kogmeier that accused the history department of introducing "the beginnings of censorship." Other students call the move unnecessary. Keith Williams, a senior majoring in economics, said students "understand that Wikipedia is not a responsible source, that it hasn't been thoroughly vetted." Yet he said, "I personally use it all the time."

The Council for the Arts at MIT and the MIT Graduate Student Life Grants present:

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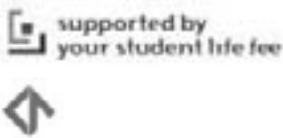
Program:

Randy Woolf	<i>Quicksilver</i> (1992)
Annie Gosfield	<i>Lost Signals and Drifting Satellites</i> (2003)
Lisa Bielawa	"Synopsis #3: <i>I think We Should Tell Her</i> " for solo flute (2006)
Yotam Haber	<i>Purity Guaranteed</i> (2002)
Jacob Cooper	<i>Not Just Another Piece for Solo Bass Drum</i> (2005)
Lisa Bielawa	"Synopsis #5: <i>He Figures Out What Clouds Mean</i> " (2007)
Allen Vizzutti	<i>Cascades</i>
Peter Gilbert	<i>Epigrams</i>

ARTISTS
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Charles Dimmick, violin
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Terry Everson, trumpet



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Police Log

The following incidents were reported to the MIT Police between Feb. 1 and Feb. 15, 2007. This summary does not include incidents such as false alarms, general service calls, larcenies, or medical shuttles.

- Feb. 1: M54 (21 Rear Ames St.), People in stairway in M54 acting suspiciously.
NW21 (190 Albany St.), 12:57 p.m., Cyber trespass.
W4 (320 Memorial Dr.), 1:03 p.m., Harassing e-mail.
- Feb. 2: Student House (111 Bay State Rd.), 3:17 p.m., Reporting person reports her laptop computer and brass rat ring were stolen from her residence; MIT Police responding, report taken.
M10 (122 Memorial Dr.), 3:28 p.m., Reporting person reports person in the library that does not belong in the area, has been asked to in the past; person given trespass notice, escorted off property.
W61 (450 Memorial Dr.), 9:22 p.m., Reporting person reports he is a victim of credit card fraud; MIT Police responding, report taken.
W31 (120 Mass. Ave.), 9:49 p.m., Reporting person reports person struck by motorvehicle while on a bike; MIT Police responding; Cambridge Police Department and Cambridge Fire Department on scene.
- Feb. 3: E19 (400 Main St.), 6:19 a.m., Report of a motorvehicle accident; Cambridge Police was notified.
M2 (182 Memorial Dr.), 10:38 a.m., Broken window on door.
M2 (182 Memorial Dr.), 10:40 a.m., Broken window of door.
M2 (182 Memorial Dr.), 10:41 a.m., Broken window of door.
M2 (182 Memorial Dr.), 10:42 a.m., Broken window of door.
M2 (182 Memorial Dr.), 11:03 a.m., Broken window of door.
W61 (450 Memorial Dr.), 8:42 p.m., Reporting person reported that his vehicle was broken into; car dispatched.
- Feb. 4: M4 (182 Rear Memorial Dr.), 8:22 a.m., Arrest of Bradley Jansson, 109 School St., Cambridge, MA; charged with trespassing.
- Feb. 5: W61 (450 Memorial Dr.), 1:19 p.m., Suspicious activity in a room.
- Feb. 6: M3 (33 Mass. Ave.), 3:52 p.m., Reporting person reports some digital equipment was stolen from the area; MIT Police take report.
M66 (25 Ames St.), 3:54 p.m., A baseball bat and other items stolen.
E25 (45 Carlton St.), 7:41 p.m., Headphones were stolen from his office; MIT Police dispatched for report.
- Feb. 7: W85 (540 Memorial Dr.), 12:06 p.m., Reporting person states there has been a lot of yelling and fighting going on in the apartment above.
- Feb. 10: M10 (122 Memorial Dr.), 1:51 a.m., Vandalism of exhibit in Lobby 10.
W71 (500 Memorial Dr.), 7:44 a.m., Caller states that person jumped through the kitchen window of Next House and fled, described as white male, 6'5, with red backpack.
M7 (77 Mass. Ave.), 12:54 p.m., Suspicious person in Bldg 7; Jansson, Bradley Keith, 66 Winthrop St., Cambridge, MA arrested for trespassing.
- Feb. 11: E2 (70 Amherst St.), 12:31 a.m., Officers checking report of harassment.
M2 (182 Memorial Dr.), 8:48 a.m., Officer stops a suspicious person in Bldg 2.
M7 (77 Mass. Ave.), 11:44 a.m., Units assisted Cambridge Police Department on Mass. Ave.
M2 (182 Memorial Dr.), 1:02 p.m., Officer stop of a suspicious person in Bldg 2.
- Feb. 13: NE25 (5 Cambridge Center), 10:02 a.m., Numerous harassing phone calls from unknown party.
M10 (122 Memorial Dr.), 10:44 a.m., Reporting party reports vandalism to exhibit in lobby of Bldg 10.
NE49 (600 Tech Square), 8:43 p.m., Field stop on a suspicious person.
- Feb. 14: W20 (84 Mass. Ave.), 12:26 p.m., Flimflam; fraud for an off campus apartment rental.
- Feb. 15: E1 (111 Memorial Dr.), 11:08 a.m., Suspicious package discovered; Cambridge Fire Department and Cambridge Police Department en route to location.
PDT (97 Bay State Rd.), 5:33 p.m., MIT Police and Boston Fire Department responding; small grease fire on stove; BFD says OK, all units clear.

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Biodiesel@MIT to Fuel Tech and Northwest Shuttles

Biodiesel, from Page 1

students, Roy-Mayhew's project involved finding a way to recycle UVO. "I decided to push the project forward through a UROP, supported by the Energy Programs Office and the Lab for Energy and Environment," Roy-Mayhew said.

Matthew R. Zedler '07, former Cambridge-MIT Exchange and Course II student, became interested in biodiesel after seeing its implementation in England. Zedler and Roy-Mayhew joined together in Fall 2006 and gained a following that is still on the rise from recent

publicity.

Katrina M. Ellison '10, who helps to write proposals for Biodiesel@MIT and works with the media, "heard about the project through the spams to the dorm lists." "I was always interested in alternative energy, and I wanted to get involved as a freshman by actually doing something," Ellison said. As a freshman, Ellison said she is learning a lot about the technical aspects of alternative energy and how to transform an idea into a business model.

Biodiesel@MIT is currently made up of undergraduates and

graduates from Course II, X, and XV.

On a national level, Biodiesel@MIT has made the top 10 in mtvU and General Electric's Ecomagination Challenge.

"We saw the posters and thought it would be a good idea and an opportunity to push the project forward and have a deadline," Zedler said. The contest challenges students "to develop new, creative ways to green their campus," according to the Ecomagination Web site, and received over 100 entries. More information about the contest, as well as videos for each of the top 10 college teams, is available at <http://www.ecocollegechallenge.com/>.

If the MIT team takes the \$25,000 grand prize, it would help fund their plan's implementation and add the solar panels necessary for the bioprocessor. Additionally, Angels & Airwaves (Blink-182's Tom DeLonge's band) would play an Earth Day concert at MIT in April. Other top 10 colleges are pursuing green projects like composting, reducing water consumption and waste produced, developing bicycle-charged batteries, and adding "greenroofs" to school buildings.

Beyond the mtvU contest, Biodiesel@MIT plans to come into fruition as a student corporation.

"[MIT's Environment, Health and Safety Office] will train the student operators we hire," Zedler said. "The funding for the operators will come from the \$1.10 per gallon normally charged to campus vendors to remove UVO. Students will also operate the transporting vehicles. Those have the possibility

of being biodiesel-fueled as well."

Amanda C. Graham, student administrator for the Laboratory for Energy and the Environment, said she is helping Biodiesel@MIT meet safety standards that similar biodiesel programs, such as one at the University of New Hampshire, have failed to meet.

Besides fueling Tech and Northwest Shuttles, there is also the possibility of adding diesel-powered engines to Grounds Services vehicles and to a new fleet of multi-purpose MIT shuttles that will replace the existing SafeRide fleet due for release in the summer. It doesn't stop there; at an even higher level, cogenerator plant boilers are another biodiesel-powered possibility, according to Biodiesel@MIT's proposal.

"The Biodiesel@MIT group has taken student engagement in campus sustainability initiatives to new heights," said Steven Lanou, deputy director for the Sustainability Program in MIT's Environmental Programs Office. "They have tackled a complex problem and really delved into not only the technical challenges, but also the institutional obstacles for getting a project like this done."

Campus Dining, the Student Center retailers, University Park Hotel, Theta Delta Chi, and some on-campus living groups are currently interested in working with Biodiesel@MIT, as mentioned in the working proposal. Together, they produce over 5,000 gallons of UVO per year, which corresponds to 5,000 gallons of biodiesel, the proposal states.

"I think [the biodiesel program] is wonderful," Marietta Lamarre-Buck, general manager of Campus Dining vendor Bon Appetit, said. "I've been pushing for it for over a year. We've tried contacting local sources to convert our oil into biodiesel, but with no luck."

Used vegetable oil is converted to biodiesel by adding methanol with potassium hydroxide as the catalyst. The products are pure biodiesel (B100) and glycerin mixed with fatty acids. The B100 is then mixed with petroleum-based

diesel to form B20, the preferred ratio to maintain proper engine performance. According to Zedler, B100 has a higher freezing point than petroleum-based diesel which necessitates blending the two.

"The biodiesel process is straightforward enough that it can be used in teaching introductory chemistry and organic chemistry classes," Zedler said.

But naturally this reaction requires a biodiesel processor, with a \$15,000 price tag set forth in the proposal. Even though a student-built processor would be much cheaper, it would need to meet the standards of the American Section of the International Association for Testing Materials. Instead, MBP Bioenergy, Inc. will supply the processor and chemicals. Solar panels to run the processor and make the project "greener" would cost another \$13-14,000, but state rebates for using solar power would bring the proposal's figure

closer to \$8,000, the proposal states.

Biodiesel@MIT is seeking funding from corporate sources through the MIT Institute Initiative for the initial start-up costs, according to Zedler. "Once the project receives financial backing, getting facilities should be easier," Zedler said. They are currently exploring space options for the processor, mixer, and diesel storage.

Although the glycerin is deemed safe enough by EHS for drain disposal, "We will probably store it in drums and pay for removal since it is the least contentious solution," Zedler said. "Or it provides an opportunity for students to start a small soap-making project," he added.

Biodiesel@MIT is collaborating with the Environmental Programs Office, Facilities, Parking and Transportation, EHS, LEE, and Campus Dining.

Voting on the proposals is slated to end March 2. The mtvU and GE judges will make the final decision in late March, according to their Web site. Voting opened on Jan. 21. To vote, visit <http://www.ecocollegechallenge.com/>.

Former Provost Played Piano, Enjoyed Tennis

Low, from Page 1

a disagreement with members who refused to study whether nuclear reactors could be made safe and reliable.

During World War II, Low worked on the mathematics of uranium enrichment processes for the Manhattan Project at the Oak Ridge

National Laboratory in Tennessee. He left the project to join the Army's 10th Mountain Division in Europe. He served as a mule driver and later as an artillery surveyor.

After the war, Low went to Columbia University, where he earned his PhD in physics in 1950, followed by post-doctoral work at the Institute for Advanced Study in Princeton. He spent a few years teaching at the University of Illinois at Urbana before arriving at MIT.

Low, who grew up in Manhattan, married his wife, Natalie Sadigur Low, in 1948. After she died in 2004, he moved from Belmont, Mass., to Haverford.

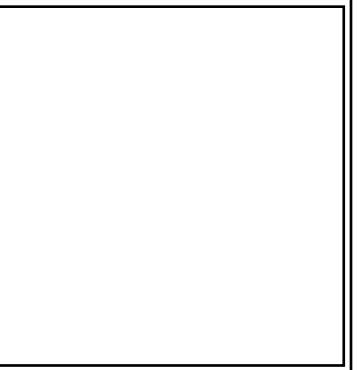
He had a pilot's license, enjoyed tennis and was a gifted piano player, known among friends for his ability to sing and play tunes by Cole Porter.

In addition to his daughter, he is survived by another daughter, Julie; a son, Peter; and six grandsons.

A memorial service at MIT will be scheduled at a later date.

Solution to Crossword

from page 7



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Graduate Student Council

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Faculty Discuss Student Global Experience

Faculty Meeting, from Page 1

Force on the Undergraduate Educational Commons and on global education were also presented during the faculty meeting.

Aron Walker '07, a student member of the task force, stressed that an "MIT education should exhibit a passion for learning" and called for a more flexible core set of General Institute Requirements.

Deborah K. Fitzgerald, dean of

Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences, suggested that the Institute develop a track where students can integrate global issues into their curriculum as freshmen, including study abroad and interdepartmental programs. Fitzgerald, who chaired the committee on HASS reform, stated that GIR and HASS requirements should be more transparent for students.

Edward B. Turk, professor of Foreign Languages and Literatures, said that the currently proposed

HASS reform, specifically the Freshman Experience, would make it very difficult for undergraduates to pursue an uninterrupted four year study of foreign languages.

In the report on global education, barriers including limited student opportunities, inflexible course requirements, a lack of awareness by the student population, and an existing financial penalty in student aid were identified by Linn W. Hobbs, professor of Materials Science and Engineering, and Biology

Professor Hazel L. Sive.

The report stressed the importance of students obtaining an understanding for different learning and work styles, a competency to work in other societies, and leadership skills across cultures. The report recommended increasing student awareness of international programs, doubling cross culture opportunities, incorporating global education in the curriculum, and removing financial barriers for students.

Solution to Sudoku

from page 6

PAID ADVERTISEMENT

Dishonest Portrayal Undermines Dialogue

The Jewish Community of MIT must express its dismay regarding the event, "Foreign Policy and Social Justice: a Jewish View, a Muslim View." This event in no way represents the MIT Jewish community, or Judaism as a whole. We believe that MIT should support objective discussion leading to a deeper understanding of any pertinent issue. However, by presenting these extreme religious figures under the guise of religious dialogue, the sponsors encourage animosity instead of understanding.

The speaker, Dovid Weiss, chosen to represent the "Jewish" view during this event, recently returned to the United States after attending Iran's Holocaust Denial Conference. His flagrantly ahistoric and hateful views are evinced by statements such as: "I have full documentation that, because of time constraints, I cannot present now...they [Zionists] had collaborated with the Nazis; and they thwarted the efforts to save Jews; they said 'Orthodox Jews we don't want, let them die.'"

Neturei Karta, the organization to which Weiss belongs, represents a view so wholly incongruous with that of the world Jewish community that it confounds and appalls us that he was chosen to serve as an ambassador of our faith on our campus. Judaism is being misrepresented, and students attending are being deceived.

The organizers of the event chose Weiss without consulting any element of the campus Jewish community. Furthermore, when we repeatedly expressed our concerns, all of the sponsors, including the MIT School of Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences, refused to take measures to rectify the problems.

The MIT Jewish community supports free speech and promotes an individual's right to public forum. However, in order to achieve progress through free speech, one must be equally committed to the honest representation of the parties involved. By failing in this regard, this event undermines the dialogue the sponsors seek to promulgate.

Matthew Cons '08, President, Hillel
Stephen Fried '09, President, Students for Israel; Coordinator, MIT Conservative Minyan
David Stiebel '09, President, Students for Israel
Adam Rigel '08, President, Alpha Epsilon Pi
Elizabeth Katcoff '08, President, Alpha Epsilon Phi
Brett Shapiro G, President Grad Hillel
Marshall Einborn G, Co-President, Sloan Jewish Student Organization
Chaim Kutnicki '07, Coordinator, Orthodox Minyan
Irene Kaplow '10, Coordinator, MIT Conservative Minyan
Michal Gilon-Yanai G, Co-President, Israeli Business Club
Isaac Hilburn, Reform Chavurah

SPORTS



Andrew Yoon '10 prepares to return the ball during the MIT squash team's scrimmage against Tufts University on Monday, Feb. 19.

AARON SAMPSON—THE TECH

Overtime Win Sends Men's Ice Hockey to Saturday's Semifinal

James Zorich
STAFF WRITER

Timothy E. Studley '07 knocked in a rebound goal 9:09 into overtime Wednesday night at Johnson Ice Rink, defeating Westfield State College 5-4 and advancing MIT men's ice hockey to the NorthEast Collegiate Hockey Association semifinals tomorrow in Nashua, New Hampshire.

The Engineers' (12-5-1) veterans played as if they were not ready for their college careers to end. Studley finished with a goal and two assists, Brian A. LaCrosse '07 added a goal and three assists, and John J. Bergin G contributed two goals.

Studley's game-winning goal was made possible by skillful passing in the offensive zone from defenseman Nicholas J. Maietta '07, who found LaCrosse open close to the net for a point-blank shot. Westfield (8-9-4) goalie Chris Motsis was able to make the initial save, but the rebound bounced directly to Studley, who tapped it in to end the game.

The goal averted what would have been a frustrating loss for the Engineers, who were unable to hold leads of 3-1 and 4-2. The 4-2 advantage came 3:20 into the third period on a brilliant individual effort from Bergin, who bulled through a Westfield defender and forced the puck past Motsis.

The Owls cut the deficit to one just under seven minutes later, and James

Gropman provided the equalizer with 1:03 remaining in regulation, one-timing a cross-ice pass from Brian Richmond into the right side of the net shortly after his team had pulled their goalie for an extra skater.

The overtime period provided several chances for both teams to end the game. MIT had a golden opportunity four minutes into extra time when defenseman Kevin M. Farino '10 moved in alone towards the net, but Motsis thwarted the attack. Shortly thereafter Tech netminder Thomas A. Hopkins '07 made his best save of the game, using his blocker to tip wide a hard slap shot from Mike Gropman, who had broken free in the slot.

Early on in the contest MIT dominated possession of the puck, and the action was centered around Westfield's net, but the Owls were the ones to open the scoring. Midway through the first period Richmond took advantage of a rebound to put Westfield up 1-0, but LaCrosse answered less than five minutes later, and the first intermission arrived with the teams deadlocked at one.

The second period featured the most aesthetically pleasing goal of the game when LaCrosse and Studley executed cross-ice passes to find Jeremy D. Myers '08 in front of the net for a 2-1 lead. Bergin converted a deflection three minutes later to stretch the lead to 3-1, but Mike O'Keefe pulled the Owls to within one with only 1:03 remaining until the second intermission after Richmond was able to get behind the Engineers' back line.

UPCOMING HOME EVENTS

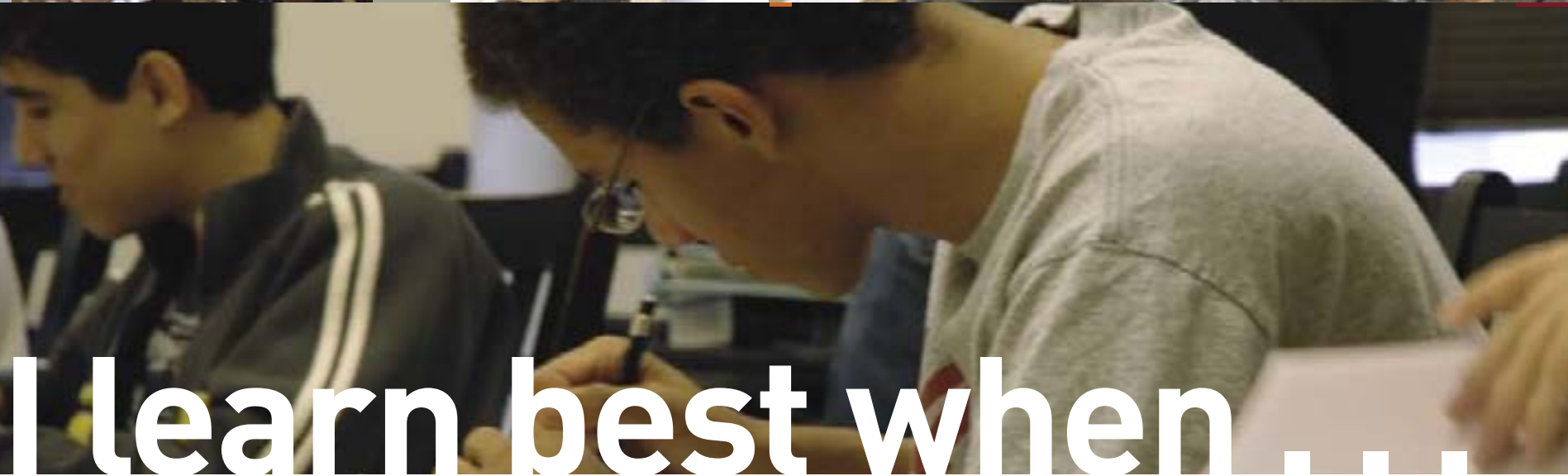


Saturday, Feb. 24, 2007
Men's and Women's Fencing, New England Championship
9:00 a.m., duPont Athletic Center
Men's and Women's Gymnastics vs. Springfield College, Boston University
1:00 p.m., duPont Athletic Center



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Reception to follow

On the Student Street, demonstrations and exhibits will show how technology can help learning.

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