

To improve Simmons culture, some talk of dorm revolution

Proposal would split dorm into 10 independent houses

By Isabella Wei

On September 11, Simmons's discussion mailing list, sponge-talk, went aflame after the release of Proposition 10, a GRT's effort to expedite the development of dorm culture within Simmons. Proposition 10, an unofficial document, calls for the division of the Simmons government into ten autonomous sections, each responsible for its own budget, constitution, freshman recruitment, and GRT placement. The proposition reflects the dissatisfaction among residents about the lack of dorm culture in Simmons Hall.

While splitting the government

into autonomous sections would force Simmons to build smaller communities, Sarah B. Laskey '11, Chair of Simmons' House Committee, does not think that Proposition 10, as designed, would fix the problems facing Simmons. "The problems they're trying to address with [Proposition 10]...are real and worth looking at," she said.

Simmons President Christina R. Johnson '11 (also president of the Dormitory Council) said that "it would not be sustainable to try and run ten different governments."

For some Simmons residents, living on a particular floor or tower has never meant much to them. Sarah B.

Laskey '11, Chair of Simmons' House Committee, said that "there are places in [Simmons] where people don't leave their rooms, the halls are quiet, and you don't know your neighbors."

According to Simmons resident Samuel M. Thompson '12, dorms like Burton-Conner and East Campus have distinct cultures associated with each floor or wing. "Often times groups move from year to year so you don't have that kind of wing situation that you have in East Campus, where one floor has one specific kind of their own community but it's not permanent and it's not localized." He

Simmons, Page 12

PBE hazing details still undisclosed

IFC confirms hazing took place in January

By Jeff Guo and Joanna Kao

STAFF REPORTERS

A week after the News Office announced the decision to suspend the fraternity Phi Beta Epsilon (PBE) for hazing, parties remain tight-lipped about details of the case.

The Interfraternity Council (IFC), the student body that governs the fraternities, has released some information to *The Tech*, mostly about how the case against PBE played out.

But information about the most important matter — the nature and severity of the hazing allegations — continues to be withheld. Neither the IFC, which handled the case initially, nor the FSILG office, which was involved with the subsequent appeal, nor the members of PBE have offered any details about what PBE did, and why it was considered hazing.

The IFC has confirmed that in the days leading up to the beginning of fall rush, an anonymous source gave the IFC a document that described new member education activities that PBE conducted with its pledge class of 2013 in January 2010. The IFC said that PBE confirmed that the document belonged to PBE.

PBE, Page 14

Stem cell court battle reaches appeals stage

By John A. Hawkinson

NEWS EDITOR

A three-judge panel in the DC Circuit Court of Appeals heard oral arguments in the stem cell case yesterday, and also rejected the University of California's motion to become a party to the case. Additionally, the government filed several motions before the lower court late last night, seeking judgement in their favor.

The case is *Sherley v. Sebelius*, where adult stem cell re-

searchers (the plaintiffs) are suing the government to prevent the use of federal money to fund human embryonic stem cell research. A lower court issued a preliminary injunction barring the work, but it has been temporarily lifted by the appeals court while it hears arguments for a more permanent lifting.

Oral argument

The argument began yesterday morning shortly after 10

Stem cells, Page 10

PBE ALUMS WRITE IN ABOUT PLIGHT

Alumni are protesting PBE's 4-year suspension for hazing, arguing that the process was hasty and unfair. **OPN, p. 5**

IS THE IFC GOOD FOR FRATS?

Does the IFC feel pressured to make examples of fraternities? **OPN, p. 4**

NOT IN THE GIVING MOOD

Charity events are supposed to make you feel good, not ripped off. **OPN, p. 4**



MITWIT

Meeting a lot of new people on campus? Some advice. **FUN, p. 6**

SQUASH AT SYMPHONY HALL

Four squash titans faced off Wednesday night at Boston's Symphony Hall. One triumphed. **SPO, p. 16**

SECTIONS

World & Nation . . . 2
Opinion . . . 4
Fun Pages . . . 6
Sports . . . 16



SARANG N. KULKARNI

Dave Munro of the band Air Traffic Controller performs at Fred-Fest III at the East Campus courtyard last Friday.

Parents of dead student sue MIT, Delta Upsilon

Parents accuse parties of negligence in the 2008 death of Robert Wells, who fell out of a window

By Aparna Sud

The parents of deceased MIT student Robert M. Wells '08 sued MIT and the Delta Upsilon fraternity on May 21, 2010, alleging 26 counts of wrongful death.

Two years ago, on Saturday, March 1, Wells plunged five stories from the DU fraternity house at 526 Beacon Street to his death. He was a senior in course IX, Brain and Cognitive Sciences, and a brother of DU.

The lawsuit, filed by Michael and Laura Wells in Suffolk County Superior Court, says that Wells sustained "massive injuries including blunt impact to his head, skull fractures, lacerations and contusions of his brain, subarachnoid

hemorrhage, etc." as a "direct and proximate result of both DU and MIT's negligence" and "failure to correct or warn the condition," of Wells's living quarters. He opened the window adjacent to his bed for the "purpose of allowing cold air into his bedroom." Shortly thereafter, around 5:45 a.m., he was pronounced dead.

The Wells' allege that the house's heating system "was notoriously difficult to control" and "was controlled by one unreliable thermostat," so brothers "would often open the windows in winter months in an effort to get comfortable and to control the temperatures in their bedrooms."

Wells, Page 13

IN SHORT

OpenCourseWare will remain as a free service despite rumors that started as a result of the article "MIT: Weighs Charges for Online Lectures" published by the International Herald Tribune on September 26, according to OCW Executive Director Cecilia d'Oliveira.

Laptop STOP tagging will be held today and tomorrow on the first floor of the Stata Center. Protect your laptop for \$10.

The State of the Institute Forum will be held this Wednesday

at 1 p.m. in Kresge Auditorium. At 2 p.m., the MIT Community is invited to take part in a community social on Kresge Oval.

The 20th First Annual Ig Nobel Prize Ceremony will be held this Thursday, 7:30 p.m. at Harvard. Tickets are sold out, but a live webcast will be available on YouTube.

Save a life! Donate blood today and Thursday between 1 p.m.–6 p.m. or tomorrow 8 a.m.–1p.m. on the second floor of the Student Center

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

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By David M. Templeton
STAFF COLUMNIST

It's the other, more consequential activi-

So why does the IFC punish frats in an

David M. Templeton is the managing editor of The Tech. This column represents his opinions only.

"One by one, please," a guy in front and

The argument didn't go on much lon-

So there's the story; a short story with many layers to it, not at all on a personal level but more on a general, social and organizational level. Why should I resent giving in my \$5 to a charitable cause, when the charity is blameless when it comes to event management? First, charity for me

Charity, Page 5

A story Friday about the appointment of acting Dean of

Engineering Cynthia Barnhart PhD '88 mischaracterized the administrative classification of Transportation@MIT. Transportation@MIT is an "initiative," not a "center." A center is an administrative term at MIT that implies a degree of formal recognition and status (staff, budgets, etc.) that initiatives do not have.

Letters, columns, and cartoons must bear the authors' signatures, addresses, and phone numbers. Unsigned letters will

Guest columns are opinion articles submitted by members of the MIT or local community.

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PBE alumni respond to news of fraternity's expulsion

PBE is a uniquely MIT community

I am a Phi Bete. I have been a member since that warm Labor Day weekend in 1971, when two words, "I pledge" brought the ringing of a chime and an unexpected sea of hands all clamoring to shake mine in welcome. It is among the most memorable moments my life, when an awkward, somewhat nerdy freshman was overwhelmed with an outpouring of genuine, unconditional friendship and acceptance. I knew I had become part of something unique and good but could not imagine how this fraternity would so profoundly influence what I would become in life.

But today, this wonderful fraternity, which has meant so much to so many, contributed so significantly to MIT and which, throughout it's history, has served as a paragon of decency and community involvement is threatened by the reckless, uninformed and short sighted decisions of a few individuals in the IFC. It is not my intent at this juncture to debate these actions. However, I feel duty bound to defend my Phi Beta Epsilon for the sake of current and past generations of brothers who invested so much of themselves into this fraternity that it should thrive for many generations to come.

**We are not a chapter of
a diffuse and remote
national fraternity —
we are the whole book.**

I am the 741st member of Phi Beta Epsilon, one in an unbroken line of MIT undergraduates, a line which began in 1890 and continues through to our newest members in the class of '13 (our second class of '13). We are a local to MIT and always have been. We are not a "chapter" of a diffuse and remote national fraternity — we are the whole book. Unlike nationals, every member of our fraternity has been to MIT and deeply understands its unique culture of engineering, science and innovation applied for the good of humanity. We are closely knit and dedicated to the Institute — we have to be as we only have each other and MIT. We have owned our home at 400 Memorial Drive since MIT moved from Boston. Fortunately, our early brothers had the prescience to see the long term value of investing in a vacant patch of landfill. Currently, our alumni leaders work extensively with our under-

graduate brothers to help them manage house affairs and nurture their growth as young men.

Since 1977, I have chaired our annual reunions which first started in 1897. Each year these reunions bring together all classes and their families, including current undergraduate brothers, for a multi-day intergenerational exchange of memories, career perspectives and good times. Through this involvement, I have had the privilege of sharing almost a century of Phi Beta, and MIT, experiences and interacting with each succeeding group of undergraduate members. As a result, I can attest that this much is

Modesty aside, MIT has benefitted from Phi Betes as well. Across all years we have steadily served the institute...

true — today's undergraduate brothers, our "actives," are among the brightest, most engaged, considerate, articulate and accomplished I have had the privilege of knowing. While they have grown to be a wonderfully diverse and inclusive group over the years, the fundamental values of brotherhood they embody have remained the same.

Phi Betes certainly owe a lot to MIT. The unparalleled education we received enabled us to pursue productive careers, become leaders in our respective disciplines, and make meaningful contributions to the quality of life across many segments of the global community. But, modesty aside, MIT has benefitted from Phi Betes as well. Across all years we have steadily served the Institute not only with our financial contributions but in service as members of the MIT Corporation, leadership in local alumni clubs, Educational Counselors, participants in the externship programs, and key supporters of programs such as MISTI, to name a few. The Reid Weedon '41 award for alumni/ae relations was established in recognition of his dedicated work on behalf of students groups and alumni. Our brothers also serve in numerous faculty and staff positions throughout the Institute. And next time you work out, play squash, or try to improve your tennis game, think about Brother Al Zesiger '51, the family of Brother David Flett Dupont '56, and Brother Jasper Carr '16.

Yes, I am a Phi Bete and proud of it. I will be a Phi Bete to the end.

Mark D. Beasman '75

PBE judicial process unjust

As three MIT and Phi Beta Epsilon alumni living in London, UK, we have been following closely the recent development with respect to the IFC's decision to suspend our fraternity for four years. After reviewing all the relevant information made available to us, we would like to express our deepest concern and condemnation for the unjust suspension of our fraternity. Phi Beta Epsilon has always fostered a strong sense of community and support for MIT at large. From the founding of the fraternity in 1890 to today, countless numbers of PBE alumni have carried on the tradition of financial support and volunteer service to MIT. While we shared a sense of pride of MIT, the recent unilateral and prejudiced decision by IFC to suspend Phi Beta Epsilon is nothing short of a slap in the face for the loyalty many of us have demonstrated to MIT over several decades.

We demand and expect a full, unbiased, investigation by an independent panel into the allegations, as well as justification of the penalty levy upon our beloved home in Cambridge. We believe we have been unfairly singled out and discriminated against by IFC members, who carried ulterior motives to close the door on PBE.

**We believe we have
been unfairly singled
out and discriminated
against by IFC members**

We demand PBE Corporation be given the opportunity to argue its case in front of this panel, and be allowed due representation and opportunity to prove its innocence. It is unthinkable that 120 years of tradition of excellence and distinguished service to MIT will be erased by an inexperienced and faulty collection of undergraduate students from competing living groups, each with its own self interest against PBE's continued survival and service.

This decision, if upheld, will tarnish MIT's standing worldwide. We trust you will give this letter, and the many that no doubt will follow, the attention it deserves. Until an open and independent review is completed, we must withhold further contributions to or participation in MIT-related activities.

*Lorenzo Levi '90, T-Y Hsia '90
and Senad Prusac '90*

More thorough investigation necessary

As an MIT Alumnus and a member of the PBE fraternity community ('77), I would like to stand in support of the many sentiments so eloquently presented in previous letters forwarded to you from other PBE Alumni.

In addition, I would like to add that over the last three years, as architect of the future renovations to the PBE property, I have had the good fortune of getting to know the current “Active” members quite closely. They have impressed me as being some of the most responsible, mature, open, collegial, and engaged students I have encountered at the Institute in both my years as an MIT undergraduate and graduate student, and for seven years as a recent visiting associate professor in the Department of Architecture at MIT.

All of the current Actives make me proud of my association with PBE, and question the allegations promulgated by a flawed hearing with the IFC. The characterization of the PBE community and their alleged transgression of the Hazing Policy is at clear odds with the reality of the actions and character of the current actives and the nature of the initiation process. I, not a fraternal type to begin with, remember being repulsed as an MIT student by the idea of secret initiation rites. When actually confronted with them in my own initiation, which matches that of what I understand there currently to be, I was deeply surprised, impressed and moved by the emphasis on activities of "social service" rather than that of ugly adolescent behavior. It provided a very positive influence on me as a young initiate, and one which I believe the Institute can equally embrace.

PBE is in no way an “Animal House,” but rather a housing alternative where the students add to their many responsibilities to the Institute that of governance, management and collaboration required to maintain a large home and and cohesion amongst a multicultural community — not an experience that most dormitories can provide.

I thus kindly request that you seek a more thorough investigation of the accuracy of the allegations and appropriateness of the punishment. The future existence and growth of a vital and contributing PBE community is at stake, as is the respect of the fairness of the MIT housing system.

Alan Joslin '77

Charity events are fun, but are they all that charitable?

Charity, from Page 4

is less about extracting money and more about generating interest in a cause — campaigns such as those at the graduate volunteer day from a few weeks ago. “Aggressive” is too strong a word, but my style wouldn’t be so “forthcoming” when it comes to lining students up individually to maximize donations. I like to make my donations with a sense of awareness and based on careful consideration of claimed benefits, not when I’m in an unexpected and pressurized situation.

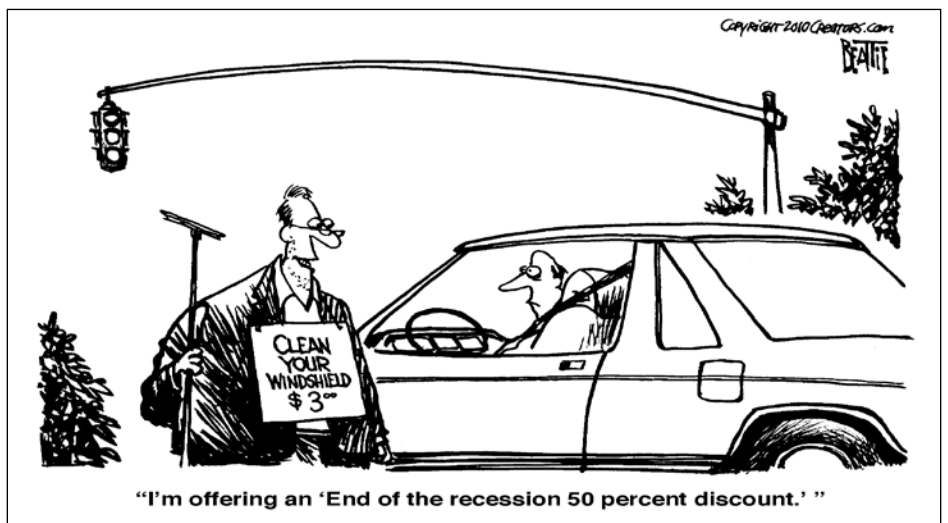
Second, and on a minor note, it was the profit from this MIT-BU event that was to go to the charity in question, not the entire donation from a student, or a defined percentage or amount. Personally, I would prefer to pay for a good student event and then make a contribution to a charity who can account for 100 percent of my donation. I never favor the approach of giving what's left over to charity, although I recognize its advantages from an event management point of view.

This was a BU-MIT event designed to serve the needs of such students. In my opinion, graduate students attended the event primarily for the night out rather than for the charity aspect. Having to stand in an unnecessarily slow line and

go through donation negotiation when my own college was running the event is not what I expected.

I've been in the States now for just over five weeks and little has surprised me. Little, because over here, there is a lot in common with back home — home for me being that little island off the east coast of Boston, Ireland. I've done the Graduate Student Council (GSC) orientation events, from the campus walking tours, the residence BBQs, the reception under the dome and the presidential address, to the harbour cruise, the orientation Olympics and an excellent hiking trip. Had such events been organized by a university administrative body, I would have deemed orientation to have been a great success. But for such a plan of action to have been put in place by a mass of voluntary students and dedicated student leaders! I have no words other than "Fair Play!" In the grand scale of things, my ranting about "Charity Extraction" is of small significance. As an opinion writer, with the rightful lack of authority I should have, I salute the success of the GSC orientation. I'm naive, with lots to learn, but lots to change and also to have changed in me.

Ronan Killian McGovern is a graduate student in the department of Mechanical Engineering.



I'M IN AEROSPACE COMPUTATIONAL ENGINEERING

OH... COOL!

WHAT PROGRAM ARE YOU IN?

COMPUTATIONAL AND SYSTEMS BIOLOGY WITH A FOCUS IN MODELING, INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND BIO-INFORMATICS.

NOTE TO SELF...

IF YOU'RE GOING TO MEET SOMEONE AT MIT, DO IT WHERE THERE'S BEER.

OH— COOL.

SO UM—

YEAH...

COULD THIS DAY GET ANY WORSE?

YOU KNOW, YOU TEND TO BRING A LOT OF THIS ON YOURSELF-

UGH! WITH THE TOP DOWN!?! HOW'D I KNOW THIS WOULD HAPPEN?

YOU WANT MY HONEST ANSWER?

kwik-wash

CHOP

Crossword Puzzle I

ACROSS

- 55 Pennsylvania in D.C., e.g.
56 "Battle Cry" writer
58 Star in the sky?
60 Keyboard key
63 Take one's eye off the
road?
66 Wearies
67 E. Ness, e.g.
68 Mouse-induced squeals
69 Derisive
70 Marquis de ____
71 P-U connection

- 1 Some pens
- 2 Takings
- 3 Quiet rapt
- 4 Guy's partn
- 5 Discard
- 6 Night in Me
- 7 Widespread
- 8 Pleeeeease?
- 9 __ Paulo
- 10 Border on
- 11 Shook up
- 12 Give aid to

- 13 Comply with, as a rule
18 Greek colony
19 Kind of lily
23 NY prison
25 Sundial number
27 Compass dir.
28 Partner of hem
29 Black cuckoo
30 Equinox mo.
32 Pass, as time
34 Part of TNT
35 Geom. figure
39 Tangled mass
40 Bakker's letters
41 That woman
43 S. Hemisphere nation
44 Thomas of basketball
45 Maiden turned into a spider
46 Flood-zone sight
47 Jumps for joy
48 Focus (on)
49 Like some deductions, with "a"
53 Food regimens

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8		9	10	11	12	13
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47	48	49						50						
51				52		53	54		55					
56			57		58			59				60	61	62
63				64							65			
66						67					68			
69						70					71			

- | | |
|-----------------------|--------------------------|
| 54 Bakery lure | 61 5th Ave. retailer |
| 57 Timetable, briefly | 62 Saclike growth |
| 59 Not very much | 64 Half a fly? |
| 60 Water pitcher | 65 Supply slip, in brief |

Crossword Puzzle II

ACROSS

- 49 Scottish feudal lord
51 19th of a certain series
53 Sault __ Marie
54 End of quip
63 Halo
64 Kind of trail
65 State of relaxation
66 Royal ruler
67 Immature seed
68 Be in a huff
69 Latin I verb
70 Stitch again
71 Affirmative votes

- 1 Make a lasting impression?
- 2 No more than
- 3 Feline reply
- 4 Relay finisher
- 5 Elbow room
- 6 Choir member
- 7 Ashram figure
- 8 Kuwait's ruler
- 9 Rhubarbs

- 10 Golden table wine
11 Lofty
12 Like a couch potato
13 Layer of ore
21 Massenet work
22 HBO rival
25 Add to the heap?
26 Singer Abdul
27 Irk
28 One possessed?
29 Synthetic fabric
30 Window bases
32 __ del Sol
33 Sean of "The Lord of the
Rings"
34 Glistened
37 Cote resident
38 Fourth of MMXVI
41 Cheap ocean passage
42 Sporty Chevy
47 Erhard's program
50 Religious dissent
52 Relish
53 Hag
54 Edible first prize

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13
14					15						16			
17					18						19			
20					21						22			
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25	26	27				28	29	30		31		32	33	34
35				36	37				38		39			
40			41							42				
43					44						45			
46				47		48				49	50			
			51		52			53						
54	55	56				57	58	59				60	61	62
63					64						65			
66					67						68			
69					70						71			

- | | |
|---------------------|-------------------------|
| 55 Arles assents | 59 Lacquered metalware |
| 56 Samovars | 60 See socially |
| 57 Basilica section | 61 Sailing |
| 58 Artistic work | 62 Poisonous evergreens |

Easy Sudoku

Solution, page 13

	5		6			8		
7	2	3					6	
		1		4				
	7	2			5			4
	8		4		7		5	
1			9			6	8	
				2		3		
	3					5	4	9
		6			4		7	

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.

Hard Sudoku

Solution, page 13

					8	5		9
9					1		7	
			2				8	
7		2	5			4	9	6
6								1
4	1	3			7	8		2
	7				9			
	2		3					8
5		9	1					

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.

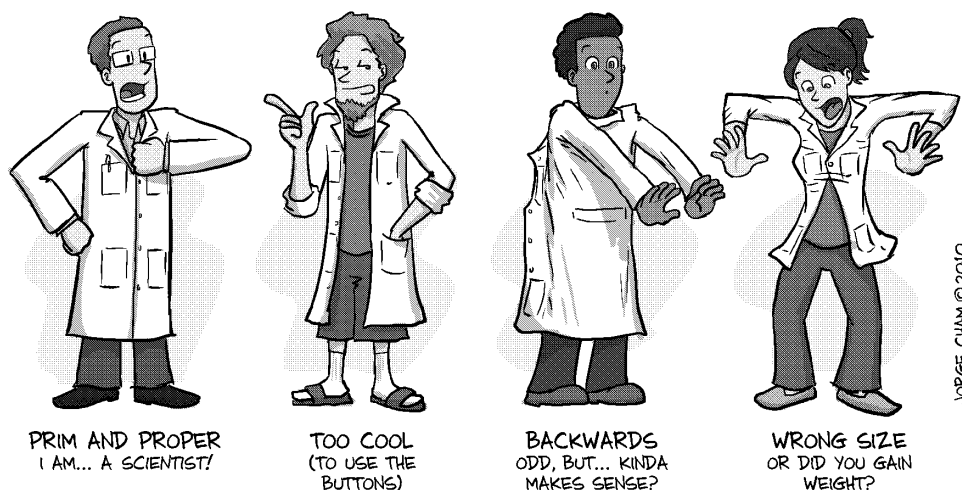
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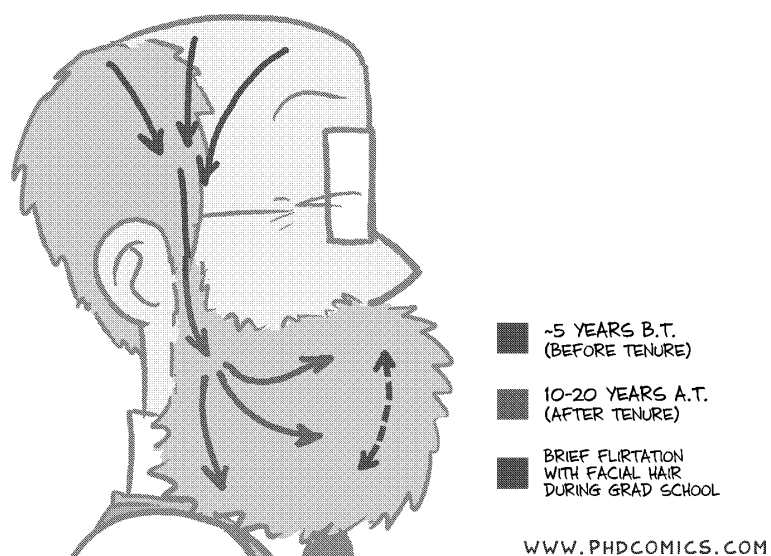
by Jerry Holkins
and Mike Krahulik



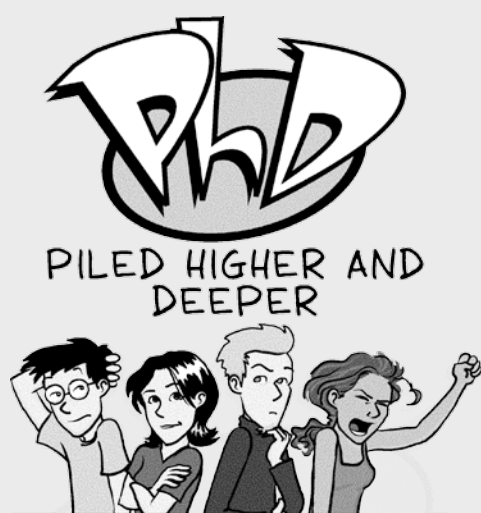
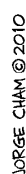
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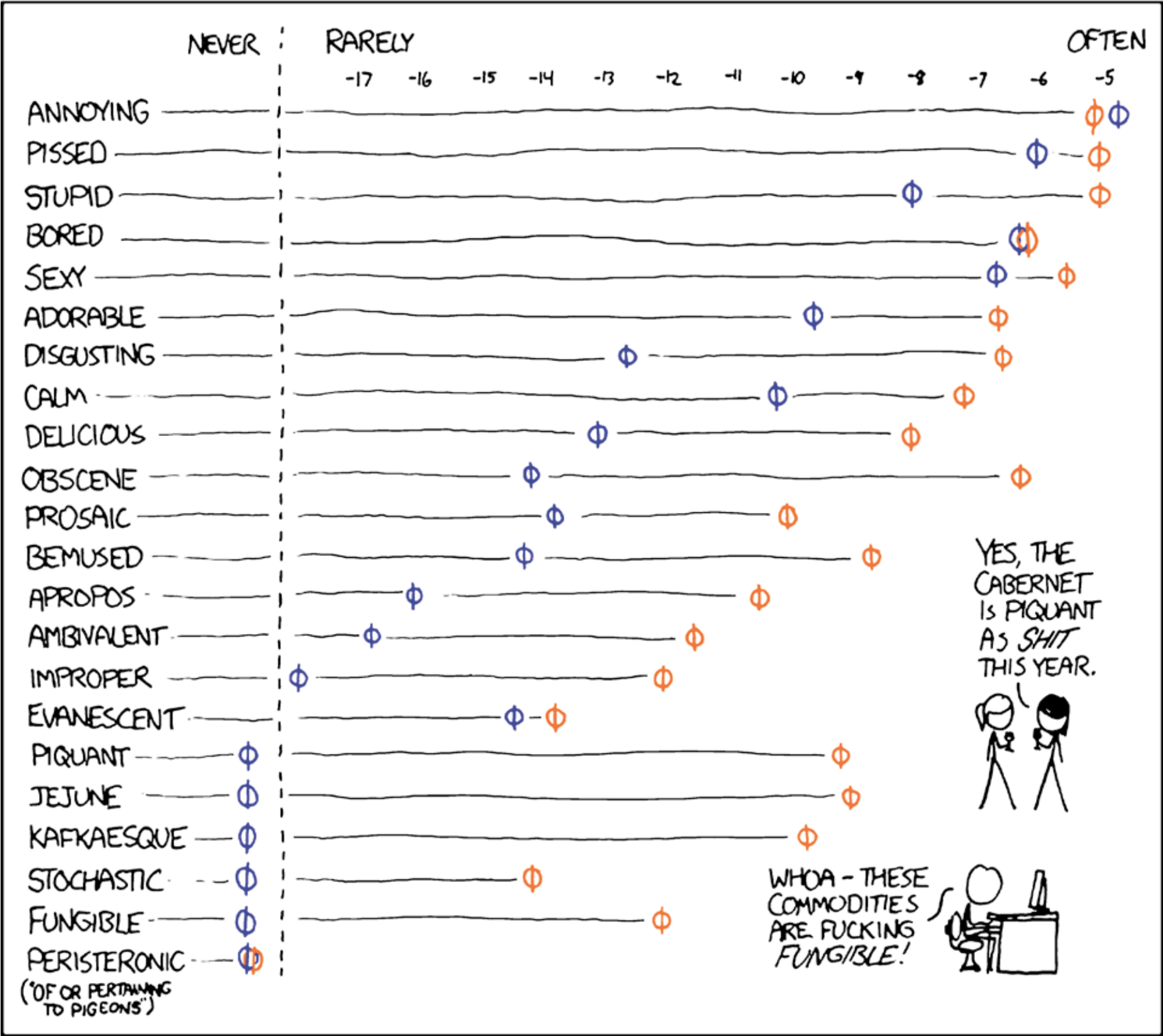
by Jorge Cham

Adjectives

FREQUENCY WITH WHICH VARIOUS ADJECTIVES ARE INTENSIFIED WITH OBSCENITIES (BASED ON GOOGLE HITS)

ϕ : "FUCKING ____"
 ϕ : "____ AS SHIT"

SCALE: $\ln\left(\frac{\text{HITS FOR INTENSIFIED PHRASE}}{\text{HITS FOR ADJECTIVE ALONE}}\right)$



'Fucking ineffable' sounds like someone remembering how to do self-censorship halfway through a phrase.

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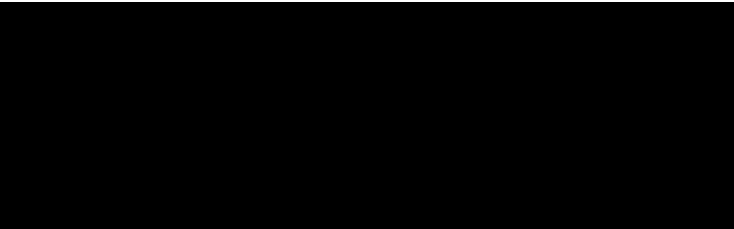
Letters, and hence words, are encoded in the table. There are many factors to unlock the question. Figure it out and provide your answer to show you are in your problem-solving prime!

15199734	95137668395	1236789689135	95137668395	894102
138449190	13	4123	13	547230
1799839470	12903	106398138	12903	3650790
7113990	13	107198	13	105872910
167739	19002830	5596333435	19002830	9867

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JINGYUN FAN—THE TECH

Patrick C. McDaniel '13 snoozes in the tent he constructed in front of East Campus desk on Sunday. McDaniel was hoping to be first in line for IHOP, East Campus' monthly free breakfast event. McDaniel was indeed the first to get breakfast that day.



GREG STEINBRECHER—THE TECH

After several days of on-and-off service, the Burton-side elevator in Burton-Conner House broke down Saturday night, trapping students inside. The Cambridge fire department managed to free them within 20 minutes.

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Solution to Crossword I

from page 6

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

Solution to Crossword II

from page 6

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

Solution to Easy Sudoku

from page 7

9	5	4	6	7	1	8	2	3
7	2	3	8	5	9	4	6	1
8	6	1	2	4	3	7	9	5
6	7	2	1	8	5	9	3	4
3	8	9	4	6	7	1	5	2
1	4	5	9	3	2	6	8	7
4	9	7	5	2	8	3	1	6
2	3	8	7	1	6	5	4	9
5	1	6	3	9	4	2	7	8

Solution to Hard Sudoku

from page 7

2	4	1	7	3	8	5	6	9
9	6	8	4	5	1	2	7	3
3	5	7	2	9	6	1	8	4
7	8	2	5	1	3	4	9	6
6	9	5	8	4	2	7	3	1
4	1	3	9	6	7	8	5	2
8	7	4	6	2	9	3	1	5
1	2	6	3	7	5	9	4	8
5	3	9	1	8	4	6	2	7

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Event: Finance Workshop (Open to All Students)
Acing the Interview: How to Effectively
Interview in Financial Services
Time: 5:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.
Location: 6-120

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Appeals court might rule on stem cells this week

During questioning period, judges hold heated arguments with lawyers on both sides of case

Stem cells, from Page 1

a.m., and continued for about 75 minutes. It was scheduled to last only 30 minutes, but the judges asked many questions of the arguing lawyers and extended the time. The argument style at this court is similar to the argumentative style those before the Supreme Court, where judges ask many questions.

Deputy Assistant Attorney General Beth S. Brinkman began with the Government's argument, but was immediately interrupted by Judge Thomas Griffith, after which they had a ten-minute exchange.

"All \$64 million is completely ruined?" Griffith asked, expressing incredulity at the government's position that the preliminary injunction caused irreparable harm. "They don't keep lab notebooks?" He asked.

Griffith was the most aggressive questioner, according to Dow Jones Newswire.

Judge Brett Kavanaugh labelled

the government's position "internally inconsistent," but also said that deference was due to the government when the law is ambiguous. He labelled the government's position — that stem cell research was not "research in which an embryo is destroyed" — as "gerrymandering."

Judge Judith Rogers appeared more sympathetic to the government's position, suggesting that the preliminary injunction might damage the public's interest.

(Kavanaugh and Griffith are appointees of Republican President George W. Bush. Rogers was appointed by President Bill Clinton.)

After Brinkman, Thomas G. Hungar of Gibson, Dunn, & Crutcher argued in favor of the plaintiffs, James L. Sherley and Theresa A. Deisher, the adult stem cell researchers. The judges were not easy on Hungar, either.

Kavanaugh observed that the congressional appropriations rider at issue, the Dickey-Wicker amend-

ment, was intended to bar research on human embryos, not on stem cells.

Hungar argued that the National Institute of Health's research policy had been "all over the map," but Griffith said the NIH had been consistent in its refusal to not fund the derivation of human embryos.

According to *Nature*, the judges were "equal-opportunity interrogators," letting no side off easily.

Hungar also revealed a personal opinion contrary to the plaintiff's filing in this case: that the preliminary injunction (that has been temporarily lifted) should be interpreted as barring research that was permitted under President Bush's stem cell guidelines. In their filings, the plaintiffs argued that work with the Bush stem cell lines could continue, and the lower court judge, Royce C. Lamberth, appeared to agree. But the government took the opposite position consistent with Hungar's: they believe the injunction barred work with the Bush lines.

UC Intervention rejected

Shortly after 1 p.m. yesterday, the appeals court denied the University of California's request to join



BEVERLY REZNECK — D.C. DISTRICT COURT

Last month, District Court Chief Judge Royce C. Lamberth placed a halt on the Obama administration's funding of human embryonic stem cell research, throwing the research community into turmoil.

the case as an intervenor.

The university had moved for permission to join the case last week as an intervenor. Both the plaintiffs and government objected, with the government recommending that the university file an amicus curiae, or friend-of-the-court brief, instead. That will allow the university to offer its opinions before the court, but it will not have the same rights of reply and potential oral argument that a full party would have.

The court's order yesterday granted the university amicus status. Normally a party seeking to file such a brief must have either permission of the court or permission of both parties, though such permission is customarily granted.

Defense moves for summary judgement

With the case before the appeals

court, both sides are continuing to file motions and briefs before the lower court, the District Court for the District of Columbia.

On Sept. 9, the plaintiffs moved for summary judgement. Yesterday, the defense did so as well.

In about 100 pages of filings, the government reiterates the arguments it lodged earlier, in its opposition to the preliminary injunction, as well as in its motions to stay, or temporarily lift, the preliminary injunction.

In one filing, it argues against the plaintiff's motion for summary judgement.

In another filing, it argues for summary judgement in favor of its own side.

The government also responds to allegations that Deisher and Sherley personally offered in declarations filed earlier (as distinct from legal filings on their behalf by their lawyers), in its "Response to Plaintiff's Statement of Material Facts." In particular, the government strongly disputes the idea that Sherley and Deisher's research has been harmed by human embryonic stem cell research.

The NIH continues to observe that, even as this lawsuit wends its way through the courts, Deisher has still not applied for NIH funding. And it quibbles with Sherley over the number of competing NIH grants he has applied for, distinguishing grant revisions from new grant applications.

Jaenisch lectures today

Professor Rudolph Jaenisch, a noted stem cell expert, is giving the James R. Killian Lecture in 10-250 today at 2:30 p.m., on the topic of stem cells.

Portions of the first section of this article, "Oral argument," are summarized from wire stories.

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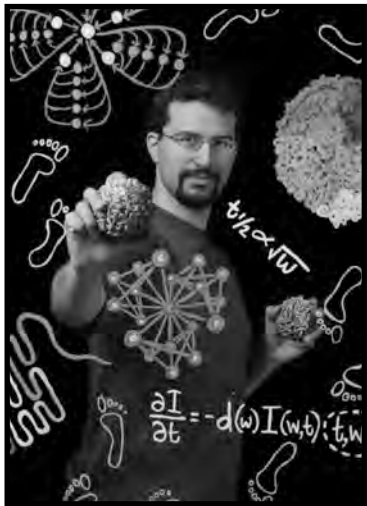
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Upcoming Information Sessions

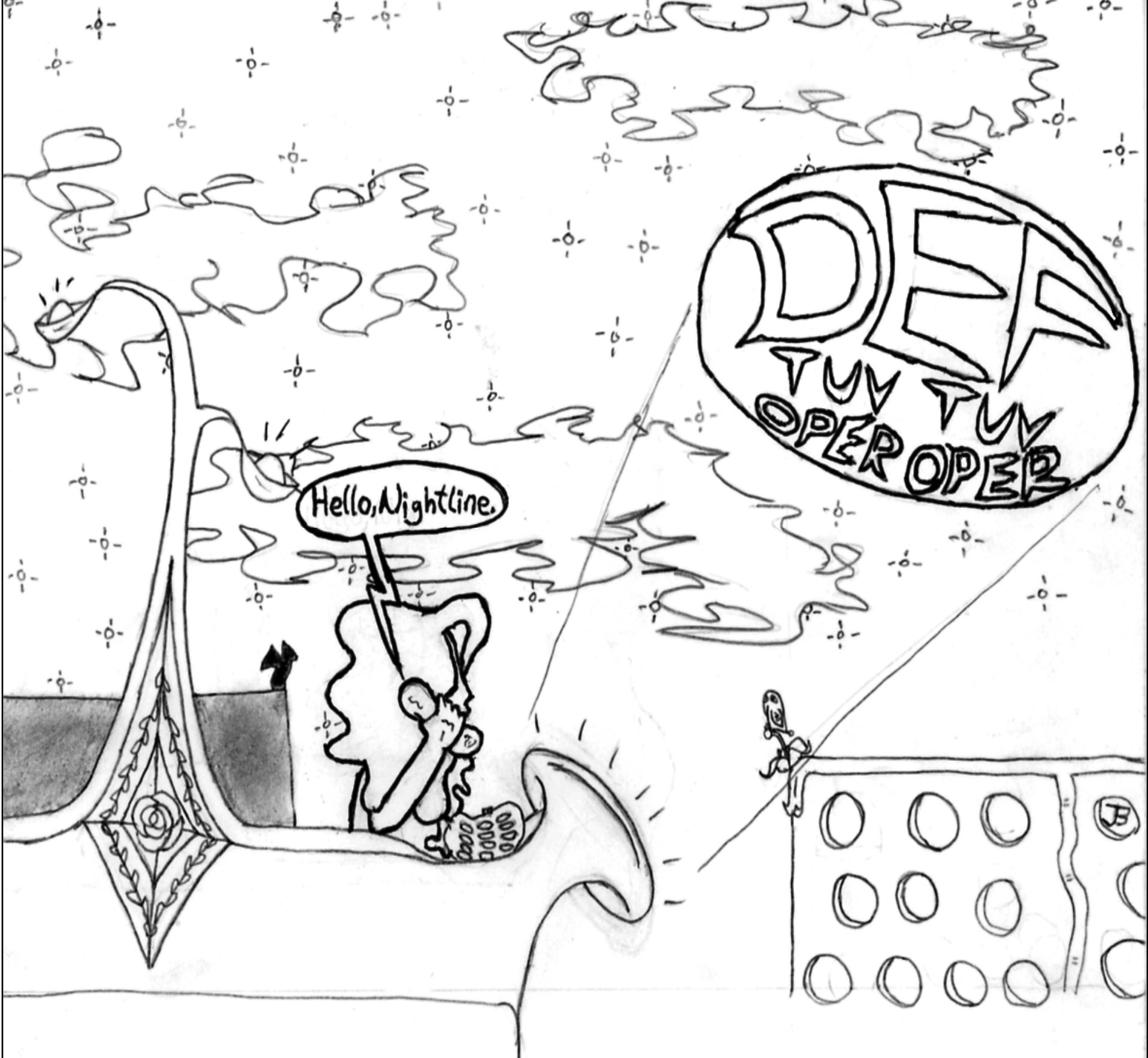
✱ **Thursday, September 30th**
5:30 P.M. - 6:30 P.M.
The Chipman Room (6-104)

✱ **Tuesday, October 19th**
12:00 P.M. - 1:00 P.M.
The Chipman Room (6-104)

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FOR RULES AND DESIGN SPECIFICATIONS



Some say Simmons needs more culture

Simmons, from Page 1

believes that the architecture of Simmons, with “rooms like caves,” makes it especially difficult for the community to build dorm culture.

Lounge communities at Simmons

Johnson suggested that better communication within Simmons could make the lounge system and rooming lottery process more effective. The lounge system in Simmons was put in place to encourage the creation of smaller communities, but Johnson said that the residents are not exploiting it to its full potential.

A lounge is a group of at least 10 residents who decide to become officially recognized as a social group. They can request funding from the house committee to organize outings, dinners, or other social activities. The members of a lounge need not be living on the same floor or tower. Currently, 194 residents are members of lounges, each lounge with a minimum of 10 members.

Laskey explained that one reason why residents are hesitant to use lounges is the reimbursement process, which is slow and complicated. Another reason why lounges don't organize events as frequently as they could is the inability to gather together on a whim. Lounges must give advance notice to the government for events, thus hindering spontaneous events.

Svetlana M. Chekmasova '11, who moved out of Simmons into East Campus, expressed that the lounge system “wasn't as widely used as it could have been.” According to Chekmasova, many Simmons residents choose rooms based on room size and layout rather than the location of the room and proximity to friends' rooms. Chekmasova said that when groups of friends don't live close to each other, the funds allocated to their lounge are less likely to be used for outings or dinners. Chekmasova suggests that the Simmons government create a rooming system that

allows residents to stay in the same geographical area within the dorm. “If you want nicer rooms, that happens within that section. You stay in the same tower..You don't have to pick rooms over community.”

Lacking government participation

Of the entire Simmons Hall of approximately 340 students, only a small percentage is involved in making decisions for the dorm. “The government is two dozen kids who are doing everything,” Laskey said. House meetings are open to all residents, but the attendance is unsatisfactory. “There are 20 people there and those 20 people are making decisions for the whole dorm. It's reasonable to say we want more people involved.”

The level of disinterest in Simmons affairs was highlighted in an incident last year, when one particular floor of Simmons submitted a proposal to buy a television for their lounge. At the house meeting, the majority of attendees constituted of that lounge, and as a result, the proposal to purchase the television was passed with zero resistance.

Since then, Johnson has been optimistic. She believes that Simmons is still relatively new, and only now are people beginning to be curious about house meetings.

Johnson said that the government's next steps to improve the Simmons living experience involve the newly formed Constitution Reform Committee, whose job this semester is to work on rewriting the Simmons Constitution. Johnson says that “a lot of the discussion that was going on about Proposition 10 will definitely be a recurring topic during the constitution reform committee discussions” and that they will consider “taking the bits and pieces from Prop 10 that [they] think could work.” By doing so, the Simmons government hopes to achieve “continued and better communication” of the methods with which underclassmen, especially freshmen, can define their own dorm culture.

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MIT, Delta Upsilon deny wrongful death claims, argue lack of evidence

Liability may be capped at \$20,000 for MIT and DU because they are charities

Wells, from Page 1

“None of the windows on the upper floors of the fraternity house contained screens, bars, locks, or other safety devices,” the lawsuit said.

The lawsuit alleges that “as a condition to remaining a recognized and sanctioned fraternity at MIT ...[DU] was required to submit to and pass annual inspections of the subject fraternity house, conducted by MIT.” MIT’s response to

In their responses filed with the court, both MIT and DU have denied or dismissed all allegations of wrongdoing.

the suit denies this.

Ernest C. Sabine ’67, Chair of MIT’s Association of Independent Living Groups, said, “I have no knowledge or information about this lawsuit so I can neither offer answers nor provide comments.

Sabine said “the AILG “offers an accreditation process review of all living groups within the MIT Fraternity, Sorority, and Independent Living Group community, providing a multi-dimensional evaluation of the health of each

MIT FSILG chapter.” In addition, the AILG’s Safety, Licensing, and Inspection program assists independent living groups maintain a safe living environment and pass building inspections and licensing requirements.

The Wellses also allege additional harm, including conscious pain and suffering and “loss of consortium,” a term referring to “loss of a wife’s society, companionship, and services,” according to Ballentine’s Law Dictionary.

In their responses filed with the Court, both MIT and DU have denied or dismissed all allegations. MIT remains “without knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth” of several claims and DU similarly has dismissed multiple counts on the grounds of lack of evidence.

DU additionally claims that claims of habitability are barred from wrongful death suits by Massachusetts law, and that DU’s officers and directors are immune from liability. Robert Wells was “more than 50 percent at fault in causing the alleged injuries,” DU said.

DU and MIT both cite the Mass law limiting liability of charitable organizations to \$20,000. Both MIT and DU are charities.

Director of the MIT News Office Nathaniel W. Nickerson said that MIT declines to comment on pending litigation.

The case remains active, and various motions will be due in the coming months. A trial date could be more than a year out.

4,100 Massachusetts students prove big schools can beat odds

By Sam Dillon
THE NEW YORK TIMES

BROCKTON, Mass. — A decade ago, Brockton High School was a case study in failure. Teachers and administrators often voiced the unofficial school motto in hallway chitchat: Students have a right to fail if they want. And many of them did — only a quarter of the students passed statewide exams. One in three dropped out.

They persuaded administrators to let them organize a...campaign that incorporated reading and writing lessons in every class...

Then Dr. Susan Szachowicz and a handful of fellow teachers decided to take action. They persuaded administrators to let them organize a school-wide campaign that incorporated reading and writing lessons into every class in all subjects, including gym.

Their efforts paid off quickly. In 2001 testing, more students passed the state tests after failing the year before than at any other school in Massachusetts. The gains continued. This year and last, Brockton outperformed 90 percent of Massachusetts high schools. And its turnaround is getting new attention in a report, “How High Schools Become Ex-

emplary,” published last month by Dr. Ronald F. Ferguson, an economist at Harvard who researches the minority achievement gap.

What makes Brockton High’s story surprising is that, with 4,100 students, it is an exception to what has become received wisdom in many educational circles — that small is almost always better.

Brockton is the largest public school in Massachusetts and one of the largest in the nation.

Szachowicz and other teachers took action in part because academic catastrophe seemed to be looming, Szachowicz and several of her colleagues said in interviews here. Massachusetts had instituted a new high school exit exam in 1993, and passing it would be a requirement to graduate a decade later. Unless the school’s culture improved, some 750 seniors would be denied a diploma each year, starting in 2003.

Szachowicz, who in 2004 would become Brockton’s principal, and Paul Laurino, then the head of the English department — he has since retired — began meeting on Saturdays with any colleagues they could pull together to brainstorm strategies for improving the school.

The group eventually became known as the school restructuring committee, and the administration did not stand in the way. The principal “just let it happen,” the Harvard report says.

The committee’s first big step was to go back to basics and deem that reading, writing, speaking and reasoning were the most important skills to teach. They set

out to recruit every educator in the building — not just English but math, science, even guidance counselors — to teach those skills to students.

Teachers unions have resisted turnaround efforts at many schools. But at Brockton, the union never became a serious adversary, in part because most committee members were unionized teachers, and the committee scrupulously honored the union contract.

Over the years, Brockton has

But at Brockton, the union never became a serious adversary, in part because most committee members were unionized teachers...

refined its literacy curriculum. Brockton’s performance is not as stellar in math as in English language arts, and the committee has hired an outside consultant to help develop strategies for improving math instruction.

Ferguson said Brockton High first “jumped out of the data” for him early last year. He was examining Massachusetts’ 2008 test scores in his office in Cambridge and noticed that Brockton had done a better job than 90 percent of the state’s 350 high schools helping its students to improve their language arts scores.

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PBE banned for 4 years

PBE, from Page 1

The IFC has kept the identity of this source a secret from PBE members.

According to IFC Judicial Committee chair Garrett R. Fritz '11, the IFC decided that the hazing allegations were serious enough to stop rush. On Monday Sept. 6, the third day of rush, PBE was told it could not continue with its rush activities until the matter was resolved. The members were notified while on a trip to Six Flags with potential new members.

That same night, an IFC judicial board hearing was held. Three PBE representatives were allowed to speak at the hearing, though other members and alumni attended. Fritz said all five voting members voted unanimously that PBE violated the IFC's Risk Management Policy (which prohibits hazing).

The board decided to expel PBE, which means a 10-year ban from MIT. PBE appealed the decision on two grounds: that the judicial process was flawed, and that the punishment was too severe. PBE's appeal was read by Marlena Martinez Love, the director of the Office of Fraternities, Sororities and Independent Living Groups, and David Kennedy, the director of the Office of Student Citizenship.

Last Tuesday, the MIT News Office announced that PBE had been "suspended" for four years. According to Fritz, Love and Kennedy felt some leniency was appropriate.

According to IFC President Ryan Schoen '11, if PBE wants to return in four years, it will have to work closely with the IFC and the FSILG office. Unlike previously expelled fraternities Pi Kappa Alpha or Sigma Alpha Epsilon, PBE won't be treated as a new fraternity and will not have to petition the president's council for permission to return.

The IFC has provided *The Tech*

with a redacted version of the initial decision letter, which quotes relevant sections from the IFC Risk Management Policy.

The letter implies that PBE's new member education involved alcohol by quoting from risk management policy: "No alcohol shall be present at any pledge activity or ritual of the chapter."

The letter also quotes the policy's description of hazing: "Massachusetts State Law defines hazing as: 'any conduct or method of initiation into any student organization, whether public or private, which willfully or recklessly endangers the physical or mental health of any student or other person.'"

Schoen told *The Tech* that more information may be forthcoming later this week. Love, the director of the Office of FSILGs, has not returned several requests to comment.

PBE is a local fraternity, founded at MIT over 100 years ago, and only has this one chapter. In part because the entire process, from first discovery to final decision, took less than three weeks, many PBE alumni have complained that the decision was too hasty. (See letters, page 5.)

When IFC Judicial Committee chair convenes a hearing board to discuss a case, four representatives from different fraternities are asked to attend and cast votes. They are joined by the Judicial Committee secretary, who has fifth vote. The committee chair, Fritz, does not vote, but does participate in discussions.

MIT will ask the Cambridge Licensing Commission to revoke PBE's housing license, so PBE members will not be allowed to reside there anymore. The process will probably take until the end of the semester, so members won't have to move out right away, Schoen said. The fate of the house is unclear, as the PBE corporation owns both the house and the land underneath and can choose what to do with it.



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World Number 1 takes trophy at Symphony Squash showdown

Ashour wins 2 of 3 over Gaultier 10-11, 11-10, 10-9

Squash, from Page 16

basic idea is that players must alternate hits off the front wall of a four-walled court; the ball may bounce only once on the ground but can be hit off of any other wall on the way to the front wall. The ball, which is easily "squashed" into different oblong shapes and bounces little from a dead-drop, seems ill-suited to long-lasting rallies. To the novice player, a ball lofted into a corner can be irretrievable. The professionals on hand Wednesday night, however, kept the ball live with acrobatic shots from all parts of the court, often stringing together rallies that lasted for more than fifty shots.

Gregory Gaultier, cast as "the Frenchman" by the emcee, dueled with Amr Shabana in the first semifinal. Gaultier and Shabana were clearly enjoying themselves on stage for the audience, pleading with the audience and playfully interacting with each other over the course of the match. Gaultier's deft, no-look shot into the opposite corner in the midst of a close first game elicited the first of many "oohs" from the crowd. Gaultier let Shabana back into the match at 10-9 after a circus-like sequence in which the players walked in circles around each other, alternating hits to the exact same spot in the deep left corner. Gaultier would take the first game but fell in the second to Shabana. In a quirk of the Showdown's exhibition format, the match was decided by a final, sudden-death point. After forty-one shots on the same point, Shabana inexplicably put an easy shot back into the tin, handing Gaultier a spot

in the final.

The second semifinal appeared to be a horrendous mismatch; the young Ramy Ashour, the current world No. 1, against thirty-six year old Jonathan Power, who indicated that he had taken time off from high-level squash. The crowd was quiet through the first twelve points, in which Power made numerous errors that gave Ashour an easy 8-4 lead. Gradually, Power willed himself back into the match,

Gradually, Power willed himself back into the match, earning loud cheers from the crowd.

drawing loud cheers from a crowd supporting the underdog and the only North American of the bunch (Power is Canadian). Power came back to win 11-10. In the second game, however, Power couldn't turn the same trick. Ashour didn't relinquish his early lead and evened the match with an 11-4 victory.

The tiebreaker point highlighted an interesting feature of a game in which two players are confined to the same space but must avoid each other in making their shots. If one player gets in the way of his or her opponent, the point can be replayed or else awarded to either of the two players, depending on the judgment of the official. While Power appeared to win the sudden-death tiebreaker, Ashour appealed to the official for a "let," and the official instructed the players to replay

the point, much to the dismay of the pro-Power crowd. Ashour won the replayed point, earning a berth in the final.

The theatrics and gimmicks designed to entertain the audience through the semi-finals and the consolation match had faded away by the time the final matchup came around, featuring Gaultier and Ashour. Gaultier dazzled again, hitting between his legs on an intense first point that ultimately went to Ashour. Ashour, who seemed to control each game with his athleticism and creativity, showed his brilliance in winning a point cleanly on a return of serve, a rare feat amidst the long rallies that rule most of the game. Gaultier took the first game by a score of 11-10, but Ashour stormed back with an 11-7 victory in the second game. The final was decided by a full game to eleven instead of a one-point tiebreaker, and, after nearly two matches, Gaultier and Ashour continued to put on a show in the last game. Gaultier's error at 10-9 gave Ashour the match and the championship trophy.

Playing squash at MIT

The Zesiger Center has six squash courts; while often busy on weekday evenings, courts are usually available and can be reserved at the Vassar St. Customer Service Desk. Squash is a great way to fulfill the PE requirement; a beginner-level class is available! A recreational "box" league exists as well; ask around at the courts for more information. If you want to watch squash, you can cheer on MIT's squash team during its winter season.



RACHEL LUO

Sharon S. Hao '14 sets the ball in the third game of a volleyball match against Williams last Friday. The Engineers won the game 28-26.

Women's rugby take second place in Sept. Beantown Classic

Home game vs. Bates will be on Oct. 3

By Brandon Sparks

HEAD COACH

This summer was an exciting period for rugby both globally and locally. The sport was announced as an event in the 2016 Summer Olympics in Rio de Janeiro. The U.S. men's national team had a strong showing in the Churchill Cup, an invitational tournament with England, Canada, and other countries. The U.S. women's national team finished fifth at the Women's Rugby World Cup.

MIT women's rugby team also rode the wave of rugby success this summer. Coming off their national championship last spring, Erika C. Granger '10, Caroline H. Hunting '11 and Alyssa M. Baccarella '11 all made the Northeast U-23 All-star squad, which competed in Santa Barbara against other teams from around the country. Not only did all three players play major roles in the Northeast winning the championship, but Baccarella was also named the tournament MVP. Hunting and Baccarella were also invited by the U.S. National Team to an assembly of potential Olympic team members. Other players like Marisa Jasso, Aislyn Schalck and Kristen Anderson all had strong summers play-

ing for local teams in Texas, Massachusetts, and Washington, D.C. MIT women's rugby has certainly left their mark on the national Rugby landscape this summer. On September 11th, the team competed in its first tournament of the season, the Beantown College Classic. They tore through the tournament field, winning all of their pool games (including one against Bowdoin, where Rugby is a varsity sport), despite being matched up against opponents from a higher tier. They were defeated in the final by Northeastern, but the second-place finish was still considered a huge success.

The tournament also allowed ample playing time for the new members of the team, the largest in three years. The following weekend marked the beginning of league play for the team. They narrowly beat Tufts, 10-5, and followed by a dominant 57-17 win over Colby-Sawyer.

The Engineers play their first home game of the season on Sunday, October 3rd against divisional powerhouse Bates. A win would give the team a commanding lead of the Northern Conference and bring them closer to securing home field advantage for the playoffs. Kickoff is at 1 p.m. as MIT seeks to defend its national title.



The Ig Informal Lectures

Saturday, October 2nd, 1:00 pm
MIT 10-250, 222 Memorial Drive

Once again, The MIT Press Bookstore is proud to partner with some *Improbable* friends to bring you a half-afternoon of improbably funny, informative, high-spirited public lectures, in which the 2010 Ig Nobel Prize winners will attempt to explain what they did, and why they did it. Please join us!

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All Ig Nobel Prize activities are organized by the Annals of Improbable Research. This free event is organized in cooperation with the MIT Press Bookstore.

We are having information sessions on
**Thursday, Sept 30th and Monday,
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If you have any questions, feel free to
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Come meet the team and learn more about
competitive alpine skiing at MIT!



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Athletics program is 11th in athletics, tied for 4th in academics, 4th overall

MIT's athletic program was recently ranked number four overall in the nation — its highest ever ranking — by the National Collegiate Scouting Association (NCSA). The NCSA Power Rankings, a system first implemented by the NCAA in 2004, report on both the academic and athletic performance of each college's athletic program.

the Dean for Student Life.

MIT were ranked eleventh in athletic performance, and tied for fourth in academic performance, for a total score of 9.0 (lower scores indicate stronger performance) – an improvement over last year, when they scored 13.3 and ranked sixth nationally.

In the poll, which also sorts schools by division, MIT trailed Amherst College, Williams College, and Middlebury College. Division III schools took five of the top six spots.

the NCAA student-athlete graduation rate of each school.

The NCSA rankings can be a strong selling point for schools towards potential student-athletes. Chris Krause, CEO and Founder of NCSA Athletic Recruiting, says, "The Power Rankings are an objective tool to empower student athletes to find the right fit in a college or university, not only for its athletics, but academics as well. Our hope is to educate these student athletes and their parents on the importance of evaluating schools that will provide the education for an enriched, successful career after college, in addition to athletic success."

Competitors vie for Sharif Khan trophy

Egypt's Ramy Ashour, the world's top-ranked player, triumphed last Wednesday night as the global game of squash made a splash in Boston at Symphony Hall. Dubbed "Showdown@Symphony," the exhibition tournament sought to promote squash in a country where it is but a niche sport. Four of the world's best competed in a single-elimination format on the stage of Symphony Hall for the Sharif Khan Trophy as diners on the orchestra floor and spectators from the balconies took in the action. While the organizers pulled out all the stops to keep the audience entertained with their choice of venue and assorted gimmicks, the game itself needs no embellishment.

Squash, at its highest levels, is so striking to the observer because of the continuity of the play and the kinetic, contested nature of every point. There are no lazy fly balls, no serves that cannot be returned, and no insurmountable leads. As quickly as the players hustle to the front wall and lunge to elevate the ball over the tin (analogous to the "net" in tennis), the ball shoots back over their heads; in turn, they scramble back and play the carom off the back wall. The

Squash, Page 15



David A. Alfonso '13 and Eben M. Freeman '13 (sail 10) sail back to the shore in the Commonwealth Invitational on Saturday on the Charles.

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