

MIT's
Oldest and Largest
Newspaper



WEATHER, p. 2

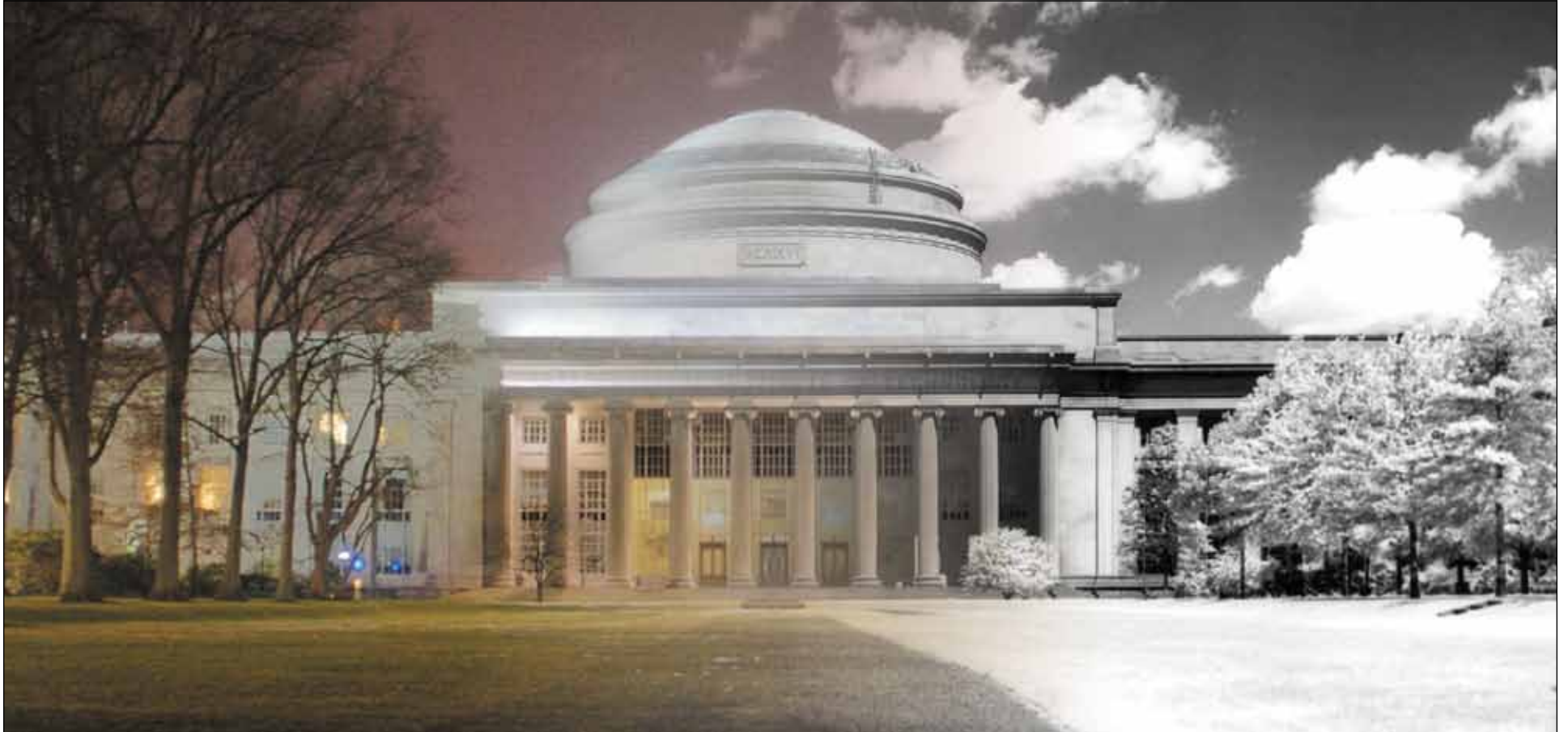
FRI: 49°F | 39°F
Partly cloudy
SAT: 62°F | 45°F
Mostly sunny
SUN: 58°F | 51°F
Chance of showers

Volume 131, Number 18

tech.mit.edu

Friday, April 8, 2011

INSTITUTE TURNS 150



GREAT DOME IN 1960 COURTESY MIT MUSEUM, 2008 DOME COURTESY OF ALEXANDER HOPKINS. PHOTOILLUSTRATION BY QUENTIN SMITH.

MIT will be celebrating its 150th birthday at the Next Century Convocation this Sunday at the Boston Convention and Exhibition Center. Right, Bldg. 10 in 1960; Left, Bldg. 10 in 2008.

By **Ethan A. Solomon**
EDITOR IN CHIEF

One hundred and fifty years ago this Sunday, Massachusetts Governor John Andrew put pen to parchment, signing a charter to create the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. The April 10, 1861 charter, as passed by the Massachusetts Senate and House of Representatives, called

for an institute to advance “science in connection with arts, agriculture, manufactures and commerce.” A century and a half later, those words greet students as they make their daily passage through Lobby 7. Though the 1861 charter’s words continue to inspire the Institute’s mission today, the MIT of 2011 is the product of 150 years of development, evolving from a small tech school across the Charles to the world’s leading research university. Our history of being at the forefront of sci-

ence and technology speaks for itself. It’s no secret that MIT has produced a spirit of innovation, which has played a huge role in shaping our world today. The story less told is that of the spirit of the students, which embodies and defines the true pulse of MIT. Over the years, what has defined an Engineer?

Same passion, different students

On Jan. 15, 1970, MIT students took a battering ram to MIT President Howard W. Johnson’s office door, seizing and occupying

the office for 34 hours. The takeover prompted an emergency faculty meeting and charges were brought against 31 students. The reason for the dramatic protest? The expulsion of Undergraduate Association President Michael Albert ’69. Against the backdrop of the Vietnam War, students suspected the move was politically motivated, as Albert had participated in a demonstration against General Electric recruiters on campus.

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IN SHORT

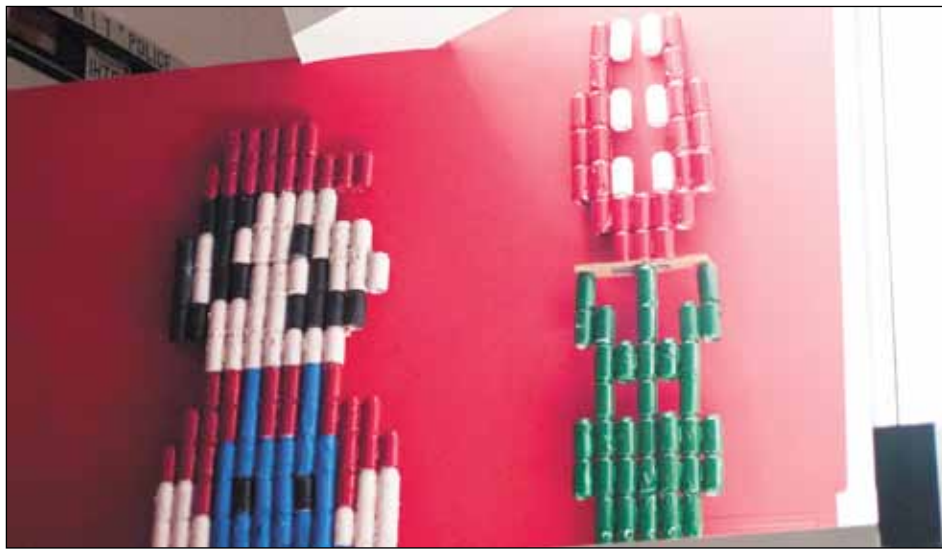
Happy Birthday, MIT! The Next Century Convocation, commemorating the 150th anniversary of MIT’s charter, is this Sunday at the Boston Convention and Exhibition Center. Free registration is taking place in Lobby 7 and online at <http://mit150.mit.edu/events/convocation>.

Lost your handy CPW booklet? An up-to-date schedule of the weekend’s many offerings is available at <http://web.mit.edu/admissions/cpw/>.

Anjali B. Thakkar ’12 was one of 60 students nationwide awarded the 2011 Harry S. Truman scholarship, a \$30,000 graduate scholarship for college juniors with exceptional leadership potential who are committed to public service.

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

Commemorative hacks pepper campus



MELISSA RENÉE SCHUMACHER—THE TECH

In 2005, hackers turned the Infinite Corridor into a level from the Nintendo game *Mario*. This weekend, to commemorate the hack, hackers put up structures — built from soda cans — of Mario and a piranha plant next to the police car in the Stata Center’s Hack Gallery. This CPW, which coincides with the 150th anniversary of MIT, hackers are installing 20–30 hacks all over campus, some of which will be performance hacks. The hacks are accompanied by a booklet, which can be found on stands by some of the hacks. Try to find them all!

Maseeh dining facility named Howard Dining Hall

With about five months left until its opening, Maseeh Hall’s dining facility now has a name. The 360-person dining hall was named Howard Dining Hall by the anonymous donor whose contribution set the renovations of the former graduate residence hall into motion. According to an April 7 MIT News Office article, “Howard’ has significant personal meaning for the donor, but it is not the donor’s name.”

The dining hall will offer views of the Charles River, a private dining room, fireplaces, and a designated kosher kitchen and serving station. It will also maintain Maseeh’s theme of sustainability by offering food composting and storing cooking oil for the student group Biodiesel@MIT, which uses the vegetable oil to make biodiesel that is mixed with regular fuel for use in Institute shuttles and equipment.

—Maggie Lloyd

DORMS, DORMS EVERYWHERE!

But which one’s right for you? Read up on dorm culture and plan your CPW visits! **p. 14**

PREMED@MIT

It’s not as bad as you might think. **OPINION, p. 4**

SHOULD YOU GO TO MIT?

Normandin and Yost face off. **OPINION, p. 5**



FOR PREFROSH, BY PREFROSH

Potential 2015 members reflect on their CPW experiences so far. **PREFROSH, p. 22**

OPERA AND TECH COLLIDE

Death and Powers is a stunning, beautiful, MIT-inspired opera. **ARTS, p. 26**

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The Tech (ISSN 01-9607) is published on Tuesdays and Fridays during the academic year (except during MIT vacations), Wednesdays during January, and monthly during the summer by *The Tech*, Room 32-100, W20-483, 84 Massachusetts Avenue, Cambridge, Mass. 02139. Subscriptions are \$50.00 per year (third class). **POSTMASTER:** Please send all address changes to our mailing address: *The Tech*, P.O. Box 397029, Cambridge, Mass. 02139-7029. **TELEPHONE:** Editorial: (617) 253-3733; Circulation: (617) 253-3734. **FACSIMILE:** (617) 253-3735. **ADVERTISING:** (617) 253-3736. **POSTAGE:** *The Tech* is published weekly except during MIT vacations. Second-class postage paid at Cambridge, Mass. and at additional mailing offices. Postmaster: Please send address changes in *The Tech* to the address above. **ENTIRE CONTENTS © 2011 BY MASS. PRINTING COMPANY.**

Academics are important, but they're not the only source of knowledge and experience

We're certainly not recommending that you consistently give classes a lower priority than the rest of your life, but moderation is important. And MIT has so much to offer outside of the classroom. The Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program (UROP) makes high-level research easily accessible to students, even freshmen. You'll learn how to communicate with

If you need a break from academics, MIT offers a wide variety of extracurricular clubs, sports and music groups. Through these, you'll learn valuable communication and planning skills that will go a long way towards preparing you for the real world. You'll be doing something you enjoy with a group of people who share that interest in a collaborative, supportive environment. Will you like everyone you meet? Of course not. But learning to be respectful of different opinions and attaining the skill set necessary to work with people who you don't like are musts in life after MIT.

Classes are important; they're the central component to earning your degree and having a life after graduation. But they do not exist in a vacuum. Focusing entirely on academics will get you your degree, but not the success in real life that comes from balancing scholastic work with extracurricular and personal commitments. The latter two will let you learn how to become a better leader and friend, who can learn from their mistakes and work with others. College is all about education, but not just about academics. At MIT, as in the rest of the world, balance is key.

Though difficult, MIT is actually the perfect place for budding doctors

I am not going to lie. If your goal is to go to college, take the easiest classes possible, and get into medical school with perfect grades, then MIT is not for you. However, if you want to excel in science and engineering and live among brilliant peers and professors, all in an environment that is unrivaled, then keep on reading. Not only is it possible to be a successful premed at MIT, but I would also argue that MIT is one of the

There surely are downsides to being premed at MIT. The classes are much more challenging than at other schools, especially in the sciences (which medical schools obviously focus on). It's an understatement to say that As are not as easy to come by as they might be elsewhere, and chances are that you will not graduate with a 5.0 GPA (MIT grades on a 5.0 scale). Most likely, you could get better, if not perfect, grades at another college. Anywhere else, you could be at the very top of your class.

Firstly, the education at MIT is unparalleled, and nowhere else will equip you with such a solid scientific foundation. For example, organic chemistry at MIT is not

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A sports article published last Friday on NCAA championship predictions incorrectly referenced two team rosters. Jerome Dyson no longer plays for the University of Connecticut, and DeMarcus Cousins and Eric Bledsoe no longer play for the University of Kentucky. Dyson is now with the Tulsa 66ers, Cousins plays for the Sacramento Kings, and Bledsoe is with the Los Angeles Clippers.

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

Last Tuesday's article on Big Screw totals incorrectly stated that Alpha Chi Omega runs the charity competition. Alpha Phi Omega (APO) runs Big Screw.

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

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MIT is hard, and that's why you should attend

The rigor will prepare you best for life ahead

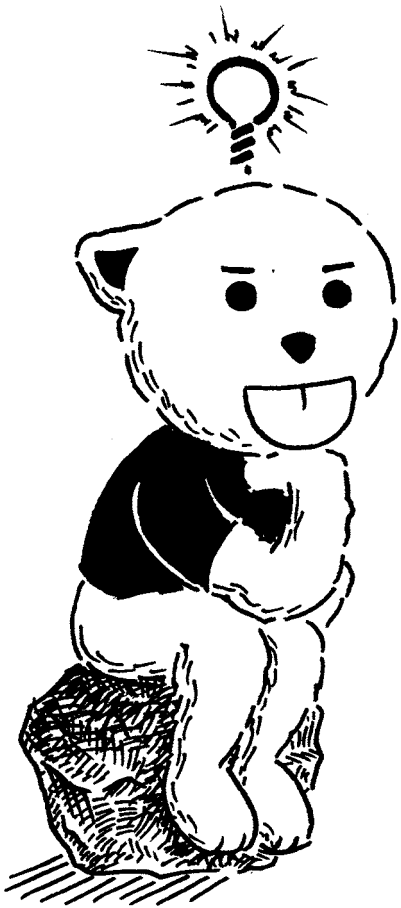
By Ryan Normandin
OPINION EDITOR

CPW! As one person — famous for her truly insightful and thought-provoking lyrics — would say, “It’s Friday, Friday ... fun, fun, fun, fun.” She’s got excellent grammar, too. But this article is not about Rebecca Black, it’s about you. More specifically, it’s about why you should choose MIT over any other school you may have been accepted to.

First and foremost, I'll throw a disclaimer out there: if you don't like challenges, working hard, or being around awesome people, you definitely should not come here. Because we've got lots and lots of all of the above.

One of the major reasons I selected MIT was that I desperately wanted a real challenge. And, as I write this article at four in the morning — having just finished my 8.03 (Vibrations and Waves) problem set — it's safe to say that I got what I wished for. MIT will challenge you in more ways than you can possibly anticipate. It's not just the academics; simply living here is likely to challenge and change the way you think.

Most of you come from high schools where you're among the smartest students. I hope you enjoyed it, because once you walk onto this campus, that ends immediately. And, perhaps surprisingly, it's not a bad thing. At MIT, you will be surrounded by people who think about the issues you've thought about on the same level that you've thought about them. You will have discussions and debates with fellow students that will stretch your mind and challenge you to think more critically than you have in the past. Learning doesn't stop when you leave the classroom, and I



mean that in the best way possible.

Speaking of learning outside the classroom, MIT is one of the best places to do research as an undergraduate. Through the Undergraduate Research Opportunity Program (UROP), about 85 percent of MIT undergrads graduate having completed research. You can even get paid to do it. And getting paid to do something that undergrads at other schools can rarely do — even for free — is a pretty good deal.

**Choosing MIT
is choosing four
difficult, rewarding
years surrounded by
amazing people.**

MIT faculty aren't too shabby either. Throughout MIT's history, they've won 76 Nobel Prizes, and we've currently got 6 Fulbright Scholars and 21 MacArthur Fellows. We have the man who came up with the inflationary universe theory and another guy who sequenced the human genome. Better yet, they both teach classes easily accessible to undergrads. Ever wondered what it felt like to take classes from people like this? Now's your chance to find out. MIT faculty are on the cutting edge in virtually every field, and the experiences to be gleaned here are the opportunities of a lifetime.

Not only will MIT provide plentiful opportunities while you're here, but it will also open doors after you leave. Each year, over 400 companies come to MIT to actively recruit students. Two thirds of MIT undergrads go on to earn a graduate degree at some point in their life. The average salary of an MIT graduate with a bachelor's degree entering an industry position in 2010 was \$64,523. Simply graduating from MIT puts you at an advantage thanks to the school's strong reputation for rigor and turning out successful graduates who excel in problem solving and critical thinking. You may have heard of a company called Intel. How about Bose? Texas Instruments? What about Raytheon or Campbell's Soup? All MIT grads.

But all these stats are easy to find online. What I really want to emphasize is that choosing MIT is choosing four difficult, rewarding years surrounded by amazing people. You'll discover capabilities you never thought you had, you'll find confidence that nothing is out of reach, and you'll attain the skills necessary to create limitless opportunities for yourself. I encourage you today to talk to as many MIT students as you can. Ask them anything, whether about classes, student life, or work. Simply by interacting with them, it should become clear that this is a special place. The quirky sense of humor, the wit, raw intelligence, and the atmosphere of collaboration and teamwork will seep out in these conversations, and that's what is important to grasp — the stuff you can't find online. You're only here for a few days at the most, so please make the most of it. I'm confident that if you do, then there's an excellent chance I'll be passing you by in the halls next year.

**MIT is no rest, no mercy,
no matter what**
Prepare for a soul-crushing four years

By Keith Yost
STAFF COLUMNIST

I know you, for I have seen you dozens of times before. You think you want to be a scientist or an engineer. But be realistic — what do you, a teenager, know of science and engineering? You have applied to this institution, not out of any sophisticated understanding of the choices you are making, but because society has sold you a lifestyle brand. You want to be able to call yourself a scientist for the same reasons trendy youths want to buy clothes with swooshes or cigarettes with cowboy mascots. You crave, as any human does, the respect and admiration of your peers. You see the status that Bill Gates and Steve Jobs have achieved, and hope that a career in technology will be your salvation. But you will find none here.

Let me explain: In the 1970s, Bruce Alexander ran an experiment. He was unsatisfied with studies that put rats in tiny cages and offered them a button to press that would deliver morphine — of course, the rats pressed the button like addicts. It was only rational to numb oneself to the plight those rats had been placed in. Alexander decided to challenge the conventional models of drug addiction by creating a “rat park,” a massive complex that more closely mimicked the actual living environs of rats, with plenty of space and resources for living, eating, mating, and so on.

The results of the experiments were shocking. No matter how hard Alexander tried, he could not get his rats addicted to morphine. Rats who were "addicted" to morphine beforehand gave up their habit upon being introduced into the park, and none of its denizens — even if bribed to take morphine — would use it to an extent that impaired their abilities. They lived their lives happily and free of dependence.

Your brain, when it learns a new concept, releases a neurotransmitter and gives you a bit of pleasure to reward you for your work. It is enjoyable, but by itself is not addicting. For it to take control of your life and erode your will, you must be put in a situation that is exceedingly stressful. Hence, MIT.

You have been selected because of your Type A personalities, your competitive drive and ambition. This place feeds on that. It will twist your natural inclination to push yourself into something darker. It will invite you to demand of yourself more than any rational person would give, and in doing so, you will lose your identity, your self-confidence, and your God-given free will. At the start, you will complete the work you are given out of a determination to win. By the end you will complete it because you know of no other source of happiness in life.

Forget “mens et manus” — the real motto of this place is “no rest, no mercy, no matter what.” The Institute has no motivation to give you any respite — by oppressing you, by keeping you without sleep, warmth, comfort, or recreation, you will become a more receptive medium for their dark designs. No one would knowingly choose a career in science. Anyone with your intelligence could slack off throughout college and end up paid just as well as

a consultant or financial analyst. These are meant to be your best years. You should be exploring the world, finding love, drinking deeply of life — not spending your nights hunched over books.

Why does MIT do this? Why does it try to beat you down until the only chemical pleasure your brain can experience is a fleeting release of some neurotransmitter? The reason is that MIT is a fiefdom of petty, egotistical warlords. The professors care nothing for you — they see you as a pawn in their quest for prestige, a lowly helot in their squabbles over rank and status. Research is the end goal of MIT, not education, and certainly not the development of students into full-fledged human beings. Take a cautionary tale from those that we call “postdocs.” They are pathetic creatures, existing in a gray area between slave and indentured servant. Underpaid and overworked, never before have people of such intelligence been placed in stations with such lowly prospects.

This is what this place wishes to make you: a human sacrifice to be offered atop the altar of science, like the Aztecs, but worse — the Aztecs had the decency to make it quick and cut out your heart. Here they bind you, still living, to their machine of suffering and extract your soul from you over the course of years. And no one is in control of the system — like any good dystopia it simply exists, locked into a pattern of behavior that cannot be escaped. The professors are conditioned to compete for meaningless recognition, the post-docs are too beaten to escape, and the students stumbled upon this infernal pit out of ignorance — it is an endless circle of pain.

Just look at the undergrads that MIT is asking you to join. They put on a good face for the cameras, of course. This is the nature of cognitive dissonance — they have rationalized their poor life decision by convincing themselves that they like it here. But if you peer deeply into their eyes, you will feel their despair. Like dogs unable to escape their beatings, students here develop a sort of learned helplessness. They cease to question what purpose their day-long psetting sessions serve; they surrender themselves to the course laid down for them. The system has convinced them that they are imposters, well behind their peers in intelligence. They have lost the self-esteem that would push them to escape MIT's vampiric grasp.

“What of it?” you might ask. Even if science is hellish on the scientists, isn’t it important for society?

Perhaps. But likely not. Science merely offers power — the use of that power for good or evil is out of the hands of scientists. And as it stands, we have the power to do great things, like cure malaria or end world hunger. In a final sense, we simply choose not to. Becoming a scientist will not give you control over how your technology is used — if anything, it is an abdication from the responsibility to better society. Just ask Oppenheimer.

Or better yet, ask Orwell. You want a picture of an MIT undergraduate education? Imagine a boot stamping on a human face — for four years.

Keith Yost is currently pursuing his fourth degree at MIT.



CPW is not a time to slack off

You got in because you're an unrelenting intellectual machine. During CPW, remember that.

By Andy Liang
STAFF COLUMNIST

CPW is a time for celebration, confetti, and cake. As a prefrosh, you will be welcomed with hundreds of MIT events that will entertain, pamper and feed you. I guarantee that you will overbook yourself. You will scratch your head deciding which event to attend. You will wish you could be at two places at once, maybe three, or even four. At night, you will party (dry) on Baker's rooftop with newly-made friends drinking (unmixed) Monsters. Then you will sleep with your body fatigued but your mind restless. Your day will have gone by in a split second.

But do not fall for the trap. Do not be suckered by CPW.

You got into MIT because you're a headhunter. You are the smartest in your school, in your district, and possibly in your country. You overachieve, and then you overachieve some more. For you, the only off-days from school are sleep days — and you have no sleep days. Dedication to work is what brought you here. And CPW is no exception.

You need to be at the top of your game. Bring your textbooks, your calculators, and your lamps, because you have studying to do.

By now, you should have associated MIT with “top science university,” “epicenter of technological discoveries,” and “cool sci-fi references.” That puts pressure on you

Dedication to work is what brought you here. And CPW is no exception: you need to be at the top of your game.

to aim for excellence. Instead of going to “Make Your Own Ice Cream Smiley Face,” you should be strategizing and planning out your next four years here. And if you want to be ambitious, you should plan to graduate in three years. You already got into MIT; now you need to ensure that you get into MIT’s graduate schools. You better make some appointments with MIT’s graduate admissions

while you're here.

Will you be missing out on CPW fun? No. Sure, when you are studying for your AP Physics C test, you will see current undergrads playing Ultimate Frisbee outside on the crisp green grass, but this is for the best. That AP credit will help you skip MIT's physics class. You want to get as many credits as you can before you start in the fall (so you can graduate in three years). Besides, Ultimate Frisbee is just hours of mindless throwing and jumping and sweating. Players run around after a disk, trying to catch it, ultimately to throw it again in another direction. Maybe it's just me not knowing how to play, but I think you would prefer studying to sports, because you're MIT!

You came to MIT to see MIT, and you shall! Sit in a class. Or two. Or three. Or have a whole day of just lectures. Remember to take notes — you may need them in the next two years. After class, I advise you to talk to the professors. First impressions are always important, so pronounce your name clearly to them. Better yet, use a nickname. And ask good questions. If they are Nobel

laureates, quiz them on their research. You never know — you might know something they don't. And lastly, shake hands. Because if you don't, you might just come off as condescending.

CPW is only the first of many opportunities for you to get that competitive edge on your classmates. Start off strong. Continue

**CPW is only the first
of many opportunities
for you to get that
competitive edge on
your classmates.**

to work hard. Show no mercy. Soon you'll distinguish yourself as a genius among geniuses. That's truly whom we all want to emulate. Those super-geniuses have left MIT and changed in the world. One MIT graduate, Tony Stark (aka Iron Man), has changed the world and then some. I have high hopes that our Class of 2015 will have the next Tony Stark. And if you work hard, it could be you.

Want to be premed at MIT? Don't worry.

Premed, from Page 4

the same as “organic chemistry” at other schools — MIT covers the material much more in-depth. This is great not only for the sake of learning, but because when you get to the MCATs, this tremendous scientific

Not only is it possible to be a successful premed at MIT, but MIT is one of the best places for shaping future doctors.

knowledge will shine through. Moreover, where else can you go and finish your math, chemistry, biology, and physics requirements by the end of your freshman year? Finishing the premed requirements early allows you to explore other areas of interest

beyond introductory courses. Ironically, it can be argued that at MIT almost everyone is “premed” by default because of the General Institute Requirements.

Additionally, the atmosphere at MIT is one of collaboration, not cut-throat competition. That means that when someone needs help in a class, he or she will be able to find classmates genuinely willing to offer a helping hand. At MIT, the attitude of students is one of working together to triumph over class work rather than one of competition. This may be drastically different from other schools, where premeds have the reputation of being ruthless, aggressive, and unwilling to help anyone else. MIT is an amazing school because of the teamwork and creative thinking that is encouraged here. This is similar to the "real world," where collaboration is a vital part of any accomplishment.

Furthermore, the research at MIT is not only ground-breaking, but also plentiful and

easily accessible to undergraduates. At other universities, it is hard for undergraduates to get research positions because space and funding is scarce. Here, the Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program (UROP) ensures that just about everyone who wants to conduct high-level research can do so. As

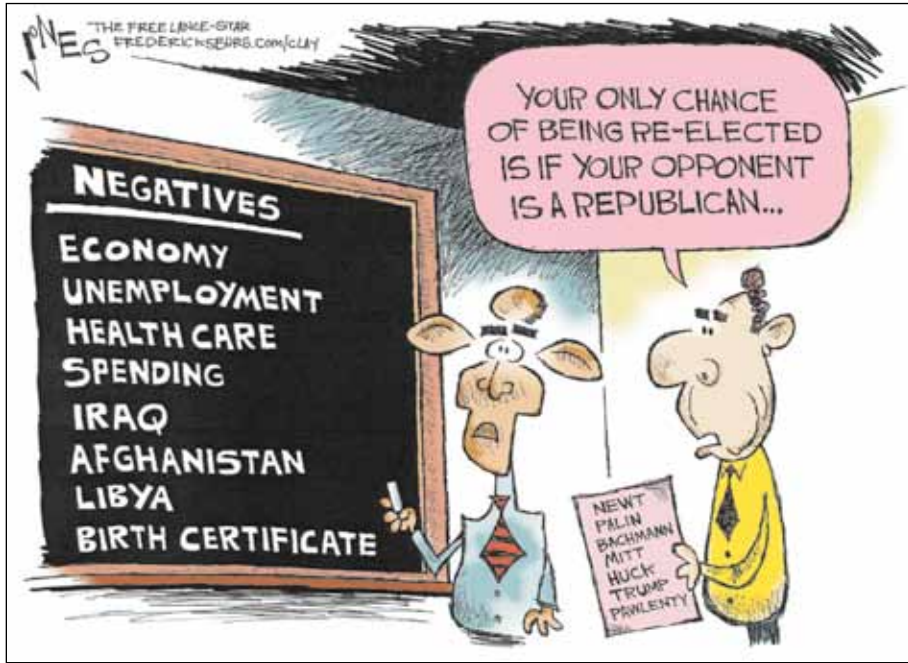
The attitude of MIT students is one of working together to triumph over class work rather than one of competition.

a result, it is not unusual for undergraduates to be published as first authors on scientific papers and to present their research at conferences. No matter your path after MIT, participating in independent research shows responsibility and creativity that is valuable

to any employer or graduate school, whether it be medical school or a bank on Wall Street.

Lastly, medical schools will understand that the work at MIT is harder than elsewhere, and so an occasional B is not a nightmare that will end your career. Of course, hard work and good grades are important and cannot be minimized. However, worrying too much about the perfect medical school application is not the way to approach MIT. Instead, it is important to pursue your passions, do what interests you, and learn what you love. There is no better place to do these things than MIT, and choosing a college that is second to MIT just because it may be easier for medical school is absurd.

Students admitted to MIT are admitted for a reason, and the admissions staff is confident that everyone they admitted will thrive at MIT. However, it is even more important to have confidence in yourself, and to realize you can succeed, no matter the hard work ahead.



Institute Double Take



By Alexander Chernyakhovsky

STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Most of us are familiar with 77 Massachusetts Avenue (Building 7) — it's our gateway to the Infinite Corridor. We just hurry on through without looking around or thinking too much about the place. I was the same way until I decided to take a midnight walk

after a long day and looked up. The lighting and contrast reminded me of the various effects that can be achieved with long-exposure photography and inspired me to try it out.

Taken from an elevated point, Building 7 was photographed at

night with a long exposure to capture the warm glow of illumination and the streaks of light from the passing vehicles that show how busy and lively Massachusetts Avenue is, even at night. With a long exposure, stationary objects are crisp, but anything that moves

will be a blur or invisible. Timing is key — the exposure was started while there were people still waiting to cross the street, which produced the ghost effect, and also allowed sufficient cars to pass by, creating characteristic light trails.

Aperture:
f/11.0

Exposure Time:
25 sec.

Sensitivity:
ISO 200

Lens Focal Length:
45 mm

QUARKINESS

Colorful strands

The art of hair dyeing at MIT

By Fangfei Shen

It's kind of a thing at MIT to dye your hair unusual colors. Okay, I clarify: the colors are unusual by outside world standards, but not by MIT standards. Many people at the Institute have their hair dyed in an interesting assortment of colors, including hot pink, fire-truck red, construction-sign orange, Lady Gaga yellow, neon green, bright blue, deep purple, and ultraviolet (kidding about this one ... I think) — it's enough to make a rainbow, maybe even a double rainbow.

Before I applied to MIT, I recall someone saying at some info session that you couldn't really judge MIT people by their appearances — the speaker had a perfectly wonderful advisor with blue hair. I went through seven semesters of MIT without seeing any advisor-like figures with blue hair, but then I returned from spring break this year and, wow, one of

my instructors came back from vacation with vivid blue hair! Dyed hair at MIT is not just a student thing, as it turns out.

This weekend, we'll probably see a spike in the number of people on campus with dyed hair. East Campus, the Phoenix group, and Pika are all running hair-dyeing CPW events (with permanent and temporary options). Jessie C. Agatstein '12 from East Campus is a seasoned hair-dyer for such festivities. "There's nothing quite like sitting out in the courtyard on a patch of dirt that grass has long ago forsaken ... breathing in the fresh scent of bleach burning your hands," she said.

Ah, one of the catches of hair-dyeing. The first question of hair-dyeing is whether to bleach it. Many people bleach their hair before dyeing it. Bleach reacts with hair by irreversibly removing hair pigments, leaving behind only keratin, the structural protein of

hair, which has a natural color of yellow. As a result, bleaching usually turns hair blonde, or at least blondish. For more stubbornly dark hair (ahem, mine), an insufficient dose of bleach will remove less pigment and leave hair red. Bleach's role in dyeing is twofold: first, it lightens hair through depigmentation, making it easier to see the dye (no hair dye is going to show up on really dark hair); second, it opens up the outermost part of the hair, allowing the dye to seep into the inner shaft and deposit color. Bleach makes color pop and stick, and it also makes your skin sting.

The second question of hair-dyeing is of style. Which parts of your hair are you going to dye? All your hair? Tips? Streaks? One streak? Bangs?

The third question is of color. At hair-dyeing events, Agatstein usually says, "Sure — I can do any color you want. Well, I'm not a huge fan of green. And orange is gross. And

red fades to orange. And purple fades to pink. And I just ran out of blue. So sit down, strap up, and get some pink in your hair."

And then there's color arrangement, and a lot of people get creative about that. I've seen a girl who had a rainbow (literally) assortment of colors streaked through her hair. I've seen a couple of people who somehow managed to tie-dye their hair. One of my friends once dyed his hair in a pattern corresponding to the four lobes of the cerebral cortex. In reaction to all of the unusual hair dyeing, which seemed especially in vogue at the beginning of this school year, somebody said in jest, "In order to stand out, you can't just have dyed hair. You've got to do a crazy color pattern with it."

Crazy pattern or not, dyed hair is pretty commonplace at MIT. It's a happy reminder that our community here is colorful, both literally and figuratively.



MINH PHAN—THE TECH

Katherine R. Rudolph '14 dyed her hair ends for the first time — she dyed the tips of her hair pink last fall.



MINH PHAN—THE TECH

Cathy Wu '12 is a big fan of the purple look. This is the first time she's dyed her hair.



MINH PHAN—THE TECH

Benjamin S. Weissmann '14 dyed his hair purple and blue and is looking at orange for next time.



MINH PHAN—THE TECH

Gillian Guertin '13 has had her hair dyed purple for the past year and half.

Hung up on *MIT: The Game*

Victor Hung '14 and Chris Peterson talk about their Facebook application, *MIT: The Game*

By Amanda Aparicio
STAFF WRITER

This February, *MIT: The Game* was unleashed on the public. Now boasting an user base of over five thousand players, the Facebook application is an addicting and entertaining experience — in other words, don't start playing until you're done with your psats. Victor Hung '14, the programmer behind the game who dedicated about two hundred hours to its creation, and Chris Peterson, the admissions officer who recruited Victor, sat down to talk with *The Tech* about the inspiration behind the game, ghost roller coasters, and those players masterful enough to hack its code.

The Tech: How did you originally come up with the idea for *MIT: The Game*? What was the inspiration behind it?

Chris Peterson: Probably in the fall of 2009, our office came up with the idea of trying to create some sort of fun Facebook game, so during IAP 2010, we threw a Facebook Game Jam where we invited a bunch of different students to our campus and we told them we were thinking about creating a Facebook game, and we wanted the game to be what MIT is like with respect to the student. They came up with some different levels over the 48 hours that the Game Jam went on — fueled by pizza

did you come up with the idea? Was it the 48 hour Game Jam?

VH: Two of the games were part of that 48 hour [Game Jam]. Like the burrito one and the catch diploma one.

CP: We talked about a variety of ways the game could be organized. You can have it be a single game where you just stick with a single activity or you could, on the other end of things, have some sort of crazy MMORPG. But we decided the best way to organize the game would be where you have this series of modular tasks that were associated with what it would be like to be an undergraduate at MIT. And then since you had it modular, you could at some point in the future add another level. In terms of the actual games that are there, those more or less came from Victor's demented imagination.

VH: Those were mainly made from when I came here for the summer. Paul [M.] Kominers ['12] took me around and told me about what things are like during the school year, and one of the things that he mentioned was the tours down the Infinite. So that's where that game came from, and the other ones were just sort of things that he mentioned along the way.

TT: Do you have any funny stories from when you were making the game? Was any part particularly difficult to do?

Victor's flash game website probably delayed the admissions committee by two solid days last year.

and Mountain Dew, primarily. That summer, Victor flew out here from Vancouver and we oriented him on what our interests were. He has been working since then on actually building it out.

TT: How did you [Victor] become involved? How did you specifically get on board with the project?

Victor Hung: I think it's because the admissions team found my site that I submitted in my application which had a few of my flash games.

CP: Victor's flash game website probably delayed the admissions committee by two solid days last year. So we knew that we had someone who we had already accepted and who had an incredible skill for making really fun, addictive flash games on the Internet. Once he accepted the offer to enroll, it was a matter of just actually getting in touch with him and getting him up here.

TT: How did you decide to break up the game into Anna's, and going down the Infinite? How

VH: Was any part difficult to do? Well, not really. But, I mean ...

CP: We currently have this one thing, which is a "ghost coaster" where there's a roller coaster. We're trying to eliminate it.

VH: So, for the East Campus roller coaster level, the cart would duplicate itself on the screen sometimes for no reason at all, and it's just there.

CP: That's why we call it the "ghost coaster," because there's no reason for it, and it goes away as soon as you refresh.

VH: And just for fun, I did put a lot of little, secret things in the game. I don't want to say any of them, but one of them is that I actually encrypted my email [address] in the game somewhere, and someone actually sent me an email. It's really difficult to find it. You have to go through a horrible process. Anyways, you'd have to hack the game to send me that email reporting the secret message. And that was kind of cool because I didn't really expect anyone to find it so fast.



DAVID M. TEMPLETON—THE TECH

Victor Hung '14, creator of *MIT: The Game*, launched the Facebook app early this year. Hung dedicated about two hundred hours to its creation.

TT: Do you have any other secret things in your game? Is it just up for grabs, go-find-it type things? Like a challenge?

VH: They're just kind of little Easter Egg hidden messages that I hadn't told anyone about. I don't think ...

CP: No, you didn't even tell me. I guess your readers will have to play to find out.

TT: How long have you been programming?

VH: I started programming flash games freshman year [of high school]. At first I did it just for fun, and then my friend told me I could actually get paid for doing this because there are ways of posting your games to places and getting companies to put their logos on the game and say it's theirs. And so that's how I got more and more into it, and eventually, I got a nice collection on my site.

TT: Who has the highest score so far? And is that a legit high score or a hacked high score?

VH: Pretty sure that's hacked.

CP: So, I don't know the current person in first place. I know the person who's currently in second is Tom Hu ['11] — he's a tour guide here. That's not hacked. He's just been playing it a lot. I think that there's a healthy smattering of prefrish and current MIT students among the global leaders listed. I recognize some of the names.

VH: On the diploma grab level, the timer starts counting down from three hundred, so three hundred is the highest score you can get, supposedly, but I've had scores of one thousand. When that happened, there were people

on my floor who came to me [and said], "Victor, someone hacked it! It's not fair, cause they're first, and I'm so close!" And I was kind of like, "Oh, okay. I'll get to that in a bit."

TT: I saw you had a long list of people who had tested your code.

VH: Ah, yeah. Two of them were my roommates. It was at the beginning when I was still programming it all during orientation and everything, and my roommate would be there constantly testing the game as I would update it, so that was kind of cool.

I started programming flash games freshman year. At first I did it just for fun, and then my friend told me I could actually get paid for doing this.

TT: Did your testers contribute at all to changes in the game? Did you make any radical changes due to suggestions?

VH: They sort of changed my position about how hard to make the levels. There's the one where you have to go through the tunnels without touching the walls. Because I had tried that so many times, I didn't know how difficult it was until my friend was testing

it, and he [said], "No, make it wider," and I would make it two pixels wider, and he'd test it again, and then he would say, "No, no, wider," and then I'd make it another two pixels wider. He'd say, "Too wide. Too easy now." And then that went back and forth for a day, and then he would get too good at the game, and then I'd have to ask someone else to try it. That was a painful process.

TT: Did you have any initial ideas for the game that you decided to throw out later?

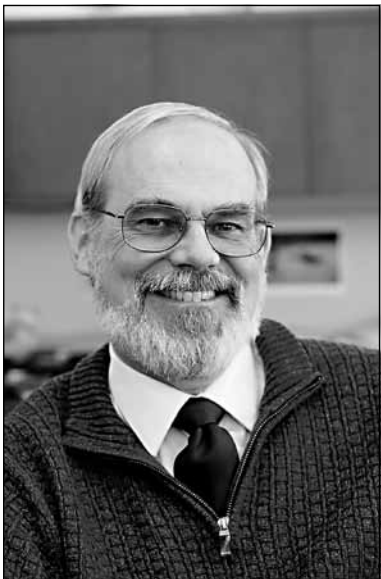
VH: So, originally, we had planned the levels — they were supposed to be games of different genres. One of the ones that I wanted is you would start out in your dorm, and it was like a point-and-click adventure. You lost your keys, and you'd have to look around your room, and there were clues, and they led you to find more items, and the items would help you find the key. That was the first one in the puzzle. And after you solve that one, you get to see the rest of the game. But that was too complicated, and it probably would've been too hard and just thrown a lot of people off. That's why the first one was the burrito one because that seemed like a better appeal.

TT: Is there going to be an *MIT: The Game 2*? Or is this just it?

CP: I don't know. It depends on how much sleep Victor needs.

VH: Oh. I wouldn't say that there would be an *MIT: The Game 2*, but maybe additional levels, probably, because the game was designed so that levels could be added.

CPW 2011: Campus Life at *The Tech*



Help *The Tech* interview
MIT's Chancellor
W. Eric L. Grimson PhD '80

Our writers interview the big shots at MIT, and then publish stories and profiles about them. Talk with our chancellor, **W. Eric L. Grimson PhD '80** - the Q&A will be printed on Tuesday! We'll provide food and refreshments - you provide the questions!

**Tech Office (W20-483)
Today 3:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.**

Draw comics with
The Tech's cartoonists



Come meet *The Tech's* cartoonists and create a few comics! We'll be them in our next issue!

**Tech Office (W20-483)
Sat 3:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.**

NOT RELATED TO TIGER

Thinkers Anonymous

Cutting the thinking addiction

By Paul Woods
STAFF COLUMNIST

It all started when I was using StumbleUpon and came across a satire. It was modeled after an Alcoholics Anonymous pamphlet and began:

It started out innocently enough. I began to think at parties now and then to loosen up. Inevitably, though, one thought led to another and soon I was more than just a social thinker.

I began to think alone — “to relax,” I told myself — but I knew it wasn’t true. I was thinking all the time. I began to think on the job. I knew that thinking and employment don’t mix, but I couldn’t stop myself.

Luckily, the narrator admits to himself that he has a problem and decides to get help, giving the story a happy ending:

I still have my job, and things are a lot better at home. Life just seemed ... easier, somehow, as soon as I stopped thinking.

The satire must have been vibrating at my natural frequency because even though I knew it wasn’t intended to be taken seriously, it still resonated with me. As a heavy thinker, I related to the narrator. I too had a thinking problem, and it was time to take my life back. I decided to stop thinking.

While it’s neither biologically possible to never think nor to complete coursework without some minimal level of thought, any thought beyond these requirements was disallowed. Whenever I caught myself starting to ponder the meaning of life, I quickly put

an end to it — steering my mind away from constructive thought. While playing *Madden NFL*, I even went as far as to “Ask Madden” what plays I should call and let him decide.

The satire is right; life is easier without thought. Instead of wondering what the internet would be like in five years, I was playing *Tekken* while watching *Pokemon* and *Hannah Montana*. It was easier to get sleep too; I no longer laid awake in bed trying to decide who the best NFL quarterback is. Still, there was one thing that I missed about being a thinker — decisiveness.

It was time to take my life back. I decided to stop thinking.

For instance, I was in the men’s restroom one day. This particular restroom had three stalls, all empty — meaning I had to make a decision. At the time, it was my firm belief that in the average men’s room, the middle stall is usually the cleanest. Stopping myself before I thought any further, I went into the middle stall. But for some reason, the toilet paper reminded me of orbital theory — maximum separation between electrons. If another man walked in, he’d have no choice — he’d have to choose an adjacent stall. I moved to the right stall. Then again, the right stall’s floor was kind of sticky, so I went back to the middle stall.

I used to be George W. Bush —

the Decider. I’d think about restrooms while lying in bed and hit the Internet to do research about social theories pertaining to restroom situations. When it came time for action, I would’ve already decided a long time ago which stall was the best in which situations and in which restrooms. As a result, I’d pick a stall and go in it. Now I was Rebecca Black — which seat can I take?

Even worse, my indecisiveness was not confined to the men’s room. One day, I was at MacGregor Convenience. It took me a long time to decide between Cheerios and Raisin Bran and between Sour Patch Kids and Sour Patch Extreme. Nevertheless, I at least looked like a normal person because a lot of normal people stand there trying to make decisions at the grocery store. My shopping trip didn’t truly spiral downhill until the lady behind the register asked, “Would you like a bag?”

“Yes, please. I’d like a bag.”

“Nevermind; bags are noisy.”

“Actually, it might be hard to carry all of these things. Give me a bag.”

“Wait! Bags are bad for the environment.”

“You know what? Put it in a bag anyway.”

While I was embarrassed about the shopping bag debacle, I was in luck. After leaving MacGregor Convenience, I saw that the corridor from MacGregor to New House was empty — meaning I could skip back to my dorm without anyone seeing me.

As I skipped to New House, a poster caught my eye. It was for a

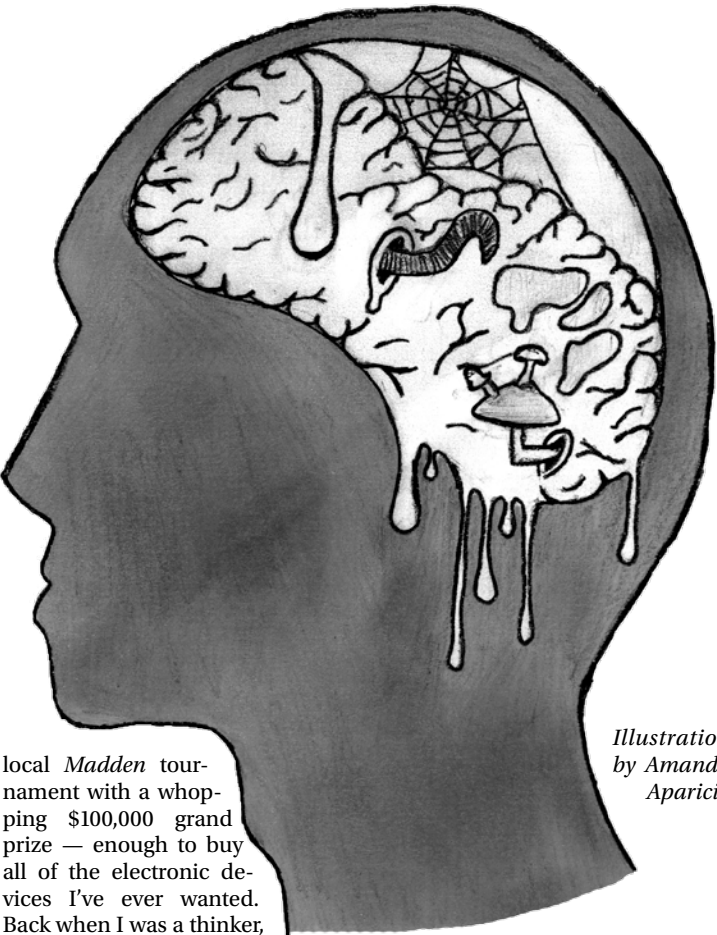


Illustration by Amanda Aparicio

local *Madden* tournament with a whopping \$100,000 grand prize — enough to buy all of the electronic devices I’ve ever wanted. Back when I was a thinker, I might’ve considered competing. However, I knew I couldn’t win a *Madden* tournament anymore; my thought-intensive strategizing was the best part of my game.

In fact, *Madden* was not the only thing I no longer won at. At the time, my greatest recent accomplishment was finishing all four seasons of *The O.C.* In an evolutionary sense, people are designed to chase goals and feel rewarded when they attain them. I didn’t even remember the satisfying feeling of fully wrapping my head around something com-

plex. My life just wasn’t as fulfilling as it was before, when I was still unlocking thought achievements. I decided to go back.

It wasn’t easy. I’m inclined to believe the brain really is muscle-like because it took me months to regain my former levels of thought fortitude. Still, it was worth it. I could make decisions again, classes made more sense, and I was once again a *Madden* winner. It may not have been easier, but life just seemed ... better, somehow, as soon as I started thinking again.

MIT and Cornell Society of Asian Scientists and Engineers

present



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The Professor Emeritus talks about unicycles, roller blades, and FIRST Robotics

STAFF COLUMNIST

WCF: Back in the early days, I was the master of ceremonies for all the competitions, and when I was starting each round of the competitions I would have people give me things and ask me to wear things that represented their teams. That became a tradition of sorts, and I had a vest each year, and the last vest from when I retired weighed 22 pounds, and it had gotten pretty complicated to get through airport security. And so I had way more team T-shirts and stuff than I could ever use so I wanted to be able to receive things from the community, but I didn't want to take gifts from them. I decided that I would take their

My wife and I both really enjoy nature photography and scuba diving and traveling... we took polo lessons, and I took a one-week trapeze school.

If you look back on the history of 2.70 I would dress kind of formally. The idea is that



Woodie Flowers emceeing at a FIRST Robotics event.

WCF: My standard advice to incoming students is that MIT is either a steamroller or a candy store. You have to pick. If you allow it to be a steamroller then it's a big, mean

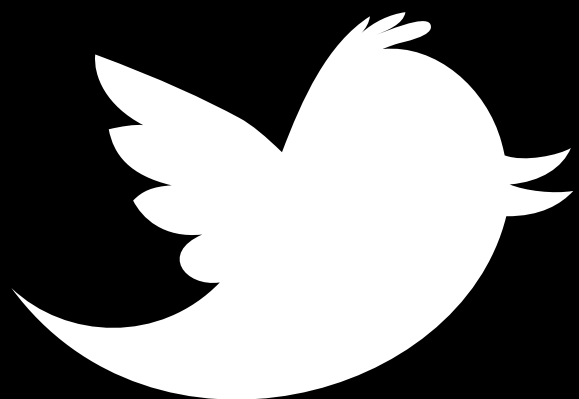
One of the discussions that we had for the MIT 150 is what might go well with *mens et manus*, or mind and hand. One that I thought was important is rational, or reason, and passion. Your generation must have a pretty firm handle on what you believe and what you think you believe. Right now there's an amazing conflict about whether or not you do or don't believe in global warming based

TT: What do you think it is about the MIT way of doing things that makes it so respected and replicated around the world, considering that it was an MIT class which provided the idea for FIRST?

MIT is either a steamroller or a candy store. You have to pick. If you allow it to be a steamroller then it's a big, mean steamroller and it will not serve you well.

This is the part of a series of interviews with MIT professors. Ever wanted to ask your professor something totally random? Send your questions and professor suggestions to cl@tech.mit.edu.

CPW 2011: Do you Twitter?

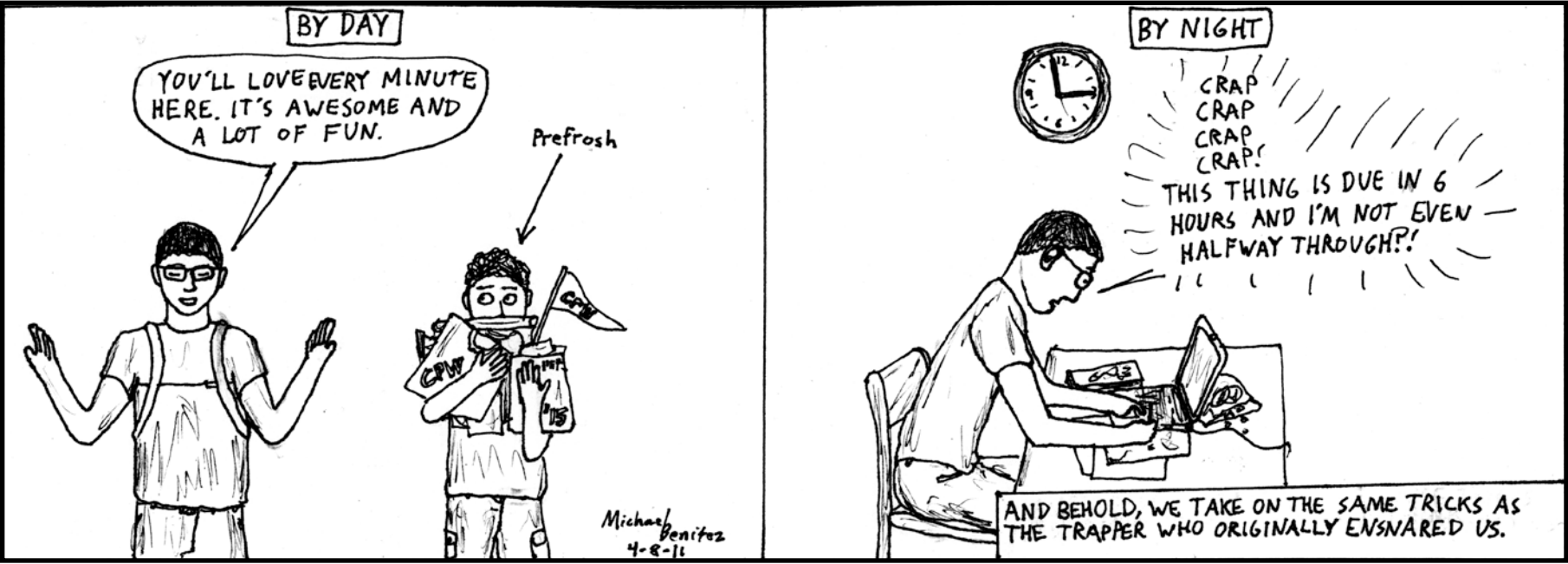


***The Tech* wants to know what you're doing this weekend.**

We'll print your tweets in Tuesday's issue of *The Tech*.

use #techcpw

Help Desk by Michael Benitez



Another Round



by Jerry Holkins
and Mike Krahulik



Sudoku

Solution, page 21

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

Techdoku

Solution, page 21

15x	48x		3÷		4
		20+			
30x				3-	
48x			20x	36x	
	3x				15x
9+			12x		

Instructions: Fill in the grid so that each column and row contains exactly one of each of the numbers 1–6. Follow the mathematical operations for each box.



Solution, page 21

- 1 Big bird's grabber
- 6 Croquet venue
- 10 Winery container
- 14 Essential acid, familiarly
- 15 Working hard
- 16 Galway Bay's __ Islands
- 17 Make an appearance
- 20 Bolsheviks' bane
- 21 Ins. plans
- 22 Auto dealer's agreement,
at times
- 23 Andy Taylor's boy
- 25 Cloak-and-dagger org.
- 26 Do nothing
- 33 Movie trailer, e.g.
- 34 Bartender's rocks
- 35 Takes home
- 37 Amorous sound
- 38 Fortified Portuguese wine
- 42 Draw
- 43 Throw in a chip
- 45 Nintendo game console
- 46 Yankees' home
- 48 Dancing instruction from
KC and the Sunshine Band
- 52 "Groovy!"

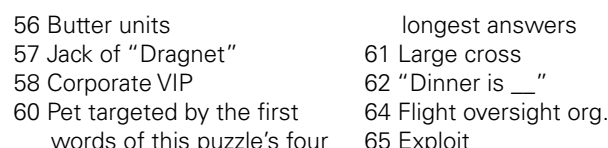
53 Seaside city
54 More than sufficiently
57 Greeley's direction for
 young men
59 Linc's "Mod Squad" do
63 Death row reprieve
66 Enjoying a lot
67 Act the accomplice
68 Doomed Genesis city
69 YMCA part: Abbr.
70 Lessons learned early
71 Eat away at

DOWN

1 Diplomacy
2 "Famous" cookie guy
3 South American capital
4 Like a studio apartment
5 Doze off
6 Marshals, usually
7 12 for Mg or 20 for Ca, e.g.
8 Mental faculties
9 Extreme degree
10 Peninsula bordering
 Massachusetts Bay
11 Diva's piece
12 Bloomingdale's rival

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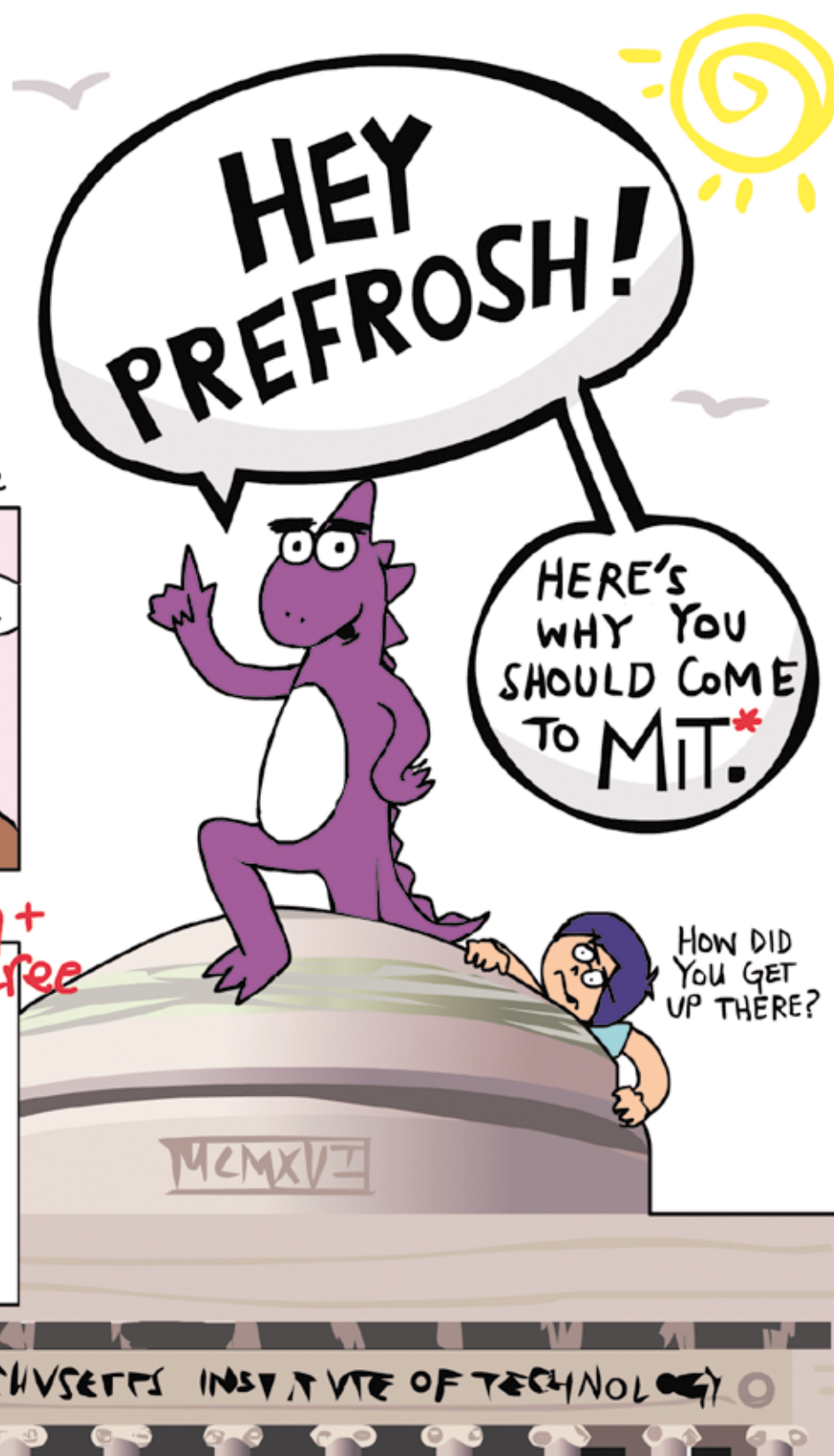
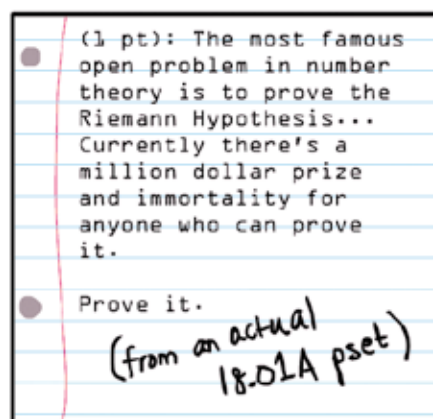
- 13 Genuflection joint
- 18 West Virginia border river
- 19 Lamb's pen name
- 24 __ Penh, Cambodia
- 25 "If I Could Turn Back Time"
singer
- 26 Pet welfare org.
- 27 Presses
- 28 Place for a crown or cap
- 29 Old MacDonald refrain
- 30 Biol. or geol.
- 31 Artoo's "surname"
- 32 Be frugal
- 36 Erotic
- 39 Filled with wonder
- 40 Like some home
improvement projects,
briefly
- 41 E.g., e.g.
- 44 Near the outset
- 47 __ cuff: pitching injury
site
- 49 Fight stopper
- 50 Underdog victories
- 51 Campus mil. group
- 54 Where billions live
- 55 "White" peaks in N H



longest answers
Large cross
"Dinner is __"
Flight oversight org.
Exploit

Arthursaurus Rex by Ramya Swamy

Professors have a sense of humor



It's nice and toasty



Beavers are ... cute



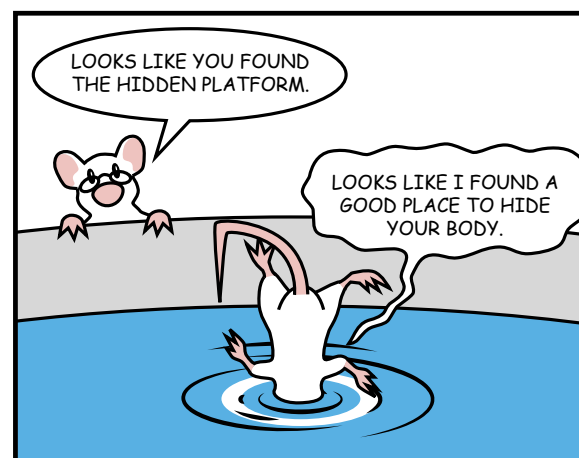
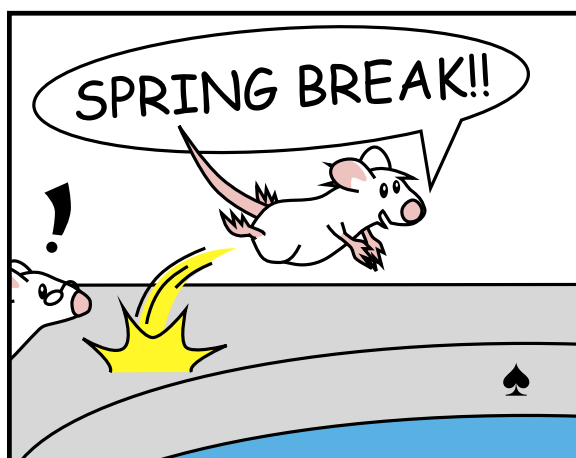
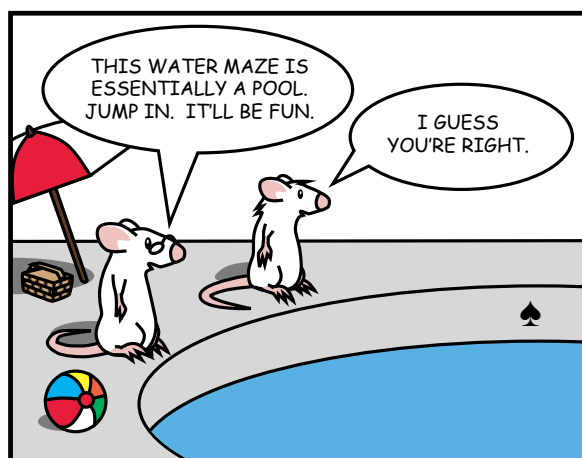
Funkiness. We have it.



Also:
stop reading +
go get some free
food!

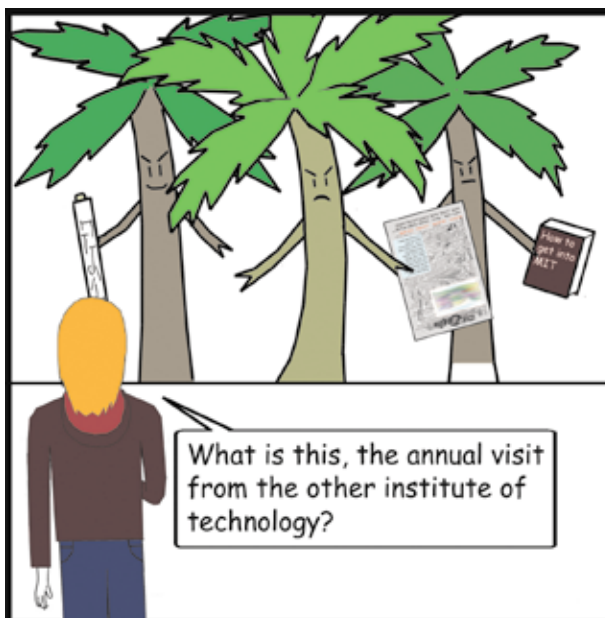


Unnatural Selection by Meisel, Tonn, Wang



unnaturalselectioncomic.tumblr.com

Somewhere on the Search for Meaning by Letitia Li



BAKER HOUSE

"When you come to college, where you spend your time or who you want to spend your time with is entirely up to you. But you want where you live to feel like a home, and that's why you should live at Baker."

Residents: 318 **Opened:** 1948 **Dining:** Yes



SIMMONS HALL

"Living in Simmons is like living in a piece of art. A piece of art with huge rooms, a basement movie theater, a ball pit, and over 5000 windows."

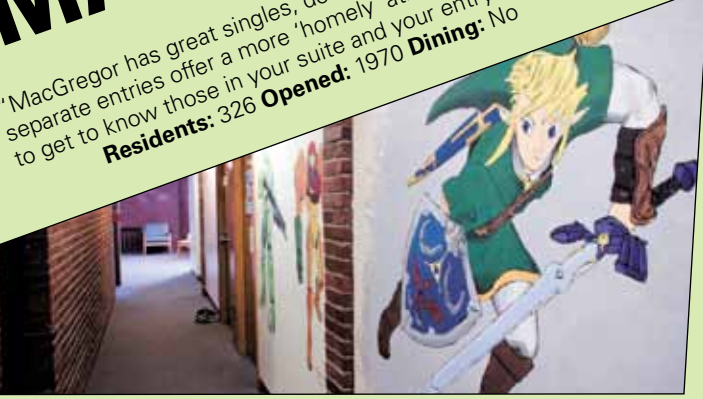
Residents: 344 **Opened:** 2002 **Dining:** Yes



MACGREGOR HOUSE

"MacGregor has great singles, doubles, and a wonderful culture. The separate entries offer a more 'homely' atmosphere and an opportunity to get to know those in your suite and your entry."

Residents: 326 **Opened:** 1970 **Dining:** No



MCCORMICK HALL

"McCormick is clean, close to campus, and is the only all-women dorm. Oh, and McCormick has an awesome view of the Charles."

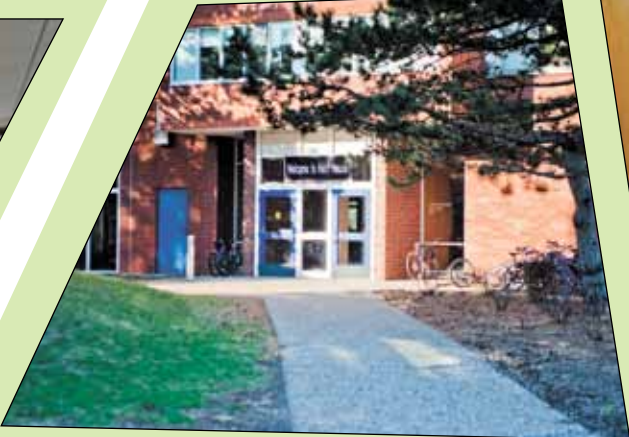
Residents: 237 **Opened:** 1963 (West Tower), 1967 (East Tower) **Dining:** Yes



NEXT HOUSE

"Next is a very connected community in terms of culture. There are 'floors' and 'wings', but we are all Next House. Also, the route to Next is the most scenic of all the dorms."

Residents: 347 **Opened:** 1982 **Dining:** Yes



NEW HOUSE

"The people here are awesome, and because of the different houses, there's somewhere here for everyone."

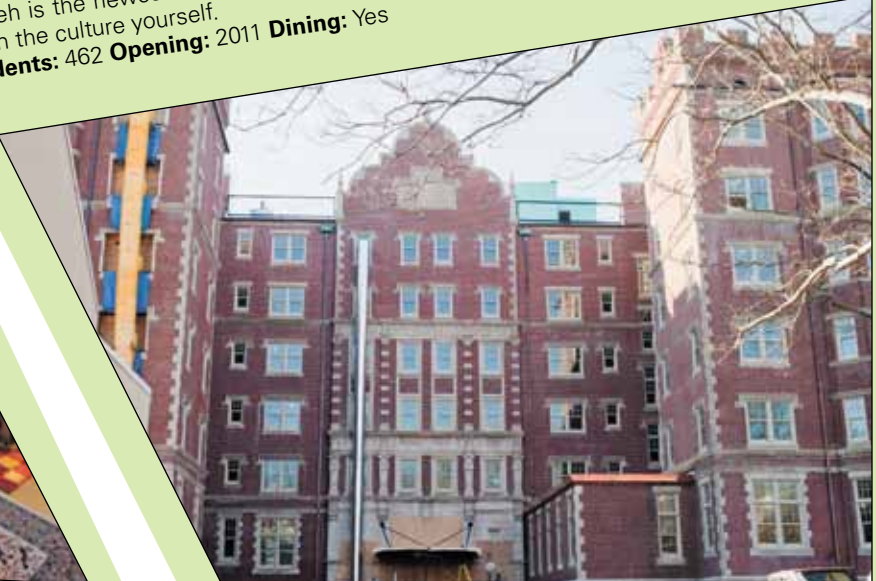
Residents: 291 **Opened:** 1975 **Dining:** No



MASEEH HALL

Maseeh is the newest dorm on campus! It's a blank slate — if you live here, you will get to design the culture yourself.

Residents: 462 **Opening:** 2011 **Dining:** Yes



BURTON CONNER

"If you want to travel through fire escapes, play Ping-Pong with wooden blocks, learn how to cook and sustain yourself, pay less because you don't have a ridiculous dining plan, be in a social dorm yet be able to study, and represent the 'West Side' of MIT, Burton Conner is right for you."

Residents: 344 **Opened:** 1939 **Dining:** No



SENIOR HOUSE

"Senior House has the coolest people you'll ever meet. Despite whatever stereotypes exist regarding senior house, it's actually a really great place to live. The hall cultures foster very intimate relationships with the people living around you, you can fully express your creativity in your room, it's much cleaner than most other dorms and there are elevators."

Residents: 146 **Opened:** 1918 **Dining?** No



RANDOM HALL

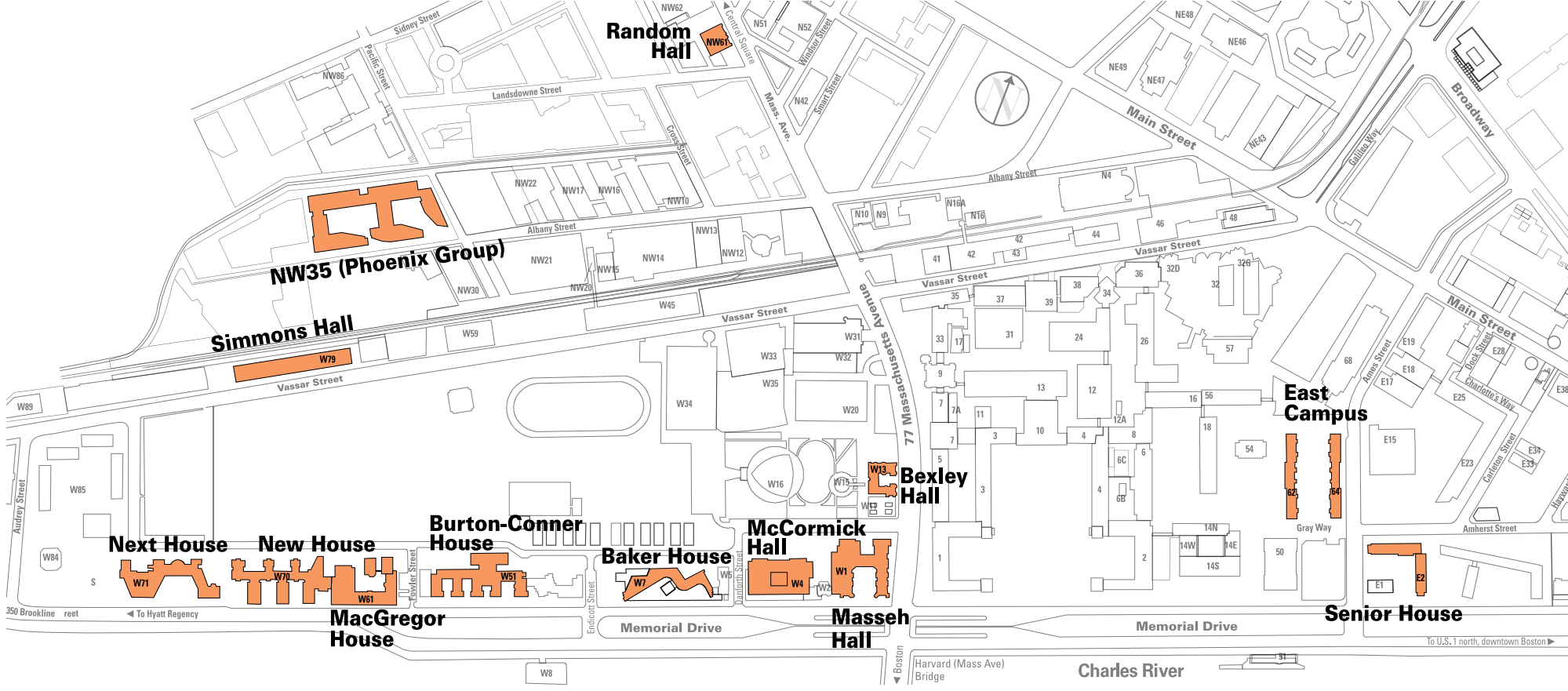
"Random is an old run-down tenement. We are located close to the supermarket and a gas station convenience store. Also, the cockroaches and mice are mostly non-hostile. We also have a vibrant culture, as in bacterial cultures — in our fridges."

Residents: 93 **Opened:** 1968 **Dining:** No



meet the dorms of MIT

First impressions are important. CPW is the perfect opportunity to get to know MIT's 12 dormitories, because unlike most colleges, MIT lets freshmen pick where they live. Each dorm has a unique set of rooming styles and amenities, but perhaps more importantly, each fields a unique culture. If you can find the time in your busy schedules — either now or when you come to MIT in the fall — explore all of them. Talk to residents, and find out why they love where they live.



EAST CAMPUS

"East Campus — the weak shall be eaten."

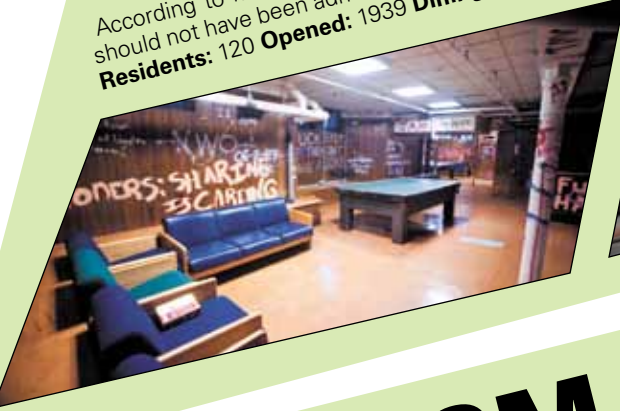
Residents: 354 **Opened:** 1925 **Dining:** No



BEXLEY HALL

According to its i3 video, Bexley, which does not participate in dorm rush, "is for people who should not have been admitted to MIT." Bexley's Senator is Abe Lincoln, and its president is a cat.

Residents: 120 **Opened:** 1939 **Dining:** No





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Afghanistan



Mending It Not Just Ending It

Wed, April 13, 2011, 4:00 PM

MIT Bldg 34-101 | 50 Vassar St, Cambridge

Please join us for a public lecture that jointly celebrates MIT's 150th anniversary and the Center's 60th anniversary.

The guest speaker is a prominent alumnus of MIT:

David Miliband

Foreign Secretary, United Kingdom (2007-2010)



Rt Hon David Miliband MP, the Foreign Secretary for the United Kingdom from 2007 to 2010, is joining CIS as a Robert E. Wilhelm Fellow in residence from April 11 through 15, 2011. During his week at MIT, he will meet with faculty and students across the institute who share his interest in international affairs and global environmental issues. Miliband is a graduate of Oxford University and MIT.



MINH PHAN—THE TECH
Members of MIT's South Asian American Students Club performed "Natya" during Satya, their annual culture show, last Friday night.

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Red Sox have 0-6 season start

Fans worry about team’s worst opening since 1945

By Bob Hohler
THE BOSTON GLOBE

The long, cruel winter is over. The maple sap is running. The Swan Boats soon will grace the Public Garden. And Boston’s beloved Red Sox, forever the symbol of spring’s renewal in New England, will open their home schedule Friday at Fenway Park as the preseason favorites to win the World Series.

Yet there is panic in the Fens. There are rumblings, for the first time since the glory days of 2004, about crestfallen Sox fans virtually rushing to the rails of the Tobin Bridge. Some diehards even have begun to fear the lavishly paid 2011 Sox are destined to turn their City of Champions once again into Loserville.

In a failure of historic proportions, the Sox Thursday frittered away yet another game — a 1-0 loss to the Indians in Cleveland — and extended their season-opening losing streak to six games. Their start is the worst act of futility for a Sox club since a war-depleted team opened 0-8 in 1945.

“This is pretty much a slap in the face,” said sports psychologist Harvey Dulberg, a Brookline-based Sox fan. “People are shocked and frustrated.”

All but inept so far in every phase of the game, the Sox add to their burden Friday when they begin a three-game showdown with their ancient nemeses, the Yankees.

“I’ve never seen so much panic this early in the season,” said Gregory M. Agami ’93, a Sox fan who graduated from Massachusetts Institute of Technology and launched a website, <http://www.coolstandings.com>, in part to calculate the odds of the team’s epic failures before their cathartic championship in 2004.

The hand-wringing reaches all the way to the front office. Sox chairman Tom Werner said he was “stepping off the ledge” to voice his displeasure with his team’s “collective breakdown” during its lost journey through Texas and Cleveland.

“Nobody can be happy about

the way we’ve started,” Werner said. “I don’t want to overreact to this, but this is obviously a disappointing start.”

The worst-case scenario would be losing three more games this weekend, a possibility even Werner could not help considering. Even though he believes the Sox could recover from it, he is devising a plan to purge the effects of such a calamity.

“On Monday, if we get swept by the Yankees,” he said, tongue in cheek, “I’m going to sacrifice a goat.”

As it is, the 0-6 Sox have the worst chance of making the playoffs (14.1 percent) among the teams in their division, according to Agami’s site.

“It’s definitely a rough start,” Agami said, “but it’s still too early to give up on them.”

All the early signs, however, point to Terry Francona’s crew committing baseball malpractice. The team’s refortified lineup has gone punchless, hitting at an anemic .181 clip overall and .159 with runners in scoring position. The pitchers, from John Lackey with his 22.09 earned run average to Dennys “Wild Thing” Reyes, have posted a combined 7.13 ERA, the worst in the majors.

Early fielding miscues and base-running blunders have all but consumed the Sox. The most glaring unfolded Thursday with Darnell McDonald’s game-ending recklessness on the base paths as the team spoiled a superb performance by starter Jon Lester in cold, foggy conditions more fit for a Shakespearean tragedy than baseball.

Malpractice, indeed. But not enough to warrant a class-action case, according to Harvard legal maven Alan Dershowitz. A Sox diehard, Dershowitz suggested the team has been merely toying with the opposition.

“The current Sox roster is so strong that they had to give the other teams a ‘handicap,’” Dershowitz wrote in an e-mail. “Now they’re ready to start in earnest.”

Baseball is a game of statistics, though, and some of the numbers may be disconcerting to Sox fans.

No team in major league history has won the World Series after opening a season with six straight losses. In fact, no American League team has reached the playoffs after opening a season 0-6.

Fear not, counseled Thomas M. Menino. The mayor, who this week helped the Sox revise their liquor license to permit the sale of mixed drinks throughout the ballpark, did not seem concerned about the possibility of angry fans getting hopped up on highballs.

He said he will attend the game with the view that it’s far too early to panic.

“This was only the preliminary round,” Menino said of the team’s squandered trip to Texas and Cleveland. “Now the Yankees begin our championship season.”

In the mayor’s view, the Sox “used these first games as a warm-up to see what worked and what didn’t work.”

What didn’t work: Jarrod Saltalamacchia batting .071, Kevin Youkilis .105, Jacoby Ellsbury .167, and the new \$142 million left fielder, Carl Crawford, batting .174 and scoring one run in six games. Also, the Sox have suffered from generally ineffective performances both from their \$47 million starting rotation and a newly reloaded bullpen.

But things could be worse. The 1988 Orioles opened the season 0-21 en route to 107 losses. And the Sox of ’45, with Ted Williams, Bobby Doerr, and Johnny Pesky at war, dropped those first eight games before finishing with 83 losses.

On a brighter note, the team’s principal owner, John Henry, envisions happier days ahead. He said the team, in addition to starting poorly, faces enormous expectations. So far, he suggested, the Sox have experienced the vagaries of baseball being “a game of inches, streaks, and luck.”

“I believe we will fight our way up the standings over the next 156 games,” Henry said. “But as I said before the season began, it will not be easy.”

It’s springtime in New England.

150 anniversary an opportunity for student reflection

MIT150, from Page 1

Throughout the Institute’s history, these kinds of events were almost routine. In the 1950s and ’60s, students rioted in protest of dining changes, held demonstrations and sit-ins to protest MIT’s ties to the defense industry, and sometimes raised hell just for the sake of raising hell. Students have a record of fiercely defending what they believe in: a culture of intellectual and social uniqueness.

Unsurprisingly, this culture is defined by the fundamental educational values of MIT. The engineer’s desire to build and improve and the scientist’s drive to understand how the world works both influence how MIT students approach problems in their own lives.

And although the times change, basic values haven’t. Students today still have a passion for making MIT — and the world — a better place, but they express that sentiment in modern ways. Instead of making their voices heard through mass demonstrations and sit-ins, modern Engineers protest through the Internet. The “MIT culture,” students say, adds an educational dimension to this place separate from what even 76 Nobel Prize winners can provide. This is the spirit that keeps Tech graduates

coming back, even decades after they’ve graduated.

150 reasons to look to the future

The Institute has used this juncture to reflect and find areas of improvement in both academics and research. At the undergraduate level, students are usually not here for more than four years, so it’s less intuitive for them to set longer-term goals. The MIT150 celebrations have encouraged the entire MIT community to take a step back and examine the bigger picture — as any scientist or engineer would.

But MIT’s sesquicentennial is also the perfect time to consider, as students, where we are today, and what we want our culture to look like by MIT’s bicentennial. What aspects of student culture are worth preserving? How will changing Institute priorities affect student priorities? Are there aspects of our culture which need to be fixed or improved?

Although there is value in stepping back as a greater community, students could also benefit from turning their collective gaze inward. There are ways that we, the student body, can improve as both an academic powerhouse and as a cultural force to move the Institute forward. In that spirit, MIT150 is not a time to look backward. It is a time for students to evaluate what we want our future, and our legacy, to be.

College Board, other companies send spam warnings

Prefrosh, beware! SAT scores and monthly newsletters may not be the only thing College Board puts in your inbox. Last weekend, hackers broke into Epsilon Data Management LLC’s systems, gaining access to customers’ names and e-mail addresses. Epsilon, a marketing company for large companies like Best Buy, JPMorgan Chase, and College Board, sends more than 40 billion emails annually. While no financial information — like credit card numbers or social security numbers — was compromised, Reuters reports that this data breach could be “one of the biggest such breaches in U.S. history.”

According to a message sent to College Board customers, students may see an increase in spam messages. The company warned students not to open links or attachments in messages from unknown third parties.

—Maggie Lloyd

British publisher enhances search technology with video

Augmented reality software expands user capabilities

By John Markoff
THE NEW YORK TIMES

The line between cyberspace and the physical world is blurring with a new search technology being demonstrated by Autonomy, a British software publisher.

The firm is demonstrating a software-based machine vision recognition system intended for smartphones and tablet computers that embeds images and videos directly on top of the image of a real object on the user’s display.

Today, so-called augmented reality is already widely available on both iPhones and Android phones through software applications like Google Goggles. Hundreds of other apps overlay geographical information on smartphone displays.

But Autonomy embeds moving imagery within the display of images of the real world in a way that’s visually convincing. For instance, a game maker might use it so that a person holding a camera phone up to a building would see the building’s image on the screen with a dragon entwined around it.

Called Aurasma, the software is based on the company’s IDOL pattern recognizer, which has been stripped down to run on an iPhone 4.

Requiring all of the computing horsepower the hand-held Apple smartphone can muster, the software makes it possible for the phone to recognize a database of about a half-million objects. It then uses the iPhone’s computing power to correctly insert a video image into the scene captured on the screen of the handset or tablet by its camera.

In a demonstration, the company was able to duplicate the effect seen in the *Harry Potter* movies of newspapers with the people in their pictures coming to life. The software finds a video of an event captured in the photograph.

Autonomy plans to make Aurasma available as a free application on smartphones next month. For consumers, the first application will be created by a movie studio that is working on an augmented reality game that accompanies the release of a movie. It will be possible to hunt for hidden virtual reality objects in a city. By giving the underlying technology away, Michael Lynch, Autonomy’s chief executive and founder, is hoping that he has an answer to the frequently asked question: “What comes after Google?”

There is now a broad consensus that the future of search will link search technologies with geograph-

ical location. Although the software can muddy the distinction between what is real and what is virtual, its most practical application would be in commerce and helping people search for bargains in the real world.

“We have been convinced for a long time that the idea of typing keywords into a search box is a byproduct and not an end,” Lynch said. “If you’re truly going to interact between the physical world and the virtual world, you’re not going to do that sitting in your bedroom at the keyboard.”

In addition to making the technology available on smartphones and tablets as an application, Autonomy intends to offer a free software module that will allow developers to build their own application. For example, a store or a shopping mall could customize a version for shoppers who turn their camera phones on physical objects as they walk by. Autonomy already has partnerships with telecommunications companies in Europe, Russia, and Latin America. Lynch said it was negotiating a similar deal in the United States.

Autonomy also plans to create channels for advertisers, hoping it can create something similar to Google’s AdWords network.

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HEY PREFROSH!

Here are some of the featured events that MIT says you should attend. We happen to agree. You don't have to go to everything, but if you want a flavor of MIT, these are probably the best ones to hit up.

Friday
Academics/Arts Fair
2–4 p.m.
Johnson Athletic Center

Athletics & PE Fair
2–4 p.m.
Rockwell Cage

Yes, these events are at the same time, but they won't take the full two hours, so make sure to stop by them both. You get to talk to students from all the majors and also see the more creative side of things in Johnson, and then find out more about the wide variety of sports options in Rockwell.

Saturday
Student Activities Fair
1–3 p.m.
Johnson Athletic Center
Seriously, don't miss this. Student groups are a huge part of MIT, and this is your first chance to sample them. Stop by our booth and get your own personalized front page!

SaveTFP Third Annual Professor Talent Show
3–5 p.m.
Room 10-250
We vehemently advise that you vouchsafe yourselves and verily prepare for the very vociferous and vitriolic acts of variety which will be viewed.

Sunday
Next Century Convocation
2–5 p.m.
Boston Convention Center
(transportation provided)
Still around? The convention is a pretty rare opportunity. Many current students think it's worth their time, so since nothing's going on anymore you should give it a shot.

HEY EVERYONE!

Here are some of the many free food events. Don't be bashful, join in whether you're a prefrosh, undergrad, or grad student.

Friday
ILG Cookie Bakeoff
12–4 p.m.
Student Center (W20), Plaza
MIT's Independent Living Groups have spent days baking delicious cookies for you! EAT THEM. OM NOM NOM. We will be just outside the Student Center.

Mad Hatter Tea
4:20–5:30 p.m.
Senior House (E2), Courtyard
Tea and Crumpets and Mad Hatters. Celebrate the joi de vivre that MIT causes.

Taste of Kenmore
7–9 p.m.
Theta Xi, 64 Bay State Rd., Boston
You wouldn't believe the restaurants we've got right next door to us. Feast on samples of everything Kenmore has to offer, from Indian to Italian to Japanese to good old-fashioned burgers and fries. Whatever your poison, you'll find it at Theta Xi.

Saturday
RHOP
2:47–4:17 a.m.
Random Hall (NW61)
Everything is more interesting in the early hours of the morn! Even pancakes.

Patisserie
12–2 p.m.
New House (W70), French House (House 6), 5th Floor Kitchen
We make the dough, you design your own pastry!

Free Ice Cream at Toscanini's
2–4 p.m.
Meet at McCormick Hall (W4), Lobby
Come with us to get some delectable ice cream near campus. McCormick will pay for your ice cream, and you'll get the chance to talk to McCormick residents about life at MIT!

Iron Chef
8:30–9:30 p.m.
pika, 69 Chestnut St., Cambridge
We have a great kitchen and lots of supplies. Are you creative enough to win? Follow the orange flags from Simmons (W79) to pika

Cocoa!
11–11:59 p.m.
East Campus Courtyard (between Buildings 62 and 64)
Join the Fourth East hall of East Campus in their nightly cocoa tradition. If you come to MIT, you could do this every night!

Sunday
Miracle Berry Feast
12–2 a.m.
Theta Xi, 64 Bay State Rd., Boston
Everything you thought you knew about food will be turned upside-down when you enhance your tastebuds with a miracle berry. Enter a world where tabasco sauce, vinegar, and limes will become your new best friends as you cap off your CPW experience with the brothers of Theta Xi.



MICHAEL Y. MCCANNA—THE TECH
Hackers put a big screw on MIT’s little dome to raise awareness of The Institute Screw Contest, APO’s annual charity fundraiser. The contest awards a giant screw to the professor or staff member whom voters feel is screwing them the most.

Big Screw nominations and Thursday totals

Person	Votes	Charity
Pavel Etingof, Professor of Mathematics	\$149.94	American Cancer Society
Craig Carter, Professor of Materials Science	\$111.73	Camp Kesem
Dean Colombo	\$129.52	Loaves and Fishes
Michael Yaffe, Professor of Biology	\$55.97	American Red Cross — Japan
David Jerison, Professor of Mathematics	\$20.05	Americares
Julie Norman, Director of Undergraduate Advising	\$28.83	Leadership Training Institute
2.005 (Cullen Buie, Jacopo Buongiorno)	\$13.48	American Red Cross Earth-quake/Tsunami Relief Fund
Steve Leeb, Professor of EECS	\$61.17	Pine Street Inn
Susan Lanza, Course 9 Administrator	\$36.25	Make-a-Wish
Alexander van Oudenaarden, Professor of Biology	\$11.30	Save the Children
Albert Meyer, Professor of EECS	\$9.18	ACLU Foundation
2.006 (J.G. Brisson, Anette E. Hosoi)	\$46.63	MassBike
Kit Cummins, Professor of Chemistry	\$18.37	Homestart
Alexander Mitsos, Professor of Mechanical Engineering	\$9.00	Big Sister Association of Greater Boston
Muriel Medard, EE/RLE Professor	\$23.80	Soldiers’ Angels
James Roberge, Professor of EECS	\$13.80	Make-a-Wish Foundation
Charles Leiserson, Professor of EECS	\$6.00	Museum of Mathematics

This week, Alpha Phi Omega hosted its annual charity fundraiser, the Big Screw, which recognizes the MIT faculty or staff member who “screws” students the most. Each cent donated to each nominee’s charity of choice counts as one vote, and the winner is awarded a 3-foot-long left-handed screw engraved with their name, which is passed down from year to year. Heading into its last day, the Big Screw has raised just over \$745, with Professor of Mathematics Pavel Etingof maintaining his lead with \$149.94 for the American Cancer Society.

—Maggie Lloyd

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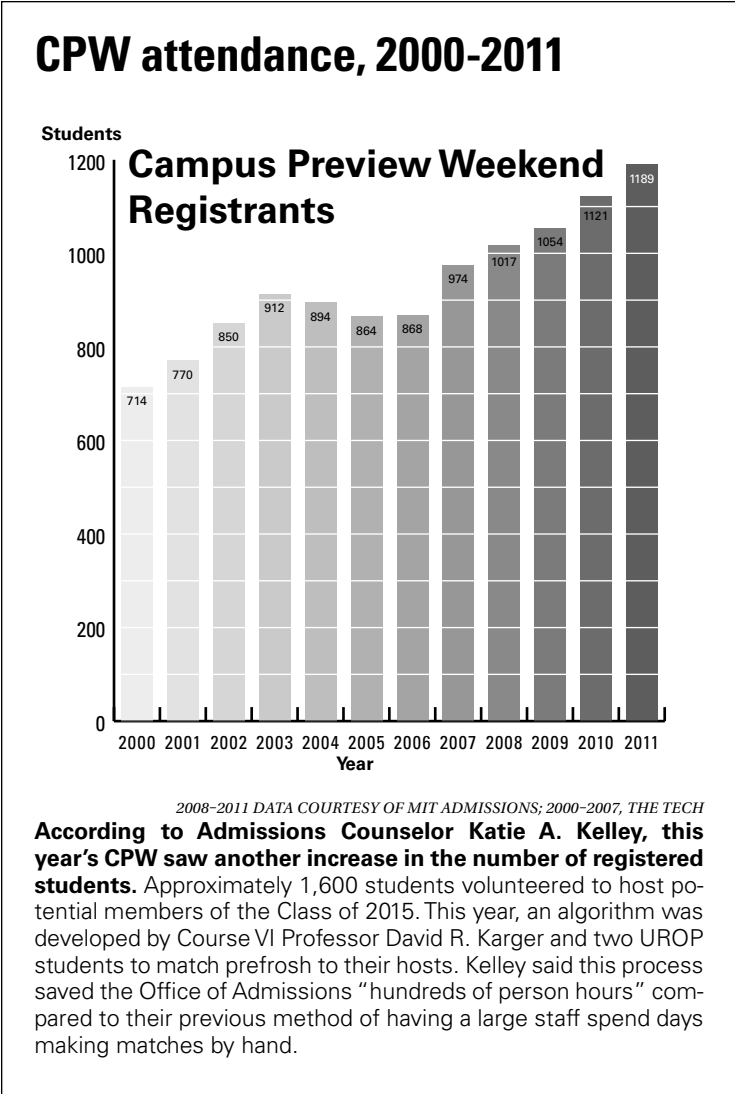
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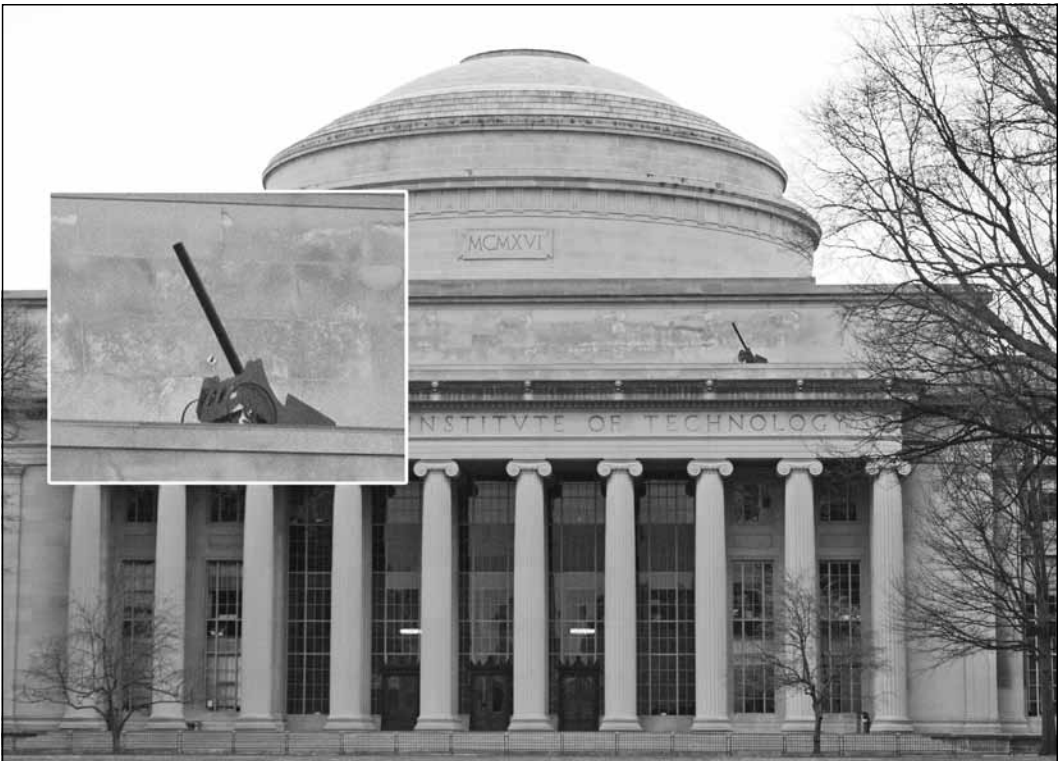


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Rooftop hacks join others around campus



GREG STEINBRECHER—THE TECH

A model of the Caltech Cannon, which hackers "borrowed" from our friends on the West Coast five years ago, appeared on the ledge below the Great Dome in the early hours of Wednesday morning.



GREG STEINBRECHER—THE TECH

In conjunction with a flood of hacks, a desk appeared atop the pyramid on Building 1.



DAVID CHEN—THE TECH

The Englishmen and Armand (from left: Cyril Lan '11, Daniel A. Heins '14, WeiYang Sun '11, Dominic D. Gallegos '13) join swords to undermine the French Republic in Next Act's production of *The Scarlet Pimpernel*. The show will be playing in Next House today and Saturday at 8:00 p.m.

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Solution to Crossword
from page 12

T	A	L	O	N		L	A	W	N		C	A	S	K
A	M	I	N	O		A	T	I	T		A	R	A	N
C	O	M	E	D	O	W	N	T	H	E	P	I	K	E
T	S	A	R		H	M	O	S			L	E	A	S
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S	I	T	O	N	O	N	E	S	H	A	N	D	S	
P	R	O	M	O		I	C	E		N	E	T	S	
C	O	O		M	A	D	E	I	R	A		T	I	E
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A	S	S	N		A	B	C	S		E	R	O	D	E

Solution to Techdoku
from page 11

5	6	2	3	1	4
3	4	6	1	5	2
2	3	5	6	4	1
1	2	4	5	3	6
6	1	3	4	2	5
4	5	1	2	6	3

Solution to Sudoku
from page 11

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



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The following student Coop members are candidates for the Board of Directors for the 2011-2012 academic year.



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Elizabeth Burton, 2012
Paige Finkelstein, 2014
Christopher Yoon, 2012

MIT Graduate Students:
Lorena Buck, PhD, 2012
Paul Romano, PhD, 2012

Harvard Undergraduate Students:
Cody Dean, 2014
Philip Harding, 2012
Melissa Oppenheim, 2012
Caroline Quazzo, 2012
Jillian Smith, 2014
Aixin Wang, 2012

Harvard Graduate Students:
Eugene Anthony, M Div., 2012
David Carvel, MBA, 2012
Christofer Garner, MBA, 2012
Sonia McNeil, JD, 2012



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Mandi Nyambi
New York City, New York
Emma Feshbach
San Francisco, California
Lucas Freitan
Brazil
Ashley Wheeler
New Hampshire
Michelle Dutt
Chicago, Illinois

What CPW events have you participated in so far?
Michelle: I dyed my hair at East Campus! This indigo streak on the side here — my parents saw me earlier with the foil and everything.
Emma and Mandi: Senior Haus. Just walking into Senior Haus was an experience itself. There are some ... crazy murals there.
What do you like most about MIT?
Ashley: All the people I’ve met here are amazing.
Any last words?
Lucas: Can you take a picture of us together? I want to remember CPW. It’s really been an experience so far.

Alex Jaffe
New Haven, Connecticut
What is your impression of MIT so far?
I attended a string theory class which was probably way beyond me. ... It was still really interesting, though.
What activities did you do in high school?
I’m on the math team. Actually, I came here for the Harvard-MIT Math Tournament earlier this year.



Ishwarya Ananthabhotha
Long Island, New York
What is the most memorable thing you’ve done here?
I played card games at Random Hall. My favorite game was “1000 Blank White Cards.”
Where are you currently temped?
Simmons Hall — it’s a great place to be. It has cool architecture.



Evan Daniel
Long Island, New York
What have you been up to during CPW so far?
I took a practice Harvard-MIT Math Tournament test. I attended the tournament this year and last year.
So you’re really involved in math team?
You could say that. If I came here, it would be a lot of fun to write problems for the tournament.
Where are you staying for CPW?
Bexley. It’s an interesting place. There are cats.



Bruno Tambasco
Miami, Florida
How has CPW been so far?
I love it! The ice cream, free food, everyone here ... just looking around and checking out what an exciting place MIT is.
How much sleep do you plan on getting?
Let’s say negative infinity.



Alan Jin
South Kent, Connecticut
What’s the craziest experience you’ve had at CPW so far?
Probably seeing a naked guy in a box walking around. [Later identified as Brian A. Remlinger ’14, who was actually wearing a cardboard box, advertising for CryoFAC.]
Have any of the clubs here caught your eye?
The chess club. Chess is my hobby. ... I did math team in high school — didn’t everybody here? I’m also editor of my high school newspaper, so maybe I’d like to continue that here.



Raluca Ifrim
Seattle, Washington
What do you think of MIT so far?
MIT is great. Boston is really interesting, too. I wandered through some pretty scary places while looking for pika.
Are you staying at pika?
No. I’m temped at New House right now. I never even found pika, actually.



Anji Ren
Princeton, New Jersey
Stephanie Wang
Worcestrshire, New York
What’s your favorite thing about CPW?
Anji: We had hot sauce tonight. It was super hot! I need more bubble tea.
Are you coming here for sure?
Stephanie: Definitely. I’m pretty much settled at this point.



MIT

+150

INVENTIONAL WISDOM

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Monday–Tuesday
April 11–12, 2011
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- Computing for everyone and the march of technology
- Entertainment and travel
- A.M. Turing Award winners panel discussion

More information

A complete program and registration information are available online: mit150.mit.edu

Registration required; free for MIT faculty, staff, and students.

MASSACHUSETTS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

Festival in Johnson introduces prospective Class of 2015 to MIT and Preview Weekend activities

Photography by *Natasha Plotkin, Rebecca Han, and Jessica L. Wass*

By **Stephanie C. Liu**

Hello! My name is Stephanie, and I am a senior at Phillips Academy in Andover, MA. When I first drove over the Charles River this afternoon, I had my first glimpse of MIT — a fleet of at least fifteen sailboats gliding smoothly down the river, the dome in the background, the setting sun gleaming off its top. On the other side of the bridge, I was startled to find a combination of city and campus life, with restaurants and strolling students on one block, and labs on the next. After registration in the crowded student center, I met my host, Shireen, who took me to McCormick, where I will be staying for the next couple of days. I climbed up several flights of stairs to the penthouse of McCormick, which offers a beautiful view over the Charles, as well as of several uniquely-shaped buildings and dorms to my left and right. I had my first taste of college food at Baker’s dining hall, where the food seems almost home-cooked. Sitting at one of the round tables in the dining area with other prefrish and students, I watched a band set up for a

performance. Outside, music boomed from one of the windows in Baker, relaxing the visibly speedy pace of life on campus. The Prefrosh Welcome in the Cage turned out to be a series of surprises. I especially enjoyed watching the Logarhythms, who interrupted Stuart Schmill ’86, the dean of admissions, by sprinting towards the stage from various locations in the audience and jumping into a song. The second song had an almost recorded, CD-quality effect, beginning with the soloists hidden behind the group to produce a distant, faded sound. Their enthusiasm really broke the ice and nervousness among us. Later on, while visiting the Activities Fair, various clubs and student organizations seized and dragged me in different directions to sign up, watch their demos, and try their food. The variety of interests on campus amazes me — from Ballroom Dancing Team to UPOP, every student group’s enthusiasm became contagious, and I was tempted to sign up at every other booth. I am looking forward to attending classes tomorrow morning and getting a chance to meet more students and faculty members. I



interned at MIT Sea Grant last summer, so I vaguely know my way around campus, but I know that experiencing the campus during the school year is sure to feel different. Though my academic plans are not yet completely set, I am interested in studying environmental engineering, in combination with International Relations and Music. I hope to join the music program at MIT, work for *The Tech*, study abroad, and become involved in the Energy Initiative.

By **Paul Harris**

Hi everyone! My name is Paul Harris (yes, there was a movie that just premiered entitled *Paul*, but I advise you to wait until the DVD comes out). I am in Boston for my first time for CPW, and I must say, it is a huge change from what I am accustomed to. I’m originally from Atlanta, Ga., where the spring and summers are sweltering and the AC is always broken, so being in Boston — where the temperatures can drop as low as 50°F in April — is a huge change for me. My experience during my first day at MIT (where I’ve been enjoying the seemingly infinite amounts of free food and dance parties) has been idyllic! I’ve never seen so many people willing to just hand

me food! I’m surely not complaining, though. There are so many different activities packed into such a short amount of time that it is literally impossible to experience them all! I’ve gone through the painstaking walk to pika for smoothies, and I’ve had truffles hardened by liquid nitrogen at Random Hall — and I must say that it was something I truly enjoyed! The added aspect of being able to venture into the many research opportunities and learning communities for undergraduates at MIT has been enlightening, and it has strengthened the possibility of my enrolling in the Class of 2015 — that, and all of the amazing people I have met just from my first day here! Here’s to missing out on sleep for the next three days!



By **Cosmos Darwin**

The sheer magnitude of MIT’s Campus Preview Weekend is as awesome as it is frankly ridiculous. Its schedule — a document the size of a novel — lists over 750 events slated to take place over the next four days. One rapidly realizes that there is much more to do than could ever be possible for an individual more or less bound by the laws of physics. My flight from Ottawa, Canada, landed this afternoon. In the couple hours since then, I’ve seen exotic flavors of ice cream instantly mixed with liquid nitrogen, taken an impromptu tour of the aero/astro workshop, been invited to pen an article for *The Tech*, and savored an endless lineup of foods and desserts. Indeed, I would loosely estimate that I’ve consumed the equivalent of seven meals in the last two hours, without yet visiting the same place twice. Most importantly, I’ve had the opportunity

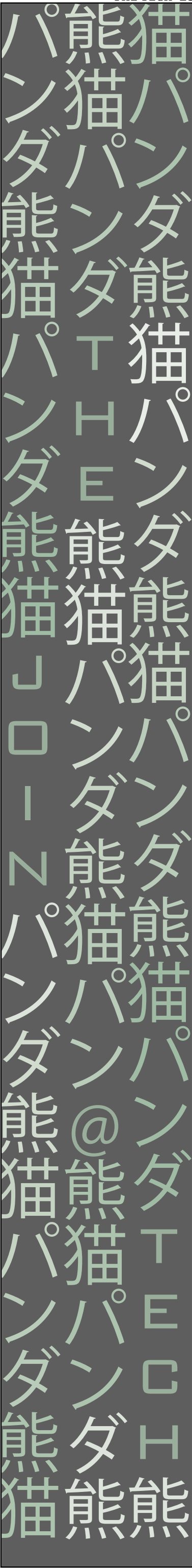
to meet my future friends and colleagues from the Class of 2015, each a friendly representative of a different corner of the nation or world. Indeed, the prospect of studying alongside such brilliant classmates is truly humbling. Together, we’ve explored a handful of dorms and fraternities, each unique in its own way, boasting a particular — if not peculiar — array of perks. For instance, one was located in a traditional four-story house and featured a completely decorated network of crawl spaces subtly hidden between the ceiling of one level and the floorboards of the next. My experience at CPW is only just getting started. Over the course of the next four days — and perhaps more importantly, the next three nights — I’ll get myriad opportunities to explore what this phenomenal institution has to offer. Which, by the way, is just about everything. I cannot wait!



By **Earl Lee**

“OMG” was the response I received from my father when I texted him that MIT’s CPW events last until 4 a.m. It is almost midnight during my first night of CPW, and I already feel like I just ran a marathon while indulging in a three-Michelin star buffet. CPW, quite simply, is a sensory overload. Where else can you experience a smorgasbord of offerings ranging from liquid nitrogen ice cream to East Campus hacking culture? My body aches and yearns for sleep, but I know that there are still four exciting hours of molecular gastronomy cooking and Firehose Lectures — events which I have been looking forward to partaking in ever since MIT posted the CPW schedule online. After those four hours, I have an equal amount of time to recharge before beginning another propane-charged day of activities. After tomorrow, I have yet another full day of events

until I can relax on the plane ride home. My name is Earl Lee, and I come from the D.C. area. Even before arriving at MIT’s campus, I knew ahead of time how many resources MIT devotes to enticing its admitted students into matriculating — holiday cards, acceptance tubes, video web chats, Valentine cards, and a surprisingly active Chris Peterson answering all of our questions on Facebook. CPW has only bolstered my belief that MIT truly cares about each and every admitted student, more so than any other school. Besides the events, CPW has allowed me to meet countless numbers of kind, friendly people — the type you would only expect to find in a cozy, Midwest town. I have met prospective students of all races, interests, and personalities, so my only regret is that I will not be able to remember the names of everyone I meet. A friend of mine texted me asking how CPW is going, and I could only reply, “one big party.”



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Cinderella makes it to the ball, but then trips... ... and breaks skull open; Butler Bulldogs fall apart in 2nd half of ugly NCAA final

By Carlos Greaves
SPORTS STAFF

This year’s Division I NCAA Men’s Basketball National Championship game featured the third-seeded University of Connecticut Huskies against the eighth-seeded Butler Bulldogs. Despite possessing the lead after a brutal, defense-dominated first half, the Butler team completely fell apart in the second half, losing their second NCAA Championship game in a row in what will no doubt be considered one of the least memorable finals in the history of the tournament.

Both teams played fantastic defense in the first half, resulting in the lowest-scoring first half in the NCAA tournament final since 1946. Butler made one two-point field goal, shot 22 percent, and yet managed to

hang onto the lead, 22-19. In the second half, however, Butler faltered on both offense and defense, especially in the paint. They allowed UConn to make easy layups while never seeming to be able to penetrate themselves, and were outscored 26-2 in the paint. Butler did do an exceptional job of throwing the ball in close proximity of the basket, which would have helped — except that the ball passed through the inside of the rim only 18.8 percent of the time, the lowest field goal percentage for any team in NCAA tournament history. Ultimately, UConn’s defensive pressure, which kept Butler out of the paint and forced poor shots, was sufficient to lead the Huskies to their third championship title since 1999.

Capped off by an uneventful final game, UConn had perhaps the least exciting run of the entire tournament. They deserve credit for winning 11 straight games on their path to the title and for playing fan-

tastic defense, but the lesson of the tournament this year was that the key to winning a national championship is never having to pull any upsets. Their toughest matches in the tournament were against fifth-seeded Arizona and fourth-seeded Kentucky, who were both tired after having just dispatched tournament giants Duke and Ohio State, respectively. The highest-seeded team UConn played was No. 2 San Diego State, who “earned” their high seed because their toughest regular season opponent was BYU. For Connecticut, winning the championship was like being the last Spaniard to arrive in the New World. After the jungles had been cleared and the native population subjugated, the UConn-quistadors just waltzed in and stole all the gold.

Butler, in contrast, was the Cinderella team for the second year in a row. After barely beating Old Dominion thanks to a lucky last-second tip-in, Butler took out

No. 1 seedPittsburgh, then beat No. 4 seed Wisconsin, and won a thriller in overtime over No. 2 seed Florida. Their win over the other Cinderella team — 11th-seeded VCU — secured the Bulldogs’ spot in the national championship game, as unlikely as their appearance in last year’s final. In 2010 they played down to the wire against Duke and had an opportunity for a last-second three-pointer that would have given them the victory. Despite the loss, Butler still walked away with pride knowing they had achieved more than anyone could have imagined. This year, however, Butler walked away with their tail between their legs, having completely fallen apart after such a great run.

Overall, it was shame that a tournament full of unfathomable upsets was still won by a perennial powerhouse whose most impressive accomplishment was somehow managing to win a tournament without beating a single No. 1 seed.

Baseball takes two out of three against Coast Guard

By Zach Hynes
SPORTS STAFF

MIT’s offense, rendered dormant by WPI pitching last week, erupted for 22 runs in two games as the Engineers took two of three games from the U.S. Coast Guard Academy this past weekend, improving their overall record to 14-6.

After Friday’s game at Coast Guard was rained out, MIT shined on Saturday at Nitchman Field in New London, CT. Staked to an early lead, starter Kiel L. Jindra ’14 turned in an efficient six-inning effort, holding Coast Guard scoreless. Coast Guard put up six runs in the seventh and eighth innings, taking advantage of six walks allowed by the MIT bullpen, but never seriously threatened the Engineers’ lead. MIT took the game 14-6.

The Engineers turned in another dominating performance in the first game of Sunday’s doubleheader. Starter Aric J. Dama ’13 struck out the side to kick off the game, and the offense responded with five runs — all coming with two outs — in the first two innings. Although Dama struggled with his control at times, he cruised through the Coast Guard lineup, racking up seven strikeouts in six innings of work, and MIT extended

its lead on a three-run, opposite-field homer to left-field by Bryan A. Macomber ’12. While the game seemed out of reach for Coast Guard at the time, the Engineers were glad to have insurance runs when Coast Guard rallied in the seventh for three runs off of Max J. Ockner ’13. Ockner extinguished the threat to clinch the series victory for the Engineers.

The second-half of the double-header got off to an inauspicious start when three errors contributed to four runs for Coast Guard off of Torre M. Swanson ’12; those four runs turned out to be all that Coast Guard needed, as the Engineers mustered just two hits against Nate Toll of Coast Guard. The loss was MIT’s first at home this season.

“It definitely looked like we ran out of gas” in the second game of the doubleheader Sunday, remarked Coach Andrew Barlow about team’s offensive struggles in the final game. The Engineers are in the midst of a stretch where they play 20 games in 22 days.

This week, the Engineers face Boston-area non-conference foes: Suffolk at home, and Brandeis away. In these games, according to Coach Barlow, the team will rest some starters and set up their pitching rotation for the more important league games. MIT will also host Springfield College on Friday afternoon, the opener of a three-game series against the Pride this weekend.

UPCOMING HOME EVENTS

Friday, April 8

Softball vs. Wheaton College	3 p.m., Briggs Field
Baseball vs. Springfield College	3:30 p.m., Briggs Field
Men’s Tennis vs. Bowdoin College	3:30 p.m., DuPont Courts
Softball vs. Wheaton College	5 p.m., Briggs Field

Saturday, April 9

Sailing — Marchiando Trophy	9:30 a.m., Charles River
Men’s Tennis vs. Babson College	1 p.m., DuPont Courts
Women’s Tennis vs. Bates College	3 p.m., DuPont Courts
Women’s Lacrosse vs. Southern Maine	4 p.m., Steinbrenner Stadium

Sport Taekwondo dominates in West Point Tournament With win, MIT leads Cornell by 164 in conference

By Joy Jiao
TEAM REPRESENTATIVE

The MIT Sport Taekwondo Club recently competed in the Eastern Collegiate Taekwondo Conference (ECTC) West Point Tournament. Despite the 3 a.m. bus trip down to Princeton, N.J., the Engineers — coached by Dan Chuang and led by captains Jason J. Uh ’10 and Erika Lee ’12 — achieved a landslide victory. MIT is currently leading the conference with 1589 points — 164 points over the second-place Cornell and several hundred points ahead of 28 other universities.

This year’s tournament featured events in forms and sparring. Forms are choreographed, their precise movements judged on execution and style. In forms, MIT outscored the second-place university, Cornell, roughly 180 to 30. In men’s black belt forms, Uh won second, and Daniel J. Sauza ’11 placed fourth. Lee came out on top with a first-place finish in women’s black belt forms, with Rebecca Hung ’11 taking fifth place.

The team scored a stream of exceptional wins in sparring, with the men’s A2 team winning silver, men’s B1 and B2 teams winning gold and silver respectively, and the women’s B1 team winning silver.

The men’s A1 team of Uh, Sauza, and Christopher M. Williams G won silver, defeating both the Cornell A1 and A2 teams for the first time in almost two years.

The men’s B1 team of David Wen G, Rafael A. Raya ’11, and Williams won against West Point and Brown in the first two rounds. The B1 team triumphed over Johns Hopkins in the semifinals, a team that MIT had lost to during the finals at the 2010 UPenn Tournament.

The men’s B2 team of Seth M. Weinberg G and Ijeoma Emeagwali ’12 took out Cornell’s B2 team, blowing away the competition and ensuring an MIT vs. MIT final. The men’s B2 team bowed out to the men’s B1 team, achieving an MIT gold/silver victory in the B division.

The women’s B1 team of Tara P. Sarathi ’12, Hsin-Jung Li ’11, and Lorraine Ling G played through the B team bracket, defeat-

ing Princeton B1, UPenn B1, and Cornell B1. The team missed first place by one point to Brown B1 in the final match. Sarathi in particular performed well, winning a decisive match against the same opponent whom she lost to earlier in the tournament.

Other MIT sparring teams also performed exceptionally well. The men’s A2 team achieved a victory over the Navy A2 team, and the men’s C2 team won against Yale C1.

The women’s A1 team of Sarathi, Li, and Lee had a tough draw, but valiantly fought the Princeton A1 team during the first round. The women’s B2 team defeated both Cornell teams before losing to the eventual gold medalist, Brown B1, in the quarterfinals. The women’s C1 team placed fifth in their division, winning against Princeton and Brooklyn before losing to silver medalist Princeton C1 in the quarterfinals.

MIT club members and instructors also won international honors in the U.S. Open competition on Feb. 17. Club alumni and instructors did particularly well in forms. Bobby B. Ren ’06 earned third place and a bronze medal in men’s senior 1 (19-30) — a highly competitive division of 16 internationally-ranked players — finishing only behind competitors from Mexico and Peru. Rene R. Chen ’07 won fifth in the similarly competitive women’s senior 1 (19-30) division of 22 players, finishing just behind three Mexican and one Australian player.

In sparring, Richard-Duane S. Chambers ’05 won 7-1 over a Danish competitor and had a close, exciting match against a player from Guadalupe, losing 4-6. Aziz Abdellahi G won his first match against an Italian 11-2 and then proceeded to win a match against a five-time U.S. national team member 4-3.

The extraordinary success of the MIT team at the West Point tournament as well as the U.S. Open Tournament is the culmination of regular practice, office hours, special seminars, and a weekend-long Taekwondo boot camp at the end of IAP organized by instructor Ren. The dedication of both instructors and athletes has led to three consecutive national champions, and the team is continuing strong. Team members and instructors will continue to prepare for the upcoming UPenn tournament and the journey towards the ECTC Cup.

SPORTS SHORTS

Volleyball reaches NECVA quarterfinals

The Men’s Volleyball team finished up their postseason run this past weekend, advancing to the quarterfinals of the North East Collegiate Volleyball Association (NECVA) Championship tournament and collecting many awards along the way. Seeded No. 5 in the tournament, MIT swept No. 12 Stevenson University (25-18, 25-17, 25-19) but lost to No. 4 Philadelphia Biblical University (17-25, 19-25, 26-24, 25-17, 15-6). Timothy R. Lee ’11 and David R. Thomas ’12 represented the nationally-ranked No. 10 Engineers (29-7) on the NECVA All-Tournament Team.

With the season coming to a close, the

team collected several individual honors for the season. Lee was named NECVA New England Player of the Year, Kenneth M. Siebert ’14 was named NECVA New England Rookie of the Year. Lee, Siebert, Thomas, and Matthew P. Hohenberger ’13 were named to the NECVA New England All-Division 1st Team, while Patrick J. Vatterott ’13 was named to the 2nd Team. The 47-team NECVA Conference also awarded 1st Team All-Conference honors to Thomas and 2nd Team honors to Lee and Hohenberger. Hohenberger, Thomas, Vatterott, Benson M. George ’12, and Garrett L. Winther ’11 were also named to the NECVA All-Academic Team.

—Paul Dill, Head Coach

Lacrosse evens record against UMass

Seven unanswered goals scored across three periods helped power the MIT Men’s Lacrosse team to a 12-3 victory over UMass Boston on Tuesday afternoon. The Engineers improve to 3-3 with the win.

William H. Waste ’14 posted a game-high five points on three goals and two assists for the Engineers.

Daniel G. Piemont ’11 put MIT on the board midway through the first quarter when he connected on a feed from Waste for a man-up goal. With the score tied at two, an unassisted goal by John R. Kucharczyk ’11 with

10 minutes left in the second quarter sparked the game-changing run for MIT, which entered halftime with a 6-2 advantage.

The game was a defensive battle following the break, but strikes by Waste and Elliot M. Sykora ’14 increased the hosts’ margin and were the only goals of the third quarter. Waste completed the hat trick at the 13:51 mark of the final frame. The Engineers capped the scoring on a solo effort by Timothy K. Wilczynski ’14 with 1:40 left to play.

MIT will travel to Massachusetts Maritime Academy for their next contest on Saturday.

—Mindy Brauer, DAPER Staff

Tod Machover's opera is a spectacular technological experiment

STAFF WRITER

Actually, as hinted by the subtitle *The Robots' Opera*, the opera unfolds as a play within a play, where distant future robots reenact a performance about the early days of the machines — specifically, the time when the first human bridged the gap between man and machine. The story is about Simon Powers, a billionaire obsessed with extending his mortal existence. He develops the technology to move his consciousness into a computer network called The System. The opera vividly describes Simon's transformation from an ailing old man into a powerful machine and its impact on Simon's human nature and his

Given the philosophical nature of the story, writing the libretto for this opera was certainly a great challenge. Robert Pinsky did an excellent job of retaining the weight of story while also adding an entertaining and humorous side to the lines. In fact, most of the spoken and sung verses contain incessant puns and superficial, almost crude jokes. While a lot of this humor feels artificial and forced at times, it does suggest a rigid, robotic perception of human existence, which is exactly the point of view from which the story is told. Moreover, the libretto was particularly effective at conveying the dissolution of the limited human language into the vastness of

JILL STEINBERG

The opera also features three larger, slow

While thought-provoking and visually captivating, the opera owes its great success to its sparkling music. Machover's highly original score utilizes a bold blending of tra-

March 18, 2011

Machover's *Death and The Powers: The Robots' Opera* is a landmark achievement, highlighting the immense potential of technology as an artistic enabler and medium. The complexity of the opera, forged by the momentous intersection of art and technology, allows it to be both an effective entertainment vehicle and an inspired challenge for the future of the art in a world resonating more and more to the beat of technology.

Fourth album provides new *Angles*; lyrics, electro-beats add fresh spin on classic sound

STAFF WRITER

Angles is an album that is bound to be a classic for old fans and new fans alike, gaining its strength from fresh beats, refreshingly matured lyrics, and cover art that could make the MoMA beg for more (a bright yellow

This trend of self-awareness is yet again startlingly clear in the almost-Heart in a Cage"-esque track "Metabolism," where Casablancas reveals perhaps the band's, his own, or maybe all our of own greatest fear, saying: "I want to be outrageous / But inside I know I'm plain / So plain / Just plain / Boring and plain."

Electric Lady Studios

I've racked my brain for harsh criticism and come back empty. Each of the songs is interesting and can entirely stand alone, but the tracks flow seamlessly from one to another when the album is experienced as a whole. The Strokes have lived up to the promise of the first line of their first new track released, saying: "Slip back out of whack, at your best." Thanks for slipping back, guys. What took you so long?

BALLET REVIEW

Dances with words

Creativity roams free as *Elo Experience* challenges the boundaries of the traditional

By Linh Vuong

As I sat nervously in my seat in the enchanting Boston Opera House, many thoughts about *Elo Experience* raced through my mind. Would I be able to comprehend his work with my limited knowledge of ballet? Would I know what he is trying to say? But Elo's words dissipated my concern: "I hope the audiences come with no expectations. I want them to arrive at the theatre with open hearts and open minds." So I sat up straight, put on my glasses, and immersed myself in the



COURTESY OF GENE SCHIAVONE, BOSTON BALLET

Larissa Ponomarenko and Jeffrey Cirio in *Elo Experience*.

magic of movements that were about to happen on stage.

Jorma Elo is a prominent choreographer who has worked with a diverse array of ballet companies, from Basel Ballet (Hungary) and Alberta Ballet (Canada) to Finnish National Ballet and Netherlands Dance Theatre. He finally became a resident choreographer at Boston Ballet in 2005, and his seventh work here, *Elo Experience*, is a performance that represents his lifelong exploration of ballets. The two lead dancers, Jeffrey Cirio and Larissa Ponomarenko, act as narrators, stringing together his works over the years. It is truly a spectacle to be able to witness how the emotions, energy, and flow of movements change with each piece that represents a different period of artistic inspiration.

The first half of the ballet was the more connected, captivating, and exhilarating part. The ballet began with Cirio, the male lead, slowly pushing a light-filled box from stage left to stage right. The light penetrated through the darkness, revealing the dimensions of the stage. Cirio began the dance with body waves and robot movements (think Michael Jackson with much greater momentum and flow). Ponomarenko, the female lead, then came out and danced with Cirio. The playful yet harmonious movement of this duo drew laughter from the audience. The curtain then pulled up, revealing a row of dancers dressed in black who danced an impeccably synchronized routine. My favorite scene was when the dancers gathered in a triangular formation and, as one, gave Cirio



MINH PHAN—THE TECH

Tim the beaver joins Men in Heat during their dance performance in MIT SAAS's culture show Satya on Friday night.

a hand to help him stand up. They were so connected as a group that every motion Cirio sent out to the nearest dancer seemed to send a ripple of energy and movement to the furthest dancer. Ponomarenko then said something perplexing: "She likes moonlight."

The color of the screens surrounding the stage then changed to blue, an apt choice resonating with “moonlight.” The eight dancers, clad in skintight blue leotards, dazzled the audience with seemingly impossible jumps, spins, and leaps. It was as if every muscle in their bodies was breathing, talking to the audience through the threads of the fabrics.

When Ponomarenko and Cirio returned, they continued their dialogue. Cirio asked himself: "Does she like sunshine or does she like moonlight?" The group of male dancers replied: "You exceeded the speed limit." Cirio continued the conversation: "How fast was I going, officer?" The dialogue then stopped and the third section ended with Ponomarenko asking "Does she like sunshine or moonlight?" The audience was kept in suspense.

“Lost on Slow” and “Plan to B” were the next two pieces. In “Lost on Slow,” a set of six dancers — three males and three females — danced to the music of Vivaldi under a glowing warm yellow light. The movement changed from sharp, doll-like choreography to fluttering or trembling motions. The sophisticated element of modern dance in *Elo* was wonderfully presented by “Lost on Slow.” The type of movements embedded in “Plan to B” couldn’t be more different. With arms spinning, legs swinging, and up-tempo music, “Plan to B” flowed with energy and power that made me move in my seat.

One cannot help but wonder how the story between Ponomarenko and Cirio progresses. In the seventh act, "Pas," she spoke in Russian; I wish I knew what she was saying — I could hear some laughter in the audience. The story became increasingly confusing. They kept arguing over whether she liked moonlight or sunlight. He surprised her from the side of the stage, but she had a fright. Time for intermission.

I quickly returned to my seat to figure out what exactly Elo was trying to say through Ponomarenko and Cirio. The ballet

Elo Experience

Boston Ballet Company

March 24, 2011

Boston Opera House

continued while the light was on and people were returning to their seats. The perplexing dialogue sounded like a puzzle from an MIT Mystery Hunt: Cirio said “Red two, green three, blue four,” and Ponomarenko replied with “Red yes, green no, blue maybe.” And then she began to sing my favorite Nat King Cole number: “Fly me to the moon. Let me play among the stars.” At this point I decided to stop thinking too much and focus exclusively on the dance.

The four works presented in the second part of the ballet included "Double Evil," "In on Blue," "Lost by Last," and "Brake the Eyes." Each work gave me a different kind of emotion. "Double Evil" was accompanied by a sensational red screen; "In on Blue" was more melancholy, provoking a sense of yearning for something that has been lost. "Lost by Last" had a certain air of intensity and mystery, expressed in the music and the occasional explosive movement. "Brake the Eyes" provoked a sense of freedom with very contemporary movements and choreography.

Elo Experience is indeed “a beautiful living, breathing masterpiece,” as suggested by Boston Ballet Artistic Director Mikko Nissinen. The movements presented are organic and grounded, a deep contrast to the expected ethereal nature of a ballet. It might be complex and difficult to comprehend — especially to the audience, who has never seen Elo’s works before. My best advice is to discard the jumbled thoughts in your head and enjoy the beauty and energy of movements of the dancers on stage. As Elo is thoroughly aware of the personal potentials of Boston Ballet’s dancers, this is truly the best of what each dancer has to offer.

Tiësto Entrances Royale



STEVE HOWLAND—THE TECH

Tiësto lit up Boston's Royale nightclub on Monday. Tiësto, world-renowned for trance and electronic music, is currently on a U.S. tour and mixed live in Boston from April 4–6 for thousands of techno fans. Recently voted “The Greatest DJ Of All Time,” Tiësto is one of a number of artists in the growing electronic music industry. The Royale crowd was young and energetic, the music was amazing, and the lights and dancers kept everyone entertained for hours.



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