

IFC reinforces roof deck rules while limits stand

Restrictions on open air spaces as Boston assembly limits may remain until Rush

By Alexandra Delmore
STAFF REPORTER

Faced with the possibility that assembly limits imposed on MIT's Boston fraternities in October 2013 may continue through Rush week this September, the Interfraternity Council doubled down last week on a prohibition of the use of roof decks at all MIT fraternities in an attempt to ease tensions with the city of Boston.

The IFC has also put in place a provision that if Boston fraternities do not obtain licensure by Rush week, fraternities eligible to hold parties (those in Cambridge and Brookline) may do so only on Saturday of that week.

The assembly limits, enacted by the Boston Licensing Board, mandate that the number of people in an MIT Boston fraternity house at any time cannot exceed the residency limit, effectively restricting social gatherings and events.

The city of Boston has not specified a timeline regarding when licensure will be approved or what steps are being taken to expedite the process.

The "Temporary Open Air Spaces Rule Provision"

The "Temporary Open Air Spaces Rule Provision," according to the IFC website, prohibits the use of "roofs, roof decks, balconies, and ledges" at all fraternity houses, except by maintenance personnel. The prohibition applies to all fraternities, including those in Cambridge and those which currently have licensed roof decks.

The punishments for violating this prohibition are stringent. The provision specifies that a first offense results in a "strong recommendation of social probation for a minimum of one year," a second offense yields a "strong recommendation

of organizational suspension," and a third offense results in a "strong recommendation of organizational loss of recognition."

Additionally, the provision says that "houses may be exempt from the policy with a written agreement from the FSILG office."

The Association of Independent Living Groups enacted the same prohibitions in the fall of 2013. The recent motion by the IFC was a commitment to reinforce the policy.

According to IFC President Haldun Anil '15, the primary reason for this restriction is to "ease the tension with the city until the situation can be sorted out." He said that this tension arises from the fact that fraternities need a specific permit from the city of Boston in order to use roof decks. Many fraternity houses have unlicensed roof decks.

This provision was approved by over two-thirds of the attendees at the IFC President's Council meeting last Thursday. Anil said that "fraternities understand that this policy is necessary in order to ease tensions with the city."

Officers of a Boston fraternity, speaking with authorization of their president under the condition of anonymity, citing possible consequences from the IFC, expressed concerns regarding the generality of this legislation. They pointed out that many fraternities have invested a great deal of money in their roof decks, and some have even made sure to obtain the proper licensure. One said that restricting all fraternities from using their own space is "unbelievable," and that "if [a roof deck] meets code, it should be approved. If it doesn't meet code, it should not be approved."

IFC Page 6

Student Center sidewalk construction



JESSICA L. WASS—THE TECH

A large portion of the sidewalk in front of the Student Center was blocked off on Monday as a construction crew began renovations to the area.

God is not at your graduation

An "inclusive, secular invocation" will replace the traditional commencement prayer this year, according to an email from the Commencement Committee that was forwarded to MIT undergraduates by the UA president on Friday, May 9.

The email says the committee based its

decision on a survey of students that "yielded nearly 600 results."

The announcement comes after an April 18 opinion piece in *The Tech* criticized the prayer as exclusionary, noting that the 2013 prayer had invoked the "God of Abraham, Jesus, and Mohammed."

—William Navarre

IN SHORT

Evaluate your subjects and teachers. The new shorter form takes less than five minutes to complete, according to the Office of Faculty Support. Complete your evaluations at <http://web.mit.edu/subjectevaluation> by 9 a.m. on Monday, May 19.

Make an appointment to donate blood at this week's student center blood drive at <http://web.mit.edu/blood-drive/www/>. The drive ends on Thursday.

The last day to drop half-term subjects is this Thursday, which is also the last day of classes.

The last day to remove yourself from the June degree list is Friday, May 23.

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



CHRISTELLE PERRIN

Nearly every seat was taken at the Graduate Student Council's General Council meeting in 2-105 last Wednesday. GSC representatives voted sometimes with placards and sometimes with clickers.

After divestment debate, GSC reps also dispute vote count

Resolution urges freeze on MIT fossil fuel investments

By Leon Lin
NEWS EDITOR

Confusion over how votes should be counted has left a Graduate Student Council resolution, which urges MIT to divest its endowment from big fossil fuel companies, in limbo.

The resolution received 26 yes votes, 17 no votes, and 11 abstentions at a meeting of graduate student representatives last Wednesday.

"The resolution is adopted," the GSC secretary said after the votes were cast, but others at the meeting objected to the way the abstentions were counted.

President John Kendall Nowocin G said that GSC officers are now reviewing the GSC constitution, GSC bylaws, and Robert's Rules of Order

to determine how to proceed.

"It is unconscionable to finance our education with investments that materially support a path to catastrophic climate change," the resolution read, calling on MIT to divest its endowment from a list of 200 coal, oil, and gas companies.

Some at the meeting asked whether divestment would result in less funding from these companies for renewable energy research at MIT and elsewhere. The resolution's supporters argued that it probably would not. Debate was cut short due to time constraints.

The authors of the resolution, Rebecca R. Romatoski G and Patrick R. Brown G, are both members of Fossil Free MIT, whose petition for divestment has garnered more than 2500 signatures from MIT affiliates.

The group is part of a larger divestment movement that has sparked campaigns across the country. Stanford announced last week that it would not directly invest in coal-mining companies, becoming the twelfth and most prominent university to make such a move.

"I hope this resolution will further discussions on divestment with the administration and ultimately lead to a comprehensive MIT climate action plan that includes divestment," Romatoski wrote in an email, calling divestment the "most important issue the GSC has faced" during her two years as a GSC representative for graduate students in the nuclear science and engineering department.

GSC Page 15

TIME FOR MIT TO DIVEST

What MIT's values mean for the divestment discussion.
OPINION, p. 4

SENIOR STORIES

Five surprises from MIT.
CAMPUS LIFE, p. 18

POLLINATION SEASON

Plants' cunning reproduction.
CAMPUS LIFE, p. 18



WU TANG'S NEW PROJECTS

Two new projects push boundaries while respecting group's history.
ARTS, p. 12

BEXLEY REFLECTIONS

Thoughts on community from a graduating senior.
OPINION, p. 4

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Adhering to MIT's commitment to social responsibility

MIT's focus on solving the world's problems means it should prioritize divestment

Divest, from Page 4

tural authority in the US, which can be seen historically with major environmental political decisions. On top of that, MIT is considered as a scientific authority in the US (and also the world). And if, as the scientific authority, and therefore authority on climate change, MIT does not see any urgency to act or does not think the cost of action is worth it, then the rest of the nation will remain at ease. Similarly, if MIT does divest from fossil fuels, it will be a jarring wake up call to the public and to politicians.

Even taking a smaller step like Stanford to divest specifically from coal (the most carbon intensive fossil fuel) will come at a lesser cost but have the same magnitude of impact. Such an action would provide a much-need-

ed sense of immediacy to climate change action. It will finally provoke a substantive discussion on climate change policy. But if MIT wants to provoke a national dialogue, it needs to act quickly. Stanford's divestment has opened up a political window within which MIT can act to gain significant momentum; letting this window slide by will be a crucial lost opportunity.

Evidence has shown that science and technology cannot answer climate change alone.

It is true that from a quantitative analysis, MIT divestment alone won't make much of a difference in carbon emissions, but I

implore you evaluate the impact of MIT's divestment within the large socio-political context. At MIT we often live within a political vacuum and turn to science and technology as the ultimate answer.

But an increasing body of evidence has shown that science and technology cannot stand alone in answering climate change problems because scientists have realized that the life expectancy of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere dwarfs human time scales, because economists have shown that clean tech cannot compete effectively in the energy market, and because the nation's energy demand will only increase over time. Thus it becomes clear that the science and technologies of climate change need comprehensive policy to really make an impact.

It is also true that divestment will risk

losing funding for climate change and clean energy research. But strengthening climate change policy should take priority over improving clean energy technology because the former is significantly behind the latter. Improving the technology without creating a space for it to make an impact is not very helpful. Furthermore, if Stanford can do it, MIT can too. Admittedly, this is a simplistic argument, but I firmly believe that if MIT forges ahead, it can establish a new equilibrium around values that are compelled by the needs of a new era and align better with MIT's core belief in serving society.

So as a member of the MIT community, I urge you to divest.

Karen Hao is a member of the Class of 2015 and is the Chair of the UA Committee on Sustainability, but writes on her own behalf.



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Solution, page 16

5÷		19+			6
	3			12+	
360×			30×		
	6			8×	5
48×		3			3×
2		30×			

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 16

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

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

Solution, page 16

- 1 Prepare for a boxing match
- 5 Watermelon throwaways
- 10 EMT's skill
- 13 Mechanic's grease job
- 14 Rabbit relatives
- 15 " __ shalt not steal"
- 16 Region
- 17 Think alike
- 18 Snakelike fishes
- 19 Awkward dive into a pool
- 21 Number of Little Pigs
- 22 Spud
- 23 Person with regrets
- 24 Helicopter blades
- 27 Steakhouse selections
- 30 Online birthday greeting
- 31 What something costs
- 33 Make a wager
- 34 Good friend
- 35 Off the leash
- 36 "Are you a man __ mouse?"
- 37 Antlered animal
- 38 Squander
- 39 Grant entry to

41 Trellis' crisscross pattern
43 Spherical maps
44 Suggest strongly
45 Parking-lot attendant
47 Is concerned
49 German shepherd
53 Boats like Noah's
54 Stiff as a board
55 Boot bottom
56 Coconut custard and
Boston cream
57 Currently occupied
58 Sign of the future
59 Utter aloud
60 Is introduced to
61 Bird's dwelling

- 1 Thick slice
- 2 Undiluted
- 3 Brother of Cain
- 4 Home-selling pro
- 5 Elevator passageways
- 6 "Bald" bird
- 7 Mistake

- 8 Far from shallow
- 9 U-turn from NNW
- 10 Type of firecracker
- 11 Fishing rod
- 12 Sneaky tactic
- 15 Giggling sound
- 20 Three-foot measure
- 21 Toothpaste holder
- 23 Chinese-cuisine staple
- 24 Fight off
- 25 Central Florida city
- 26 Get down to business
- 27 Stand up
- 28 Really strange
- 29 Sports page numbers, for short
- 31 Sit for a portrait
- 32 Go bad
- 35 Bridal gown trim
- 38 Hairpieces
- 39 Baldwin of 30 Rock
- 40 Is overly fond of
- 42 Lock of hair
- 43 Moves gracefully
- 45 In ___ (fashionable)

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9			10	11	12
13					14						15			
16					17						18			
19				20						21				
			22					23						
24	25	26					27						28	29
30						31	32					33		
34					35							36		
37					38					39	40			
41			42					43						
		44					45	46						
47	48					49						50	51	52
53					54						55			
56					57						58			
59					60						61			

46 Elite guest group
47 Baseball hats
48 Opera solo
49 Cone-bearing tree

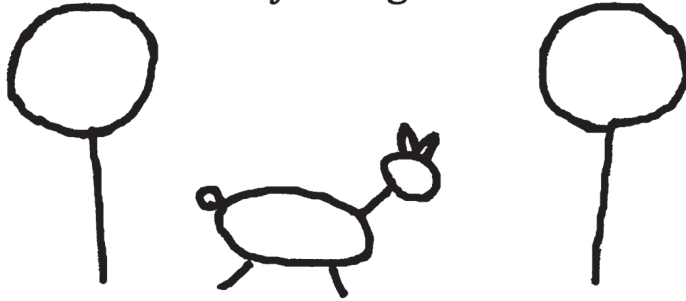
50 Bowl-shaped roof
51 Bullring cheers
52 Well-mannered man
54 Edge of a glass

CONTEMPORARY COMICS BY OFIR NACHUM AND KALI XU

When in the woods, having resolutely separated myself from the sounds and footprints of human civilization, I found myself overwhelmed. I felt as a blind man with newly restored sight, seeing the world unto which he was placed. My eyes opened wide, feasting on the abundance of natural colors, after starving for so long on a meager subsistence of industrial gray.

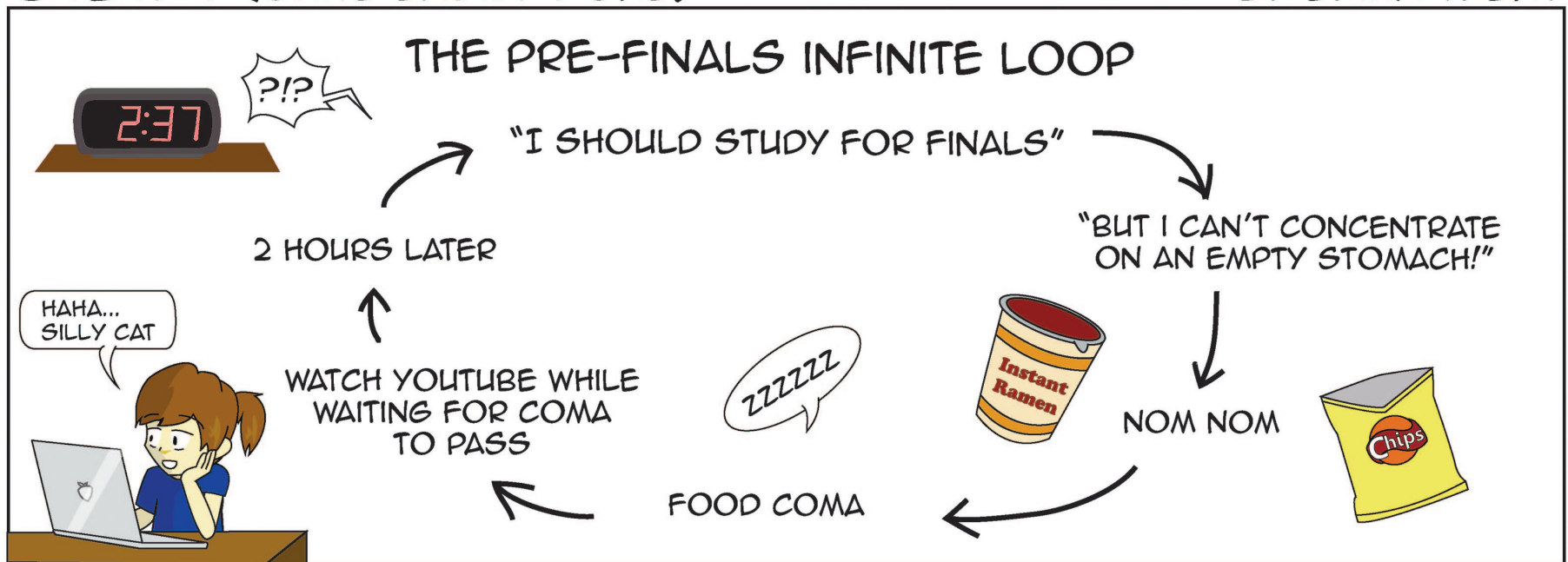
I looked at the world, and saw it as it was meant to be seen.

-Ofir at age 3



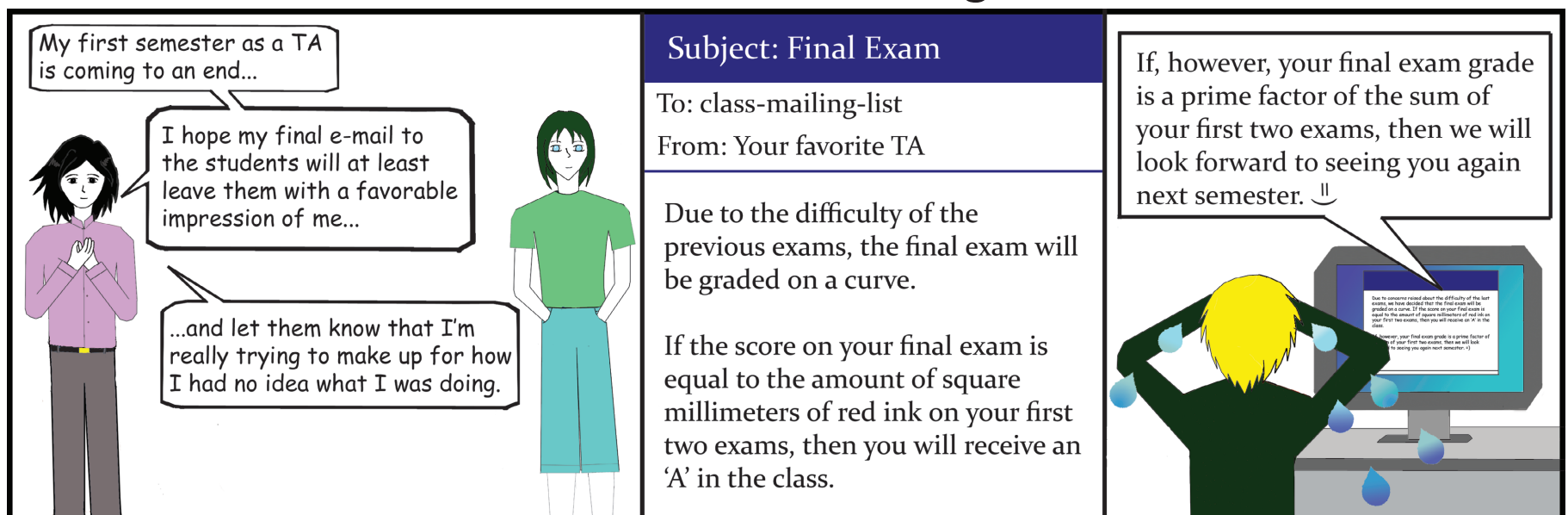
Q.E.D. (QUITE EASILY DONE)

BY ERIKA TRENT

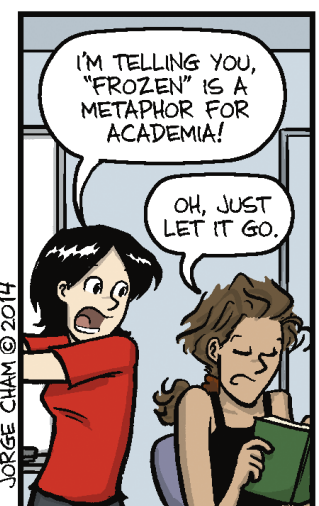
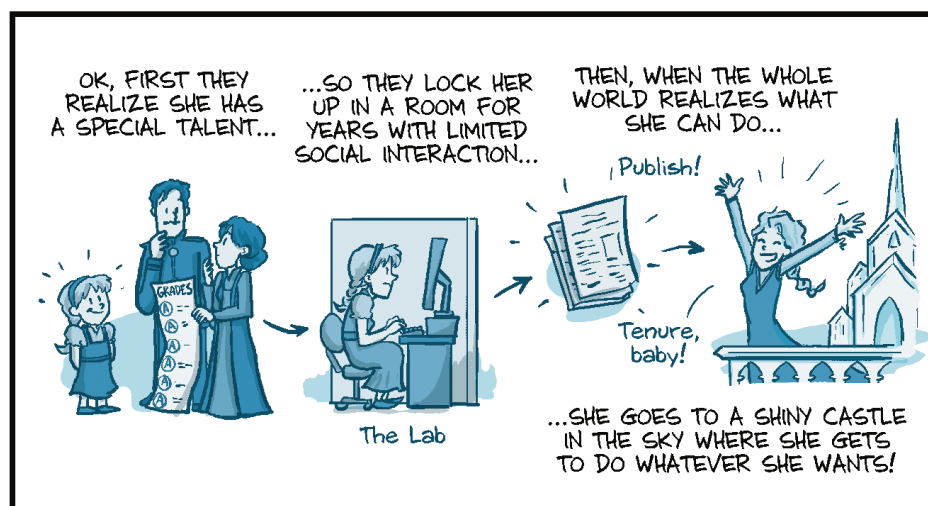


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Somewhere on the Search for Meaning by Letitia Li



by Jorge Cham

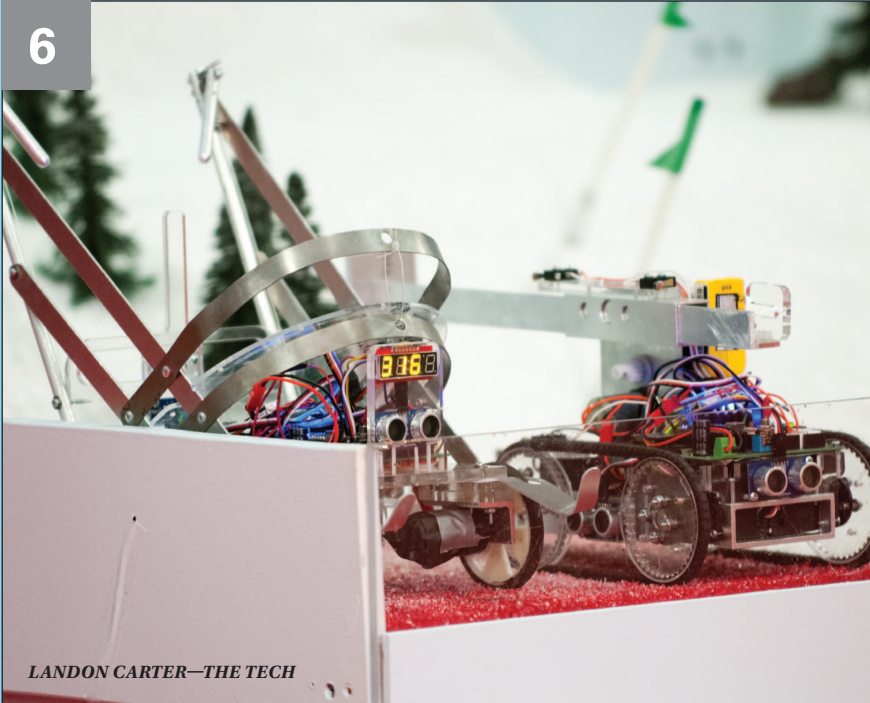


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2.007 MITSKI Alpine Challenge 2014

- 1. Professor Amos Winter explains the 2.007 MITSKI Competition rules to the audience last Thursday, May 8.
- 2. Emma M. Steinhardt '16 troubleshoots a connectivity issue with her robot prior to a match in the 2.007 robotics competition last Thursday in the Johnson Ice Rink.
- 3. Clare M. Zhang '16 is presented her award after winning the 2.007 competition last Thursday by professors Sangbae Kim (left), and Amos Winter (right).
- 4. Adrian C. Samsel '16 controls his robot in the annual 2.007 robotics competition last Thursday.
- 5. Students in the 2.007 GoCart section wait to parade around the competition field during the 2.007 competition last Thursday.
- 6. Joshua C. Born's '16 robot duo sits in the starting block in the first match of the 2.007 robotics competition, which took place last Thursday in the Johnson Ice Rink.





Unified Engineering Flight Competition 2014

Photos by Christopher A. Maynor

- 1. Michael R. Klinker '14, a volunteer pilot for those who did not want to pilot their own aircraft, takes a team's plane for one of its many laps around the circuit.
- 2. Some teams chose to install photovoltaic panels onto their planes to take advantage of the option to recharge batteries after the speed mission and before the endurance mission.
- 3. A student prepares his team's aircraft before takeoff during the Unified Engineering Flight Competition. It occurred last Thursday, May 8 in Johnson Athletic Center.
- 4. Olivier L. de Weck PhD '01, Professor of Aeronautics and Astronautics and Engineering Systems, was the event's emcee for the night, introducing teams and explaining the engineering concepts behind each event.
- 5. Team members celebrate the successful completion of five consecutive laps during the Unified Engineering Flight Competition.
- 6. One of the competitors in the Unified Engineering Flight Competition zips ahead.



Nearly perfect

Foster the People returns to Boston with fun, new show



COURTESY OF FOSTER THE PEOPLE

California indie pop band Foster The People performed at House of Blues last Friday

ARTS EDITOR

One of the benefits of attending a concert by a new-ish band is that you get to hear their whole repertoire. For Foster the People, this included songs from their second album *Supermodel*, their first album *Torches*, B-sides from both albums, and everything in between.

Of course, the band also took time to experiment with a number of their songs in their live Boston performance. On "Call It What You Want," guitarist Cubbie Fink overtook the original piano instrumental solo together, making it sound edgier. But the highlight of the night was the acoustic

cover of "Houdini." While the original version of the song covers the dark, escapist message with pop beats, the acoustic version was a soulful plea "to disappear."

The live show helped highlight the versatility of Foster the People, as their songs exhibited a wide range of genres over the course of the night, going from pop to rock and even bringing in a bit of the fierceness of rap in “Broken Jaw.” The diversity of styles kept the show from being very exciting or danceable. But singer Mark Foster chose songs that built in intensity throughout the set, culminating in a exhilarating rendition of “Don’t Stop (Color on the Walls).”

Perhaps their experimentation was

encouraged by a new approach to their music. While *Torches* featured electronically influenced music, *Supermodel* features a more natural sound that focuses on the guitar and is a more "analog" record. Though many of *Supermodel's* songs are about the perils of capitalism and other social issues, the lyrics are obscured by pseudo-cheerful instrumentation that it shares with *Torches*.

There were a few missteps throughout the night. Foster told the crowd that Boston was filled with “salt of the earth people” before launching into the tonally discordant “Pumped Up Kicks,” a song about a school shooting. The stage included lights that temporarily blinded members of the audience

Foster the People

House of Blues

May 9, 2014

with seizure-inducing patterns that clashed with the occasionally mellow music.

But throughout the show, the audience members sang along to every song, and even danced as the set built in intensity. At the end of the night, even my voice was sore from singing along. Foster the People certainly isn't a small "indie" band anymore, but they still know how to put on a good show.



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SUJOY KUMAR CHOWDHURY—THE TECH

Two young scientists watch as a marker’s ink is separated into its components in a procedure called chromatography after a presentation hosted by MIT’s Materials Science and Engineering Department last Saturday, May 10, in Kresge Auditorium. The department presented on ‘Materials with Magical Properties’ and conducted on-stage demonstrations in which elementary, middle and high school students could volunteer.

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GSC resolution faces unclear future due to vote counting

Abstentions may hinder attempt to recommend MIT’s divestment from 200 fossil fuel companies

GSC, from Page 1

“Our economic system lets [the fossil fuel] industry offload the social cost of its primary waste product onto future generations,” Brown wrote, “and our political system allows it to promote disinformation and climate science denial through hundreds of millions of dollars in lobbying and campaign contributions each year.”

Nathanael C. Cox G, a representative from the civil and environmental engineering department, voted against the resolution.

“I fully agree that MIT ought to invest its endowment ethically,” Cox wrote in an email. “But I don’t think that singling out a narrow group of companies is either necessary or sufficient to achieve that goal.”

Bigyan R. Bista G from the biology department wrote that “[h] owever small the impact of MIT’s divestment from fossil fuel companies, it is the symbolism that matters in any movement.” He voted for the resolution.

The climate change crisis, Bista wrote, would have “a disproportionate effect on countries that are the least prepared to tackle it — my home country of Nepal comes to mind.”

Ross D. Collins G, from the Engineering Systems Division, agreed that the value of the resolution — and of MIT’s divestment — would be in “sending the signal.” MIT’s stature, he said, would make the difference, not the financial impact of divestment.

One point that “deserves some introspection,” Collins said, was whether it is right for someone who uses fossil fuel products every day to call for divestment.

In the end, Collins voted in favor of the resolution after polling PhD students in ESD, though he was reluctant to say that his vote was representative of opinions in his department, given the “very low response rate.”

Some students “at worst are sort of ambivalent” toward the issue and “at best unaware that it’s even going on,” Collins said.

Other representatives who said they asked for their constituents’ opinions included David S. Rolnick from the math department, Ross A. Karp G from Urban Studies and Planning, and Guy N. Evans G from MIT’s joint program with the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution. All three voted in favor of the resolution.

At Earth, Atmosphere, and Planetary Sciences, 54 percent

of the respondents in an anonymous survey were in favor of divestment, while 35 percent were opposed, according to Ben Mandler G. Mandler is one of the two EAPS representatives, who split their votes, one for and one against.

Just before the vote, someone at the meeting asked how abstentions would be counted. Several responded, giving contradictory answers.

The vote proceeded anyway, and after then-Secretary Christopher D. Smith G said that the resolution had passed, a voter objected.

Then-President Caleb J. Waugh G said that only the yes-no ratio should be considered, to be consistent with April’s elections. Under that rule, the resolution would have passed.

But later, after the transition to the new GSC leadership, another person at the meeting said that under the GSC’s bylaws, the abstentions should effectively count as no votes.

“Unless specified otherwise in the Constitution or Bylaws, an article of legislation shall pass if a majority of those voting members present vote in its favor,” the bylaws read.

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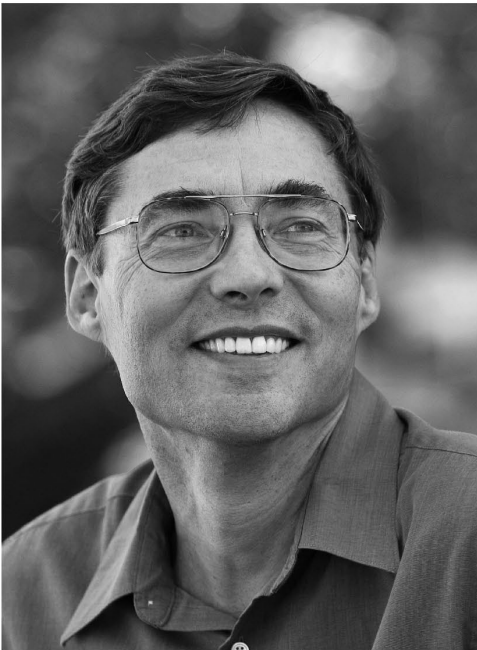
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Solution to Crossword

from page 8

LUBE	HARES	THOU
AREA	AGREE	EELS
BELLY	FLOP	THREE
TATER	RUER	
ROTORS	RIBEYES	
ECARD	PRICE	BET
PAL	LOOSE	ORA
ELK	WASTE	ADMIT
LATTICE	GLOBES	
URGE	VALET	
CARES	POLICEDOG	
ARKS	RIGID	SOLE
PIES	INUSE	OMEN
SAY	MEETS	NEST

Solution to Techdoku

from page 8

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

Solution to Sudoku

from page 8

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

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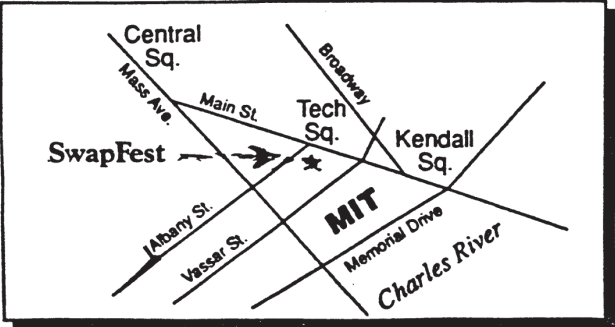
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THE NATURALIST’S NOTEBOOK

The birds, the bees, and the flowers

All you ever wanted to know about pollination

By Davie Rolnick
STAFF COLUMNIST

It’s a romantic night. A young male bee, just out of his pupa, is looking for adventure. He spies another bee in the bushes, and from her scent, discovers that she is a female. He falls in love, and within a matter of seconds they are having sex. Then, something strange happens: she hits him on the head with a lump of pollen. Confused, he wanders off, and immediately falls for another beautiful bee. They too make love, and his new partner takes the pollen off of his head.

Congratulations, bee. You have just mated with two very clever flowers. When you thought you were having sex, you were actually enabling your two partners to have sex with each other.

Threesomes in the world of plants

Plants have a problem when it comes to dating. It’s not a problem humans have, or birds, or bees. Plants can’t move. That

means that most of them use a middleman to find a mate.

The usual way this works is with a flower. Flowers are bright and showy and they have sweet stuff inside — the nectar. They also have pollen, which is the plant version of sperm. Insects come to drink the nectar and get covered with pollen in the process. They then spread the pollen between different flowers. The pollen fertilizes the flowers and produces seeds. Everyone is happy — the insects got tasty nectar, and the plants got to share DNA with each other.

Flowers became common in the Cretaceous period, just when the dinosaurs were preparing to go extinct. That makes them a relatively recent player in the story of evolution. Until only a hundred million years ago, most plants could get by without flowers. Some still do, in fact. Pines and other conifers spread their pollen with the help of the wind. Mosses don’t have pollen at all, but reproduce asexually with spores. Ferns have a dreadfully complicated reproductive cycle, involving both pollen and spores.

For plants that do have flowers, it’s important to attract the right kind of pollinator. It would be a waste of energy for a rose to attract a butterfly, if the butterfly never went to another rose to share its pollen. So flowers are generally set up to encourage certain pollinators and deter others. This means that butterflies go to butterfly flowers, bees go to bee flowers, and so on.

The shape of a flower helps determine what pollinates it. Bees are heavy and like flowers with a sturdy landing platform, where they can sit while they drink nectar. Long tubes are generally set up for butterflies, moths, or hummingbirds, which have long tongues. At the extreme is an orchid from Madagascar, which keeps its nectar at the bottom of a tube one foot long. The only pollinator that can reach the nectar is a species of moth with an extremely long proboscis. The moth seeks out these orchids in the tops of trees, unrolls its proboscis, and drinks the nectar while hovering.

The color of a flower means something too. Bees prefer yellow flowers, and moths like white flowers that are visible at night.

Insects can’t see red, so red flowers are often set up for hummingbirds, or else they have bright UV colors that humans can’t see.

Bats also pollinate flowers in many parts of the world. They like big, white flowers and generally eat some of the pollen as well as the nectar. Because of this, bat flowers pack extra protein into their pollen so the bats get a balanced diet. It takes a lot of energy to cater to bats, and generally only big plants like trees can afford it. But there is an advantage: bats can travel long distances to spread pollen between trees all over a forest.

Some flowers don’t follow the rules of pollination, like those orchids that trick bees and wasps into mating with them. This strategy lets the flowers exchange pollen without paying any nectar in return. But most of the time, flowers aren’t about deception. They are about cooperation, telling the story of a plant and an animal working together in a way that helps both of them. It’s a cheerful message for the springtime.

EVENTS

MAY. 13 – MAY. 19

TUESDAY

(5 p.m. – 6 p.m.) 14th Annual Henry W. Kendall Memorial Lecture with Dr. Richard Alley — E15-070, Bartos Theater

(7 p.m.) MIT Chamber Music Society — Killian Hall

WEDNESDAY

(11:00 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.) 2014 Bike Awareness Day — W20 steps

(2:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.) xTalks: Big Data Where Art Thou? — 32-155

THURSDAY

(5:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.) MIT Enterprise Forum Innovation Series Event: How Will Drones and Other Flying Robots Shape Your Everyday Life? — Johnson Rink

FRIDAY

(5 p.m.) Daniel Manesh Senior Piano Recital — Killian Hall

(7 p.m. – 11 p.m.) Anime;Brain?Reset! — 3-133

SATURDAY

(4:00 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.) Celebrate Spring with Baby Animals: traveling petting zoo — Westgate

(7:30 p.m.) MIT Ballroom Dance Club: End of Semester Social Dance — W20-La Sala

SUNDAY

(9 a.m. – 2 p.m.) Swapfest — N4

MONDAY

(11 a.m. – 12 p.m.) xTalks: Carl Wieman on how to teach and learn expertise in STEM — 3-270

(1 p.m. – 2 p.m.) Can Crowdfunding Democratize Access to Capital? — E62-233

Send your campus events to events@tech.mit.edu.

SENIOR STORIES

Five surprises at MIT

Revelations of a graduating senior

By Harshini Jayaram

At MIT, you can walk a straight sixth of a mile indoors through the Infinite Corridor. You can get a pirate’s license if you take the right classes, take a pirate oath, and sign a waiver. Starting from the beginning of freshman year, you learn that the MIT community is full of interesting facts such as these, and an array of adventures. However, looking back as I prepare to graduate in June, there are several things that stand out as major surprises about my MIT undergraduate experience. They feel so obvious in hindsight, but these five revelations took me by surprise one at a time.

You aren’t guaranteed to learn a lot, or become the best

For two years in a row, MIT has been named the best university in the world by the QS World University Rankings. I assumed that abundant knowledge and becoming one of the world’s brightest minds was a guarantee written into the admittance letter from such a prestigious school. MIT definitely offers students this opportunity, but I’ve discovered that it requires active participation; some of my most useful and exciting classes were not part of the required curriculum.

You can graduate by taking the bare minimum requirements and barely understanding the material. But without seeking classes relevant to your interests or actively engaging with the material, you may not end up growing intellectually as much as hoped.

You don’t always have to be the little fish in a big pond

“MIT is a really good and competitive school, it’s ok if you aren’t at the top” — many of us heard comments like this as freshmen. It’s true, this school is full of brilliant people and most of us won’t always be at the top. But we earned our way here, and while we can’t expect to always be at the top, nor should we expect to always be in the middle or bottom. I have had test scores both in the bottom and top five percent of various classes, and everywhere in between. We may not always be able to be the best, but that shouldn’t stop us from trying to excel or discovering unknown strengths. Sometimes we’ll be the little fish in the big pond of MIT, but sometimes we can also be the big fish in the big pond.

Belonging to MIT also means belonging to Boston

Coming from a tiny town, even Cambridge seemed like a reasonably sized city to me. The bridge was so long that I considered it a formidable obstacle to going into Boston, yet Boston kept creeping into my MIT life and enticing me out. It began with simple excursions to Mike’s Pastries or Pinkberry, both of which quickly be-

came favorite spots. Friends started living across the river and I would visit them. I got drawn into watching Red Sox, Celtics, and Bruins games.

Each year, as a school we volunteer for and support the Boston marathon, even during and after the tragic events last year. MIT joins the rest of the Boston community to be BostonStrong and CollierStrong. Being just 364.4 smoots away from Boston has given the city a strong influence over my time here; Boston’s quirks and strengths have added another dimension to my time at MIT, defining many of my memories here.

Some of the biggest lessons come from outside the classroom

Coming into MIT, I believed that the academics offered the best opportunities. While we have incredible academic opportunities, extra-curricular activities are actually where I grew the most. In my sorority, I found role models who inspired me to become a better person on a daily basis. On RingComm, I got to work with a wonderful set of people that I may not have met otherwise, as well as work in a new dynamic where strong disagreements were frequent but could still be used as a foundation for strong friendships.

Each of the many activities I’ve participated in through MIT has taught me important lessons. Through them, I learned to prioritize, understand what motivates me, delegate effectively, plan long-term and large-scale, and build the connections I will take with me moving forward. These activities were truly some of the most striking aspects of my time here.

Sometimes MIT isn’t enough

I came to MIT in love with the school, and I will always remember it with mostly fondness. However, this place is a pressure cooker, full of extreme enthusiasm, caffeineated energy, and lengthy to-do lists. I discovered that as much as I love MIT, I need at least one day a month off campus to keep a reasonable perspective, remember what I love about the school, and move forward. MIT has so much to offer, but in the pursuit of that, sometimes it is easy to forget about everything else.

Time can slip by without us taking the time to call home, keep up with hobbies, or enjoy the beauty of the city we’re in. This school has so much to offer, but without spending time on these other things, my life would feel incomplete. MIT offers unlimited opportunities, but sometimes we need to take time for all the things that it doesn’t give us.

Each of these realizations tailored my MIT experience a little bit differently, to make even more of my four years here. Even though I graduate in a few weeks, I’m waiting to see what other surprises the MIT network will hold for me in the future.

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Hidden in “plane” sight

Hacking doesn't have to stop after graduation

I love MIT, having spent the entire decade of the sixties here. After graduating in 1963 (Course 6), I stayed on to get a Ph.D. in 1970, and I've remained active as president of the class of 1963. Shortly after I retired in 2003, at the end of a 33-year career in electrical engineering and computer science, I started working as a volunteer mentor for MIT's Venture Mentoring Service ("VMS" – see <http://vms.mit.edu/>). As a result, I find myself at MIT several times a month.

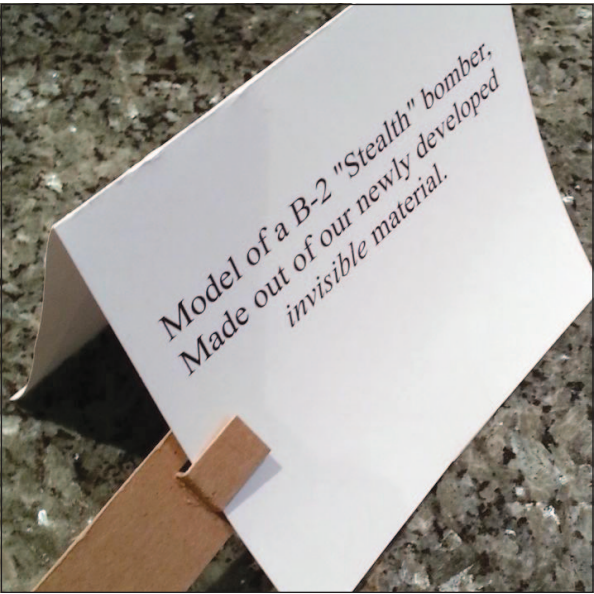
Given the long-standing tradition of hacks at MIT, I decided to communicate by putting my comment into the case itself. Its sliding glass doors were locked, but of course to an MIT graduate, that's hardly a major obstacle.

Back at home, I created the sign I had in mind. I don't remember the exact wording I used, this all having taken place a few years ago. But because the display case belonged to the Department of Materials Science and Engineering, I wrote something like this: "Model of a B-2 'Stealth' bomber, made out of our newly developed invisible material!"

On a subsequent visit to MIT, I found the display case still empty. Waiting until nobody was around, I pressed my sign flat, and used the improvised cardboard tool to push it into the case, through the narrow gap between the two sliding glass doors. Success! Once inside, the sign sprung open and remained standing as I pulled the cardboard pusher back out through the gap.

From time to time (generally whenever I came in for a VMS meeting), I checked to see if the sign was still there. It remained in place for a while, but eventually someone removed it. Nevertheless, I think my message was received, because not long thereafter, the Department of Materials Science and Engineering put some sort of exhibit into the case, and there's been something in it ever since.

My action wasn't very impressive as far as MIT hacks go. But while I don't think it will make it into the annals of hacking, it had an objective, and it seemed to be effective. Also, in accord with the MIT hacking ethic, I hope it was perceived as humorous, and it caused no damage or injury.



LAWRENCE J. KRAKAUER

Reconstruction of the sign and pusher design used to carry out the hack.

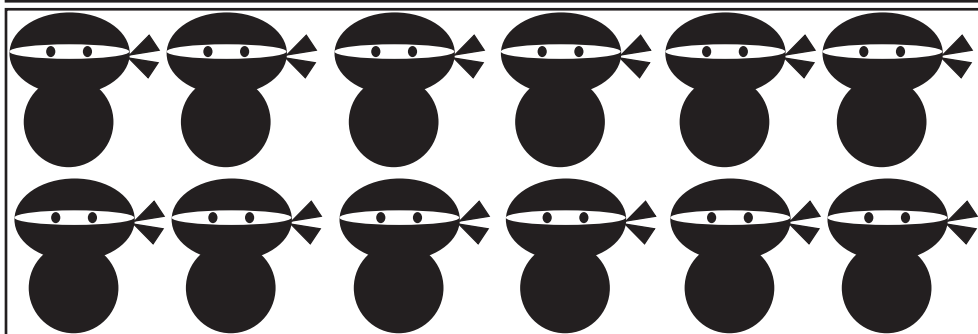
This wasn't my first hack. In 1960, I participated in a Robert Ratner hack, which hung a large icicle on Baker House. This was reported in the 50th issue of *The Tech*, Volume 79, January 15, 1960, in a front-page article with the headline, "Giant Icicle at Baker House Draws National Press Attention." I'm happy to see that I'm still hacking after all these years.

Now that this story has appeared in *The Tech*, the Department of Materials Science and Engineering will know who created the sign. I'd love to hear their side of the story.

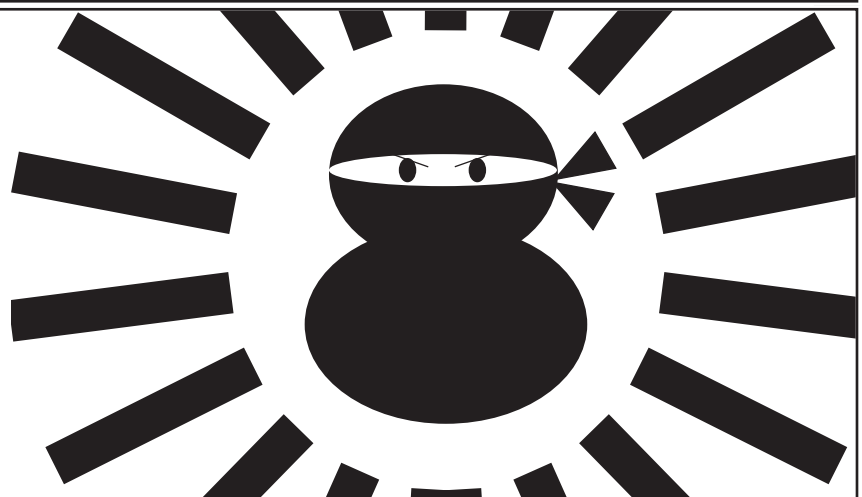
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Cricket team earns a win over Yale, but loses hard-fought match against Harvard

MIT's cricket team traveled to New Haven to take on Yale for the first time in their campaign this season. The conditions at New Haven were very different from conditions in the grounds that the team has gotten accustomed to. The prospects of a low-scoring game due to a wet outfield and slow, low pitch definitely dampened the spirits of the team. Winning a crucial toss, the Engineers decided to use the wet conditions

Tughrul Ali G and Sivaraman Ramaswamy G opened the bowling for MIT and were among the wickets immediately. They snagged 5 wickets total — 2 for Tughrul and 3 for Sivaraman — as they hastened the departure of Yale's top order for a meagre 20 runs. Yale's middle and low order failed to apply themselves on a tricky wicket and collapsed to a record low 33 all out in 12 overs. Usman Ayyaz '16 (3 wickets) and Neev Wanvari G (2

On the May 4, MIT challenged crosstown rivals Harvard in a home game at the Roberts Field. Moods were upbeat after their comprehensive victory over Harvard earlier this season. Winning the toss for the second consecutive time, captain Priyank Kumar G put the opposition in to bat. Harvard's openers Ibrahim and Nikhil, played watchfully to see off the opening threat posed by

MIT had forced a tight lid on the run flow but the lack of wickets meant Harvard gained a strong platform from which to launch an assault. After being 72 for no loss at the midway mark, Harvard was led to a competitive 185 for the loss of two wickets by their captain Manik Kuchroo. Saad Shoukat '15 and Jehangir Amjad G were among the wickets for the Engineers. In their batting reply, MIT quickly lost Sourav Padhy G in the first over but consolidated with a strong partnership between Priyank Kumar G (23 runs of 23 balls) and Fahad

At 60 for the loss of one wicket, MIT looked to be in a good position to take the game when Harvard turned the tables by snagging five quick wickets within the span of 50 runs. MIT was staring down at defeat at 110 for 8 when Usman Naseer G (27 of 19) and Saad Shoukat (27 of 12) fought back doggedly, piling up 56 runs for the 9th wicket to bring MIT close to the brink of victory. MIT lost by a margin of 18 runs in a closely fought contest. Overall, the Engineers retained their top spot in the league with a big margin over Boston University, who are currently in second place.

MIT taekwondo team has strong end of season

Sport taekwondo team dominates in Eastern Collegiate Taekwondo Conference

The MIT Sport Taekwondo team finished the season with a dominating performance at the last Eastern Collegiate Taekwondo Conference (ECTC) tournament, held at the University of Vermont on April 27. A series of intense sparring victories solidified the team's second place in Division I, finishing with 451 points to Cornell's 708.

The sparring rounds later in the tournament showcased the team's continual improvement and drive to win. All three MIT A teams matched up against the ECTC's fiercest competitors, and the rounds were not easy.

Women's A1 also fought through tough matches to come out on top with gold. Jessica J. Yang '15 pulled off three critical

Along with an outstanding performance by the MIT A teams, the B and C teams had their best sparring run of the season. Both the men's B1 and B2 teams proved strong, with men's B1 (Ruben A. Amaez '16, Shapagat Berdibek '15, and Benjamin I. "Big Ben" Shaibu '14) taking home the bronze and men's B2 (Thipok "Little Ben" Rak-amnourykit '15, Tahin F. Sved

The men's C1 team (Emmanuel Fasil '17, Alan Chiao '16, and Eric R. Klinkhammer '15) had a dominating set of matches despite fighting through injury, finishing with a bronze, and the C2 team (Owusu-akyaw, Odor, and David V.Perez '15) performed similarly well and advanced to quarters. The two-person women's C1 team (Lauren A. Huang '17 and Rachel T. Harris '17) won their first two rounds to earn their first bronze.

The team will continue to train hard over the summer in preparation for the '14-'15 season with the goal of recapturing the ECTC cup.

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