



KONSTANTINOS C. KALLIGEROS

Tape holds the shattered window at the main entrance of the Sidney-Pacific graduate residence together. For the second time since late December, the windows have been targeted by an unknown assailant with a BB gun.

## Windows of Grad Dorm Damaged by BB Pellets

By Lauren E. LeBon  
STAFF REPORTER

An unidentified assailant fired shots at the Sidney-Pacific graduate residence, inflicting \$6,000 of damage to doors and windows.

Similar shootings have occurred in the surrounding neighborhood, damaging building fronts and parked vehicles.

The Cambridge police department is working along with MIT campus police to determine the identity of the shooter.

There have been two shootings at the Sidney-Pacific residence.

The first was shortly before Christmas and the second a week later, according to Director of Housing Karen A. Nilsson.

The new graduate dormitory, located at 70 Pacific Street, just completed in August 2002, will require an estimated \$6,000 of repairs, mostly to replace the large glass windows that were damaged.

### Details of shootings unknown

Captain David A. Carlson of the MIT Police said that it appears

Shooting, Page 16

## Gov't Keeps Close Eye on Int'l's

By Rima Arnaout  
STAFF REPORTER

With the coming of the new year, new laws affecting the status and tracking of international students at MIT and across the nation are beginning to go into effect. The International Students Office is struggling to keep ahead of changing regulations, implement the new rules, and inform international students of how the new developments can affect their studies.

The most significant changes for international students include the creation of a national student tracking system, a delay in getting visas to travel outside of the United States, and, for certain foreign nationals, "special registration" — getting fingerprinted, photographed, and interviewed at a local Immigration and

Naturalization Service office.

"You're going to be tracked and scrutinized in new ways," said Director of the ISO Danielle Guichard-Ashbrook at a December information session for international students. "You will have a great responsibility as a foreign national to keep yourself legal, because it has become much easier to fall out of status."

The ISO, Office of Graduate Education, and Chancellor's office have further scheduled information sessions to brief international students on the new rules. The next information session is on Jan. 29th at noon in room 10-190, and more are planned for February.

### SEVIS consequences for students

All international students will

have information about their address, funding, and registration status reported to the INS using its new student tracking system, Student Exchange Visitor Information System. SEVIS goes into effect nationally on Jan. 30, according to Guichard-Ashbrook, and in order to implement this mandate MIT will largely make use of a software interface with WebSIS.

While universities have always had to report some information about their international students to the INS, Guichard-Ashbrook said that SEVIS is different because it mandates reporting in "real-time." SEVIS also asks for more detailed information than before, including facts about dependents and recent

SEVIS, Page 13

## Undergrads Eligible for MITFCU

By Lakshmi Nambiar  
STAFF REPORTER

The MIT Federal Credit Union has received approval from the National Credit Union Association to allow undergraduates to join the credit union.

"Originally, in 1940, the union was the MIT Employees Credit Union and has been that way for almost 60 years," said Kimberly A. Shooter, chief marketing officer of the MIT credit union. "Students soon started to express interest in joining. In 2000, graduate students were allowed membership and once we had that under our belt, we petitioned the NCUA to allow undergraduate membership," she said.

Josiah D. Seale '03, president of the Undergraduate Association, feels that this change is a "logical shift."

"It's basically a win-win situation. The credit union was available to faculty, staff, and graduate students and now is finally open to undergraduates," Seale said.

### Many benefits for joining union

Shooter encourages all undergraduates to join. "You can join now but you benefit for life. You're a lifetime member. Even after you graduate, you will have

access to your account and all the same privileges. Credit unions are the way to go," Shooter said.

Membership in the MITFCU offers many benefits for students. "We're a non-profit organization with membership exclusive to MIT employees, their families, and students. We are now open to the entire MIT community," Shooter said. "Once you're a member, there is a higher dividend and a lower loan rate. There is a totally free checking account and students will receive a \$500-limit Visa card automatically for joining."

"Overall, this is a decision that

is beneficial for the entire MIT community," Seale said.

### Membership drive to begin in Feb.

The credit union will be holding an undergraduate membership drive from Feb. 18 to 21 so "undergraduates can learn more about it."

On Feb. 18 and 19, the credit union will be in the Student Center, and Feb. 20 and 21, they will have a booth in Lobby 10.

"This will be a chance for undergraduates to find out more

Credit Union, Page 15

## Reginald E. Newell

Professor Reginald E. Newell SM '56, a meteorologist who studied global air pollution and climate systems, died Dec. 29 of a massive stroke. He was 71 years old.



Newell, a native of the United Kingdom, earned his bachelor's degree in 1954 from the University of Birmingham. After graduation he came to MIT as a research assistant in meteorology. He earned his master's in 1956 and his doctorate in 1960. After earning his ScD, he served as an assistant professor in Course XII (Department of Earth, Atmosphere and Planetary Sciences) from 1961 to 1966. Three years after his promotion to associate professor, he became a full professor in 1969.

Newell taught classes on the physics of the upper atmosphere, climatology, and global air pollution.

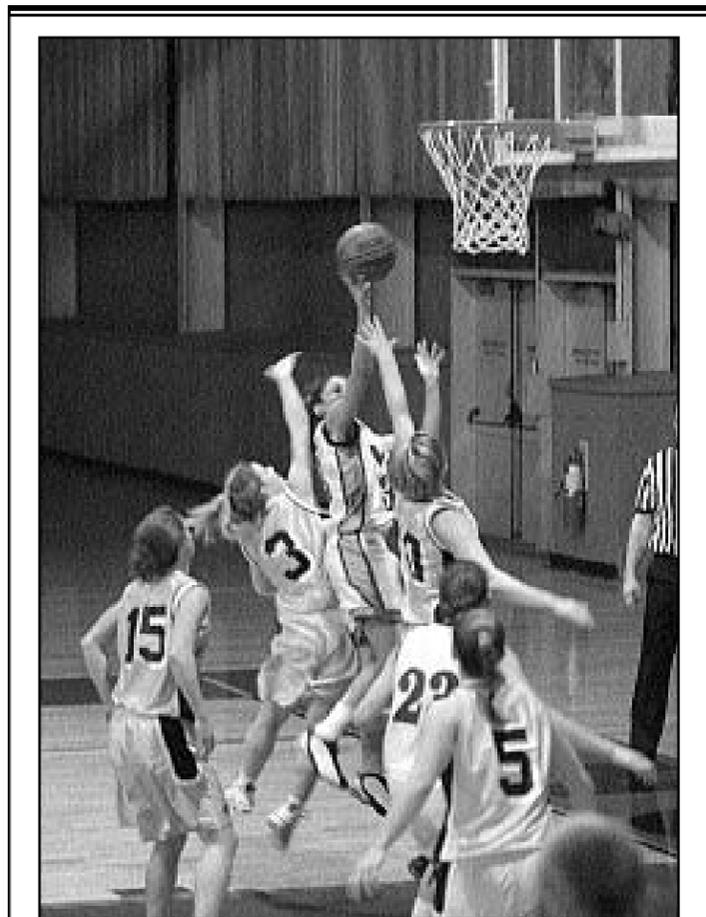
"Reg had the enthusiasm of a freshman undergraduate even though he was into his 70s," said Professor John C. Marshall, also of Course XII. "He did, after all, die at his desk working, something that he would not have been disappointed about," Marshall said.

### Research centered on air pollution

As a professor, Newell focused on climate problems and the factors controlling mass climatic fluctuations, as well as on the physics of the ice ages. In his early work on global warming, Newell studied the effects of changing carbon dioxide concentrations on atmospheric heating rates and on the global circulation of carbon monoxide.

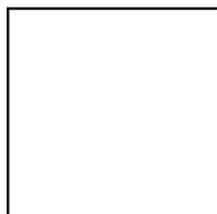
His work led him to warn a Massachusetts legislative committee in 1969 that Boston would develop a

Newell, Page 15



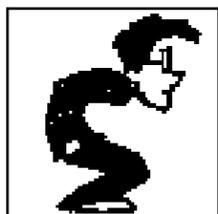
JEAN SHON

Karen A. Kinnaman '06 grabs the rebound during the third quarter of the women's basketball against Wentworth Institute of Technology last night. MIT won 60-44.



Student projects receive iCampus funding.

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Comics

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### FEATURES

International students share their experiences with stricter immigration laws and policies.

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# WORLD & NATION

## FDA Suspends Gene Therapy Tests

THE WASHINGTON POST

For the second time in four months, a child treated with an experimental gene therapy in France has developed a form of leukemia apparently caused by the treatment.

The new cancer case, in a boy who was given new genes to cure a severe immune system deficiency, undercuts scientists' initial hopes that the first case was a fluke, and calls into question the value of the radical treatment, which had been touted as the first successful use of DNA to cure a disease.

In response, the Food and Drug Administration Tuesday suspended as "a precautionary measure" more than two dozen U.S. gene therapy studies that involve techniques similar to those in the French experiment. Three U.S. gene therapy studies that even more closely resemble the French experiment had already been on hold since the first leukemia case came to light in September.

The new cancer case is a serious blow for an experimental field that has struggled for a dozen years to produce its first cure and which suffered a terrible setback in 1999 with the death of an American patient, Arizona teenager Jesse Gelsinger. The approach involves the delivery of new genes to take over missing or broken ones.

## Alleged 'Dirty Bomber' Has Nothing To Tell U.S., Lawyer Says

LOS ANGELES TIMES

In her strongest challenge yet to the government's case, the attorney for alleged "dirty bomber" Jose Padilla said Tuesday that the American-born captive being held as an enemy combatant is not a terrorist and that he "has no information to provide" military interrogators.

Donna R. Newman, a New York lawyer who is seeking to meet with her client, also alleged that authorities are merely engaged in "foot dragging" in trying to keep her from fashioning a defense that might get him released if prosecutors never file criminal charges.

"Although the government presents facts showing Padilla had contact with and was acting on behalf of al-Qaida, there is nothing to indicate that Padilla in particular was trained to transit information in the way the government suggests, or that he had information to transmit," she said in a court filing in New York.

She and prosecutors are to meet Wednesday with U.S. District Judge Michael Mukasey to sort out their differences about whether the attorney-client meeting should be held.

Indeed, prosecutors asserted, more than 100 terrorist threats have been thwarted by information picked up in interrogations with numerous captives since the Sept. 11 attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon.

## High Court Hears Defense of HMO Limits on Choice of Doctors

THE WASHINGTON POST

Saying the very future of managed health care may be at stake, an attorney for a group of HMOs on Tuesday urged the Supreme Court to strike down state laws that give patients more power to choose their own doctors.

At issue in the case is a Kentucky "any willing provider" statute, which, like similar laws in more than a dozen states, requires HMOs to let patients see any doctor willing to meet the health insurer's conditions for participation in its network, whether the HMO selected that doctor for the network or not.

Such laws were passed to address the common complaint that HMOs excessively restricted patients' choices, but the attorney, Robert Eccles, said they create "uncertainty" in the industry and run afoul of a 1974 federal law that gives the U.S. government exclusive power to regulate employee benefit plans.

## U.S., Britain Strike No-Fly Zone In Iraq With Greater Frequency

By Vernon Loeb

THE WASHINGTON POST

WASHINGTON

U.S. and British warplanes have bombed more than 80 targets in Iraq's southern "no-fly" zone over the past five months, conducting an escalating air war even as U.N. weapons inspections proceed and diplomats look for ways of heading off a full-scale war.

The air strikes have increased not only in number but in sophistication, with pilots using precision-guided bombs to strike what defense officials describe as mobile surface-to-air missiles, air defense radars, command centers, communications facilities and fiber optic cable repeater stations.

On Monday, the heaviest day of bombing in at least a year, U.S. and British jets for the first time struck five targets in a single day, hitting an air defense command site at Tallil, 170 miles southeast of Baghdad, and four repeater stations in southeastern Iraq. Iraq says that

many of the attacks have been on non-military targets and have resulted in civilian deaths. The Iraqis said six people were injured in Monday's air strikes, which they claimed included civilian targets in the southern city of Basra.

U.S. military officials said the attacks are only initiated in response to Iraqi fire, and that the increase mirrors an increase by Iraqi President Saddam Hussein's forces in anti-aircraft and surface-to-air missile attacks on U.S. and British jets.

However, they acknowledged that military planners are taking full advantage of the opportunity Saddam is handing them, targeting Iraq's integrated air defense network for destruction in a systemic fashion that will ease the way for U.S. air and ground forces if President Bush decides that war is the only option for disarming Iraq.

The aggressive tactics were ordered by Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld, who disclosed in Sep-

tember that he had urged commanders to focus their retaliatory strikes not just on Iraqi radar and missile systems, but on air defense communications centers in an attempt to degrade Iraq's overall air defense network.

Last month, U.S. military officials acknowledged that they used an incident of Iraqi fire on jets patrolling the northern "no-fly" zone to justify a retaliatory strike in the south.

The tactic represented another escalation of enforcement activity by the Bush administration.

"The Iraqi regime has increased its attacks on the coalition, so the coalition has increased its efforts to protect its pilots," said Jim Wilkinson, a spokesman for the U.S. Central Command in Tampa. "Every coalition action is in direct response to Iraqi hostile acts against our pilots, or the regime's attempts to materially improve its military infrastructure south of the 33rd parallel."

## Bush Proposes Aid to N. Korea In Exchange For Disarmament

By Glenn Kessler

THE WASHINGTON POST

WASHINGTON

President Bush made an overt appeal to North Korea Tuesday, offering to consider agriculture and energy aid to the desperately poor country if it dismantles its nuclear weapons programs.

The president insisted the United States wouldn't "be blackmailed" and said he'd only contemplate assistance after North Korea took steps to end its nuclear programs. But Bush's statement provided the clearest sign that the administration was prepared to engage in a dialogue it had once ruled out and would offer incentives to the North Korean government in return for disarmament.

For weeks, the administration has been caught in a diplomatic box of refusing to negotiate a deal with North Korea, which Bush had labeled part of an "axis of evil," while facing pressure from its allies in the region to offer some hope to the North Korean

government that its concerns will be met if it backs off from confrontation.

As tensions mounted, the administration has offered a series of contradictory and sometimes confusing statements. Last week, the administration for the first time said it was willing to talk — but not negotiate — with the North Koreans. Since then, various administration officials have dropped hints about how North Korea would benefit from an agreement. Chinese officials told a senior U.S. envoy Tuesday that Beijing could be used as a venue for discussions.

On Tuesday, Bush went further and suggested he was prepared to turn the clock back to before the administration's discovery that the government in Pyongyang had a secret program to enrich uranium that could be used to manufacture nuclear weapons. North Korea admitted the clandestine project in October, prompting the current crisis.

"I had instructed our secretary of

state [last summer] to approach North Korea about a 'bold initiative,' an initiative which would talk about energy and food, because we care deeply about the suffering of the North Korean people," Bush told reporters at the White House. "We expect them not to develop nuclear weapons. If they so choose to do so, their choice, then I will reconsider whether or not we will start the bold initiative that I've talked to Secretary [Colin L.] Powell about."

The administration hasn't detailed exactly what was contained in the initiative, since it was never presented to the North Koreans. It would have offered unspecified incentives in exchange for addressing U.S. concerns about issues such as missile proliferation, conventional forces and human rights. State Department spokesman Richard Boucher declined to elaborate Tuesday. "I don't want to start naming areas beyond the ones the president named," he said.

## WEATHER

### At Least There's Sunshine

By Robert Lindsay Korty

STAFF METEOROLOGIST

January is often a dark, cold month in Boston. The days are short, and if a series of storms track up the East Coast, it can be quite a gloomy month. Last winter was quite mild, with the mean temperature in January 7°F (4°C) higher than normal. There is no arguing that this year January has been cold. This week the first real outbreak of Arctic air has spread across the northern United States. High temperatures will not crack freezing at any point in the coming days.

At least there is a plethora of sunshine to keep these cold days bright. The amount of water that an air mass can hold is an exponential function of temperature. Warm air is capable of holding far more moisture than is cold air. (though, of course, this by no means ensures that it will: compare a typical 90°F (32°C) day in Phoenix with one in Miami) Very roughly, the amount of water vapor that an air mass is capable of holding doubles with every 10°C (18°F) rise in temperature. For this reason, Arctic air masses, which are exceedingly cold, are also quite dry. Only occasional, light snow flurries will pass over New England this week. A more substantial storm, over the Rocky mountains today, will bring snow to parts of the Southeast U.S. before passing offshore Thursday evening.

#### Extended Forecast

**Today:** Occasional clouds and cold. High 22°F (-6°C).

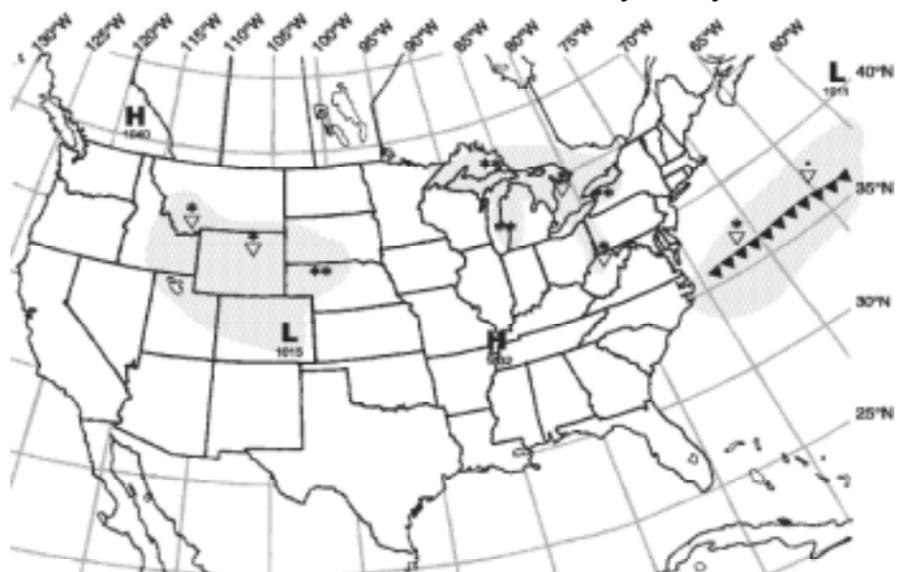
**Tonight:** Partly cloudy and cold. Low 14°F (-10°C).

**Thursday:** Mostly sunny and cold. High 20°F (-7°C).

**Thursday night:** Cloudy with flurries possible. Low 17°F (-8°C).

**Friday:** Becoming sunny and remaining cold. High 25°F (-4°C); low 13°F (-11°C).

Situation for Noon Eastern Standard Time, Wednesday, January 15, 2002



# Gov't to Work On Anti-Missile Plans for Commercial Airplanes

By John Mintz  
THE WASHINGTON POST

WASHINGTON

Top federal officials, increasingly concerned that terrorists will attack U.S. commercial aircraft with shoulder-fired missiles, are developing plans to thwart such strikes with measures that range from sophisticated anti-missile technology to simple changes in takeoff schedules.

An interagency task force that reports to the National Security Council is also coordinating emergency inspections of every large U.S. airport to determine their vulnerability to the small, portable missiles, senior government officials said. And it is planning a public education campaign designed to

teach police departments and citizens who live and work near airports to identify the missiles if they see someone assembling one.

While acknowledging their alarm at the danger of portable missiles being fired at the approximately 6,700 commercial aircraft operating in the United States, administration officials stressed Tuesday that the highest echelons of the U.S. government are focused on the threat and are determined to maximize the traveling public's safety.

"We have drawn together the best thinkers in government and in the contracting world" to address the issue in recent months, said one senior government official. "We

now grasp the threat, and we grasp our options."

U.S. air carriers, already staggered by financial losses caused in part by the Sept. 11, 2001 terror attacks, are arguing that the government should bear the cost of any required high-tech equipment, which could carry billion-dollar price tags.

"Protecting our citizens and defending our nation against threats of this type is the responsibility of our federal government," said Michael Wascom, a spokesman for the Air Transport Association, which represents U.S. carriers. "As with any aspect of providing for our national defense, this subject is best addressed by our government."

# Prosecutors Say Teenage Sniper Suspect's Prints Found on Weapon

By David Lamb  
LOS ANGELES TIMES

FAIRFAX, VA

Virginia prosecutors seeking the death penalty for a teenage suspect in random sniper attacks that killed 10 people in the Washington, D.C., area last fall said Tuesday his fingerprints were on the murder weapon.

The October attacks, carried out over a three-week period, traumatized the region and led to the closing of schools, the cancellation of sports events and one of most intense manhunts ever in Virginia, Maryland and the District of Columbia. Most victims were killed while doing ordinary chores, such as pumping gas or carrying groceries

to their cars in a mall.

John Lee Malvo, 17, dressed in a blue prison jump suit, sat attentively but without emotion as prosecutor Robert Horan began laying out for the first time Virginia's case against him. Malvo's fingerprints, Horan said, linked him to three of the slayings and another attack that left a man critically wounded.

"There are a number of common denominators connecting these shootings," Horan said.

Malvo and his traveling companion, John Allen Muhammad, 42, were arrested Oct. 24 at a highway rest stop in Maryland. Ballistics tests connected a rifle found in their car to the sniper killings.

Muhammad, a Gulf War veteran,

goes on trial first. He is being prosecuted in Prince William County, Va., for the Oct. 9 killing of Dean Harold Meyers at a gasoline station.

Horan also said the police had received two notes and two telephone calls from Malvo seeking \$10 million in exchange for ending the attacks. Some of the messages contained chilling bravado such as "Get the body bags ready" and "Mr. Policeman, you can call me God."

The first prosecution witness called Tuesday before Juvenile Court Judge Charles Maxfield was William Franklin, husband of FBI analyst Linda Franklin, who was killed Oct. 14 while loading goods purchased in a home improvement store into her car.

## Bush's Approval Ratings Slip

NEWSDAY

WASHINGTON

President Bush's approval rating has slipped below 60 percent for the first time since Sept. 11, 2001, two new surveys have found.

Experts said the declining numbers do not necessarily suggest that Bush's re-election prospects are in jeopardy, but do highlight some targets of opportunity for Democrats just as the field for the party's 2004 nomination is taking shape.

Bush's performance won the approval of 58 percent of 1,002 adults surveyed by the Gallup organization Jan. 10-12, while 37 percent disapproved. That was down 5 percentage points from a Gallup survey one week earlier. Both had a margin of error of 3 percentage points.

An Ipsos-Reid-Cook poll conducted Jan. 7-9 found almost identical results: 58 percent approving and 38 percent disapproving. The survey of 784 registered voters had a margin of error of 3.6 percentage points.

Gallup pinpointed foreign affairs — specifically, the controversy over North Korea's nuclear ambitions — as a key to Bush's decline. It found that those approving of Bush's handling of foreign policy fell from 60 percent to 53 percent between the two polls, closely tracking his overall dip.

## Human Rights Watch Faults White House Anti-Terror Measures

THE WASHINGTON POST

An international human rights organization criticized Bush administration's anti-terror measures as counterproductive Tuesday and warned that the United States shouldn't impose "victor's justice" if U.S.-led troops topple Iraqi President Saddam Hussein.

If armed conflict breaks out in Iraq, U.S. forces should make a special effort to establish the rule of law and prevent score-settling by aggrieved Kurds and Shiites who have suffered under Saddam's tyrannical regime, said Human Rights Watch in its annual report on global human rights practices.

The group noted that, during a 1991 uprising, Saddam's opponents attacked and killed government workers and members of the ruling Baath Party. "Unless restrained during a possible new war," the organization said, "there is every reason to believe that they will pick up where they left off, but this time as possible U.S. proxies."

In the campaign against terrorism, the Bush administration's relationships with authoritarian governments and its treatment of terror suspects and prospective witnesses is deeply worrying, said Kenneth Roth, Human Rights Watch's executive director. He said "the smoldering resentment it breeds risks generating terrorist recruits" and alienates potential allies.

"The Bush administration is not conducting the war according to human rights principles," Roth said, noting close relationships with such countries as Pakistan and Saudi Arabia. "It adds up to a very ugly picture."

The Office of Academic Services announces the following opportunities for students:

## \$5,000 Scholarships

### Morris K. Udall Scholarship

Open to Sophomores and Juniors working in fields related to the environment

Info Session Wednesday, January 15, 2003

4:30 PM

Room 1-150

[http://www.udall.gov/p\\_scholarship.htm](http://www.udall.gov/p_scholarship.htm)

### Five Week Summer Fellowship in Japan

Open to all MIT students

Kawamura Visiting Fellowship Program

Info Session Thursday, January 16, 2003

5:00 PM

Room 8-205

<http://www.cotech.co.jp/english/index.html>

For further information or if you cannot attend, please contact:

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# OPINION

## MIT's Commitment to Open Research

In an age when principles are too often sold to the highest bidder, it is reassuring and laudable that MIT has stood firm in its commitment to open and unrestricted research. In a widely publicized report released last June, entitled "In the Public Interest," a very well-respected MIT faculty committee recommended that all on-campus research remain unclassified and unrestricted for any student or faculty member. Demonstrating its adherence to this principle, MIT has refused a \$404,000 advanced computer architecture grant offered to the Artificial Intelligence Laboratory by the National Security Agency last fall, as the funding agreement included a clause that allowed the NSA to restrict the participation of international students on the project. *The Tech* applauds MIT for its demonstrated and prudent commitment to open research.

Ever since its inception, but increasingly during the past decades, MIT has developed intimate relationship with governmental and industrial entities, which provided all but four percent of total research funds in 2001, with the Department of Defense and Department of Energy together providing more than \$144 million. This relationship not only maintains MIT's financial solvency, but more importantly it serves as a greatly powerful impetus to great technological achievements, which, like the development of radar during World War II, have immense benefits to both national security and to the human community.

Given the current political climate where national security issues are of paramount political concern, however, defense-

related funding is increasingly attached to restrictions and classified material. Scientific and academic progress depend vitally on the unconstrained exchange of ideas and information, and the restriction of access to research would not only harm the international students and faculty would be excluded from the research, but would fray the fabric of science and thus ultimately damage the well-being of the nation.

Currently, as strongly recommended by the "In the Public Interest" report, MIT prudently balances the need to allow unfettered access to research and knowledge with the need to undertake sensitive research by directing restricted work to Lincoln and Draper Laboratories, where members of the MIT community can take part in necessary and ground-breaking classified research without hindering the openness of on-campus research. MIT should continue and expand this arrangement, without compromising its commitment to the requirements of university research.

As the foremost academic research institution for the government, MIT must take a strong leadership role in directing the nature of university research. With the writing and publication of the "In the Public Interest" report, and with the testimony of Professor Sheila E. Widnall '60 to Congress last summer about the need to preserve open research, MIT has already actively championed its values and must continue to do so. MIT should also encourage other research universities to adopt a similar policy, as it is imperative for there to be a unified response by the greater higher education community, to ensure that scientific progress is not compromised.

*Keith J. Winstein has recused himself from this editorial.*



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## Letters To The Editor

### An Open Letter Regarding the MIT Coffeehouse

Dear Mr. Walsh and Mr. Cummings,

You may remember me from when I worked at the coffeehouse during my undergraduate career at MIT. I have been upset by a number of changes that have occurred on campus since I left, but I had not yet been so dis-

traught as when I heard that the coffeehouse would be closing for the sole reason that it was losing money.

As I understand it, the coffeehouse is and has always been a service to the MIT community. Which means to me that it never actually meant to turn a profit. Despite working there, I don't know if it ever did. Profit is not the issue here. Quality of student life and campus community are what really matter.

The MIT Coffeehouse is a vital service to the MIT community. Where else can students go at any hour of the day or night to socialize

or study without disturbing their roommates or neighbors, or to get some tea and a hot snack, or even a microwaved one? Everyone knows that MIT students are nocturnal creatures. The Athena cluster on the fifth floor is going to be crowded with people working through the night. These students need a place to go to relax, get nutrition, and socialize.

If the MIT administration is as concerned as they say it is about the quality of student life, they would not allow this vital part of MIT student nightlife to disappear.

*Alexander Bouis '99*

### Opinion Policy

**Editorials** are the official opinion of *The Tech*. They are written by the editorial board, which consists of the chairman, editor in chief, managing editor, executive editor, news editors, features editor, and opinion editors.

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

**Columns** and **editorial cartoons** are written by individuals and represent the opinion of the author, not necessarily that of the newspaper.

**Letters to the editor** are welcome. Electronic submissions are encouraged and should be sent to letters@the-tech.mit.edu. Hard copy submissions should be addressed to *The Tech*, P.O. Box 397029, Cambridge, Mass. 02139-7029, or sent by interdepartmental mail to Room W20-483. All submissions are due by 4:30 p.m.

two days before the date of publication.

**Letters** and **cartoons** must bear the authors' signatures, addresses, and phone numbers. Unsigned letters will not be accepted. No letter or cartoon will be printed anonymously without the express prior approval of *The Tech*. *The Tech* reserves the right to edit or condense letters; shorter letters will be given higher priority. Once submitted, all letters become property of *The Tech*, and will not be returned. *The Tech* makes no commitment to publish all the letters received.

### To Reach Us

*The Tech's* telephone number is (617) 253-1541. E-mail is the easiest way to reach any member of our staff. If you are unsure whom to contact, send mail to general@the-tech.mit.edu, and it will be directed to the appropriate person. *The Tech* can be found on the World Wide Web at <http://the-tech.mit.edu>.

# Childish Journalistic Behavior

Andrew C. Thomas

"Opinion" is a very peculiar word. Certainly, it has an accepted definition: dictionary.com defines it as "a belief or conclusion held with confidence but not substantiated by positive knowledge or proof." That's a pretty flexible definition, one sanctioned by every major newspaper and Internet news source around. Among other things, it ensures freedom of speech by widening the universe of acceptable discourse. That it comes with the ultimate escape clause makes it all the more insidious as a source of news.

Of course, like any group, columnists have their fringe element, who take full advantage of the leeway they are granted. I'd like to take the opportunity to highlight two who embarrass the profession through their radical approach. On looks alone, Ann Coulter would hardly strike the average person as a right-wing nut. The author, lawyer and "talking head" has stereotypical blonde babe good looks, but her fierce journalistic rhetoric has established her reputation in this country as a spokesperson for the political Right, though I doubt that the majority of free-thinking conservatives (let alone all others) would agree with some of her ideas or techniques.

This is painfully evident in both her content and her style. Even a glance at her columns reveals an extensive and excessive

use of quotation marks around words, as if you could see her making the gesture with both hands, taking a breath, and expressing her profound thought using an overly emphatic voice. The effect only gets more pronounced with repetition, and its motive far more transparent. Simply, she confronts ideas purely by mocking them. If she makes an intellectual point, her weapon of attack certainly blurs it beyond rationality.

But make no mistake, Coulter is quite effective, and she is definitely setting an example in her profession. Her style has been adopted by a younger generation, desperate to have its words heard by any means possible — however poorly conceived they may be. In

particular, a student at the University of California, Los Angeles, is starting his own rant campaign. Ben Shapiro, a junior in political science, wrote for the UCLA Daily Bruin until this past June, when he began an affiliation with the Creators Syndicate.

Shapiro certainly draws attention for being a dissonant voice for his age group. His columns have drawn their own share of controversy

(though on a smaller scale than those of Ann "We should invade their countries, kill their leaders and convert them to Christianity" Coulter), first at UCLA, then, following his syndication, on various Web publications. Why has the reaction been so strong? Even a glance at the title of a recent column, "I was right, I am right, and I will be right," gives you an idea of the kind of feeling he provokes.

I have no doubt that Coulter is one of Shapiro's ideological inspirations. This Demagogic Duo specializes in using their views, first and foremost, to piss people off. Shapiro's biography on townhall.com states that his "confrontational approach always draws a hailstorm of response." In hers, Coulter is identified as "a self-described bomb-thrower." Both are in love with the word "whine," typically when trying to describe the impassioned actions of their chosen enemy.

But their approach has one very dangerous effect, likely the exact one they seek. There is a tone underlying much of their work, very much echoing that of George W. Bush: Either you are with "us" or against "us." Coulter does it with the labels "liberal" and "conservative," which she applies (cough) quite liberally. Shapiro does it by insulting the intelligence of everyone who dares disagree with him, both literally and figuratively.

Limiting any debate to two sides is inherently dangerous and counter-productive. So why do these two, and others who have lined themselves up on both sides of this line, continue their childish behavior? They don't exactly have an alternative, in this case. Neither side can possibly trust the other, as things are now. So who wins? Coulter and Shapiro, the Creators Syndicate, and among others, Crown Publishers, who have produced Coulter's latest masterpiece, with the indicative title "Slander: Liberal Lies about the American Right." Not to mention their counterparts, across the line they draw together, who stare them in the face.

These poor representatives of their profession speak quite loudly. Their psychological tactics dominate their work, as they drown out many other legitimate voices with fresh ideas. I continue to look for new voices who use their big sticks for other purposes than drawing lines in the sand.

*Limiting any debate to two sides is inherently dangerous and counter-productive. So why do columnists who have lined themselves up on both sides of this line continue their childish behavior?*

# America and its Contradictions

Basil Enwegbara

Two things Americans are good at are self-reflection and self-criticism. The greatness of America therefore rests on its dynamism and its constant search for better and more creative solutions to its contemporary problems. Today, leading newspapers and television stations have risen, debating Senator Trent Lott's (R-Miss.) recent divisive comments on why America would have been better off had it maintained its segregationist policies. This finally awakened Americans to deep-rooted problems, which for decades have been swept under the rug. These problems have been dealt with repeatedly over the last centuries, and here we are today still discussing how to deal with the same old problems.

A recent ride on a Greyhound bus — from the East to the West Coast — has finally opened my eyes to the gravity of the problems this country faces. The pain of disenfranchisement and social exclusion is visible in most Americans, be it those recently adjusting to the shock of being laid-off from their jobs, or those who work two to three jobs to make ends meet, or those without health insurance, or those lacking the luxury of a college education, or those without adequate housing and transportation, or those who cannot afford adequate childcare.

How can America lead the world in the twenty-first century when it cannot guarantee its citizens the very education that a sophisticated economy requires? Today, while a college education has gone beyond the reach of the average American — particularly minorities — college tuition subsidies have not kept up with these high costs. Can America afford to abandon education, once recognized by Horace Mann as "the equalizer of the conditions of men and the balance wheel of social machinery?" How can America proudly parade itself as the most powerful nation when over 43 million Americans are without health insurance coverage? How can America survive in today's global economy, given that it is an economy dependent on a large army of healthy workers?

Traffic congestion has risen dramatically

in America in recent times. The average commute to work now takes three times as it did in the 1970s. This is the result of decades of under-investment in infrastructure. Without serious upgrades, the nation's airports will continue to suffer from worsening congestion. How can America see itself as a leading technologically advanced nation when it continues to lag in infrastructure investments? Should it be seen as unpatriotic for citizens to question paying taxes if the money would not be used towards social goods and their required redistribution?

Statistics have shown that a higher proportion of children are poor in America than anywhere else in the industrialized world. This is not because these American parents are poorer than their counterparts elsewhere. It is simply because the government has not done enough to help these parents take adequate care of their children, given the rising costs of childcare in America. As history has proven repeatedly, social programs are always the first casualties in periods of slow growth. Little wonder that Social Security has recently become the scapegoat of America's economic recession. It has become an unnecessary burden that the nation should eliminate if it can not be privatized.

The credit card that once helped the poor fill the gap created by low income and the rising costs of living in the late 1990s is now gone, leaving poor households with a debt of nearly 100 percent of their disposable income.

Today, the conflicts between profit and wages, between capital and the promotion of demand, and between markets and government have become complex. A productive resolution would require a new social contract, one that America seems unprepared to undertake in the foreseeable future. But at the

same time, everyone agrees that investing in public goods — decent education, healthcare, childcare, and infrastructure, for example — always spreads its benefits well beyond the individual to the entire nation. This unique American power at the turn of twentieth century has been eroded for decades now. This is the tragedy of today's America.

When a broader cross-section of the public is disenfranchised, they become less optimistic, less motivated, and less confident — and confidence is necessary for them to contribute the growth of society. It is obvious that a society that continuously undermines the creative forces of a section of its populace is not only doing great damage to these people, but is also depriving itself of key benefits

critical to future growth. Nelson Mandela put it best when he said, "In every gnarly, knotted distorted situation where people are kept from becoming the best they can be, there is an apartheid of the heart."

One day America will wake up to realize the magnitude of this inherent loss it has incurred over all these decades of denying all citizens the power to exercise and benefit from their own personal creativities. It will realize that there

should be no strong market without equally strong investment in human capital and broadened competition to include all races and genders in America. As America does nothing to reverse the situation, there is no doubt that the beneficiaries are increasingly becoming countries like China and India. These countries have the market potentials and human and natural capital required to challenge the unique advantage America has enjoyed over a century now. But a vague awareness of this situation is what makes it a truly dangerous threat.

# Dorm Hygiene

W. Victoria Lee

Most of us find our homes much cleaner than our dorms. This is no surprise, given that at home mom cleans every corner of the house instead of just certain areas that the custodians in the dorms clean, and that there are fewer people to make a mess at home. However, another reason is that few people show as much care to the common areas such as the bathroom, the lounge, the kitchen and even the stairwell as one would to the same areas in his or her own home.

I often find myself encountering drops of ketchup, sauce, and puddles of clear unidentified liquids in the stairwell that somebody's burgers and drinks have left behind as proof of their former existence. But no one lives in the stairwell, so most people just step over spills. Upon passing by the same place the next day, I mostly likely find either the contaminated spots undisturbed or somebody will have inadvertently stepped on them to leave a trail on the stairs. The next day, the spots would still be there. In fact, in almost all cases, the spots continue to dwell on the stairs until they have been completely spread out by inadvertent feet or until they have dried up to acquire a darker hue that blends in the stairs.

The kitchen is another place where unkempt matters reveal their ugly shapes, starting with the scrubbing sponges by the sink. Most of us use the sponges when doing dishes but few of us remember to cleanse and squeeze dry the sponges after use. Scraps of foodstuff make themselves comfortable in their free apartment spaces provided by the porous sponge. With the aid of high humidity in the sponges, these foodstuff tenets produce foul smells and house unwanted bacteria.

Then there is the bathroom. Sometimes tissue paper just mysteriously fall onto the floor and stay there, until they get crumpled up by passersby too reluctant to pick them up. The mirrors are often decorated with water spots and toothpaste remnants. One would think the shower stalls should be the cleanest area because they are rinsed with water day in and day out. Yet one can surprisingly find fallen shampoo labels lying on the drainage on the floor of the stalls.

It seems that the hallways, the lounges, and the trash can are not able to escape the general apathy of shared-space hygiene, either. Spilled chips and bread crumbs usually have no need to worry about being removed until the custodians vacuum the carpet. Cup rings of cola and juice, and spilled assorted beverages, create interesting patterns on the lounge tables, not to mention the sticky remnants of jams and jellies sitting on the arms of chairs.

If there is a microwave, it is seldom clean. Grease, sauce, and maybe tiny pieces of pepperonis garnish the interior. The trash can is the worst place yet, especially on the days when the custodians don't work. Pizza boxes and rotten fruits can pile as high as half a foot above the rims of the bin, forming a mini mountain with an apple core for a peak. And when someone throws a banana peel on top of that heap, an avalanche is inevitable, leaving the floor around the bin a horrible mess.

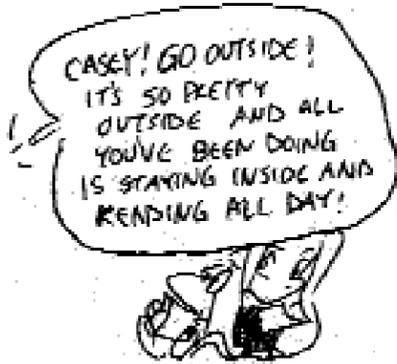
These happen not just in the part of the dorm where I live but also in other sections of the dorm, as well as the other dorms that I have visited. It is very natural for us to care less about the shared space than our personal space, because we all think "if the others are not keeping the space clean, why should I?" Unfortunately, a poor hygienic condition results if we all make such an assumption. Of course there are always that one or two very good-hearted people who volunteer to scrub clean the countertop or pick up the fallen trash, but it is really up to all of the residents to keep the environment clean.

But if we don't mind living in a place where we can't do our problem sets without the food remnants on the table staining the paper and where we can smell the awful stench coming from the trash bin when we open our doors, then at least we should insure a clean shared space for those who do care. Start with that scrap of paper that you shot for the trash bin but missed. Pick it up. It will only take you a second.

**Have an opinion? Don't keep it to yourself, get it in print!**

Email <[opinion@the-tech.mit.edu](mailto:opinion@the-tech.mit.edu)>

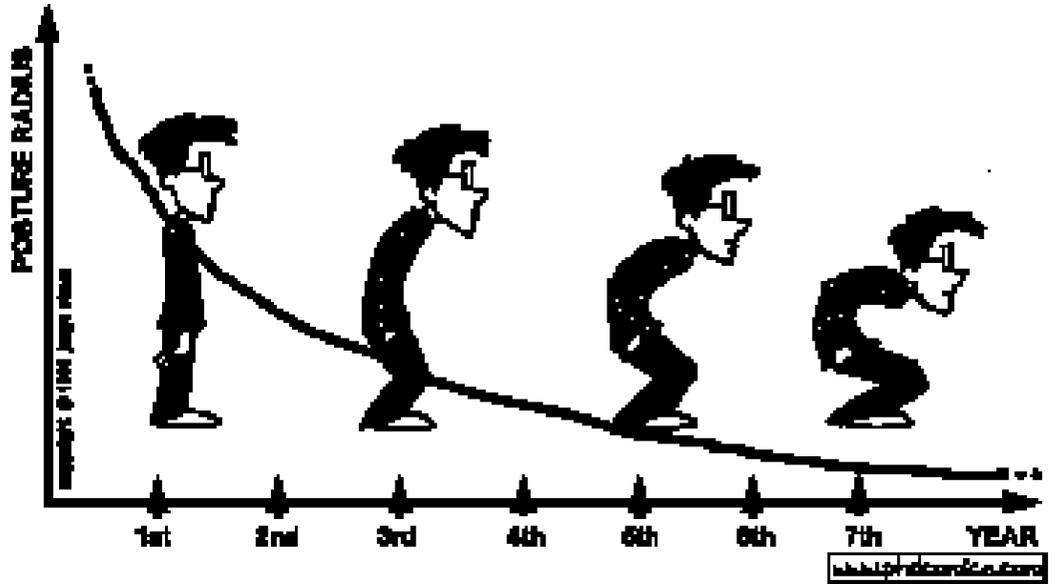
Casey: Barry Josie '05



THE GRAD STUDENT RADIUS OF POSTURE CURVATURE

$$R = \frac{1}{N}$$

N = # YEARS IN THE PROGRAM

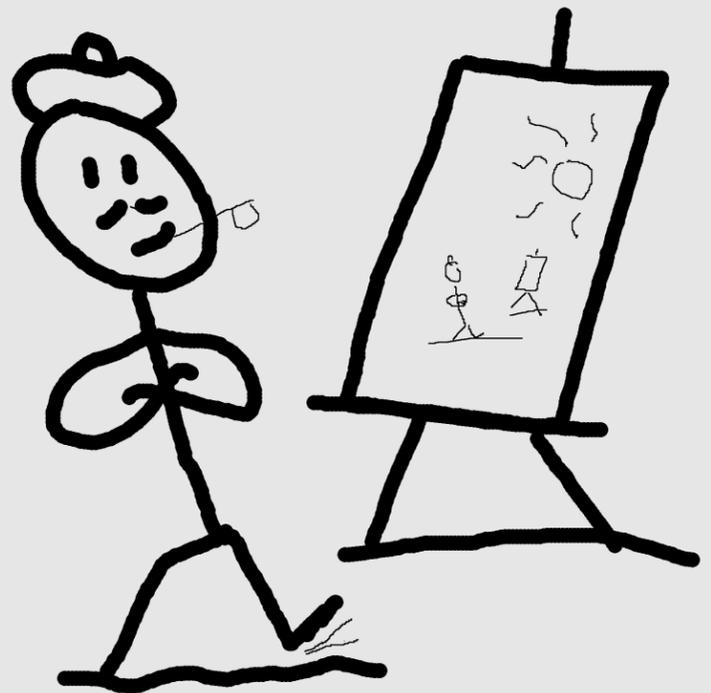


## Recycled Clip Art

By Katie, Kailas, Karen and Jason



**Cosmo Sex Tip #7:**  
After unprotected sex, raise your legs in the air and talk on the phone to prevent conception.



## Not an artist?

It doesn't matter,  
**JUST BE FUNNY!**

<[join@the-tech.mit.edu](mailto:join@the-tech.mit.edu)>

# FoxTrot by Bill Amend

# Dilbert® by Scott Adams

## Crossword Puzzle

Solution, page 16

# T-SHIRTS

...a necessary fact of college life



- Deal direct...no middlemen
  - Fast turnaround
  - Award winning & computer lit/design art department
  - Free delivery & Reasonable prices
  - Most major organization logos on file for easy art work at no charge
  - Full color heat transfers - no minimum!
  - Web, print & graphic design
- ...and best of all - no boring lectures

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# Events Calendar

Visit and add events to Events Calendar online at <http://events.mit.edu>

Wednesday, January 15

**10:45 a.m. – Campus Tour.** Student Led Campus Tours are approximately 90 minutes long and provide a general overview of the main campus. Please note that campus tours do not visit laboratories, living groups or buildings under construction. Groups over 15 people need to make special reservations. Campus tours start at the conclusion of the Admissions Informations Session. The Campus Tour begins in Lobby 7 (Main Entrance Lobby at 77 Massachusetts Ave). free. Room: Lobby 7 (Main Entrance Lobby at 77 Massachusetts Ave). Sponsor: Information Center.

**12:00 p.m. - 1:30 p.m. – Support Staff Forum.** Forum for MIT employees to learn more about the Working Group on Support Staff Issues; updates on current task group work; opportunity to ask questions about subjects like support staff reclassification, new vacation and bereavement leave, career opportunities and other issues pertaining to support staff. free. Room: Bldg. 66-110. Sponsor: Working Group on Support Staff Issues.

**12:15 p.m. - 1:00 p.m. – Weight Watchers at Work/NEW SESSION.** New 10-12 week session of Weight Watchers at Work begins TODAY. Meetings feature weigh-ins, and group discussions about weight loss and healthy eating and exercise habits. Led by Carlene Falvey. Email Cana or Kathy with questions at [ww-info@mit.edu](mailto:ww-info@mit.edu). Room: 11-103. Sponsor: Provost's Office.

**2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. – Usability 101 – IAP.** free. Room: 1-150. Sponsor: Usability at MIT.

**2:45 p.m. – Campus Tour.** free. Room: Lobby 7 (Main Entrance Lobby at 77 Massachusetts Ave). Sponsor: Information Center.

**4:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. – Summer Internships – Biomedical Optics Summer Institute.** HST and the Wellman Laboratories of Photomedicine at Massachusetts General Hospital are pleased to announce an NSF-NIH sponsored Biomedical Optics Summer Internship program. Open to undergraduate and graduate students, the Institute will focus on introducing participants to biomedical optics — the use of light in biology and medicine — through classroom work and laboratory research. Come learn about the Summer Institute and hear from faculty about the research projects open to Institute participants! Projects include: Diffuse optical tomography; photodynamic therapy; optical coherence tomography; improved microscopy for surgical pathology, in vivo confocal microscopy and multi-photon microscopy; and selective laser targeting. free. Room: E25-117. Sponsor: HST, Wellman Laboratories of Photomedicine at Massachusetts General Hospital.

**6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. – Money Market Outlook 2003 - Where Are We In The Private Equity or Venture Capital Investing Cycle?** Featuring: Stephen Hatfield, Partner, Ernst & Young, Victor Odryna, Entrepreneur, Maia Heymann, Director, BancBoston Ventures, T.L. Stebins, Managing Director, Adams, Harkness & Hill. Moderated By: Robert J. Crowley, President, MTDC. There will be a Networking Reception following the panel discussion. The event will be held in the Tang Center on the MIT Campus, 2 Amherst Street, Cambridge, MA. Pre-Registration is not required. Registration begins at 5:30 at the door. For more information visit our website: [www.mitforumcambridge.org](http://www.mitforumcambridge.org) or call 617-253-8240. Registration fee is \$20 for Forum Members and \$25 for Non Members. Students FREE with ID. Room: TANG CENTER, 2 Amherst St. Sponsor: MIT Enterprise Forum of Cambridge, Inc.

**6:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m. – Green Hall Pajama Party.** Enjoy a relaxing evening, with back massages, beauty treatments, tasty snacks, and soothing music! We will have plenty of special ingredients and beauty supplies – learn the secrets to softening your hands or reducing eye puffiness! We will also feature two professional massage therapists from 6:30pm - 8:30pm offering 10-minute table massages. The spots are filling up, so if you are interested in a professional massage, email [greenhall@mit.edu](mailto:greenhall@mit.edu) with your name and email address. If slots are still available, your time will be confirmed by email on Tuesday evening. free. Room: Green Hall. Sponsor: Graduate Student Council, Green Hall.

**7:00 p.m. – Women's Gymnastics vs. Brown & Boston Universities.** free. Room: duPont Gym. Sponsor: Department of Athletics.

**8:00 p.m. – Weekly Wednesdays @ the Muddy Charles Pub.** Meet your fellow social graduate students at the Muddy Charles Pub located in the Walker Memorial Building. What will be there for you? \$1 drafts, a variety of beers, wines and sodas, lots of free wings, Sox on the screen. Bring IDs. free. Room: Muddy Charles Pub. Sponsor: Edgerton House Residents' Association, MITEntrepreneurshipCenter, TechLink, Wing It.

**8:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m. – IFILM Film Seminar.** Screening of a movie followed by a discussion. free. Room: 1-150. Sponsor: International Film Club.

**8:30 p.m. - 11:30 p.m. – Swing Dancing.** No partner required. Beginners welcome. free. Room: Student Center 2nd floor. Sponsor: Lindy Hop Society.

Thursday, January 16

**10:45 a.m. – Campus Tour.** free. Room: Lobby 7 (Main Entrance Lobby at 77 Massachusetts Ave). Sponsor: Information Center.

**12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m. – PowerPoint Quick Start.** PowerPoint makes it easy to jazz up your presentations. Get an introduction to what PowerPoint can do. Find out how to create slide shows. The session includes demonstrations of how to use drawing tools, graphics, and create handouts. Room: N42 Demo. Sponsor: Information Systems.

**1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. – Conversational English Class.** Join us for a free conversational English class for international students and spouses at MIT. Most attendees are women able to speak freely who desire to increase their English skills. Class covers a variety of topics including American culture and holiday descriptions. free. Room: W11 Board Room. Sponsor: Baptist Campus Ministry.

**1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. – WinAthena Intro & Advanced.** Combined with the rescheduled 14 Jan Intro, an in-depth view of the MIT Win2000 Domain for container admins, covering AD, GP, installation, configuration, file systems, services, software and application deployment. This activity is hands-on, using high-speed machines in the latest iS cluster. Room: 37-312. Sponsor: Athena Special Events.

**1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m. – Weight Watchers at Work!** free. Room: Women's Lounge-Room 8-219. Sponsor: Weight Watchers.

**2:45 p.m. – Campus Tour.** free. Room: Lobby 7 (Main Entrance Lobby at 77 Massachusetts Ave). Sponsor: Information Center.

**4:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. – Eloranta Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowships: Creating a Winning Proposal.** Several \$6,000 fellowships are available for summer 2003; these fellowships will support work in science, engineering, humanities, social science, and the arts. This is the time to begin making your plans! We will review elements of past winning proposals and discuss how to put together a successful submission. Web: <http://web.mit.edu/eloranta/>. free. Room: 4-153. Sponsor: UROP.

**4:30 p.m. - 5:30 p.m. – Nanostructures Seminar Series.** "Molecular Origins of biocompatibility: Materials Design Issues and challenges at the Nanoscale." free. Room: Edgerton Hall, 34-101, Refreshments beginning at 4:15 pm. Sponsor: Nanostructures Laboratory, Tiny Tech Club.

**6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. – BioStrategy Seminar: Julia Greenstein, CEO Immerge Biotherapeutics.** free. Room: E51-315. Sponsor: MITEntrepreneurshipCenter. Sloan BioStrategy Seminar.

**7:00 p.m. – The New Congress & US Foreign Policy: Trade, Environment, Globalization.** With our guests we will examine US international finance and investment policy in the Western Hemisphere; and various other foreign-policy issues dealing with "globalization," ranging from trade and embargoes to labor laws and environmental treaties and enforcement. We will also look at how NGOs and activists organize around "globalization" and how they work to affect Congressional actions. free. Room: MIT 1-150. Sponsor: MIT Western Hemisphere Project.

**7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. – Mind Like the Sky: Introduction to Basic Meditation by Ven. Tenzin L. Priyadarshi.** Introduction to Basic Meditation by Ven. Tenzin L. Priyadarshi. free. Room: 5-231. Sponsor: Buddhist Community at MIT.

**8:00 p.m. – Sweeney Todd in concert.** Stephen Sondheim's chilling, suspenseful, heart-pounding masterpiece of murderous barberism and culinary crime tells the infamous tale of the unjustly exiled barber who returns to 19th century London seeking revenge against the lecherous judge who framed him and ravaged his young wife. His thirst for blood soon expands to include his unfortunate customers, and the resourceful proprietress of the pie shop downstairs soon has the people of London lining up in droves with her mysterious new meat pie recipe! (Please note: this is not a full production with sets and staging. It is a concert with minimal staging and props with focus on singing). free. Room: Kresge Auditorium. Sponsor: Gilbert and Sullivan Players, MIT.

**9:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m. – Coffee Hour.** Food and drink - an Ashdown tradition. free. Room: Hulsizer Room (W1). Sponsor: Ashdown House.

**10:00 p.m. - 11:59 p.m. – Movie Night.** Movie and food - free for all! free. Room: Big TV Room (W1). Sponsor: Ashdown House.

**11:59 p.m. – Campus Disc Golf.** Do you like tossing a disc? Do you enjoy friendly competition? Or if you're just up for midnight antics, then come on out! Meet outside the Student Center on the front steps, and don't forget to bring a disc! Don't hesitate to come, newcomers are always welcomed - We meet every Thursday at midnight. Questions, contact Daniel Turek, [macgyver@mit.edu](mailto:macgyver@mit.edu). bring your own disc! Room: Student Center steps. Sponsor: Campus Disc Golf.

Friday, January 17

**12:00 a.m. – Cyberposium: Building Leaders for Technology.** MIT Sloan has partnered with HBS this year to present the "Cyberposium: Building Leaders for Technology," located at HBS. All Innovation and Technology focused students are encouraged to attend

Events Calendar appears in each issue of *The Tech* and features events for members of the MIT community. *The Tech* makes no guarantees as to the accuracy of this information, and *The Tech* shall not be held liable for any losses, including, but not limited to, damages resulting from attendance of an event. Contact information for all events is available from the Events Calendar web page.

this premier annual technology MBA conference! Please visit [www.cyberposium.com](http://www.cyberposium.com) for additional information. \$30. Room: Harvard Business School. Sponsor: MITEntrepreneurshipCenter. MediaTech Club.

**10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. – Spam Filtering Conference.** Interested in spam filters? Come join us at the first conference on spam filtering. Speakers at the conference will include many of the leading spam filter developers. While anyone will be welcome, we're hoping most of all to make this an opportunity for hackers working on spam filters to get together and compare notes. Please register on the website to ensure a space. free. Room: 26-100. Sponsor: Spam Filtering Conference.

**10:45 a.m. – Campus Tour.** free. Room: Lobby 7 (Main Entrance Lobby at 77 Massachusetts Ave). Sponsor: Information Center.

**11:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. – MITAC OPEN in 11-004.** MITAC Box Office Now Open Fridays at CopyTech. MIT employees seeking discounted movie tickets and museum passes can find them at CopyTech's Main Center (11-004) on Fridays. The MIT Activities Committee (MITAC) will sell discounted movie tickets, museum passes and tickets to current MITAC events at CopyTech from 11am – 4pm on Fridays only through January 2003. MITAC tickets will continue to be available at the Walker Memorial (50-005) location Tuesday through Friday from 11am-4pm and at Lincoln Lab (B-210) on Thursdays and Fridays from 11am-4pm. A listing of current events and discounts can be found in the MITAC monthly flyer, mailed to all employees on campus and at Lincoln Laboratory, or online at <http://web.mit.edu/mitac>. If you have any questions, please call 617.253.7990. See MITAC Flyer. Room: 11-004 - Copy Tech. Sponsor: MITAC.

**1:10 p.m. - 1:50 p.m. – Muslim Friday Prayer.** Weekly congregational prayer for Muslims. People of other faiths welcome to attend. Email [msa-ec@mit.edu](mailto:msa-ec@mit.edu) for more information. free. Room: W11-110. Sponsor: Muslim students' Association.

**2:45 p.m. – Campus Tour.** free. Room: Lobby 7 (Main Entrance Lobby at 77 Massachusetts Ave). Sponsor: Information Center.

**3:00 p.m. – ESG Concert.** Staff, students and alumni from the Experimental Study Group perform a range of styles of music on different instruments. Refreshments following concert. free. Room: Rm 24-612. Sponsor: Experimental Study Group.

**6:40 p.m. - 12:00 p.m. – Sri Lankan Student Association Movie Night.** Dinner (subsidized) & movie. free/subsidized. Room: Meet 6:40 p.m. in Lobby 7. Sponsor: Sri Lankan Students' Association.

**7:00 p.m. - 11:59 p.m. – MIT Anime Club showing.** Classic anime motorcycle science-fiction, and space police with pink hair: tonight we're showing "Megazone 23", a classic anime about a Very Fast Motorcycle, "Gokudo-kun", fantasy series with a comic anti-hero, and "Galaxy Angels": the lovely and occasionally effective officers of the Galactic Police. free. Room: 6-120. Sponsor: Anime Club, MIT.

**7:30 p.m. – Women's Ice Hockey vs. Salve Regina University.** free. Room: Johnson Ice Rink. Sponsor: Department of Athletics.

**8:00 p.m. – Sweeney Todd in concert.** free. Room: Kresge Auditorium. Sponsor: Gilbert and Sullivan Players, MIT.

Saturday, January 18

**12:00 a.m. – Cyberposium: Building Leaders for Technology.** \$30. Room: Harvard Business School. Sponsor: MITEntrepreneurshipCenter. MediaTech Club.

**1:00 p.m. – Women's Gymnastics vs. Wilson, Ursinus & Suny Brockport.** free. Room: duPont Gym. Sponsor: Department of Athletics.

**2:00 p.m. – Men's Basketball vs. US Coast Guard Academy.** free. Room: Rockwell Cage. Sponsor: Department of Athletics.

**2:00 p.m. – Squash vs. Bates.** free. Room: Squash Courts. Sponsor: Department of Athletics.

**3:30 p.m. – Women's Ice Hockey vs. Salve Regina university.** free. Room: Johnson Ice Rink. Sponsor: Department of Athletics.

**7:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m. – First Sorority at MIT Celebrates 25th Anniversary.** The Lambda Upsilon Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. is the first sorority at MIT. This evening we will be celebrating Lambda Upsilon's 25th Anniversary and Alpha Kappa Alpha's 95th Anniversary with a banquet. We will spend the evening commemorating Lambda Upsilon Chapter's role in the MIT, Harvard and Wellesley communities, as well as recognizing the accomplishments of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. Semi-formal attire. Ticketed admission ONLY. \$45 per person. Dinner will be served. For RSVP and information, email [litzb@mit.edu](mailto:litzb@mit.edu). \$45.00 per person. Room: MIT Student Center, Mezzanine Lounge. Sponsor: Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.

**8:00 p.m. – Roadkill Buffet: The IAP Show.** MIT's improv comedy troupe. free. Room: Rm 6-120. Sponsor: Roadkill Buffet.

**8:00 p.m. – Sweeney Todd in concert.** free. Room: Kresge Auditorium. Sponsor: Gilbert and Sullivan Players, MIT.

**– Pistol vs. US Coast Guard Academy.** free. Room: Shooting Range. Sponsor: Department of Athletics.

Sunday, January 19

**12:00 a.m. – Cyberposium: Building Leaders for Technology.** \$30. Room: Harvard Business School. Sponsor: MITEntrepreneurshipCenter. MediaTech Club.

Monday, January 20

**10:45 a.m. – Campus Tour.** free. Room: Lobby 7 (Main Entrance Lobby at 77 Massachusetts Ave). Sponsor: Information Center.

**2:45 p.m. – Campus Tour.** free. Room: Lobby 7 (Main Entrance Lobby at 77 Massachusetts Ave). Sponsor: Information Center.

**7:00 p.m. – Armed Men.** The film is part of our January series of "Monday Night Movies." All films in the series are either in English or subtitled. free. Room: MIT 2-105. Sponsor: MIT Western Hemisphere Project.

**7:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m. – Palestinian Dabkeh Dance Lessons.** The MIT Arab Students Organization invites you to its IAP Dabkeh lesson series. Dabkeh is a form of dance common in many places in the Middle East (Palestine, Lebanon, Syria, Jordan). Dabkeh is a stump dance usually performed in groups at weddings and parties. Zaitoun, a local Palestinian Dabkeh dance group, will be teaching the sessions, focusing on the Palestinian version of this dance. Everyone is welcome at any or all of the sessions! free. Room: Lobby 13. Sponsor: Arab Student Organization.

**– TBP Week.** Tau Beta Pi is sponsoring a week full of exciting and educational events, such as a Quizbowl competition, an engineering lab project exposition, an engineering design contest and more. More details can be found at the webpage. free. Room: TBA. Sponsor: Tau Beta Pi, Mass Beta Chapter.

Tuesday, January 21

**10:45 a.m. – Campus Tour.** free. Room: Lobby 7 (Main Entrance Lobby at 77 Massachusetts Ave). Sponsor: Information Center.

**11:55 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. – VCPIA Lunch Meeting.** Weekly lunch meeting sponsored by the MIT Venture Capital & Principal Investment Association. free. Room: Tang Center. Sponsor: MIT Venture Capital and Principal Investment (VCPIA) Association, MITEntrepreneurshipCenter.

**12:00 p.m. – Neurodegeneration: The Power of Model Systems in Protein-Folding Diseases.** In partnership with the Harvard-MIT Division of Health Sciences and Technology and the MIT Department of Brain and Cognitive Sciences, the MIT Clinical Research Center presents this talk by Susan L. Lindquist, PhD, Director of the Whitehead Institute and Professor of Biology at MIT. Dr. Lindquist will discuss the model systems she and her colleagues use to study protein conformational changes, neurodegenerative diseases, and the molecular mechanisms for these conformational switches. free. Room: 6-120. Sponsor: HST, Brain and Cognitive Sciences, Clinical Research Center.

**12:00 p.m. - 1:30 p.m. – SAPweb: Purchasing on the Web.** (formerly Overview of Purchasing on the Web Quick Start) This course covers all aspects of using SAPweb for purchasing, including requisitioning from external vendors and internal providers, as well as ordering from Partner Vendors online catalogs. Topics include: business rules governing requisitions, creating and displaying requisitions in SAPweb, accessing Partner Vendors online catalogs. Room: N42 Demo. Sponsor: Information Systems.

**12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m. – Neurodegeneration: The Power of Model Systems in Protein-Folding Diseases.** Lecture: combination of genetics, molecular and cell biology analyses, and biophysical methods to understand the mechanisms of prion propagation, the generation of diversity, and human disease. free. Room: MIT Room 6-120: 182 Memorial Drive, Cambridge. Sponsor: Wurtman Lab, HST, Clinical Research Center, HST, Brain & Cognitive Sciences.

**2:45 p.m. – Campus Tour.** free. Room: Lobby 7 (Main Entrance Lobby at 77 Massachusetts Ave). Sponsor: Information Center.

**3:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. – Explorations of Race and Ethnicity.** Join us for conversations about racial and ethnic issues in a relaxed, informal setting. We hope to help create awareness and respect for peoples' differences, as well as to have fun exploring these differences. There are very few opportunities for meaningful interactions and connections among people from different racial, ethnic and gender groups. This activity offers a safe place for students, staff and faculty from various backgrounds and/or with widely different opinions to discuss, argue and explore some of the difficult issues they encounter at MIT and beyond. Contact: Tobie Weiner, E53-484, x3-3649, [iguanatw@mit.edu](mailto:iguanatw@mit.edu). Sponsor: Committee on Campus Race Relations (CCRR). free. Room: Twenty Chimneys. Sponsor: Committee on Campus Race Relations.

**6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. – Toastmasters@MIT Evening Meetings.** 77 Mass. Avenue, Cambridge, Building 2, Room 4-159. free. Sponsor: Toastmasters.

**6:00 p.m. – Women's Basketball vs. Wheaton College.** free. Room: Rockwell Cage. Sponsor: Department of Athletics.

**6:00 p.m. – Men's Swimming vs. Tufts University.** free. Room: Zesiger Pool. Sponsor: Department of Athletics.

**7:00 p.m. - 9:30 p.m. – Scientists, Engineers, Entrepreneurs: Uncover Your Leadership Potential.** "Leadership does not simply happen. It can be taught, learned, developed." – Former NY mayor Rudolph Giuliani. In this interactive workshop, Ginny O'Brien, career and executive coach and author of *Success on Our Own Terms: Tales of Extraordinary, Ordinary Business Women*, will provide you with six key steps for unleashing your leadership potential. Using interactive exercises, you'll discover how to identify your core values and strengths, create visions for yourself and your organization, leverage your strengths and build the relationships you'll need to succeed on your own terms. Member/Non-members \$10/\$20. Students: free with RSVP. Room: Verizon Lab, 40 Sylvan Road, Waltham MA. Sponsor: Women Entrepreneur in Science and Technology. SWE/Boston (Society of Women Engineers).

**7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. – Tonglen—A Filter for Suffering by Ven. Tenzin L. Priyadarshi.** A Filter for Suffering by Ven. Tenzin L. Priyadarshi. free. Room: 5-231. Sponsor: Buddhist Community at MIT.

**8:00 p.m. – Men's Basketball vs. Clark University.** free. Room: Rockwell Cage. Sponsor: Department of Athletics.

**8:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m. – International Film Club- Film Seminar.** Educational Film Screening. free. Room: 54-100. Sponsor: International Film Club.

## Explore Educational Technology at MIT!

Come to the Ed Tech Fair  
January 28th, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.  
Lobby 10 and the Bush Room

MIT faculty and students will demonstrate educational technology projects and tools they have developed to improve teaching and learning. MIT professionals will be available to discuss their educational technology initiatives, media services and resources.

This IAP event is sponsored by the Council on Educational Technology, Academic Computing, Academic Media Production Services (AMPS), and the Teaching and Learning Laboratory (TLL).

## STUDENT CLASS AIRFARES

Spring Break packages also available!

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# FEATURES

## Campus Profile — Theodore A. Postol

### National security technology expert discusses allegations against MIT

By Kathy Lin

STAFF WRITER

MIT Professor of Science, Technology and National Security Policy Theodore A. Postol '67 has been the focus of recent media attention because of his allegations that MIT scientists at Lincoln Laboratory helped cover up serious problems with proposed U.S. anti-missile defense systems. Postol has also suggested that members of the MIT Corporation and administration are obstructing justice and concealing evidence of possible criminal violations. A leading critic of President Ronald Reagan's Strategic Defense Initiative and the Gulf War Patriot missile system who revealed otherwise-ignored problems, Postol believes that current U.S. technology is incapable of defeating a ballistic missile attack. Postol is currently on sabbatical at Stanford University.

TT: How does teaching at Stanford differ from teaching at MIT?

Postol: I'd say Stanford is a somewhat different student body. Students appear more relaxed, although I'm not sure if they really are. At MIT, I think the students are exceptionally capable and it's always a lot of fun teaching there. Only rarely do you get a student who isn't exceptional.

TT: What are you working on now?

Postol: Two problems. The first is related to non-proliferation in the emerging new world in which many non-weapon states are potentially developing weapons of mass destruction capability. We're also looking at a possibility of sharing early warning systems with nuclear states.

TT: Now to the politics. When you first heard Ronald Reagan announce the Star Wars Defense Initiative, how did you react?

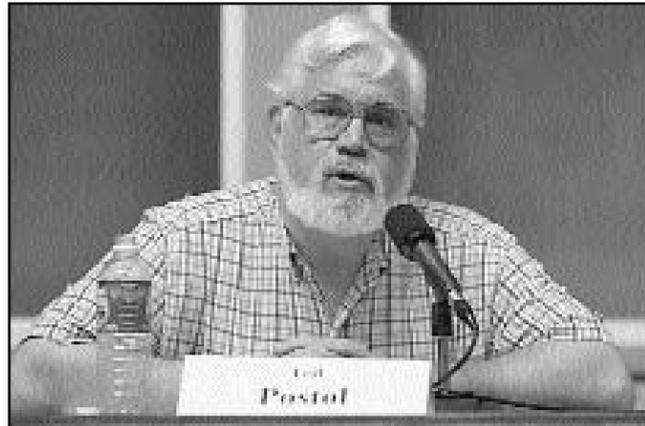
Postol: I was working at the Pentagon at the time, and I was at home in the evening watching the president's speech ... At the end, he gave some comments about Star Wars, and I thought it was totally crazy. I was very upset because it seemed to me that he must have had advisors who should have known better. I went into the Pentagon the next day and there was a senior Navy captain dancing around bragging that he had been part of process that led to the President's speech. I remember asking, "how are you going to do this?" and the whole room froze.

TT: Did you eventually get an explanation?

Postol: No, he had no explanation. He quietly attended many of the briefings I gave about the problems with Star Wars.

TT: Tell me a little about the recent controversies you've been involved in with MIT.

Postol: I believe that the MIT Corporation, which includes [President Charles M. Vest], [Alexander V. d'Arbeloff '49], and [Provost



DONNA COVENEY—MIT NEWS OFFICE

Professor Theodore A. Postol '67 alleges that MIT scientists at Lincoln Laboratory helped cover up problems with proposed U.S. anti-missile defense systems.

Robert A. Brown], has been foot-dragging in an attempt to avoid dealing with a matter that may well be criminal. I think it's a very serious matter that may result in indictments.

TT: Do you think MIT has changed its attitude on professional investigations over this scandal as opposed previous incidents such as the one involving Patriot missiles?

Postol: I think MIT has clearly and unambiguously violated the regulation issued by the presidential science advisor about being prompt about responding to an allegation of fraud. The National Science Foundation requires that no more than 60 days pass between the date of the initial allegation and the date that the inquiry is finished and documented. MIT has taken two years. Their own records show they're not telling the truth about being prompt in this matter. The administration is lying and manipulating like nothing I've seen before.

TT: So things are worse now than they were

with Patriot?

Postol: Definitely. This is an administration who has created so many problems for itself. It seems to me that Vest has done a good job stacking the administration with his cronies. The result is that you have an administration that is loyal to Vest with or without valid backing. They are dishonest and incompetent, and that's led to this problem because they're in a trap of their own making and they can't escape it. There were attempts by President Vest that had the appearance of trying to intimidate me into not pursuing the matter any further. The Provost and the Chair of the Corporation have also made threats.

TT: When you hear that you've developed a reputation as being arrogant, how do you react?

Postol: I think that's simple. I provide facts and information and analysis, and they accuse of being arrogant. That's an indication to me that they have no response to

my analysis. A trick of people who don't have answers is to become personal.

TT: Provost Brown has made comments about separating the government and MIT. Comments?

Postol: You can't separate the government and MIT. Mr. Brown's statement is ridiculous and false. Lincoln is operated by law by MIT. Brown has direct responsibilities for overseeing the lab. If he doesn't adequately investigate, he himself can be accused of being part of the criminal activities, provided he is aware of what is happening. I know he knows because I repeatedly told him in letters. The lab manipulated data and produced a fraudulent report and misled federal investigation through [it]. It's obstruction of justice, and I've repeatedly told d'Arbeloff, Vest, and Brown. They are really playing with fire.

TT: If you were placed in entire control of the fraud case, and all problems with confiden-

tiality were waived, what procedures would you hope to have happen?

Postol: First I think it's very important that everyone understands that confidentiality has been used as a device to cover up misconduct on the part of the MIT Corporation. This is no different from when the Church used confidentiality about claims that certain priests were engaging in sexual acts with kids. There are legitimate reasons for confidentiality in some cases, but not this one. The fact that Vest knew that fraud occurred and didn't take action is not a matter of confidentiality.

TT: So what would you like to see happen?

Postol: My view now is different from the view when I started. When I started, I thought MIT should correct the record of what they did and write the Department of Justice and Department of Defense correcting the record, since they knowingly misled a Federal investigation. Now I'm not so sure that's enough. The ways this thing has been handled by the MIT Corporation are so serious and blatantly against their supposed principles that something far more reaching will have to happen. I think it's very possible that something will happen.

TT: What country do you consider to be the greatest threat to the U.S., and how should we go about countering it?

Postol: The threat is clear. It's from North Korea. I think it's very serious, and the Bush administration is not treating this matter with nearly the amount of attention that it merits. I don't agree with the Secretary of State, who says that since they already have some nuclear weapons, it doesn't matter if they have more. It does matter because if they have more, they can attack more. The administration is totally focused on having a war with Iraq that is not even close to justified given the threat. I was for the Gulf War because I believed Hussein was too well-armed and too interested in weapons of mass destruction. He no longer has that capability and the real threat is in North Korea. It'd be very difficult for us to be in two wars given the resources. It looks like [Bush] has decided to punt on the most serious threat while he engages in a war of choice.

TT: Any final thoughts?

Postol: I'm looking forward to going back to MIT in early May and continuing to pursue this matter if it's not finished with by then.

## 'Virtual Reality' System on its Way to Z-Center

### CycleScore integrates exercise machines with video game-like competition

By Ricarose Roque

STAFF WRITER

Imagine yourself running at a steady pace on a steep slope only to be outrun by a runner to your left. Suddenly, a mass of runners passes by you. Shocked, disgusted, and being a competitive member of the MIT community, you quicken your pace. No, this scenario is not happening on your local neighborhood hill — it is all occurring in the comfortable confines of the new Zesiger Sports and Fitness Center, courtesy of CycleScore.

"The classic approach of exercise machines provide users with physiological monitors to check your heart rate and such," said Harris A. Rabin G, a creator of CycleScore. "We want to make exercising more fun and engaging."

For those of you who haven't yet made the effort to become a part of the sweating and calorie-burning masses at the Z-Center, get ready to be enticed by CycleScore, a new iCampus project that combines the competitiveness of sport and the technology of gaming to transform the passive routine of working out in the gym.

With the help of a \$30,000 grant from the Microsoft/MIT iCampus alliance, Rabin and his fellow CycleScore creators Doron Harlev G and Joseph Heitzeberg G are looking to create a more interactive and entertaining experience in hopes of encouraging more people to go to the gym. All three creators are Sloan students.

"With exercise, a person can deal with stress better and think more clearly," Heitzeberg said. "We believe our project has the potential to enhance the collective brainpower of MIT."

The team received the grant from iCampus last December and will initiate their project this February. It will continue through the rest

of the year.

#### Z-Center: the next game system

The idea for the project started out from casual conversations about enhancing the gym experience, but the project soon evolved into higher-level concepts that involved changing the way people exercise.

"We all sat in a room together and brainstormed, comparing the qualities of playing a sport like basketball to the qualities of exercising on machines such as treadmills," Heitzeberg said.

The team settled on a concept for their project to create a more appealing and motivational way to exercise, injecting into gyms the drive of competition.

"We plan to create a hardware and software system that will interface with existing exercise equipment such as treadmills and the cycle machines that allows you to compete in a sport-like fashion with other people in the gym," Rabin said. "This allows a more immersive and interactive experience."

To implement their project, the team has invited the help of Tim Moore, the general manager of the Zesiger Sports and Fitness Center, and the Kim B. Blair, director of the Center for Sports Innovation in the aeronautics and astronautics department. The team will also look for software and hardware engineers, including UROP students with the needed expertise.

"We will look exclusively into the MIT community to develop this project," Rabin said.

#### Xbox enters the scene

For their first market study, the team will install the Xbox game system to a couple of cycle machines.

"We will first see how people interact with

the game system while they exercise," Heitzeberg said. "We then find out what kind of experience or activity is suited for that exer-

cise."

Initially, the Xbox system will simply include a TV, a game, the system, and controllers for the people to use while on the cycle machine.

"Later we will put those controllers aside and instead use the data to input information into the game from the machines, such as your speed, to control the outcome of the game," Rabin said.

The Xbox will be set up on the second floor of the Z-Center as soon as possible, said Heitzeberg. The team will test different types of games and participants will have limitless play in exchange for filling out a survey.

#### System coming to a gym near you

"Eventually, we'd like our project to spread to fitness centers everywhere," Heitzeberg said.

At the end of the project, the creators hope to develop final a product that can be used by other gyms.

"Most importantly, we want to see how people react to CycleScore," Harlev said.

The team has also formed Students for Sports Innovation to gather students and faculty from all departments with an interest in sports technology. Working alongside Blair, the team hopes to organize a Sports Technology conference later this year.

"We want to attract like-minded people," Heitzeberg said. "When we leave the Institute, we want projects like CycleScore to continue on."



ERIC J. CHOLANKERIL—THE TECH

Kyle R. Steinfeld G and Chester K. Bai G work off a few calories on the Zesiger Center treadmills. Creators of the CycleScore iCampus project hope to make exercising on machines in the Z-Center a more interactive and competitive experience.

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## Gadget Review

### Heart Rate Monitor from Sigma Sport

By Kailas Narendran  
STAFF WRITER

I like to exercise. I like to exert myself and push my body to its limits just for kicks. I love the rush of riding down a huge slope on my mountain bike after busting a lung, barely making it up to the top. Even though my net change in potential energy is always zero after a ride, the burn in my muscles and my pounding heart tell me that I've somehow actually accomplished something.

With the opening of the new Z-center, I've seen a huge increase in the number of people in the MIT population that seem to be interested in exerting themselves for fun. I've been a regular of the exercise room ever since it was a dank dungeon with an eclectic soundtrack.

Since the opening of the new room, I've been waiting to see the surge of new faces peter out, but it hasn't happened. I came to the amazing revelation that members of the MIT population might actually be interested in health training products, so I decided to check out the PC1600 heart rate monitor (HRM) from Sigma Sport.

#### HRM gives workout statistics

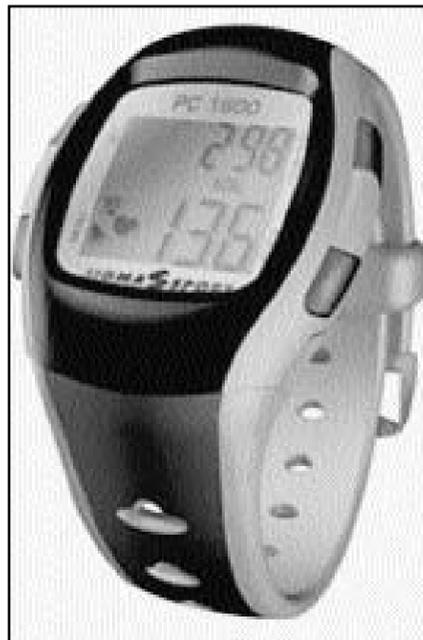
The PC1600 HRM is a new device that gives you all sorts of statistics about your heart rate and work out. The system comes in two parts: a pretty ugly-looking watch on your wrist which acts as the user interface and displays exercise statistic readouts, and the heart rate sensor that you strap around your torso below your breasts. As you work out, the device keeps track of your heart rate, monitors zones of activity, calculates calories burned, etc. It has quite a bit of functionality beyond that of the HRMs available through the handles on most aerobic exercise equipment.

My only experience with HRMs before

the PC1600 was the type integrated into most elliptical walkers, treadmills, or other exercise equipment. I was fascinated by the fact my heart rate would jump around more than the crowd at a Cypress Hill concert.

#### Avoiding flatlining during exercise

With traditional HRMs, many times I would flatline, and then return from death magically by the end of my workout. I attribute this to the fact that the system looks for tiny electrical potentials generated across my body as my heart beats. If the connection



SIGMA SPORT

The user interface for the Sigma PC1600 heart rate monitor is worn on the wrist like a watch and displays heart rate and workout statistics.

between my hands and the handles isn't good enough, the reading is erroneous.

The PC1600 tries to circumvent this problem by strapping the pickups to your torso. The trade-off is that the pickup pads on the torso strap need to be moist (not really a problem since people generally sweat while working out).

The bigger problem I had with this system was that it's really annoying to have a strap across your chest. I sweat a lot, and I didn't appreciate the large, extra sweaty stripe across my midsection. In addition, the shape of my body encourages the torso strap to slide down around my stomach.

I had a very hard time with the interface for the PC1600. The display is pretty small, and the buttons are not very easy to reach while you're in mid-stride. Navigating the interface menus is like setting the time on a cereal box watch from the mid-80s. There's no nice alphanumeric readout that tells you exactly what the HRM thinks its doing, which resulted in a lot of confusion for me.

#### Sigma gives bang for the buck

Despite the interface problems, the Sigma Sport line of HRMs gives you the most number of features for your dollar.

Comparable HRMs from other brands retail for upwards of \$70, where the PC800, the introductory HRM from Sigma Sport, is only \$60. I found that the system wasn't too comfortable, and the benefits were marginal (uncomfortable and hard to read) if you are just using the equipment in a gym. While monitoring your heart rate is key for effective fitness training, a wearable HRM might not be worth the cost and effort unless you're exercising outside.

The Sigma Sport line of HRMs runs from \$60-\$80. You can find out more information at <<http://www.sigmasport.com>>.

## Ask SIPB

#### STUDENT INFORMATION PROCESSING BOARD

With all the publicly available computers at MIT, it's very convenient to quickly stop by one and do some work. But if you don't have an Athena machine at home, moving files back and forth can be a challenge. This week's column covers transferring files between Athena and other computers.

**Question:** What settings should I use to connect to Athena remotely?

**Answer:** To connect to Athena using SSH, SFTP, or SCP, you can connect to the hostname "athena.dialup.mit.edu".

**Question:** How can I use my Public and www directories to share files with other people?

**Answer:** By default, your Athena account has two directories, the Public and www directories, pre-configured to share files with other people.

The www directory is primarily intended to be used as a web page. Anything you put in that directory is publicly accessible, and can be accessed with the URLs:

<<http://web.mit.edu/username/www/>> and <<http://www.mit.edu/~username/>>

The Public directory is primarily intended to be used to share files through Athena. Anything you put in that directory is also publicly accessible. To get to someone's Public directory, type:

```
athena% cd ~username/Public
Public directories can also be accessed at the URL:
<http://web.mit.edu/username/Public/>.
```

If for some reason your Public or www directories are missing or misconfigured, you can restore them with the following:

```
athena% cd
athena% mkdir Public
athena% mkdir www
athena% fs sa -dir Public -
acl system:anyuser rl
```

```
athena% fs sa -dir www -acl
system:anyuser rl
```

**Question:** How can I use an SFTP client like SecureFX or a Kerberized FTP client like FileZilla to transfer files to and from Athena?

**Answer:** Both SecureFX and FileZilla act as regular FTP clients, but they also support secure connections. You can connect to Athena using the settings given above, and you will connect securely.

With either program, you can simply drag files between your local file listing and the remote Athena file listing, and the file will be transfer, just as you would with a regular FTP client.

With FileZilla, you must have Kerberos tickets, which you can obtain with Leash32. If you do not have Kerberos tickets, you will not be able to connect.

You can obtain Kerberos Leash32, FileZilla, and SecureFX from the MIT software site at <<http://web.mit.edu/software/>>.

**Question:** How can I use SCP to transfer files to and from Athena?

**Answer:** SCP (Secure CoPy) is a secure alternative for copying files between computers, and has now replaced FTP as a method of file transfer to and from Athena. SCP uses the secure shell (SSH) for authentication and encryption, so you can use it with any UNIX host configured to accept SSH connections, such as the Athena dialup machines.

SCP is available on Unix machines, including Athena. Third-party software, such as PSCP (included with Putty, an SSH client), will also allow you to use SCP on other operating systems.

To use SCP you first specify which file you want to transfer, then specify your username and the host to which you are transferring, and finally the intended location of the file:

```
scp foo.txt username@athena.
```

```
dialup.mit.edu:/afs/athena.mit.edu/user/u/s/username/foo.txt
```

More information is available at <[http://web.mit.edu/acs/faq/remote\\_access/filetransfer.html](http://web.mit.edu/acs/faq/remote_access/filetransfer.html)>.

**Question:** How can I use AFS to transfer files between my personal computer and Athena?

**Answer:** Athena uses a file system known as AFS. With AFS, you can work with files as if they were stored locally, without having to worry about transferring files between different systems. Out of all the options given above, AFS is the easiest method of working with files on Athena and on your personal computer.

AFS, however, is very complicated to install and configure properly, especially on Windows. Consequently, it is recommended that only computer-savvy users attempt to install AFS. If you wish to install AFS, go to <<http://www.openafs.org/>> and download OpenAFS and install it.

After installing OpenAFS, you can then work with files normally. On Unix machines, your home directory is /afs/athena.mit.edu/user/u/s/username, where u is the first letter of your username, and s is the second letter of your username. On Windows, you can configure a drive letter for your home directory, and for the AFS root file system (or any other AFS location).

**Question:** Is it possible to access files shared by my Windows machine from Athena, such as MP3s?

**Answer:** This is possible on Linux-Athena machines. In the clusters, the Dell and IBM machines are running Linux-Athena. Linux-Athena is based on Redhat Linux, and includes a collection of programs called Samba. Samba is used to share files and printers with Windows.

To access your fileshare from an Athena machine using these instructions,

you will need root access to the machine. There are other methods which work without root access, using the program smbclient, which we will not cover. To become root on an Athena machine, type su at the athena% prompt, and enter the root password. To find the root password on a public cluster machine, run tellme root at the prompt. For a non-public machine, you must find out the root password from an administrator. Once you are root, your prompt should change to something like bash-2.05a#.

Once you are root, you can mount your windows fileshare using the smbmount command. First you need to create a mount point, an empty directory where the share will appear. The name of the mount point doesn't matter, but it must be a new, empty directory. For example:

```
bash-2.05a# mkdir /tmp/windows
```

Now use smbmount to mount the fileshare. smbmount takes two arguments. The first is the path to the "service" you are mounting. The second is the mount point you created above. To mount this share, run:

```
bash-2.05a# smbmount //machinename.mit.edu/sharename /tmp/windows
```

This will prompt you for a password. By default, smbmount will use your username to connect. To use a different username, add -o username=myname to the end of the smbmount command, replacing myname with the username you want to use.

For more information about the other options to smbmount, run man smbmount. For information about other Samba tools see their Web site at <<http://samba.org/>>.

To ask us a question, send e-mail to sipb@mit.edu. We'll try to answer you quickly, and we might address your question in our next column.

Copies of each column and pointers to additional information will be posted on our Web site: <<http://web.mit.edu/asksipb>>.

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just call it

# THE ARTS

## FILM REVIEW ★★

### 25th Hour Should Be Lee's Last

#### Good Character Sketches at Expense of Storytelling

By Jed Horne

STAFF WRITER

25th Hour

Written by David Benioff

Directed by Spike Lee

Starring Edward Norton, Philip Seymour Hoffman, Barry Pepper, Rosario Dawson, Anna Paquin, and Brian Cox

Rated R

Spike Lee might be just about the biggest fraud in the movie industry. Apart from celebrity appearances at Knicks games and the occasional self-righteous racial commentary, it's hard to say exactly how he earned his reputation as an important filmmaker.

Sure, *She's Gotta Have It* and *Do the Right Thing* were good movies, but you'd think that twelve years later he'd figure out how to tell a

story rather than just sketch characters. His latest "joint," *25th Hour*, is no exception. It's a thoughtful, interesting premise given to talented actors who can't make themselves heard over the cacophony of a nonexistent plot and garbled political statements.

Edward Norton stars as Monty Brogan, an ex-drug dealer who gets busted on the day he's ready to give up his past life. Left with twenty-four hours before a certain jail sentence, he has a tough agenda: straighten things with his friends and enemies, and of course discover who sold him out.

As other critics have noted, the film's most striking characteristic is its backdrop post-9/11 New York City. Its plot is constructed as a loose montage of typical New York characters. Monty's two best friends are an investment banker and a Jewish trust-fund kid who teaches prep school. His father owns an Irish

pub, and his girlfriend is Puerto Rican. Who turned Monty in? Can he settle old scores?

The problem with *25th Hour*, and Spike Lee joints in general, is the absence of a story. The closest parallel is Lee's 1999 movie *Summer of Sam*, a film about an equally weird moment in New York City's history. With an impressionistic approach to storytelling no less ambitious than that of *25th Hour*, *Summer of Sam* falls equally flat when a plot fails to materialize after an hour and a half.

Thanks to an accomplished cadre of actors, however, this film isn't quite as bad as *Summer of Sam*. Edward Norton turns a typically impressive performance (although just about anyone would be less annoying than John Leguizamo's character in *Summer of Sam*). Phillip Seymour Hoffman, while typecast in his role as the overweight school teacher, is one of my favorite actors. Monty's dad is played by Brian Cox, who should have won an Oscar for his role in last year's *L.I.E.* and lends an air of sobriety to every movie he's ever been in.

Also to Lee's credit, the September 11th aspect of the plot, which could have proved irritating, was done reasonably well. It provided, for me at least, the first time I could look at America's reaction to the attacks with anything other than detached wonder and occasional disgust. Though it was perhaps a trifle manipulative, the film has at least changed that I look at Pakistani cab drivers waving American flags.

But, like much of the disjointed grief that resulted on that morning, *25th Hour* is hard to put together in a meaningful way. As an homage to New York City, it succeeds. But homages are not very interesting, or original. Beyond that, it's hard to tell exactly what the movie was aiming for.

All the elements are there. The actors are great. The plot has promise. The setting is strange (and immediate) enough. It's just too bad that Spike Lee can't harvest all that creative energy and tell a story for once.



DAVID LEE, SMPSP

Edward Norton stars as Monty Brogan, a drug dealer on the verge of seven years of imprisonment, in Spike Lee's newest film, *25th Hour*.

## RENTAL ADVISORY

### Yet Another Love Story

#### Guess Who's Coming To Dinner: Moralistic and Unrealistic

By Amandeep Loomba

STAFF WRITER

This is the first installment of *Rental Guidance*, a new column that aims to guide you in your weekly selection at the video store (*Hollywood Express*, not *Blockbuster*; or if you must, *NetFlix*). By distilling each film to a single moment of importance, the column aims to present the sort of economical viewing strategy that time-strapped MIT students are forced to employ in their film appreciation.

*Guess Who's Coming to Dinner*, the Stanley Kramer-directed picture with the tagline "a love story of today," triumphantly brings down racism in a fashion that leaves the viewer feeling less than fulfilled. Here we have what Hollywood refers to as a "message picture," one that bothers to deal with "issues." Indeed, the film is very upfront in its treatment of race, liberalism and hypocrisy. And you might think its message is ultimately noble — or simply self-aggrandizing. But no one will ever say that the film tells a realistic story.

The interracial love between John Prentice (the god-like character whose tragic flaw is his race, played by Sidney Poitier) and Joey Drayton (the perfectly innocent daughter of white liberals, played by Katharine Houghton) is far too ideal to manifest itself in the real world. And while the conflicts the couple faces are real, the ultimate solution that the two reach is not. The film is fondly remembered by many for its climactic monologue, delivered with great passion and conviction by Spencer Tracy (his last lines on film, ever), as Joey Drayton's father. As we watch the aging, white liberal come to terms with his daughter's choice of a black man as her husband and lover, it is clear that we have reached the film's emotional breakpoint. If up until now you have felt that the interracial marriage was wrong, this is where you start to think: Maybe it's all right after

all. If you were rooting for the young couple the whole time, this is where you start to think: Maybe people can change their views. Or something along those lines.

Or, that's just what you were meant to think. Thirty-five years after its initial release, no one will say the film has aged well. It's a sweet picture, but it's not a great picture. Released in a year that saw a good number of films with something relevant to say and, more importantly, a relevant way of saying it (*Bonnie and Clyde*, *The Graduate*, *Two for the Road*), *Guess Who's Coming to Dinner* just seems to lack the sophisticated complexity in both content and form of its 1967 companions. Race certainly remains a relevant issue, but the film's treatment lacks just enough realism to consign it to irrelevance.

The scene that still resonates with the times has much less to do with race. When John Prentice finally gets his father aside from everyone else to have a private conversation, he ignites. Poitier's fiery words form an angry harangue against his father's belief that by marrying a white girl, he is somehow betraying his family:

"You listen to me. You say you don't want to tell me how to live my life. So what do you think you've been doing? You tell me what rights I've got or haven't got, and what I owe to you for what you've done for me. Let me tell you something: I owe you nothing!"

That Poitier manages to impart the statement "I owe you nothing!" without any malice, and only desperation and compassion, is itself an achievement. But the greatest thing about this scene is that it succinctly brings out all of the classic issues of the parent-child conflict. Poitier's character is over 30, has already been married once and has a well-established career. He is by all means an adult. Yet he somehow still finds it necessary to engage in the struggle of making his parents understand that he can act as an individual.

There is something exciting and pleasing about hearing a grown man lament his relationship with his parents by imparting the classically rebellious statements of teens everywhere:

"But you don't own me! You can't tell me when or where I'm out of line, or try to get me to live my life according to your rules. You don't even know what I am, Dad, you don't know who I am. You don't know how I feel, what I think. And if I tried to explain it to you for the rest of your life, you would never understand."

Hearing Poitier elucidate the grievances of youth pulls the film off of its platform of ideals and ideologies, back into the real world. No matter how strongly or perfectly Poitier portrays his character, he still can't convince his dad that he knows what he's doing.

Poitier concludes the outburst by slowing down and delivering one of the film's famously endearing lines: "Dad, you're my father. I'm your son. I love you. I always have and I always will. But you think of yourself as a colored man. I think of myself as a man."

It is impossible to watch the film and leave content with the resolution of the whole affair. Mentions are made of the troubles that the mixed couple will face, but it seems we're to assume that love will conquer them all. The idealism of the children conveniently bleeds into the parents' long-dry liberal veins. Poitier's character strikes a blow for the younger side of the ongoing child-parent struggle, and Katharine Hepburn wins an Academy Award.

But it seems like any credit we give to the picture for the way it deals with "issues" are just attempts to convince ourselves that these issues can even be raised, or that they can be examined as simply as they are in the picture. The truth is that *Guess Who's Coming to Dinner* is not "a love story of today," of yesterday, or of any other day. It's just another love story.

## CD REVIEW

### Common

### Uncommon

#### Not Just Any Old Hip-Hop

By Ashley Robinson

Electric Circus

Common

MCA

Dec. 10, 2002

Ever feel that if you hear Nelly talk about his Air Force Ones again or J. Lo remind you one more time that she's from "the block" you are going to hurl? I mean, this music is okay — you'll bob your head, shake your butt, and sing along, but that's about it, folks. For all of us craving music that reflects creativity, passion, and truth, you don't have to wait anymore. Common's new album *Electric Circus* has rolled into town and presents a musical treat for those bored with the cookie-cutter mess that fills our radio stations these days.

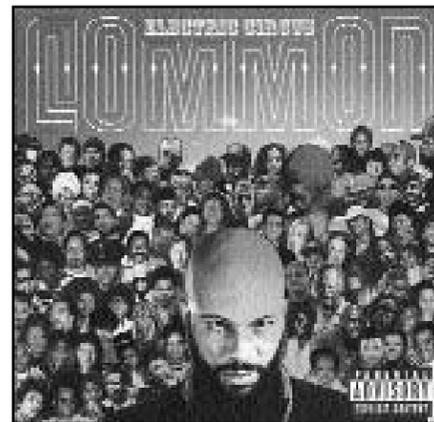
Common delivers his patented brand of laid-back, socially conscious lyrics, but don't mistake this for a repeat of his previous four albums. Common takes us to a new place where R&B and rap fuse with '70s soul, a touch of rock 'n' roll, and a sprinkle of '30s flavor for good measure. Usually when an artist decides to "experiment," there is cause for concern, but Common manages to step outside of the boundaries without falling off the edge.

And he can flow too. I'm not talking about the nursery rhymes most present-day rappers recite. His words are poetry, pure and simple. He does the unthinkable in the rap world by not once objectifying women or mentioning his "ride," "crib," "gear," or "bling-bling" — in other words, material possessions, for those who have not yet taken Hip-Hop (21M.775).

Then what on earth does he talk about for over an hour? He touches on life, death, love, freedom, fears, and hope in a way that inspires and enlightens listeners while they nod their heads to the funky beats.

Most tracks are either written or produced by the one and only ?uestlove from The Roots. Guest artists include Common's own father Lonnie "Pops" Lynn, Queen of R&B Mary J. Blige, P.O.D.'s Sonny, Jill Scott, Common's rumored fiancée Erykah Badu, and many more.

The album opens with "Ferris Wheel," which features circus sounds and interesting beats. Over these beats, guest artist Vinia Monica sets the mood for the album with a mellow tune sung in an African language. Immediately following is "Soul Power," which lets the listen-



A musician with talent and an unusual style, Common puts a unique spin on hip-hop in his latest album, *Electric Circus*.

er know right then and there that they have never heard anything like *Electric Circus*. At first, the unique but simple beat shocks those used to the generic stock of over-sampled sounds, but as soon as Common starts to rhyme it all falls into place.

"Come Close," featuring Mary J. Blige, sets the mood for couples as Common demonstrates he's not afraid to show his soft side. Another highlight of this album is "Between Me, You, and Liberation." You'll definitely be reaching for a tissue as Common explores themes like rape, disease, and homosexuality.

Trust me. *Electric Circus* is more entertaining than the Ringling Brothers and Barnum and Bailey. Common is a true artist. He's not in it for the money or the fame; he doesn't follow the pack; and he's not going to trade in his originality for a slot on TRL. He simply loves his craft and it shows in all of his music from the lines to the beats. It's been a long time since an album like *Electric Circus* has come along. Don't miss out!

# Students Share Stories of Attempts to Return to U.S.

By Michelle Povinelli  
STAFF REPORTER

"If I was to look back now and remake my decision, I definitely wouldn't have chosen the U.S. [for medical school]," said Sudanese student Saria M. Hassan G, who did her undergraduate degree at MIT in biology and is now in the Harvard-MIT Health Sciences and Technology program.

Hassan was delayed for two months last summer while applying for a renewal of her visa.

"I'm now stuck here until I finish my education, without seeing my family for four years, and I wouldn't have had that kind of problem if I had gone to the United Kingdom," she said.

After finishing her first year of medical school, Hassan traveled to Senegal to teach a 10-day workshop as part of her laboratory research on malaria. As a Sudanese student, she is issued a visa that lasts only six months. "Basically, every time I leave the country, I have to renew my visa," she said.

International students must renew their visas by applying in person at a U.S. embassy or consulate outside of the United States. When Hassan applied for her visa in Italy, where she is a legal resident, she was told that as a result of a recent change in security procedures, her

application would be sent to Washington, D.C. for a background check.

"No one had any idea of how long this background check could take," Hassan said. Because she did not know when she would receive U.S. security clearance, she said, she did not want to leave Italy or go back to visit her family in Sudan. "Each day, you can't go anywhere — you have to sit next to the phone."

Meanwhile, her medical school classes had started. Hassan said that she tried to keep up with class material over the Internet, and even took a neuroscience exam from Italy. "It was two months before they called me to say your visa was here," she said.

By the time she got back to Boston, it was too late in the semester for her to catch up. She is now taking an unplanned year off from medical school, working in her lab on her thesis research.

Several MIT students are still stuck outside of the country, waiting for security clearance. "Five who originally applied in the summer to renew their student visas are still undergoing administrative review," said Danielle Guichard-Ashbrook, director of the International Students Office and associate dean for graduate students.

## Int'l's undergo security clearance

Most international students are

given visas that are valid for one to five years, depending on what country they are from. After their visas expire, students must obtain a new visa if they wish to leave and re-enter the United States. The visa renewal process ordinarily takes about three weeks.

However, for students like Hassan whose applications are sent for security clearance, the process can take much longer. Visa applications for students from countries designated by the attorney general as "state sponsors of terrorism" are generally sent for security clearance. These countries include Iran, Iraq, Libya, Sudan, and Syria. Students from other countries can also be selected for administrative review, including those from such countries as China, Russia, and Egypt.

Guichard-Ashbrook said approximately 100 of the 1,600 MIT international students who traveled and applied for new visas over the last summer experienced delays.

These delays ranged from four weeks to five months, with the students from China, Russia, Lebanon, and Iran encountering the longest waits, she said.

"The need for some additional security checks on visa applicants is all part of increased national security procedures that have gone into place since 9/11," said Stuart Patt, spokesman for the consular affairs bureau of the U.S. State Department. "The students who are affected will have their applications considered by intelligence and law enforcement agencies here in Washington [D.C.] to see if there is any information already in the government that would reflect on their eligibility for a visa."

## Long security delays affect studies

Ali Khakifirooz G, a PhD student in the Department of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science, went home to Iran in late May to get married. He has now been delayed for seven months, and does not know if he will be able to finish his degree at MIT.

"Right now, I am hoping that somehow, sometime, I am able to get back," said Khakifirooz. "As far as I know, many [Iranian] students who applied in early summer are waiting. This includes both new students and returning ones."

The State Department said that the delay caused by security clearance is currently a month in most cases. However, visa applicants from countries considered to be state sponsors of terrorism will have longer delays.

"Seven months is probably on the outside, but it would not be

unusual for such a case to take three or four months, or more," Patt said.

## Time spent researching, worrying

Lebanese student Fadi P. Kanaan G, an entering PhD student at the Sloan School, had to wait almost six months for security clearance before he could return to the United States. He was previously an undergraduate at Yale.

"I complained a lot during my waiting period," said Kanaan, "and not just because I was waiting for the rest of my life to go on, but also because I was afraid of getting drafted into the [Lebanese] army."

Several students described their efforts to continue their academic work while delayed. Khakifirooz is spending his time working in the laboratory at the University of Tehran where he did his masters' thesis. "I cannot do much related to my work at MIT, but at least this gives me a feeling that I am still alive," he said.

Loss of funding status is also a source of concern for students who are delayed. Egyptian student Waleed A. Farahat G said that when his visa was delayed, he worried that his advisor would say that he needed "a student who was guaranteed to come."

Hassan's delay disrupted her housing arrangements. While stuck in Italy, she was unable to move out of her dormitory and had already signed the lease on a new apartment in the U.S. "That's almost \$1,000 worth of rent that was completely unnecessary," she said.

## MIT helpless to influence process

Students who experienced delays said that their main frustration was not knowing how long the background checking procedure might take, leaving them unable to make housing, research, and travel plans.

After his application was sent to Washington, D.C., Farahat said that "things seemed like they had gone in a black hole. There was no information whatsoever; the embassy did not know what the status of our applications were. No one knew how to follow up or to get any response." Farahat received his clearance after a month.

MIT administrators said that they can not do anything to expedite the background check process. "Once it goes to Washington, there's nothing MIT can do," said Guichard-Ashbrook.

"We're not invited to be involved in the process in any way," said Isaac M. Colbert, dean for graduate students. "We're told it's a matter of national security interest." Colbert said that his office has advised faculty not to call their sen-

ators on behalf of students who are delayed, since it could slow the process down.

## Some int'l students stuck in U.S.

For students from countries such as the Sudan and Iran, leaving the country for scientific conferences, vacation, or visiting family is becoming more difficult. "If something happened — one of your family was sick or going to die — it's the worst feeling in the world to feel like you can't go home," said Bahareh Banijamali G.

"Visiting our families was difficult before, but now it's almost impossible," Khakifirooz said. "I have to choose between being stuck here at home or in the U.S., between forgetting my research or forgetting my family. Even if I get my visa, I have no idea if my wife would be able to get a visa."

One Middle Eastern student who had experienced visa delays said that his experience had not changed his attitude toward living in the U.S. "I don't think that the U.S. has become a xenophobic country, but I do think there is a problem with the bureaucracy, and it can't handle the number of people who have to go through this process."

## Missing students slow research

Dimitri A. Antoniadis, professor of electrical engineering and computer science, is Khakifirooz's research advisor. "From the faculty standpoint these delays are causing major problems," he said, "particularly when they involve advanced graduate students that are already integral parts of research programs, and therefore not easily replaceable."

Paul T. Konkola G works closely with a student who has been out of the country for four months because of visa delays. "There is zero chance of him being a security threat," Konkola said.

Konkola said that having a co-worker gone has had a big impact on his own research. "Not having him here cost me months of time, and I'm not very happy about that," he said. "There are projects where graduate students rely on other people to make systems work. ... When one person goes away, it puts a big burden on other students."

## MIT policy set by departments

Colbert said that whether a student is able to return to their program after a delay is decided on a case-by-case basis by his or her department and research advisor. "In some cases, a student could come late and recover. In other cases, it may be better for that individual to wait until the beginning of the next term, or the next year," Colbert said.

Continuing graduate students can be affected by the loss of their stipends while delayed outside the country. Their department "may be willing to support a student," said Colbert, "but these issues are completely in the hands of the faculty, because the resources are local, not institutional."

Colbert compared the situation of a student stuck abroad to that of any other student who has to leave MIT for some time. "It's usually impossible for that person, who's out for a year or so, to come back to the same research project. These situations are analogous," he said.

## Int'l's challenge security measures

Some students feel that security procedures put into place since 9/11 are targeting the wrong people. "It's [President] Bush and [Attorney General] Ashcroft trying to amplify fears by using international students," Konkola said. "The odds of someone at MIT performing a terrorist act are miniscule."

"You're targeting the wrong people in the end," Hassan said. "You're targeting people who are trying to get a good education so they can go back home and change things." Referring to the difficulty of getting and renewing visas, she said, "It's going to discourage international students from coming here."

## One Student's Story

By Michelle Povinelli  
STAFF REPORTER

When Solomon Assefa G went home to visit his family in Ethiopia last summer, he made sure to get letters from both the electrical engineering department and the International Students Office saying that he was a full-time graduate student in good standing. But when he went to his visa appointment at the U.S. embassy in Addis Ababa, he was told that he would need to come back with a copy of his MIT transcript to complete his application.

Assefa had no problem getting the transcript; the problem was getting back inside the embassy building to turn it in. "The guards feel very powerful — they're armed," said Assefa. "If they get some money, they choose people to get in and get their visas."

After over a month of effort, Assefa said, he was finally able to get through to the consular officials by telephone to schedule another appointment, at which point the guards let him into the building. "It shows there is a huge breakdown in communication — the guards are Ethiopian, and the people who work inside are Americans," he said.

Like other Ethiopian students, Assefa was issued a visa that is only valid for one year. "I want to go visit this summer, for at least two or three weeks, and I may be facing the same situation," he said.

Although an international student can legally remain in the United States after his or her visa expires, he or she cannot leave and return without renewing the visa. "I can't even travel to Canada or anywhere," Assefa said. "If I wanted to participate in a conference out of this country, it would be very difficult."

Assefa said that more should be done to help international students feel comfortable. "We're here legally, you know, not illegally, and doing good stuff," he said. "We should be able to feel secure."

## STUDENT TRAVEL

**spring break**



Jamaica.....	\$728
Cancun.....	\$649
Amsterdam...	\$509
Paris.....	\$485

Includes air & accommodations. Group rates. Price per person. Some taxes & fees are included. Other discounts also available.

MIT Student Center  
W20-024

(617) 225.2555



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## MIT Department of FACILITIES

### CAMPUS CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

**Simmons Hall**  
For enhanced security, the safety office has requested that the lowest row of windows on each floor be limited to a four inch opening. The new window hardware will be installed this month. A temporary card swipe has been installed at the front entrance of the building; a more permanent system will be in place soon.

**Vassar Street**  
Pedestrians will also cross to the south sidewalk between buildings 44 and 45. The pedestrian route from the Albany St. garage through Building 34 to the main campus will not be available. People should enter the campus using the pedestrian walkway under Building 39.

**Stata Center**  
Tunnel breakthrough to Building 26 is complete. Preparation for utility work between Building 56 and the Alumni Pool has begun.  
Building 7 ADA accessible entrance  
Work on the exterior concrete ramp and stair sections will begin soon. Work on the interior flooring is tentatively scheduled for January 17-21. During this time, there will be no access to the Building 7 elevator at the lower level. The main entrance to the Heat Transfer Lab will not be available (an alternate entrance in Building 9 will be available).

**Lobby 7**  
Construction has begun on the new café and will continue for several weeks. The café is scheduled to open early next semester.

**Building E19 Renovations**  
The 11th floor of Building E19 is being converted to laboratory space for new faculty associated with the McGovern Institute for Brain Research and the Picower Center for Learning and Memory. Construction includes new ducts for supply and exhaust and plumbing installation.

For information on MIT's building program, see <http://web.mit.edu/evolving>  
This information provided by the MIT Department of Facilities

# International Students Advised to Expect Visa Delays

SEVIS, from Page 1

foreign graduates that MIT has not previously recorded. The accompanying table ("Student Events to be Reported Through SEVIS," below) summarizes the information that must be reported to SEVIS.

## Medical leave affected

Guichard-Ashbrook feels SEVIS holds the potential for misuse because it asks for student information that was previously confidential. For example, if a student is not registered for a given semester, MIT must specify whether that absence is due to medical leave or a disciplinary action. Having to specify 'medical' as a reason for missed registra-

Security is in the business of scrutiny," Guichard-Ashbrook is "very concerned about the level of scrutiny that will be involved." While she understands the logic behind tracking all visitors to the United States, Guichard-Ashbrook thinks that "the focus on students is misplaced. ... That's not where the terrorists are."

## Students encounter visa problems

In addition to having their information reported to the INS, most international students can now expect delays of weeks to months in getting a visa for travel outside the country. Any student's visa application might be sent to the State Department for a time-consuming in-depth check called an administra-

to update changes for specific individuals and for those who don't have access to WebSIS, such as dependents and recent graduates.

However, the SEVIS batch software has not been beta-tested, Guichard-Ashbrook noted, and there have been reported instances when the web-based interface has had glitches.

Christiane Struve G worries that computer bugs or human error could cause problems for international students, and hopes there will be a way for students to verify what the INS receives. "SEVIS will decide whether [an international student] stays here or not based on the information that is entered, and we don't have a way of proofreading the information that is entered," she said.

Human error in using SEVIS is also a concern. While a student enters most items in WebSIS, some are the responsibility of housemasters, registrars, faculty, and others at MIT. "Let's say that Payroll makes a mistake in telling the ISO what I really earned. ... These things can happen. Human error is a big deal," Struve said.

Guichard-Ashbrook said that scenarios like that illustrate why international students must not only keep ahead of registration deadlines themselves, but also make sure faculty and staff sign and process forms in a timely manner as well. "Students can't just sit on it the way they have before ... if you're international, you just don't have that luxury."

Struve agrees. As a graduate student, she said that she knows many peers who don't bother to register or follow school deadlines if they are only doing thesis work in the lab. Many foreign students "didn't used to pay attention to mass e-mails from the ISO ... they didn't care. They didn't have to." Now they do.

As part of the push to ready MIT for implementation of the new INS laws, Guichard-Ashbrook has been meeting with faculty, the Academic Council, dorm housemasters, the Registrar's Office, and others so that "they know what the issues are and what the severity of the consequences" is. She said that faculty and staff have been "extremely receptive."

"We hope there will be a way to correct technical violations" if they do occur, Guichard-Ashbrook said. Also, she said that MIT will not report information to SEVIS before the legally mandated 30 days after registration day. This, she hopes, will give MIT and the student time to make sure everything is in order and fix any problems that may occur, she said.

tive review.

While any student's application might trigger an administrative review, it is perhaps more likely to those from certain countries or those studying certain science or technology fields.

Difficulty obtaining a visa can mean that international students can't make travel plans in advance, and may miss parts of the school year. (See "Students Share Stories of Attempts to Return to U.S.," page 12.) Many students are electing to skip trips home or international research conferences for fear of getting stuck abroad.

## SEVIS bugs worry students

Some international students are concerned that because SEVIS has yet to be tested, a bug or human error might cause one to fall out of immigration status accidentally.

Information is sent to the SEVIS database via two methods: a batch method where information is taken directly from WebSIS, and a web-based interface ISO officials will use



MICHELLE POVINELLI—THE TECH

International students ask questions and voice their concerns during a "Homeland Security" briefing for the MIT community, held late in December.

tion, Guichard-Ashbrook said, can put a student in an "awkward position," or at a disadvantage the next time he applies to live in the U.S., because it may invite an INS interviewer to ask questions about the nature of the medical leave.

Also, the fact that SEVIS requires changes in a student's registration to be reported in real-time or even before they go into effect makes giving retroactive medical leave difficult.

"We had a lot of flexibility before in terms of retroactive registration," Guichard-Ashbrook said. For example, previously if a student came forward with mental health problems during the semester, MIT could retroactively wipe out the grades from that term since "in fact, you were sick before then," Guichard-Ashbrook said.

## Homeland security role unknown

She also wonders what role the new U.S. Department for Homeland Security will take in SEVIS. Because "the Office of Homeland

## Student Events to be Reported Through SEVIS

The following information will be reported through the Student Visitor Information System at the beginning of each term:

- Academic Admission
- Deferral of Admission
- Personal Information
- Financial Information
- Academic Program Information Updates
- Registration Each Term
- Disciplinary Action
- Program Extension
- Drop Below Full Course of Study
- Resumption of Full Course of Study
- Optional Practical Training Employment
- Curricular Practical Training Employment
- Off-Campus Employment
- Premature Termination of Studies
- Completion of Studies Program
- Bring Dependent(s) to U.S.
- Update Dependent(s) Information
- Departure of Dependent(s)
- Re-entry of Dependent(s)

SOURCE: MIT INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS OFFICE

## Important Dates For Foreign Students

### Oct. 26, 2001:

Enactment of USA PATRIOT Act of 2001.

### January 2002:

Two supplemental non-immigrant student visa applications now used for males aged 16-45.

### April 2002:

Changes in regulations about third-country non-immigrant visa applications in U.S. Consulates in Canada.

### May 14, 2002:

ISEAS (Interim Student Exchange Visitor Authentication System) created. Requires schools to provide "electronic evidence" about every student they expect will be applying for a new or renewal student visa.

### July 2002:

Administrative reviews conducted at the State Department in Washington, D.C. for some student visa applicants. While any application can trigger an administrative review, students from the following countries receive one automatically: Afghanistan, Algeria, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Cuba, Djibouti, Egypt, Eritrea, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Malaysia, Morocco, North Korea, Oman, Pakistan, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, Sudan, Syria, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates, Yemen, and Gaza and the West Bank.

### Nov. 25, 2002:

President Bush signs the Homeland Security Act of 2002, creating the federal Department of Homeland Security. The Student Exchange Visitor Information System (SEVIS) will fall under the department's jurisdiction.

### Dec. 13, 2002:

MIT ISO holds its first information session for international students.

### Dec. 16, 2002:

Deadline for special registration for citizens/nationals of Iran, Iraq, Libya, Sudan, and Syria as part of the NSEERS (National Student Entry-Exit Registration System).

### Dec. 17, 2002:

MIT ISO holds its second information session for international students.

### Dec. 19, 2002:

MIT ISO holds its third information session for international students.

### Jan. 10, 2003:

NSEERS deadline for special registration for citizens/nationals from: Afghanistan, Algeria, Bahrain, Eritrea, Lebanon, Morocco, North Korea, Oman, Qatar, Somalia, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates, and Yemen.

### Jan. 30, 2003:

SEVIS goes into effect nationwide.

### Feb. 21, 2003:

NSEERS deadline for special registration for citizens/nationals from Saudi Arabia and Pakistan.

### Spring 2003:

IPASS (Interagency Panel for Science and Security) under development. President Bush announced plans to create IPASS on May 7, 2002, as a security clearance for foreign students who want to conduct research in fields "uniquely available" in the U.S.

SOURCE: MIT INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS OFFICE

## MIT Washington Summer Internship Program

### Final Information Sessions

<b>Thursday, Jan. 16th</b>	<b>Wednesday, Jan. 22nd</b>	<b>Tuesday, Jan. 28th</b>
<b>3:00 pm</b>	<b>10:00 am</b>	<b>1:00 pm</b>
<b>4-145</b>	<b>4-145</b>	<b>4-145</b>

MIT Undergraduates!

Apply your scientific and technical training to public policy issues. If you're selected to participate in this program you'll receive a paid policy internship in the offices of government agencies, the private sector and advocacy groups. Complementing the summer internship are a trip to DC during spring break and a 12 unit HASS seminar on policymaking that meets before and after the summer internship.

Past summer interns have worked in the White House Office of Science & Technology, the Office of the First Lady, the House of Representatives Science Committee, the US Department of Commerce, the US Department of Energy, the American Electronics Association, the American Association for the Advancement of Science, NASA, the American Association for World Health, the American Enterprise Institute, the American Public Health Association, the March of Dimes, the Center for Democracy and Technology, the Heritage Foundation, the Congressional Research Service, the Brookings Institution, the Economic Policy Institute, the National Academy of Sciences, the National Institutes of Health, the Climate Institute and the MIT Washington Office.

**APPLICATION DEADLINE FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2003**

For more information call 253-3649, send email to [iguantw@mit.edu](mailto:iguantw@mit.edu), or check out our web site at <http://web.mit.edu/hass/summerweb/www/>

# Interactive Workout, Aquarium Funded by iCampus

By Tiffany Kosolcharoen

CycleScore, a creation that transforms exercise on a stationary bicycle into a competitive race with other gym participants, is among the winning project proposals receiving

\$30,000 from the Microsoft/MIT iCampus alliance.

Other chosen proposals were iQuarium, iLabNoteBook, and the Distributed Collaboration System.

The grants were announced in December for teams with "ambitious

and innovative proposals ... that involve student organizations willing to keep the work alive after the original participants have graduated," according to the iCampus Student Proposal Guidelines. Teams will begin their projects this Febru-

ary and continue for at least a year.

## Project makes exercise fun

"Aerobic exercise is not a fun and motivating experience," said Harris A. Rabin G, one of the CycleScore founders, along with Sloan students Joseph Heitzeberg G and Doron Harlev G. "CycleScore aims to get more people to the gym [for] a more fun and motivating experience."

While CycleScore has the potential to become a virtual gaming simulation, the product is still early in development. "It may be a visual scoreboard where you see yourself competing against others," said Rabin. "We still have to decide on the product."

(See "'Virtual Reality' System on Its Way to Z-Center," page 9.)

## Electronic fish to adorn Infinite

iQuarium is a display screen of interactive three-dimensional fish that is intended for the Infinite Corridor.

iQuarium "is not just a screen of fish swimming around," said Audrey M. Roy '05, a creator of iQuarium, along with Kathryn S. Wasserman '04. "It is a 3-D, interactive display of fish in real-time fluid dynamics."

Intended for the visitors and students passing through the Infinite Corridor, the iQuarium display of fish and virtual water will be modeled after the speed and number of

visitors through sensors in the hall.

"Users would select the type of fish and conditions of the water, view the complex patterns the fish form when they swim, and learn about fluid dynamics," said Wasserman, a student in the Department of Ocean Engineering.

"When fish swim, they use vortices, the velocity field of water around them, to propel themselves," Wasserman said. She stressed the importance of biomimetics — engineered systems that imitate living animals — in the field of ocean engineering.

Biomimetics "is red hot right now because most ships have propellers and many limitations, so scientists are trying to find new sources to propel ships," Wasserman said.

While the team's initial task is to create software that models fish and water patterns, iQuarium may eventually model a water tunnel. Roy said, "It would be great for students and professors to test ships and models without needing to come in contact with actual water."

Saying her team would make education rather than research a priority, Wasserman added, "We want iQuarium to be visually enticing with many interactive components, including colorful fish and [customizable] boats, to introduce people to ocean engineering."

## Tablets replace lab notebooks

iLabNoteBooks are tablet PCs customized for scientific research and designed to replace traditional paper lab notebooks.

"When you do research, you have a lab notebook that is fairly large, big, and hard to carry," said Patrick A. Anquetil G, who proposed the iLabNoteBook.

"Graphs and tables are often pasted into it, and writing can be illegible," he added. "With the tablet PC, writing is digital from the start, not analog. You can retrieve it quickly, search, rearrange, and reorganize what you wrote."

Through a partnership with Microsoft, tablet PCs will be given to researchers. "We will design a survey and create a user acceptance experiment," Anquetil said. "On a weekly basis, we will interview them, see how they use the tablet PC, and improve the features."

Anquetil envisions future students using the iLabNoteBook on a daily basis to do research. "Heavy laboratory and research books may [no longer] be needed to be carried around," he said.

## Project improves communication

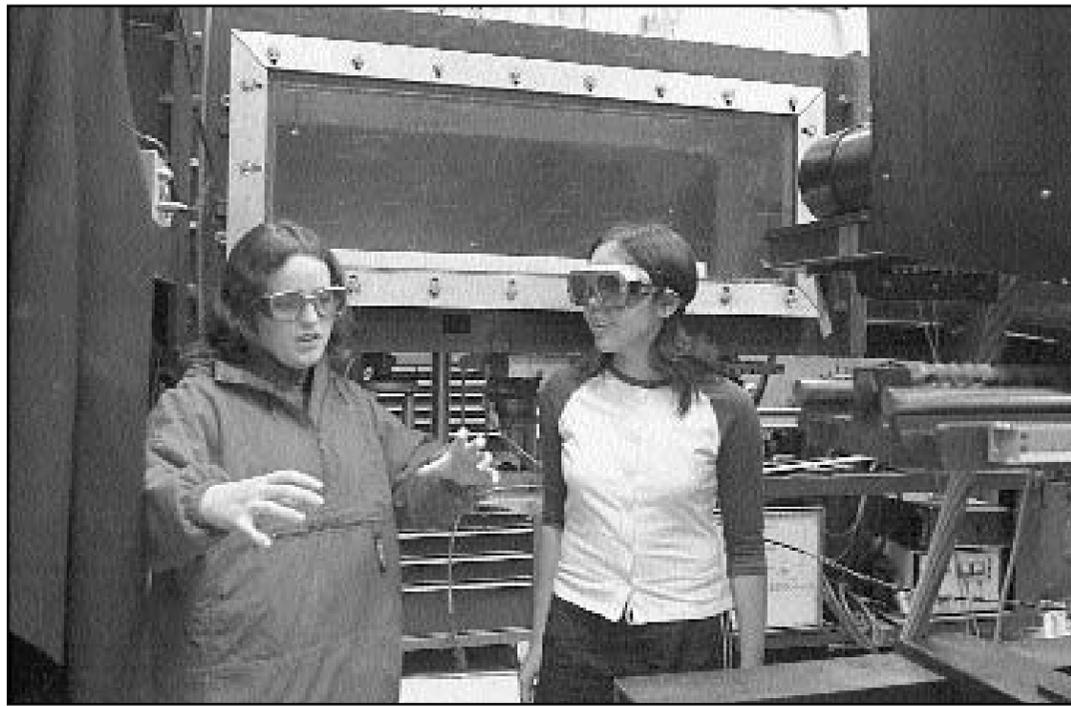
The Distributed Collaboration System is a video-conferencing communication system to supplement the Mars Gravity Biosatellite team's mission of studying the effects of reduced gravity on mice.

"The Mars [Gravity Biosatellite Project] has a long-term goal of sending people to Mars," said James K. Whiting G, who proposed the Distributed Collaboration System with Audrey M. Schaffer '05 and Ryan A. Damico '05. "We are planning to launch a satellite into space to put mice in a low gravity environment [for two months]," he said.

With MIT partnering with the University of Washington and the University of Queensland in the project, the teams needed real-time communication methods to be productive in different time zones. The Distributed Collaboration System involves using the latest teleconferencing and video-conferencing equipment in a beta test for Microsoft.

"We will integrate off-the-shelf equipment and certain pieces of software to allow direct customization and further real time communication," Damico said. "We will work on project management, add a new database server to the hardware and software, and customize the equipment."

"Perhaps we may even find a use for the Distributed Collaboration System with the satellite," Damico said.



ED PLATT—THE TECH

Katie "Wass" Wasserman '04 (left) and Audrey Roy '05 explain the iQuarium project in front of the Marine Hydrodynamics Lab water tunnel. The iQuarium, part of the MIT/Microsoft iCampus project, will be a virtual towing tank and water tunnel open to the public and viewable from the Infinite Corridor.

## NEW COURSE:

### Learning Together-Working Together: Enhancing Race and Ethnic Relations at MIT

**Mondays 2-5 p.m.**

**Spring 2003**

**15.969, 17.908, 24.293**

**(6 or 9 units: 3-0-3 or 3-0-6)**

**6 Unit Option: Half Term, February 10-March 17**

**9 Unit Option: Half Term plus Project Workshops**

This course provides an opportunity for students to develop a deep understanding of the personal, inter-personal and institutional dynamics of race, ethnic and cross-cultural relations at MIT, practice in the skills needed to work effectively and lead diverse groups and teams, and an opportunity to participate in a focused project aimed at improving some aspect of campus race relations. Through the course participants will:

- Acquire an understanding of the history of race relations at MIT
- Examine the origins of their own attitudes and history that inform their responses in cross-racial and cross-cultural dialogues
- Identify areas of personal strength and areas for improving how they contribute to and provide leadership in multi-racial groups and interactions.
- Develop, implement, and evaluate strategies for addressing a particular issue within MIT related to the theme of the course.
- Identify resources available through CCRR and other sources to support efforts to improve race relations.

**Class Size limit: 30 students**

**Open to Undergraduate and Graduate Students**

**Cross listed in the Sloan School and the Departments of Linguistics and Philosophy, Political Science, and Urban Studies and Planning.**

**Sponsored by the Committee on Campus Race Relations**

For more information contact one of the following course instructors:

Francine Crystal ([fcystal@mit.edu](mailto:fcystal@mit.edu))

Sally Haslanger ([shaslang@mit.edu](mailto:shaslang@mit.edu))

Ceasar McDowell ([ceasar@mit.edu](mailto:ceasar@mit.edu))

Regina Caines ([rcaines@mit.edu](mailto:rcaines@mit.edu))

Thomas Kochan ([tkochan@mit.edu](mailto:tkochan@mit.edu))

Tobie Weiner ([iguanatw@mit.edu](mailto:iguanatw@mit.edu))

<http://web.MIT.edu/CCRR/CCRR/courses.html>

# Students Consider Credit Union

# Newell Flew on NASA Missions Over Pacific

Credit Union, from Page 1

about the MITFCU and figure out whether or not they would like to join," Shooter said.

There are currently four automated teller machines that credit union customers can use. They are located at E18 on 50 Ames Street, in Building 10, at 555 Technology Square at MIT, and at the Lincoln Laboratory. There will also be a fifth ATM in the Stata Center once it opens, according to Shooter.

## Students plan to join

"I'll probably get a student account there myself, and students should find out more about joining the MITFCU," Seale said.

"Yeah, I would consider joining the MITFCU," said Miranda E. Knutson '06. "If there are benefits like lower loan rates, I don't see why not. As long as it is beneficial, it would be an option for me."

*Smile!*

Newell, from Page 1

serious smog problem comparable to that in Los Angeles if automobile traffic went unchecked. His proposed solution was high speed trains from Logan Airport to New York that would travel through a harbor tunnel.

## Newell worked with NASA

Later in his career, in the 1980s and 1990s, he participated in the NASA Stratosphere-Troposphere Exchange Program experiments over Australia, investigating how the circulation in that region interacts with the ocean and carries air from the troposphere to the stratosphere.

Throughout the 1990s, Newell served as mission meteorologist for several NASA missions over the Pacific. "He was a field experimentalist who was never happier than when flying around over the Pacific Ocean measuring chemical constituents," Marshall said.

He was also a member of the

Measure of Air Pollution by Satellites (MAPS) team that measured carbon monoxide from space, and he participated in two 1994 space shuttle experiments on carbon monoxide.

Newell served as president of the International Association for Meteorology and Atmospheric Physics (IAMAP) International Commission on Climate from 1977 to 1983 and was a member of the IAMAP Commissions on Meteorology of the Upper Atmosphere and Atmospheric Chemistry and Global Pollution from 1971 to 1983. His honors include the 1985 Alexander Von Humboldt Award and the Japan International Science and Technology Agency Fellowship in 1990.

He is survived by his wife, two daughters, two sons, and two grandchildren. A memorial service is scheduled for Thursday, Jan. 23, at 5:30 p.m. in the MIT Chapel. Following the service, the department will host a reception in the Ida M. Green Lounge, Room 54-923.



TIM SUEN—THE TECH

David Collins G uses the ATM to access his account with the MIT Federal Credit Union. The Credit Union, whose members previously consisted of MIT employees and graduate students, is now allowing undergraduates to join.

## FREE TICKETS FOR MIT STUDENTS!

Boston Modern Orchestra Project presents a FREE\* concert of composers and performers from NEC

### Boston Connection

Saturday, January 18, 2003, 8 pm

Jordan Hall, New England Conservatory

Gil Rose, conductor

MONTSERRAT TORRAS Abans

Selected from the 5th Annual BMOP/NEC Composition Contest

ALFRED SCHNITTKE Sonata for Violin and Chamber Orchestra

Rimma Yermosh, Violin, Winner of the 4th Annual BMOP/NEC Concerto Competition

MICHAEL GANDOLFI Transient Episodes

LEE HYL A Trans

MALCOLM PEYTON Fantasies Concertante World Premiere

Pre-concert symposium, 7 pm  
Featuring the evening's composers  
Open to all ticket holders

Pick up tickets at E 15-205  
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with your valid MIT student ID

2 tickets per valid MIT student ID

\*although it's a free concert,  
you need a ticket to get in!

