



Students hurry through the heavy rain Wednesday afternoon at 77 Massachusetts Avenue. More rain is predicted through the beginning of next week.

ASA Allocation Plan Not Yet Final

By Kelley Rivoire

The Association of Student Activities has not yet released the final office space reallocations for student groups in the Student Center since posting a preliminary announcement on the ASA Web site in early December.

ASA Graduate Member at Large Andrew R. Menard G said that the delay was caused by complications with gaining approval and funding for Student Center renovations.

Delays unexpected by ASA

This is the first time in 18 years that the ASA has proposed renovations to the Student Center, so the

length of the approval process and the extensive bureaucracy involved came as a surprise, Menard said.

However, Director of the Campus Activities Complex Phillip J. Walsh said that this time lag is typical for such projects. "This has moved along fairly well from a time standpoint," Walsh said.

The ASA has assigned student groups to different categories and assigned priority levels to them. The space will be reallocated depending on how the renovations proceed and the priority level of each group.

Sci-Fi library move put on hold

One plan proposed by the ASA was to move the MIT Science Fiction

Society (MITSFS) library, currently on the fourth floor of the Student Center, to a larger space. This would require modification of the new space to make one continuous large space.

Menard, who is a keyholder for the library, said that the estimated price for the move and renovations was \$35,000. He said, however, that Walsh informed the ASA that the library move was large enough to require other renovations to modernize the fourth floor of the Student Center to satisfy building safety requirements. These changes would make "the

ASA Space, Page 14

Vernon R. Young

MIT NEWS OFFICE

Professor of Nutritional Biochemistry Vernon R. Young, who revolutionized scientific understanding of how the human body processes nutrients into protein, died March 30 of complications from renal cancer. He was 66.

"Our conception of how much protein people need to consume is significantly different than it was 20 years ago, largely because of Vernon Young's research," said Professor Richard J. Wurtman, director of MIT's Clinical Research Center.

Young, who was also affiliated with MIT's Computational and Systems Biology Initiative, focused his research on how the body metabolizes amino acids obtained from eating protein.

Young was born in Rhyl, Wales. He received degrees in agriculture from the University of Reading and the University of Cambridge (both in England) before earning his PhD in nutrition from the University of California at Davis in 1965. He began his 39-year association with MIT the same year, becoming a full professor in 1977.

Besides his MIT work, Young held lecturer and other positions at Harvard Medical School, Massachusetts General Hospital (MGH) and Tufts University. He served as director of research at Shriners Burns Institute in Boston from 1988-1990 and was director of the mass spectrometry laboratory at

Shriners Burns Hospital since 1991. In 2001, Young was named to the board of directors of Nestle Corporation, which sought his nutritional expertise.

Among other honors, Young won the Bristol-Myers Squibb/Mead Johnson Award for Distinguished Achievement in Nutrition Research in 1995 and the Danone International Prize for Nutrition in 1997. He was elected to the National Academy of Sciences in 1990 and to the Institute of Medicine in 1993 in recognition of his scientific accomplishments in the field of human nutrition. He authored more than 600 publications.

Besides his son Richard, who lives in Newton, Young is survived by his wife Janice of Wellesley and sons Christopher of Boston, Andrew of Newton, Michael of Boston and a daughter, Patricia Young of Needham.

A wake for Young will be held Friday, April 2 from 4-8 p.m. at George F. Doherty & Sons Funeral Home in Wellesley. A funeral mass will be said on Saturday, April 3 at 10 a.m. at St. John the Evangelist Church (9 Glen Road, Wellesley), followed by burial at Woodlawn Cemetery in Wellesley. A memorial service will be held at MIT at a later date to be announced.

Donations in Young's memory may be made either to the American Cancer Society or St. John the Evangelist Church.



Miss Korea
2002 gains
acceptance
into MIT's
Class of 2008.

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Comics

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OPINION

Buddhika Kottahachchi examines the motive behind and possible results of today's elections in Sri Lanka.

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Issues Raised About Building 32 Security

By Ray C. He
ASSOCIATE NEWS EDITOR

A week after the Computer Science and Artificial Intelligence Laboratory finished its move from Technology Square to the Stata Center, or Building 32, residents including Richard M. Stallman, founder of the GNU operating system project, have expressed dissatisfaction about the operation of the security system and its effect on privacy and mobility.

Stallman, a frequent advocate for civil liberties and privacy rights, voiced his concerns after an announcement from CSAIL Director Rodney A. Brooks explained a tiered series of door locks will be used during non-business hours and advised building occupants to offer to help strangers passing by.

According to the announcement, the main doors to Building 32 are locked, but are card-accessible at night. Once occupants have entered the main doors, they must swipe their cards again to enter the lounge and common areas. Finally, an ID scan is necessary for entry to each specific research neighborhood. Temporarily, this third level of locked doors will have mechanical

locks until proximity and magnetic stripe readers can be installed.

Stallman said the level of security is excessive. "In most of the campus, you can walk through the corridors," he said. As CSAIL does not perform classified or secret research, the complex security is unwarranted, Stallman said.

Extra security may be temporary

The current high level of security in the Stata center may not be permanent, said Christopher J. Terman '78, associate director of CSAIL.

In the future, many of the doors maybe be kept unlocked. He said that it was important to have locks available on the doors because "Obviously, if you don't have a device, you can't later say, 'let's lock this door' because there's no lock on it."

The access to the building by members of the MIT community will not be restricted. "There's no access control on the connection between Building 36 and Stata," Terman said. "In the long run, they'll be just open."

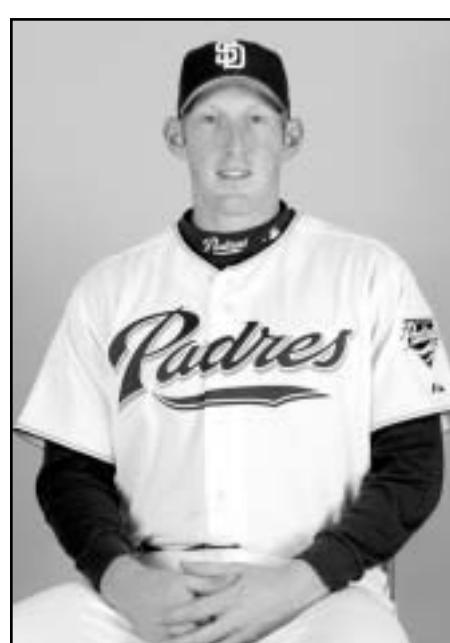
Stata Security, Page 13

MIT Grad Aims for Spot On Padres' 2004 Roster

By Pon-Pon Yeh
STAFF REPORTER

Jason E. Szuminski '01 SB Aeronautics and Astronautics (Course XVI) will find out by this

Sunday whether he will make the regular season roster for the San Diego



MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL
Jason E. Szuminski '01, currently in the San Diego Padres' farm system, may become the first MIT graduate to play on a Major League baseball team.

MIT... and baseball?

Although Szuminski has spent the last three years working his way up through the minor league teams of the Chicago Cubs, he definitely had not included professional baseball in his plans coming into MIT. "I came to school thinking that it was the best option I had going for me ... I had an Air Force ROTC scholarship there. That would put me into an active duty job four years after I got out of school," he said.

The MIT men's baseball coach, Mac D. Singleton, feels the same way. "You don't come to MIT to

MLB, Page 12

WORLD & NATION

Britain Holds On To Muslims Seized After Raids

THE NEW YORK TIMES

LONDON

Scotland Yard said Thursday it had extended to Saturday the detention of eight men who were arrested this week in connection with the seizure of 1,000 pounds of a bomb-making compound near central London.

At the same time, a spokesman for the antiterrorism branch said the arrests in Canada and Saudi Arabia of a father and son from Pakistan may be connected to the investigation into the suspected bombing activities in London.

The police suspect that those activities might have been in support of plans to stage a terrorist strike against a prominent target in London. But a police spokesman said that no physical evidence of manufacturing explosives, such as detonators, timing devices or other paraphernalia, was discovered in the raids.

Late Thursday, Scotland Yard announced it had arrested a ninth man. A statement said the man was 27 years old, but otherwise did not identify him. It said he was being held "on suspicion of being concerned in the commission, preparation or instigation of acts of terrorism."

Senate Shelves Major Welfare Bill As GOP Fails To End Debate

THE NEW YORK TIMES

WASHINGTON

The Senate set aside a sweeping bill to reauthorize the nation's main welfare program on Thursday after Republicans failed to muster the 60-vote majority needed to limit debate on the legislation.

The Senate Democratic leader, Tom Daschle of South Dakota, acknowledged that the bill had "overwhelming bipartisan" support. But he and other Democrats said they opposed ending debate because they had been denied an opportunity for a separate vote on a proposed amendment to increase the minimum wage.

Republicans complained that the Democrats had blocked a vote on the underlying welfare bill, even after the Senate agreed earlier this week to add \$6 billion to provide child care to low-income families.

The vote to limit debate on the welfare bill was 51-47. Those who wanted to end debate, all Republicans, fell nine votes short of the number needed to prevail. No senator crossed party lines.

Investigation Of White House Leak Said To Have Broadened

THE NEW YORK TIMES

WASHINGTON

Prosecutors investigating whether someone in the Bush administration improperly disclosed the identity of a CIA officer have expanded their inquiry to examine whether White House officials lied to investigators or mishandled classified information related to the case, lawyers involved in the case and government officials said.

In looking at violations beyond the original focus of the inquiry, which centered on a rarely used statute that makes it a felony to disclose the identity of an undercover intelligence officer intentionally, prosecutors have widened the range of conduct under scrutiny and, for the first time, raised the possibility of bringing charges peripheral to the leak itself.

The expansion of the inquiry's scope comes at a time when prosecutors, after a hiatus of about a month, appear to be preparing to seek additional testimony before a federal grand jury, according to lawyers with clients in the case. It is not clear whether the renewed grand jury activity represents a concluding session or a prelude to an indictment.

Deluge!

By J.R. Moskaitis
STAFF METEOROLOGIST

As of yesterday evening, Boston had accumulated over 4.5 inches (11 cm) of rain since Wednesday, due to a nearly stationary storm system that has parked itself over the mid-Atlantic states. Including last night's rainfall, the storm total from this unrelenting system is likely to be around 6 inches (15 cm), a figure more reminiscent of the accumulation from a typical snow-storm rather than a rain event! The storm total precipitation exceeds the total amount accumulated during the first 90 days of this year, which had been a prolonged dry spell.

Although it has now lost its rain-producing moisture feed from the south, the same pesky storm system will keep low clouds and damp air in place through the day on Saturday. It will then be promptly replaced by another storm set to bring rain or snow into the region early next week. If we are lucky, we may see the sun again on Tuesday. Maybe. This is springtime in New England, after all.

Extended Forecast

Today: Rain ending early, but continued damp and chilly. High of 44°F (7°C).

Tonight: Fog and drizzle. Low of 38°F (3°C).

Saturday: Dreary with showers possible. High of 47°F (8°C).

Sunday: Mostly cloudy, then rain or snow developing late. High of 48°F (9°C).

Monday: Rain or wet snow likely, cold. High of 34°F (1°C).

Sept. 11 Panel Inquires Why Bush Withheld Clinton Files

By Philip Shonan
and David E. Sanger
THE NEW YORK TIMES

WASHINGTON

The commission investigating the Sept. 11 attacks said on Thursday that it was pressing the White House to explain why the Bush administration had blocked thousands of pages of classified foreign policy and counterterrorism documents from former President Bill Clinton's files from being turned over to the panel's investigators.

The White House confirmed on Thursday that it had withheld a variety of classified documents from Clinton's files that had been gathered by the National Archives over the last two years in response to document requests from the commission, which is investigating intelligence and law enforcement failures before the attacks.

Scott McClellan, the White House spokesman, said that some Clinton administration documents had been withheld because they were "duplicative or unrelated," while others were withheld because they were "highly sensitive" and the information contained in them could be relayed to the commission in other ways.

"We are providing the commission with access to all the information they need to do their job," McClellan said.

The commission and the White House were reacting on Thursday to public complaints from former aides to Clinton, who said they had been surprised to learn in recent months that three-quarters of the nearly 11,000 pages of White House files it was ready to offer the commission had been withheld from the panel by the Bush administration.

The former aides said the files, which are now in the custody of the National Archives, contained highly classified documents about the Clinton administration's efforts against al-Qaida.

The commission said it was awaiting a full answer from the White House on why any documents were withheld. "We need to be satisfied that we have everything we have asked to see," said Al Felzenberg, a spokesman for the bipartisan 10-member commission.

"We have voiced the concern to the White House that not all of the material the Clinton library has made available to us has made its way to the commission."

The general counsel of Clinton's presidential foundation, Bruce Lindsey, who was Clinton's deputy White House counsel and one of his closest advisers, said in an interview that he was concerned that the Bush administration had applied a "very legalistic approach to the documents" and might have blocked the release of material that would be valuable to the commission.

He said he first complained to the commission in February about the situation after learning from the archives that the Bush administration had withheld so many documents.

"I voiced a concern that the commission was making a judgment on an incomplete record," Lindsey said. "I want to know why there is a 75 percent difference between what we were ready to produce and what was being produced to the commission."

The debate over the Clinton files was disclosed as the commission announced that it had reached agreement with the White House to schedule a public hearing for next Thursday, when Condoleezza Rice, Bush's national security adviser, will testify under oath for 2 1/2 hours.

Sri Lankan Economy Primary Concern in Upcoming Elections

By Amy Waldman
THE NEW YORK TIMES

THALANGMUA, SRI LANKA

The cease-fire between the government and Tamil rebels in 2002 was welcomed in this village, where many families sent sons to the army, and sometimes to their deaths, during the two-decade civil war.

But the peace seems to be earning Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe of the United National Party little credit here as he faces voters on Friday in the third parliamentary election in four years.

The lack of economic opportunity, on the other hand, in a place where the best income possibility is to send a sister or daughter to clean house in the Middle East, has evoked considerable ill will.

"We were expecting more from this government - especially electricity," said Gamini Vijesekara, a farmer and carpenter.

The early elections President Chandrika Kumaratunga called for after dissolving parliament in February were expected to be a referendum on the handling of the peace effort with the Tamil Tiger rebels by her archrival, Wickremesinghe, whom she accused of threatening the country's security.

Surveys show that many voters say the peace effort is the most important issue. But the economy, specifically the cost of living, is a close second.

This election is also shaping up as a referendum on globalization and capitalism in formerly socialist Sri

Lanka. The prime minister's supporters point to a negative growth rate of 1.5 percent the year he took office — and the estimated 5.75 percent positive growth expected this year.

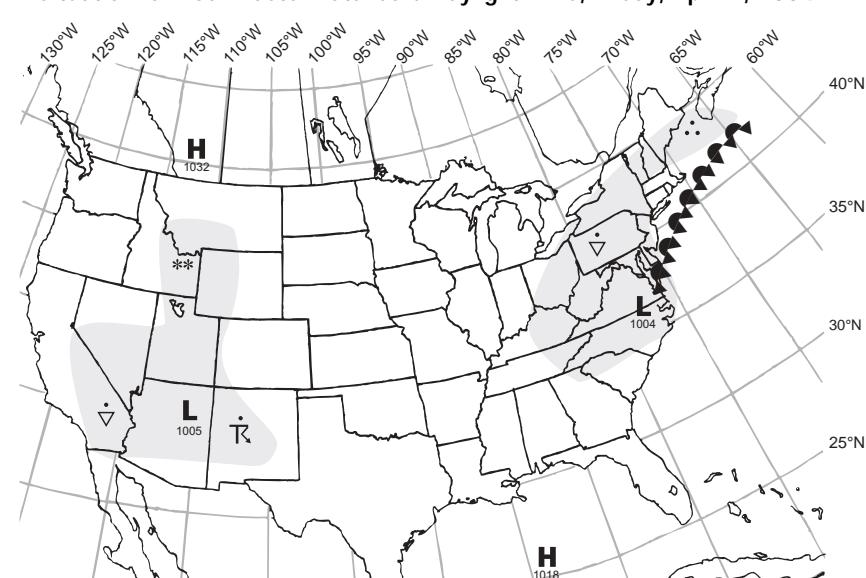
"I work at a private company, and we can feel the difference," said Sanjoewa Weerakoon, in Colombo, the capital. "Frankly I can feel it in my pocket."

But many others do not. They point to drought in parts of the country, the shrinkage of government jobs, the way even once-benevolent factories, facing global competition, are hiring people on a temporary basis to avoid giving them benefits.

The villagers interviewed here all said they would vote for Kumaratunga's Freedom Alliance party.

WEATHER

Situation for Noon Eastern Standard Daylight Time, Friday, April 2, 2004



Weather Systems

H High Pressure

L Low Pressure

S Hurricane

Weather Fronts

— Trough

— Warm Front

▲ Cold Front

△ Stationary Front

Precipitation Symbols

Snow

Rain

Showers

Light

Moderate

Heavy

Other Symbols

Fog

Thunderstorm

Haze

Clouds

Wind

Clouds

Compiled by MIT Meteorology Staff and The Tech

Military Plans Counteroffensive In Response to Deaths in Iraq

By Thanassis Cambanis and Bryan Bender
THE BOSTON GLOBE

BAGHDAD

American military commanders Thursday said they would respond to the mutilation of four American contractors in the city of Fallujah by launching an overwhelming counteroffensive against Iraqi insurgents, but would not rush in and make the situation worse.

Taking the unusual step of telegraphing their plans, military officials said U.S. forces would soon return to the center of Fallujah, about 30 miles west of Baghdad. They said they would rely on a combination of pinpoint raids and rewards for the local population that has helped quell

unrest in some Iraqi cities.

U.S. forces recently ceded much of the control of the town to Iraqi police, even though it is in the heart of the so-called Sunni Triangle, which has seen the most violent resistance to the U.S.-led occupation.

"We will be back in Fallujah," Brigadier General Mark Kimmitt said in Baghdad. "It will be at the time and place of our choosing. We will hunt down the criminals. We will kill them, or we will capture them. And we will pacify Fallujah."

Kimmitt's pledge to catch and punish those who carried out the gruesome attacks and desecrated the bodies contrasted with the cautious U.S. response in the immediate aftermath of the attacks, when American

troops did not intervene. It also highlighted the conundrum Fallujah has posed through three troop rotations.

American military strategists have repeatedly failed to solve the puzzle of the Sunni Triangle insurgents, who have fought on relentlessly as commanders have tried to crush them with force, win them over with public works projects, woo them with political power, and most recently avoid them by withdrawing to the city's fringes.

Thursday, Marines continued to be cautious in their response to the gruesome attacks, staying out of the central city. News reports said Iraqi police retrieved the charred remains of the four Americans hours later, at the request of the U.S. military.

Tunisian, Five Moroccans Sought For Terrorist Bombings In Spain

By Dale Fuchs
THE NEW YORK TIMES

MADRID

Investigators have identified a Tunisian man as the leader of the March 11 bomb attacks on commuter trains in Madrid, and a judge has issued arrest warrants for him and five Moroccans for murder, according to court documents released Thursday.

A Spanish High Court judge, Juan del Olmo, issued a European arrest warrant for Sarhane Ben Abdellmajid Fakhet as the "leader and coordinator" of the bombings that killed 191 people and injured more than 1,400.

The warrant said Fakhet "raised awareness of jihad" within his circle,

and "indicated specifically since 2003 that he was preparing a violent act in Spain as an expression of the aforementioned jihad."

Del Olmo issued five other European arrest warrants: Mohammed Oulad Akcha, Rachid Oulad Akcha, Jamal Ahmidam, Said Berraj and Abdennabi Kounja, all of whom are Moroccans. They have been charged with hundreds of counts that include murder, attempted murder and membership in a terrorist organization.

On Tuesday, Angel Acebes, the outgoing interior minister, said the investigation is focusing on the Moroccan Islamic Combatant Group, which authorities have linked to bombings last year in Casablanca that killed more than 40

people, including 12 suicide bombers.

According to the court documents, Ahmidam rented a house outside Madrid where the authorities say fingerprints, traces of explosives and other evidence in the March 11 attacks was found. The warrants identified the rundown house, in the town of Morata de Tajuna, as the site where bombs were made.

The court documents said Berraj is linked to Fakhet, the suspected Tunisian leader, and is also believed to have met in Istanbul in October with three members of al-Qaida. The other three men are thought to have stayed at the house with Ahmidam and to have helped obtain the explosives used in the bombings.

Agreement Reached On Pension Bill

THE NEW YORK TIMES

House and Senate negotiators said they had reached an agreement Thursday on a bill that would save companies an estimated \$80 billion in pension contributions over the next two years.

Airlines and steel companies, which have some of the weakest pension plans, would get an additional break, worth about \$1.6 billion.

The measure offers all employers with pension plans a break by changing the way they calculate, in today's dollars, the value of the benefits that they must pay in the future. The new method will make their future pension obligations look smaller. That, in turn, means they will not have to set aside as much money today.

A second provision offers relief to the major airlines and to steel companies. Their pension funds are so badly eroded that they are becoming subject to a special set of funding rules, under which companies with very unhealthy pension plans have to make large, quarterly contributions to revive them. As currently written, the bill would allow the airlines and steel companies to pay only 20 percent of what they would otherwise owe in these special catch-up contributions.

For Americans, Gas Guzzlers Are Again Kings Of The Road

THE NEW YORK TIMES

DETROIT

Gasoline prices may be at an all-time high, but that is not deterring Americans from buying gas guzzlers.

Maintaining a trend that dates back more than a decade, American buyers continued to shift from passenger cars to the largest and least fuel-efficient new vehicles that auto manufacturers offer, even as gasoline prices soar, according to the industry's March sales reports.

National average pump prices hit \$1.76 a gallon on Monday, the highest on record, according to the Energy Information Administration. But when inflation is taken into account, gasoline remains cheaper than it was in 1981, when prices peaked at just under \$3 a gallon in 2004 dollars.

Large pickup trucks, large sport utility vehicles and luxury vehicles of all kinds remain favorites of new-car buyers despite their thirst for fuel.

"These three major segments continue to drive overall industry sales," said George Pipas, chief industry sales analyst at the Ford Motor Co. "Consumers have been unwilling, at this point, to trade off short-term fluctuations and translate that into a different kind of vehicle purchase, in either size or performance."

Overall, the industry sold 3.75 percent more vehicles last month than it did in March 2003, when consumer concerns about the impending invasion of Iraq helped keep sales sluggish, according to Ward's AutoInfoBank. The latest monthly sales translate into an annual selling rate of 16.64 million vehicles.



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MASSACHUSETTS LEGISLATURE

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"How ironic . . . we passed a same-sex marriage ban the same week we have to set all the clocks forward."

Microsoft

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"Should we appeal the EU ruling . . . or just buy Europe?"

Letters To The Editor

Hack Clarification

be aware of.

Many people saw the Wright Flyer on top of the dome for the anniversary of Kitty Hawk. It was an extremely well-publicized hack, and appeared in several newspapers. A recent MIT Alumni Association flyer requesting donations had a photograph of the hack on its cover, and the Alumni Association still has a picture of the Flyer on its web page today. What most people don't know is that the people who pulled the hack were punished; several of them were summoned to disciplinary hearings, and some

were fined.

The MIT administration, in its many parts, seems to be delighted to use hacks in its advertising campaigns. They're part of MIT's image. The message of approval that inclusion in the Alumni mailing sends doesn't seem to apply to the hackers, though. "Will Hack for Endowment" isn't a response to the sad state of MIT's budget; it's straightforward commentary on MIT's use of hacks — created by students for the enjoyment of the community — to raise money for itself.

Ariel Segall '03

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, opinion editor, a senior editor, and an opinion staffer.

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Sri Lanka: Elections Again?

Buddhika Kottahachchi

Today, the people of Sri Lanka go to the polls for the third time in four years. While little can be said against democracy, the frequency with which voting has been called into play is ridiculous by any standard. The first of these elections was a regularly scheduled one resulting from the conclusion of the first term in power of the People's Alliance Party (PA). The PA was returned to power in that election, although there were allegations of rigging. The second was called as a result of significant defections from the PA to the opposition United National Front (UNF). This second election resulted in the UNF coming to power. Now, just two years later, a third has been called. Why?

According to the President Chandrika Bandaranaike-Kumaratunga, it is because Prime Minister Ranil Wickremasinghe and his government haven't performed their duties satisfactorily. While the president isn't known for making concrete statements or allegations, two themes seem to emerge among her many arguments justifying her actions. First, she accuses the prime minister of granting too many concessions to the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) — a rebel organization fighting for a separate homeland — and thereby compromising the nation's security. What these "concessions" specifically are she doesn't care to elaborate. Secondly, she claims that the economy is being mismanaged.

But are her concerns justified? The last two years under the UNF government have seen the longest lull in fighting since hostilities began in the early 1980s. A ceasefire brokered by the Norwegians (who are facilitating the Sri Lankan peace process) holds to this day, and negotiations were progressing, albeit slowly, up to the point of the current crisis. The president claims her actions were partly triggered by the LTTE's release of a document stating its demands for an Independent Self Governing Authority (ISGA), which she termed unconstitutional.

Critics of the current peace process fail to appreciate is that this is the first time the LTTE has put its demands in writing, a significant step in the group's transition from a revolutionary outfit to a legitimate political entity. Furthermore, within the context of the negoti-

ations in which the document was created, the demand for more is understandable given the need to be able to compromise. In fact, it is interesting that the LTTE has been running a parallel administration in areas under its control for well over a decade now. The Tigers have set up their own judicial system with a set of courts supported by its own police and penal code. A parallel banking system supports their economy. The ground reality is that a de facto state, separate from that governed by the Sri Lankan government, exists today. Acknowledging its existence and negotiating a settlement based on this and other realities is the way to reach a lasting peace. Comfortingly, this has been the approach taken by the UNF government and the Norwegians.

With respect to the economy, after the UNF took power, the subsequent ceasefire led to investor confidence that resulted in growth rates of around 5 percent, according to the International Monetary Fund. Unfortunately, there hasn't been sufficient time for this growth to propagate to all parts of Sri Lankan society. Furthermore, the international donor community has pledged \$4.5 billion toward reconstructing the country, but has also tied the funds to progress in the peace process, letting the money barely trickle through. This has been compounded by widespread corruption, with allegations directed at high-ranking government officials. The marriage of politics and corruption, though not unique to Sri Lanka or its current government, is worsened by the fact that you have two parties striving to stay in power and direct the country toward progress, but must rely on the support of powerful yet unscrupulous politicians just to make up the majority required to control Parliament. And the problem will linger regardless of the regime in power.

Under the circumstances, I believe that the UNF government has performed satisfactorily. So why the need for an election at this time? Bandaranaike-Kumaratunga is in her second and final term. When it ends, so will benefits such as immunity from legal prosecution which may or may not be of concern to her, as allegations of corruption against the president do exist.

Also, the president and her party have recently allied themselves with the People's Liberation Front (JVP), a Marxist group. While the JVP was previously feared as a rev-

olutionary group, it has emerged as a force in the south of the country by appealing to the fears of the majority Sinhala Buddhists and taking a hardline against the LTTE. Furthermore, by praising socialism as a means to ending poverty, it has gained strong appeal among the thousands of unemployed graduates the country's failing education system has produced in the last decade or so. Therefore, this PA/JVP alliance has the potential to garner sufficient seats to control the legislature.

Consider, also, that any government which successfully negotiates a peace settlement with the LTTE will gain credibility both locally and internationally. Given that in the past a large part of the nation's GDP was directed toward waging war on the LTTE, resources would be freed for use in development leading to prosperity reaching a larger part of Sri Lankan society. A government that achieved these heights would be difficult to oust.

It is possible that a PA/JVP government could come to power — although a hung Parliament is more likely. However, this would be at the expense of alienating the minority Tamil and Muslim parties to an extent that would make reconciliation difficult. Thus, such a government would lack the two-thirds majority in Parliament required to make any significant decisions affecting the country. A new stalemate would occur, but one in which the president has a friendly legislature to aid her. However, more disturbing is the potential squandering of an opportunity at the peaceful closure of a conflict that has cost more than 60,000 lives (a nearly universal estimate verified by the BBC, among others).

Given these observations, this election suspiciously begins to look more like a power play by the president and her party. The prospect of this suspicion being true deeply troubles me. The implications are horrific. Is it even possible to imagine that a head of state would go so far as to direct her country and its people to further turmoil solely for the purpose of retaining power?

My countrymen vote today in an election that is likely to be a crucial juncture in Sri Lanka's history. All I can hope for is that peace will continue to have a chance — regardless of who is elected.

Buddhika Kottahachchi is a graduate student in the Department of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science.

Preemptive Action's Bright Side

Andrew C. Thomas

In all conflict, combatants must decide whether to take immediate, decisive action or patiently wait for an adversary's move in order to justify a counter-response. The doctrine of pre-emption, seemingly embraced by the Bush administration, suggests that the old adage "an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure" may prove to be beneficial on the stage of global affairs, as evidenced by the recent recalcitrance of Libyan nuclear ambition, among other things.

Don't be so quick to think this is going to carry over to other areas. The administration's vision for the future is surprisingly short-sighted. After all, the inability to properly deal with the current insurgency was a failure of foresight by the Pentagon and White House.

I often wonder if this zeal for early action were applied to other areas of policy, how much our children would thank us in 30 years. After all, if we had heeded the warnings of intelligence agencies even ten years ago about the rise of terrorist organizations like Al-Qaeda, people contend that we would have averted tragedies like the Sept. 11 attacks.

Government must be in the business of today and tomorrow (and, with running debt, the business of yesterday as well). There are very few issues on the table that require no foresight to keep going. Military issues aside, there are far too many other causes in the country and abroad that are screaming for a huge dose of foresight.

You might want to read the recent *New York Times* columns of Nicholas Kristof, one of the few voices today bringing attention to terrible conditions for black Muslim refugees from Sudan, facing the threat of genocide from Janjaweed militants backed by the Sudanese government. Forget the fact that we're celebrating the tenth anniversary of the Rwandan genocide, though it's been a potent reminder to some. Thinking even in the greediest, most opportunistic terms, isn't it hugely in America's best interest to lead an international effort — even going it alone, if necessary — to win back the respect of the international community?

Oddly enough, this sort of situation is exactly what the Bush Doctrine purports to handle, yet somehow it is flying under the radar. Maybe it's because of the lack of a strong Africa lobby — or, if you like, the lack of oil revenues — but it almost looks as though this situation fell right out of the Wolfowitz mould. The Janjaweed are also a Muslim group; greater awareness of this tragedy, and of preventive military action on behalf of the "free world" would be more difficult to botch now, especially with the lessons learned from the "Black Hawk Down" incident in Somalia, though the risk must certainly be worth it.

Until that time, we are forced to sit back and listen to the silence of the world, too preoccupied with infighting and political squabbling to make a genuine difference and save real lives right now.

Knowing all that we do, having gutted the merits of pre-emptive action to the core, why is it so tough to see that this sort of spending is beneficial in the long run, and often much sooner? The underfunding of No Child Left Behind, a supposedly strong educational initiative at the federal level, has much vaguer ramifications in the very long run (compared to the extreme short-term benefit of saving lives) but should still not be ignored. No tool has been better proven to improve the quality of life than education, in terms of crime, teen pregnancy, or affluence. We have the benefit of the most meritocratic society in recent history, and we cannot risk a decrease in the middle class in this hemisphere by failing to empower ourselves with the greatest weapon known to man.

Maybe it's crude of me to compare the extreme and urgent need to combat genocide with the long-term but urgent goal of sustaining education. However, in the long run, there would be no better device to prevent massive tragedy than the eradication of the strongest plague our planet knows: ignorance. It infests breeding grounds across the planet, and can only be destroyed through the intellectual empowerment of the people. Why is it that, with few exceptions, the worst and poorest societies always have the worst literacy rates? In the end, an imbalance of knowledge leads to an imbalance of power, too often with tragic ends.

When people begin to think forward in time, wonderful things tend to happen. There is no greater blunder than to fail to correct one's past mistakes; negligence and lack of forethought should never fall under that category.

Untenable Unborn Child Dichotomy

Adam C. Kolasinski

Yesterday, President Bush signed into the law the Unborn Victims of Violence Act, which treats as a separate crime the harming of a fetus by anyone committing a federal crime. The national law would mirror the laws of 29 states, which treat the killing of an unborn baby, except during an abortion, as any other homicide. In perhaps one of the most highly publicized cases of this sort, Scott Peterson is being prosecuted for both the murder of his wife and unborn child under California's law.

Predictably, the anti-abortion lobby has come out strongly in favor of the act. The case against abortion rests exclusively on the notion that the unborn child is a human being who deserves the full protection of the law. Therefore, even though the bill explicitly excludes abortion from its definition of violence against the unborn, the anti-abortion side wants to set the precedent that an unborn child is entitled to some legal protection. Abortion rights activists have come out just as strongly against the act, but their opposition forces them to use rhetoric that will undermine their position.

Abortion rights groups typically use language that hides the reality of what they are supporting. Their main slogan, "pro-choice," fails to indicate what choice they wish to protect. The Web site of NARAL Pro-Choice America, the nation's premier abortion rights lobbying group, contains countless essays about reproductive freedom and privacy, but one is hard-pressed to find anything that mentions the unborn child or what happens to her during an abortion. Basing the case for abortion on such things as privacy and reproductive rights is illogical because no one on either side of the debate is against women having control over their bodies. If abortion did not involve the dismembering and killing of an unborn child, no one would be calling for its prohibition. It is the notion that abortion does violence to someone other than the woman that motivates abortion opponents. Yet instead of explaining why they believe unborn babies do not deserve protection against such violence, the abortion rights lobby mostly ignores them.

In arguing against the unborn victims act, however, the abortion rights lobby cannot

avoid exposing the premise underlying their position, which they normally take pains to hide. The act has no direct bearing whatsoever on reproductive freedom, privacy rights, women's rights, or anything else that abortion rights supporters use to argue their case. It merely grants legal protection to unborn babies in instances where they are attacked against their mother's will. In cases where the mother chooses an abortion or any other activity that would harm the child, it continues to treat the child as her property. By fighting this bill so vociferously, abortion rights advocates reveal that the basis of their position is nothing more than the notion that an unborn baby has no rights. To quote Kate Michelman, president of NARAL, "The dangerous reality of the bill ... is that it would elevate the legal status of the fetus to that of an adult human being" ("Prenatal Politics," www.TomPaine.com). She's actually wrong. The bill would elevate the legal status of an unborn child to that of a baby, but only in certain circumstances. It does not give unborn babies the right to vote or drink.

Whether unborn children deserve the protection of the law is outside the scope of this article, which merely seeks to highlight the importance of this question. To be sure, when pressed, as they are now, abortion rights activists will admit that it is the central question. However, their reluctance to make the notion that an unborn child has no rights the centerpiece of their case for abortion indicates that they are afraid to directly confront the public with it.

Their fears seem well-founded. As the science of fetology progresses, the humanity of an unborn child becomes more apparent. In an age where a first trimester sonogram is a child's first picture in the family album, I suspect that when forced to confront the question of whether unborn children deserve legal protection, most Americans will answer "yes." New ultrasound technology now allows expectant mothers to view real-time three dimensional images of their unborn baby, even in the first trimester, kicking, moving around, and sucking his thumb. Crisis pregnancy centers with access to this technology report that after viewing such images, women who were previously considering having an abortion almost invariably choose not to. Even more telling is

that the abortion rights lobby fought an appropriations bill that would allow the government to help non-profit crisis pregnancy centers purchase such technology. If abortion rights advocates are so secure in their conviction that an unborn child deserves no legal protection, why are they so opposed to helping low-income women to view their unborn children before they decide whether to kill them? Directly arguing that an unborn baby deserves no legal protection looks like a losing proposition for NARAL and its allies in the long run.

But the abortion rights lobby has, ironically, little choice. They cannot fight the unborn victims act without arguing that unborn babies deserve no protection, yet they cannot afford to allow it to become law. Now, federal law has become self-contradictory: it will simultaneously recognize the unborn child as a person and as property. Such a contradiction will not last long. As more and more criminals are prosecuted for violence against the unborn, Americans constituting the majority who have no clear opinion on abortion will be forced to confront the question of whether the unborn deserve legal protection. Maintaining that they do in one circumstance but not in another is logically untenable, so no longer will rhetoric about choice and reproductive freedom be able to distract the argument from this central question.

Is not, however, the mother's welfare as important as that of her child? Definitely, and the abortion rights lobby will argue that care for a woman's welfare demands treating her unborn child as her property, whether or not such a treatment is justified in and of itself. Most people, however, will not buy the false dichotomy between the welfare of the mother and child. If treating newborn babies as persons does not compromise the welfare of women, why should the same not apply to unborn babies? Yes, there are the rare cases where a pregnancy threatens a woman's life, and saving the mother necessarily leads to the death of the child, but even anti-abortionists agree that the mother should be saved in such instances. In every other instance where abortion is contemplated, there exist non-violent solutions that serve the welfare of both mother and child. It is only a matter of time before Americans embrace them, if present trends continue.

Adam C. Kolasinski is a graduate student in financial economics.

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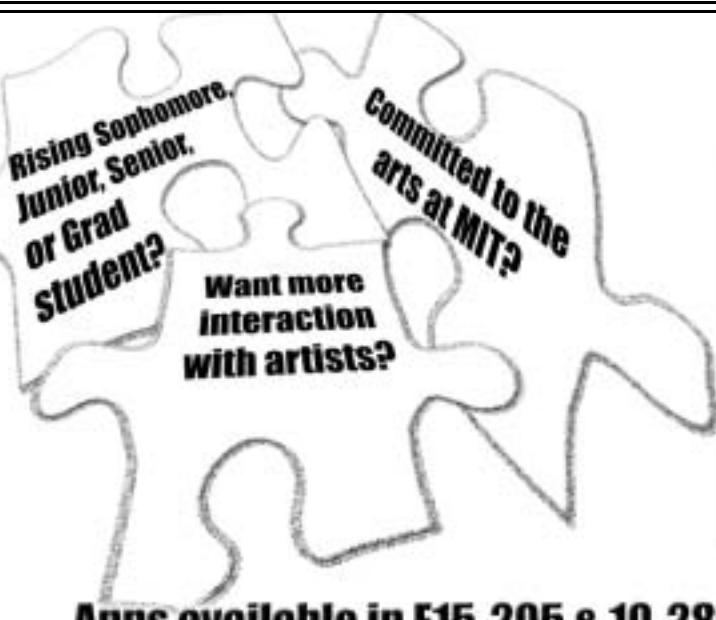
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FEATURES

Positive Sinking Missin' Korea

By Akshay Patil

FEATURES EDITOR

One of the nice things about being the Features Editor and feeling obliged to attend the news meetings here at *das Tech* is that I hear about a lot of stuff before you do. That's right, while you sleep soundly in your beds Sundays at 5 p.m., unaware of the turmoil that surrounds us, I hear all the juicy gossip about who's getting fvcked by the Instiutve this week.

It was in one such meeting that I found out that Na Na Keum, more popularly known as "Miss Korea 2002," was admitted to the MIT class of 2008. Now to be fair, she was also admitted to the Harvard class of 2008 and has not, as of yet, committed to either university, but despite my strict "no research" column writing policy, I decided this was too curious to pass up.

After three phone calls to Miss Keum's mother, a remarkable woman who somehow manages to speak English better than I can speak Korean, I was able to convey the fact that I would like Miss Korea 2002 to give me a call at *das Tech*, if she could. Ten minutes later I was talking to Na Na over the glorious but sadly non-visuall medium of telephony.



MISS UNIVERSE L.P., LLLP
Na Na Keum, Miss Korea 2002, poses in her evening gown used in the 2003 Miss Universe competition.

Positive Sinking: So you've been in

college in Korea for a while now, what made you want to leave and apply internationally?

Na Na Keum: Well, after I attended the Miss Universe Pageant in Panama, I got a better sense of the world and I wanted to go some place with an international reputation in competitive areas of study.

PS: Why the U.S.?

Keum: You know the U.S. is one of the most leading countries in the world and the most developed in many study areas, especially at the engineering part. MIT is very famous, so I just wanted to come there. The professors are very famous as well, there are many professors there who get the Nobel prize. The students there are very good at their field, so I would like to be one of them.

PS: What have you heard about MIT besides academics?

Keum: Academics?

PS: Yeah, have you heard about the social life? Any of those other aspects?

Keum: I don't know, that's a good question... I've just heard the MIT saying.

PS: What's the MIT saying?

Keum: Saying? Like MIT is well known, especially about their engineering part...

PS: OK, So what do you plan to major in if you come to MIT?

Keum: Uh, I guess that I'd study biology.

PS: What do you plan to do with your degree?

Keum: My degree?

PS: Yeah, so once you've finished your studies in biology, do you have plans for the future?

Keum: I especially like biology and after that I'd like to go to medical school.

PS: OK, have you thought past medical school?

Keum: I beg your pardon?

PS: Do you have any plans besides medical school? I read something about working for the World Health Organization?

Keum: Oh yes, there are two kinds of things for me. One is to go and be a surgeon, the other is to be a kind of a research doctor... and if I become a research doctor I can learn more about the medical part and then get a lot of experience and then make my career worth longing and then apply to the WHO. If I can make it, I will be very happy.

PS: Do you worry at all about being older than most MIT

freshmen?

Keum: I think that's not a big deal. Age is not a big deal. As long as I have a strong will to study at MIT, there's no problem about that, I think.

PS: OK.

Keum: Age is just a number.

PS: Have you heard about the phrase "IHTFP"?

Keum: I beg your pardon?

PS: Have you heard about the phrase "I-H-T-F-P"?

Keum: I-H? no...

PS: Alright, it's not important. Don't worry... Do you date geeks?

Keum: What?

PS: So this is a less serious question, but, uhm, MIT students are known for being geeks... which are people who study a lot and don't have many social skills. So we're curious if you date geeks.

Keum: Geeks?

PS: Geeks, yeah.

Keum: Date geeks? what?

PS: Ok, uh, hmmm... Alright, I guess that won't work. Uhm...

Keum: I think that there is a kind of vocab of words I can't understand.

PS: Ok, so you do have the concept of going out, right? Uhm <pause> a guy and a girl who are interested in each other "going out on a date."

Keum: Going out on a date? Sure, sure, as long as it doesn't bother my studies.

PS: Alright, well thank you very much... I can give you my e-mail address...

Keum: Uh, sure. Do you want to know about my e-mail address?

PS: Sure.

And so my brief, but awkward, conversation with MIT's most famous pre-frosh came to an end. One has to marvel at the resolve of someone who, two years into college and already crowned "Miss Korea," decides to leave it all behind for a chance to study 'stvte... it's pretty impressive, really. That is, of course, unless she goes to Harvard.

Crazy? I was crazy once, they locked me in the rubber room... then the worms came, I hate worms, they make me email sinking@mit.edu.

Sex and the SafeRide Don't Fly Solo: Wingman Tips

By Danchai Mekadenaumporn

FEATURES COLUMNIST

When it comes to picking up women, there are certain assets that are of great importance: good looks, money, charisma, and fame.

You'll usually be able to pull your own weight if you have even one of these things. However, if you find yourself to be the unlucky individual without any of these qualities, your greatest asset will be your wingman.

There are certain qualities that you should look for in a wingman before you start hitting on everything you see. The absolute first thing that you'll need to look for is loyalty. When it comes down to choosing between a woman and a friend, it's definitely got to come down to the old adage, "bros before hos." A woman should never, ever come between friendship.

The second quality that a wingman must possess is courage. Whether it's talking to strange people or backing you up in a bar fight against an Ultimate Fighting Championship title-holder, your buddy should have the balls to approach both with the same intensity. If he runs home crying in either of these situations, kick his ass (then get a new wingman).

The third thing you'll want in a wingman is looks. He shouldn't look too much better than you, but not much worse either. If he's too attractive he might end up getting all the play; if he's too ugly he's going to scare all the girls away. Neither is desirable. Last, but not least, you'll want to look at his personality. Is he a laid back, easy-to-talk-to, all-around good guy? Perfect.

After choosing the perfect wingman, you'll need to work out with him what roles both of you are playing. If you're reading this, you want to be the wing commander; the one calling the shots. The wingman is your support. Depending upon the situation, he'll be either a full-time or part-time wingman. If he's taken, his primary responsibility is to make sure that you get a number, get laid, or whatever else it is that you're looking for. If you're both single, then you'll be switching off roles. You

can't go hogging all the fun for yourself.

After deciding what roles you're playing, you want to dole out responsibilities and expectations as well. Your wingman should understand these stipulations: he's there for support, he may be going home alone while you live out your wildest fantasies. Whatever crap you get yourself into, he's the one obliged to get you out of it. He'll lie for you, distract the ugly girl so you can get the hot one, lend you money when you're broke, and make sure you don't end up with a medusa-looking fugly girl because you're too drunk to tell the difference (this is the only acceptable time to cockblock).

He's got your back in all situations, but definitely not for free. Let's also realize that to reciprocate his goodwill, you will either be his wingman later, or honor him with lavish (but manly) gifts. He slept with the ugly girl or got his ass kicked for a reason — and it wasn't out of the kindness of his heart.

After you've come to all of these understandings (there are many, I know), you're almost ready to party. Before you go out though, you need to develop a system of communication. In the real world, information is power; it isn't any different in the world of dating.

You two will need to understand each other at all times to be at peak effectiveness. That means working out a system to figure out which girl each of you is going after or let each other know when you're going to need a ride home or if you're spending the night. Discreet hand signals should be enough for the former. The latter might involve discreet cell phone calls, or blind faith that your buddy is going to get home safe (but that's probably not the way to go).

Especially important is devising an "abort" signal. Let's say you both go up to a group of girls at a club and start dancing. If their big, stupid, and aggressive boyfriends come back and one of you is oblivious, the other would throw up an "abort" signal. That way you can slip away undetected and without conflict.

Hopefully I've provided enough of a rough guide to help you divide and conquer — all night long.



MISS UNIVERSE L.P., LLLP
Danchai Mekadenaumporn, Features Columnist

Na Na Keum, Miss Korea 2002, poses in her evening gown used in the 2003 Miss Universe competition.

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Na Na Keum, Miss Korea 2002, poses in her evening gown used in the 2003 Miss Universe competition.

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Sushi: Raw And Uncut

Sushi, from Page 7

racuda in "Finding Nemo" who ate Marlin Jr. et al. Ikura is actually not clown fish, but salmon roe, served in the same fashion as *tobiko* from the last issue. In reality, these fish eggs are bigger and actually do look like Nemo before he hatched. Don't worry, you won't see any fish fetuses before you chomp down. Since they're so much bigger than *tobiko*, you can expect a slightly fishier taste with every pop.

Sake — This is the benchmark upon which I judge every sushi bar I visit. If they can't get this dish right, opt for an order of the other sake before you continue your meal. Sake is salmon, usually bright orange with marbling of white throughout, similar to a nice cut of beef. This is the perfect springboard for novices to sushi. It has no hint of fishy flavor, and is generally loved by the public because, as my dear friend Fallon says, "Fat = Flavor." My favorite place back home serves huge slabs of salmon with a crown of shaved bonito, sliced green onions and a drizzle of black vinegar.

Maguro/Toro — Blue fin tuna. These slices should be bright red, not a dull crimson. The difference between maguro and toro are the parts of the tuna the slices come from, like a t-bone versus a filet. Maguro is the side of the tuna, whereas the toro comes from the fatty underbelly. (Sidenote: Until the day you die, you should always remember that the two best pieces come from the belly or behind the cheek of a fish.)

It's up to you to decide which slice you like more, but in my opinion, all blue fin tuna sushi is just filler space on a plate.

Hamachi — One of the most prized types of sushi, hamachi is yellow tail tuna. I personally give it the second most hardcore sushi award. For true connoisseurs, this is the real benchmark used to measure the quality of a sushi bar. The pieces are usually a peach/pink color. Enjoying the flavor of this sushi is relatively easy if you've mastered sake. Welcome to hardcore sushi-hood.

Uni — This sushi beats out *hamachi* in value, esteem, and hardcore-ness. Uni is sea urchin roe. If you take a sea urchin, flip it over, cut around the mouth, and remove the internal organs, you will find pieces of uni lining the inside walls of the purple ball of spikes you hold in your hand. If, and I stress if, you are able to acquire a taste for uni, it'll cost you. The most expensive uni is red, the least expensive yellow. Each piece is served a la *tobiko*. Expect a creamy texture. If you acquire a taste for this, I give you an A+ and forty gold stars.



We Have Computers.

You are Probably Course 6

Join The Tech

join@the-tech.mit.edu

By Ian Ybarra
FEATURES COLUMNIST

Next time you're in Chicago's O'Hare International Airport, know that nearby on West Bryn Mahr Avenue, there's an MIT alumna running a \$1.5 billion business.

Ilene Gordon '75, President of Alcan Food Packaging-Americas, works from a standard executive corner-office-with-a-view in one of several silver towers which house the headquarters of such corporate giants as Alcoa and Wilson Sporting Goods. Inside, on dark wood cupboards, sit stacks of empty packages for products like Capri Sun and Keebler cookies. And on Gordon's mind sit multi-million dollar decisions, like a recent one involving \$5 million and the flimsy label on Dasani water bottles. Did she grow up dreaming of directing a gigantic manufacturing company? Does anyone?

Gordon attended MIT at a time when the world was just beginning to let women pursue jobs other than Secretary, Teacher, and Nurse. As a self-described "math whiz" in high school, Gordon's plan was simply to pursue course XVIII and become a math teacher. Everything changed, though, when she met a few bold women at MIT who were determined to be not nurses, but doctors (gasp!). From then on, Gordon sought out the toughest of challenges and attacked them with an almost superhuman vigor.

We certainly can't understand exactly what Gordon's MIT experience was like years ago. A telltale sign of that: I hardly recognized her brass rat because of its protruding shanks. However, we can learn a few timeless lessons

from her career.

You don't have to know exactly what you want to do, just know a little bit.

As Gordon's undergraduate studies came to an end, her only career insight was that she loved solving problems. It wasn't much, but it was enough to get started. Upon a professor's recommendation, she enrolled in a one year Master's program at MIT's Sloan School of Management, hoping to prepare for the complex, open-ended problems that all organizations face. As one of only 20 women in her class, Gordon excelled at Sloan and decided what she wanted next... sort of.

"I liked intensity. I wanted to be in an environment where people worked really hard," she recalled. At Sloan, people naturally recommended she go into consulting. So she joined the Boston Consulting Group. While she enjoyed her time with BCG — meeting her husband in the Boston office, working for a stint in London, and opening a Chicago office — she grew tired of advising companies on how to run their operations. She wanted to run her own.

You can experience success and fulfillment in the most unlikely of places.

Initially, I thought it was coincidence that Gordon ended up in manufacturing. It's hardly the industry to put women in power. Gordon set the record straight. "I always wanted to be a pioneer. In industries like consumer products, I saw lots of women. But there were none in factories." To me, it sounded like she was looking to pick a fight she wasn't supposed to win. I was correct.

"It's almost like I wanted to stack the deck against myself," she said. It worked, though.

A few years after leaving BCG, Gordon found herself doing corporate development and strategy for Tenneco, a manufacturing giant. Finally, with the real responsibility for a company's success that she lacked in consulting, she flourished. She acquired companies and grew them from \$50 million businesses to, say, \$100 or 200 million. She climbed the ladder at Tenneco for 17 years, eventually becoming vice president of operations.

There will always be more.

You can't go much higher than Gordon has in the corporate world. In the Montreal-based Alcan Inc., a perennial Fortune Global 500 and Global Most Admired company, Gordon is merely two levels below President and CEO Travis Engen '67. Contrary to the perennial joke, the Harvard alumni are working for her. Gordon also noted her roster includes several Northwestern MBAs, largely due to her office's proximity to the Kellogg School

More proof she's reached a coveted position: She's served on the boards of six multi-billion dollar corporations and she'll never have to write another resume in her life. She clearly enjoys her job, but what's her ultimate goal? "I decided a long time ago that I want to be CEO of a Fortune 500 company," she said.

I think she'll do it. Though given her passion for solving problems and penchant for picking fights she's not supposed to win, I don't think her path will stop there.

As for the paths we are just beginning, Gordon advised, "Find a challenge. Then pick the people. And don't ever let yourself be pressured into a particular industry."

Gourmet Geek

C Is for Cookie, That's Good Enough for Me

By Rose Grabowski
FEATURES COLUMNIST

"Rose! I actually made cookies! Real baked scratch fresh chocolate chip cookies!"

Although it didn't seem as though she fully understood her words, it appeared my friend was excited to tell me about her weekend. For months, we had been joking that I was going to domesticate her by teaching her how to be a "real woman" — learn how to cook, clean, and bake cookies and cakes. So for the holidays I naturally had to buy her the book "How to be a Domestic Goddess." This weekend, she finally managed to tie on an apron, pull out a wooden spoon and bowl, and crack the text to explore her baker within.

What came next, however, concerned me: "The book didn't work! I took the cookies out of the oven, they were gray and hard." She had followed the recipe as best she could, but still fell into the trap that most cookie-virgins confront — lack of reverence for the subtle wonder of chemistry that is baking.

When making baked goods, you cannot just dump all the ingredients together, mix, and heat. It's not *quite* that simple. So I present to you a very basic cookie recipe:

Start with butter or a similar substance like shortening, margarine, or lard. The butter is beaten into a creamy texture, incorporating air into the fat. Sugar is then added and creamed into the butter. The harsh edges of the sugar crystals break through the solid fat and create

many more air pockets throughout. These pockets will later allow the cookie to have a light, crumbly texture.

A common mistake, and the one I immediately knew my friend had made in her attempt at domesticity, is to assume that butter is butter is butter, melted, hard, or frozen. You may be tempted to melt it completely and then mix it into the sugar, instead of letting it "soften" before creaming. Beaten melted butter will hold no more air than beaten water, so cookies made with melted butter will be dense and flat.

The importance of the step of creaming the butter must not be underestimated. By incorporating air into the batter early, less mixing has to occur later on in the process, and by mixing the batter less when the flour has been added, there is less opportunity for gluten development.

Gluten is the gelatinous material formed when water is mixed with flour and makes bread dough stretch — which you probably don't want in your chocolate chip cookies.

Even using different types of fat can vastly change the quality of your cookie. Shortening is a modern fat that is usually precreamed, with about 10 percent of its volume consisting of air. Cookies made with that as opposed to butter will generally be less flat and more tender.

Next, eggs are mixed in, the egg white helps to increase the air pocket volume further. The egg yolk proteins add flavor and will act as a structural support in the batter. Vanilla or some other flavoring is added followed by the dry ingredients, including salt, leavening, and flour.

The salt serves two purposes, one of enhancing the taste and the other of inhibiting protein-digesting enzymes in the flour and therefore preventing gluten from weakening the structure and releasing air bubbles. My mother used to always exclude salt from her cookies because she figured salt is bad for you. But salt actually heightens the flavor of the ingredients surrounding it, so by adding salt you really are increasing propensity for experiencing flavor.

The leavening agent is usually baking soda or baking powder, a mixture of baking soda and acidic salts. The sodium bicarbonate in these ingredients reacts with alkaline components in the batter to form carbon dioxide air bubbles, furthering the airy texture of the cookie.

Another common mistake is for wannabe bakers to mix in the leavening early in the process, while mixing the eggs for example, and leave the dough sitting for a while in the open air. This allows the chemical reaction to take place early, release the air bubbles, and deflate the dough.

Finally, the flour adds structure and support for the final product. At this point the dough should be structurally sound enough to add other tidbits like chocolate, nuts, whole candy bars, little children, etc.

So as long as you follow these concepts along with your recipe and remember things like "mix on medium speed for two minutes" really means two minutes, not 20 seconds (remember — air pockets!), you should be ok. And if not, maybe you'll like hard, gray cookies. They're better than that Ragu Express you have on the shelf, right?

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April 2, 2004

COMICS

FUN PAGES

The Tech

Page
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Filler Space



Trio

My boys SUGAR RAY are coming to Boston in ONE WEEK! Details: alum.mit.edu/www/emeie

by Emezie Okorafor



I notice patterns often

by Brian Loux



Fascist Popsicle Stand

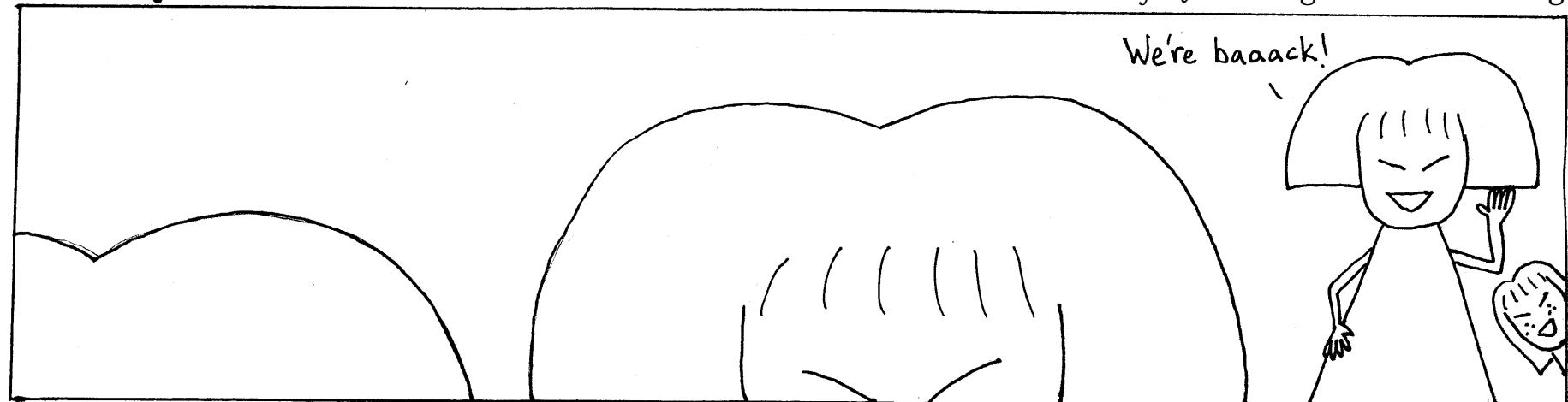
by Saurabh Asthana



Hay Fever

by Qian Wang and Jennifer Peng

We're baaack!



Crossword Puzzle

Solution, page 14

ACROSS

1 Mine entrance
5 Frequently
10 Combination of cards
14 Apple or quince
15 Spark producer
16 Logical starter?
17 Perelman, Barnum, Goodrich, Doctorow, Lawrence & Wyeth
20 Greek Aurora
21 M. Descartes
22 Itemizations
23 Puts on
24 Farm tower
26 Munro, Milne, Lang, White, Mencken & Auden
33 Eagle's home
34 Imprudent
35 Old Olds
36 Forbids
37 Serious play

39 D.C. bigwigs
40 Infamous Amin
41 Oceans
42 Connecting rooms
43 Eliot, Marshall, Snow, Lewis, Wells & Tittle
47 Overdue
48 Paris airport
49 Thread holder
52 Iowa State city
53 Debt chit
56 Lawrence, Griffith, Foyt, Wodehouse, cummings and King
60 Nobelist Wiesel
61 Warning
62 Nastase of tennis
63 Gaze
64 Loamy deposit
65 __-do-well

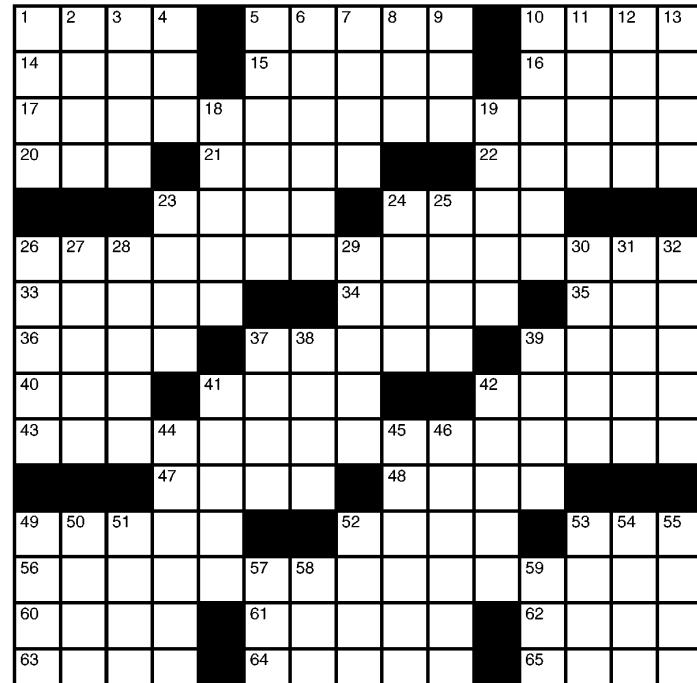
1 Altar area

2 Karate school

3 Rascals
4 Hanoi holiday
5 Outrage
6 Strip blubber
7 Mah-jongg piece
8 Conclude
9 Final degree
10 Flunkey
11 Roush and Hall
12 Time of fasting
13 Medical pers.
18 Bankrupt
19 Koran deity
23 Podium
24 Phony
25 "Casablanca" role
26 Custom
27 Leaders
28 Palmer of golf
29 Army bigwigs
30 Artoo Detoo, e.g.
31 Write Eudora
32 Book before Joel

37 Part of N.Y.P.D.

38 Track event
39 Small and weak
41 La __ (Milan opera house)
42 Spanish sauce
44 Stare angrily
45 Four-baggers
46 Says howdy
49 Stair
50 Legendary soccer player
51 Mutt of Garfield's jokes
52 1958 Pulitzer winner
53 Indolent
54 Tony's cousin
55 Over in Munich
57 Carrier from Tokyo
58 Arafat's grp.
59 Anais __



LAST CHANCE for delivery BY GRADUATION



delivery event - mon apr 5 - noon - bush room

Lobby 10
apr 5,6ordering
10a-3p

<http://web.mit.edu/gsc/www/initiatives/ring/>
Balfour

Sloan E52
apr 7,8

How Do You Measure the Growth of A Child?

Unfortunately for children living in some of the poorest countries in the world, it takes more than fading marks on a wall.

Childreach, one of the oldest and largest child sponsorship organizations, measures growth by the number of hospitals, wells for clean water, and self-help programs we build in partnership with the poor families and communities where our sponsored children live.

For more information about Childreach sponsorship, please call 1-800-752-3400 or send in the attached coupon.



Sunday, April 4, 2004, 6pm

Walker Memorial
142 Memorial Drive

\$10/AAA Member (presale)
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\$80 table ticket (8 people/table-presale)
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March 29-April 2
Monday, Tuesday (Lobby 10)
Wednesday, Thursday, Friday
(Student Center)

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and Cultural
Performances

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Anyssa Kim

Sponsored in part by:
ARCADE Fund
Department of Architecture
Department of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science
Department of Chemical Engineering
Department of Foreign Languages and Literature
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Participating student organizations:
Asian American Association
Association of Taiwanese Students
Bangladeshi Students' Association
Boston University's Alan Batangan
Chinese Students' Association
Filipino Students' Association
Japanese Society of Undergraduates
Korean Students' Association
MIT Lion Dance Club
Natsa
Noor-e-Punjab (MIT Bhangra)
Thai Students at MIT
Vietnamese Students' Association

grains-of-rice@mit.edu
<http://web.mit.edu/mittaaa/www/rice/>



FoxTrot

by Bill Amend

Dilbert® by Scott Adams

Dear reader,

The Tech is interested in hearing feedback about what could be done to make the Events Calendar more useful. Please feel free to send your responses to features@tt.mit.edu. While we seek answers to the specific questions below, other comments about the section are greatly appreciated.

• How often do you use *The Tech's* Events Calendar?

• Are you more likely to use it on or for a certain day of the week? Do you search for events days in advance?

• Do you prefer *The Tech's* calendar to the one on the MIT Web page? Why or why not?

• Do you look for new events that may interest you or do you look for information about an event you already know is happening?

• Do you like the chronological layout or would you prefer one grouped by type of events?

Events Calendar

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

Friday, April 2

10:00 a.m. - Undergraduate Admissions Office Information Session (Followed by Campus Tour). Undergraduate Admissions Office Information Session gathers at the Admissions Reception Center. Groups over 15 people need to make special reservations. Free. Room: 10-100, Admissions Reception Center. Sponsor: Admissions.

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. Free. Room: Lobby 7. Sponsor: Information Center.

12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m. - Writers Group. New writers are invited to join our weekly Writers Group. Share a piece of your writing with other interested and supportive writers. Open to all MIT students, staff, faculty, and spouses. Free. Room: 14N-417. Sponsor: Writing and Communication Center.

12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m. - FileMaker Pro User Group. Free. Room: N42 Demo Center. Sponsor: Information Services and Technology.

12:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. - Rainbow Lounge Open. MIT's resource lounge for lesbian, bisexual, gay, transgender, and questioning members of the community offers a place to hang out. Every Friday from 12-1 p.m. is a brown bag lunch! Free. Room: 50-306. Sponsor: lgbt@mit.

12:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. - M.Eng. in Civil & Environmental Engineering Open House. Open House for admitted students in the M.Eng. in CEE graduate program. An opportunity to meet current M.Eng. students, faculty and staff. Free. Room: 1-143. Sponsor: CEE Staff.

12:00 p.m. - 1:30 p.m. - MIT/CRE Career Services Series. Melinda Moulton, Main Street Landing Company and Koryn Rolstad, Koryn Rolstad Studios. Free. Room: W31-301. Sponsor: Center for Real Estate.

12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m. - ACD Seminar. Exploring the environmental design space within an integrated, aircraft-engine design framework. Free. Room: 33-206. Sponsor: AeroAstro.

12:05 p.m. - 12:45 p.m. - Mass. Free. Room: MIT Chapel. Sponsor: Tech Catholic Community.

1:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m. - Putting Your Degree to Work: Practical Career Strategies for PhDs. Event covers: Professional development strategies for young scientists and engineers. The process of career planning and job hunting. How to identify your transferable skills. Interviewing, CVs, and resumes. Free. Room: 6-120. Sponsor: OCSPA.

2:00 p.m. - Undergraduate Admissions Office Information Session (Followed by Campus Tour). Groups over 15 people need to make special reservations. Free. Room: 10-100. Sponsor: Admissions.

2:45 p.m. - Campus Tour. Groups over 15 people need to make special reservations. Free. Room: Lobby 7. Sponsor: Information Center.

3:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. - SSL Seminar with Paul Wooster: Overview and Update of the Mars Gravity Biosatellite Mission. Free. Room: 37-212. Sponsor: AeroAstro.

3:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. - Freshmen Open House. Open house for MIT freshmen exploring majors. A lab tour will follow the open house from 4-5 p.m. Free. Room: 33-116. Sponsor: AeroAstro.

4:00 p.m. - BCS Colloquium Teuber Lecture - Mu Ming Poo, Ph.D. Spike timing dependant plasticity of neural circuits. Free. Room: E25-111. Sponsor: Brain and Cognitive Sciences. Hosted by the BCS Graduate Students.

4:00 p.m. - Varsity Softball vs. Newbury College. Free. Room: Briggs Field.

4:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. - PSFC Seminar. GRYO: It's not just for experimentalists anymore. Free. Room: NW17-218. Sponsor: Plasma Science and Fusion Center.

4:15 p.m. - 5:15 p.m. - Testing for Convexity. Reception at 3:30 p.m. in Room 2-349. Free. Room: 2-338. Sponsor: Combinatorics Seminar. Department of Mathematics.

5:00 p.m. - Advanced Music Performance Student Recital. Senior Jeremy Baskin, piano. Schubert's "Sonata in A" D.664; Schumann's Carnaval, Op. 9. Free. Room: Killian Hall. Sponsor: Music and Theater Arts Section.

5:00 p.m. - Arts Grant Deadline. Final deadline for 2003-2004 Council for the Arts funding. Forms available at the Office of the Arts, E15-205 or see <http://web.mit.edu/arts/council/grants.html>. Free. Room: E15-205. Sponsor: Council for the Arts at MIT.

6:00 p.m. - Shabbat Services & Dinner. Celebrate Shabbat. MIT Hillel's three religious communities hold Shabbat services at 6 p.m. for Conservatives, Orthodox, and Reform. A community Shabbat dinner follows at 7 p.m.. Cost for dinner only. Room: Religious Activities Center, Bldg w11. Sponsor: Hillel, MIT.

6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. - GCF Large Group Fellowship Meeting. Come for worship, a stimulating talk, fellowship and snacks. Free. Room: Student Center Twenty Chimneys (W20-306). Sponsor: Graduate Christian Fellowship, GCF Funding Board.

6:00 p.m. - National Collegiate Gymnastics Association National Championship. Adults: \$10.00/session or \$15.00 for both sessions; Seniors/Students: \$5.00/session or \$8.00 for both sessions; MIT students (with student ID) and children 5 and under: Free. Room: Johnson Athletic Center. Sponsor: Physical Education, Department of Athletics, Physical Education and Recreation.

6:00 p.m. - Between the Lines - A festival of South Asian LBGT Identity at MIT. Why the need for Between the Lines. The quest for a holistic gay identity is being dramatically played out on today's world stage. Free. Sponsor: Between The Lines - Negotiating South Asian LBGT Identity.

6:15 p.m. - 6:50 p.m. - CCC Friday Dinner. Meet us for dinner before Real Life Boston in the Student Center's Alpine Bagel. Free. Room: Alpine Bagel. Sponsor: Campus Crusade for Christ.

6:55 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. - CCC Real Life Boston. Did you know that there are 42 campuses in the greater Boston area? Well, wouldn't it be cool to fellowship with Christians from all these schools? You can! Real Life is on Friday nights at 7:30 p.m. in the Science Hall at Harvard University. MITCC meets at 77 Mass Ave at 6:55 p.m. to take the #1 bus as a group. All are welcome! Free. Room: Student Center Steps. Sponsor: Campus Crusade for Christ.

7:00 p.m. - 11:59 p.m. - MIT Anime Club Weekly Showing. The MIT Anime Club shows the best of both recent and classic Japanese animation. Showings are open to the public. Tonight: R.O.D. the TV, Detective Loki Ragnarok, and Kimi ga Nozomu Eien. Free. Room: 4-370. Sponsor: Anime Club, MIT, UA Finance Board.

7:00 p.m. - 9:30 p.m. - ACF Large Group meeting - (speaker: Annette Kim). Worship, teaching, discussion, food, fun! Prayer meeting at 6 p.m. All are welcome! Free. Room: McCormick Brown Living Room. Sponsor: Asian Christian Fellowship.

7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. - Die Mommie Die! Room: 26-100. Sponsor: LSC.

7:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. - Bible Study. Is there more to life than grad school? We believe the answer is "YES!" Come study the word of God with us. There will be dinner provided and games afterward! Free. Room: 1-150. Sponsor: Asian Baptist Student Koinonia Graduate Division, GSC Funding Board.

7:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m. - The Handmaid's Tale. \$3. Room: 10-250. Sponsor: LSC.

8:00 p.m. - Hindustani Instrumental Concert. Senior Lecturer George Ruckert. \$14 for members, \$10 for students, MIT students free with ID. Room: Wong Auditorium. Sponsor: MIT Heritage of South Asia in cooperation with Sangam.

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.

Saturday, April 3

7:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m. - MIT Sloan BioInnovations Conference. Forum for leading thinkers from industry, academia, and government to discuss the next wave of innovations in life science technology, policy, and commercialization. Room: Tang Center. Sponsor: MIT Entrepreneurship Center, MIT Sloan BioPharma Business Club.

8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. - GLSEN Boston's 14th Annual Conference - Beyond Boundaries. GLSEN (Gay, Lesbian, and Straight Education Network of Boston) is dedicated to creating safe schools for LBGT people. Please visit <http://www.glsenboston.org> for more information. Room: Kresge Auditorium. Sponsor: lgbt@mit. GLSEN Boston.

8:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. - Walsh Symposium, E15. Weisner Building at E15, 20 Ames St. 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Open to anyone interested in attending. Patrol. Travel to strange new classrooms. Meet interesting, unusual people, and kill them! Patrol is a high-action game of live combat with rubber-dart guns. Shoot your friends, then watch out as they try to take their revenge. Free. Room: 36-115. Sponsor: Assassins' Guild, MIT.

9:00 p.m. - 1:00 a.m. - Baker House Rock. A free rock concert headlined by Piebald, one of the top bands to emerge from the Boston local music scene. Piebald has toured nationally with Dashboard Confessional, A New Found Glory, and Saves The Day. Also featuring Mappari, Our Friend Glenn, and Poulain. Refreshments will be provided. Free. Room: Baker Commons. Sponsor: Baker House, Student Life Programs, Dormitory Council, SaveFP, Kappa Alpha Theta.

10:00 p.m. - 1:00 a.m. - Return of the King. Room: 26-100. Sponsor: LSC.

Sunday, April 4

8:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. - MIT Lightweight Men's Crew vs. Holy Cross, BC. MIT's lightweight freshmen and varsity crews take on Massachusetts rivals Holy Cross and Boston College. Barbecue starts at 10 a.m. — we'll have lots of delicious free food. Free. Room: Pierce Boathouse. Sponsor: MIT Boat Club.

9:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m. - Mass. Free. Room: MIT Chapel. Sponsor: Tech Catholic Community.

11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. - Ashdown Sunday Brunch. Sunday Brunch. Free. Room: Ashdown House, Hulsizer Room. Sponsor: Ashdown House, GSC Funding Board, LEF (Large Events Fund).

11:00 a.m. - Varsity Women's Tennis vs. Trinity College. Free. Room: du Pont Tennis Courts/JB Carr Tennis Bubble. Sponsor: Physical Education, Department of Athletics, Physical Education and Recreation.

1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m. - Mass. Free. Room: MIT Chapel. Sponsor: Tech Catholic Community.

2:00 p.m. - Gallery Talk. Led by Hiroko Kikuchi, List Visual Arts Center Education/Outreach Coordinator. Presented in conjunction with "Son et Lumière", Feb. 12 - April 4. Free. Room: List Visual Arts Center, E15. Sponsor: List Visual Arts Center.

4:00 p.m. - Oryx and Crake Revealed. Abramowitcz Memorial Lecture with Author Margaret Atwood. Free. Room: Rm 10-250. Sponsor: Office of the Arts.

5:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. - Mass. Free. Room: MIT Chapel. Sponsor: Tech Catholic Community.

6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. - Grains of Rice Cultural Show. Featured Guest Performers: Vienna Teng and Anyssa Kim! Come Join us for an asian cultural extravaganza — a full 14-course dinner, and great entertainment provided by MIT cultural clubs and area Boston colleges! \$10 advance \$12 at door. Room: Walker Memorial. Sponsor: Foreign Languages & Literatures, Chemical Engineering, Department of Architecture, Dept. of Materials Science and Engineering, Asian American Association, ARCADE (Assisting Recurring Cultural Diversity Events), Counseling and Support Services, SHASS, Literature Section, UA Senate, STA Travel.

7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. - Die Mommie Diet! Room: 26-100. Sponsor: LSC.

8:00 p.m. - 11:00 p.m. - International Folk Dancing. International folk dancing. Teaching and beginners' dances from 8-9 p.m. A mixture of all skill levels from 9-11 p.m. Our repertoire includes dances from Eastern Europe as well as other parts of Europe and the rest of the world. Note: We will move to La Sala de Puerto Rico if it is available. MIT/Wellesley students free; suggested donation \$1 from others. Room: W20-491. Sponsor: Folk Dance Club.

10:00 p.m. - 1:00 a.m. - Return of the King. \$3. Room: 26-100. Sponsor: LSC.

Monday, April 5

10:00 a.m. - Undergraduate Admissions Office Information Session (Followed by Campus Tour). Groups over 15 people need to make special reservations. Free. Room: Admissions Reception Center, 10-100. Sponsor: Admissions.

10:45 a.m. - Campus Tour. Groups over 15 people need to make special reservations. Free. Room: Lobby 7, main entrance lobby at 77 Massachusetts Ave. Sponsor: Information Center.

12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m. - MathML Quick Start. Free. Room: N42 Demo Center. Sponsor: Information Systems.

12:30 p.m. - 2:00 p.m. - Design Engineer in a Collaborative Team: An Architect's Perspective. Spring 2004 Building Technology Lecture Series. Free. Room: AVT Room 7-431. Sponsor: Building Technology Program.

2:00 p.m. - Undergraduate Admissions Office Information Session (Followed by Campus Tour). Groups over 15 people need to make special reservations. Free. Room: Admissions Reception Center, 10-100. Sponsor: Admissions.

2:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. - Nuclear & Particle Theory Seminar. Electric dipole moments and supersymmetry. Free. Room: Center of Theoretical Physics. Sponsor: Laboratory for Nuclear Science.

2:45 p.m. - Campus Tour. Groups over 15 people need to make special reservations. Free. Room: Lobby 7, main entrance lobby at 77 Massachusetts Ave. Sponsor: Information Center.

3:00 p.m. - Varsity Baseball vs. Wentworth. Free. Room: Briggs Field.

4:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. - Science and Instrumental Reason in the Federal Republic of Germany: Heidegger, Habermas, Heisenberg. STS Colloquium. Free. Room: E51-095. Sponsor: STS.

4:00 p.m. - Spring Biological Chemistry Seminar Series: Prof. Young-Tae Chang. Room: 6-120. Tagged small molecule approach to facilitated chemical genetics. Prof. Young-Tae Chang, New York University Chemistry Department Spring Biological Chemistry Seminar Series.

New This Year: Summer Resident Assistant Positions

Benefits

- € Free, guaranteed Summer Housing
- € \$500.00 Stipend
- € Leadership opportunity

Job Summary

The Summer RA is a fundamental part of the success in the Summer Housing experience. Students hired for this position will be responsible for building community in their building, for having a presence in their assigned area, and for being a resource to students in terms of information about services available to students or contacting the appropriate people on campus in case of a crisis.

Eligibility

In order to be considered for the Summer RA position, a student must qualify for Summer Housing under the guidelines set out by the Housing Office (see *Student Life Handbook*, page 53). In addition, all applicants must be registered for classes at MIT in the Fall 2004 semester. Graduating seniors will only be considered for the Summer RA position if they have been accepted into an MIT graduate program that will begin in the Fall 2004 semester. Applicants must have lived in an on-campus dorm for a *minimum* of two years. Applicants must currently be in good standing both academically and disciplinarily, and must remain so throughout the term of employment.

Come to an Information Session to learn more :

- € April 2, 3:00 PM, Student Center, PDR 1 & 2
- € April 6, 7:30 PM, EC Talbot Lounge
- € April 7, 7:30 PM, MacGregor Dining

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Co-Chief Executive Officer



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Szuminski's Efforts Monitored by *ESPN*

MLB, from Page 1

play pro ball. You come to MIT for the education. But along with it, you get an opportunity to play," he said.

And play Jason did. Szuminski pitched all of his four years at MIT in spite of financial, academic, and time-related constraints. The kind of energy and enthusiasm that Jason exhibited for baseball on top of his other responsibilities earned him the respect and attention of his coach and teammates. Singleton said Szuminski "just loved to have the baseball in his hand" and would "come out intense, just ready to play."

Former teammate John J. Kogel G said, "Jason was an awesome guy to play with not only because he was an extremely talented pitcher and great competitor, but [because] he was also one of the funniest guys on the team. He's got a great attitude about life and the game."

The turning point

There was one game that seemed to be the turning point for Szuminski's interest to play professionally. Singleton recalled how scouts had come to the game to watch another player and "Jason pitched, and all of a sudden he was striking everybody out."

Szuminski remembered that after the game, the scout talked to him and said "If you go try to play for real, you might have a chance to get drafted, go onto the minor leagues — see how far you can go."

While Szuminski could not put all of his energy into baseball since he had other commitments at MIT such as academics, this need to balance may have actually helped him.

Szuminski said that while MIT was a "high stress environment," it also taught him to how to conquer adversity, and to "take something that is so difficult and figure out how to be successful at it."

He said that this can be seen in a lot of MIT graduates and students. "They go on and they're successful in a lot of the things that they do, because they have that ability to jump into something brand new that they know nothing about and figure out how to do it very well," he said.

However, when he's on the mound, MIT is the last thing on Szuminski's mind. "For the most part, I think baseball and MIT are pretty far apart. It's a different kind of challenge," he said.

While he may very well make a name for himself in the major leagues, Szuminski still has a four year commitment after graduation

with Air Force ROTC, of which he has served a little more than three years. He hopes to convert the remaining year into a couple of years of reserve duty. And regardless of whether he succeeds in the field of baseball, Szuminski said, "I'm never going to count the Air Force out."

Featuring Szuminski!

Another perk of graduating from MIT and entering into a professional sport is the media attention. Szuminski has been featured on *ESPN.com*'s Page 2 column by renowned sports-writers such as Jim Cable and Peter Gammons. His progress is tracked in the *Sports Illustrated* magazine under the "Szuminski Watch." In addition, he has also attracted the attention of the National Public Radio's Sunday Edition, the *San Diego Union-tribune*, and *Newsday*.

On his newfound fame, Jason said, "It's amusing ... they all seem to think they're funny with their attempts at the rocket science jokes." However, he dismisses the attention, saying, "they're just articles ... whether people are watching or not, I'm doing the best I can because I want to make it for myself more than anybody else."

Baseball with the big boys

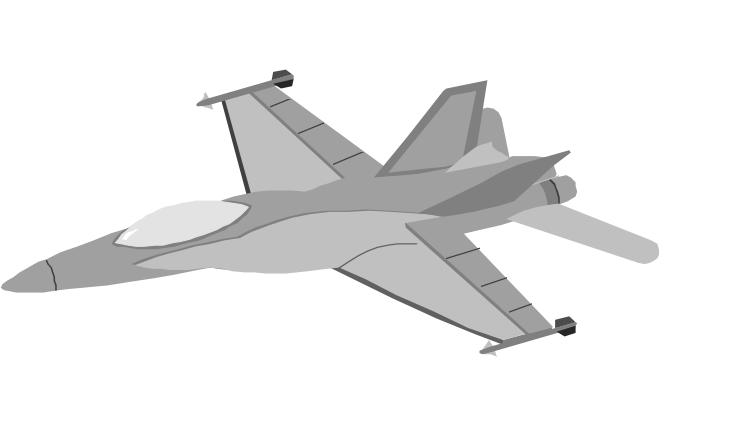
Even though Szuminski says that MIT and minor/major league baseball are "worlds apart," he has still managed to fit right in. "I really like the atmosphere here with the Padres. It's a real good environment, laid back, everybody has a good attitude ... It's a good feeling," he commented.

When asked what he wants to do in the future, Szuminski jokingly replied "try to make opening day" by obtaining a spot on the roster of the Padres. As a Rule V draftee, if Szuminski does not make the Padres regular season roster, he will be traded back to the Cubs where he will probably stay in the minor leagues.

Regardless of what the Padres managing staff decide on Szuminski, many people in the MIT community are rooting for him. Singleton said, "He really is a good kid and I wish him the best and you know I wish that he goes all the way ... he has the passion and the enthusiasm."

Kogel said, "I think he'll do very well ... he has risen to every challenge and turned heads doing so ... He should get a shot being picked up by the San Diego Padres."

When asked for words of advice for aspiring MIT students, Szuminski chuckled, then replied, "take the opportunity and go through with it."



Freshmen Open House
Department of Aeronautics and Astronautics - Course XVI

Friday, April 2, 2004

Refreshments, Questions & Answers

3:00 - 4:00 pm.

At the Seamans Lab (33-116)

Lab Tour Leaves from 33-116 at 4:00 pm.

Bring your questions about the course curriculum, UROP, and summer internships. There will also be demos, a display of student projects, prizes, etc. Find out what exciting opportunities Aero/Astro has to offer.

Japanese Hanami* Party
The Art of Cherry Blossom Observation

Date: Friday, April 17th
Time: 10:00 - 21:00
Place: Kimball House (Building W1)
Hansen Room
325 Memorial Drive, Cambridge, MA

Contact: hishinkai-request@mit.edu

Sponsored by The Japanese Association of MIT
Co-sponsored by ARCADE Funding
MIT Japan Program
The Japanese Society of Undergraduates

Solution to Crossword

from page 10

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

Program on Human Rights & Justice

Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Refugee and Indigenous Rights: A Discussion of Human Rights Issues in Northern Thailand

Professor Sue Darlington, Hampshire College, Michael Forhan, Burma Border Project

Josh Rubenstein, Amnesty International

Thursday April 8, 2004, 4:30-6:00 p.m. E38-615, 292 Main Street

Report Back: A Personal Look at the Health and Human Rights Consequences of Occupation on Israelis and Palestinians

Dr. Alice Rothchild and Dr. Alan Meyers

The Jewish American Medical Project

Thursday April 15, 2004, 4:30-6:00 p.m. E38-615, 292 Main Street

Human Rights & Colombian Coal in Salem, Massachusetts

Friday April 16, 2004, 7:00 p.m. in 66-110

Co-sponsored by the MIT Western Hemisphere Project

Shall We Choose What Types of People Are Born:

Rights and Ethics in Scientific Research

Professor Jonathan Glover, King's College, University of London

Tuesday April 27, 2004, 5:00-6:30 p.m. in 66-110

Media, Technology and Democracy Conference

Applying Human Rights Theory Panel Thurs April 29, 5:30-7:00 in 66-110

Technology in Action Panel Friday April 30, 2004, 4:00-6:00 p.m. in 4-237

Co-sponsored by Design that Matters

Please visit <http://web.mit.edu/phrj> for full details

Attention MIT Students

It's not too late to start your job or summer internship search!

Please note the following

MIT Careers Office (MITCO) Sponsored Events & Services,

As well as other career search information for April 2004:

Continue to check Monstertrak and Interviewtrak for full-time job & internship opportunities through the month of April: <http://www.monstertrak.com>

The MIT eFair

April 12-26

Register <http://www.monstertrak.com> and post your resume for this MIT on-line Job & Internship Fair!

StartingBloc Conference- Globalization: Fair vs. Free Trade

April 4 @ 11:30am-5:00pm in E51, The Wong Auditorium

An opportunity to hear from and meet with highly regarded entrepreneurs, business leaders, and professors discussing their views on responsible business, social entrepreneurship, and sustainability. This educational conference is open to all students!

The Boston Career Connections Job Fair

April 5 @ the Roxy in Boston.

For information: visit: <http://bostonworks.boston.com/college/>

The 2004 National Biotechnology Conference

(Sponsored by the AAPS Career Center)

May 17-19 @ Westin Copley Place, Boston MA

For information: <http://www.aapspharmaceutica.com/careercenter/>For additional Career Fair opportunities, visit:
<http://web.mit.edu/career/www/events/careerfairs.html>

For all additional careers information, visit the MITCO Website:

<http://web.mit.edu/career/www/>phone: 3-4733 / email: citizen-www@mit.edu

Visit MITCO in Building 12-170

Decision Wait Vexes Few Student Groups

ASA Space, from Page 1

decision would be discussed in a meeting next week, Menard said.

These changes are anticipated to cost approximately \$10,000, and Menard said CRSP approval and funding for the plan is likely because the changes, unlike the library move, would not make it necessary to update infrastructure.

Delay affects some groups' plans

For some groups, the delay in office space notification has impacted the way the group runs.

Dramashop was given high priority for gaining space in the Student Center. The group's vice president Maria Kamenetska '05 said they "would benefit a great deal from" gaining an office.

Currently, Dramashop uses what Kamenetska calls a "tiny office in the bottom of Kresge" which is crowded to the point that it is difficult for the group to fit all its officers inside. Kamenetska added that the group would like to expand its officer positions, but until Dramashop acquires more office space, it is difficult to do so.

Other groups remain relatively unaffected by the lack of a final decision.

Cross Products secretary Brittany Coulbert G said that another group currently allows Cross Products to use their space, so the delay does not affect the group although it currently does not have space.

Loai T. Na'amani G, an officer of the Lebanese Club, which could lose their office in the final decision, said that the club currently does not use their office, so it is not an area of concern.

Menard remarked that the ASA has not announced updates because they "didn't want to confuse people," since the ASA "didn't know for certain what was going to happen." The ASA hopes final decisions will be made in several weeks, he said.

Menard said that the ASA has only received one or two inquiries from groups regarding office space.

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STANLEY HU—THE TECH
Ashley T. Tran '07 leaps in the air during a practice at the DuPont Athletic Center. MIT will host the National Collegiate Gymnastics Association Championships today and Saturday for the first time in the school's history.

Sync Swim: The Few and The Proud

By Victoria K. Anderson
TEAM MEMBER

With only two members of the club competing, the MIT Synchronized Swimming Club scored four points to place 20th out of 29 squads overall and 11th out of 20 club teams at the U.S. Collegiate Synchronized Swimming Championships March 25-27 in Ann Arbor, Michigan. The Ohio State University won their 21st national championship with 95 points while the University of Florida scored 39 points to take the top spot among the club teams.

Although the entire MIT team qualified and several squads brought the maximum of twenty competitors allowed, only two team members (who performed one duet and one solo routine) elected to compete due to the conflict with MIT's spring break. However, this setback did not prevent MIT from continuing its strong presence in the technical figures category, as their average score of 60.797 in the intermediate division placed them sixth overall and third among club teams. Individual-

ly, Victoria K. Anderson G (61.182) was 17th, and Cilanne E. Boulet G (60.411) was 19th.

In the routine competition, Anderson finished 19th overall in the solo competition with a score of 75.0 while the duet of Anderson and Boulet was 25th overall with a score of 75.2. In earning that score, they posted two 8.0s and topped duets from several varsity squads including Walsh University, Carleton College, and Wheaton College.

At the conclusion of the meet, both athletes were honored as Academic All-Americans. The 100 percent rate of recognition was the highest of any squad at the championships.

Prior to their departure for nationals, MIT sent a full squad to the Eastern Collegiate Athletic Conference (ECAC) Championships March 19-20 at Cornell University. Despite a disappointing finish in the team routine competition, MIT finished seventh overall with 42.5 points, just barely topping Boston University's 42 points in the 12-team field.

The team's success at the meet was strongly dependent upon their showing in the technical figure cate-

gories, as they took first in the novice category (58.363), second in the junior category (68.784), and third in the intermediate category (63.647). Individually, Alice Wuu '05 placed fifth in the novice category with a score of 59.888, while Lesley D. Frame '04 was 12th (58.259), and Leah C. Blasiak G was 15th (56.941). In the intermediate category, Anderson was sixth (64.108), and Boulet was eighth (63.186) while Lindsey R. Sheehan '07 was 15th in the junior division (68.784).

In routine competition, Anderson placed seventh in solo (76.167) and teamed with Boulet for a tenth-place finish in duet (74.5). The trio of Blasiak, Frame, and Wuu finished 11th (69.667) while their team routine with Anderson, Boulet, and Sheehan finished tenth (70.667).

Although the competition season concluded with nationals last weekend, the team will be sponsoring an informal class for students at the Zesiger Center pool from 1-2 p.m. on Sundays. No experience is necessary, and participants will have the opportunity to take part in the team's water show on April 24.



I'd take pleasure in **guttin'** you,
boy. . .

if you don't join@the-tech.mit.edu

The Production Department's Word of the Day

Adit: An almost horizontal entrance into a mine

join@the-tech.mit.edu

Want Recognition? Student Leader Awards

**Nominate Online by April 14th:
web.mit.edu/slp/leader-awards**

Nominate for:
Best Performing Arts Group
Best Philanthropy Event
Dorm Gov't of the Year & many more...

SPORTS

Huot, Valkama Skate At World Tournament

By Diana Cheng
TEAM MEMBER

MIT sophomores Jessica R. Huot '06 and Juha S. Valkama '06 placed 28th at the 2004 World Figure Skating Championships in ice dance in Dortmund, Germany over spring break. Huot and Valkama taught the intermediate and advanced group ice dance lessons at the MIT Figure Skating Club's Saturday morning sessions throughout the 2003-2004 skating season.

The team represented the country of Finland at the World Championships for the third time at the senior level of the competition.

The team placed 27th in the first qualifying round, the compulsory dance. This dance was the Midnight Blues and Huot passed the US Figure Skating dance test at the MIT Figure Skating Club's test session

on February 29, 2004.

Huot and Valkama would go placed 28th in the Original Dance, with music to Swing Kids and The Mask.

In the 2003-2004 season, Huot and Valkama also competed at the NHK Trophy in Japan, the Finlandia Trophy, and the European Championships. They placed 12th, seventh, and 18th, respectively.

Their rank is a small fall from previous years. The duo first competed internationally at the junior level in 2000 and moved up to the senior level in 2002, where they placed 26th at the World Championships. In the 2003 championships, the team took 21st. Dmitri Kazarlyga has remained their coach and choreographer throughout their participation in the senior level championships.

Overreffing Can Be a Bad Call

By Yong-yi Zhu
SPORTS COLUMNIST

The Baylor Lady Bears' basketball program is sitting at home today. They will no longer have

Column the opportunity to play for a national championship. Instead, the Tennessee Lady Volunteers have been given that opportunity. Sure, Baylor lost the game on Sunday night to Tennessee, but they were not wholly responsible for that final score.

With just under six seconds left in the game, the game was tied at 69. Tennessee's Shyra Ely drove to the hoop on a breakaway and put up a lay-up. The shot bounced around the rim yet did not go in. LaToya Davis, her teammate, attempted to tip the ball in and still was unsuccessful. Finally, as Tasha Butts, another Tennessee player, tried to grab the rebound,

she and Baylor's Jessika Stratton ran into each other. A whistle blew for a foul but time had run out. Let's play overtime! Or shall we?

The officials were not convinced. They felt that the foul happened when there still was time on the clock. So, they went to the replay monitor, huddled, discussed, and came to the conclusion that there were 0.2 seconds left on the clock when Stratton fouled Butts. Back went Tasha Butts to the foul line to shoot two free throws, knowing that if she made any one of them, the game would be over; 0.2 seconds was nowhere near enough time to get off a good shot. Butts made both, and Tennessee went on to win the game 71-69.

But that was just the beginning of the troubles. Let's go back to that last sequence of events one more time. Sure, Butts and Stratton collided, but both were going for the ball and it was not completely obvious who had committed a foul. Sure, there were 0.2 seconds on the clock when they bumped one another, but when should the clock have stopped? It takes time for the officials to blow the whistle, and it takes even more time for the scorer's table to stop the clock. Who knew how much time actually should have been left on that clock, if any?

Many say that officials should not determine the outcome of a game. That's completely bogus, because officials are determining outcomes of games all the time. A foul, a travel, a jump-ball called at any point has bearing on the final results. Officials are there to make the tough calls that have to be made, and I have plenty of respect for that. But the officials in this game should not have made such a decision with such little evidence to decide such an important outcome. Oftentimes, they put too much thought into the technicalities of the game. They want to get the right call so badly that they ignore many of the circumstances surrounding them. The fact that this decision basically decided who got a chance to go to the elite eight and who got the chance to go home should have been left to the players

in overtime. There might have been a foul, and there might not have. It was a judgment call, and to send a hardworking group of kids home on what might have happened is simply a terrible judgment call to make.

Let's not mention how great this might have been for the Baylor basketball program to have a chance to advance to the elite eight. This comes less than a year removed from the incident in which Patrick Dennehy, a Baylor basketball player, was found murdered. This also comes less than a year removed from the resignation of the men's basketball head coach, Dave Bliss. To arise from such a tarnished reputation to being one bad call away from an elite eight appearance is quite remarkable.

This is not to take any credit away from the Lady Vols. Who's to say they would have lost in the overtime? Pat Summit has always kept that team together to be held in the highest regard by all other college basketball programs. Now, their road to the national championship may be somewhat tarnished by this incident. Not only was everyone involved, including Summit, disappointed at what happened, but Baylor and the Big XII have already asked for an investigation into the call.

What have sports come to when they become filled with legal controversies and technicalities? When is it right for officiating to be more important than the actual talent of the players? Are not the officials there to make the game fair? This call was neither fair nor the right call. I'm not saying that replay is a bad thing or that officiating is a bad thing. I'm just saying that I want the right calls to be made. But I guess we can't always get what we ask for. I just think the Lady Bears deserved it. In my mind, they were not losers that day but merely victims.

UPCOMING HOME EVENTS

Friday, April 2

4 p.m., Varsity Softball vs. Newbury College, Briggs Field

6 p.m., National Collegiate Gymnastics Association National Championship, Johnson

Saturday, April 3

Noon, Varsity Baseball vs. Springfield College (doubleheader), Briggs Field

Noon, Varsity Women's Tennis, vs. Bowdoin College, duPont Tennis Courts / JB Carr Tennis Bubble

1 p.m., Varsity Men's Lacrosse, Lasell College vs. Steinbrenner Stadium

4 p.m., Varsity Women's Lacrosse vs. Smith College, Jack Barry Field

6:30 p.m., National Collegiate Gymnastics Association National Championship, Johnson

Sunday, April 4

8 a.m., MIT Lightweight Men's Crew vs. Holy Cross and Boston College, Pierce Boathouse

11 a.m., Varsity Women's Tennis vs. Trinity College, duPont Tennis Courts / JB Carr Tennis Bubble

Monday, April 5

3 p.m., Varsity Baseball, vs. Wentworth, Briggs Field



Elizabeth C. Lin '06 pushes past two defenders during the MIT Women's Lacrosse team's 13-8 loss to Babson on Wednesday night.

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Remember the cool professors who went out of their way to help you learn better? Now it is your turn to give them the credit and recognition they deserve by nominating them for Baker Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching.

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The Baker Award is given to young faculty members who have demonstrated that they are truly interested in undergraduates, both in and out of the classroom. The award aims to recognize exceptional interest and ability in the instruction of undergraduates.

Submit nominations **NO LATER THAN** April 9th, 2004