#### The Weather

Today: Cloudy, 40°F (6°C) Tonight: Not too cold, 28°F (-3°C) Tomorrow: Clear, 40°F (6°C) Details, Page 2

Volume 125, Number 2 Cambridge, Massachusetts 02139 Friday, February 4, 2005

## **MIT Plans** For Many Renovation **Projects**

By Kelley Rivoire

Following the recent campus construction boom, MIT will shift its focus to renovating existing facilities, said Executive Vice President John R. Curry at the annual town gown presentation to the Cambridge Planning Board on Tuesday. "Instead of new buildings, we're talking about renewal" in upcoming years, he said.

The annual town gown presentations allow the public an opportunity to hear updates on the development projects of private colleges.

Renewal and infrastructure projects scheduled for the coming year include Vassar Street West public improvements and an infill project in buildings 4, 6, and 8 for the Green Center for Physics. While no new major construction projects

Town Gown, Page 18

Pipe Break Causes Campus Water Outage

By Jenny Zhang

All of Cambridge City, including the entire MIT campus, experienced either a water shortage or a water outage yesterday. A major water main broke in Kendall Square at Broadway and 3rd Street, according to the Cambridge City Web site. Water was restored to the MIT campus, except for Tang Hall graduate dormitory, by 10:35 p.m. last night, according to MIT's 3-DOWN Services Status update Web

The broken 30 inch water pipe, the largest type used in Cambridge, goes "all the way from Harvard Square," so the entire city was affected by either no water or low water pressure, said Cassandra A. Koutalidis, manager of engineering and program development for the City of Cambridge.

'Provisions have been made for Porta-Potties and supplemental water" for Tang Hall, wrote Bernard J. Richard, MIT manager of mechanical, electrical and plumbing operations, in an e-mail.

"Hopefully the pipe will be fixed by noontime" Friday, said Joseph Bourdeau, Cambridge water treatment plant operator. The Cam-



A Massachusetts Water Resources Authority employee points at a deep fissure in the asphalt near where a water main broke last night. The broken water main flooded Broadway with water and silt, and also disrupted water service to much of Cambridge and the MIT campus.

bridge Water Department is working on reducing the radius of the area affected by the broken pipe, he said. Although the pipe had not been repaired as of yesterday evening, much of the city, including MIT, had water restored because it was being rerouted from elsewhere, uncertain what had caused the broken pipe.

#### Lab water, sprinklers were off

Richard said MIT Facilities first learned of the problem from reports of low water pressure on

functional, and laboratories did not have running water, he said.

The water purifying RODI, or Reverse Osmotic Deionizing, system, which provides water for laboratory animals, was also turned

## **Limited Residence Exploration** In Draft of Orientation Schedule

By Jiao Wang

The Academic Resource Center recently completed its draft of the schedule for Orientation 2005, which will include an earlier closing date for the housing adjustment lottery than previous orientations have.

Dormitory Council President Ian Brelinsky '06 said that the amount of time set aside for Residence Exploration is similar to last year, but is concentrated earlier in the week.

"There are benefits and there are cons to the schedule," Brelinsky said. "Basically, we had set out to do something different" by dedicating three days to Residence Exploration, he said. Instead, most of the dormitory events will be held on a Sunday. The housing adjustment lottery will close on Tuesday of that week.

Brelinsky said that DormCon is working with the ARC to ensure that on campus by Saturday. "If the freshmen don't come in until Sunday night, then they're going to miss REX," he said.

#### CityDays, rush schedule changed

Julie B. Norman, associate dean of academic resources and programming, said that some agencies were not able to host volunteers for City-Days, a public service event, last year because the event took place on the Friday before Labor Day weekend. The event is planned for Monday this

Fraternity rush will also begin ear-

lier this year, which Brelinsky said should help the fraternities attract more freshmen. Rush will begin after the Greek Griller on Saturday, one day earlier than last year and two days after the freshmen move into their assigned dormitories on Thurs-

"Our interests are being met, things are looking great, we are excited," said Interfraternity Council Vice President Jordan K. Fabyanske '06.

Brelinsky said that Residence Exploration should not be affected by the earlier start for fraternity rush. "Whether [students are] only here for a year or four years, it doesn't matter, we have the same goals for them" of providing a good support network, he

#### Making schedule a 'difficult fight'

Brelinsky said that crafting the orientation schedule was a joint effort graduate Association, DormCon, the IFC, and Panhellenic. Discussions began in November and will continue until the schedule is finalized.

'We're working on better terms with the administration than we did in the past," Brelinsky said. "We got a whole lot more than the trend was

Still, he said that DormCon did not get what it wanted for residence exploration out of the new schedule.

"It's a difficult fight because not everybody agrees that REX is a good thing," he said. "We wanted more, but we can't ask for the world and

Brelinsky also said that he feels that the administration supports the IFC and that both DormCon and the IFC have the respect of the adminis-

#### Earlier lottery to aid dorm culture

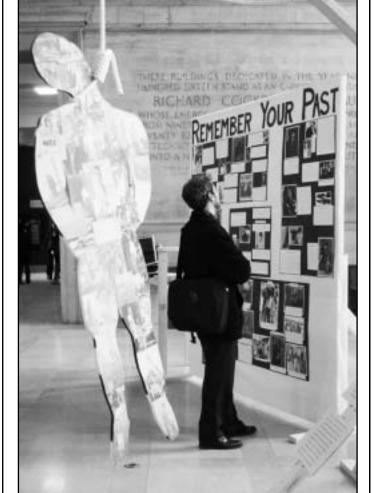
Norman said that the sooner the freshmen get settled, the sooner housemasters, house managers, and affiliated upperclassmen can start in getting freshmen acquainted with their dormitories.

Some members of the Dormitory Council, including Jeff S. Cohen '06, president of Random Hall, want to structure certain orientation events so that they can connect freshmen to upperclassmen and "establish good support network in dorms."

Brelinsky said in an e-mail to dormitory presidents and members of DormCon's Executive Board that he hopes to "prepare small events across the various dorms... for the 500 or so frosh that will be on campus at the time." He wrote that he expects "evenings will yield a few hundred [more] frosh" who are otherwise occupied during the day. He also wrote that the goals of these events is to "introduce [freshmen] to some members of our community (upperclassmen, graduate residence tutors and housemasters), and educate them on the expectations of our residential community."

Norman said that these low-key

Orientation, Page 15



Jeffrey Ginsburg of the United Way observes the "Justice and Equality for All: America's Moral Dilemma" exhibit on display in Lobby 10 during the week of Jan. 31. The exhibit was created by a group of students taking a seminar sponsored by the Planning Committee for the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration Activities during the 2005 Independent Activities Period. The exhibit's purpose is to encourage interaction between members of different communities within MIT.



Film "Hotel Rwanda" is a powerful must-see.

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Comics

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**CAMPUS LIFE** 

Akshay Patil contemplates the effects that consuming a women's nutritional bar could have on his masculinity.

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# WORLD & NATION

#### **U.N. Diplomat Reportedly** Sought Oil Deals For Egyptian

By Susan Sachs

Benon Sevan, a career U.N. diplomat who headed the oil-for-food program for Iraq, solicited favors from Saddam Hussein's government on behalf of an Egyptian trader who made more than \$1.5 million in profits from his privileged access to Iraqi oil contracts, according to an investigative report released Thursday.

The trader, Fakhry Abdelnour, who is based in Geneva, also paid an illegal surcharge of \$160,000 to the Iraqis, in violation of the U.N. sanctions against Iraq, while he and Sevan were lobbying for more business, the report said.

In securing the oil contracts for Abdelnour, Sevan allegedly introduced him into one of the byways of the giant program, one that enriched a small group of traders while pouring money that was meant to buy food and medicine into secret Iraqi slush funds.

Through the intercession of Sevan, the report said, Abdelnour was put on a list of individuals who received coupons, or allocations, that gave him the right to buy millions of barrels of Iraqi crude oil, beginning in the summer of 1998.

#### **Gonzales Confirmed Over Democrats' Torture Protest**

By Eric Lichtblau

Alberto R. Gonzales, a longtime advisor to President Bush who rose from poverty to shape the White House's aggressive response to the Sept. 11 attacks, won confirmation on Thursday as the nation's first Hispanic attorney general despite protests from Senate Democrats over his record on torture.

The Senate approved his nomination on a largely party-line vote of 60 to 36, with six Democrats crossing the aisle to vote with Republicans. The vote, with much stronger opposition than many lawmakers had predicted when Gonzales was nominated for the post in November, reflected the deep divisions between Republicans and Democrats over the administration's counter-terrorism policies and whether those policies led to the abuse of prisoners in Iraq and else-

Vice President Dick Cheney swore in the soft-spoken Gonzales, 49, as attorney general in a small ceremony at the Roosevelt Room at the White House at 5:35 p.m., shortly after the Senate vote.

President Bush, who was traveling, also called to congratulate his friend and senior advisor. "The president knows that Judge Gonzales will make an outstanding attorney general," said Erin Healy, a White House spokeswoman.

#### **New Questions On Depression Drugs In Pregnancy**

By Benedict Carey

In the wake of a yearlong debate over the risks of antidepressants to minors, an analysis of World Health Organization medical records has found that infants whose mothers took the drugs while pregnant may suffer withdrawal symptoms.

The study challenges the assurances that many doctors have long given pregnant women with depression that taking the drugs will not affect their babies

But experts said that the study, appearing Friday in the journal Lancet, was not definitive and needed to be weighed against the benefits of drug treatment. Untreated maternal depression can also harm a developing fetus, the experts said, and may lead to lasting childhood problems; all of the infants in the study recovered completely from withdrawal symptoms within 24 hours.

# Poisoning Results In Death Of Georgia's Prime Minister

THE NEW YORK TIMES

Prime Minister Zurab Zhvania of Georgia, a youthful reformer and of President Mikhail Saakashvili, died early Thursday in what officials described as a bizarre but accidental poisoning.

Zhvania, 41, was asphyxiated by carbon monoxide apparently released by a space heater in an apartment in Georgia's capital, Tbilisi, that belonged to a political acquaintance, Raul Usupov, the officials said. Usupov, 25, a deputy governor from the Kvemo Kartli region, also died

Zhvania's death unsettled the country's politicians and raised questions about Saakashvili's efforts to push through economic and political reforms in the turbulent and impoverished country without one of his most influential and popular aides.

'Georgia has lost a great patriot," Saakashvili said at a meeting of government ministers, according to a transcript provided by his office. He added, "I have lost my closest friend, most trusted adviser and greatest ally."

Saakashvili later announced that

minister as well as president, though it is unclear for how long. By law he has a week to announce a replace-

The interior minister, Nano Merabishvili, said at a news conference that Zhvania had arrived at Usupov's apartment around midnight on Wednesday, according to news reports from Tbilisi. Some four hours later, after he did not respond to phone calls, his guards broke into the apartment and found him slumped in a chair. Usupov was found in the kitchen. There was no indication of violence or foul play, Merabishvili said.

"It all happened suddenly," Merabishvili said, calling the deaths a "tragic accident."

The circumstances nonetheless gave birth to rumors and conspiracy theories, despite the official ver-

A member of Parliament, Alexander Shalamberidze, insinuated that Zhvania's death was part of a plot, orchestrated by "certain forces" in Russia, that included the bombing of a police station in the city of Gori that killed three and wounded more than 20 earlier this week. His statement prompted a

eign minister, Sergey V. Lavrov.

A backgammon board was lying open on a table near an Iranianmade gas heater. Portable gas or wood-burning heaters are common in Georgia, where central heating is scarce, even in the capital. The official Russian Information Agency reported that 45 Georgians had died of carbon monoxide poisoning in the last three years.

Guram Donadze, a spokesman for the Interior Ministry, said the heater was installed two days ago and appeared to work properly. It seemed, though, that the room lacked proper ventilation. "There are many rumors, suspicions, various versions," Donadze said in a telephone interview. "However, what actually happened was gas poisoning — nothing else.'

Zhvania was one of the leaders of the popular uprising in the fall of 2003 that toppled President Eduard A. Shevardnadze and swept Saakashvili to the presidency. He became prime minister barely a year ago and was a driving force in many of Saakashvili's efforts to establish order in the country's economy, government and foreign

# Preliminary Iraqi Election Vote **Count Indicates Shiite Victories**

and Dexter Filkins

BAGHDAD, IRAQ

Preliminary election returns released on Thursday showed that 72 percent of the 1.6 million votes counted so far had gone to an alliance of Shiite parties dominated by religious groups with strong links to Iran, with only 18 percent going to a group led by Ayad Allawi, the interim prime minister and a secular Shiite who favors strong ties to the United States.

Although the votes were drawn only from Baghdad and five southern provinces where the Shiite parties were expected to score strongly, and from only 10 percent of the country's 5,216 polling stations, the scale of the alliance's vote underscored the probability of a crushing triumph for the Shiite alliance and a historic shift from decades of Sunni minority rule in Iraq. The Shiite alliance took nearly 1.2 million votes against about 295,000 votes for Allawi's group.

The scale of the lead held by the Shiite alliance, and a possible alliance with the Kurds, seemed certain to cause anxiety in the country's Sunni Arab minority, Iraq's traditional rulers, who largely boycotted Sunday's election and remain deeply suspicious of the emerging Shiite dominance.

Indeed, some Sunni leaders said the Shiite coalition's strong showing to date did little more than validate the deep sense of alienation felt by

Iraq's Sunnis, most of whom did not cast ballots on Sunday.

"The Shia were determined and encouraged their supporters to vote and to register, and the Sunnis didn't care that much, either out of fear or apathy," said Adnan Pachachi, a foreign minister in the years before Saddam Hussein who is a prominent Sunni leader.

But signs also emerged on Thursday that some Sunni leaders were ready to involve themselves at least in a limited way in the country's political debate. The leaders of 13 mostly Sunni political parties that stayed out of the election agreed Monday they would take part in writing the constitution, the next step in the establishment of a new Iraqi state.

#### **Super Weather for the Weekend**

By Michael J. Ring

STAFF METEOROLOGIST

It's too bad the National Football League doesn't schedule the Super Bowl for a participant's home stadium, because either Boston or Philadelphia would have been a fine host as clear, milder weather settles across most of the country this weekend.

Although a weak low pressure system did give us a period of rain showers last night, the skies are clear in its wake across virtually the entire country. The only marks of unsettled weather across the contiguous United States today are a cold front pushing into Washington State and a low pressure system over Ontario which may bring flurries to the far upper Midwest.

And as for the weather in Jacksonville this Sunday? It will be mostly cloudy with a daytime high in the mid-60s F, with temperatures near 60°F

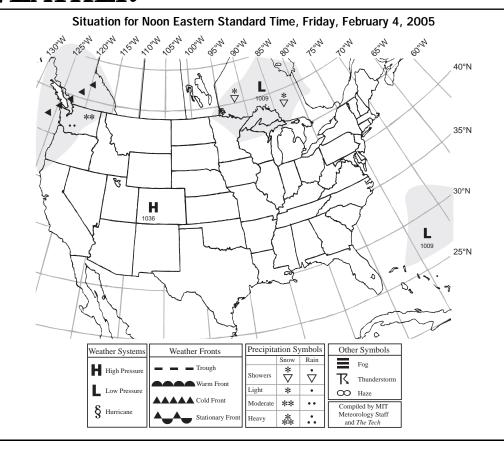
#### Weekend Outlook:

**Today:** Cloudy with a few lingering sprinkles. High near 40°F (6°C).

**Tonight:** Clearing and not too cold. Low near 28°F (-3°C).

**Tomorrow:** Clear with a high near 40°F (6°C).

**Tomorrow night:** Partly cloudy, with a low near 30°F (-1°C). **Sunday:** Partly cloudy. High near 42°F (7°C); low near 30°F (-1°C). **Monday:** Continued partly cloudy, with a high near 42°F (7°C).



# Harvard Creates Task Forces For Recruiting Female Faculty

By Sam Dillon and Sara Rimer THE NEW YORK TIMES

The president of Harvard, moving to counter widespread criticism of his comments last month on women's science capabilities, announced initiatives Thursday to improve the status of women on the faculty, including a commitment to create a senior recruiting post.

The president, Lawrence H. Summers '75, appointed two task forces, one on women faculty and one on women in science and engineering, and charged them with developing recommendations on how to recruit, support and promote women more effectively. The committees are to complete their work by May 1 so that the university can act on their recommendations by the fall term.

In an interview, Summers declined to say how many new women the university might hire as professors in the short term, or how much the initiatives would cost. But in a public statement announcing the measures, he said, "It is time for Harvard to step up and affirm in strong and concrete terms its commitment to the advancement and support of women pursuing academic careers."

Summers' actions Thursday echoed his handling of the outcry that followed his dispute in 2001 with Cornel West, a prominent member of Harvard's African-American studies department. At that time, Summers publicly affirmed his commitment to affirmative action, and Harvard later created several new positions in that department.

Barbara Grosz, the dean of science at Harvard's Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study who has long

been active on women's issues at Harvard, was named to head the task force on women in science and engineering.

She said she had accepted the leadership post only after receiving "assurances from the president and the provost that our recommendations were going to be taken seriously and that they were willing to act immediately on the suggestions."

"There is now an opportunity that didn't exist before, and I am willing to put effort into grabbing that opportunity and doing what I can to see that the changes at Harvard get made," Grosz said.

The chairwoman of the other task force, on women faculty, is Evelynn Hammonds, a professor of the history of science and of African and African-American studies. Altogether, Summers named 27 professors and senior administrators — 22 women and five men — to participate in the two task forces.

Summers' announcement came as his remarks suggesting that innate gender differences might explain the lack of women in math and science careers continued to stir international news coverage and controversy.

Scientists, feminists and hundreds of members of his own faculty have criticized Summers for seeming to ignore years of research showing that societal and cultural obstacles, including discrimination at universities, are the most significant impairment to women's advancement in academic math and science careers.

A smaller number of people, including some prominent conservatives, have praised Summers for what they call his defiance of politi-

cal correctness. Summers has apologized repeatedly for his remarks, which were made on Jan. 14 at an academic conference in Cambridge and were intended to be off the record. He has said his remarks were misconstrued, but he has declined to release a tape recording of them

Harvard's announcement Thursday referred only obliquely to the outpouring of criticism: "Recent public discussion about women and science has brought renewed attention to long-standing issues concerning the representation of women in the faculty," the statement said.

Several prominent women professors in the Faculty of Arts and Sciences have been expressing their concerns since June over the sharp decline in offers of tenured professorships to women during Summers' tenure.

While Summers said publicly that he took the decline seriously and would take steps to remedy it, many of the women professors have said they were skeptical of his commitment. At a meeting in October, some 50 women professors presented Summers and William Kirby, the dean of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences, with proposals to improve the number and status of women professors, including the appointment of a dean of faculty diversity within the Faculty of Arts and Sciences.

"The task force on women faculty will be charged with making recommendations for a series of specific institutional measures — including the creation of a new, senior position at the center of the university — to strengthen the recruitment, support and advancement of outstanding women faculty," the Thursday statement said.

#### Refiguring Social Security: Economists Add Their Numbers

By David E. Rosenbaum

WAGHINGTON

Morning-after scrutiny of the bold Social Security plan President Bush outlined in his State of the Union address on Wednesday night turned up details that were not immediately apparent.

The president said that in 2018 the system would begin paying out more in benefits than it was receiving in taxes. By 2027, he said, the shortfall would be \$200 billion. By 2033, he said, it would be \$300 billion.

Here is what he did not say, according to calculations by Jason Furman, an economist who worked on Sen. John Kerry's presidential campaign: Under Bush's plan, Social Security benefits would begin to exceed tax revenue six years earlier, in 2012.

That is because some tax money would go not into Social Security, but into workers' individual investment accounts.

On the benefits-revenues gaps of \$200 billion in 2027 and \$300 billion in 2033, the differences would actually be considerably larger: \$300 billion in 2027 and \$400 billion in 2033.

Furman also figured that assuming that the tax cuts of 2001 and 2003 became permanent, their cost in lost revenue would also exceed the Social Security shortfall. The cuts would cost \$344 billion in 2027 and \$377 billion in 2033.

Bush's plan would not start until 2009.

# EPA Accused of Predetermining A Finding On Mercury

By Felicity Barringer

WASHINGTON

The Environmental Protection Agency's inspector general charged on Thursday that the agency's senior management instructed staff members to arrive at a predetermined conclusion favoring industry when they prepared a proposed rule last year to reduce the amount of mercury emitted from coal-fired power plants.

Mercury, which can damage the neurological development of fetuses and young children, has been found in increasingly high concentrations in fish in rivers and streams in the United States.

The inspector general's report, citing anonymous agency staff members and internal e-mail messages, said that the technological and scientific analysis by the agency was "compromised" to keep cleanup costs down for the utility industry.

The goal of senior management, the report said, was to allow the agency to say that the utility industry could do just as good a job through complying with the Bush administration's "Clear Skies" legislation as it could by installing costly equipment that a stringent mercury-control rule would require.

Like the mercury proposal, the proposal on nitrogen oxides and sulfur dioxide incorporates a mechanism for trading pollution credits.



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# MorganStanley

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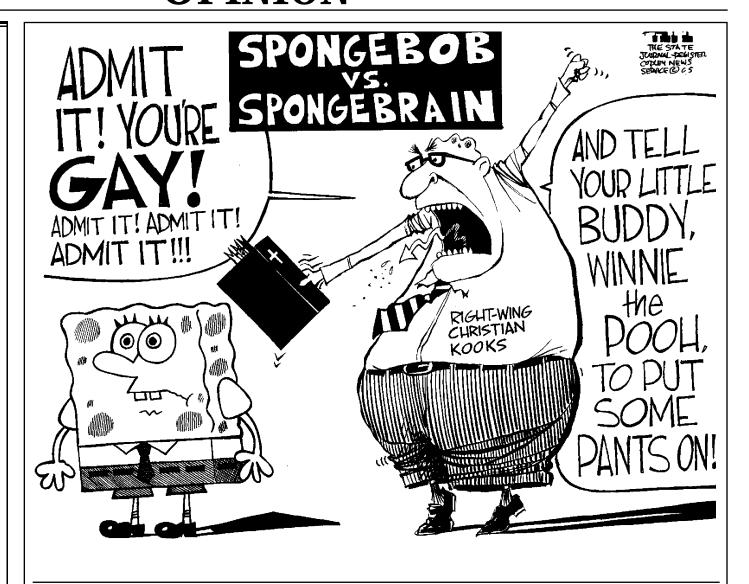
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The Tech (ISSN 0148-9607) is published on Tuesdays and Fridays during the academic year (except during MIT vacations), Wednesdays during January and monthly during he summer for \$45.00 per year Third Class by The Tech, Room W20-483, 84 Massachusetts Ave., Cambridge, Mass. 02139. Third Class postage paid at Boston, Mass. Permit No. 1. POSTMASTER: Please send all address changes to our mailing address: The Tech, P.O. Box 397029, Cambridge, Mass. 02139-7029, Telephone: (617) 253-1541, editorial; (617) 258-8329, busines; (617) 258-8226, facsimile. Advertising, subscription, and typesetting rates available. Entire contents © 2005 The Tech. Printed on recycled paper by Charles River Publishing.





## **Erratum**

Because of an editing error, the weather on page 2 in Tuesday's issue incorrectly included the sentence fragment "Yesterday was the coldest... as biting". The text should have begun with line 2, "Wednesday, Feb. 2..."

#### **Opinion Policy**

**Editorials** are the official opinion of *The Tech*. They are written by the editorial board, which consists of the chairman, editor in chief, managing editor, opinion editors, a senior editor, and an opinion staffer

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

Letters to the editor, columns, and editorial cartoons are written by individuals and represent the opinion of the author, not necessarily that of the newspaper. Electronic submissions are encouraged and should be sent to *letters@the-tech.mit.edu*. Hard copy submissions should be addressed to *The Tech*, P.O. Box 397029, Cambridge, Mass. 02139-7029, or sent by interdepartmental mail to Room W20-483. All submissions are due by 4:30 p.m. two days before the date of publication.

Letters, columns, and cartoons must bear the authors' signatures, addresses, and phone numbers. Unsigned letters will not be accepted.

The Tech reserves the right to edit or condense letters; shorter letters will be given higher priority. Once submitted, all letters become property of *The Tech*, and will not be returned. The Tech makes no commitment to publish all the letters received.

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# Who lives in a pineapple under the sea?

#### Well-groomed, stylish, and flaming is he!

#### Ruth Miller

Two Christian activist groups have protested the distribution of the We Are Family Foundation's tolerance and diversity video. The allegation is that the video, which features the children's cartoon character Spongebob Squarepants, promotes homosexuality by asking children to respect others' sexual identities.

This isn't the first time Spongebob's sexuality has been called into question. In 2002, it was announced that the TV show and its merchandise were popular amongst homosexuals. This caused a tremor of controversy for a time, but was soon forgotten. The dissent is stronger this time around, as the video is being distributed in public schools. The conservative voice is louder than ever.

It is not new for such a small issue to hit the national media, but this one has resonated. This one has caught on differently. The religious right attacked as usual, but the reaction by the left was out of sorts. It was something more than the usual shock from homophobia. It was as if the left suddenly realized that this is a sure sign of things to come, and it's open season on tolerance for the next four years.

In international politics, there are two reasons to take a military offensive: because you need to act defensively, and just because you can. This is an example of the religious right acting very offensively, and it must be for one of those two reasons. Surely they don't feel their control on all three branches of the federal government is slipping, so it must be the second.

I've got to admit, it must be nice to have such a grip on power as to be able to take pot shots at the other guy. In all honesty, if I had a November like the Republicans did, I'd probably be smacking around the little guy just for sport, too. But, as in everything, the goal is to quit while you're ahead. Calling out Spongebob is just a step too far towards the realm of "obsessive compulsive homophobe."

Even the people at CNN.com seem to recognize that this is stupid. Their article "Chris-

tians issue gay warning on SpongeBob video" (Jan. 21, 2005) features a picture of a Spongebob Squarepants plush toy with the caption "SpongeBob lives in a pineapple under the sea." It's as if they're saying "come on far-right, is this the best you can do?" Better yet, the accompanying CNN.com Quickvote offered a chance for visitors to give their opinions. In response to a multiple-choice about Spongebob, which includes the choices that he "promotes tolerance for homosexuals" and that he "promotes tolerance and diversity," 72 percent chose "is yellow, absorbent and porous."

The religious right have the left in a corner, and they know it. The big issues are all but decided, and the left is still in depression after the election, let alone able to cope with further losses. It seems the right, and not just the religious right, is taking to picking smaller fights just to get a reaction.

Where could this lead? Is the left just going to get batted down to the point of exhaustion, and will the right further its lead in 2006? Will members of the right get dis-

gusted at the actions of their party and switch sides? Will the degradation of political discourse continue unabashed as the issues get more and more trivial and less and less relevant?

Is Spongebob gay? If you've seen the show, you may agree with "probably." Something else you may agree with is that there are worse things than being gay, and to find an example, you only have to look two doors down from that pineapple under the sea to Spongebob's best friend, Patrick Star. January of the official Spongebob Squarepants calendar features a picture of Spongebob giggling boyishly, which could be construed to be flamboyant, and Patrick drooling on himself. Drooling. I'd much rather my child have a hardworking, optimistic, and tolerant homosexual for a role model than an unemployed, cowardly starfish that drools on himself.

I suppose if you've got an agenda to follow, compromises must be made, and you've got to stick to your archaic list of complaints. Liberals should find it encouraging that the Christian activists are getting this desperate.

## The Power of Small Communities

While many FSILGs have

struggled to maintain their

communities with the new

policies, they aren't the only ones

affected.

#### Neel Kantak

Propelling the recent overhaul of the housing system - which has included the building of a new dormitory and the requirement that all freshmen live on campus - is the MIT administration's perception of the current residential setup as an antiquated relic of the past, an array of options that unnecessarily impedes the development of a true residential community.

While the Scott Krueger incident may have given the new housing policy a final push, the decision to move freshmen to campus had been proposed years earlier. In 1989, the Potter Report, named after the chair of the Freshman Housing Committee, recommended that all freshmen be required to live on campus as a way to improve diversity and increase students' connection with the Institute as a whole.

In an interview with The Tech in 1991, former MIT President Charles M. Vest said, "I don't think it's clear that a system that served this institution very well in a day and age when the student body was almost entirely male and extremely homogeneous in its makeup will necessarily be the best system for 10 years or 20 years from now."

Many in Vest's administration clearly shared this belief that smaller living groups tend towards insularity and exclusivity, engendering divisions among MIT students and destroying the sense of school unity that, in their eyes, all campuses should possess. This lack of school unity is manifested in the way many alumni form allegiances with their living groups, often seeing themselves as belonging more to their individual groups than to MIT as a whole.

While MIT does not want to eradicate the Fraternities, Sororities, and Independent Living Groups system, the revamped housing system certainly seems to have a goal of reducing the influence of FSILGs and keeping more students in on-campus residence halls.

Many of these arguments raise important issues. What does the administration mean when it says that it wishes to enhance "community"? When analyzing college communities, it becomes very important to make a distinction between the smaller "micro-communities" and the composite "macro-communities"

munity.'

The macro-community involves what most people see as a typical collegiate environment — the collection of large groups of students who enjoy group experiences which are unique to a particular college and which foster a sense of school spirit.

Micro-communities, by contrast, create the smaller, everyday interactions that students experience. These interactions, often connected with a living group, tend to center around a student's circle of close friends. Such communities consist of more intimate and personal relationships and, arguably, have a greater impact on a student's every-

day life. While MIT currently possesses very robust microcommunities in the form of FSILGs and some cohesive dormitory halls or suites, a greater macro-community has never truly coalesced. The Vest administration's housing policy attempts to build this macro-com-

munity have come at the expense of the micro-communities that have been vital in so many ways.

So why shouldn't MIT weaken some of the micro-communities in order to create larger interactions across the entire student body?

For many, FSILGs have served as defacto families, facilitating the development of lifelong friendships and providing critical support networks for their members. In a way, these living groups serve as "relief agencies" for students after they have been worn out by the rigors of the infamous MIT firehose.

These living groups have also aided the personal development of many students, giving them the opportunity to manage finances, plan social calendars, clean and maintain houses, recruit new members, organize their philanthropy events, correspond with alumni, and control own risk largely outside the influence of MIT. This control over their own lifestyles and acceptance of the accompanying responsibilities has encouraged students to accept personal responsibility early in their college careers

while nurturing their leadership abilities through the governance of living group affairs.

The academic support that the system has provided cannot be overlooked, either. MIT's independent living groups facilitate interactions between underclassmen and upperclassmen, who provide assistance with problem sets, advice on course selection, and insights into career paths. These microcommunities have provided students with the friendships, support, and experience that enables learning to continue outside of the classroom. By mandating that freshmen live of campus, MIT is downsizing the FSILG

system and threatening these precious micro-communities.

One could argue that the development of a campus-wide macro-community is so important that it justifies weakening micro-communities, but before undertaking such a revolutionary campaign, MIT

should first analyze the context in which it is attempting to forge these communities, and then determine the likelihood of success. A careful analysis reveals the difficulty in building this campus-wide community that presumably exists at some other institutions.

Modeling MIT after other institutions makes little sense, as many MIT characteristics make it very much unlike any other institution.

MIT students are inundated with academic work and highly pressured by competing with the best and brightest minds. As a result, they inevitably have little free time and energy to expend on the development of university-wide community. Ask any student group leader about the biggest obstacles they face, and he or she is sure to gripe about student apathy.

Another factor inhibiting the development of broad school spirit and unity is the relative lack of nationally competitive sports teams, which draw thousands of students to games at many other schools. Unless MIT drastically increases the scope of its athletic program, this type of school pride will continue to be difficult to create.

The geography of MIT's campus presents yet another obstacle. An urban school forced to gradually annex land for expansion, MIT's campus is neither beautiful nor conducive to student interaction. While the administration has poured many resources into remedying these problems, certain characteristics of the campus, such as the lack of grassy quads and large dining facilities, will be difficult to change.

Finally, although we MIT students may hesitate to admit it, our student body is just not as outgoing as the those at many other institutions. As much as the admissions committee has focused on admitting more "well-rounded" students, MIT must face the reality of being a technical school. Students tend to be more focused on academics and research and less concerned with leading vibrant social lives. While this certainly does not preclude the existence of social events or community gatherings, it makes a lively social atmosphere on a grand scale difficult to develop and sustain.

So what should MIT's "community vision" include? Rather than resisting microcommunities to create an elusive macrocommunity, the MIT administration should embrace the power of smaller units to profoundly improve student life.

In the short term, MIT should direct its efforts at developing better micro-communities on campus. Since the micro-communities forged in FSILGs have formed so naturally and worked so well, why not borrow some of their ideas, helping all micro-communities function as well as the ones that work best do? To achieve this, dormitories could be organized and governed to allow for greater student management and independence.

In the long term, MIT needs to reconsider the rationale behind the recent housing changes. While many FSILGs have struggled to maintain their communities with the new policies, they aren't the only ones affected. When affiliated freshmen abandon their dormitories as sophomores to move into other living groups, they leave behind a void that hinders the development of tightly-knit dormitory halls. As these small communities fail, so will MIT. If the housing change was indeed about community, then the administration should recognize that it may be destroying what it seeks to create.

Check one:									
Stick it to the Man									
Apply gingerly to the non-gender-specific Authority Figure									
Write Opinion for <i>The Tech opinion@tt.mit.edu</i>									

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**TV REVIEW** 

# Making M4th Cool

#### If You're Bored, Watch 'Numb3rs'

By Akshay Patil

CBS, Fridays, 10pm

Numb3rs Starring Rob Morrow, David Krumholtz Created by Nicolas Falacci

"Numb3rs" is a new CBS show where FBI agent Don Eppes (Rob Morrow) teams up with his brother Charlie (David Krumholtz), 22 year-old math protege and professor at a local university, to use math in solving

The first question you obviously have is, "So is the freakishly smart dude from MIT?" The answer is "I don't know." The "Numb3rs" official web site doesn't provide bios for the fictional characters, and I've seen nothing that credits the 'styte with "educating" anyone. There really doesn't seem to be any indication that you and I have anything to do with Charlie Eppes.

The basic premise of the show is that really smart people can model the way the world works and then use these models to provide valuable insight to ongoing criminal investi-

gations. "Everything is numbers," Charlie is fond of saying, as he haltingly makes his way through huge blackboards filled with wonderfully realistic-looking equations. He comes up with patterns and constraints yielding important information for his brother's investigations – all, of course, while learning valuable lessons about life and interacting with society.

He has a hot grad student who, in some scenes, is receiving scholarly advice at Charlie's dinner table (FYI, the genius lives with his father) and is obviously more than just an upcoming love interest, despite being the only student Charlie ever talks to. Not to be left out, Don has a cute female co-worker too, but at least their relationship seems more platonic and there are enough other fellow FBI characters around for us to accept that she's pretty not for love interest sake, but merely because she's on television. Sadly, the last major character in the family, Daddy Eppes (Judd Hirsch), has no love interest since his wife, Don and Charlie's mother, died of cancer many years ago.

If you haven't caught on, the show is quite formulaic. The world is falling apart. The FBI has no leads and turns to Charlie. The kid thinks, draws on blackboards, gets excited, and tells the FBI what to do. The FBI tries it and it's wrong. Charlie gets disheartened, maybe emotional. His apparently singular colleague in the entire university enters, and shouts, "You're a genius! Don't waste your time on all this human-interest crap! Come do real theoretical physics with me!" In any of a variety of ways, Charlie is convinced that he should stick with his criminal modeling, goes back to his blackboards, and reaches a breakthrough. Now, since there are only 15 minutes left in the show, you can be sure that this will be the right solution and, holy crap, it is. Of course, this is just me extrapolating from the two episodes which have aired so far, but if life really does mimic fiction, I should be pret-

Normal math people aren't interesting, geniuses are. No one would have green lighted this project (and no one would be watching) if Charlie were 34 and hadn't graduated from high school at the age of seven. We want to watch child geniuses. I'd whine that these people don't exist, but then again, I'm taking

a theoretical computer science class from a lecturer who's eight months older than me and a TA who's nine months younger. Of course, CBS tries to portray Charlie as socially inept (if he were a genius and suave, we all would just get depressed), although they do a poor job of it... that or my standard of social competence has been lowered greatly after five

Regardless of its faults, formulas, and stereotypes, the show is entertaining. While the precision and detail of Charlie's work is comical, the show's producers at least make an effort, and what you see and hear is at least bordering on plausible. For example, Charlie apparently dealt with his mother's illness by immersing himself in trying to solve P vs. NP. I'm happy to report he doesn't succeed, but he does shout something about 3-SAT.

If you're looking for form-defying television, go watch Adult Swim. If you're looking for something to fill the hours between episodes of "Alias" and/or "24," then you might as well check out the show that does its damnedest to do what "MathNet" always tried make math cool.

FILM REVIEW ★★★★

## Powerful 'Hotel Rwanda' Deserves Visit

#### Film Depicts Genocide, Worldwide Inaction

By Ken Nesmith

STAFF WRITER

Hotel Rwanda Directed by Terry George Written by Keir Pearson and Terry George Starring Don Cheadle and Joaquin Phoenix

Viewing "Hotel Rwanda" simply trivializes you. It provides an unnerving window on recent history, portraying an unsettlingly familiar real world that becomes interrupted by hatred and slaughter — and because the events it portrays are so recent and so powerful, to consider them encapsulated as a film and then to criticize that film suggests a position of distance and judgment that does not exist. To do so would nearly be like having a friend tell you that her mother had died, and you proceeding to comment on her delivery and intonation. Yet, where other media fail to draw empathy with even the most powerful stories, film can succeed. "Hotel Rwanda" succeeds because it does not get in its own way; it is more a window on history than a painting of a window, less a creator of history than a revealer. It does not create excessive melodrama as an overlay to history, as plenty of war and history films do, but it does explore human reaction in the face of geno-

Paul Rusesabagina (Don Cheadle), a Hutu, manages a luxury hotel in Rwanda. In April of 1994, President Habyarimana, a Hutu, was assassinated before he could fully implement a peace deal between Hutu and Tutsi militants. At that point, a genocide began, in Tutsis with machetes. The international community dithered about whether or not to call it genocide, the Americans impeded peacekeeping efforts by dickering with the U.N. over how many Armored Personnel Carriers to send, and the French continued to support the Hutu government even as the genocide continued, because the Hutus spoke French. There were no good guys, and plenty of statements were made by foreign officials that appear callous, to put it mildly, in light of what happened. In a month, 800,000 Tutsis were killed.

Narrative of the events cannot always convey their gravity, a mission taken on by the film. Images of calm neighborhoods disturbed by roving bands of machete-wielding Rwandans, freshly cut corpses lying on the lawn of a suburban house, a roadway coated with discarded bodies obscured in the fog — in the film, these are powerful scenes, and their close reality burrows at skins thickened by the bald violence of action films.

The destruction of psychological businessas-usual is a point explored by the film itself. Paul manages to carry on by continuing to run his hotel as a luxury hotel, for reasons of strategy and sanity. He takes personal defense in his identity as a suit-and-tie clad manager, which helps him deal with the developing cri-

sis, but hours after witnessing a shocking pool of bodies, Paul breaks down as he attempts to don his tie, tearing his shirt off and screeching inhumanely, curling into a ball on the floor in brief surrender to the hopeless savagery he has witnessed. Yet even here, unable to carry on the pretense of civilized existence, he does not let his employees or family see him and resumes his responsibilities shortly.

The film lets the events speak for themselves, so that tension is made not by a pounding score and fast camera action, but by simple observation of roving bands of killers who yesterday were neighbors, tuned into the RTFM radio station that amassed support for the genocide; roadsides clogged with humans in makeshift shacks and tribal clothing

who resemble animals in their depravity, holding teddy bears on the end of a spear to remind us that children too are slaughtered; Hutu employees of Paul who begin to doubt his authority as he shelters Tutsis and the rule

I noticed extraneous scoring in the film only twice, and one of those times was at the final scene, which perhaps doesn't count. Drama and character interest are generated not by sanctifying Paul, but by watching him in the crux of hell. I felt that if anything, the film missed a chance to amass more impact and power by restricting too tightly its portrayal of the genocide outside the walls of the hotel, focusing more on Paul's management of the crisis. The tragedy here is not the struggle of one man, it is the slaughter of a million. We are pushed to see the genocide as a tragedy and not a statistic, but I feel like we could have been pushed further without desensitization, without being forced to mentally "check out" of the horror in front of us, as we so readily do in an age of hypermedia.

The acting is first rate, and the footage frequently feels more like documentary than production. The power of the film lay in its invocation of genocide not as 20th century history, institutionalized and corporatized, but as immediate hell — immediate not just as recent events, but as present ones. In Sudan, a genocide just as frightening continues as the Islamic government and Janjaweed militia continue to slaughter civilians throughout the country. The death toll is in the millions. This



In "Hotel Rwanda," Don Cheadle plays a hotel manager who protects Tutsis from the Rwandan genocide.

is going on right now.

The easy emotional response to a film like this is to curse the West, and indeed, the film invites us to do so baldly in a weaker moment, when it shifts from showing us hat happened to telling us how to feel and react. A leader of the few U.N. peacekeeping troops at the hotel learns that the external powers are intervening only in such a way to evacuate their own citizens and will leave the genocide to proceed as it will. (The French intervention that exacerbated the killing is not examined in the film.) But that easy reaction does two interesting things. The first is that it lets us evade true contemplation of genocide by creating a God character out of the external powers. It may be the case that external powers sometimes can be as powerful as God and can stop a genocide. Other times, their actions do more harm than good. Madeleine Albright made a statement at the time: "Emotions can produce wonderful speeches and stirring op-ed pieces. But emotions alone cannot produce policies that will achieve what they promise. If we do not keep commitments in line with capabilities, we will only further undermine U.N. credibility and support." Trying to do more than is possible is a recipe for disaster. But more generally, observing what happened in Rwanda and thinking nothing other than "America should have helped," seems like an evasion from primitive horror of the slaughter itself, as when we confront a bad dream by wishing for nothing more than to wake up.

External intervention doesn't always solve the problem, Last summer, a recent MIT grad and I rode in a cab in Seattle, talking recreationally about world events as if it were any other topic. Sudan came up, and as we conemned the slaughters and furrowed brows for a moment before peeking out the window to see how close we were to our destination, a surprise member of the conversation added his thoughts. "It is not so simple," he began. "These are tribal difficulties that go back centuries. One group is taking the arable land from the other. If some killing happens, what of it — they want the land." The driver, from Somalia, thought our discussion of Sudan naïve and youthfully idealistic. "You will see that life is full of gray areas." Perhaps he's right. But when only the presence or even threat of presence of American troops can calm a genocide because killers know the world is watching (something invoked repeatedly in the film), it's hard to dismiss the power of intervention. Failed missions might lead to declining credibility, and that would do the trick, however. U.N. observers and peacekeepers teach us as much.

Films like this do remind us that it is a blessing that we can focus on problem sets, athletics, music, and whatever other personal and spiritual fulfillment we seek. The film is escapist, not in the "Clueless" sense, but certainly in the sense that it will take you away from your own problems and worries. Give it a viewing, and think about what should be done in Sudan.

**FILM REVIEW** 

# Sci-Fi And Snowfall Make Movie Marathon Exciting

#### "Shaun of the Dead" Gets Crowd On Its Feet

By Kapil Amarnath

27th Annual LSC Science Fiction Marathon January 21-22, 2005

After seeing the lineup for this year's science fiction marathon, I knew I'd get a variety of films, from comedy to action to romance. I knew that the affair would be long (7 p.m. - 7 a.m.). I knew that typical science fiction themes like a globalized and dystopian future would be there in at least a couple of the films. But I didn't know that the arduous experience of actually staying up for these movies, especially with the backdrop of the worst snowstorm in 10 years, would allow me to feel the warm underbelly of the Institute.

I trudged through the grey cold and snow to 26-100 at around 7 p.m. After paying \$6.00 and getting stamped, I walked into the theater, which contained the warmth of heightened anticipation. The lights turned off, and the magic of the movies were in play by

The night started off with several previews for movies that will be shown in the spring and a jaw dropping animated short from the MIT Media Lab called "Grinning Evil Death," which led into the anime feature "Ghost in the Shell 2: Innocence" by director Mamoru Oshii.

The only anime movie I've ever seen is Miyazaki's "Spirited Away," but I've always wondered what has made the genre such a phenomenon in the U.S. and all around the world. "Ghost in the Shell 2" gave me a decent idea of why, but at the same time failed to motivate me to watch more of its kind. The first half of the film builds interest, due to traits that must make anime interesting - the kinetic "camera" and variety of shots, great CG, a story that takes us to another world, and the flexibility that gives a sense of globalization. The second half, however,

ground to a halt, drowning in philosophical tedium. Despite this problem in pacing, the movie allows us to consider the dehumanization of our future in our increasingly technological society, and often humans and robots could not be distinguished. Ultimately, "Ghost in the Shell 2" is representative of the mecha genre, involving the complex psychology of its protagonist. After the end, the crowd murmured and shifted, but the excitement still remained for the marquee show of the night, "Shaun of the Dead," which came in the slot where classics like "Contact" and "Minority Report" have appeared in past

"Dead" turned out to be a hilarious spoof of George Romero's "Dawn of the Dead" series as well as a subtle romantic comedy. The opening shot of a blankly staring Shaun (Simon Pegg) is terrific. He is at a crossroad in his life; he must convince his girlfriend Liz (Kate Ashfield) that he's able to give her something more than just a trip to the local pub every night. Zombies offer Shaun an opportunity. As the plot develops, the characters that die are essentially the baggage that hinders Shaun and his girlfriend from being together. Director Edgar Wright shows flashes of style, including shots Shaun in doorways that indicate the transition from his old life to his new life. "Dead" did such a good job of even portraying uninfected humans as zombies that afterwards I was leery of legweary watchers as they walked stiffly, with feet apart. All I could see outside was the unreal white blur of snow, which had reached about a foot and half. A good portion of the crowd left, leaving about 40 for the long haul.

'Code 46" is a law that avoids incestuous births due to the increase in cloning and in vitro fertilizations. Shortly after that title card, Samantha Morton's annoying voiceover began, but I could not coerce the stubborn chair into letting me sleep. About 75%



The specter of zombies stand between relationships, including the friendship between Ed (Nick Frost) and Shaun (Simon Pegg).

of the movie involves a) Tim Robbins' character driving, b) aimless talking, or c) Samantha Morton's face. Stylistically, "Code 46" is much like director Mike Winterbottom's earlier efforts, with a fly-on-the-wall look and close-ups during emotional moments. However, it's languorous with some forced symbolism, and Robbins phones in his performance. "Code 46" explicitly expresses globalization through a mixed dialect while "Shell" was implicit, being suggestive through the western looking drawings and quotes. The dystopia in "Code 46" was created mainly through biological tampering, while "Shell" had more uniform technological advancement.

After "Code 46," not a single person clapped, and several more left. I couldn't tell whether the two girls behind me were alive, and most of the crowd was looking around

for an excuse to either boo or leave while the snow continued to pile on.

At 2:05 AM, an old school Gene Roddenberry episode Star appeared. I expected the usual crew, but not Trek's subtle globalization push. This original Star Trek occurred in the late 60's when Vietnam was raging, and the government's front against communism was as strong as ever. In this episode, ensign Chekhov on the USS Enterprise defends his commander Captain Kirk from Klingon insults. This unity behind an essentially American leader might express a wish to end the Cold War.

"Spaceballs," Mel Brooks' satiriza-3:05 AM. The ref- before.

erences to Star Wars, Alien, and even Indiana Jones are well-known, but I was surprised by Spaceballs' literary sensibility. The plot clearly parallels "It Happened One Night." "Night" is one of the best romantic comedies of all time, and in 1934 became the first movie to win the top five Academy Awards (Best Picture, Best Actor, Best Actress, Best Director, and Best Screenplay). The plot involves a young woman who tries to escape from the clutches of her wealthy father and a forced marriage. While escaping from Florida to New York, she takes the bus and meets a journalist from the lower class with whom she falls in love. The girl's father offers a reward for her return, but the journalist does not accept the award money. The wedding exit, the class-clash romance, and the man's good intentions all occur in "Spaceballs," indicating perhaps the indelible impact that Capra's film had on a then 8-year-old Brooks. Still, the humor in "Shaun of the Dead" was less forced than in "Spaceballs," where the allusions were too explicit. After "Spaceballs," I began to worry about actually going outside into the now bluish madness.

In "Pitch Black," a ship carrying passengers and a criminal, Riddick (Vin Diesel), who can see in the dark, crashes into a vacant planet. The paucity of life is due to the presence of violent creatures that appear only in darkness, and this group unfortunately happens to land on this planet during a year of eclipse. The plot allows us to see the effects the situation has on the group's togetherness, the ways characters of different age and sex adapt, and even the religious beliefs of one of the characters. I dug some of the stylistic aspects, including seeing through Riddick's point of view. Diesel's character returned this past summer with "The Chronicles of Riddick," which has little to do with "Pitch Black." Despite some plot holes, "Pitch Black" is an above average, plot-driven flick with, believe it or not, a decent performance

The dehumanized direction of current society suggested in Radiohead's "OK Computer" and in many science fiction stories led me to think that by the end of the night, I would feel detached. But on that early morning, after straining through three feet of snow and dizzily plopping into bed, I felt as though I had experienced a distinctly MIT experi genre, unspooled at ence. I felt closer to the Institute than ever



Part of the group trying to survive the "Pitch Black" planet (Vin Diesel, far right).

## The Production Department presents The Word of the Day

Stet: To direct that a letter, word, or other matter marked for omission or correction be retained.

join@the-tech.mit.edu

THEATER REVIEW

# Tommy, Can You Hear Me?'

#### Flawed MTG Production Still Rocks, Rolls, Shouts, and Amazes

By Nivair H. Gabriel

Tommy

La Sala de Puerto Rico Produced by Jennifer Braun '02 and Dawn

Erickson '07

Directed by Adam R. Perlman With Dan Katz '03, Eleanor "Nori" Pritchard '06, Dave Berger C, Mike Rolish G, Dan Taub '06, Andrew Murdock, and Andrew

Taub '06, Andrew Murdock, and Andrew Cavanaugh \$6 MIT/WC Students; \$8 MIT Faculty & Staff,

Seniors, Students; \$10 General Public January 28-29, February 3-5 at 8pm, January 30 at 2pm

As the new semester begins, we are all looking for a way to hang vibrantly onto our holiday vacation. The Musical Theater Guild, in a bombastic and freewheeling production of The Who's "Tommy," is about as wild as it gets. They obviously love Pete Townshend's vision, but their spin on this rock classic left me even more out of breath than the original.

Director Adam R. Perlman definitely intended his to be a darker interpretation — and why not? "Tommy" is the story of a boy (Dan Katz '03) who, upon witnessing a terrible tragedy, is struck blind, deaf, and dumb, unable to handle the world. Oblivious and vulnerable, he is subject to the dreadful machinations of the lowest dregs of society. (And all this in a barrage of near-continual rock music!)

Jeremy Nimmer '02, who directed the cleverly named pit band "The Whom," brought and kept the smashing soundtrack to a dynamic level. Clearly, he was not averse to experimentation; he introduced his musicians to such outlandish instruments as Voodoo Song (which created a honky tonk effect during "Pinball Wizard").

The actors followed suit, lending grace and power to the performance. Eleanor "Nori" Pritchard '06 shone, as did Mike Rolish G in a creepy portrayal of Tommy's twisted Uncle Ernie. Adding the strongest singing were Michelle Fogerson '07 and Janet Lieberman

'07, who gave a brilliant dimension to a number of roles. In much sketchier news, Harvard student Karen Abelman belted out "The Acid Queen" with a seductive flair that was way over-the-top (and quite appropriate for the role).

Despite the strength of their talents, the sound balance between the cast and the band was erratic. Sometimes the voices of the leads were barely there and the secondary characters seemed to be begging for microphones. In "We're Not Gonna Take It," a number that depends on an angry screaming crowd and a helpless Tommy, the only audible voice was in fact Tommy's.

A unique character indeed, Tommy was brought to the stage by the combined efforts of *three*, not one. One of the best treats of this show is the chance to see 4-year-old Andrew Murdock and 10-year-old Andrew Cavanaugh strut their stuff. Both Murdock and Cavanaugh sang and blew me away with their control and dedication. Probably one of the highlights of the whole show was the image of Tommy's parents whirling him into a strait-

jacket, pulling on the sleeves of his shirt until they fluttered out to become ten times as long as he was, and binding him tightly, keeping him silent.

Despite the elegance of costume tricks such as these, there were quite a few onstage foibles. The cast fumbled with their various shawls and wraps, frequently disrupting the pace midsong. These mishaps accompanied other typical opening-night problems such as a random flash of the house lights and a few moments of uneasy silence. While all these were forgivable, the appalling lack of coordination during the overture was not. The actors assigned to be in Tommy's father's military company kept glancing at each other as if to ask, "What do we do now?" which didn't fit at all with the professional tone set by the rest of the cast. In addition, nobody seemed to be able to decide whether to speak with an English accent (as the musical demanded) or with an American one.

In the face of "Tommy"'s sheer exuberance, however, those problems hardly made a dent

#### **CLASSICAL REVIEW**

# Orpheus Reinvents Orchestral Playing

#### Conductorless Chamber Musicians Give Stellar Performance

By Jacqueline O'Connor

January 29, 2005

Orpheus Chamber Orchestra Jonathan Biss, piano Jordan Hall, New England Conservatory

Almost all my music coaches have told me that in chamber music, there can't be four separate people playing four separate instruments — there needs to be one voice, one instrument, one sound. Even with only four people, creating that one sound is a difficult task. The Orpheus Chamber Orchestra has turned this task into art by playing orchestral music in a chamber music style without a conductor. Such musicianship is rare, and this ensemble has thirty-four musicians. In their latest Boston performance, Orpheus shone again and delivered a fantestic concept at Lorden Hall

ered a fantastic concert at Jordan Hall.

The evening's program featured two works

by Felix Mendelssohn in addition to two 20th century works, one showcasing the talents of the winds and the other of the strings. In listening to the concert, I tried to pick out a highlight of the evening but couldn't choose one piece over another; they were all brilliant.

The wind section opened the evening with a piece by Daniel Schnyder, a Swiss composer who dedicated this work, Concerto for Winds (Some Other Blues), to jazz legend John Coltrane. Throughout this difficult and highly syncopated work, the winds demonstrated amazing talent as an ensemble while still showcasing the prowess of individual soloists. The piece seemed to contain elements from John Coltrane's jazz and Villa-Lobos' Brazilian rhythms, with some 1950's Hollywood swagger. Although the ending seemed frantic and rushed, the piece still left the listener with a sense of "cool."

The strings were not to be outdone by the

winds, and the concert continued with a piece by Erkki-Sven Tüür called Action-Passion-Illusion for String Orchestra. Tüür, an Estonian composer who writes not only for classical ensembles but also for the Estonian rock band "In spe," creates a tapestry of intricate chords on a background of rather simple rhythms. Although the piece begins in a very hostile manner, it quickly becomes melodic until the pinnacle of the Passion, after which a burlesque dance concludes the piece. The strings pulled off an amazing feat in ensemble playing during minutes of fast running-note passages traded off between sections.

Rising piano star Jonathan Biss, a twenty-four-year-old American pianist, already has many international performances on his resume. He chose Mendelssohn's Piano Concerto No. 2 in D minor because, as he wrote in the program notes, "When you hear this piece, you have the feeling that he dashed it off

quickly... It came naturally from his pen; it's that quality of unfettered love of music that's so present in it." This inspiration came through brilliantly in the performance. Although Mr. Biss's stage presence is truly distracting with lots of swaying and arm gestures, his passion for the music is unmistakable and added depth to the performance. The first movement, Allegro appassionato, was especially well-played, although at times the tempo was rushed.

The concert concluded with a classic favorite, Mendelssohn's Symphony No. 4, "Italian." The Orpheus Chamber Orchestra delivered an exciting performance of this long treasured work. Their sythesis was again perfect and the feeling they emitted with every phrase made the night a truly special occasion.

The Orpheus is a must-see ensemble and will be giving concerts in Boston throughout the year.

# A new year, a new term. Isn't it time you tried something new?

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# \$50K Spring Kickoff Ceremony

Wednesday, February 9th, 2005 8:00 pm

Wong Auditorium (Building E51)
Massachusetts Institute of Technology

#### **KEYNOTE SPEAKERS:**



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Page 10 THE TECH February 4, 2005

# CAMPUS LIFE

# Worlds Beyond the Mackerel

#### You Are What You Eat

By Akshay Patil VIOR EDITO

I've been feeling somewhat conflicted recently. As part of a recruiting package, a company has been giving me a variety of free food substances in hopes that my desire to code is directly connected to my stomach.

Now before you get the wrong impression, let me say that there is nothing wrong with this. I for one strongly support the use of free food as a tool of persuasion and encourage those of you in positions of influence to continue utilizing quality culinary products in any and all situations. Is it not a proverbial carrot which dangles in front of us, the proverbial rabbit? I think so.

Anyway, these assortments of food and whatnots contain a number of delectable delights which I consume with great, sweet relish. But recently, the potential employer cornucopia has yielded an item I have greatly struggled in coming to terms with.

The food in question is a Clif Luna bar. For those of you not in the nutritional know, it's one more product in a seemingly endless line of energy bars. More importantly, it's "the whole nutrition bar for women.TM"

Now many of you may not be aware of this, and I admit it's easy to get confused, but I am not, as of the last time I checked, a

woman. I check frequently enough and the relative stability of my condition over the last few years has lead me to believe my situation has not changed recently, nor is it likely to change any time soon. I may have a number of insecurities about my masculinity, but barring some grievous oversight, I'm fairly confident that I'm a man.

This, of course, presents a problem. Just as I might feel uncomfortable about eating cat food, I wonder if it's safe for me to eat this "blissfully good" women's bar, which apparently "meets many of the specific nutritional requirements women need everyday." I mean, it's "S'mores" flavored, so it seems too good to pass up, but I have this horrible feeling strange things might happen to me if I don't.

What if it contains estrogen or something? Or some strange were-woman chemical? Will I become transgendered merely because one day I failed to respect the fact that I do not fall within the clearly marked demographic of this

I mean, sure it's got a list of ingredients, but there are so many I'm worried that I might miss something. Who knows if inbetween the "Manganese 35%" and "Copper 35%" there's some key sexification chemical I might be missing? And do I, as a man, really need to be eating copper? Or "biotin"? What is "biotin" any-

ways? It certainly isn't in my multivitamin and I know I can trust whatever's in there because it says on the label "for men." Will biotin give me ovaries? Curiosity aside, I don't think I'd enjoy having ovaries... not that I have anything against them, it's just that I've been doing perfectly fine without them up till now and I can't really see how they'd help me do anything I had my heart set on doing in the first place.

Biological worries aside, is this company trying to tell me something? I mean, if you were trying to impress a woman, would you give her a jock strap? Perhaps I'm mistaken, but personal experience has told me a resounding "no." Maybe the company misread my perfume scented resume? But you'd think they would've figured things out when I visited their headquarters for my interview... unless they were somehow misled by my traditional Scottish formalwear.

Regardless of what it is or isn't supposed to signify, this bar of womanhood sits on my desk, promising to provide whatever I need to maintain my joyous, active, and decidedly feminine lifestyle. My current line of thinking is that if I can hold out until the "sell by" date, the dangerous chemicals and hormones may decay to safe levels. I figure worse comes to worst, I can always pop a few manly multivitamins and hope everything balances out.

## Geek Love In & Out

By Emily Kagan

Dear Geek Love,

The other day my friend and I were going to pull a prank on our other friend and download all this gay porn onto his computer while he was at class. So I got all this stuff downloaded, and at first I was really uncomfortable with looking at it all. But after I got over the shock value, I actually looked at some of the pictures and started to get a little bit turned on. I'm totally not gay. I've thought about it before and the idea of doing anything with a guy is disgusting. I like hooking up with girls. This whole thing is freaking me out. Help.

> Sincerely, A student

Take a deep breath, calm down, and let me assuage your fears right off the bat: you're not necessarily gay because you find gay porn umm... stimulating. We are often turned on by situations that we would never actually seek out in reality. Think about it: Most guys who like lesbian porn aren't worried that they might be closet transsexuals, secretly wishing to know a woman's touch as only another woman can. In fact, most guys think it's totally natural to like lesbian porn.

Why do men like lesbian porn? For the same reason women like gay porn. Why do women like gay porn? My personal theory is that one hot naked body is awesome, and two hot naked bodies are twice as awesome. There is also the element of taboo — thank you, society — involved in watching queer porn. When things are forbidden, we want them even more (think about cookies to a six year old, alcohol to a 17 year old, or Natalie Port-

Now might be a good time to talk about the Kinsey scale. A biologist named Alfred Kinsey did a detailed study of human sexuality in the 1950's. He came up with the idea that our sexuality isn't Neapolitan ice cream, with the three flavors of homosexual, heterosexual and bisexual. It's actually a spectrum with queer on one end, straight on the other, and bi stuck in the middle. I have no idea why he didn't just number it from one to seven, but the scale is as follows:

0 — Exclusively heterosexual

1 — Predominantly heterosexual, incidentally homosexual

2 — Predominantly heterosexual, but more than incidentally homosexual

3 — Equally heterosexual and homosexual

4 — Predominantly homosexual, but more than incidentally heterosexual

5 — Predominantly homosexual, incidentally heterosexual

6 — Exclusively homosexual

But when you use the Kinsey scale to figure out where you stand, you have to ask yourself three different questions: What kind of sexual encounters would you like to have? What kind of sexual encounters have you had in the past? And what kind of sexual fantasies do you have? People usually get three totally different scores for these questions. Strange as always the same as the sexual acts we live out.

So what does this all mean for you, dear student? You have some exploring to do. First off, left me say congratulations on discovering a new aspect of your sexuality. Although it may feel a little weird now, trust me when I say that finding a new way to become sexually aroused is a good thing. That uncomfortable feeling you got when you first saw the porn is totally normal. We all have that gut reaction to something we've been taught is wrong or dirty. But let the idea sit with you a while. Get over the "yuck" factor and think how you feel about it after the novelty has worn off. (side **note**: these are the same steps to take if you've never tried oral or anal sex before.) Next, try imagining yourself in some of those situations. Is the scene still attractive to you? If not, resign the naked boys to your spank bank and have a happy heterosexual life.

If it is attractive to imagine yourself in those scenarios, you have a little more exploring to do. You may or may not like hooking up with boys, but don't knock it until you've tried it. Again, don't freak out. Being bisexual is not the end of the world. In fact, it is the opening up of the other 50% of the world. You now have twice the number of sexual partners to choose from! Lucky you...

# In the Parlance of Our Times

#### The Condom Pocket

By Zach Ozer

CAMPUS LIFE EDITOR

A new and disturbing trend is sweeping America. I'm not entirely sure if this is an acute infection or a deeper, more cancerous problem, but I have a feeling it's the latter.

I'm almost certain it all began with the purse. Purses made it fashionable for women to lug around much more than they could ever need. Occasionally, one sees an angelic young lady with the sense to carry around a clutch, or one who has managed to put her credit cards and cash in one pocket, her cell phone in another, and her keys in yet a third. However, these are few and far between.

Instead, we are bombarded with abyss-like bags, highly valued for their ability to contain more. In addition, there are constant pressures on women to carry more: gum, an arsenal of makeup, tampons, Midol, etc. In reality, shouldn't we be looking for purses which let us carry our stuff more efficiently?

Guys are now beginning to suffer the same pressures; however, they seem to have built in coping mechanisms. It used to be that all a man needed was his knife. This was the "gateway accessory." It quickly led to keys, then wallets, gum, and chapstick. Of late, we've also been forced to tote a cell phone and a PDA to boot.

But men seem to have an instinctual desire

to have a single-track mind. We lean towards tools which grow, reach a critical mass, perform their function, and then shrink again for convenience. Women find it utterly inexplicable and even deride men because of it. Think of it this way: when men could no longer tote their wealth around with them, they created banks. Banks then began issuing cumbersome bank notes. When bank notes failed, they invented credit cards, which have lasted till this day. The same has been true for cell phones. At first, men had cell phones that were very large. Then they realized it would be much easier to carry their cell phone in their pocket, so they created smaller cell phones. It's a tale as old as time.

Some time ago, women took an important step towards moving away from the purse. This was the "condom pocket." Also known as the "boyfriend pocket," the 2.5-inch-by-6.5cm pocket sown either on the upper left hand chest or sleeve finally solved the problem women faced regarding how to carry a condom while not carrying a purse.

I spoke with several women to see how they felt about the new fashion trend. A surprising number had never seen a top garnishing the accessory. None had considered it as a means to carry a condom or had ever used it for any purpose whatsoever. Many even denied that it was intended to carry a condom.

After several minutes of investigation, we quickly discovered the following: the pocket will perfectly hold several condoms. It can easily be used to hold small slips of paper; a bill or a series of bills, provided one folds twice; and credit cards. Change, chap stick, and gum are cumbersome. So why own the shirt? After coming to terms with the reality of the situation, some theorized it was meant to send the message to guys that one is sexually active. However, most purchased the tops in question in order to be fashionable.

So our best effort to get rid of the purse was the condom pocket. Many complain they can't carry their stuff in their pockets like guys because their pockets are too tight. Why haven't efforts been made to take advantage of women's clothing? Their pants flare more at the bottom than guys, so why not an ankle purse? And while men continually demand smaller cell phones with more features, women actually seem to prefer larger phones so that they won't lose them in their purses. It just seems like we're not getting anywhere. I'm not saying there's anything inherently wrong with the purse, I've just been traumatized by them too often. My mother even bought a Prius so that she wouldn't have to look through her purse for her keys (it has a prox key). She claims it's so that she doesn't use lots of gasoline, but I know better.

Up, down, charm, strange, top, bottom.

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# Gadget Review: ActionTec Wireless Digital Media Player

- Allows you to enjoy computer media (movies, music, photos) on your home entertainment system
  - Connects over wireless network

#### Cons

- Has crappy software
- Wireless performance is slow
- Interface is marginally intuitive

#### The Lowdown

The Actiontec Wireless Digital Media Player is a stand-alone unit that allows you to stream media from your computer to your home entertainment system. The process is as simple as running the server software on your computer, connecting the player to your entertainment center A/V inputs, and turning everything on. The system works over an 802.11b network, allowing you to view photos, listen to music, and watch MPEG and Xvid encoded

While the general idea for this system is great, its wireless performance is marginal, the

server software is slow and clunky, and the interface is about as attractive as the children of the toxic avenger and Pamela Anderson (although it's not quite that ugly).

#### Java Sucks

Their server software (a.k.a. Actiontec Media Buddy) is a kludge of a webserver written in Java. I have no idea why they avoided something native. The software is slower than Christmas. The player essentially accesses a Web page that's served up by the buddy, listing your media. The software is the bastard child of a threesome between Windows Media Player, Internet Explorer, and those damn java applets that take ten minutes to start up.

#### Performance

I did find that the system performed as advertised (in that it played media), but the wireless connection was very slow and erratic. Even though my router was about twenty feet away, the connection would frequently fail, and movies would often skip and get out of sync.

When I connected the system to my wired network (there's a spot in the back for that), the performance was fine. As long as I'm going on this "child of" montage, I'd say the perfor-



The Actiontec Wireless Digital Media Player allows users to stream media from their computers to their home entertainment systems.

mance is the junkyard wars creation given parts from a Pinto and a country squire.

#### **Bottom Line**

ats-info@mit.edu

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While this device has potential, it really just doesn't go the whole nine yards. I found it online for anywhere from \$150-\$200. While I haven't tried any other similar products, I don't really recommend going out and investing in

If you want to learn more, check out http://www.actiontec.com/



You're at a greater risk of getting skin cancer if your hair is blonde or red.

(No matter how much of it you have left.)

Fair skin, light eyes and a tendency to burn in the sun, also put you at a higher risk. So, examine your skin regularly. If you find anything unusual, see your dermatologist.

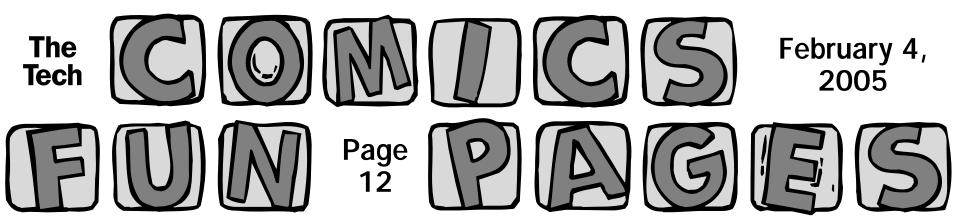


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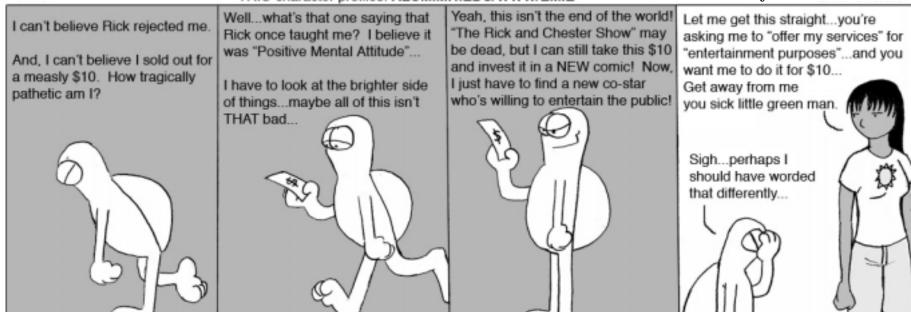
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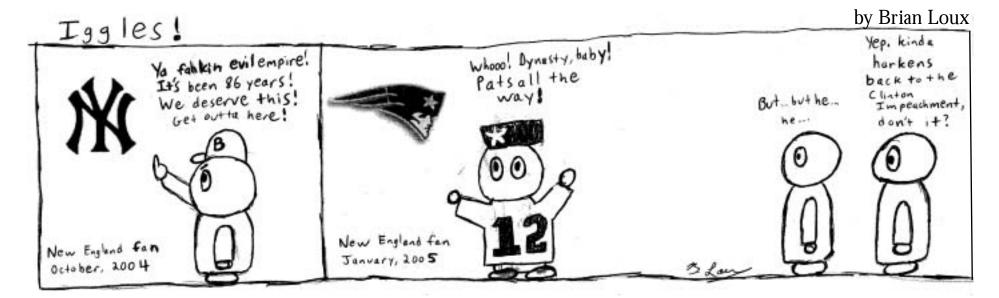


**Trio** 

TRIO character profiles: ALUM.MIT.EDU/WWW/EMIE

by Emezie Okorafor







# RT Crossword

#### **ACROSS**

- 1 Females of the
- species
- 5 Persian rulers 10 Rip
- 14 House opening?
- 15 Holland bulb 16 Confederate
- 17 Word in an
- ultimatum
- 18 Violin maker
- 19 Jot
- 20 Start of Clare Booth
- Luce quote 23 One at the wheel
- 24 Rims
- 28 Dilettante
- 32 Mine find
- 33 Gardner's Mason 37 Part 2 of quote
- 39 Swing around 40 Part 3 of quote
- 42 Make over 43 Part 4 of quote
- - informally

  - 2 Spartan serf
  - 4 Cubic meter
- **DOWN**

69 Editorial directive

71 Mark for removal

45 More rational

46 Make up facts

47 Antagonistic

52 Mid-ocean

66 Adolescent

70 Imaginary

substance

67 Blabber

64 Jots 65 Palm type

68 Tied

57 End of quote

61 Latin 101 verb

- 1 Eyeglasses,
- 3 Follow
- 5 Play producer

- 6 Bones of upper
- arms
- 7 Jai
- 50 Jason's love 9 Type of curl
  - control

  - 13 Bread buy
  - 21 Bohemian

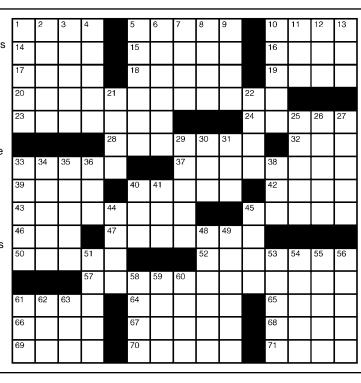
  - 27 Mexicali mister

  - 29 Play the coquette
  - 31 Old English letter
  - 34 "Dallas" matriarch
  - 35 Adjudicated
- - 36 Classic car

- 8 Successful swings
- 10 Brought under
- 11 Wallach of "The
- Magnificent Seven"

- 12 PC key
- 22 Group of gnus
- 25 Bridge expert
- 26 Wear away
- 30 Fond du \_\_, WI
- 33 Hymn of praise
- 38 Period

- 40 Sci-fi Doctor
- 41 Males of the species 14
- 44 Bangkok guy
- 45 Appear
- 48 Conceive
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- God" 51 Arena happening
- 53 Did modeling
- 54 Smoothly agreeable
- 55 Actress Georgia
- 56 Make amends
- 58 Mature 59 Legal wrong
- 60 Bryce Canyon
- location 61 UFO crew members
- 62 Harden
- 63 Comprehend



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#### PUT A LAB IN YOUR DORM

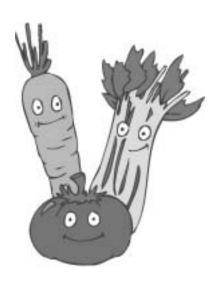
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#### Fit Males Needed For Nutrition Research Study.

A research study is being conducted by the US Army Research Institute of Environmental Medicine (USARIEM), Natick, MA, to evaluate the effect of fitness level on protein requirements during an increase in exercise. The 13 day study involves consuming a specialized diet and following a specific workout routine for 11 days. All food will be provided to participants during the study. Data collection will include questionnaires, blood, urine, stool samples, and hitech measures of fitness, energy expenditure, and body composition. All data are coded and strictly confidential. To participate, interested persons must meet screening criteria. If you are very fit and between the ages of 18 and 35 years please email Usariem.proteinstudy@na.amedd.army.mil or call (508) 233-5140 for more information.

17.905 - Spring 2005

#### Forms of Participation: Old and New

Prof. Tsai Mon. & Wed. 3:30 - 5:00pm 66-156



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February 4, 2005

# President Hockfield to Speak to Class of '09, Parents

Orientation, from Page 1

events will also help to reassure freshmen "that they made the right choice for housing or can look for other options."

#### Traditional events also included

Last year, parents had the opportunity to talk with former MIT President Charles M. Vest during the president's breakfast at Walker Memorial. This year, President Susan Hockfield will address both the students and their parents in the Parent/Student Convocation in Killian Court.

Hockfield will also be present for a brief introduction during the faculty presentation and the MacVicar luncheon the following day. It is not yet decided which of the MacVicar fellows will host students in smaller groups.

Katie Koestner, MIT's rape awareness program speaker since 2001, will give her presentation on Friday. Koestner, a date rape victim during her first year of college at William and Mary, went on to found Campus Outreach Services, an organization that promotes sexual violence awareness in middle schools, high schools, and colleges.

Consistent with previous years, the activities midway and the Health and Wellness Fair will occur after Koestner's presentation so that graduate students taking part in Graduate Orientation can also participate.

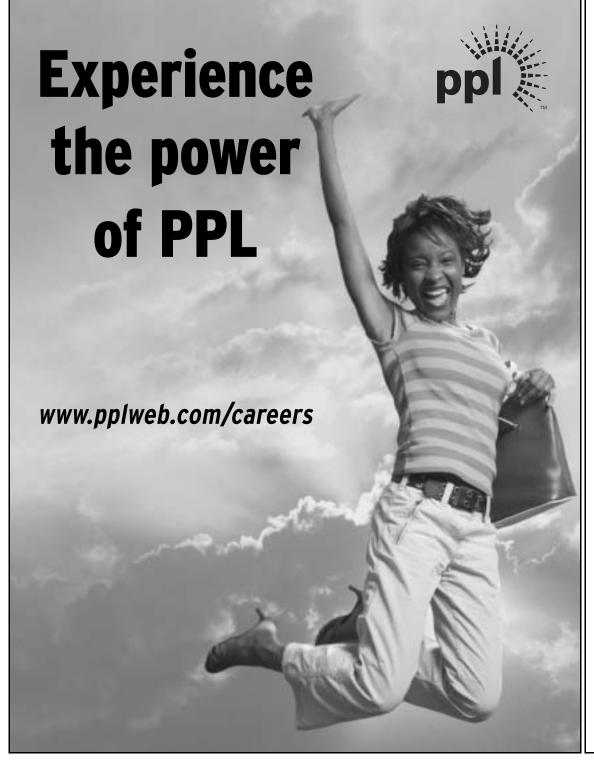
Women, minority, alcohol awareness, and Lesbian, Bisexual, Gay, and Transgendered events have not yet been determined beyond having evenings set aside as place holders.

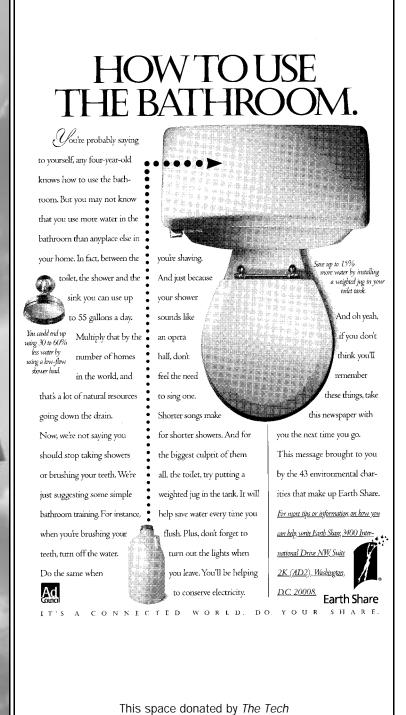
Barbara A. Baker, associate dean for student life programs, is now working with student leaders to "design some of the specific parts" of the orientation plan.

Marissa Vogt contributed to the reporting of this story.

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This current draft of the proposed orientation schedule for the Class of 2009 includes an earlier close to the housing adjustment lottery. The draft was provided by the Academic Resource Center.





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# Repairs Needed by Pipe Break

Outage, from Page 1

MIT Facilities is "working on stabilizing our own system and checking buildings," Richard said. Despite lack of water supply for several hours, residual water left in the pipes was useable. There was the matter of "how many flushes" it would supply, though, he said.

Richards said domestic boosters, which are pumps that raise water pressure in some places, were turned off. These were restored yesterday evening.

#### Cambridge fixing pipe

Koutalidis said the Cambridge Water Department learned of the break at 3:30 p.m. yesterday.

Cambridge uses the Massachu-

setts Water Resources Authority backup system to reroute water from elsewhere, so water the water supply to most of Cambridge was restored several hours after the breakage. This rerouting can run indefinitely, she said.

It is more difficult to fix the water supply problem within two or three blocks of the broken pipe, she

17.907 / 17.953 - Spring 2005

#### Migration Politics, Refugees and **International Relations**



**Visiting Scholar Prof. Gary Troeller Mondays** 1:00 - 3:00 E51-085

Since the end of the Cold War refugees and migration have become defining characteristics of the international landscape. Both issues feature prominently in public discourse and policy deliberations as well as being a focus in foreign policy, international and national security considerations, military planning and human rights debates. This class, taught from a practitioner's standpoint, considers asylum and migration as increasingly central concerns in international studies. The class highlights the dilemmas confronting policy and decision-makers operating outside the academy on the front-lines where theory runs up against reality, historical antecedents and perspective are ignored, competing interests are predominant and policies and principle sit in an uneasy balance.

For more information contact Prof. Troeller, 3-0123

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**THE TECH** Page 17

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place to get ahead. Unfortunately, it's also a place where a lot of natural resources start to fall behind. Take a look around the next time you're at work. See how many lights are left on when people leave. See how much paper is being wasted. How much

electricity is being used to at how much water is

Use both sides being wasted in the when writing

restrooms. And how much solid waste is being thrown out in the trash cans. We bet it's a lot. Now, here are some simple ways you can produce less waste at work When you're at the copier, only make the copies you need. Use both sides of the paper when writing a memo. Turn off your light when you leave. Use a lower watt bulb in your



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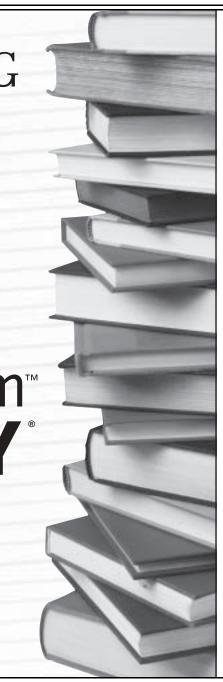
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Page 18 THE TECH February 4, 2005

# Renovations On Hold Until Funding Comes Through

**Town Gown**, from Page 1

have been planned for the immediate future, long-term projects include the East Campus Project, a Music and Theater Arts Teaching Laboratory, and a new dormitory.

#### Renewal and renovations planned

Many of the older buildings on campus, such as the Bosworth buildings, the original buildings surrounding Lobby 10, "look tired" and are "in need of major rehabilitation throughout," Curry said.

Currently underway is a study "contemplating ways to efficiently renovate the group" of buildings in the next ten to twenty years, one segment at a time, he said.

The planned renewal of Vassar Street West, according to the town gown report, aims to form a residential street with improvements to the

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landscape and streetscape, ease traffic, and update utilities. Construction is scheduled for 2005, pending coordination with other Cambridge construction projects. Vassar Street East improvements were recently com-

Off-ramps and traffic lights at Memorial Drive and Massachusetts Avenue were recently installed as part of a public improvement project. Although the project cost to MIT came to \$565,000, "life is far less dicey at that intersection than it used to be," Curry said. The second phase of modifications along Memorial Drive, including landscape improvements, does not currently have a construction timetable, according to the report.

Also tapped for construction in 2005 is the Green Center for Physics, an infill project in which construction in the courtyard surrounded by buildings 2, 4, 6, and 8 and the demolition of building 6A would allow the Physics Department to consolidate its space, now located in 13 different buildings, according to the report. The project is currently in the design stage, Curry said.

#### **Future projects await funding**

The east side will be the "area of campus most subject to work in the next few years," Curry said. The East Campus Project would add space to the Sloan School of Management and renovate the space associated with the School of Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences, according to the report. The project is in the conceptual design stages and requires additional funding before designs can be continued, Curry said.

Conceptual designs have also

been completed for a Music and Theater Arts Teaching Laboratory on Massachusetts Avenue. The proposed building, about 36,000 square feet, would have an "open, streetfriendly structure" with substantial exterior glass, he said. The project is currently seeking donors.

The Media Arts and Sciences Project, formerly known as the Media Lab Extension, "will be built as soon as the funding comes forward," Curry said. The funding for the building will come solely from gifts, and the failure to obtain adequate contributions so far has led to a delay of several years.

With the brain and cognitive sciences project planned for opening in September, the Broad Institute scheduled to open in 2006, and biological companies such as Novartis located in close proximity, the area is

"becoming a center of gravity" for research in the biological sciences, said Curry

In light of this, the Institute has long-term plans to turn the parking lot near building 68 into a biological sciences building, although only conceptual sketches have been made, and the project needs substantial time and funding at this point, he said.

#### New dorm likely in future

The Institute is considering building a new dormitory, as continued demand exists among both graduate and undergraduate students despite the recent openings of the Warehouse Apartments, Simmons Hall, and Sidney-Pacific Graduate Residence. "We can anticipate that we will propose some kind of residence hall within the next couple of years," Curry said.

The fact that many of the present dormitories are "in extreme need of renovation" could influence the function of a new dormitory, Curry said. One possibility would be to use a new dormitory as a temporary facility to house residents of other dormitories while their buildings undergo renovations, he said.

It has yet to be determined whether the new dormitory would serve undergraduate or graduate students. In recent years, however, more graduate students have moved into non-Institute affiliated housing as area housing prices have decreased, placing less pressure on MIT to build additional graduate residences, Curry

A new undergraduate dormitory would increase the percentage of undergraduate students on campus, which is currently around 75 percent.

In addition, MIT "might grow the undergraduate population slightly," as the faculty size and degree programs could accommodate more students, Curry said. Presently, the graduate population is determined by departmental research funding, although different ways to manage the graduate population might be considered in the future, he said.

#### Harvard discusses Allston plans

Kathy Spiegelman, chief planner and director of the Allston Initiative for Harvard University, presented Harvard's town gown report to the Planning Committee. Included in Harvard's report was an update on the Allston section of the campus, where the proposed extension to Harvard's engineering program would be located.

Harvard has a "strong desire to stay competitive in the sciences,' and to do this, will need to "develop a substantial amount of new science space," Spiegelman said. Allston is the "only place where that can realistically happen."

Harvard plans to develop the unencumbered land in Allston in the next ten to twenty years.

Also presenting at the meeting was Lesley University. Cambridge College submitted a report, but did



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THE TECH Page 19 February 4, 2005





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10am - 3pm

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Wednesday, Feb. 9 Ting Foyer (E51)

Thursday, Feb. 10 Sloan Foyer (E52)



OFFICIAL MIT GRADUATE RING http://gsc.mit.edu/ring



February 4, 2005 **THE TECH** Page 21

# Broken Water Pipe Floods Kendall Square Area



Around 4 p.m. yesterday afternoon, a water main break released a deluge of water, damaging and flooding Broadway and filling part of the Kendall Square Marriott Hotel garage. The break disrupted municipal water service to most of Cambridge, including the MIT

(left) Water from the flooded underground garage of the Kendall Square Marriott Hotel is pumped out onto Broadway Street.

(below left) Massachusetts Water Resources Authority employees monitor a drainage pump leading from the Kendall Square Marriott Hotel garage to a storm drain on Broadway Street.

(below) Shortly after helping to restore water service to affected areas, a Massachusetts Water Resources Authority employee erects a safety barrier around an access hole at the intersection of Broadway and Third Street.



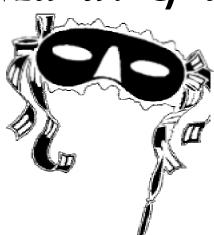


\*Carnival \* Karnaval \* Cropover \* \*Martedi Grasso \* Carnaval\*

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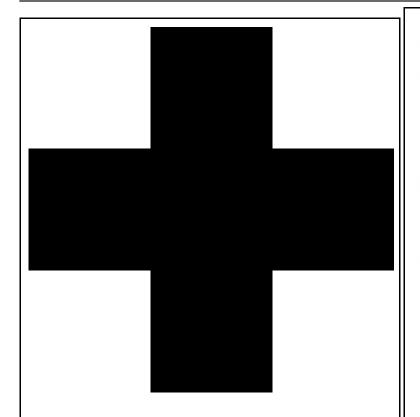
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YOUR blood donation will help save the life of a patient with cancer, heart disease, gastrointestinal disease, anemia, fractures and trauma, liver, kidney and lung disease, or bone and joint disease.

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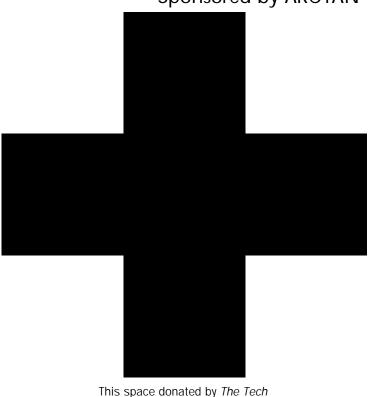
It is MIT policy to allow employees time off with pay to donate blood at drives that are sponsored on campus.

#### Visit

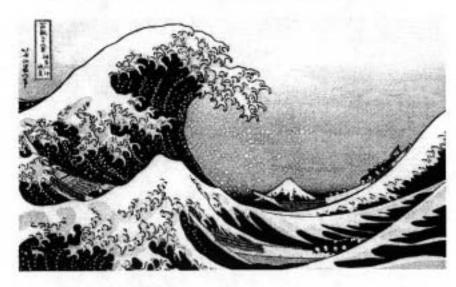
http://web.mit.edu/blooddrive/www/
to schedule an appointment. . When
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positive identification is preferred but
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**MIT Blood Drive** 

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# MIT Hillel Presents... A Tsunami Benefit Concert



Saturday February 5, 2005 MIT Chapel 8pm

Proceeds go to AJWS Tsunami Relief Fund For more info check out <u>www.ajws.org</u> Suggested donation: \$9

This program is sponsored by MIT Hillel, Hillel Schusterman International Center, MIT Council for the Art Directors Fund, MIT Office of the Provost of the Arts, AEPi, Tzedek @ MIT









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February 8 6:00 p.m. MIT Stata Center, Room 32-123

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What Does a Martian Look Like?

Refreshments will follow the lecture.

Lecture Series also includes:

Susan Blackmore: Are You Sure You're Conscious Now? on March at 6:00 p.m. at MIT, Stata Center, Room 32-123

**Steven Rose:** Can the Brain Explain the Mind? on March 15 at 6:00 p.m. at MIT, Stata Center, Room 54-100

For more information on British science, please visit www.uksciencetech.com and www.britishcouncil.org/usa-science

February 4, 2005

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#### **Solution to Crossword**

from page 12

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Music and Lyrics by Pete Townshend
Book by Pete Townshend and Des McAnuff
Additional Music and Lyrics by
John Entwistle and Keith Moon

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2:00 PM

Recruitment chair: asun@mit.edu

Sunday 2/6
Pi Lambda Phi Super Bowl Party
6:00 PM

Recruitment chair: matthof@mit.edu

Monday 2/7 **Tau Epsilon Phi Cocoa and Layzor Light Show**10:22 PM

Recruitment chair: mmt@mit.edu



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For more information regarding spring recruitment feel free to contact the IFC Recruitment Chair, Brad Schiller at **brads@mit.edu** 

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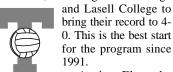
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# **SPORTS**

# Volleyball Team Is **Now 4-0**

By Paul Dill

The MIT Varsity Men's Volleyball Team won two more matches last week, defeating Elms College



Against Elms, the Engineers started slowly but soon took control of the match behind the hitting and serving of Michelangelo A. Raimondi '06, who tallied seven kills and three service aces in the match. MIT took the first game 30-21 and the second 30-17.

An intense Elms squad came out on fire in the third game and kept the pressure on throughout, but the Engineers kept their poise and closed out the game 30-24 to win the match 3-0. The defense was anchored by Matthew Ng '08 who led the team with 11 digs, while Robert G. Aspell '06 added four kills and six blocks.

The Engineers then followed up that win with another against Lasell College. This time, MIT took control of the match early and never looked back, winning 3-0 (30-11, 30-19, 30-23). The entire roster was able to contribute to the win, with Robert M. McAndrew '05 putting down 11 kills and Ryan G. Dean '08 serving up eight aces to lead the way.

MIT will be hosting a quad tournament this coming weekend with Bard College, Baruch College and Wentworth Institute of Technology.

### **Gymnastics** Team Begins New Season

By YinFeng Shao TEAM MEMBER

The MIT men's gymnastics team started its 2005 campaign last Friday at the West Point Open, held at the U.S. Military Academy. The Engineers, with one of the strongest teams in recent memory, recorded a team score of 169.30, beating the goal of 165.00 set by head coach Noah Riskin.

Bradley J. Sutton '07 led the team with an individual score of 46.55, followed by Zachary M. Eisenstat '06 with 43.05 and Joshua S. Coblenz '08 with 39.50. Matthew K. Heine '08 performed solid routines on the vault and rings, earning scores of 8.80 and 7.60 respectively.

Although MIT failed to beat any other team in gymnastics, the Engineers won the pre-competition with a spirited rendition of the beaver call, beating out 5th-ranked Penn State's "We are Penn State!" and 6th-ranked Iowa's "Io-WA!"

After three events, the Engineers were seven points below pace to their 165-point goal. Riskin then gave a speech in which he claimed that "the fisherman baits his hook with confidence, not hope.'

The team, confused by Riskin's profoundness, assumed the speech was inspirational. The galvanized Engineers responded by finishing strong, posting marks of 29.75 on the still rings and 33.40 on the

The Engineers' performance on Friday bodes well for their meet against Springfield College on Sunday, Feb. 6 in Springfield, MA. Although the team can only hope to be competitive against the stronger, more numerous gymnasts of Springfield, the Engineers will certainly follow their mantra of past years and try to "suck less."

# Words of Advice for Betting on the Super Bowl

By Yong-yi Zhu

So this is it, Super Bowl weekend. The hype of the game, the anticipation of great commercials, and the expectation of more wardrobe

malfunctions to come **Column** are what draw us to watch this national phenomenon. But something else draws many towards this sports scene: gambling.

These days, betting can be as much of a sport as football itself; after all, millions have been tuning in to ESPN for the World Series of Poker during the last couple of years. And what could be more perfect than combining our love for large men pummeling each other with our worship of large sums of cash?

Well, let me analyze some of the potential bets and how you can make enough money come Sunday night to actually pay for those tuition hikes, which seem to come every other month. (All betting lines that follow are from the Web site http://www.sportsbook.com and are current as of Jan. 26).

The most popular bets are usually the most obvious and also the most boring. The easiest wager to make, and to me the safest, would be to take the Patriots and give them seven points. When the Patriots win games, they usually win by more than a touchdown, and I expect Sunday to be no different. In fact, of the games they have won this season, only two have been by less than a touchdown, and those two were over two months ago.

Another safe bet might be to take the Patriots as the first to score. The only time they failed to do that all season was the last game of the season against the 49ers, when there really was nothing on the line.

In fact, while you're at it, you might as well take the Patriots to score last as well, as they have scored both first and last in a game twice as often as the Eagles.

But those bets don't quite offer you bargains, as they all pay at a little less than one to one. There are potential big money makers if you're willing to be a bit bolder.

Taking the Patriots to win by 11-13 points gets you 8-1 odds, and taking them to win by 18-21 points gets you 12-1 odds. Taking the bets might be better than the odds would indicate, since the Pats have blown out both the Colts (who had the second best offense) and the Steelers (who had the best ranked

Another good bargain might be putting a couple bucks on what the first scoring play of the game might be. Taking a touchdown run by either team pays off at 6-1, which is safer, while gambling on a non-passing, non-rushing touchdown to start the game pays off at 18-1 for the Pats and 20-1 for the Eagles. Think about the terrific defense being played by both teams and you might start to believe that a Tedy Bruschi or a Lito Sheppard could just snag one out of the air and take it to the house to start the game.

But beyond those bargains, there are even

more interesting bets to take, like whether Eagles kicker David Akers will score more points than University of North Carolina point guard Raymond Felton will have assists on Sunday. Felton hasn't done that well on the road against tougher opponents, and playing in Tallahassee against Florida State will certainly be a challenge. I look for Akers to have at least five or six points, and I think Felton will fall short of that in assists.

Another intriguing one is whether the combined points of the Pats and the Eagles will be more or less than 21 shots below Ernie Els's final round score. For example, if Els shoots a 69, will the Pats and Eagles combine to score more or less than 48 points? In the last three years in Royal Melbourne, Ernie has averaged 69.3 shots in round four. He has done worse while ahead and better while behind. So come Saturday night, if Els is in the lead, he might be the better choice. If he is a couple of shots back, the Pats/Eagles might be the wiser selec-

Now to be quite honest with you, I don't even know what classes I am going to today, much less who is going to win the Super Bowl, but it still is interesting to note what kinds of absurd things we are willing to put our money on. Comparing a football score to a golf score might just be a bit extreme. You might as well give me 1,000,000-1 odds that another wardrobe malfunction will take place. After what happened last year, I'd take that in

# Understanding How to Play Underwater Hockey By Blaise Gassend ing animatedly and breathing heavithe surface, breathing normally. she surprised more experienced

**By Blaise Gassend** 

TEAM MEMBER

"Reaaady ... Stiiiiiicks up ... Go!"

A dozen people in snorkeling gear frantically swim towards each other from opposite sides of the Zesiger Center swimming pool. Shortly before meeting in the middle, the two fastest swimmers duck underwater and are lost from sight. The remaining swimmers, all face down, breathing through their snorkels, bunch together. They start swimming slowly in the same direction. A few propel themselves into the depths of the pool. Some then start resurfacing.

The team swims in an erratic pattern, sometimes slowly, sometimes frantically. Every once in a while, somebody comes up gasping for breath. Most of the time, though, everyone remains underwater, gazing intently at what is going on below. A few minutes later, the swimmers arrive at one wall. They all suddenly look up and start talk-

ly. Half stay there while the others head to the opposite side of the pool. After a minute or so, the whole process starts over again.

That, in a nutshell, is a typical game of underwater hockey. From outside the pool, it looks somewhat bizarre. Underwater, though, an intense game is being played.

#### Underwater hockey... what's that?

Underwater hockey has the same basic goal as ice hockey. Two teams each try to push a puck into the opposing team's goal. The players push the puck around with sticks that are only a foot long, much shorter than their ice hockey coun-

In underwater hockey, the puck stays on the bottom of a swimming pool. To reach the puck, players have to be at the bottom of the pool. Therefore, you can play or you can breathe, but you can't do both at

"Most of the game, you are on

When there is an opportunity to make a play, you dive," said Winslow S. Burleson G. Most of the other players would say that they rarely see Burleson on the surface; he is one of those folks who can stay underwater for what seems to be forever.

Underwater hockey is a non-contact sport. You can't push other players around or lift up other players' sticks as you can in ice hockey, and checking is out of the question.

Nevertheless, when you are behind somebody, watch out for their fins as they try to motor away. "Every time I am out of breath in the bottom of the pool and kicked on my face, I swear I will never come back," said Yue "Nina" Chen G.

In underwater hockey, being big isn't always an advantage. Smaller players can often outmaneuver their opponents by making sudden changes of direction. Chen, for example, is a small, seemingly fragshe surprised more experienced players by stealing the puck from right under their noses.

Underwater hockey is fundamentally a team sport. You can't be at the bottom of the pool forever, so you have to learn to work with your teammates if you want to get to the goal and score.

"The reason this friendly atmosphere is so pervasive is that it's really a teamwork game in which no one can score or do much on their own at the bottom of the pool without the backup of the other players," said David Fitoussi, a recent graduate who played underwater hockey at MIT for a year.

"I really liked the camaraderie, the fact that anyone can come and play, will feel welcome, and is given opportunities to really get into the game without feeling like he doesn't know how to play," Fitoussi

For more information, the team's Web site is http://web.mit.edu/activities/scuba-club/uwh/.

### **UPCOMING HOME EVENTS**

#### Friday, February 4

Varsity Men's Volleyball Invitational, Rockwell Cage, 7 p.m.

Varsity Women's Ice Hockey vs. UMass-Amherst Club, Johnson Ice Rink,



#### Saturday, February 5

Varsity Men's Volleyball Invitational, Rockwell Cage, 10 a.m.

Varsity Men's and Women's Swimming Invitational, Zesiger Center Pool, 7 p.m.



#### Sunday, February 6

Varsity Men's and Women's Fencing Invitational, Johnson Athletic Center, 9 a.m.

Varsity Women's Ice Hockey vs. RIT, Johnson Ice Rink, 2 p.m.





