

State and Federal Taxes Due Today

MIT's
Oldest and Largest
Newspaper



The Weather

Today: Sunny, windy, 49°F (9°C)
Tonight: Clear, cold, 36°F (2°C)
Tomorrow: Cloudy, 56°F (13°C)
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Volume 125, Number 20

Cambridge, Massachusetts 02139

Friday, April 15, 2005

East Campus Senior Was Athena Hacker

By Keith J. Winstein
SENIOR EDITOR

Yuran Lu '05 wanted to prove a point: you can't trust a strange computer.

For twenty years, MIT students have sat down in Athena clusters and typed their passwords to log in. Nobody knows if their computer has been tampered with. Maybe, just maybe, the computer will steal your password and send it to someone bent on wrongdoing. You might never know that somebody else was reading your e-mail.

Information Services & Technology knows, as do many students, that this kind of tampering is possible. Most people seem to think the risk is acceptable. Instead of trying to lock down cluster workstations, IS&T focuses on detecting tampering and catching perpetrators.

That wasn't good enough for Lu, an East Campus senior majoring in electrical engineering and computer science as well as mathematics. Six weeks ago, he modified several public Athena computers to steal the password of everybody who used them. He collected about 620 passwords in 24 hours. Then, on March 1, he sent them anonymously to IS&T, The Tech, and the Student Information Processing Board.

"Good luck resetting 600 or so passwords," he wrote, calling himself the "Athena Insecurity Squad."

For some of those listed in Lu's e-mail, the effect was like public nakedness. Some students are probably more candid in their Athena passwords than with their best friends, and all manner of secret crushes, fetishes, and embarrassing phrases was on display. Adding injury to insult, IS&T was then forced to lock everybody on the list out of their e-mail and Athena until the next day, when they could call IS&T to change their passwords over the phone.

"Yes, I did cause a lot of inconvenience for a lot of people, and with some better planning and execution, this inconvenience could have been reduced," the Athena Insecurity Squad wrote to *The Tech* three days later. "However, I think that a benign compromise of this scale is the only way the administrators of the Athena system can be convinced to change their security policy. And I feel a real need for that policy to change, as the current vulnerabilities in Athena truly make it a dangerous system to have deployed."

The next day, March 5, IS&T

Yuran Lu, Page 10



Diana Sim '07 puts up a project for Introduction to the Visual Arts (4.301) in the overpass connecting buildings 12 and 24. The display offers a multitude of responses to the question, "When given an anonymous outlet, what will you say?"

GSC Questions Mass. Ave. Safety

By Brian Keegan
STAFF REPORTER

The first signs of construction on the two-year South Massachusetts Avenue and Lafayette Square Project appeared on campus recent-

ly despite lingering safety concerns about the design.

The Roads Corporation, a construction contractor, removed 19 trees along Mass. Ave. on Monday and Tuesday in preparation for road and sidewalk reconstruction to begin this summer.

"No MIT trees or landscaping are scheduled to be removed during this period," according to the MIT Facilities Web site. The project will replace these trees with 100 Pin Oak trees along Mass. Ave. between Memorial Drive and Lafayette Square.

Mass. Ave, Page 13

GSC expresses safety concerns

The Graduate Student Council sent a letter last month expressing its safety concerns to City of Cambridge officials and Massachusetts State representatives.

Among the concerns mentioned were a "north-bound bicycle [lane] sandwiched between parked cars and a travel lane," the "elimination of parking on the south-bound side of Massachusetts Avenue" that could lead to increased traffic speed, and pull-off areas one foot



Alexander H. Slocum, Jr. '08 plays with a large magnet in the student lounge of the Experimental Study Group. The magnet is used in ESG to demonstrate the force caused by eddy currents induced in an aluminum license plate by moving it through the magnetic field.

COC Approves Institute Lab in Math Department

By Beckett W. Sterner
NEWS EDITOR

The Committee on Curricula has approved the first Institute Lab for the mathematics department, Project Laboratory in Mathematics (18.821).

The class is a combination of computational exploration and mathematical proof, intended to reflect common methods of research in math.

The class "employs the scientific method," said 18.821 Professor Haynes R. Miller. Students work in groups of three and are presented with a very general mathematical situation, not necessarily a well-formulated problem, Miller said.

Typically, students will begin a project by measuring statistics or properties of the system on a computer, then use that to help them

make a conjecture subject to a mathematical proof, he said.

Math majors in the past have had to take Institute Labs in other majors, ranging from Weather and Climate Laboratory (12.307) to Managerial Psychology Laboratory (15.301).

"The math department has sometimes tried to suggest a course and had it rejected sort of out of hand because of a feeling that you can't do a laboratory course sitting at a computer," said Professor of Mathematics Michael Artin, who taught 18.821 last spring.

Miller said that the course had gone up for review by the COC once in the past, but that the class had needed to develop a track record before it could be approved.

Math Lab, Page 11



'Fever Pitch'
An Enjoyable Movie

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NEWS

Bill proposed in Congress to pay for interest on loans for students entering math or science careers.

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WORLD & NATION

Intelligence Nominee Vows Aggressive Use of Powers

By Douglas Jehl

THE NEW YORK TIMES

WASHINGTON

The Air Force general nominated to become the country's No. 2 intelligence official said Thursday that American intelligence agencies needed to push "right up to that line," established under privacy laws, in using eavesdropping, surveillance and other tools to gather information.

The nominee, Lt. Gen. Michael V. Hayden, told the Senate Intelligence Committee that he was committed to ensuring that all American intelligence activities fell within the bounds defined by the law and the Constitution.

But after six years spent heading American eavesdropping efforts as director of the National Security Agency, Hayden also made the case that American agencies needed to be aggressive in employing their powers.

In response to questions, he told the committee that it would be vital to ensure "that we're not pulling punches, that we're using all of the abilities that Congress has given us under the law."

Propellant is Loaded on Shuttle In Major Test Before Launching

By Stefano S. Coledan

THE NEW YORK TIMES

CAPE CANAVERAL, FLA.

In a major test of its plan to return the space shuttle fleet to orbit, NASA pumped half a million gallons of propellant into the Discovery fuel tank on Thursday and conducted a practice countdown to 31 seconds before liftoff.

NASA plans to launch the Discovery between May 15 and June 3. A crew of seven is to fly on a 12-day mission to deliver critical supplies to the International Space Station. Besides food and water, officials expect the shuttle to carry a gyroscope, one of four devices needed to keep the station properly oriented.

A spokesman for NASA, W. Bruce Buckingham, called the exercise "a full-up test of the external tank and the main propulsion system."

"We're basically doing everything but fire the engines," Buckingham said.

The fueling on Thursday was the first time in more than two years that the team had fueled a shuttle with the super-cold mixture of liquefied oxygen and hydrogen gases.

Venezuela Tightens Grip On Private Oil Companies

By Brian Ellsworth

THE NEW YORK TIMES

CARACAS, VENEZUELA

In a new revenue-raising measure, Venezuela's energy ministry said Thursday that private oil companies operating in the country will have to convert to joint ventures with the government within six months.

Energy Minister Rafael Ramirez said at a news conference on Thursday that the operating agreements would have to be swapped for ventures that are 51 percent state-owned and pay royalties of 30 percent.

The fields in question produce roughly 500,000 barrels of oil a day of Venezuela's total production of 2.6 million barrels a day.

The energy ministry, along with the national oil company, Petroleos de Venezuela, "will begin a process of discussion with the 32 operating agreements so that we can reach the objective of the migration of these contracts to the existing law," Ramirez said.

He added that this would benefit the Venezuelan government as well as "the companies that want to continue operating in our country."

Bendita Primavera

By Roberto Rondanelli

STAFF METEOROLOGIST

The season of love and allergies is finally showing up in all its splendor. It didn't seem so on Tuesday, though, when snowflakes were observed all over the Boston area. However, good news is in order for the long weekend. Right now, our weather is being influenced by the cold advection of a moving high pressure system located over eastern Canada. As the high moves towards the southeast, the center of the anticyclone will be located over New England (Saturday around noon), and the cold advection will give rise to light winds and clear skies.

In the mid-troposphere chart, a large scale ridge appears as the major player of next week. Dry and warm conditions can be expected for the first days of next week. Highs close to 70°F (21°C) can be anticipated.

Extended Forecast:

Today: Mostly Clear. High 49°F (9°C)

Tonight: Clear. Low 36°F (2°C)

Saturday: Clear. High 56°F (13°C)

Sunday: Mostly Clear. Low 42°F (6°C). High 70°F (21°C)

American Trader Is Charged In U.N. Oil-for-Food Scandal

By Julia Preston and Judith Miller

THE NEW YORK TIMES

An American oil trader and a Korean lobbyist with a scandalous past were charged on Thursday in connection with illegal profits from the U.N. oil-for-food program during Saddam Hussein's reign in Iraq.

In an indictment, federal authorities in New York said David B. Chalmers, a Houston oil businessman, and his company, Bayoil, made millions of dollars in illegal kickback payments to Saddam's government while trading oil under the \$65 billion aid program.

Separate charges were filed against Tongsun Park, a millionaire South Korean businessman, for acting as an unregistered lobbyist for Iraq in behind-the-scenes negotiations in the United States to set up and shape the U.N. program. The criminal complaint states that Park received at least \$2 million in payments from Saddam's government for serving as a liaison between Iraqi and U.N. officials.

Park was at the center of a lobbying scandal in the 1970s, when he was accused of bribing lawmakers in Washington to secure their support for loans to South Korea.

Chalmers' company, Bayoil USA, Inc., was the first American company to be indicted in the widening criminal investigations of the oil-for-food program, which was established by the United Nations in 1995 to sell Iraqi oil for revenue to buy humanitarian supplies for Iraqis.

The U.S. authorities not only charged that Bayoil made illegal payments to secure Iraqi oil, but also that it conspired to artificially lower the price Iraq received, depriving the Iraqi people of resources for needed food and medicine. The charges also disclosed new information about alleged payments to senior U.N. officials to influence the program.

Catherine M. Recker, a lawyer for Chalmers, said Bayoil's associates and the company would plead not guilty and "vigorously dispute" the criminal charges.

According to federal authorities and the complaint against Park, he was a partner in the lobbying effort with Samir Vincent, an Iraqi-American businessman who pleaded guilty in January to illegal lobbying for Iraq. Vincent, who is cooperating with federal investigators, said that Iraqi officials signed agreements in

1996 to pay him and Park \$15 million for their lobbying, the complaint states.

One of their tasks was "to take care of" a high-ranking U.N. official, which Vincent understood to mean bribery, the complaint says.

The U.S. authorities did not identify or charges the U.N. official.

Park and Vincent met at least three times in 1993 with Saddam's officials and the U.N. official — twice in Manhattan and once in Geneva. They later received cash from Iraq for at least \$2.2 million, delivered from Baghdad in diplomatic pouches. Vincent also received grants to sell at least 9 million barrels of Iraqi oil, the complaint said.

David N. Kelley, the U.S. attorney in Manhattan, said the complaint alleges that Park intended to bribe the U.N. official, but does not show that the official received any bribe.

The complaint also charges that Park met with a second unnamed senior U.N. official, once in a restaurant in Manhattan. After that, Park said he invested \$1 million he was paid by Iraq in a Canadian company belonging to the son of the second U.N. official, the complaint states.

Judge Ends Ban on Ephedra, Says FDA Should Rethink Rule

By Gardiner Harris

THE NEW YORK TIMES

WASHINGTON

A federal judge in Utah on Thursday struck down a ban on the herbal supplement ephedra, an adrenaline-like stimulant linked to dozens of deaths.

The ruling, by U.S. District Judge Tena Campbell, calls into question whether the Food and Drug Administration can enforce its ban on ephedra anywhere in the United States, although its immediate effect is restricted to Utah. It also prompted calls on Capitol Hill for legislation to crack down on the supplements industry.

Campbell's order calls for the FDA to reconsider the ban consistent with the ruling. Bruce Hough,

president of Nutraceutical, the company that brought the suit, said in an interview that it had no immediate plans to resume the sale of ephedra, which was pulled off the market a year ago this week.

He said that the company brought the suit to check the food and drug agency's oversight of nutritional supplements.

"We didn't file this lawsuit because of ephedra," said Hough, whose company is based in Utah. "We filed it because the FDA established rules that could cause problems to the rest of our business."

An FDA spokeswoman said the agency was still evaluating the ruling. No determination has been made about an appeal.

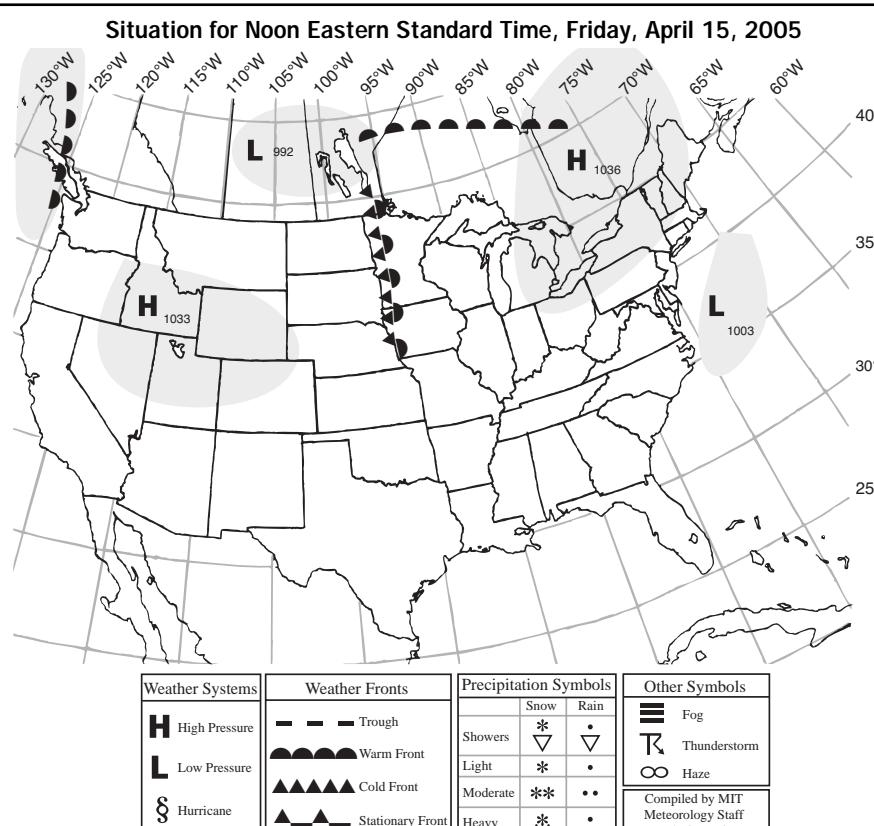
Dr. Julian Bailes, chairman of

neurosurgery at West Virginia University School of Medicine, said the ruling was "a green light to abuse this substance again."

Bailes' research established the link between ephedra and heat stroke deaths among young athletes. Ephedra has been linked to more than 80 deaths, though the estimates vary widely. More adverse reactions were reported from the use of ephedra than from the use of all other herbal supplements combined, Bailes said.

Campbell stated in her ruling that the FDA had failed to prove that low doses of ephedra were dangerous. In fact, the agency was caught in something of a bind. It suspected that all doses posed a risk, suggesting that further research would have been unethical.

WEATHER



Overhaul in Bankruptcy Laws Passes House With Big Margin

By Stephen Labaton

THE NEW YORK TIMES

WASHINGTON

The House of Representatives overwhelmingly approved a major overhaul of the nation's bankruptcy laws on Thursday, completing congressional action on the measure and sending it to President Bush for his signature.

The 302-126 vote adopted the first significant revision of the bankruptcy laws in 27 years and is the culmination of years of intensive lobbying by the nation's largest banks, credit card companies and retailers, who have complained about what they say is a rising tide of abusive bankruptcy filings.

It is a major victory for Bush, who supported the measure, and a sharp setback for civil rights organizations and labor and consumer groups. They say the new law will be a huge giveaway to special interests at the expense of many middle- and lower-income families.

Those groups say that abuses of the bankruptcy system are episodic,

not systemic, and that the increase in filings over the last 30 years is a symptom of other societal problems, like the growing number of uninsured families facing high medical bills. They also link the increase to the sharp rise in promotion by credit card companies, banks and retailers of easy credit often accompanied by hidden and high fees.

Supporters of the legislation beat back a variety of attempts to force lenders to cut fees, expand disclosure and curtail what critics have called the abusive marketing tactics of banks and credit card companies. The supporters also beat back a series of amendments that would have curtailed what the critics said were the abusive bankruptcy practices of corporations like Enron and WorldCom.

Bush hailed the House vote.

The Senate passed the same bill last month by a vote of 74-25.

When it takes effect six months after it is signed by the president, the new law will disqualify many families from taking advantage of

the more generous provisions of the current bankruptcy code, which since 1898 had permitted bankruptcy filers to extinguish their debt for a "fresh start."

In its place, the bill would impose a means test that would prompt many people to file for bankruptcy protection under Chapter 13, which requires a repayment plan. The means test would not be applied to debtors who earn less than the median income in their state. Those who earn more than that, and can pay at least \$6,000 over five years, would have to seek protection under Chapter 13, rather than the more generous provisions of Chapter 7.

The median income for a family of four in 2003 was \$65,093, ranging from \$45,867 in New Mexico to \$82,561 in Massachusetts, according to the U.S. Census Bureau.

The bill would also impose significant new costs on those seeking bankruptcy protection and give lenders and businesses new legal tools for recovering debts.

Indicators for Stock Market Drop To Recent Low Amid New Worries

By Jonathan Fuerbringer

THE NEW YORK TIMES

The major stock-market gauges fell Thursday to their lowest levels this year, as investors worried about slower economic growth.

The Dow Jones industrial average dropped 1.2 percent, the Standard & Poor's 500 index fell 1 percent, and the technology-heavy Nasdaq composite index closed down 1.4 percent, despite a strong earnings report from Apple Computer.

After the market closed, IBM said that its first-quarter earnings fell short of estimates. Shares of IBM fell 4 percent in after-hours trading.

The Nasdaq, now down 10.5 percent for the year, has given up all the gains from last year's post-election rally that turned a previously poor 2004 into a pretty good year for stocks. The Dow, off 4.7 percent on the year, and S&P 500, down 4.1 percent in 2005, have given up most of their post-election gains.

"Almost overnight we have gone from worrying about inflation to worrying about economic growth," said Edward Yardeni, chief investment strategist at Oak Associates, a money manager based in Akron, Ohio.

Stocks that are sensitive to signs of economic growth led the market

lower Thursday. Caterpillar, General Motors, 3M, DuPont, Honeywell, United Technologies, Wal-Mart, Citigroup and Alcoa, all in this category, accounted for about 91 points of the Dow's 125-point decline. Shares of General Motors fell nearly 6 percent, to \$26.66 — its lowest since January 1993.

The Morgan Stanley cyclical index of 30 stocks fell 2.7 percent Thursday, after dropping 1.9 percent Wednesday.

After a report Wednesday of a weak 0.3 percent rise in retail sales last month, and a report Tuesday of an unexpected surge in the nation's trade deficit in February, some economists have marked down their forecasts for growth in the first quarter.

These signs of a possible slowdown are making them wonder how much more high oil and gasoline prices will slow consumer spending and whether American exports will continue to be weaker than forecast.

The new data and some cautious comments from executives that have reported first-quarter earnings have raised questions about whether the economy is headed for a soft patch, Yardeni said.

"But I think the market is reacting like it is more than a soft patch," he said.

The hints of softness, combined with crude oil prices stubbornly above \$50 a barrel and worries by Federal Reserve officials about inflationary pressures, mean that even positive corporate news is not enough for investors.

For example, Apple Computer reported spectacular earnings for the three months ending in March after the market closed on Wednesday and said that the earnings and profits would be better in the next three months. But investors wanted more. Apple's stock, which led both the S&P 500 and the Nasdaq lower Thursday, plunged \$3.78, or 9.2 percent, to \$37.26. It had dropped 3.8 percent on Wednesday before the market closed.

Oil prices, which had been slipping earlier this week, did not help Thursday. After coming tantalizingly close to falling below \$50 a barrel on Wednesday, crude oil for May delivery on the New York Mercantile Exchange rose 91 cents, or 1.8 percent, to \$51.13.

Not everyone is convinced that the economy is slowing. In a note to clients Thursday, economists at UBS said, "We would argue against extrapolating this weakening as much more than a temporary pattern."

Steven Weisman
THE NEW YORK TIMES

WASHINGTON

The Bush administration announced Thursday that James Wolfensohn, the outgoing president of the World Bank, would become a special coordinator to help Israel carry out its handover of Gaza to the Palestinians.

Israel announced in December 2003 that it would withdraw unilaterally from Gaza and portions of the West Bank. It plans to begin the process by this summer. But Israeli, Palestinian, European and American officials have expressed growing concern in the last few weeks about the lack of coordination with the Palestinians and of planning for the period after Israel withdraws.

In particular, concern has been expressed about the possible destruction of facilities left behind by Israel that could be used by the Palestinians for economic development.

The appointment of Wolfensohn,

who has mobilized financial aid and worked with Israeli and Palestinian leaders for 10 years at the World Bank, was made with the support of the European Union, the United Nations and Russia, the so-called "quartet" of partners backing the Middle East peace plan known as the "road map."

"I would expect to be over there in the next couple weeks to do preliminary work and to listen," Wolfensohn said in an interview after Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice announced his appointment. "My first job is to listen to the Israelis and the Palestinians and try to assess the situation and see what the gaps are and how we can help."

Rice said that Wolfensohn would focus on coordinating "non-military aspects" of the withdrawal, including economic reconstruction and the transfer of housing, businesses, public buildings, greenhouses and other assets to Palestinian control.

The responsibility for peace

ultimately rests with the two parties, and Wolfensohn can only help them achieve what they are willing to achieve together," Rice said.

Last week, former Prime Minister Shimon Peres warned at an Aspen Institute conference in Washington that without further preparations, efforts to salvage badly needed economic facilities in Gaza — such as the many greenhouses that could employ thousands of Palestinians — could lead to their being destroyed in the pullout process.

Western diplomats say they have been especially dismayed over divisions within the Palestinian government of President Mahmoud Abbas, with Abbas favoring coordination with the Israelis but an increasingly powerful faction led by Prime Minister Ahmed Qurei opposing such coordination as legitimizing the Israeli occupation.

Peres said he favored the appointment of a respected economic coordinator for Gaza.

Lilly's Patent On Schizophrenia Drug Upheld

By Alex Berenson

THE NEW YORK TIMES

A federal district judge in Indianapolis upheld Eli Lilly's patent on Zyprexa, a treatment for schizophrenia that was among the top-selling drugs in the United States last year, with \$2.4 billion in sales.

Lilly had sued three generic drug companies to protect its patent, after the generic companies claimed that the patent was invalid because Zyprexa is too similar to other chemical compounds whose patents have already expired. In a 224-page ruling, Judge Richard L. Young backed Lilly's position, finding Zyprexa different than the other compounds and worthy of protection.

The verdict protects Lilly's monopoly on selling Zyprexa in the United States until 2011, when its patent expires.

Sidney Taurel, the chairman of Lilly, applauded the verdict and said the company expected to win any appeal. The three generic companies did not announce Thursday night whether they would appeal, but analysts say an appeal is almost certain.

"We've been very confident that our patents were valid and enforceable," Taurel said.

The ruling was issued after the close of regular trading on the New York Stock Exchange. In after-hours trading following the ruling, Lilly shares jumped about 7 percent.

Europeans Link Lifting China Arms Ban to Human Rights

By By Richard Bernstein

THE NEW YORK TIMES

BERLIN

On Thursday, Europe seemed farther away than ever from lifting its 16-year-old arms embargo on China, following comments by the German foreign minister and a vote in the European Parliament, both of which urged linking the embargo question to human rights.

"We want to reach a consensus, but this requires that everyone in the European Union votes in favor," Joschka Fischer, the German foreign minister, said in a parliamentary debate on the embargo question. "For this, it is necessary for China also to move."

Fischer called on China to "ease administrative detentions and above all move toward a peaceful settlement of the disputes across the Taiwan Strait."

The European Parliament, meeting in Strasbourg, France, voted 431-85, with 31 abstentions, in favor of a resolution urging the European Union not to lift the arms embargo.

The resolution, which is nonbinding but reflective of European public opinion, was sharply critical of China for adopting legislation recently that would require China to go to war in the event of significant moves by Taiwan toward independence.

The "so-called anti-secession law," the resolution said, "aggravates the situation across the strait in an unjustified way."

Oregon High Court Voids 3,000 Same-Sex Marriages

By Sarah Kershaw

THE NEW YORK TIMES

Oregon's highest court ruled Thursday that 3,000 same-sex marriages performed a year ago in one county were unlawful, saying the county had overstepped its authority and that the marriage licenses it had issued were unconstitutional under Oregon law.

The Oregon Supreme Court justices focused heavily in their highly anticipated opinion on a vote by Oregonians in November approving a constitutional amendment that defined marriage as a union between one man and one woman. But they also ruled that even before the ballot measure was approved by a wide margin, Oregon law had already rendered the marriages, conducted last March and April in Multnomah County, illegal.

"County officials were entitled to have their doubts about the constitutionality of limiting marriage to opposite-sex couples," Justice W. Michael Gillette wrote for the court. "But, marriage and the laws governing it are matters of statewide, not local, concern."

The court ruling also said, "Today, marriage in Oregon — an institution once limited to opposite-sex couples only by statute — now is so limited by the state constitution as well."

Supporters of same-sex marriage said they would not abandon their quest for full marriage rights, but in the meantime would work to win passage of legislation that would allow civil unions for gay couples. Vermont is the only state that sanctions civil unions, although legislatures in Oregon and Connecticut are debating the option.

More Than 10,000 Are Arrested in Dragnet

By Eric Lichtblau

THE NEW YORK TIMES

WASHINGTON

The Justice Department Thursday announced the arrests of more than 10,000 fugitives, many of them suspects in violent crimes like murder, rape, kidnapping and armed robbery, as part of a weeklong roundup around the country that concluded this week.

The operation netted more suspects than any other initiative of its kind in American law enforcement, officials said. The coordinated effort produced a rate of fugitive arrests more than five times the rate in a typical week last year.

From dawn on April 4 to midnight last Sunday, some 3,100 law enforcement officers from 959 federal, state and local agencies fanned out in search of fugitives wanted on outstanding arrest warrants. Squads of law enforcement officials at all levels of government routinely conduct such searches on a near-daily basis, but officials said this was the first time a roundup had been tried on a coordinated, nationwide level.

Texas led the way with 902 arrests, followed by Tennessee with 785, Florida with 685, Ohio with 631, Oklahoma with 565, California with 507, Illinois with 401, Pennsylvania with 368, Louisiana with 349 and New York with 345.

OPINION



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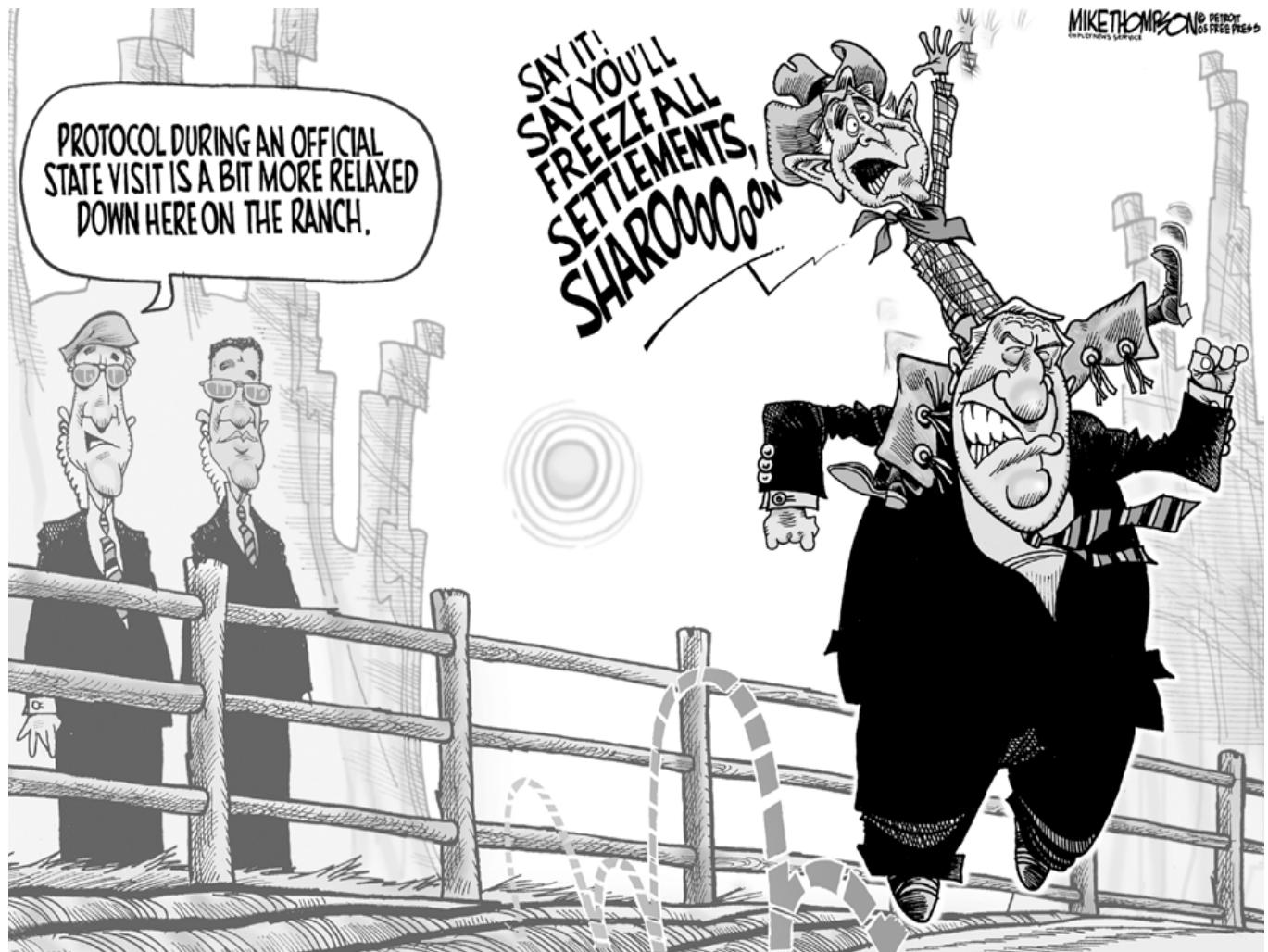
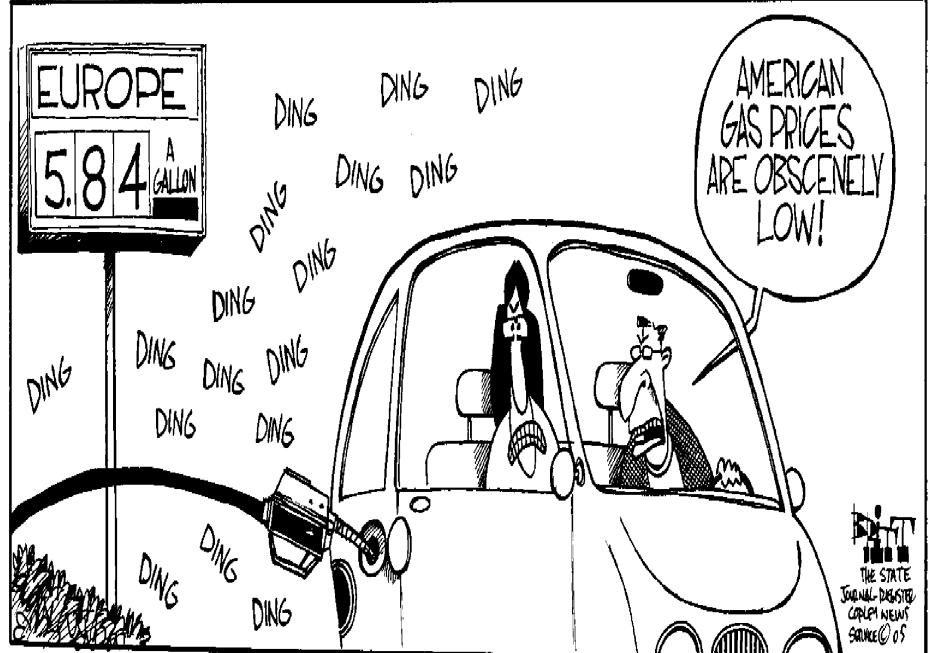
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Erratum

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WAS INCORRECT.



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ARTS

FILM REVIEW ★★1/2

'Sin City' Film Noir on Steroids

Comic Book Movie Closest Adaptation Yet

By Kapil Amarnath

Starring Bruce Willis, Jessica Alba, Mickey O'Rourke, Jamie King, Clive Owen, Rosario Dawson, Brittany Murphy, Elijah Wood
Based on the graphic novels by Frank Miller
Directed by Robert Rodriguez, Frank Miller, and Quentin Tarantino
Rated R

Imagine a world where the basic rules of society are broken, and justice is nonexistent. A world ruled by hot babes with badass superheroes battling perverse villains. That world is "Sin City."

In such anarchy, the characters of "Sin City" thrive on the thrills of sin, whether it be prostitution or murder. As a result, acts of selflessness are magnified, even when coated with blood. The film's philosophical core more than makes up for the relentless violence, resulting in what is one of the year's best films to date.

Director Robert Rodriguez filmed three of Frank Miller's graphic novels ("The Hard Goodbye," "The Big Fat Kill," and "That Yelow Bastard") separately and cobbled them together. In one story, John Hartigan (Bruce Willis) is a detective trying to find a teenage rapist (Nick Stahl) to save young Nancy Callahan (Mackenzie Vega), who then develops into a real stunner (Jessica Alba). In another, Mary (Mickey Rourke) plays a man who's "killing his way to the truth" behind the death of Goldie (Jamie King), who's given him the night of his life. Finally, a wanted character with a new face, Dwight (Clive Owen), single-handedly starts a city war between the women and the police. A hit man's (Josh Hartnett) exploits bookend the movie.

Rodriguez, who jumpstarted his career with the filmed-for-\$7,000 "El Mariachi," has created

the feeling of reading a comic book brought to life. The result is a visually-stunning black and white movie that allows the audience to be immersed in "Sin City's" film noir.

Rodriguez had to show Miller footage of what would be the opening sequence before he'd agree to the movie. Miller (who in the early 80's revived the Batman and Daredevil series) had poor results with the film industry earlier in his career, and only Rodriguez's approach, which essentially replicated the comic on the screen in proportion and color, would appease him.

Quentin Tarantino is listed as a "Guest Director." Tarantino offered to film a scene for \$1 after Rodriguez helped with the soundtrack for "Kill Bill." Tarantino's involvement is not readily apparent and also caused the film to draw unwarranted comparisons to "Pulp Fiction."

The cast is huge, and each character blends into the story while maintaining individuality. Mickey O'Rourke's performance as a brute who consistently questions his sanity, a la Tony Soprano, stood out. Even smaller characters played by the likes of Michael Madsen, whose career was recently revived by Tarantino,



MIRAMAX

Dwight (Clive Owen) threatens Jackie Boy (Benicio del Toro) in "Sin City."

enhanced the movie.

Marv, Dwight, and Hartigan serve as the heroes of the film. Like conventional heroes, they draw sustenance from protecting those who they think are weak. Further, they're the only ones who have moral qualms and possess superhuman qualities. Despite their similarities, the three men are distinctly different in their motives, whether for justice or for revenge. The female characters aren't well-developed, but their characters seem to be the only ones that ever contain color, perhaps indicating their

weakness or guilt in glowing blue and red.

The events transpire at night and often in rain or snow. This setting serves a similar purpose as the rain- and mud-soaked battle scenes from "The Seven Samurai" by de-romanticizing the constant killing and torture and the enjoyment that people get from it, especially towards the end of Dwight's story.

Ultimately, the authenticity of "Sin City" allows the focus to be directed the rich visual details which are entertaining and thought-provoking.

FILM REVIEW ★★

'Fever Pitch' Almost a Home Run

Decent Romantic Comedy Combines With Thrill of Red Sox

By Nikhil Nadkarni

Starring Jimmy Fallon and Drew Barrymore
Written by Nick Hornby and Lowell Ganz
Directed by Bobby Farrelly and Peter Farrelly
Rated PG-13

There is a particular sense of endearing love we Red Sox fans have for our team. We spend our entire lives as Sox fans, never missing a game, beaming pride at every Boston run, cursing every loss, and — yes — vowing to give up the obsession after each heartbreaker season.

In late September, if not throughout the season, we watch absolutely every inning, because to stop watching — in that ridiculously superstitious mentality — would be abandoning the team in their crucial hour. We worship Teddy, Tony C., Johnny Pesky, and contemporaries in a park that is sometimes referred to as The Chapel.

All of this — all that is Red Sox fandom — is captured in the Farrelly brothers' new

movie, "Fever Pitch." Jimmy Fallon plays Ben, a Bostonian obsessed with the Sox. He attends every home game and flies down to every spring training. His morning routine ends, as we see, with him rubbing the legendary Tony Conigliaro cover of Sports Illustrated for good luck.

The problem arises when he meets Lindsey Meeks (Drew Barrymore). They start dating and then seeing each other seriously, and he makes sure to disclose that he is a Red Sox fan. When baseball season starts, they are confident that they can continue to be together despite Ben's obsession with the Sox. But more and more conflicts arise, and that is when, for Lindsey, the scale of "this Red Sox thing" sets in. Working a relationship around the Red Sox can be tough, and it remains for both Ben and Lindsey to make big decisions about being together.

The movie, in following the development of their relationship, doesn't forget to earn the second half of the label "romantic comedy." The Farrelly brothers bring their mix of

slapstick humor and clever irony to the film with jokes that remind you of their earlier hits "Dumb and Dumber" and "Me, Myself & Irene." There are definitely more jokes to this movie than "see how crazy a Sox fan can be," as the trailers might have you believe. For example, watch for the hilarious first date fiasco.

The Farrelly brand of humor combines nicely with Jimmy Fallon's style — one of unabashed goofiness and straight-faced punchlines. Fallon does a good acting job. He plays "a romantic," as Lindsey calls him, looking at both the Sox and his girlfriend with deep admiration, and he plays this role with energy. Every SNL fan knows his energetic acting from watching "Weekend Update." I also had the chance to see this in person; at the Fenway red carpet premiere, he talked/yelled to the crowd with the same insane enthusiasm.

Barrymore plays the role of an open-minded sweetheart and plays it very convincingly. She's a newcomer to Red Sox nation, and she's willing — for the most part — to work around her boyfriend's love of the Red Sox simply because she really likes him.

Despite good performances by each actor, their on-screen relationship lacks chemistry. Watching them interact, I began to wonder whether I could actually "see them together" had they both been friends of mine, because their personalities seem to be too far apart from each other.

"Fever Pitch" also has a few other annoyances. The energy of the movie falls off significantly in the second half. The film also takes a more serious tone in its latter half, and as a result, the jokes are few after the halfway mark.

But all these issues can go out the window for any Sox fan, because "Fever Pitch" captures that thrill of Red Sox fandom. If we can ignore the obnoxious intrusion the movie's crews made

onto the field after the Sox won the World Series, "Fever Pitch" pays homage to the Red Sox fan like no other movie. For example, some of Ben's Sox-crazed lines hit home: he says he can't go on a trip with Lindsey because it's a time of the season when "the Sox need [him]," reflecting the superstitious attachment fans feel. There's also Lindsey saying how "it's just a game," something we hear all too often from non-fans. In short, if you're a member of the Red Sox Nation, "Fever Pitch" captures the deep emotional attachment you hold, and you can relate as a result.

To be sure, the movie is about the Sox; it is steeped in glorious red. Many of the scenes feature actual clips from the game, and even though they knew that it was in the past, people in the theater audience became thrilled to see the clip of that Ramirez line drive or that Bellhorn-Millar double play. In fact, the audience started excitedly clapping after the clip of the Sox win over the Yankees. Commentary from WEEI, dubbed over some of the clips, made it all the more real. The soundtrack is rounded out with the Fenway favorites "Tessie" and "Dirty Water," and I spied audience members, corny as it may be, tapping their feet and singing along, simply because it felt that thrilling.

There's also the Boston scenery for the non-fan Bostonians. For example, Lindsey is shown living on Marlborough Street in the shadow of the Prudential. But make no mistake, "Fever Pitch" is specifically about Red Sox cultcha.

It is for this reason that I would recommend that Sox fans see it. Everyone else will still have a decent time seeing it, even if the romantic comedy part could be better.

I was reminded of "Good Will Hunting" when I was in the theater, specifically of Robin Williams' character of Sean Maguire. Remember the scene in which Sean vividly describes Game Six of the 1976 World Series, and then says he gave up game tickets to see a girl? For some Sox fans out there, the question of 'Red Sox or the girl' is all too real. Sean Maguire answered it with 'the girl,' and Jimmy Fallon's character answers it in his own way. See "Fever Pitch" to see his decision; you'll have a good time.



20TH CENTURY FOX

Ben (Jimmy Fallon) and Lindsey (Drew Barrymore) watch a game at Fenway Park in "Fever Pitch."

THEATER REVIEW

Discovering the Joys of Solitude

Despite Best Efforts, MTG's 'Company' Won't Be Invited Back

By Nivair H. Gabriel

STAFF WRITER

Company

Music and Lyrics by Stephen Sondheim

Book by George Furth

Produced by Mark Rousculp

Directed by Jamez Kirtley '94

Matt Ciborowski '08, Cinda Anne Rousculp, Kristin Hughes, Eleanor "Nori" Pritchard '06

Kresge Little Theater

April 14, 15, 16 at 8 p.m.

\$6 MIT/WC students; \$8 MIT faculty and staff; \$10 general public

Do you enjoy beating relationships to death by analyzing every breath your Significant Other takes and driving everyone around you so completely insane with your drivel that they'd rather shoot themselves in the face than listen to you say one more word?

Then you'll love "Company," created by Stephen Sondheim and George Furth and currently featuring the members of the Musical Theater Guild. The show explores the now-tired and tedious theme of unmarried 30-something angst. Unfortunately, the theme is all there is. There's no plot or even any sort of message, and I left feeling just as empty as I was before the show began.

It's not that I didn't care about Bobby (Matt Ciborowski '08) or his ten married friends Joanne and Larry, Paul and Amy, Peter and Susan, Sarah and Harry, and David and Jenny. On the contrary, the cast

was enthusiastic and talented. The problem was the script: it was utterly stereotypical and absolutely boring.

Men, it seemed to say, are "always sorry" that they got married; this is Harry's (Aaron Moronez '04) singing response to Bobby's questioning the institution of marriage. Three husbands croon that though they're grateful to possess a family, they miss the days of freedom. Meanwhile, the wives look on disapprovingly, never having wanted anything more than a chance to keep house and warrant a careful allowance from the working man's salary. The women later have a song entitled "Poor Baby" about their pity for the sad, lonely, and unchained Bobby — who is at that moment, ironically, fulfilling every man's apparent dream and having meaningless sex with someone he barely knows (Eleanor "Nori" Pritchard '06). See what I mean about shooting yourself in the face?

It's no secret that "Company" hails from a less enlightened and politically correct era — it's still shocking that Amy (Dana Ozik G) can without protest recite a monologue about the joy of finding "[her] very own Jew!" She deems ridiculous the prospect of actually loving a spouse, as she casts out Paul (Matt Stern '08, her very own Jew), the only sensitive character, on the morning of his wedding for being too adoring. Her friend Harry is so insensitive and insecure about his manliness that he insists on throwing his wife (Heather Doering '05) to the

floor to prove that her karate class is a waste of time. Very sweet.

There are amusing moments, even if they only involve laughing at dysfunctional relationships, and Sondheim displays several interesting characters. As soon as the show touches something deep, however, it pulls away again. Easy laughs and worship of New York City form the meat of the performance.

Maybe the content is awful, but the set is amazing. The apartment is just as "darling" as Pritchard describes it (several times), with all the furnishings of a clean, normal place. The stage comes with a balcony, a full kitchen, slightly racy and uninteresting paintings, random hobby-related equipment that's never touched, and every kind of alcohol. It's perfect.

The other nice surprise comes with the music: it is cheery, catchy, and well-produced. With the exception of Tim Abrahamson '06 and Cinda Anne Rousculp, every voice is audible over the music; even better, the background melodies complement their sounds. "You Could Drive A Person Crazy" and "The Ladies Who Lunch" shine, which is not surprising considering that outstanding vocal talents and scene-stealers Pritchard and Kristin Hughes carried both. No mouths move faster than Rousculp's or Ozik's during "Another Hundred People" and "Getting Married Today," in which they maintain rhythm and match the music for a grand variety of tongue-twisters. If nothing else,

the audience can leave singing.

For her first time as an MTG choreographer, Janet Lieberman '07 outdoes herself; she uses the stage to its fullest extent and even brings out top hats. What a shame that none of the actors can synchronize (or even high-kick), and it is painfully apparent that they haven't had enough time to practice their moves. Watch, therefore, for what could have been.

Watch what there is as far as acting goes, because the cast works in wonderful ways. Everyone will of course enjoy Allison Linker (Wellesley '05) and Abrahamsen's exaggerated fake highs and the careful dance that Moronez and Doering perform to get around each other's bans on fatty foods and alcohol. Hughes, who plays wealthy man-user Joanne, starts out as endearingly evil and self-centered and becomes dangerous, the unfaithful part of an inexplicable marriage. What was a gap in the script, she develops, until it's almost understandable; showing what should have been written was the real challenge for these actors.

"Company" pretends to tout marriage, but all it does is substitute plot and character development for uninspired and lackluster observations. The MTG makes a most valiant effort, but it's hard to make a heartstopper out of such a flop. I'll sum up the cutting analysis of male-female relationships in the '70s with these lines from the show:

WIFE: I love you so much.

HUSBAND: Food?

CLASSICAL REVIEW

Emerson Quartet Rises to Mendelssohn Challenge

String Ensemble Completes Part II of Quartet Cycle

By Jacqueline O'Connor

STAFF WRITER

Emerson String Quartet

Bank of America Celebrity Series

Jordan Hall

April 8, 2005, 8 p.m.

The last time I wrote about the Emerson String Quartet, it was about the first part of their performance of the complete cycle of Mendelssohn's String Quartets. That concert was inconsistent and at times confusing. Despite the few memorable moments, I was quite disappointed with their performance. I've idolized this quartet for years and did not know it was possible for them to play anything but a perfect concert.

This second half of the cycle made up for the first concert's inconsistencies and showed the true prowess of this amazing quartet. The concert featured not only their trademark technical excellence and impeccable ensemble playing but also a sense of feeling and expression that topped their usual performance level.

The concert began with what I considered to be the highlight of the evening, the Opus 44, No. 2 quartet in E minor. Not only is it my favorite of Mendelssohn's quartets, but the Emerson's performance was truly outstanding. The piece features many concerto-like solos in the first violin part, which were all beautifully executed by Philip Setzer, the first violinist for most of the concert. This was especially true in the first movement, where the entire group, but especially Setzer, played with deep feeling and subtlety. Their ensemble was fantastic to the point where the group

sounded like one instrument and the voicing was very natural. The second movement showcased the Emerson's unbeatable technical talent, as they effortlessly played a movement filled with fast, ricochet-like passages. Despite the obvious difficulty of the piece, the quartet still retained expressiveness in their playing. The third movement featured the most gorgeous playing of the entire concert. The movement, marked Andante, features a singing melody in the first violin and cello, expertly played by both Setzer and cellist David Finckel. The entire group played as one coherent expressive unit and brought out the beauty of Mendelssohn's writing. The piece ended with a challenging final Presto agitato. The Emerson played with intensity and amazing character, finishing the piece with great excitement and inciting great enthusiasm from the audience.

The rest of the concert lived up to the high standard set by the performance of the first piece. The Emerson displayed elements of a great quartet during the rest of the concert. Their trademark technical excellence was especially noticeable in the final movement of the Opus 80, Nos. 1&2 quartet in F minor. This movement, a restless Allegro molto, featured a good balance between the subtle tremolos behind an agitated and difficult melody that was flawlessly passed among all four members of the quartet. Their expression throughout the concert was also very impressive. Besides the third movement of the Opus 44, No. 2 quartet in E minor, another example of their emotional playing was their very moving performance of the third movement of the Opus 80 quartet in F minor. This move-

ment, featuring solos by the first violin and cello as in the Opus 44, No. 2, was played perfectly. The success of the performance was verified by the expressions on the faces of the members of the group; they seemed to be enjoying the performance and could certainly tell that the movement was "clicking." Finally, and probably most importantly, the Emerson Quartet displayed amazing ensemble throughout the entire concert. A poignant example of this group synchronicity was the opening movement of the Opus 44, No. 3 quartet in E-flat major. The sound was full

FOOD REVIEW

Area Restaurants Donate to 'Taste of the Nation'

Attendees Eat to End Hunger

By Yao-Chung King

Taste of the Nation

Hynes Convention Center

April 7, 2005

On April 7, "Taste of the Nation" came to Boston's Hynes Convention Center with an impressive roster of award-winning restaurants, wineries, and breweries in tow. Run nationwide in several major cities, Taste of the Nation invites local restaurants in each city to show off parts of their menus to the event's hundreds of attendees. Some attendees arrive hoping to meet their favorite chefs, who are normally inaccessible busy in restaurant kitchens but become accessible in the open-air booth setup of Taste of the Nation. Other attendees come to learn about more good restaurants around Boston, while still others buy into the all-you-can-eat nature of the event and gorge on the unending supply of wine, bread, cheese, meats, and exotic samplings available at the restaurant booths.

How fitting (or ironic?) that all of this epicurean hedonism goes to benefit Share our Strength, a non-profit organization that works to fight hunger in the United States. In fact, all of the restaurant participants donate their staff and materials to the cause, and other event costs are defrayed by sponsorship and by good-hearted, good-stomached volunteers, ensuring that 100 percent of the ticket costs go directly to charity.

This year, Taste brought in such impressive names as Anthony Dawodu of 33 Restaurant, Andy Husbands of Tremont 647, and Gordon Hamersley of Harmsley's

with a bold character that the group felt as a whole and projected wonderfully. All the musicians played with their very best sound yet retained a sense of being a part of the larger "instrument" that is the quartet.

I was very happy with the conclusion to the two-part cycle. Mendelssohn's writing is so wonderful that my fears that a concert entirely comprised of Mendelssohn would be boring were easily assuaged. I hope the Bank of American Celebrity Series continues their tradition of inviting the Emerson String Quartet to Jordan Hall for years to come.

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Bistro. Other familiar favorites (both fine and casual dining) included Bob the Chef's, the Blue Room, Finale, Fleming's Prime Steak House, Icarus, Redbones, Rialto, Sorriso Tratoria, and The Elephant Walk. Masa made a showing of its Ahi Tuna Ceviche from its tapas menu, and an array of three side-by-side chefs preparing a Roasted Garlic Shrimp with Mango Tango Salsa turned out, surprisingly, to be Aramark catering.

The event this year attracted many young professionals, middle-aged couples, and older aficionado types, but yielded few college-aged food lovers, probably because of the prohibitive \$75 ticket price. Music from Boston's Babaloo Band created an energetic atmosphere at the Hynes, and the small dance floor in front of the stage enticed flirtatious twirls during particularly powerful pieces. The band, singing in seven different languages and incorporating beats from around the world into its tracks, fittingly accompanied the eclectic food area, which served a gamut from Bob the Chef's Fried Catfish and Whole Food Market's Pulled Pork Sandwiches to Brasserie Jo's Chicken Liver Mousse and Bistro 5's Rabbit Parpadelli.

On the whole, Taste of the Nation brought together food lovers and the chefs who love to cook for them for a great cause. Perhaps intimidating for someone just starting to develop their love for food, Taste of the Nation provides great exposure to the variety of food options in Boston. And while expensive for a college budget, consider it an investment in good food and treat yourself next year. After all, you're filling more than just your stomach.

April 15, 2005

CONCS FUN PAGES

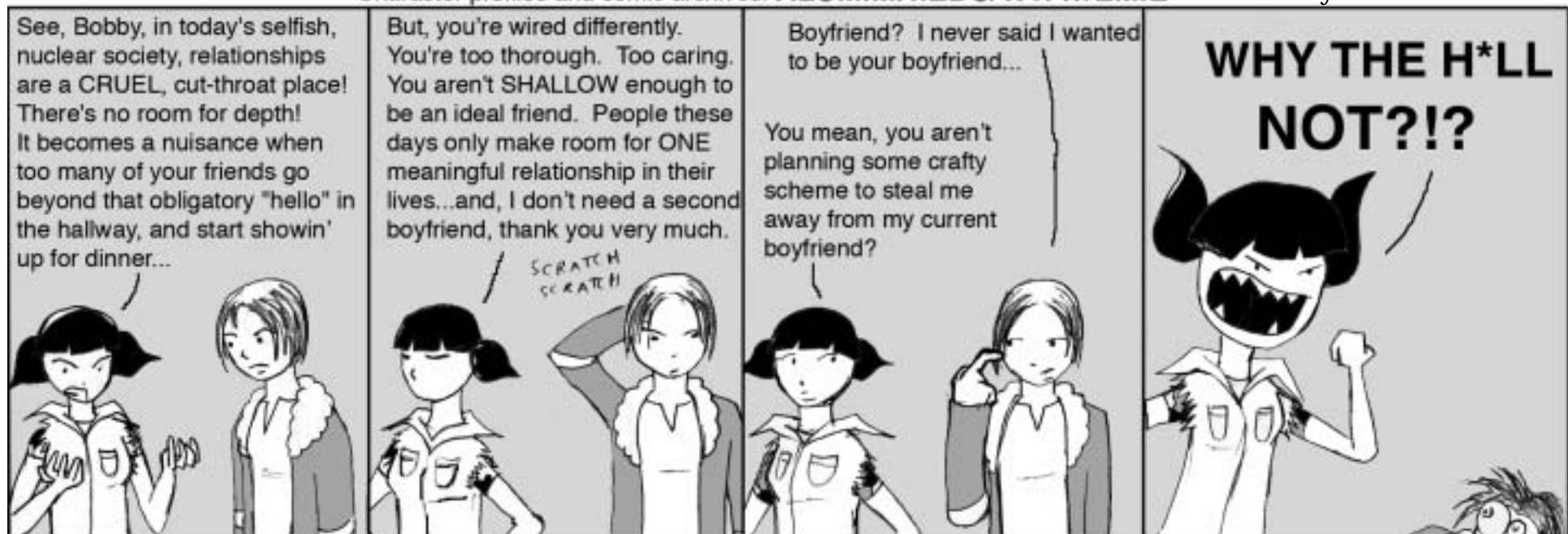
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7

The
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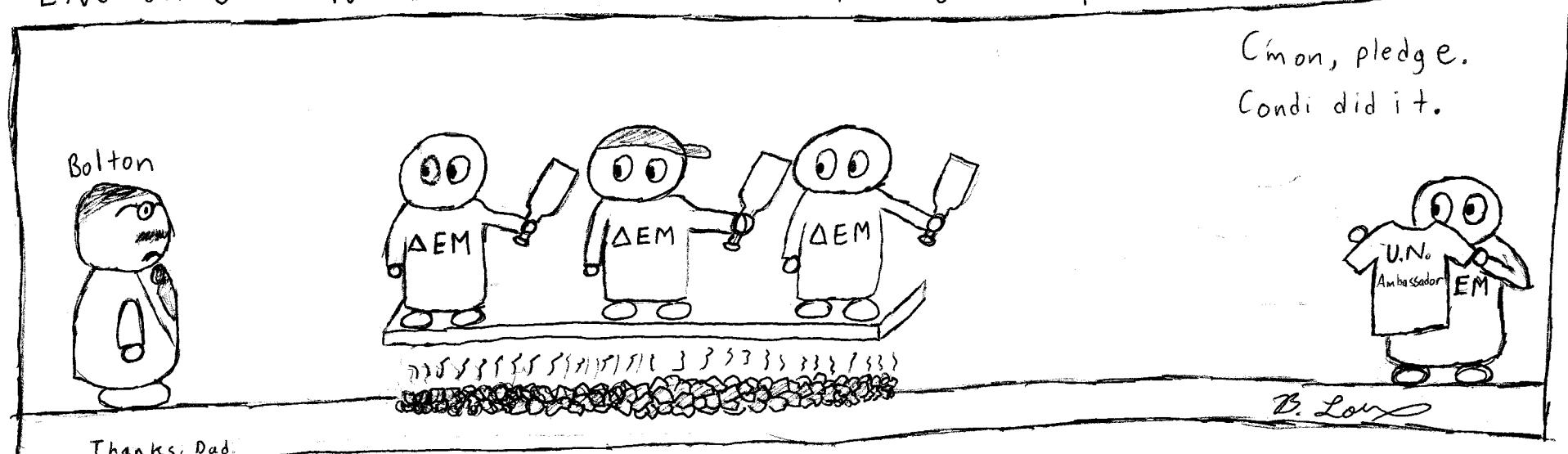
Character profiles and comic archives: ALUM.MIT.EDU/WWW/EMIE

by Emezie Okorafor



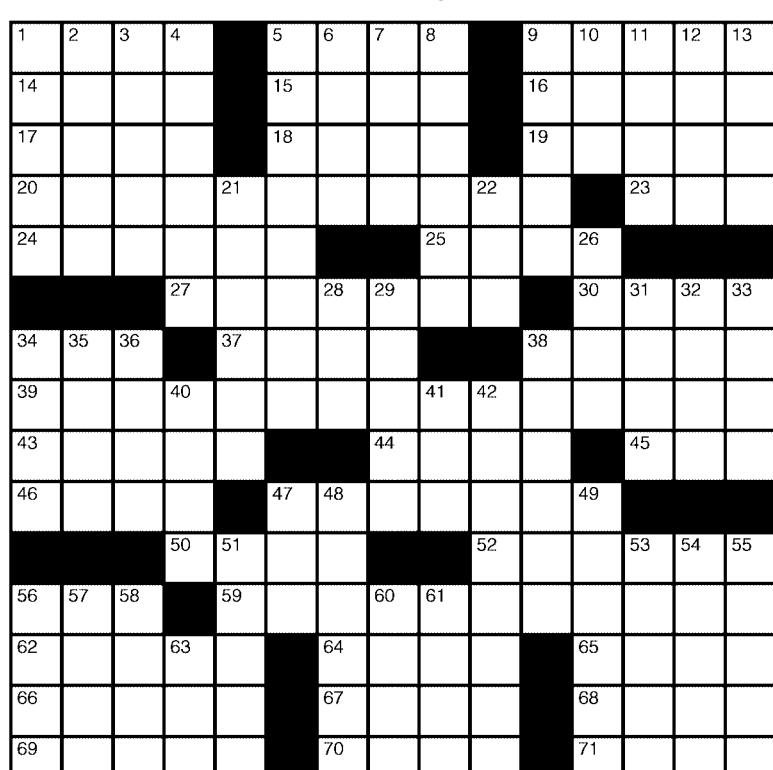
Live on C-SPAN: Democrats fake like they've grown a pair

by Brian Loux



KRT Crossword

Solution, page 13



Splatform

by James Biggs



Are you troubled by any intrusive sexual fantasies?

ACROSS
1 Wag
5 Practical jokes
9 Throw out
forcefully
14 On the quiet side
15 Sea eagle
16 Pentateuch
17 Author Morrison
18 Approach
19 Make amends
20 Start of Will Smith
quote

23 Comprehend
24 Very dull
performance
25 Capone's undoer
27 Red fish
30 Like it or ___ it!
34 Mighty long time
37 Inter ___ (among
others)
38 Jots
39 Part 2 of quote
43 V-formation flock
44 Famous apple-

splitter
45 Stolen or popular
46 Michael or
Susannah
47 Director Noyce
50 Slide sideways
52 Plants with
aromatic seeds
56 Vanity
59 End of quote
62 "Star Wars"
weapon
64 Bread spread

65 Concluding
passage
66 Spring bloom
67 Attain
68 At any time
69 Symbol of
slowness
70 Plod along
71 Withered
DOWN
1 Spiteful
2 Island farewell

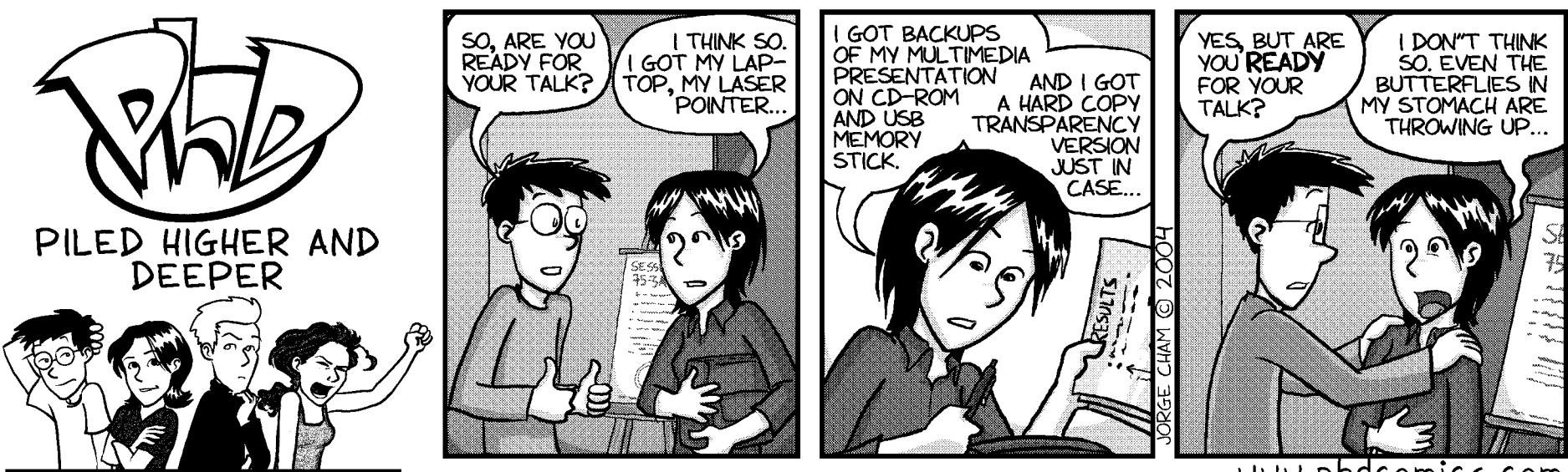
3 Begin again
4 Condescends
5 Army leaders
6 District
7 Teensy tormentor
8 Tranquil
9 French states
10 Iota
11 Aphrodite's child
12 Sugar source
13 Address for a

Friend
21 Designate anew
22 Sun. homily
26 Gradual
28 Entertainer
Zadora
29 Book div.
31 Provo's place
32 Irish county
33 Attention getter
34 Tense

35 Two-tone treat
36 ___-do-well
38 Big Ten team
40 Invites
41 Underwater
shocker
42 From the start
47 Play on words
48 Protagonists
49 Zodiac's twelfth
sign
51 Staggering motion
53 Potbelly, e.g.
54 Duck down
55 Kind of crow?
56 Building additions
57 Runner Devers
58 Norway's largest
city
60 Israeli airline
61 Dynamic leader?
63 Chow down

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**FoxTrot**

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Solution, page 11

ACROSS

- 1 Struck, old-style
- 6 Speaker of Cooperstown
- 10 Avian abode
- 14 Intrusive online ad
- 15 Talk wildly
- 16 Chorus voice
- 17 Quantum theorist's fantasy?
- 20 Slangy refusal
- 21 Dotted cubes
- 22 Formal agreement
- 23 Lady's guy
- 24 Performer's engagements
- 25 Collude
- 28 Window section
- 29 Serving of corn
- 32 Neighbor of Cuba
- 33 Washed-out
- 34 On the sheltered side

DOWN

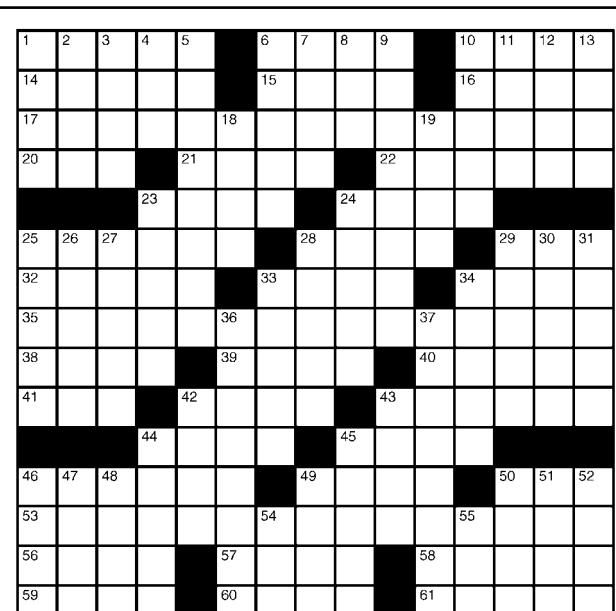
- 35 M.C. Escher's fantasy?
- 38 Jogging pace
- 39 Prohibits
- 40 Give a ring
- 41 Amoral deed
- 42 Medical suffix
- 43 Pestilent fly
- 44 Oodles
- 45 Amazes
- 46 Of primitive groups
- 49 Spy Mata
- 50 Lindstrom or Zadora
- 53 Genie's fantasy?
- 56 Christiania, today
- 57 Dorothy's pup
- 58 Literary class
- 59 Clairvoyant
- 60 Industrial show,
- 61 Gorged

DOWN

- 1 Whirl around
- 2 NYC cultural attraction
- 3 Colorful fish
- 4 Harbor boat
- 5 Contagious outbreak
- 6 Pamphlet
- 7 Unlikely
- 8 Climbing vine
- 9 One standing guard
- 10 Designates
- 11 Isle near Corsica
- 12 Editorial order
- 13 British Conservative
- 18 Cloud number
- 19 Strong inclination
- 23 Ya dig?
- 24 Causes rancor
- 25 Gunfire
- 26 Calf-length pants
- 27 Attempt a pickup
- 28 Great care and effort

DOWN

- 29 "The Waste Land" poet
- 30 Ages and ages
- 31 Zellweger of "Jerry Maguire"
- 33 Braid of hair
- 34 Grate collection
- 36 Unequivocal
- 37 Positive trends
- 42 Norwegian king
- 43 Singer Amos
- 44 Detest
- 45 Exuberant cry
- 46 Pairs
- 47 Increase
- 48 Wight or Man
- 49 URL starter
- 50 Beer quantity
- 51 As to
- 52 Mature
- 54 Bagel topper
- 55 New Zealand parrot



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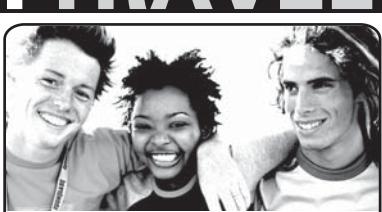


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-Saint Augustine 354 A.D.

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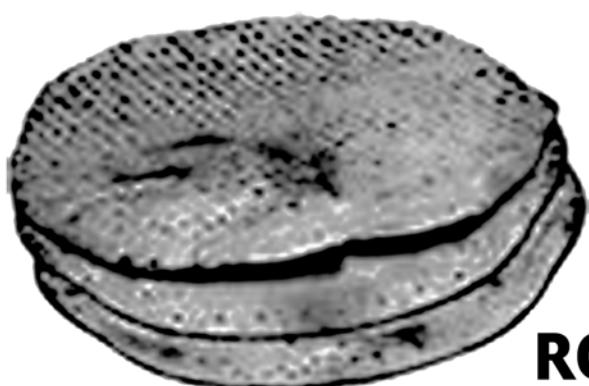
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IS&T May Improve Its Ability to Detect Future Tamperings

Yuran Lu, from Page 1

caught him. (They will not say how.) He admitted to IS&T that he was responsible, and has been referred to the Committee on Discipline. In the meantime, IS&T may improve its ability to detect tampering with cluster workstations, but has announced no plans to follow Lu's advice and lock them down.

Lu's identity as the admitted

Athena Insecurity Squad was confirmed to *The Tech* last week by several individuals familiar with the matter. (It is not known for certain that Lu acted alone.) *The Tech* subsequently offered Lu the opportunity to write an opinion column in place of this article. He declined, and also declined to comment for a news article. Jerrold M. Grochow '68, the vice president for information services and technology, declined to comment.

Lu Known for Academics, Mischief

Yuran Lu '05 has a distinguished academic record even by MIT standards. In high school, he attended the ultra-exclusive Mathematical Olympiad Summer Program, won a bronze medal at the Balkan Olympiad in Informatics, and three times placed among the top 15 in the USA Computing Olympiad. He was a Presidential Scholar and a Lucent Global Science Scholar.

At MIT, he has won the Tau Beta Pi Engineering Design Contest, the Beaverdash Engineering Design Contest, and the Imagine Cup Software Engineering contest. As a freshman, he placed in the top 25 in the Putnam Mathematical Competition.

Lu also has an uncommon record of Athena pranks that have angered and annoyed their victims, including his publication of 620 people's passwords last month.

Some of Lu's previous mischief:

In late 2003 or early 2004, Lu took advantage of a mistake by the Department of Materials Science and Engineering to add himself to the department's e-mail list for faculty. The department discovered him in September 2004 and discussed referring Lu to the Committee on Discipline.

"[I]d been on the dmse list for about a year now... they really should've noticed sooner," Lu wrote at the time in a Zephyr conversation with IS&T employees. "[B]ut I have a semi-valid argument for the DMSE affair... I hadn't actually read any of their mail, nor did I intend to, and I just wanted to see how long it would be before someone noticed," he wrote.

In March 2004, Lu took advantage of the Chinese Students Club's mistakenly generous permissions to replace the group's Web site with a "Hacked by Chinese" version and then would not relinquish control, according to John T. Wu '06, the group's webmaster. The dispute was resolved by IS&T.

In June 2004, the Department of Urban Studies and Planning realized that Lu had taken advantage of a mistake and put himself on the department's e-mail list for faculty, according to Laura E. Baldwin '89 of IS&T.

In September 2004, Lu took advantage of a mistake by the Undergraduate Association to take over all of the UA's mailing lists and its Athena locker. "It was five in the morning and I was trying to plead with him to get our lists back," said Harel M. Williams '05, the UA president. Lu refused to return them and said he would keep the lists and locker for three more days.

Lu then sent out an e-mail announcing a contest for the best humorous Web site — the winner would get to temporarily replace the UA's own Web site. In the Sept. 14 e-mail to two dormitory lists, Lu wrote:

"So a while ago, I noticed that the UA had made the mistake of leaving one of their officer lists public and self-owned, so I added myself to that list, with the intention of eventually creating a humorous replacement for the sucky UA website, and replacing the UA website temporarily with that. After discussing this with a few dozen people looking for ideas, one person freaked out, and felt that it was his responsibility, as an undergrad, to inform the UA officers about this exploit. Thus, I was forced to take control of all the UA admin lists earlier this evening, and retain only the membership ACL bits to the real UA officers, and take control of the UA locker, and retain only the non-administrator privileges to the real UA, in order to buy some time. [...]

"After trying to placate the very distressed UA President at [4:30] am unsuccessfully with the promise that 'you'll have all your lists back by the end of the week, but I'm not going to tell you what I'm going to do with my bits [permissions] until then, except that I won't do anything malicious or damage any of the data in the UA locker.', he got out of me that I was going to put up a humorous replacement website for a while, and leave it there for a while until I gave him his bits back. I told him that I was going to give him all of their bits back by Friday at noontime, and he wanted them all back by today at 9:00am. Eventually, he expressed to me his concerns that any modification to the website would be his responsibility, and that he was unable to sleep or do anything else because of the worry that this has caused him. I told him to stop worrying, and go to sleep. [...]"

Williams complained to IS&T, who returned the lists and locker to the UA later that morning. Lu called off his contest for the best parody.

Also in September 2004, IS&T discovered that Lu had taken advantage of overly generous permissions to add himself to the "chours" e-mail list, a list for Athena consultants. IS&T removed Lu from the list.

As a result of Lu's actions, in September 2004 IS&T scoured Athena for "public self-owned lists" — e-mail lists whose control is essentially shared by the entire MIT community — and converted them all into "private self-owned lists."

Just-Approved Math Lab Uses Computers To Investigate Theory

Math Lab, from Page 1

Artin said attitudes towards the project lab's content have changed recently. Computation "is becoming a larger part of research in math," he said, although the class's main merit lies in how it challenges students with open-ended projects that they must define for themselves.

The class will "certainly be open to other majors, but since it's the only laboratory course in mathematics, we'll be oversubscribed," Miller said.

He said a lottery to get in was likely, and possible math majors would have preference. There are 20 students taking the class this term, and Miller said the total would be capped at 30.

"It's a fun class," said Yasin Ozcan '06. "You choose your own project, and you get to work with your own friends, and there's no lecture."

He said he would recommend it to other students "as long as they like math."

Exploring theory with computers

The project lab is not of the same nature as the very hands-on "Junior Lab" in physics (8.13, 8.14) or biology's Introduction to Experimental Biology (7.02). There are few physical experiments you can do in mathematics, so testing out theories must take on another form. The "ultimate arbiter in experimental science is the experiment," Miller said, but "in mathematics, the ultimate arbiter is the proof."

"The computer is a wonderful experimental tool in mathematics; that's the way one should think of it in this class," Artin said. The computer will "suggest answers for you but it doesn't substitute for thinking at all," Artin said.

The project lab provides students with the opportunity to

explore mathematics beyond the normal confines of the classroom. "To be faced with a problem that's ill-posed and you don't know where you are going and [whether you] are going to find anything, these are things that aren't part of the regular curriculum," Artin said.

As an example problem considered in the class, "take a prime number [p], write down 1/p, and expand it in its decimal expansion," Miller said. "So it's periodic, being a rational number ... and it has some period, some length of digits before the repeats." The number of digits in a repeat can be at most p-1, so the question arises, how frequently does that maximal period occur?

A student would proceed by collecting data on specific primes p, checking, for example, that the frequency of the maximum repeat converged over primes of different sizes. With that data and knowledge in hand, the student would then try to pose a conjecture that he or she could prove rigorously.

Explaining why the results are what they are is "where the mathematics comes in," Miller said.

The process used in the class "reflects my experience as a mathematician," Miller said, and hence builds useful experience for future research.

Not all of the projects were home grown at MIT, Miller said. "It takes quite a lot of effort to create a syllabus like this," and the class relies in part on projects created within the Computer Aided Teaching of All Mathematics program in the Cambridge-MIT Institute.

"We made an agreement with them whereby we could mine that library and adapt their ideas to this course," Miller said. The class also received a development grant from the CMI program. "In exchange, we've provided them with a bunch of projects," Miller said.

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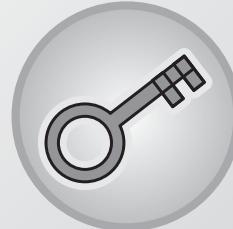
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from page 8



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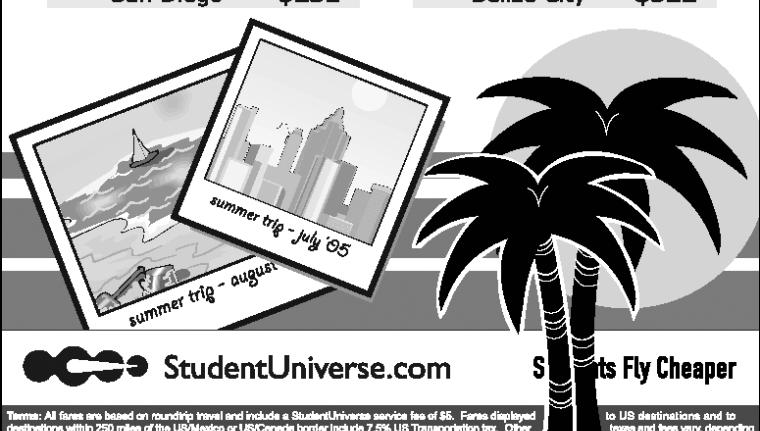
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Some GSC Concerns Addressed

Mass. Ave, from Page 1

thinner than the buses using them.

Rebecca Fuentes, community relations manager for the Cambridge Public Works Department, said that the city had addressed one of the GSC's concerns by deciding not to narrow the 77 Mass. Ave. cross-walk by 15 feet and keeping it at its current 60-feet width.

GSC President Barun Singh G said that a meeting with Deputy City Manager Richard Rossi on Wednesday was "a good sign that the state and city have been responsive to student concerns."

The city was, however, unwilling to consider the GSC proposal for a raised crosswalk to slow down traffic. In the past, city officials have said that raised cross-walks are not allowed on major arterial roadways such as Mass. Ave.

Singh said that city representatives suggested the crosswalk in front of 77 Mass. Ave. would receive "special attention." This could possibly include better paint, more lighting, strictly enforced speed limits, and educational programs for cyclists.

The proposal for improved bike lanes was also rejected by the city. Owen O'Riordan, assistant commissioner for engineering, said that "we don't believe bike paths between the curb and sidewalk is feasible given the number of side streets, parking, and traffic flows." Regarding a possible increase in speeding, O'Riordan said he is confident that light signaling is an effective means to control traffic speed.

However, Singh and O'Riordan both confirmed that analysis is underway by the city to possibly reduce the total number of traffic lanes along the section of Mass. Ave. from 4 to 3.

Singh said he believes this would address a number of issues raised in the memo concerning traffic speed as well as parking space for MBTA buses and SafeRide. "We can't get a total redesign at this stage, but I feel that the things we discussed in the meeting have the potential to help improve the

safety over the original design," Singh said.

Commencement is unaffected

Ruth Davis, communications manager for the MIT Department of Facilities, said MIT has been working closely with the City of Cambridge and the Roads Corporation to ensure that construction will have no impact on final exams or commencement.

Rebecca Fuentes, community relations manager for CDPW, said that construction in the vicinity of 77 Mass. Ave. will begin after June 6 and end in mid August.

Reconstruction work on the sidewalk will begin as early as this

fall. "We are sensitive to final exams and commencement and have worked with MIT to ensure that construction will not interrupt these activities," she said. Fuentes said that work will be limited to between the hours of 7 a.m. and 5 p.m.

Work will progress in approximately 100 foot sections and will cut traffic down to one lane in each direction. The construction will not alter the recently-completed Memorial Drive underpass.

The project includes plans to improve and coordinate the signaling between the Memorial Drive intersection and other signals along Mass. Ave., Fuentes said.



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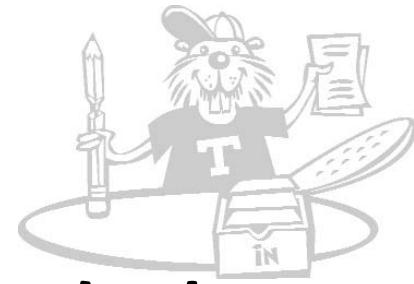
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According to MIT Medical nutritionist Anna Jasonides, 200 to 300 mg. of caffeine per day would be considered a moderate amount. Since an eight-ounce cup of coffee usually has 65 to 120 mg. of caffeine, you probably want to limit yourself to two or three cups a day. Jasonides notes that coffee consumption doesn't seem to pose any significant long-term health risks, but in the short term, excessive consumption can lead to anxiety, insomnia, and increased urination, which, combined with other factors, may contribute to dehydration. However, Jasonides emphasizes, individuals react differently to caffeine. Regular coffee drinkers tend to build up a tolerance to its effects, while someone who doesn't normally drink coffee might react strongly after a single cup.

And it's that individual reaction that matters, say both Jasonides and psychologist Xiaolu Hsi, Ph.D., of MIT Medical's Mental Health Service. "If, during or shortly after drinking coffee, you experience such physiological reactions as palpitation, pounding heart, an accelerated heart rate, or hand tremor, restlessness, and/or nervousness that can't be explained by other reasons, you may have had too much caffeine," says Hsi, who also cautions that the same concerns apply to caffeine pills and caffeinated beverages other than coffee.

If you seem to be experiencing any of these symptoms, you probably need to cut back on the coffee. MIT Medical's Center for Health Promotion & Wellness suggests other strategies to try when you're tired but still have work to do. Going outside for some fresh air, taking a shower or splashing some water on your face, or taking an exercise break (especially late in the day), are all good ways to wake up without caffeine.

Hope this helps! —Anu '07

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Congress May Pay Interest on Loans Of Students Entering Math, Science

**News
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Congress introduced the Math and Science Incentive Act of 2005 on Tuesday, according to an article in the *Chronicle of Higher Education*. The bill is designed to reimburse students who got jobs in math and science, including teaching, for the cost of interest on their educational loans for up to five years.

Representative Frank R. Wolf said in the article that the new bill would save each student an average of \$6,500 in interest. According to the article, college graduates have an average debt of \$17,500 and take 10 years to pay it.

Although more borrowers may be eligible for assistance under this bill than under existing federal programs, each would receive less money because the bill only pays interest costs, not any of the original loan amount, according to the article.

Wolf and other speakers told the *Chronicle* that the United States needs to have more students in math, science, and engineering because national security and the economy are dependent on it. The program is estimated to cost \$66 million annually if approved.

—Jenny Zhang

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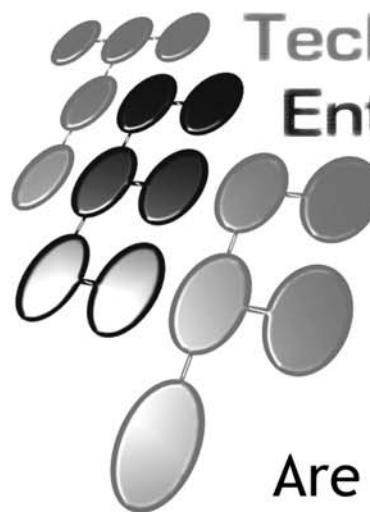
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SPORTS

Men's Volleyball Season Ends At First NECVA Championship

By Paul Dill
TEAM COACH

MIT Men's Volleyball finished off the 2005 season with its first trip to a conference tournament since 1993. After finishing second in the 10-team New England Division of the North Eastern Collegiate Volleyball Association, MIT earned its first ever berth in the NECVA Championship Tournament.

In what turned out to be a very hard-fought match, during which the Engineers played some of their best volleyball of the season, MIT fell to

Eastern Mennonite University, 30-28, 31-29, 33-31.

Robert M. McAndrew '05 paced Tech's attack with 20 kills and added 13 digs. Praveen Pamidimukkala '08 totaled 16 kills, three aces, and a pair of assisted blocks. Ryan G. Dean '08 tallied a team-high 18 digs and two solo blocks, while Jordan X. Wan '06 dished out 40 assists. Robert G. Aspell '06 contributed one solo and two assisted blocks.

The team finished with an overall record of 23-7 and a conference mark of 15-3. The overall record ranks as the best in the program's history and coincides with the first

winning season in 12 years and the first 20-win season since 1987.

The Engineers also reached their highest Division III national ranking (ninth) in program history. The team won two regular season tournaments and earned several individual awards, including Pamidimukkala's selection as the NECVA New England Rookie of the Year and McAndrew's award of NECVA New England Co-Player of the Year.

After rewriting the program record book in 2005, MIT Men's Volleyball looks to continue its new winning ways next season and long into the future.

Women's Ultimate Wins Tournament For Fourth Consecutive Year, Now 8-6

By Lori Eich
TEAM MEMBER

Last weekend, the MIT Women's ultimate frisbee team (sMITE) brought home the Yale Cup tournament championship for the fourth year in a row. The team went 6-1 for the weekend, increasing its overall season record to 8-5 and its nationwide ranking to seventh.

The first game on Saturday pitted sMITE against the University of Pennsylvania. sMITE started off strong with intense defense forcing UPenn all the way back into its own end zone. A gust of wind caused a misthrow by UPenn, and Lori A. Eich G caught the disc for the first point of the game. sMITE went on to win 13-4.

Next, sMITE faced Amherst College, as well as stronger and gustier winds. sMITE took advantage of the windy conditions by playing a zone defense. As Amherst repeatedly attempted long downwind throws, Yelena Gorlin '06 stepped up on defense, contributing a whopping eight blocks as the downfield defender in the zone. The upfield defense was also an unstoppable force and included a sequence during which co-captain Angela Tong '05 leaped to block a huck while standing 15 feet from the thrower. Two points later, Daphne L. Wang '08 blocked an attempted throw, and as Nancy Sun G picked up the disc, Wang dashed into the end zone to catch a goal. sMITE defeated Amherst 11-6.

In the final game of pool play, sMITE took on Yale, which quickly jumped out to a 4-1 lead. But sMITE responded with two goals to close

the gap. The MIT women continued to battle through Yale's aggressive play, with a particularly strong performance from Meryl R. del Rosario '05, who had three blocks and caught three goals, all thrown by Shuang You '05. Laura B. Shimmin '05 was a defensive powerhouse, highlighted by a layout block against Yale's best thrower. However, Yale's offensive consistency dominated the game, leading to a 11-9 loss for sMITE. Despite losing this close game to Yale, sMITE took first place in the pool based on point differential.

The pool play victory put sMITE in the pre-quarterfinals against Northeastern. MIT prevailed 13-6. Cathy Chu '06 had an amazing game, with a key block along with three solid hucks into the end zone caught by Eich, Sun, and Erika M. Swanson '07. Swanson continued to outsmart and outrun her defenders for a total of four goals caught. The game-winning point began with a throw by Sun to Alison M. Cohen G, who turned and saw Sharon B. Cohen G cutting wide open in the end zone for an easy pass and an end to Saturday's games.

Quarterfinals on Sunday morning matched sMITE against Rutgers. You immediately got the offense going with two hucks to Eich for two goals. A huck by del Rosario to Gorlin ended the first half with sMITE ahead. Rutgers attempted to slow things down by playing a zone defense, but they weren't ready for sMITE's secret weapon — the hammer throw. Co-captain Darlene E. Ferranti '06 and Sun had no trouble throwing over the defense to work the disc up the field. Seeing Gorlin positioned as the deep receiver in the

zone, Ferranti confidently threw her an easy hammer for a goal.

Rutgers changed the zone defense slightly to adjust for sMITE's strengths, but sMITE powered through with goals thrown by Shimmin to Gorlin and Ferranti. The game ended on a Ferranti point-saving block that turned into a Swanson-Wang connection. sMITE won 13-6.

sMITE then faced Cornell in the semifinals. The team's offense was led by A. Cohen, who threw four consecutive goals, with two to Taylor F. Schildgen G and one each to del Rosario and Sun. A. Cohen threw a total of six goals and caught one more, while Schildgen caught a total of five. Gorlin and Eich connected for three goals, and Tong led the defense with three impressive blocks. MIT won to advance.

The finals, a rematch against Yale, gave sMITE the chance to prove its regional dominance. Sun led the offense in both goals and assists, with four goals caught, six more thrown, and a spectacular stretch of seven consecutive points in which she either threw or caught the goal.

The team came out a little slowly defensively, but after a quick pep talk by coach Sarah Cook, who said, "You're tired ... you're not running as fast as you think you are," the team revved up its intensity. Chu immediately stepped in and took down a total of three blocks to supplement her two goals thrown. Tong grabbed two interceptions, threw two goals, and caught one more. The game was very close and well-played all around, but sMITE emerged victorious with a 15-13 win, taking home the championship title for the fourth consecutive year.



Eric Berren '08 returns a ball in a match against Clark University on Wednesday, April 13. Berren and Thomas Dohlman '07 won the match 8-3 in the number one spot, while MIT defeated Clark 7-0.

KENNY YAN—THE TECH

MIT Taekwondo Wins Tournament, Ranked First in Their League

By Sharon Lawrence
TEAM MEMBER

MIT Taekwondo fielded a team of approximately 30 competitors at its fourth tournament of the year.

Held at Yale University on April 3, this tournament proved to be a pivotal moment in the team's battle to top the

Ivy-Northeast Collegiate Taekwondo League. At the end of the day, MIT finished with 612 points to Cornell's 224, earning the team first place for the tournament. The margin of victory also propelled MIT from second place to first place in the league for the year.

MIT's team started the day with a strong performance in forms competition. Forms are choreographed sequences of kicks, stances, and hand techniques designed to display the competitor's strength, grace, and power. The team's strong performance during this portion of the competition staked MIT to a more than 150-point lead over Cornell, its strongest competitor.

In the extensive black-belt division, Wendy M.G. Pierce '05 and Erica Y. Chan '07 placed second and third, respectively, in the women's division, while in the men's division, Richard Sinn '06 and Conor F. Madigan G placed first and third, respectively. Ryan B. Huang '06 took third in the men's red belt division, while in the women's red belt division, Stephanie K. Lee '06 took second place and Alicia Y. Zhou '06 took third. Rene R. Chen '07 earned first place in the women's blue belt division, while Ziyian Chu '07 took second. In the women's green belt division, JoHanna N. Przybylowski '05 earned second place.

C-team (beginner level) sparring followed the forms competition. The women's C1 team (Frances Choi '08, Przybylowski, Victoria S. Harris '07, Sarah P. Kama '08) trounced the Yale C1 team on its way to the finals, where it matched up with NYU. There, Przybylowski won her third match of the day, but both Choi and Harris lost their matches, leaving the team with second place.

In the men's division, both MIT C1 (Darren M. Chun '07, Tri M. Ngo '06, Vladimir V. Barzov '06) and C2 (Asa S. Rubin '08, Jaroslaw Labaziewicz G, Evaristo Rodriguez '08) won their first two matches, leading them to meet in the semi-final round. Following customary practice in the club, the C2 team bowed out to C1, settling for third place and allowing MIT C1 to advance to the finals against Cortland. With a 4-1 win by Ngo, and a forfeit by the Cortland heavyweight,

the team nabbed first place.

A-team (advanced level) sparring came next. The MIT men's A1 team (Bobby B. Ren '05, Nathan F. Hanagami G, Andrew D. Selbst G, Madigan) demolished its first opponent, Cornell A3, then sparred a close match with Buffalo A1, with a 7-0 win by Selbst helping the team advance. After defeating Cortland A1, the team fell to West Point A1 in the final round, resulting in a second place finish.

The women's A1 team (Chan, Sandra M. Yu '06, Pierce, Radhika Jagannathan '05, Zhou) also gave strong performances and earned MIT a fourth-place medal. A critical win by Pierce helped the team defeat Buffalo A1 to advance to a semifinal encounter with NYU A1. Despite great sparring by Chan and Yu (the other members of the team did not spar in this match), NYU won.

The day ended with B-team (intermediate) sparring. In the women's division, MIT B3 (Chen, Jennifer L. Caplin '07, Przybylowski) defeated NYU B1 before customarily bowing out to MIT B1 (Jagannathan, Sharon A. Lawrence '07, Yu) in the semifinals. Meanwhile, MIT B2 (Zhou, Chu, Grace Kim G) pounded Cornell B2 and advanced to a semifinal match with Cornell B1. After a win by Zhou and a loss by Chu, the team was relying on a win by Kim, which would clinch all three women's B-team medals for MIT. Unaware of the expectation placed on her shoulders, Kim defeated her opponent in a tense match by a score of 3-2. This win advanced the B2 team to the finals, where it bowed out to MIT B1. At the end of the day, the teams swapped trophies, with B1 giving the first place trophy to B2 and taking the third place trophy for themselves.

The men's B1 team (Huang, John Ho G, Barzov, Ngo) also gave a stellar performance, ending the day in first place. In their first match, against Cornell B4, the men each defeated their opponents by significant margins. The team then advanced to the semifinals, where it faced Cortland B1. Ho beat his opponent 7-2, while Barzov won by knockout, sending the team to the final round to face Cornell B1. Huang fought a close match and won 4-3, while Ho fought an even closer match, winning 7-6 in a sudden death round.

The next tournament the team will attend is to be held at Columbia University on April 23, where MIT will have the opportunity to defend its current title as INCTL Champions and to return home with the League Cup.

UPCOMING HOME EVENTS

Friday, April 15

Varsity Softball vs. Wellesley College (doubleheader)

Briggs Field, 3:30 p.m.

Saturday, April 16

Men's Lightweight Crew Biglin Bowl

Charles River, 8 a.m.

Varsity Sailing Boston University Trophy

Charles River, 9:30 a.m.

Women's Rugby vs. Tufts

Briggs Field, 10 a.m.

Varsity Softball vs. Harvard JV (doubleheader)

Briggs Field, 12 p.m.

Varsity Men's Tennis vs. U.S. Coast Guard Academy

duPont Tennis Courts, 1 p.m.

Sunday, April 17

Varsity Sailing Oberg Trophy

Charles River, 9:30 a.m.

Varsity Men's Tennis vs. Williams College

duPont Tennis Courts, 1 p.m.

