

Housemasters for EC To Leave and Pursue Expeditions Abroad

By **Diana Jue**
STAFF REPORTER

East Campus housemasters Julian K. Wheatley, a senior lecturer in Chinese, and his wife Marjorie Nolan-Wheatley have announced their decision to leave MIT at the end of the academic year.

The Wheatleys, whom “everybody loves,” said East Campus resident Jessica H. Lowell ’07, have been at the Institute for nine years, five of them as East Campus housemasters. “They’re quirky and one of a kind,” Lowell said. “They love the dorm, its culture, and they’re always supportive of us. They ride the rides we build and participate in the life of our dorm.”

Nolan-Wheatley had said that she and her husband would only leave East Campus when he left the Institute.

Both he and his wife “feel like a part of East Campus,” Wheatley said. They formally informed the East Campus community about their departure during the Nov. 19 East Campus house government meeting.

Dean for Student Life Larry G. Benedict and Robert P. Redwine, dean for undergraduate education, have sent a letter to MIT faculty about the open housemaster position. Facul-

ty members can apply for the position through the end of December, and a search committee of faculty, staff, graduate residence tutors, and East Campus students will meet over the Independent Activities Period to discuss the applicants, Benedict said.

The Wheatleys had been considering their departure for a year before coming to a decision in September. “Factors came together that said it was time to leave,” Julian Wheatley said. For example, his Chinese textbook will be completed by IAP, and the couple’s children have all moved out, giving them more time to pursue other opportunities.

Jungles, adventure in store

Wheatley’s primary motivation for leaving MIT was to return to research of Southeast Asian languages, his wife said. After obtaining his doctorate, he wanted to spend time in Southeast Asia “roaming jungles, studying language and culture,” she said. Wheatley put these goals on hold first to raise a family and then to teach at Cornell and MIT.

This move will give Wheatley “time to think indulgently,” he said,

Wheatleys, Page 17



BRIAN HEMOND—THE TECH

(left to right) Jessica N. Sundberg ’08, Faith S. Rogers ’09, and Kristen A. Ayala ’08 sit in a fully-furnished living room complete with rug, sofa, refrigerator, and television, all incongruously placed in Lobby 7. The living room is a “private space in a public place,” an art project for 4.302.

Universities Address Gender Barriers

By **Jenny Zhang**
NEWS EDITOR

Nine presidents of leading research universities, including Susan Hockfield, issued a joint statement on Tuesday pledging to break down still existing gender barriers in higher education.

The presidents acknowledge “that barriers still exist to the full participation of women, not only in science and engineering, but also in academic fields throughout higher education,” echoing a statement from leaders of the nine universities four years ago when the group was formed.

To create an environment where all faculty can function at their highest level, “continuing to develop academic personnel policies, institutional resources, and a culture that supports family commitments is therefore essential for maximizing the productivity of our faculty,” the presidents write, though their statement does not list specific actions.

Presidents, Page 16

GSO Gives Out Grants To Grad Life Projects

By **Rosa Cao**
STAFF REPORTER

The Graduate Students Office has chosen recipients of the new Graduate Student Life Grants for this year, ranging from a drag show called “Fierce Forever” to “Peer2Peer,” a discussion group on tolerance. The grants are intended to provide resources for students to explore ways to “build community” through innovative proposals, rather than imposing top-down policies. Approved projects range in inclusiveness, with some addressing a small subpopulation of graduate students and others open to all members of the community.

The main selection criterion was: “Will it build graduate life community in some meaningful way?” said Amy Banzaert G, a member of the selection committee. Dean for Graduate Students Isaac M. Colbert makes the final decision on all proposals.

According to the GSO Web site, the projects fall under several main themes. For example, they might address specific constituencies, such as a department or students with families, create a social context for people to connect and interact, or promote creative expression.

GSO Projects, Page 14

CAC Debuts New Software To Assign Space to Groups

By **Kirtana Raja**
STAFF REPORTER

The new virtual computer system implemented by the Campus Activities Complex to assign event space to student groups has encountered difficulties in its recent debut.

Under the new system, created in March 2005, students sign up for virtual computer accounts and enter their

information into a CAC computer instead of submitting space preferences by paper. In its first attempt, this new system has proven to be a lengthier process for students, but eventually a system may be implemented where students no longer have to rush to the CAC office, and instead can enter in-

CAC Reservations, Page 18



SCOT FRANK—THE TECH

Karlen E. Ruleman ’08 browses the pottery at the Student Art Association sale in Lobby 10 on Wednesday, Dec. 7. Works remained on sale through Thursday.

Yuri B. Chernyak

Yuri B. Chernyak, an MIT research scientist, died unexpectedly Nov. 23 at the age of 60 in his home in Waltham. His wife, Natasha Chernyak, said he suffered a sudden heart attack.

Chernyak had a “really great personality” and was “one of the brightest,” who had a great career in Russia at the Moscow State University, but put that all in jeopardy and bravely applied for immigration to the U.S., said Evgeny Ter-Ovanesyan, a postdoctoral associate in the same laboratory.

This resulted in “his being fired from his faculty position and prohibited from leaving the Soviet Union,” according to the News

Chernyak, Page 14

NEWS

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ARTS

- Dramashop puts on impressive One Act performances.



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A memorial service for Zachary W. Morris ’09 will be held at 4 p.m. today in the MIT Chapel.

In Short

¶ **Biology Professor David C. Page** was elected director of the Whitehead Institute for Biomedical Research. Page has been serving as interim director since Dec. 2004.

¶ **Renovations for the reading room** on the fifth floor of the Student Center have been approved and funded, according to Campus Activities Complex Director Phillip J. Walsh. Changes to the room, essentially unmodified since 1965, will include new furniture and the creation of small conference rooms.

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

WORLD & NATION

Israeli Missile Kills Two Palestinians

By Greg Myre

THE NEW YORK TIMES

JERUSALEM

Violence in the region escalated as an Israeli missile strike killed two Palestinian militants inside a house in the northern Gaza Strip on Thursday, and a Palestinian stabbed to death an Israeli soldier at a military checkpoint on the northern edge of Jerusalem.

The relative calm of the past several weeks was broken by a Palestinian suicide bombing on Monday that killed five Israelis at a shopping mall in Netanya.

The renewed shooting is also threatening a diplomatic breakthrough by U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, who brokered a deal last month to provide for Palestinian movement in and out of the Gaza Strip. Israel said it had suspended talks on bus convoys that were supposed to shuttle Palestinians between Gaza and the West Bank beginning Dec. 15.

Medical Journal Criticizes Merck Over Vioxx Data

By Alex Berenson

THE NEW YORK TIMES

An influential medical journal accused Merck on Thursday of misrepresenting the results of a crucial clinical trial of the painkiller Vioxx to play down its heart risks.

In a statement Thursday evening, Merck denied that it had acted improperly.

The New England Journal of Medicine's allegation could play a critical role in the thousands of lawsuits that Merck faces over Vioxx, a once-popular arthritis and pain drug. Vioxx was taken by an estimated 20 million Americans before the company withdrew it last year after a recent study linked it to heart attacks and strokes.

In the three lawsuits that have reached trial so far, Merck has claimed that it promptly disclosed information about Vioxx's heart risks.

But in an interview on Thursday, Dr. Gregory D. Curfman, the journal's executive editor, sharply criticized Merck for the way it presented data from the clinical trial. The study, called Vigor, covered more than 8,000 patients and was published in the journal in November 2000, almost four years before Merck stopped selling the drug.

"They did not disclose all they knew," Curfman said. "There were serious negative consequences for the public health as a result of that."

When Christmas Falls on Sunday, Some Churches Take a Day Off

By Laurie Goodstein

THE NEW YORK TIMES

Some of the nation's most prominent megachurches have decided not to hold worship services on the Sunday that coincides with Christmas Day, a move that is generating controversy among evangelical Christians at a time when many conservative groups are battling to "put the Christ back in Christmas."

Megachurch leaders say that the decision is in keeping with their innovative and "family friendly" approach and that they are compensating in other ways. Willow Creek Community Church in South Barrington, Ill., always a pacesetter among megachurches, is handing out a DVD it produced for this occasion that features a heartwarming contemporary Christmas tale.

"What we're encouraging people to do is take that DVD and in the comfort of their living room, with friends and family, pop it into the player and hopefully hear a different and more personal and maybe more intimate Christmas message, that God is with us wherever we are," said Cally Parkinson, communications director at Willow Creek, which draws 20,000 people on a typical Sunday.

Claims of Iraq-Al Qaida Link Were Coerced, Prisoner Says

By Douglas Jehl

THE NEW YORK TIMES

WASHINGTON

The Bush administration based a crucial prewar assertion about ties between Iraq and al-Qaida on detailed statements made by a prisoner while in Egyptian custody who later said he had fabricated them to escape harsh treatment, according to current and former government officials.

The officials said the captive, Ibn al-Shaykh al-Libi, provided his most specific and elaborate accounts about ties between Iraq and al-Qaida only after he was secretly handed over to Egypt by the United States in January 2002, in a process known as rendition.

The new disclosure provides the first public evidence that bad intelligence on Iraq may have resulted partly from the administration's heavy reliance on third countries to carry out interrogations of Qaida members and others detained as part of U.S. counterterrorism efforts. The Bush administration used Libi's accounts as the basis for its prewar claims, now discredited, that ties between Iraq and al-Qaida included training in explosives and chemical

weapons.

The fact that Libi recanted after the U.S. invasion of Iraq and that intelligence based on his remarks was withdrawn by the CIA in March 2004 has been public for more than a year. But U.S. officials had not previously acknowledged either that Libi made the false statements in foreign custody or that Libi contended that his statements had been coerced.

A government official said that some intelligence provided by Libi about al-Qaida had been accurate, and that Libi's claims that he had been treated harshly in Egyptian custody had not been corroborated.

A classified Defense Intelligence Agency report issued in February 2002 that expressed skepticism about Libi's credibility on questions related to Iraq and al-Qaida was based in part on the knowledge that Libi was no longer in U.S. custody when he made the detailed statements, and that he might have been subjected to harsh treatment, the officials said. The officials said that the CIA's decision to withdraw the intelligence based on Libi's claims had been made because of his later assertions, beginning in January 2004, that he had fabricated

them to obtain better treatment from his captors.

At the time of his capture in Pakistan in late 2001, Libi, a Libyan, was the highest-ranking Qaida leader in U.S. custody. A Nov. 6 report in *The New York Times*, citing a February 2002 DIA document, said he had made the assertions about ties between Iraq and al-Qaida involving illicit weapons while in U.S. custody.

Libi was indeed initially held by the U.S. military in Afghanistan, and was debriefed there by CIA officers, according to the new account provided by the current and former government officials. But despite his high rank, he was transferred to Egypt for further interrogation in January 2002 because the White House had not yet provided detailed authorization for the CIA to hold him.

While he made some statements about Iraq and al-Qaida when in U.S. custody, the officials said, it was not until after he was handed over to Egypt that he made the most specific assertions, which were later used by the Bush administration as the foundation for its claims that Iraq trained Qaida members to use biological and chemical weapons.

House Republicans Pass Final Part of \$95 Billion in Tax Cuts

By Edmund L. Andrews

THE NEW YORK TIMES

WASHINGTON

The House passed the last and biggest part of \$95 billion in tax cuts on Thursday, a move that reflected the willingness to place tax cuts above the risk of higher deficits in years to come.

Voting 234-197, almost purely along party lines, the House approved \$56 billion in tax cuts over five years, one day after it passed other tax cuts totaling \$39 billion over five years. The biggest provision would extend President Bush's 2001 tax cut for stock dividends and capital gains for two years at a cost of \$20 billion.

That was welcome news for a president whose tax plans looked all but dead a few weeks ago. All the maverick Republican conservatives in House, who had pushed party leaders to pass \$51 billion in spending cuts,

voted enthusiastically for tax cuts costing nearly twice as much.

"Clearly, tax relief is part of the deficit solution, not part of the problem," said Rep. Jeb Hensarling, R-Texas and one of the mavericks. "More economic growth and more jobs means more tax revenue flowing into the federal Treasury. Tax revenues are up close to 15 percent, the highest level in U.S. history, and the budget deficit has shrunk by more than \$100 billion."

That view is not shared by all. Alan Greenspan, chairman of the Federal Reserve, urged lawmakers last month not to approve more tax cuts unless they cut spending by at least the same amount.

The budget that the House passed just before Thanksgiving would cut \$51 billion over five years from programs like Medicaid, food stamps, farm subsidies and child-support en-

forcement. The Republican-controlled Senate passed a much more cautious tax package just before Thanksgiving. The Senate bill would cut taxes by \$60 billion over five years, and it would not extend the tax cut on stock dividends.

The conflict between the House and Senate bills is unlikely to be resolved before Congress recesses for Christmas.

Lawmakers made progress in another area as House and Senate negotiators reached a compromise to extend the anti-terrorism law known as the Patriot Act. Experts expect a vote on the question early next week, but some Democrats are threatening a filibuster.

The conflict between the tax bills means that taxpayers will face uncertainty about a long list of popular tax cuts that are set to expire at the end of 2005.

WEATHER

Wheel in the Sky is a Broken Record

Timothy Whitcomb

STAFF METEOROLOGIST

Winter is here again after the fall — although the official beginning of the season is Dec. 21, since Dec. 3 the departure below normal Boston temperatures has ranged from 5 to 11°F (3 to 6°C). The recent spate of majestic crisp days is coming to an end as we are in the line of fire for a winter storm tracking up the East Coast. Current estimates show a high probability of snowfall in the region. Anytime storms like this are forecast, there is uncertainty for this event; it is the placement of the rain-snow line that will determine whether the snow will stay awhile or whether we can escape with just rain.

Those who have been waiting patiently for skiing can look into the future with the possibility of southern Maine and New Hampshire dancing to a snow theme. Studying faithfully now to ensure precious time for fun on a Saturday night? If the white stuff sticks around you may be rewarded: finals are almost here, so be good to yourself. The next few days may be discouraging for those who miss the warm weather, but even though we went our separate ways weeks ago, we will meet again someday soon in only a few months when spring rolls around.

In the Atlantic, the hurricane season that broke new frontiers by drawing names from the Greek alphabet is hopefully over as Epsilon dissipates. Although storms have formed in December before, one more is a prospect very few want to see.

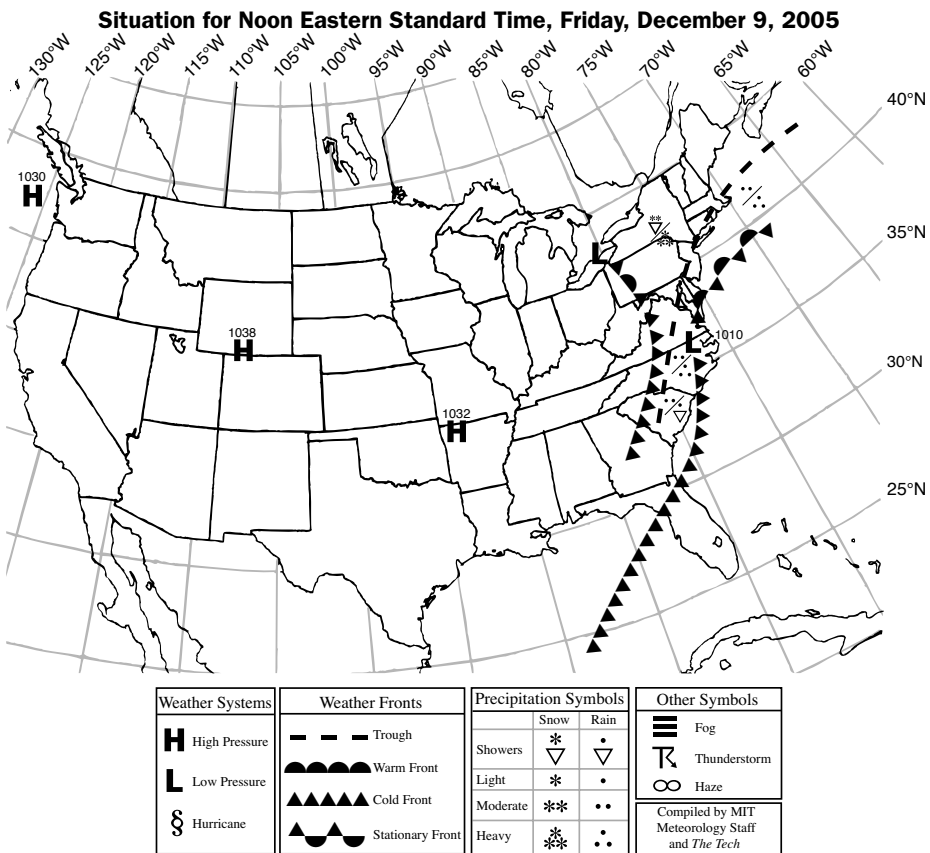
Extended Forecast

Friday: Heavy precipitation, likely snow changing to rain. High 33°F (1°C).

Tonight: Cloudy with some strong winds. Low 25°F (-4°C).

Tomorrow: Sunny, light winds. High 38°F (3°C).

Tomorrow Night: Cloudy and windy. Low 27°F (-3°C).



After Layoffs, Cutbacks, Tulane Prepares to Reopen in January

By Michael Janofsky
THE NEW YORK TIMES

Tulane University announced on Thursday that it would reopen in New Orleans next month as a sharply scaled-back institution, coping with the effects of Hurricane Katrina by laying off more than 200 faculty members, eliminating some academic programs and carrying half as many varsity sports teams.

Officials said the changes were necessary even though they expected up to 90 percent of Tulane’s 13,000 students to return after a semester spent at colleges and universities around the country.

“By subtraction, we will strengthen ourselves,” Scott S. Cowen, Tulane’s president, said. “These changes were all done to make sure that as Tulane goes forward, we can maintain academic excellence, address our financial issues and help save New Orleans.”

Cowen said the hurricane had forced the university to reinvent itself, narrowing its focus to its strengths, including an urban program intended to help rebuild New Orleans, and eliminating programs

it could no longer support financially.

Cowen said he and other Tulane officials had conducted an aggressive campaign through the fall, visiting campuses around the country to encourage Tulane students to return in January. Officials said applications for next fall had increased by 12 percent from fall 2005.

While Cowen called the number of returning students “amazing,” some parents expressed anger at the university for trying to discourage displaced students from staying at the colleges that had taken them in.

A group of national education organizations sent letters to presidents of institutions that had taken in students from the New Orleans area, urging them to admit them “only on a visiting or provisional basis.”

“They have made a concerted effort at various levels to make sure that students don’t transfer,” said Daniel J. Checki of South Orange, N.J., the father of a Tulane sophomore who attended Cornell this fall and wanted to stay.

Other parents expressed concern that despite continuing cleanup ef-

forts from the storm that hit on Aug. 29, New Orleans might still not be ready to receive so many returning students and faculty members.

Since its earliest days in 1834 as the Medical College of Louisiana and its conversion to a full private university 50 years later, Tulane has been a jewel of New Orleans, situated on the high ground of St. Charles Avenue in the Garden District.

It has consistently been a leading university in the South, and a magnet to many students from the Northeast. When the doors open in January, Tulane will resume its role as New Orleans’ largest employer, and a diminished city population will increase by 20 percent.

Tulane is not the only New Orleans college struggling to recover. Loyola and Southern Universities have vowed to reopen next month, and Loyola announced Tuesday that 28 employees would lose their jobs at the end of the year. Two small historically black universities, Dillard and Xavier, suffered far worse damage than their wealthier counterparts on higher ground and are scrambling to get back on their feet.

More Than 30 Dead After Suicide Bombing on Crowded Bus in Iraq

By Kirk Semple
THE NEW YORK TIMES

BAGHDAD, IRAQ

A suicide bomber shoved aside a fare collector at Baghdad’s main bus terminal on Thursday, forced himself onto a crowded bus and blew himself up, causing an enormous explosion that killed at least 30 people and reduced the bus to a charred, mangled husk, witnesses and police officials said.

Separately, an Islamic insurgent group claimed in an Internet posting to have executed a kidnapped American security consultant, according to the SITE Institute, which tracks jihadist Web sites. The posting neither named the consultant nor provided evidence to back the claim.

The group, the Islamic Army in Iraq, said on Tuesday that it had abducted Ronald Alan Schulz, 40, a native of North Dakota, and threatened to kill him within 72 hours unless all detainees in Iraq were released.

The U.S. Embassy in Baghdad confirmed Schulz’s kidnapping, but a spokeswoman said on Thursday that the embassy was unable to verify the Internet claim.

The bus bombing occurred at about 10:45 a.m. in the Nahda terminal in central Baghdad, which serves as the station for buses bound for the Kurdish north and the Shiite-dominated south. The bus was full and about to leave the terminal when the bomber forced his way on, witnesses said.

“The fare collector saw the suicide bomber and told him that the bus was full,” said Ahmad Adnan Khalil, 20, another fare collector who witnessed the incident. “So the suicide bomber pushed the collector and blew himself up.”

Several bystanders said the blast was immediately preceded by a smaller explosion that appeared to come from the luggage hold, as if explosives had been hidden in a suitcase and detonated remotely. The explosions killed most of the passengers and several people at a nearby food stand, and wounded at least 25 others, the police said.

The bombing, the second large-scale suicide attack in Baghdad this week, appeared to have been driven by deadly sectarian intent, since the bus was filled with passengers head-

ed toward the predominantly Shiite city of Nasiriyah in the south.

The insurgency, in part led by disgruntled Sunnis, has sought to provoke sectarian discord and further divide the nation by attacking unprotected Shiite targets, including mosques and marketplaces.

Though buses have long been a favorite target of suicide bombers in Israel, Thursday’s bombing in Baghdad may have been the first suicide bus bombing by Iraq’s insurgency, Maj. Gen. Rick Lynch, a senior American military spokesman, said at a news conference on Thursday.

This was not the first attack at the Nahda terminal. A triple car-bomb attack at rush hour on Aug. 17 killed at least 43 people and wounded 89. After the August attack, however, neither the terminal’s operators nor the Iraqi security authorities appeared to have adopted tighter security measures, like thorough checks of passengers, luggage or vehicles.

The American military command has warned of a surge in violence in advance of Dec. 15 elections for a full, four-year National Assembly.

Agreement for Extending Patriot Act Unacceptable to Some in Both Parties

By Eric Lichtblau
THE NEW YORK TIMES

WASHINGTON

House and Senate negotiators reached a compromise agreement Thursday to extend the anti-terrorism law known as the Patriot Act, but critics from both parties said they found the plan unacceptable because it did not go far enough in protecting Americans’ civil liberties.

The plan is expected to come up for final votes in the House and Senate early next week, but its ultimate passage still appeared uncertain Thursday, with some Democrats threatening a filibuster to block a vote.

After weeks of what negotiators described as extremely difficult negotiations, the compromise plan would keep intact most of the expanded surveillance and investigative powers given to the federal government after the Sept. 11 attacks, permanently extending 14 of 16 provisions set to expire at the end of the year. But it would also put in place some additional judicial oversight and safeguards against abuse.

Three of the most-debated measures would have to be reviewed again by Congress in four years, rather than the seven-year window originally favored by some House leaders in a tentative agreement that was reached last month but then derailed by last-minute concerns from Republicans and Democrats.

Those measures involve the government’s ability to demand records from libraries and other institutions, conduct “roving wiretaps” in surveillance operations, and target “lone wolf” terrorists who operate independently of a larger organization.

In another concession to lawmakers who pushed for greater government restrictions, the plan reached Thursday eliminates a proposal that would have made it a crime punishable by one year in prison for anyone receiving certain types of demands from the government for records to disclose them publicly.

The current plan also does not include measures that would have increased penalties on some terrorism-related crimes and would have

expanded the government’s ability to seek the death penalty in some cases.

Sen. Arlen Specter, the Pennsylvania Republican who leads the judiciary committee, acknowledged that he would like to have seen tougher civil liberties safeguards included in the compromise plan, but he faced resistance from House negotiators and administration officials who argued that new restrictions could limit the government’s ability to fight terrorism.

In the compromise plan, he said, “We have cut through the knotty problems to produce what I think is a balanced bill.” Even with its flaws, he said, a bill that he considered “not perfect” was better than no bill at all.

“This bill is too important to have an impasse,” he said. With President Bush pushing personally and repeatedly for the reauthorization of the Patriot Act, Specter added that administration officials in particular “have been very worried that they wouldn’t get a bill, and we came perilously close to not getting a bill at all.”

Four Prospective Buyers Will Bid For Dunkin’ Brands

By Heather Timmons
THE NEW YORK TIMES

LONDON

It’s time to buy the doughnuts.

Three groups of private equity buyers and Arby’s owner, the Triarc Cos., are planning to bid for control of Dunkin’ Brands, the fast-growing group that owns the Dunkin’ Donuts chain, Baskin Robbins ice cream and the Togo sandwich shops, several executives involved in the process said Thursday.

Bids are due Thursday night in New York.

The French drinks group Pernod Ricard is selling Dunkin’ Brands, which it acquired when it purchased Allied Domecq in April for \$14 billion.

The group, which includes 6,000 Dunkin’ Donuts stores worldwide, is expected to fetch more than \$2 billion.

The group’s stores had \$4.8 billion in sales last year, up 12 percent, helped by new stores and new products. Baskin-Robbins has 5,400 stores worldwide, and Togo has 400 stores in the United States.

Triarc, which once owned Snapple Beverages, would add the group to its 3,500 Arby’s fast-food stores. Triarc also owns Deerfield Asset Management, an institutional fixed income investor. Analysts at J.P. Morgan Chase predicted last year that Triarc could be a bidder for the beleaguered Krispy Kreme doughnut chain, but no such bid has emerged.

Croatian Suspect in War Crimes Is Arrested in Canary Isles

By Renwick McLean and Marlise Simons
THE NEW YORK TIMES

MADRID, SPAIN

The Spanish government said Thursday that Ante Gotovina, a top war crimes suspect from Croatia who was indicted four years ago by the international tribunal in The Hague, had been arrested in the Canary Islands, removing a potential obstacle to Croatia’s efforts to join the European Union.

The Interior Ministry said Gotovina was arrested Wednesday night at a restaurant in a luxury hotel on Tenerife, the largest of the Canary Islands, which are part of Spain. He was flown to Madrid to appear before a judge. The police said he had been traveling on a fake passport and did not resist arrest when he was taken into custody at a hotel at Playa de las Americas.

Carla Del Ponte, the chief prosecutor of the U.N. war crimes tribunal in The Hague, was the first to announce the arrest, telling reporters in Belgrade on Thursday: “Ante Gotovina is arrested. He was arrested this night in Spain, in the Isle of Canary. He is now in detention, finally, and he will be transferred to The Hague.”

Gotovina, a former general, was one of the three top fugitives of the war crimes court for the wars of the early 1990s as Yugoslavia disintegrated. The court has long demanded his arrest or surrender.

Gotovina’s flight from justice has been a major headache for Croatia’s new government because of international pressure to hand him over, including from the European Union and the U.N. Security Council. The European Union had long made Gotovina’s arrest a condition for starting membership talks, which finally began in October.

Annan Defends U.N. Commissioner Against U.S. Criticism

By Warren Hoge
THE NEW YORK TIMES

UNITED NATIONS

Secretary-General Kofi Annan on Thursday vigorously defended Louise Arbour, the U.N. high commissioner for human rights, after comments she made about detention and torture came under criticism from John R. Bolton, the U.S. ambassador.

“The secretary-general has absolutely no disagreement with the statement she made yesterday, and he sees no reason to object to any of it,” said Annan’s spokesman, Stephane Dujarric.

In an unusual instance of a secretary-general singling out an individual envoy for critical comment, Annan said he was seeking a meeting with Bolton to make his point in person.

The dispute arose Wednesday when Arbour made a statement and gave a briefing in which she said that secret detention of terror suspects and sending suspects to foreign countries without guaranteed safeguards meant that the absolute international ban on torture “is becoming a casualty of the so-called war on terror.”

She said it was “particularly insidious” that “governments are watering down the definition of torture, claiming that terrorism means established rules do not apply anymore.”

In comments that appeared directed at the current American effort led by Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice to justify American treatment of prisoners, Arbour said, “An illegal interrogation technique remains illegal whatever new description a government might wish to give it.”

Bolton told reporters that it was “disappointing” that instead of focusing on “human rights problems that exist in the world today,” Arbour had chosen to “talk about press commentary about alleged American conduct.” He said that conduct had been “fully and completely addressed” by Rice.

He said he thought it “inappropriate and illegitimate for an international civil servant to second-guess the conduct that we’re engaged in the war on terror, with nothing more as evidence than what she reads in the newspapers.”

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No Respect For Athena

I have never before felt it to be my responsibility to convey my opinion to such a large group of readers, but I feel that time has come. I just finished lunch and came upstairs to the fifth floor Athena cluster at the Student Center. I come here daily to study and use the computers, but something today seemed a little different to me — the noticeable amount of trash sprawled about the cluster. Now, I am not trying to be hypocritical by saying that I always throw away my trash and you should do the same, but there

is some level of respect that has been abandoned by many.

After a quick jaunt around the cluster, I made a list of the items surrounding one such computer in the Windows section of the cluster. In no particular order, these items were: a half-finished smoothie, a half-full soda fountain drink, two empty plastic pop bottles, two used drinking straws on the desk, two empty plastic sandwich containers from LaVerde's, a plastic fork, a half-finished fruit cup, two spread-out and scattered newspapers, a yogurt cup, a plastic spoon, at least 10 candy wrappers, two pens, a mechanical pencil, a nice sweater, 20 pages of printer paper, a LaVerde's plastic bag open on the floor with an

empty orange juice container, wax paper used for sub wrap, used Kleenex tissues with empty box, and finally, at least 20 napkins.

This is the worst that I have seen it, and I thought I would ask that people in general do a better job of cleaning up after themselves. I understand that you might be working until the sun comes up on a problem set — we've all been there as MIT students — but please do your part by throwing away the trash that you brought with you. It is not the custodial staff's job to pick up and throw away garbage left behind by students. This is just a simple task that will keep the computer labs cleaner for a longer period of time.

Matthew D. Williams '07



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December 9,
2005

COMICS

The
Tech

FUN

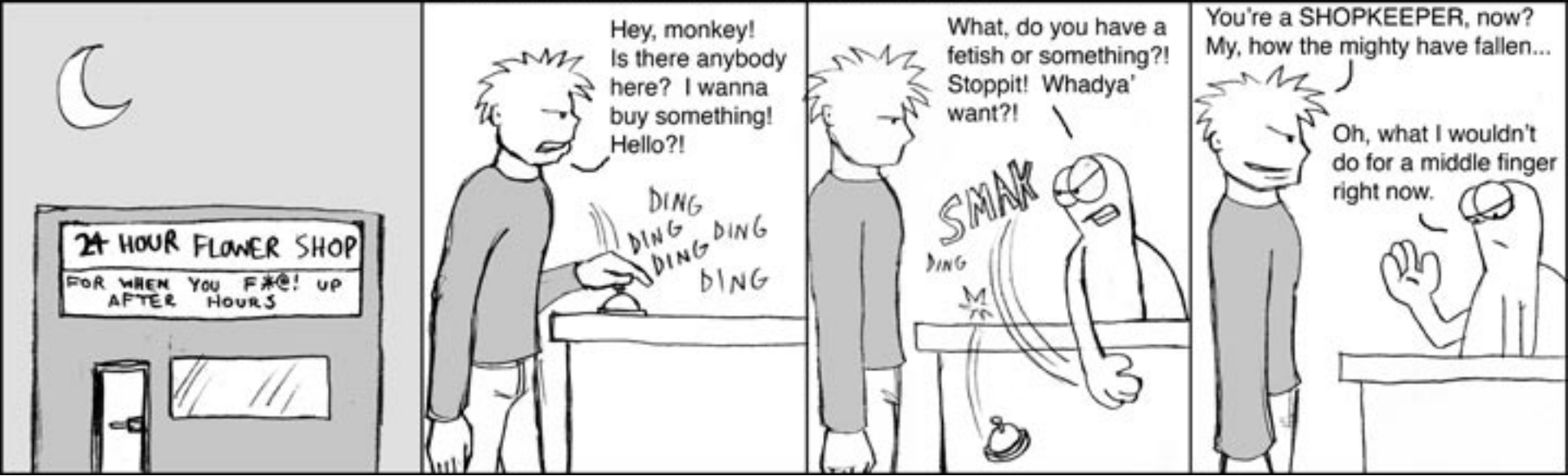
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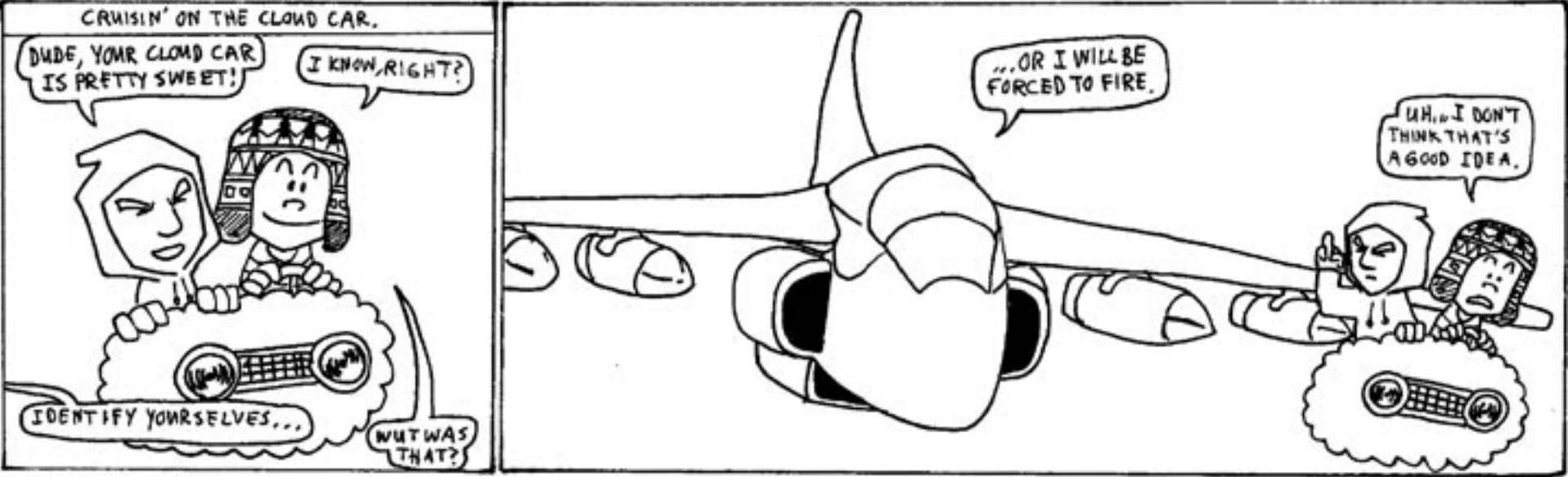
TRIO Website: ALUM.MIT.EDU/WWW/EMIE

by Emezie Okorafor



Moons of Uranus

by Juan Pablo Mendieta



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by Colin Dillard



Crossword Puzzle

Solution, page 16

ACROSS

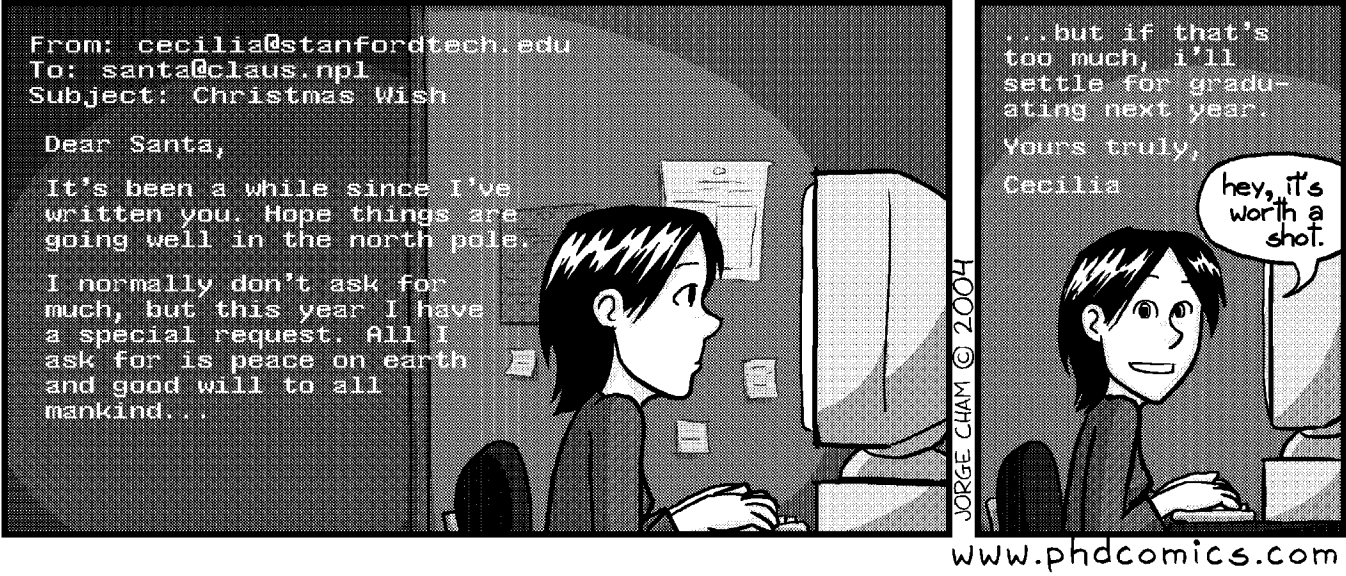
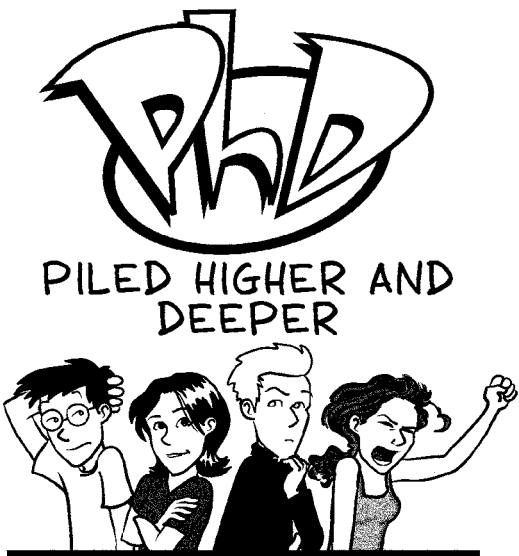
- 1 Bivouacs
- 6 Terrible fate
- 10 Formerly, formerly
- 14 Stop a rocket shot
- 15 Rombauer of cook-books
- 16 Ceremonial act
- 17 Trip around the moon
- 19 Soon
- 20 Tight march formation
- 22 Neon or argon
- 23 Play text
- 26 Very decorated
- 28 North Carolina university
- 29 Numbered musical piece
- 33 Feel ill
- 34 Lecher
- 35 ___ up (restrained)
- 36 Object

- 39 Mil. branch
- 40 Electrical path
- 42 ___ de cologne
- 43 Current events sources
- 45 Northern Scandinavian
- 46 Lendl of tennis
- 47 10th month
- 48 Fencer's foil
- 49 Price of golf
- 50 Stood up to
- 53 Uppermost forest layer
- 55 Crone
- 56 Identical
- 60 Small bit
- 62 All the way around
- 66 Fleck or Bartok
- 67 Kind of code
- 68 Ashcan School painter John
- 69 Dope or skinny

- 70 United force
- 71 Links up chronologically
- DOWN**
- 1 Infielder Ripken
- 2 With 50D, U.A.E. capital
- 3 Sun. follower
- 4 Pecan candy
- 5 Edge maker
- 6 Actor Bogarde
- 7 Spheres
- 8 Fail to include
- 9 San __, CA
- 10 Bullpen stat
- 11 Kid's running game
- 12 Brown ermine
- 13 On edge
- 18 Couple with sixteen arms?
- 21 Brooklyn art school
- 23 Medicinal fluid

- 24 Chummy
- 25 Eighteen holes
- 27 U.S. medical center
- 30 Hostess Mesta
- 31 Open a Sprite
- 32 Warm compress
- 37 Image Award grp.
- 38 Like oil-filter ooze
- 40 Actress Phoebe
- 41 Emetic medication
- 44 Here in France
- 46 In a spiritual manner
- 50 See 2D
- 51 Consumed
- 52 Skim the soup
- 54 Out of whack
- 57 Angling plug
- 58 Pooch pest
- 59 Close with a bang
- 61 Chinese Chairman
- 63 Pro challenger
- 64 Fond du __, WI
- 65 Punner's duo?

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FoxTrot

by Bill Amend

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

Solution, tips,
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also solution,
page 17.



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ARTS

THEATER REVIEW

Dramashop Highlights MIT Theatrical Talent

Student Writers, Directors, and Actors Join Forces in Impressive One-Act Performances

By Jillian Berry
STAFF WRITER

Student One-Acts
Dramashop
Kresge Little Theater
Dec. 1-3, 8 p.m.

The MIT Dramashop presented the 2005 One-Acts in Little Kresge Theater this past weekend. The show was composed of five short skits — “One-Acts” — written, directed, and performed by MIT undergraduate and graduate students. The show felt like one I might see in a small city theater, with a set that consisted only of black cubes, so as not to distract from the performers’ acting.

The first act, “Outside Room 943” (by Kayla D. Jacobs ’06, directed by Catherine Havasi ’03), comically showed the foiling of a woman’s (Gireeja V. Ranade ’07) attempted suicide. The skit began with the woman about to jump from the 9th floor of a hotel, when Frederick (Nicholas L. Harrington ’09), the British guest in room 943, interrupts her. Frederick refuses to notice that the woman is about to jump to her death as he has a trivial conversation with her. Frederick even asks the woman out to dinner.

Through Frederick, the woman realizes

her mistake and decides she can always jump tomorrow. The actors humorously and realistically portrayed their characters, and were in perfect sync. I particularly liked the extended moments of silence in which no one was quite sure what to do. Often, actors seemed too intent on saying their lines when more could have been said through silence than words.

Next came “The Barren Tender of a Poet’s Debt” (by Jonathan Reinharth ’06, directed by Ashley E. Micks ’09), which portrayed college student Laurence’s (Matthew S. Peairs ’09) struggle to form a relationship with the love of his life, Sonia (Laurel L. Ruhlen ’06). Much of the performance revolves around Laurence, Sonia, and Eric (Elliot A. Prechter ’06) discussing the relationship in Dostoevsky’s “Crime and Punishment.” The skit was unique in that it switched between the outer world and Laurence’s thoughts by altering the lighting to create an almost surreal atmosphere. Matthew Peairs created a sympathetic character whose plight was felt by the entire audience.

The next two works, “[Untitled]” and “Titling [Untitled]” (by Usman Akeju, directed by Jeff Klann ’01), were two skits that presented the same words in different contexts. “[Untitled]” has four characters (Deepa Mokshagundam ’09, Kathleen Connolly ’05, Alex

W. Moore G, Shanying Cui ’09) who appeared to be participating in multiple random situations.

I did not really understand the piece, and I was not alone. The piece made a little more sense, however, after seeing “Titling [Untitled],” in which the same characters repeated the same lines, but each situation had a different theme that the audience voted on before the show. For my night, the themes were a Spanish soap opera, a Mystery, and a Jerry Springer episode. Based on this second part, I think the point of the two works was to show that the piece could be performed one of many ways using the same lines. Thus, the lines were not as important as the acting. The acting was very good, even though I was confused most of the time.

The final performance was “The Cruellest Month” (by Sunny Y. Wong G, directed by Tess R. Diduch ’06). This work followed Sidney (Guy Hoffman G), a scientist who is waiting to hear if he will receive the Nobel Prize. He has waited for 10 Octobers, and he thinks this year is his last chance. To relieve some of his anxiety he takes a walk, where he runs into the Trenchcoat Woman (Gabrielle Abousleman W ’08). This woman offers to guarantee him the Nobel Prize in exchange for all his hair (which will never grow back). He thinks about this proposition and discusses it with his wife and a former friend (both played by Brianna G. Veenstra ’09). More than the loss of his hair, he wants to receive the prize on merit, so the decision is a struggle for him. In the end, he decides to keep his hair, and he ends up winning the prize. The performance was successful despite only having three actors for seven characters, and it was a great end to the show.

After this final piece there was a short question and answer session with the cast and crew, mediated by Hayden Taylor of Dramashop. It was very informative — I, for instance, never knew MIT actually had the-



SALLY E. PEACH—THE TECH

Shanying Cui ’09 grimaces as Deepa Mokshagundam ’09 paces in the background. Each was a character in [Untitled] as well as the comedic reinterpretation “Titling [Untitled].”

ater majors. Overall, the acting was wonderful, and everyone seemed to really enjoy the show. I was truly amazed by the talent of the actors and the writers, and impressed by the dedication they must have had to put on such a great performance.



SALLY E. PEACH—THE TECH

Trenchcoat Woman (Gabrielle W. Abousleman ’08) tries to convince Sidney (Guy Hoffman G) to give up his hair in exchange for the Nobel Prize in “The Cruellest Month.”

BALLET REVIEW

‘Nutcracker’ Offers a Sparkling Fantasy

Masterful Execution Outweighs Lack of Technical Difficulty

By Natania Antler
STAFF WRITER

Boston Ballet
Music by Peter Ilyich Tchaikovsky
Choreography by Mikko Nissinen
Boston Opera House
Runs through Dec. 30, 2005

There are an amazing number of things that can go wrong in a production of “The Nutcracker,” but the Boston Ballet seems to have avoided most of these pitfalls in a sparkling rendition of the ballet. Especially while adjusting to a new home for “The Nutcracker” at the Opera House, the Boston Ballet has done well. But because Mikko Nissinen’s choreography did not seem to be technically difficult for the dancers, it was at times a bit boring. Still, however, it was executed with precision and succeeded in the main purpose of this ballet: to create a fantastical wonderland that all kids, and even adults, can enjoy. This traditional production of “The Nutcracker” was well worth seeing.

“The Nutcracker” ballet traces one little girl’s Christmastime dream. During a fun Christmas party, Clara receives a nutcracker as a present from her favorite uncle Drosselmeier. After bedtime, she sneaks back into the ballroom to retrieve her forgotten doll — and falls asleep. She dreams of being attacked by the King of the Mice, but is saved by her doll, who has just been brought to life by Drosselmeier. Then, ushered on by Drosselmeier, Clara and

the Nutcracker travel through a snowy land in which they meet the Snow King and Queen. Finally, in the second act, they come to the Nutcracker’s own kingdom, where they are welcomed and entertained by the Sugar Plum Fairy and a host of other characters.

This production of “The Nutcracker” uses the children from the Boston Ballet School to full advantage. These kids have a lot to do in the ballet, and they do it well. This is how it should be, as “The Nutcracker” is, after all, a ballet designed for children. My favorite use

beyond that. In the same vein, the Shepherd’s dance, or “Pastorale” in the second act, was also uninspired. It was difficult to tell what the point of this dance was after all of the other clearly themed Chinese, Spanish and Arabian dances.

Despite these less than exciting patches, what made this production memorable were the minor characters. In the beginning Christmas party, Drosselmeier brings out some life-size wind-up dolls that entertain the kids. The Harlequin and Columbine dolls (Daniel Sarabia and Misa Kuranaga) managed the jerky motions of the dolls while keeping up with difficult choreography. The second dance in this set is often a soldier doll of some sort, but instead was a dancing bear, played with charm by Gabor Kapin.

My favorite scene of all is the Arabian Dance, in which the choreography was fascinating and the dancing superb. The beauty of this music, and the relative length of the dance as compared to the other character dances in the suite, gives an opportunity for gorgeous choreography that is all too often fumbled in other productions. Instead Lia Cirio and Sabi Varga pulled off a brilliant performance of this dance, with the help of Nissinen’s choreography.

Boston Ballet has on the whole done an excellent job of putting on a traditional “Nutcracker” performance. Go take a look, especially if you’re bringing kids and in the mood for some seasonally appropriate fun.

The Boston Ballet succeeds in creating a fantastical wonderland that children, and even adults, will enjoy.

of kids was as reindeer that pull a sled in the Snow Scene. Their costumes, white velvet affairs with antlers and furry crests, were cute, and they stole the scene.

This production of the show did a good job with the grand corps de ballet numbers, such as the Snow Scene and Waltz of the Flowers, but I’ve always found these scenes and their two accompanying pas de deux somewhat boring. This choreography didn’t change my mind; sure, it’s pretty, the music is nice, and everyone wears sparkly costumes, but it doesn’t go much

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problem sets
boyfriend
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pressures
workload
roommates
more classes
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THEATER REVIEW

‘The Mikado’ an Awkward Rendition of Fun Show

Several Star Actors Carry an Otherwise Disjoint Gilbert and Sullivan

By Jacqueline O’Connor
ARTS EDITOR
The Mikado
The MIT Gilbert and Sullivan Players
Garry P. Zacheiss ’00, producer
Emily D. Senturia, director
La Sala de Puerto Rico, Student Center
Dec. 8-9, 8 p.m.; Dec. 10, 2 p.m.

Saturday night’s performance of The Gilbert and Sullivan Players’ rendition of Sir W. S. Gilbert and Sir Arthur Sullivan’s “The Mikado” opened in La Sala de Puerto Rico with a somewhat befuddled chorus of the British National Anthem, “God Save the Queen.” With half the audience standing and the other half wondering why we citizens of the United States of America were singing to some lady across the pond, the anthem set the tone for the rest of the show: mismatched confusion. According to the Gilbert and Sullivan Players’ Web site, Gilbert and Sullivan were favorites of Queen Victoria herself during the height of their musical popularity. The duo wrote 14 operettas together, and each work was light, comical, and wildly popular in Victorian England. Said to be the forerunner of the modern musical, this oeuvre brought the opera to the masses with spoken words instead of recitative ones, and catchy tunes that leave you whistling even after the curtain closes.



Pooh-Bah, Gabriel Fouasnon ’09, strikes a haughty pose in “The Mikado.”

The story of “The Mikado” centers around the Japanese town of Titipu, a small village turned important city by the installation of a “Lord High Executioner” named Ko-Ko, played by Nick Bozard ’02. Formerly sentenced to death by the emperor Mikado, Ko-Ko escapes his plight by accepting the beastly job and is later happily engaged to his beautiful ward Yum-Yum (Miranda E. Knutson ’06). Upon the return of Nanki-Poo (John Deschene), Mikado’s son disguised as a wandering minstrel and former flame of Yum-Yum’s, the two lovers find each other once more and insanity ensues as they try to dodge the increasingly inane decrees of Pooh-Bah (Gabriel Fouasnon ’09), the “Lord High Everything Else.” The story itself is a classic — hilariously funny and biting cynicism in the way that it depicts the law and those who enforce it. The producers of the Gilbert and Sullivan Player’s show did a wonderful job of including modern day references into the script. At one point in the song “As some day it may happen,” Ko-Ko sings of all those he plans to execute, including men who flirt, girls who dye their hair blonde, and upper-middle class suburban moms who drive SUVs. Despite these subtle strokes of brilliance in the script, however, the overall caliber of the show was disappointing. Being a musical performance, there was a mid-sized pit orchestra off to stage left under

the direction of Emily Senturia, a Boston University master’s student studying orchestra conducting. Despite Senturia’s professional conducting style, the orchestra was painfully out of tune for the entirety of the show. This not only hurt the ears, but also brought down the performance of some of the exceptional lead singers. Better tuning would have increased the quality of the performance ten-fold. The first actors to appear on stage were the members of the men’s chorus, citizens of the town who supported the plot throughout the show. It looked as though the men’s joints had seized; their shuffling around the stage was distracting and uncomfortable. The facial expressions came in two flavors, oddly forced or simply not there. Though their voices were decent, they gave the show a mediocre first impression. Overall, the acting in the first half seemed mechanical. It was not clear whether this was done in the spirit of mocking Japanese culture (a theme throughout the entire play), or whether it was just poor acting. For example, Fouasnon delivered Pooh-Bah’s tongue twisting lines with rigidity and effort, though it seemed he became more easy with the character as the show continued. Also, Dan Salomon as Pish-Tush, a noble lord, lacked any hint of a facial expression though the entire production, even as his character was sentenced to die by The Mikado himself. Despite the noticeable failings of a large portion of the cast, the lead actors still did well. In particular, Rosie Osser G as Katisha, an elderly lady who had fallen in love with Nanki-Poo and essentially drove him from the village for fear of marrying such an old witch, was fantastic. With a powerful voice, dramatic expressions, and dead accurate comedic timing, Osser carried the show from the minute she walked on stage at the end of the first act. Deschene and Knutson as Nanki-Poo and Yum-Yum were also strong singers and their fluid acting helped the audience become emotionally involved in the



Katisha, played by Rosie Osser G, twists her fan in frustration at the news that her betroved, Nanki-Poo, has left her for the beautiful Yum-Yum.

story of their unrequited love. The second act was much better all around. Fouasnon delivered his comedic lines more gracefully, both the men’s and women’s chorus sang better, and the overall tempo of the show began to come alive. Impressive performances in the second act included Ko-Ko’s coming to terms with his duties as “Lord High Executioner,” and that of Pitti-Sing, played by Legena Jack Henry G, as Yum-Yum’s best friend and front line defendant against the injustices felt by Yum-Yum and her lover Nanki-Poo. All together, the show came across as somewhat disjoint and lacking in passion, just like the audience’s rendition of “God Save the Queen” that began the night. Despite that, it was very funny and a few star performers made the production worth seeing.

CLASSICAL REVIEW

BSO Reinstills Energy into Commissioned Works

Fine Performances of Stravinsky, Bartók, Dutilleux

By Nivair H. Gabriel
ASSOCIATE ARTS EDITOR
Boston Symphony Orchestra
James Levine, conductor
Symphony Hall, Boston
Saturday, Dec. 3, 2005

Last weekend’s Boston Symphony Orchestra performance was the first of conductor James Levine’s programs that celebrate rising classic works commissioned by the BSO. The BSO performed at the top of their game for the entire first half of the concert; they were energetic, excited, and completely consumed by the first two pieces. After the intermission, they were not nearly as lively, but they regained their fervor for the most famous music of the night — Bartók’s “Concerto for Orchestra,” which had its world premiere with the BSO in 1944. A symphony commissioned for the BSO’s 75th anniversary and given its world premiere at Symphony Hall in 1959 opened the concert. Written by French composer Henri Dutilleux, “Symphony No. 2 ‘Le Double’” is a haunting and sweet piece that thrills to the core. The strings had a lot to do here, and they absorbed their responsibility well. The first movement was as “misterioso” as it could be, sending chills up the spine with its beauty and grace. They maintained the mood through the second movement, when the melody emerged like a beast, to the final movement, which ended on a high sustained note. It was a festival of loveliness, perfectly played. Stravinsky’s “Symphony of Psalms,” which was commissioned for the BSO’s 50th anniversary and has since become a classic work, continued the eerie and

pretty mood as it began. The Tanglewood Festival Chorus sung Psalms 38, 39, and 150, matching perfectly with the music; neither instruments nor voices took over completely. Rather, both sounds blended to form triumphant moments of exaltation leading into a soft and reverent ending. Most notable was a sweet clarinet solo, which flowed into the chorus. Here the BSO picked up even more speed and the Tanglewood Chorus joined in, doing Stravinsky magnificent justice. Unfortunately, the intermission seemed to break their stride. Elliott Carter’s “Boston Concerto” was odd and disorienting: it didn’t fit with the rest of the pieces in the program, and the lack of excitement in the performers was obvious. The piece required complex instrumentation, including a xylophone, a marimba, cowbells, and maracas. It was written to be modern — the BSO gave a world premiere of the piece in 2003 — and sounded as much. The excessive pizzicato grew tiring, and despite a few measures of gorgeous harp playing, the piece did not deliver. Bartók’s “Concerto for Orchestra” picked up where the “Symphony of Psalms” left off; it started on a creepy, lovely note with harp and strings. The first movement was so sweet and smooth it was almost edible. What really shined, however, were the third and fourth. They were full of celebration, with wild glissandi and a high, expectant final note. Eyes closed, I realized that this was the only piece of music that seemed to erupt from all around me. Though the Dutilleux was inspiring, there is no doubt in conductor Levine’s statement that Bartók’s work is now a respected masterpiece. Levine’s animated conducting of each one made this evening fantastic and memorable.

The Boston Symphony Orchestra revisits four pieces the orchestra premiered in years past.

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FILM REVIEW ★★★

Coy but Sincere, 'Geisha' Plays Hard to Get

In Luscious Setting, 'Memoirs' of the Clash Between Society and Love



COLUMBIA PICTURES

As a geisha who captivates men's hearts through grace and beauty, Sayuri (Ziyi Zhang) lives her life as an ornament to the wealthy, but secretly cherishes dreams of romantic love with the Chairman (Ken Watanabe).

By Beckett W. Sterner

STAFF WRITER

Memoirs of a Geisha

Directed by Rob Marshall

Written by Arthur Golden, Robin Swicord,

and Doug Wright

Starring Ziyi Zhang, Ken Watanabe, and

Michelle Yeoh

Rated PG-13

Opens today in select theaters, wide release on Dec. 23, 2005

A geisha is a woman who holds a powerful sexual allure by playing hardball in a game defined by men. She is a rigorously trained entertainer who is the life of the party, yet often unable to pursue the man she loves. An icon of Japanese culture, the traditional geisha cannot truly be defined in Western terms. Through the original novel and now the film, "Memoirs of a Geisha" brings us inside the life of a geisha and her struggle with love and survival in 1930s and 40s Japan.

It is unfortunate, then, that director Rob Marshall chose to feature three Chinese actresses in the leading female roles in a film about a quintessentially Japanese life. The film follows the story of a girl named Chiyo (child

played by Suzuka Ohgo, adult played by Ziyi Zhang), who is sold from her home in a fishing village to become a geisha in Kyoto, where she is tutored by another geisha named Mameha (Michelle Yeoh) and competes against Hatsu-momo (Li Gong). Zhang and Gong are Chinese by birth, and Yeoh is Malaysian but ethnically Chinese. None of them look the part, and Zhang, who learned English just for this role, was ultimately unable to escape her Chinese accent. Fortunately, the leading male actors are Japanese, and this gives the film much of its authenticity.

What saves "Memoirs" from being just another mediocre book rip-off is its lush cinematography, evocative soundtrack, and faithfulness to Arthur Golden's moving and sophisticated plot. Golden's book, one of the most popular of the last decade, is written as if dictated by Chiyo, renamed Sayuri as an adult, long after the events. Sayuri is poetic, sharply witty, and always slightly mysterious, even as she lays her secretive life bare to the reader. This fascinating personality, placed in the struggle between a passionate love and the rules of society, is what drives the book forward.

As a film, "Memoirs" puts the social forc-

es in even greater relief, providing a powerful commentary on what a geisha had to do to survive in her world. But the film loses the intimacy and rich voice of the book, failing to capture the true essence of a geisha's life as presented in the novel. The loss of intimacy is partly due to Zhang's merely adequate performance, but it also derives from a relatively pedantic conception of the older Sayuri's narration. Where the novel's narrator shifts between deep comments on life and girlish enthusiasm, the film's narrator only has time for the more profound statements. Stripped so bare, such a voice-over becomes heavy-handed and works against the action.

Whereas the characters are sometimes shallow, the cinematography and music detail all the richness and ambience of the tea houses, homes, and lifestyle of the geisha. Marshall evokes traditional Japanese artwork with his slow, scrolling pans over scenes of nightlit tree branches, and much of the film's mood comes from the sheer beauty of the world through which Sayuri moves. John Williams' score, beautiful but unobtrusive, uses traditional Japanese instruments, mostly working to evoke emotions or energy from the background.

Behind a beautiful appearance is a darker

meaning, however. The sexist cage into which women are forced by men becomes clearer, and harder to forgive, when the women live in relative luxury to serve as entertainers and objects of sexual desire for men. The dependency of a geisha cannot be more obvious than in the relationship between a geisha and her danna, a man who pays for a geisha's living expenses so that she may become his mistress. (This does not mean she stops entertaining others at tea houses, but rather that the danna may expect to have "privileges" others do not.) Alternatively, the "rite" of womanhood for a geisha is to sell her mizuage, roughly translated as her virginity, to the highest bidder.

No matter what, the life of a geisha is one designed to prevent the type of romantic love so idolized by Western culture, which is perhaps what makes a love story in the life of a geisha such a fascinating yet foreign tale. Sayuri falls in love with a kind, generous man many years her senior (another non-American detail), and ironically can only seek his company within the strictures of entertaining as a geisha. Sayuri's memoirs fall within no easy category of Western love, and her life always retains that open-hearted yet forever mysterious aura only achievable by a true geisha.

FILM REVIEW ★★1/2

'Aeon Flux' Fights for Free Love

Action Flick Good for an Evening's Entertainment

By Andrew Guerra

STAFF WRITER

Aeon Flux

Directed by Karyn Kusama

Written by Phil Hay and Matt Manfredi

Starring Charlize Theron, Marton Csokas

Rated PG-13

Now Playing

Charlize Theron now walks in the proud footsteps of Halle Berry and Angelina Jolie. She, like her predecessors, has followed her Oscar win with a film requiring the display of more skin than skill. Fortunately for her, she's chosen this project with more prejudice than her predecessors, as "Aeon Flux" trumps both Jolie's "Tomb Raider" and Berry's "Catwoman."

Theron plays Aeon, an operative working for the Monican rebels against the harsh rule of the Goodchilds of Bregna, the last city on Earth. The Goodchild dynasty has ruled Bregna for 400 hundred years, ever since the rest of humanity was wiped out by a virus against which the original Goodchild found a vaccine. However, as Aeon is sent to assassinate Trevor

Goodchild, allegiances become more complex, and secrets surrounding the founding of Bregna are revealed.

"Aeon Flux" has its origins in MTV's "Liquid Television" as several animated shorts created by Peter Chung but was then expanded into its own show that lasted only 10 episodes. The animated show was groundbreaking for a mainstream outlet such as MTV, as it featured abstruse dialogue, a graphic artistic style, and dark subject matter. It lacked cohesive overarching plot structure, and most episodes ended with Aeon's death. Fans of the animated show will likely be disappointed by this big screen adaptation, as the only trait it borrows from the show is its sense of style. Nearly every other aspect has been simplified for mainstream consumption, including the dialogue, the relationships between the characters, and the plot.

While the film only plays lip service to its roots, it is still enjoyable. The mysteries of the film are slowly revealed in a satisfying manner. The action is fast-paced and enjoyable. The plot is engaging and understandable, even if it loses the complexity of the source material. The style of the film is also interesting, with os-

tensibly idyllic gardens filled with razor blade grass and poison dart-shooting trees. "Aeon Flux" even throws in some interesting themes dealing with mortality and the meaning of existence, as well as the constant battle between man and nature.

"Aeon Flux," however, is flawed beyond the bastardization of its source material to appeal to the mainstream. The film uses clumsy voiceovers after the beginning of the movie to further plot background, giving a disjointed feeling, jarring the viewer from the proceedings on-screen. In addition, despite Theron's Oscar, the acting here isn't the best, although this could also be caused by the characterization, which was largely two-dimensional. Finally, the direction is also somewhat lacking, as Kusama focuses so intently on Theron's sparsely-clothed form that the events going on around her seem almost inconsequential.

"Aeon Flux" is entertaining, looks good, and even has enough thought to hold a conversation. Fans of the animated show will want to stay away, but anyone else interested in fast-paced sci-fi or Charlize Theron's half-clothed form will probably find something to like.



PARAMOUNT PICTURES

When government agents murder her family, Aeon Flux (Charlize Theron, pictured) swears revenge. A highly trained soldier on the front lines of a war against the perfect society, Aeon is one of the few to suspect that this perfect life is hiding a perfect lie.

FILM REVIEW ★★★1/2

Through the Wardrobe — Paradise Regained

The Chronicles Begin With Breathtaking Creatures and Lands in “Narnia”

By Rosa Cao

STAFF WRITER

The Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, The Witch, and the Wardrobe

Directed by Adam Adamson

Written by Ann Peacock

Based on the novel by C. S. Lewis

Starring Liam Neeson, Tilda Swinton,

Georgie Henley, Skandar Keynes,

William Moseley, Anna Popplewell

Rated PG

Opens Today

It's World War II, and the bombs are falling on London. Wrong movie? But no, here is a mother with four children, huddled in a bomb shelter. Next we see them at the train station, about to be evacuated with thousands of other children to the green English countryside with labels around their necks — Peter, Susan, Edmund, and Lucy Pevensie, each looking more or less miserable, the older ones trying hard to behave grown-up for the war.

Do you remember Narnia? C.S. Lewis wrote a story about the triumph of good over evil (and yes, the Second Coming and the importance of faith), and the loyalty of four brothers and sisters to each other and their friends, many of whom turn out to be talking animals or mythic beasts. The familiarity is delicious, and somehow, “The Lion the Witch and the Wardrobe” avoids cheesiness. Or rather, the cynicism required to judge something “cheesy” just gets swept away with all the rest of the clutter in your head as Lucy makes her first passage through the back of an old wardrobe to a new world. Your heart beats faster as coats give way to more coats and yet more, and then ... branches? Snow??

Welcome to Narnia: here it is, with snow-covered pines and a lone flickering lamppost in a clearing. There in the distance, a faint chiming of sleigh bells, but is it Father Christmas with his reindeer or the White Witch with her pack of wolves? But wait, around a tree comes Mr. Tumnus the faun, with his umbrella, scarf, and too many packages, though Christmas hasn't come to Narnia in a hundred years.

It may be sprinkled with warm cozy chats here and there, but this movie is never boring. Whether a frolic, a chase, or a frantic flight through Narnia's many landscapes, what we see is the magic of life and death. One of the best visuals shows the queen's magic dropper, with its yields of steaming hot chocolate and Turkish delight. Another visual highlight is the stone sculpture garden of fallen heroes, frozen in the



WALT DISNEY PICTURES

Peter (William Moseley), Susan (Anna Popplewell), and Lucy (Georgie Henley) enter a wardrobe and find themselves in a fantasy world beyond imagination, in “The Chronicles of Narnia.”

moment of defeat.

The 140-minute movie is satisfyingly faithful to Lewis' book. Perhaps it helps that the original was fewer than 200 short pages; unlike for “Harry Potter” or “The Lord of the Rings,” no heroic feats of distillation were necessary here. If it has a flaw, it's that this movie isn't capable of expressing the unattainable the way the book could. It can't quite show what is so special about Aslan; we have to accept it as a given.

It's a pity the creators tried to give human expressions to the animals; it's jarring to see human smiles and shrugs on faces not meant for them. The voice actors were great; that expressiveness might have sufficed.

Disney had regal splendor down to an art with “The Lion King.” Perhaps they need to work a little harder with the CG, because poor Aslan pales in comparison. Where is the “soft roughness of golden fur?” Where are the “great

sad eyes” Lewis describes? Contact with Aslan is supposed to be, well, a religious experience, from the rich smell of his life-giving breath to “the beautiful sea of fur.” If anything, this Aslan is a little too real, too normal, even — dare I say it — a little frizzy, (although there is a permanent shampoo commercial breeze about him).

In contrast, Tilda Swinton is absolutely stunning as the White Witch; power radiates from her slender form. She is evil without being either vile or stupid; no, she is calmly, rationally, beautifully evil. She looks devastatingly real, with utterly black pupils in the palest of faces. In battle, she is magnificent, her silky fur stole as tawny as Aslan should have been, her flashing staff dealing deadly icy bolts.

Her quiet menace permeates a dungeon scene: “Do you know why you are here?” she asks the quivering Mr. Tumnus in his frozen cell. She cuts off his terrified stammers with an

impatient wave. And then, kindly, pedagogically: “You are here, because he turned you in ...” She looks at Edmund, a delicate pause. And then, with contemptuous finality: “... for sweeties.” (Oh, Turkish delight!) But I can't do the delivery justice. You'll have to go see it.

For those who worry about such things as ideology and indoctrination, the movie is as subtle (or not) as the book with respect to the Christian underpinnings of the story. You'll find it all there if you look for it, from Calvary to the Resurrection, to the faith-based arguments about why we should believe the “impossible” rather than trust our common sense. But why look for it? The fantasy easily stands alone.

Narnia is a wonderful escape within an escape; like the old professor who owns the wardrobe (whose own secret history should be revealed some movies on), I can't wait to go back.

FILM REVIEW ★★★1/2

Stephen Gaghan Pens Intricate Script in ‘Syriana’

Clooney, Star Ensemble Save Film From Poor Direction

By Kapil Amarnath

STAFF WRITER

Syriana

Directed by Stephen Gaghan

Written by Stephen Gaghan

Starring George Clooney, Matt Damon,

Chris Cooper, Christopher Plummer,

Jeffrey Wright

Rated R

The Middle East contains several native species of honey bees. Syria, for example, produces 1750 tons of honey per year, and, as a result, needs thousands of workers to support the industry. Some of these workers can be disenfranchised oil workers, like the boy, Wasim (Mazhar Munir), portrayed in “Syriana.” Soon after a bee sting, Wasim makes a life-altering decision.

“Syriana” is about such decisions. Writer/director Stephen Gaghan realizes that the forces of history trickle down to determine the course

For an interview with director Stephen Gaghan, see page 12.

term used for a reshaping of the Middle East. CIA agent Bob Barnes (George Clooney) knows that no simple solution exists in the region. He finally begins to realize that the work he has done has been towards the wrong ends, that perhaps the government wasn't doing its part to heal the region he loves, but instead to make it safe for U.S. energy companies to take over.

While Gaghan presents a convincing, albeit pessimistic, worldview, he does not provide an artistic vision. He shoots the film realistically and fails to create any dynamic between the screen and the audience. Further, his poor choice of ambient music fails to inspire.

The opening and ending sequences of a film are often the most important in establishing and reinforcing the main themes. “Syriana” is structured much like the multi-stranded “Traffic,” which Gaghan also penned. In “Syriana,” however, the disparate elements aren't brought together as coherently as in that movie.

Given that the movie is an ensemble, the actors have fairly small roles. Damon's character retains the quick-talking of Will Hunting, and the always dependable Chris Cooper shines in a small role. Of all the characters, Clooney's is the most demanding, and he has the best chance for a Best Supporting Actor nomination at the Oscars.

For corporate lawyer Bennett Holiday (Jeffrey Wright), a glance at the Capitol building points him toward settling or disrupting a merger between two of the U.S.'s largest oil companies. “Syriana” escapes its problems during these transitory moments, where the viewer feels involved. Ultimately, however, more enjoyment comes after the final reel, from thinking about the questions the film raises, than during its more than two hour running time.



WARNER BROS. PICTURES

As a CIA operative in the Middle East, Bob Barnes (George Clooney) must protect U.S. interests in oil, but he starts to question his government's motives in “Syriana.”

The title of the film, according to Gaghan, comes from a

INTERVIEW

Talking With Director Stephen Gaghan

'Syriana' Interviews — Part 1 of 2

By Kapil Amarnath

STAFF WRITER

Stephen Gaghan wrote and directed "Syriana" and previously won an Academy Award for Best Original Screenplay for "Traffic." He recently fielded questions from *The Tech* and other college newspapers. Next Tuesday, *The Tech* will run an interview with star George Clooney.

Q: Do you have a method to your directing style that you apply to all your films, in terms of working with actors, or do you find that it changes and modifies from film to film?

SG: That's a great question. From my perspective, the collaboration that happens with the actor, particularly on the set, is the most fun part of filmmaking....

I think the most important thing for me ... is when I show up on the day I try to be open to what's happening. If I wrote the script and I've imagined it a certain way, even if we've rehearsed it and it was a certain way, when you finally get to the set, and it's really happening, you have to be open to the possibility of incredible change.

Obviously, in the worst-case scenario you get there, and it's just not happening. You can get in a situation where all your planning, no matter how much you're listening to what's going, it's still just crap. It's in that crisis situation with like 250 people watching that I actually think the most fun of filmmaking happen....

Q: Making this movie post-9/11, do you feel that you had to censor yourself or that you

were censored by others?

SG: It was actually the total opposite. I felt like in the wake of 9/11 it was really important to feel like you were

uncensored ... If you sit there and you're afraid, if I try to write something and it feels true to me, and yet some censoring bodies, say, the studio or the government is going to come after me, I think that's exactly the time you would have to proceed. You'd have to just sort of go all right, if I'm really afraid of that, which it wasn't, but if I was I would just respond with full-speed ahead.

Q: In a movie like this, how much sacrifice between making a great movie and making an accurate movie is there? What's your top priority?

SG: That's really interesting ... I just try to do the best work I can, and that has a whole bunch of different facets to it. What I discovered is that since I do a lot of research and I meet a lot of people, what I've found is quite often what I actually saw and what people actually said just won't work. No one will believe it. It's too broad....

I don't think there's any contradiction between truthfulness and quality or between accuracy and quality, but you always have to be a kind of arbiter for what you think, what the big picture is. I could tell you five anecdotes. You'd be howling with laughter. They're amazing. Unfortunately they don't fit into "Syriana." They would fit into some other movie....

Q: What inspired you to direct this movie, given that it's your second feature?

SG: I always knew I was going to direct it. When I started writing it, I had that knowledge....I felt like it was going to be a big leap one way or the other. Either I was going to fall on my ass in a huge way, or it would be a big step forward, just because of the sorts of challenges of the production.

I knew when I was writing the script there were over 200 locations. Because I wrote the script, I knew it was going to be in five languages. I knew that it would take place on four continents because I was making up the locations. So I sort of thought it would be daunting, but I also thought it would be kind of exhilarating. So I really wanted to do it.

Q: When I saw the movie yesterday, I thought the strongest and the weakest part of the movie was the use of multiple viewpoints. Why do you feel that using multiple viewpoints was necessary for this movie?

SG: When you're looking at a system, obviously it's really helpful to fragment the main protagonist. Every extra protagonist you get, you can take people into a different facet of something in a more realistic way. Otherwise, you have one main character and he's time traveling.

In this movie in particular, I felt it was super-important, not only to have lots of characters, but to actually not have them know what was going on. In other words, these characters themselves existed in a story where they thought they knew what was happening, but they were actually confused. This was born out of my research, out of my experience of meeting a lot of what I call cut-rate masters of the universe, guys who are discount Tall-eyrands. They think that they have all the picture. They're

re-drawing the map of Europe, they're the big seer, and in reality they're just following and absolutely narrow brand of self-interest...

Q: Could you tell me what kind of preparation you did research-wise, as far as the issues and politics in the oil industry and terrorism are concerned, before writing this script?

SG: First of all, I'm not an expert, but I did get to have the access to an expert, this guy Bob Baer, whose book it's sort of loosely based on. He was in the CIA for 21 years, and he was our Iraqi bureau chief in the mid-'90s. So he was literally the Central Intelligence Agency's leading expert on Iraq in the mid-'90s. He also infiltrated Hezbollah in the '80s....

He was being super-generous, opening up both his rolodex to all of his contacts and putting me in touch with people that knew him, but also he was giving me reading lists like, "You should read this and you should read that."

Then on my own I networked through all these different people, just anybody that I knew. I would cold call them. I know writers from *The Washington Post* who cover the Pentagon, and they hooked me up with the writers who cover the war on terror, and they hooked me up with the religion writers. One thing leads to another....

Q: Would you describe this movie as pessimistic?

SG: I would describe myself as pessimistic. I think I'd stand fairly closely aligned with Brent Scowcroft. He says, "I'm a realist. I believe in the fallibility of human nature. If humans can mess something up they will." And yet, I'm also an American and I'm also an optimist, and I'm ever-hopeful that we can go out in the world and make a difference, that maybe this democracy exportation project will work, not in the short run, but maybe in the long run, that we can help make the world a better place, that we can stop the famine in Mogadishu, that we can get fascism off the continent of Europe and World War II....

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FILM REVIEW ★★

‘Bee Season’ Spells Confusion With Ambiguous Plot

Even Richard Gere Can’t Save This Story About Mysticism

By Yong-Yi Zhu
STAFF WRITER
Bee Season
Directed by Scott McGehee and David Siegel
Written by Naomi Foner
Based on the novel by Myla Goldberg
Rated PG-13
Now Playing

S-T-R-A-N-G-E. Strange. That word is probably the most appropriate way to describe “Bee Season,” a film about a child with a supernatural talent who participates in spelling bees. The film tries to use her quest as a way to talk about the power of mysticism. The problem is that the mysticism is too mysterious for the audience. Perhaps it’s too cryptic, like a “Mulholland Drive,” or too irrelevant to my life, like “Lost in Translation,” but either way, this movie simply did not connect with me and was tough to understand. The movie is unfocused and at times terribly ambiguous. The main theme is religion and

people’s use of its powers. Richard Gere plays Saul, a theology professor, who is obsessed with finding a way to communicate with God and interacting with higher spirits. He talks about these theories to his family and uses his family as a vessel for his exploration. Eliza (Flora Cross) is his daughter. Until now, she has just been a less than ordinary little girl. Yet suddenly, she begins to win spelling bees left and right. This change not only causes her to grow up a bit, but also changes the dynamics of the family. Before, Saul has always focused on his son Aaron’s (Max Minghella) successes. He played violin with his son and didn’t care that it disturbed his daughter’s sleep at night. But when Eliza becomes the success of the family, Saul shifts his focus to her. He wants to show her his religious doctrine to harness her special talents as a speller. He thinks that she is not only brilliant, but also that she has mystical powers. He also wants to bask in the glories of his daughter’s success.

As she proceeds farther and farther along in the spelling bee quest, the family has more and more problems. Saul’s wife, Miriam (Juliette Binoche), becomes troubled for no apparent reason. Aaron turns to other religions to find peace away from his father. And even Eliza is troubled because she doesn’t know what her spelling is doing to tear up the entire family. Is Eliza going to win the competition? Is she going to reach God like Saul wants? Or is the family going to be torn apart for no reason? The journey is a difficult one to traverse, but the actors subtly bring out the intricacies along the way. Flora Cross is phenomenal in portraying the little girl prodigy. Her vulnerability and her ability to seem like an insecure child make her the perfect person to play this part. Despite her youth, she seems mature and understanding of her family’s conditions, and that makes her a truly special actress. Richard Gere’s performance is confusing in the same way that the movie is confusing.

On the surface, he looks like a great father. He cares about his wife, his son and his daughter. He takes their wishes to his heart and tries to integrate them into his own. On the other hand, he does impose his will on all of them, and in fact tries to push them too hard. This all shows up in Richard Gere’s strong acting, and to his credit, he aligned himself with the nebulous spirit of the movie. Juliette Binoche is wonderful as Saul’s wife. She seems weak and fragile and is convincing as someone whose mind can be warped by a religious fanatic. While she suffers, she must also support her daughter’s quest for the prize and that’s where Binoche’s caring allure takes over. Max Minghella is not only the son of the great Anthony Minghella, but he can also act. His portrayal of a troubled child is convincing and his pain seems so genuine. The trouble is, all that great acting can’t make up for the fact that the story is too subtle, unless you’re interested in deciphering the storyline.

O N T H E S C R E E N — B Y T H E T E C H A R T S S T A F F —

★★★★: Excellent
★★★: Good
★★: Average
★: Poor

★★★★ **Capote**
For a movie about a brutal murder, this film pursues its subject, the relationship between a writer and a killer, in an eerily peaceful mood. Like the lonely house where the murder happened, Truman Capote, a writer for “The New Yorker,” and Perry Ellis, a convicted murderer on death row, are emotionally distant, though they yearn for a connection. In what is unquestionably one of the best films of the year, we watch Capote struggle between his self-interested, manipulated goals as a writer and his honest love of a cold-blooded killer. (Beckett Sterner)

★½ **Chicken Little**
Chicken Little (Zach Braff) is a tiny chick who warns that the sky is falling down. If you expected something spectacular out of Disney without having animation guru Pixar by its side, you would be sadly mistaken. It may be entertaining for small children, but for everyone else it will simply be a film with far too much cuteness and far too few funny jokes. (Yong-yi Zhu)

★★★½ **The Constant Gardener**
Though this may appear to be a film about the drug companies taking advantage of Africans, it is in fact a story about what a man will do for a woman he loves with every ounce of his strength. If you want a smart film that’s not only well done but is also pleasing to watch, this is a must. (Yong-yi Zhu)

★½ **Derailed**
One easy message: don’t ever cheat on your wife, or your life will fall apart. Clive Owen is Charles Shine, a business executive whose affair with Lucinda (Jennifer Aniston) makes him easy fodder for a blackmailer. Unfortunately, poor acting and zero chemistry result in a movie that is slow to engage and tough to believe. (Yong-yi Zhu)

★ **Get Rich Or Die Tryin’**
This film is loosely based on the life of rapper 50 Cent. A choppy and nonsensical autobiography, the film is so directionless you’re not quite sure it’s the end of the movie because you never understood what it was moving towards. (Yong-yi Zhu)

★★★ **Good Night, and Good Luck**
In the era of McCarthyism, one reporter from CBS, Edward R. Murrow (David Strathairn), went on the air to take down Senator McCarthy and his fire-and-brimstone tactics. The gaudiness and questionable quality of current national news networks contrasts with the work done by Murrow in this film. It represents a quick break from the onslaught of violent images and biased reporting, providing a model for the highest level in TV broadcasting. (Kapil Amarnath)

★★★½ **Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire**
The beginning of Harry Potter’s fourth year is punctuated by murder and hints of a dark plot that involves his own abduction at the hands of the most evil of wizards. Soon after arriving back at Hogwarts, Harry (Daniel Radcliffe) is shocked to find himself selected as a Triwizard Champion, competing in a perilous magical tournament. Director Mike Newell chooses from J. K. Rowling’s marvelous source material and creates an enormously satisfying film that is delightful in its dangers and thrills. Easily the best film of the series to date, “Goblet of Fire” captures the essence of the novel without being burdened by the need to fulfill every written detail. (Kevin Der)

★★½ **Jarhead**
At the beginning of this film, Jake Gyllenhaal sits on the toilet, Camus’ “The Stranger” in one hand and a bottle of laxative in the other. By the end, he’s fought in the Gulf War, and he’s woken up to the world. Sam Mendes’ “Jarhead,” though entertaining, fails to capture complex changes in its main character and falls short of the high expectations thrust on it. (Kapil Amarnath)

★★★½ **Paradise Now**
A certain amount of courage is required to create any sort of portrayal of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. To depict a conflict so deeply rooted and contentious is to invite controversy, particu-

larly when the portrayal does not clearly favor one side. Through this balanced depiction of a polemical conflict, the film invites viewers to determine for themselves how to view suicide bombing, the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, and even wider questions on the meaning of dignified life. (Andrew Guerra)

★★★½ **Pride and Prejudice**
Much as a tender heart can be touched and transformed by love, so your moviegoing experience will be enchanted by the brilliance of Joe Wright’s adaptation of Jane Austen’s classic novel. Elizabeth Bennett (Keira Knightley) struggles to find love as a lower-class woman in early 19th century Britain. The adaptation is absolutely perfect for the big screen; everything about this film will dazzle you. (Yong-yi Zhu)

★★★½ **Rent**
Based on Jonathan Larson’s rock musical, this film tells the story of three couples that must struggle to overcome many obstacles — drug addiction, AIDS, homelessness, and others. Flooding its audience with messages of love and things that get in its way, “Rent” inspires laughter, tears, and personal examination of a level that few films can match. (Kenneth Roraback)

★★★ **Shopgirl**
Mirabelle (Claire Danes) is a lonely artist and sales clerk at Saks Fifth Avenue who meets Jer-

emy (Jason Schwartzman), a goofy artist, and Ray (Steve Martin), a wealthy middle-aged man. This is a drama about life and romance, and it is full of bittersweet challenges and decisions — it’s not a typical chick flick with a happy ending. (Jillian Berry)

★★★½ **The Squid and the Whale**
One part comedy, one part touching drama, and one part gross-out, this film tells the tale of how two children choose between their parents as role models after their parents’ divorce. Of course, if your father (Jeff Daniels) is hooking up with his 20-year-old student and your mother (Laura Linney) can’t stop describing the list of affairs she’s had, choosing your preferred role model can be a challenge. The Berkman produce hilarious lines and moments, and there’s something glorious about how firmly they march into the model of a dystopian family. (Beckett Sterner)

★★★ **Walk the Line**
Drawing its material from Johnny Cash’s autobiography, the film explores the musician’s struggle with drug abuse, his relationship with his eventual wife June Carter, and his music. Joaquin Phoenix portrays Cash convincingly, and even does his own singing. Though it recalls past films like “Ray,” the film is a fine portrayal of a legendary musician. (Brian Chase)

Compiled by Kevin Der

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Diverse Projects Earn Funding

GSO Projects, from Page 1

Projects address diverse issues

This year's 19 successful proposals include several that promote community building through the sharing of food, including a "Community Cooking Group", a "Taste of Mediterranean Foods" and the "[Department of Urban Studies and Planning] Alumni of Color Dinner Series."

Others are as varied as a proposal for an "MIT International Review," a journal about international affairs meant to encourage members of the MIT community to participate in discussion on

world events, to the "[Health Sciences & Technology] knitting circle," to the Fenway House "Creative Arts initiative."

Successful past projects that have been institutionalized include "Weekly Wednesdays" at the Muddy Charles, featuring free snacks and chicken wings, and "Babynet", a babysitting proposal that costs about \$1200 per year, organized by the Office for Work and Family Life. Another project that has been funded for several years now is "MIT Snowriders", which aims to get students and their families off-campus to enjoy winter sports.

On a more serious note, the graduate student mediation program REFS (Resources for Easing Friction and Stress), created by Peter T. Rye G for the Chemistry Department, has become "an established and integral part of the department," as described in a proposal by Rye to expand the program to all graduate students.

Liaisons from the GSO follow each of the projects over the course of the year; the organizers submit a summary report at the end. GSO Director of Communications Barrie Gleason emphasized that the projects are meant to be experiments, and the chance to try things is itself a success for the program. She said that one of the biggest challenges was to take "these wonderful ideas, and integrate them into the fabric of community life at the Institute."

Colbert said "some of these projects, like the [Earth, Atmospheric and Planetary Sciences] mug collection, are clearly meant to be one-time events." Other events may not be successful immediately, but need a little nurturing, while instant successes like Weekly Wednesday and Techlink have eventually turned out to be seminal to Institute life.

Colbert said that one priority was to support proposals encouraging interaction between students from different departments, thereby helping to encourage "creative interdisciplinary science, which is more important now than ever before." One example from this year's round is the "Robotics Initiative", which hopes to "pull together disparate robotics community members, from Course 2, the Media Lab, Mechanical Engineering, and EE," who would not otherwise have a chance to interact or exchange ideas.

From a social perspective, "there's a difference in people's willingness to sit in lab for 60-80 hours a week and never see anyone else," said Banzaert, "I think the tolerance for that has gone

down." She said that the big push over the past 10 years to improve undergraduate student life may have "trickled up," and that improvements could be partially "attributed to these grants."

Dean Colbert was more emphatic: "We did not *have* a graduate student community six to seven years ago. The new generation of students have a new attitude, more socially oriented." Traditionally, "graduate students were not committed to the institution [MIT], but rather to labs and departments. We want to change that."

The Graduate Student Council also promotes graduate student life and sponsors community building events. Gleason said that while the GSO works with the GSC on some activities, the GSC "also works to enhance student life in ways that our grants can't address, through fellowships and housing" for example.

Building loyalty to MIT among the graduate students by improving their integration into a community may also be sound planning for the future; as 60 to 70 percent of the student body, a percentage that may increase with federal funding, graduate students represent a largely untapped potential source of future alumni donations.

Funding for the grants comes from the graduate portion of Student Life Fee, about \$225,000 out of more than \$600,000 total. The Dean for Graduate Students then allocates \$25,000 to the GSC for activities, \$25,000 to Assisting Recurring Cultural and Diversity Events, and the remainder to a discretionary Graduate Dean's Fund, which varies from year to year (\$50,000 last year) and the GSO grants, which totaled more than \$100,000 this year.



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Chernyak Taught Concourse Program Students

Chernyak, from Page 1

Office. Despite this, Chernyak "organized and led the Moscow scientific seminar for refusenik scientists and maintained covert communications among other refuseniks and their supporters in the West," and earned a second PhD in physics from Tel Aviv University.

Chernyak came to MIT in 1990, and also taught math and physics to undergraduates in the Concourse Program, according to the News Office.

Chernyak worked with Professor Richard J. Cohen in the Harvard-MIT Division of Health Sciences and Technology, according to the MIT News Office. "Yuri provided the spice that conferred a unique flavor and character to our laboratory," Cohen told the News Office.

"At our weekly laboratory meetings, he could be counted on to challenge concepts and propose new ideas in his typical animated and good-humored fashion," Cohen said. "When a difficult mathematical or physics problem arose in the laboratory, Yuri was always the go-to person in terms of figuring out a solution because of his broad depth of knowledge in so many areas and his creative ability to solve problems."

"Yuri was the whole world" and a "very interesting, complicated, talented man," Natasha Chernyak said.

Besides his wife, Chernyak leaves behind a son, Dimitri, daughter, Julia, and granddaughter, Veronica.



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Law Schools, Military Face Off As Top Court Hears Arguments On Military Recruiters' Access

Report Finds Schools Often Neglect Science To Meet 'No Child' Act

By Linda Greenhouse
THE NEW YORK TIMES

The military wants access to law schools on the same basis as other potential employers seeking to recruit students, although openly gay law students, of course, need not apply. The law schools insist that only those employers who pledge not to discriminate, against gay men and lesbians or anyone else, are welcome.

For more than 10 years, the two sides have circled one another as Congress pulled the noose ever tighter in the form of a threatened withholding of federal money from noncompliant universities. A showdown in the Supreme Court appeared inevitable, and on Tuesday it finally took place.

The result was a lopsided argument during which the justices appeared strongly inclined to uphold a federal law known as the Solomon Amendment, which withholds federal grants from universities that do not open their doors to military recruiters "in a manner at least equal in quality and scope" to the access offered civilian recruiters.

Or as Chief Justice John G. Roberts Jr. put it succinctly: "It says that if you want our money, you have to let our recruiters on campus."

The constitutional question was one of free speech and association. The federal appeals court in Philadelphia, ruling last year in a lawsuit brought by a coalition of some three dozen law schools, barred enforcement of the Solomon Amendment on the ground that it forced the schools to "propagate, accommodate and subsidize the military's expressive message" of disapproval of homosexuality despite the law schools' commitment to equal rights for their gay students.

Since 1991, the American Association of Law Schools, which includes 166 of the 188 accredited law schools, has required its member schools to insist that prospective employers agree to a policy of nondiscrimination on grounds that include sexual orientation. As law schools began to bar military recruiters, Congress responded with a series of amendments to military spending bills. While the measures were addressed to universities, and not specifically to law schools, it was the law schools that were the source of resistance.

At first, Congress provided only that Defense Department grants would be withheld. Eventually, it added a long list of federal agencies and made clear that a denial of access by any part of a university would jeopardize federal grants to the entire university. At this point, with the stakes so high, law schools began to give in, many complying grudgingly by relegating military recruiters to off-campus locations. Congress responded last year by adding the provision that requires not only access, but equal access.

In the argument on Tuesday, the law school coalition's lawyer, E. Joshua Rosenkranz, had difficulty gaining traction as he urged the justices to uphold the appeals court's judgment that the Solomon Amendment amounted to "compelled speech" by forcing the law schools to convey the military's message. Chief Justice Roberts made his disagreement unmistakable.

"I'm sorry, but on 'compelled speech,' nobody thinks that this law school is speaking through those employers who come onto its campus for recruitment," the chief justice said. "Nobody thinks the law school believes everything that the employers are doing or saying."

The lawyer adjusted his focus. The law schools have their own message, "that they believe it is immoral to abet discrimination," he said.

This time, Justice Sandra Day O'Connor took issue. "But they can say that to every student who enters the room," she said.

"And when they do it, your honor,

the answer of the students is, we don't believe you," Mr. Rosenkranz said.

"The reason they don't believe you is because you're willing to take the money," Chief Justice Roberts interjected. "What you're saying is this is a message we believe in strongly, but we don't believe in it to the detriment of \$100 million."

Earlier, Solicitor General Paul D. Clement had assured the justices that the Solomon Amendment permitted law schools to be clear, even outspoken, in their disagreement with the military's policy.

Asked by Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg what a law school "could do concretely while the recruiter is in the room," Mr. Clement replied that as long as the school granted equal access, "They could put signs on the bulletin board next to the door. They could engage in speech. They could help organize student protests."

Justice Anthony M. Kennedy indicated that he thought Mr. Clement was conceding too much. "You mean they could organize a student protest at the hiring interview room, so that everybody jeers when the applicant comes in the door?" he asked, adding, "I'm surprised."

Justice Antonin Scalia asked, smiling, "You're not going to be an Army recruiter, are you?"

"I won't be one of them," the solicitor general replied, "but I think the Army recruiters are not worried about being confronted with speech" as long as they had the same access as other recruiters.

At the beginning of the government's argument in the case, Rumsfeld v. Forum for Academic and Institutional Rights, No. 04-1152, several justices challenged Mr. Clement's assertion that the military was simply seeking equal access. These justices, reflecting an argument in a brief filed by a group of Harvard Law School professors, noted that requiring all recruiters, including the military, to accept a nondiscrimination policy would, in fact, amount to equal treatment and so would satisfy the Solomon Amendment.

"You're receiving what other employers in the same situation would

receive," Justice Scalia told Mr. Clement. Interpreting the statute in that way would "avoid a difficult constitutional question," Justice Stephen G. Breyer said.

Mr. Clement replied, "I don't think there's a difficult constitutional question to be avoided here." He urged the justices to avoid the conclusion "that the statute effectively accomplishes nothing."

With both sides clothing their arguments in the language of non-discrimination, it became clear that the nondiscrimination principle cuts in more than one direction. Justice Breyer suggested to Mr. Rosenkranz that a victory for the law schools might also provide a constitutional basis for others to object to abiding by other federal antidiscrimination laws.

"They also have the same right, Bob Jones University, because they disapprove of social mixing of the races?" Justice Breyer asked, referring to the Greenville, S.C., university that lost its tax-exempt status because of its racial policies in a Supreme Court case 25 years ago.

Mr. Rosenkranz tried to argue that the government could demonstrate a compelling need to eradicate racial discrimination.

But the military has needs of "immense national importance" also, Justice Scalia said.

In the end, it appeared that the law schools' ability to distance themselves from the military, even while yielding to the demand for access, was sufficient in the justices' minds to save the Solomon Amendment.

"It seems to me quite a simple matter for the law schools to have a disclaimer on all of their e-mails and advertisements that say the law school does not approve, and in fact, disapproves of the policies of some of the employers who you will meet," Justice Kennedy told Mr. Rosenkranz. "That's the end of it," he said.

And Justice Breyer asked "why you don't have here what I'd say is normal in the First Amendment area, that the remedy for speech you don't like is not less speech, it is more speech."

By Michael Janofsky
THE NEW YORK TIMES

Nearly half the states are doing a poor job of setting high academic standards for science in public schools, according to a new report that examined science in anticipation of 2007, when states will be required to administer tests in the subject under President Bush's signature education law.

The report, released Wednesday by the Thomas B. Fordham Institute, suggests that the focus on reading and math as required subjects for testing under the federal law, No Child Left Behind, has turned attention away from science, contributing to a failure of American children to stay competitive in science with their counterparts abroad.

The report also appears to support concerns raised by a growing number of university officials and corporate executives, who say that the failure to produce students well-prepared in science is undermining the country's production of scientists and engineers and putting the nation's economic future in jeopardy.

Dozens of academic, corporate and Congressional leaders emerged from a meeting on competitiveness here on Tuesday to warn that the nation needs to expand its talent pool in science to stay ahead of countries like China and India that put vast resources into science education.

"Many states are not yet serious about teaching science," said Michael Petrilli, vice president for national programs and policy of the institute, a group that supports education reform. "The first step is to set higher expectations, and too many states have low or a lack of expectations to respond to the new global competitiveness."

Education Secretary Margaret Spellings, a strong proponent of more testing to measure how effectively schools are teaching, said she was not surprised by the findings.

"I'm a what-gets-measured-gets-done kind of gal," she said in an interview. She cited the reluctance of many districts to teach algebra before high school as an illustration of the nation's problem with science and math, adding, "If children are not taking it until the ninth grade or ever, we are in a world of hurt."

The report set out to identify how states set academic standards for science, asking whether their courses include suitably challenging content, whether they are properly organized and whether they incorporate "pseudo-scientific fads or politics," a reference to the recent drive to teach intelligent design as an alternative explanation to evolution.

The results, a grade ranking for each state and the District of Columbia, serve as a marker for progress as the next phase of the No Child Left Behind law approaches.

Starting with the 2007-2008 academic year, science will become a subject that students will be tested on at least once in grades 3-5, once in grades 6-9 and once in grades 10-12 — although the results will not be used to measure whether a school has made "adequate yearly progress," as is the case with reading and math. Schools that fail to make progress are subject to sanctions.

Ms. Spellings said she favors using testing for additional subjects, like science, to assess progress. The authors of the report analyzed each state and awarded a numerical score that translated to a grade. Only seven states, including New York and California, got an A, with 12 receiving a B, and 8 plus the District of Columbia receiving a C. Seven states got a D, and 15 got an F. Iowa was not included in the report because it does not set standards for any subject.

In a separate assessment of how states are currently teaching evolution, the authors awarded 22 states a D or F, with Kansas winning a special distinction, F minus, for its recent decision to redefine science so that it would not be explicitly limited to natural explanations, and allow for the teaching of alternative theories, an opening to consideration of intelligent design.

The report cited mounting "religious and political pressures" over the last five years as undermining the teaching of evolution. But Paul R. Gross, its chief author, said in an interview that a willingness by schools in Kansas and elsewhere to consider alternative theories to evolution was only a small part of a "larger cultural problem."

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Presidents: Action Still Needed To End Academia's Gender Bias

Presidents, from Page 1

The other signatories are Lawrence H. Summers '75 of Harvard, David Baltimore of California Institute of Technology, Shirley M. Tilghman of Princeton University, John Hennessy of Stanford University, Robert Birgeneau of University of California, Berkeley, Mary Sue

Coleman of the University of Michigan, Amy Gutmann of University of Pennsylvania, and Richard C. Levin of Yale University.

Summers came under fire early this year for remarks that innate differences might be a reason fewer women than men enter careers in science and engineering.

Birgeneau was dean of the School of Science at MIT when the Committee on Women Faculty released its 1999 report admitting inequalities between male and female faculty in the School of Science. The committee was created by Birgeneau in 1995 in response to a letter by 15 of 16 tenured female faculty in the school.

Similar reports indicating that female faculty were marginalized in MIT's other schools were released by the Committee on Women Faculty in 2002, three years after the School of Science report.

The leaders, called the Nine Presidents, first met in 2001 in response to the 1999 MIT report that found gender inequity at all levels of faculty.

In their joint statement, the presidents, who met this summer

to discuss best practices and specific actions to help faculty with family responsibilities, write that "While considerable progress has been made since 2001, we acknowledge that there are still significant steps to be taken toward making academic careers compatible with family care-giving responsibilities."

Four years since first meeting, the Nine Presidents recommend further action to make family and careers in academia compatible.

Ruling Authorizes Gov't Usage of Benefits to Pay For Student Loan Debts

By Linda Greenhouse
THE NEW YORK TIMES

The Supreme Court ruled unanimously Wednesday that the government may withhold Social Security benefits in order to collect old student loan debts.

The decision gives the government an enhanced tool for collecting billions of dollars in student loans by making it clear that a 10-year time limit on the government's ability to collect debts through a process known as administrative offset does not apply to student loan debts.

The case had been brought by a man in Washington State who owed more than \$87,000 in 15-year-old student loans when the government

Justice O'Connor said it was clear that the 1991 law eliminated the 10-year time limit for collecting student loan obligations. The fact that the Social Security offset was not yet authorized at that time made no difference for the law's future applicability, she said, adding a quotation from an earlier Supreme Court opinion: "The fact that Congress may not have foreseen all of the consequences of a statutory enactment is not a sufficient reason for refusing to give effect to its plain meaning."

According to the government's Supreme Court brief, the student loans now in default amount to \$33 billion, \$5.7 billion of which have been outstanding for longer than 10

years. "Social Security offsets to collect loans over 10 years old constitute an integral part" of the government's collection efforts, the brief said.

The government also collects unpaid loans by withholding tax refunds

The Supreme Court ruled Wednesday that the government can withhold Social Security to pay for student loans even after the 10-year time limit for collection has expired.

and taking other government benefits. A brief filed on Mr. Lockhart's behalf by groups including the National Consumer Law Center and AARP said that while Social Security offsets account for a small portion of the money the government collects, "they are huge for the most vulnerable Social Security recipients."

The question for the court on Wednesday was how far back the 1996 law reached, and the answer depended on unraveling four related federal statutes, each dealing with a piece of the puzzle.

The first was the Social Security Act itself. The second was a 1982 law that established the administrative offset procedure, while generally prohibiting its use for debts that were more than 10 years old. The third was a law passed in 1991, the Higher Education Technical Amendments Act, which made statutes of limitation inapplicable to student loan debts.

At that time, Social Security payments were still off limits for use in collecting student loan debts. The 1996 law, the Debt Collection Improvement Act, extended the administrative offset program to student loans, without mentioning the 10-year time limit or its partial abolition by the 1991 law. The plaintiff in this case, James Lockhart, argued that the limit was therefore still in effect.

Justice Sandra Day O'Connor's opinion on Wednesday explained why the court agreed with the federal government that the limit did not apply. The decision in Lockhart v. United States, No. 04-881, upheld a ruling last year by the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit, in San Francisco.

The court on Wednesday also issued the first opinion written by Chief Justice John G. Roberts Jr. He wrote the opinion for a unanimous court in a case argued less than a month ago, Martin v. Franklin Capital Corporation, No. 04-1140.

Not destined for any list of the term's most important cases, it raised the question of the circumstances under which a judge could order one side to pay the other's lawyer fees in civil cases that prove to have been improperly transferred from state court to federal court. The answer depended on the "reasonableness" of the transfer, the opinion concluded; if the side that made the transfer lacked an "objectively reasonable basis" for doing so, it could be required to compensate the other side for its trouble.

While this is the sort of case that a busy justice would routinely turn over to a law clerk, Chief Justice Roberts included a few touches that were, most likely, completely his own. One was a citation to a 1982 law review article by Henry J. Friendly, the appeals court judge for whom he clerked. Another was a citation to an opinion from 1807 by Chief Justice John Marshall, which the new chief justice, tongue perhaps slightly in cheek, referred to as "good authority."

Solution to Crossword
from page 5

C	A	M	P	S		D	O	O	M		E	R	S	T
A	B	O	R	T		I	R	M	A		A	I	L	
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D	E	F	I	E	D					C	A	N	O	P
H	A	G		S	E	L	F	S	A	M	E			
A	T	O	M		F	U	L	L		C	I	R	C	L
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Police Log

The following incidents were reported to the Cambridge and/or MIT Police between Dec. 1 and Dec. 7. This summary does not include incidents such as suspicious activity, false alarms, general service calls, or medical shuttles.

Dec. 1: Bldg. 36 (50 Vassar St.), attempted breaking and entering.

Dec. 4: New House (471 Memorial Dr.), 4 a.m., Anthony V. Camilleri, Jr., of 25 White Rd., Tolland, CT, arrested and charged with breaking and entering at night with intent to commit a felony (a burglary).

Dec. 5: E32 (28 Carlton St.), attempted breaking and entering into an office.

Dec. 7: NE49 (600 Tech Square), larceny of speakers.

Compiled by Marjan Rafat with assistance from other members of the MIT Crime Club.

Wheatleys To Leave Hectic MIT Life

Wheatleys, from Page 1

something difficult to do at MIT because of the “very intense and very involved” Institute life where “people get into the intensity and promote it.” Every once in a while, you need to step away, he said. “I’m very glad to have been here for nine years, but there comes a point when I say, ‘That’s it.’”

He contrasts the MIT lifestyle to the slow pace of Burma, one of his long-time interests. “Time sweeps through [MIT] because we’re so active, so busy all the time,” he said. Wheatley said he wants to “see it all slow down” to “focus on the big things in life — those that count.”

Although the Wheatleys have a general sketch of the next three years in mind, few details are set. They plan to make New Orleans their new home base, since Nolan-Wheatley has family there. The couple would like to spend their first year in Southeast Asia so that Wheatley can study Chinese, Burmese, and other regional languages. He said he hopes to receive a grant to stay there for another year, and then find a job.

Wheatley described the risk of the move as like “jumping into the ocean.” But the couple is always looking for an adventure, although “staying at EC is also an adventure,” Wheatley said.

As housemasters of East Campus, the Wheatleys had “wonderful style and lots of energy,” Benedict said. They worked with the students to build community and have even helped change the way others perceive the dormitory. East Campus used to have many vacancies, but now has a waitlist, Benedict said.

The job of housemaster is to “personalize the experience in the dormitory,” said Nolan-Wheatley, although she said that East Campus students complete that task well. “Even after five years, EC is still a mystery to us,” she said.

“There is a wonderfully zany exuberance here,” Nolan-Wheatley said. As housemasters, they could never control the dormitory but only try to understand life there and “guide it a little,” she said.

Candidates for the next EC housemasters will meet with East Campus residents in February. Students will give their input to the search committee, which will recommend two or three people to Benedict. Benedict will discuss the finalists with Susan Hockfield, who will make the final decision in March, he said.

Lowell, who is one of the East Campus residents on the search committee, said she is looking for a housemaster who “respects [East Campus culture], respects us as intelligent people....”

Communication between housemasters and house residents is key, Wheatley said. Housemasters must discover the important issues through the students and house government, he said.

“The next housemasters will be lucky,” Nolan-Wheatley said. “This is a very special place.”



SHELLEY GU—THE TECH

The MIT Wind Ensemble paid tribute to the life of composer Gunther Schuller in a two-hour long concert featuring many of his pieces. Members of the MIT Jazz Festival were also showcased in Schuller’s arrangement of Blue Moon.



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The CCRR Grants Program funds events and activities that bring together racial, ethnic, and cultural groups to provide forums for addressing problems and concerns associated with race relations, to celebrate different cultures, and to increase awareness of the diversity that is MIT.

web.mit.edu/ccrr

Next Grant Application Deadline
1 February 2006

committee on campus race relations

CCRR

The MIT Muses

Winter Concert

Featuring
Simple Harmonic Motion
from WPI

Free a cappella!
Saturday, Dec 10 at 8:30 in 10-250

UA

Solution to Sudoku
from page 6

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

The Wiesner Student Gallery is now accepting submissions for our February Curated Show:

Amorous Intent: Looking for Love at MIT

We are looking for the cynical, the sweet, the humorous, the melancholy, the fuzzy, the bitter, and any other interpretation on the theme of love at MIT.

To apply visit
<http://web.mit.edu/saa/wiesner/>
or email studentcurator@mit.edu.

Deadline January 13th, 2006

Reservation System's Trial Run Left Many With Lengthy Waits

CAC Reservations, from Page 1

formation via their own computers. The information requested on the form is the same as last year's, as is the first-come, first-served policy; however, CAC Director Phillip J. Walsh said that "the menu the program provides allows you to fit events in better." To ensure that the system is secure, Walsh said that CAC has partnered with Information Systems and Technology. As in past years, student reservation signatories for each official student group went to the CAC office (W20-500) on Nov. 28 and waited their turn in line to use the new virtual reservation system. CAC personnel were on hand from the time when the books opened at 8 a.m. to help the new process run as smoothly as possible. Students used virtual accounts to enter requests, a process that the CAC expected to take around five minutes per group. Instead, some groups took up to 25 minutes to input the data, said Jennifer B. Smith, CAC Manager of Event Planning. Smith said this increased time was likely because both students and CAC personnel needed more time to adjust to the new system. Walsh started handing out traditional information forms to waiting students around 10:15 a.m., when it became clear that progress was too slow. The CAC personnel, who have access to all virtual student accounts,

collected these forms and entered the data into the virtual system themselves. Smith said that although the actual scheduling process was more time consuming, the results of the room reservations, done by newer, better computer software, were known within a week's time, as opposed to a month in previous years. The CAC is attempting to correct the problems with slowness this year by enlisting help from the CAC advisory board, which is made up of representatives from student groups. After this year's trial run, both Walsh and Smith expressed hopes that they would be able to use the advisory board's input to improve next year's opening of the books. Walsh said the only thing he would have done differently would be to have handed out traditional scheduling forms earlier to waiting students. "However, when testing the usability of such a new system, you need to give it some time to operate on its own," Walsh said. Walsh said that he expects that since the CAC now has the technology, it will not be long before they are able to turn the virtual scheduling system into a web-based program that students could sign up for using personal computers or laptops. "We are trying to make the point that scheduling is something that shouldn't require you to come up to the CAC office every time you need to plan an event," Smith said.

MIT BrainTrust Presents

Leonardo da Vinci and the Search for the Soul

Followed By a talk on
Progress in the Surgical Treatment of Gliomas

By Rolando Del Maestro
Director of Brain Tumour Research Centre at Montreal Neurological Institute and Hospital
Professor in Dept. of Neurology and Neurosurgery, Dept. of Oncology,
and William Feindel Chair of Neuro-Oncology at McGill University

Friday, December 9th, 2005
5:30-7:00 pm
54-100
Refreshments Will Be Served

Sponsored by MIT BrainTrust, UA FinBoard, Council for the Arts, MIT Fund



RICKY RAMIREZ—THE TECH

The Infinite Corridor is transformed overnight into "Interstate Infinite," a superhighway complete with dividing lines, overhead signs, speed limits, and rest stops. Interstate Infinite was a public art project for 4.302.

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Women’s Epee Wins But the Team Splits

Fencing, from Page 20

In total, the men’s team record was 3-1, with the only loss a 13-14 heart-breaker against Yale. The men’s team begins the holiday break at 7-1 for the season.

Women’s epee still unstoppable

The top performing women’s squad at Brown was also the best at Brandeis: women’s epee. Mika A. Tomczak ’06 led the team as well as the squad, losing only one bout to earn a 9-1 record. With Joanna W. Tong ’08 (8-3), women’s captain and epee squad leader Lele Yu ’06 (8-4), and Lauren W. Leung ’07 (1-2), the epee record was 26-10.

Like the men’s foilists, the women’s epeeists beat every other squad

they faced. The epee wins against Yale (7-2) and St. John’s (5-4) were bright spots against the women’s team’s losses to those schools.

Shauna Jin ’06 achieved the strongest record for women’s sabre, winning 8 and losing 4. Although the women’s sabre squad lost to Yale, they were excited to have had the experience of fencing Yale’s Sada Jacobson, U.S. 2004 Olympic bronze medalist.

Nancy Hua ’07 was first in the women’s foil squad with a 7-5 record, snatching the squad’s only victory against Yale.

The MIT women’s 2-2 finish Sunday puts the team at 7-2 thus far.

Stay tuned for the MIT fencing teams’ next match on Jan. 28, against Brown, Brandeis, and Boston College.

Ballroom Team Shines In Newcomer Contests

Ballroom Dance, from Page 20

opener, Brown showcased dancers of all levels from newcomer to open. MIT performed strongly, with three or four couples making it to the finals in several events.

Two couples, Ran Yi and Olga Rostapshova and Grigore D. Pintilie G and Yuqiao Huang ’09, each won four dances to ensure an MIT victory in every newcomer event. Each newcomer event had at least two MIT couples among the top three, and in six of the eight events, at least three MIT couples made the final.

It was almost an all-MIT final, with MIT placing first through fifth places (out of a six-couple final) in Newcomer American Waltz. MIT rookie teams bested 24 rivals at the Christina Cryan Newcomer Team Match, winning first and second place.

Upper-level events also saw their

share of MIT-crowded finals. Vladimir Dizhoor and Kateryna Kukuruza ’08, David Xie and Amy Y. Tang ’06, and Joe Pompei PhD ’02 and Esther Ryvkina ’02 won three of the top four placements in Silver Latin International Jive and Chacha/Rumba. The latter final had a fourth MIT couple, Adel Ahanin G and Christina Willis, in sixth place.

In Silver International Tango, Shlomo H. Meislin G and Olga S. Shevnyuk ’08, Eng Sew Aw G and Yan Zhao, and Ron M. Hoffmann and Eileen Depakakibo placed second, fourth, and fifth, respectively. Two couples represented MIT in both Standard and Latin at the open level finals, the apex of dancing ability at the competition. Other finals with MIT representation included Bronze and Gold International Chacha/Rumba and Silver International Waltz/Quickstep.

Cowboys, Vikings to Win Narrowly This Weekend

NFL, from Page 20

ing to pick it up for this division game and squeak by the Patriots.

Rams at Vikings: Rams’ QB Ryan Fitzpatrick may be from Harvard, but he won’t be smart enough to figure out how to beat Brad Johnson and Michael Bennett. The Vikings should win by a field goal.

Buccaneers at Panthers: Tampa Bay couldn’t sustain drives against the Saints last week, and they won’t be able to against the Panthers either. RBs Steve Smith and DeShaun Foster should take over this week in a big win for Carolina.

Lions at Packers: These two teams really have no rushing attack. The Lions and the Packers may not even combine to rush for 100 yards. But the difference between these two teams is that one has a real quarterback while the other has Jeff Garcia. The Packers should win by a field goal.

Chiefs at Cowboys: The Chiefs can run the heck out of the ball. They can even get by the Broncos’ terrific rush defense. Unfortunately, they are only 3-3 away from Arrowhead. This should be a terrific game, but in the end, Dallas will win by a field goal.

Redskins at Cardinals: Both teams were hot last week. But the Redskins split their offense between the running game and the passing game, while the Cardinals are one-dimensional behind QB Kurt Warner. Washington has a better defense, which will result in a close win by the Redskins.

49ers at Seahawks: Seattle’s offensive line looks good right now, and their defense wasn’t too shabby against the Eagles on Monday. The Seahawks winning by another six

touchdowns this week is not totally out of the question.

Ravens at Broncos: The Broncos are still steaming from the loss last week. QB Jake Plummer is suddenly human. They will completely beat up on the Ravens and win by two touchdowns.

Giants at Eagles: The Giants are going to run all over the Eagles, just like the Seahawks did last week. Philadelphia has no quarterback, no real wide receivers, and now they’ve lost their running back. The Giants should win by at least two touchdowns.

Browns at Bengals: Browns QB Charlie Frye may have looked good in the first half last week, but he’s going to need more than a miracle to pull something out against this Bengals team, especially without WR Braylon Edwards. Bengals will win by two touchdowns.

Saints at Falcons: Saints QB Aaron Brooks threw four interceptions against the Bucs last week. He’s not going to stop just because he is now playing against the Falcons. The Saints will continue to suffer.

Raiders at Jets: The Jets were absolutely pathetic against the Patriots last week. Playing the Raiders won’t help. RB Lamont Jordan will step up and have a big game to help the Raiders win by more than a field goal.

Dolphins at Chargers: The Chargers are too hot. They might even beat the Colts the next week. The Chargers should win by at least two touchdowns.

Texans at Titans: The Texans are trying their hardest to win, but not at football. They are trying to win the right to draft Reggie Bush in next year’s draft. They’re going to lose to the Titans by two touchdowns this week.

Presenting

“Worthy To Be Praised”

THE MIT GOSPEL CHOIR CONCERT

With special guests:

Brandeis University Gospel Choir

WHEN: SUNDAY December 11th

WHERE:

10-250

Building 10 Room 250

77 Massachusetts Avenue

Right In The Middle Of The Infinite Corridor

Donations will be accepted

TIME: 6:00PM



Sponsored by UA Finboard

Read

The Grand Unified Theory of Physics

by

Joseph M. Brown

Discover the mechanism of the nuclear decay force

- The electron consists of a neutrino (whose energy divided by c^2 is the electron mass) which has three path components:
 - Inertial path - spiral path with radius (10^{-19} m) to balance centrifugal and thrust forces.
 - Electrostatic path - spiral path upon which the smaller inertial spiral is superposed. This produces the electrostatic field (10^{-16} m radius).
 - Angular momentum path - circular path upon which the electrostatic spiral and the inertial spiral are superposed to produce the electron angular momentum (10^{-13} m radius).
- Neutron is proton combined with electron which has a collapsed angular momentum path.
- Nuclear decay occurs when the proton neutrino flow output at velocity v_r is aligned precisely to force electron neutrino to the Bohr radius.
- The strength ratio of the weak to strong interaction is the square of the nucleon radius divided by the Bohr radius $(10^{-16} / 10^{-10})^2 = 10^{-12}$.

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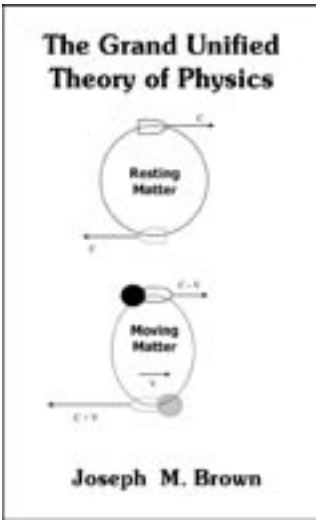
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SPORTS

Men's Fencing Team Narrowly Defeats Top-Ranked St. John's

By Suki Dorfman
ASSISTANT COACH

For the second time in four years, the MIT men's fencing team took down St. John's University this Sunday at Brandeis, 14-13. Always ranked in the top five programs nationally, and last year third in the NCAA, the St. John's team is packed with internationally recruited athletes. The Engineers and the Red Storm were tied at 13-13 when freshman foilist Benjamin T. Switala '09 began the final bout. Under the pressure from

every member of both teams watching his bout, Switala scored a resounding 5-1 victory to win the match for MIT, 14-13. Switala's bout also concluded a 9-0 men's foil sweep of the St. John's squad, with MIT squad leader Jason Chen '07 and Spencer R. Sugimoto '08 both undefeated as well. In addition to spearheading the historic win against St. John's, men's foil was the top performing squad for MIT on Sunday. Chen, Sugimoto, and Switala won against all four foil squads they fenced and suffered only eight bouts lost all day. Sugimoto led the men's team in total victories Sunday with an 11-1 record. Chen trailed

barely behind at 10-2. Men's sabre and epee were both challenged on Sunday, winning against Vassar and Boston College and losing to the Yale and St. John's squads. Captain and sabre squad leader William T. Walsh '06, epee squad leader Michael N. Beregovsky '06 and epeeist Trevor T. Chang '07 all finished the day with 7-5 records. The sabre squad of Walsh, Brian J. Quattrochi '06, and Igor Kopylov '09 barely won more bouts than they lost as a result of the tough competition from Yale and St. John's.

Fencing, Page 19



The women's fencing captain, Lele Yu '06, wins a bout against St. John's University at Brandeis. MIT won 14-13 in a match held last Sunday.

Colts Will Beat Hurt Jaguars, Remain Unbeaten

By Yong-yi Zhu
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Here's the rundown for NFL games next week:

Game of the Week:
Colts at Jaguars

Everyone pegged this game as the one that would finally add one to the Colts' loss column. But the Jaguars have some major offensive issues. They cannot punch it into the end zone when within the 20. They cannot pass effectively because they are missing QB Byron Leftwich. And they may not have RB Fred Taylor to dance around in the back field. The bettors have the Colts winning by a touchdown. I don't think the game will be even that close.

Upset Special: Bears at Steelers



The Steelers are suffering. They couldn't keep up with the Bengals in a shootout last week, and they won't be able to keep up with the Bears in a defensive slugfest this week. The Bears have an excellent defense against both the pass and the run. I think the Bears will pull this out and severely damage the Steelers' playoff chances.

The Rundown:

Patriots at Bills: The Buffalo defense did not look great against the Dolphins in those last couple of minutes, but they did limit the Dolphin rushing all game long. They are go-

UPCOMING HOME EVENTS		
Friday, Dec. 9, 2005	Varsity Women's Ice Hockey vs. Plymouth State University Club Team	
		7 p.m., Johnson Ice Rink
Saturday, Dec. 10, 2005	Varsity Women's Ice Hockey vs. Harvard University JV Team	
		3 p.m., Johnson Ice Rink
Sunday, Dec. 11, 2005	Varsity Pistol Junior Olympics	
		9 a.m., MIT Pistol Range

Men's Ice Hockey Ties Holy Cross 5-5



The MIT men's ice hockey team tied Holy Cross 5-5 on Wednesday night at Johnson Ice Arena. The Engineers are now 3-2-3, though they have been winless in their last five games.

(Above) Nicholas J. Maietta '07 (#16) tries to control the puck under pressure from Holy Cross's Christopher Heimers (#25).

(Left) Thomas A. Hopkins '07 (#1) defends MIT's goal.

Photography by David M. Templeton

NFL, Page 19



RON HOFFMANN

Vladmir Dizhoor and Kateryna Kukuruza '08 dance together at a competition held at Brown University. They went on to win all Silver Latin events at the competition.

Ballroom Dance Team Excels in Competitions Held at UConn, Brown

By Shlomo Meislin
and Fil Hsu
TEAM MEMBERS

The MIT Ballroom Dance Team maintained strong showings as the collegiate competition season continued through the month of November.

Earlier in the month, several team members attended the competition hosted by the University of Connecticut. The reduced MIT contingent performed quite well, placing couples in the finals in a variety of styles and levels.

Rookies Ran Yi & Olga Rostapshova shined at the Newcomer level, placing second in swing and winning all seven other dances, besting fields of over 80 competing couples. Not to be left far behind, Andrew G. Tenny-

son G and Yi Cai '08 also made the finals in Newcomer Smooth, Standard, and Rhythm styles.

Among the veterans, Konstantin Deman and Irina Medvedev placed third in Silver International Rumba/Chacha. Despite having attended the competition as partnerless 'TBAs' and having never danced with each other prior to the event, Adel Ahanin G and Carolyn Crull made the finals in Bronze Latin, placing second in Rumba and third in Chacha. As the sole couple at their level, Brad Morrison and Margaret A. Wong '02 performed a wonderful demonstration of Open American Smooth.

November also brought the Brown Competition. Unlike the Harvard Beginner's Competition, the season

Ballroom Dance, Page 19