

## Hockfield Names Sr. Advisor To Replace Willmore

By Marissa Vogt  
NEWS EDITOR

Senior Advisor to the President Kirk D. Kolenbrander has been appointed to Vice President for Institute affairs, and nominated to replace Kathryn A. Willmore as secretary of the MIT Corporation, President Susan Hockfield announced Tuesday.

Kolenbrander said that as VP for Institute affairs he will maintain a number of his current tasks as senior advisor to the president, including managing chief of staff functions and giving policy advice.

According to *Tech Talk*, Hockfield also announced on Tuesday the creation of a VP for external relations position, which has not been filled yet. Hockfield did not respond to requests for comment.

The secretary of the Corporation is responsible for coordinating communication between the administration and MIT's trustees. Willmore stressed the importance of the secretary's role in communicating to the trustees the concerns of the students. "It's very important to have people who understand the MIT community very well," she said.

Willmore said that she was "one of many people that the President consulted" while searching for her replacement. Willmore said she was impressed with Kolenbrander's experience relating to both MIT faculty

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## Construction of New Grad Dorm Planned

By Marie Y. Thibault  
NEWS EDITOR

MIT's construction plans for the coming year, presented during the annual town gown meeting on Feb. 7, include the creation of a new graduate dormitory. The plans drew comment from Cantabrigians urging for more open green space on the MIT campus, which Chief Facilities Officer William J. Anderson Jr. assured would be considered during the construction process.

Anderson announced at the meeting of the Cambridge Planning Board that plans call for the dormitory to be located next to the Sidney-Pacific graduate dormitory, and also near other graduate student residences such as Edgerton House and Building NW30 (Warehouse). This will create "a genuine graduate student district," he said. Green space would come in the form of perhaps a quadrangle or courtyard, Anderson said.

The cost of the 400 to 500 bed dorm, to be designed by Boston-based architects William Rawn and Associates, is not yet known. Predictions for completion time are imprecise, but the earliest possible opening date is fall 2008, Anderson said. MIT will apply for building permits later this year, and completion date will become clearer within the next six

months, he said. The dormitory will displace a parking lot and the MIT recycling center. It is not yet known where the center will be moved.

Last year, then-Executive Vice President John R. Curry announced that a dormitory was in the plans, but said that an undergraduate dorm was more likely. Anderson said there is potential for an undergraduate dorm in future plans.

At the meeting, he also gave updates on MIT's other construction projects. A new research building for the Broad Institute, which is a partnership between MIT, Harvard, and the Whitehead Institute for Biomedical Research, is slated to open very soon, with personnel moving in this month, Anderson said. The building is located next to the Whitehead Institute and across the street from Building 68.

### Several projects in the works

Construction on the Physics, Department of Material Sciences and Engineering, Spectroscopy, and Infrastructure project is expected to be completed early 2007, slightly later than the original goal of Dec. 2006.

Construction adjacent to Sloan School facilities on the far east side of campus will restart, since the proj-

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## MIT Medical Begins Response to Recommendations

By Rosa Cao  
CONTRIBUTING EDITOR

Three months after the MIT Task Force on Medical Care for the MIT Community submitted its final report, an internal working group convened by the office of the Executive Vice President with representatives from the Medical Department, Office of Finance, and the Benefits and Human Resources Department is

reviewing the 42 specific recommendations listed in the report, delegating groups of issues to each of the departments and assigning timelines for their implementation.

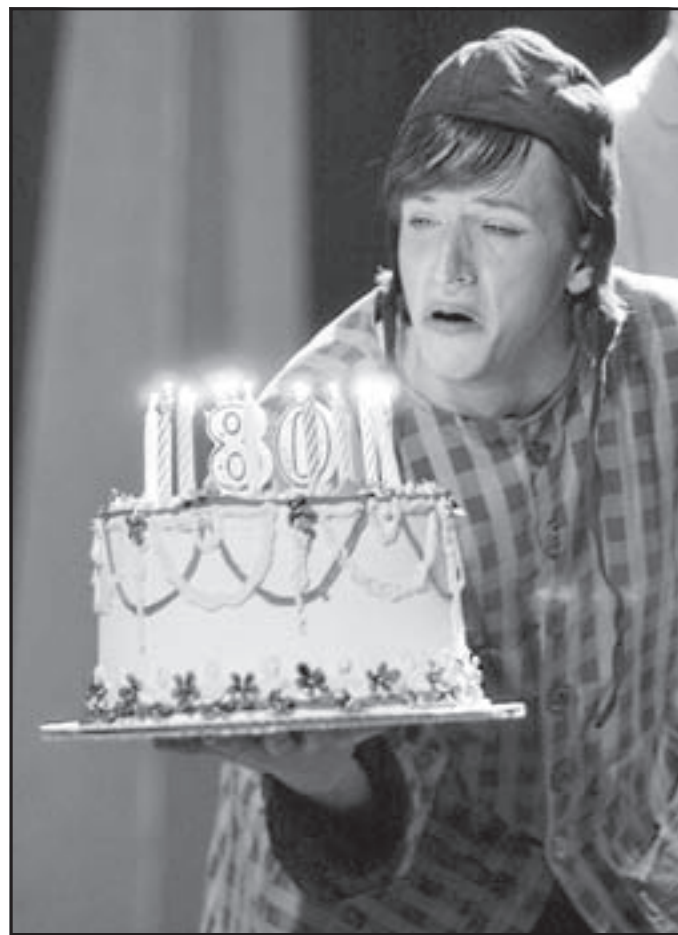
MIT Medical Head William M. Kettyle said that the new student premiums for the next academic year, due to be announced by the end of the month, are expected to stay the same, both for the MIT basic plan,

which is included in tuition, and for the Student Extended Insurance Plan, which is partially subsidized by MIT's departments for graduate students with research and teaching assistantships. Student premiums for family coverage are also expected to stay the same or fall slightly. Family premiums for the SEIP have gone down significantly in the past two years, after a drastic increase three

years ago.

Task force chair Paul Joskow wrote in an e-mail that the Task Force would be briefed on MIT's response to the report on March 7th. Kettyle wrote in the Jan/Feb issue of the faculty newsletter that the report should be "in time to have a significant impact on the generation of the

Health Care, Page 17



MARY-IRENE LANG

Jonas Kubilius '08 brings in Creon's 80th birthday cake in MIT Dramashop's "The Old Law," which will play Feb. 9-11 and 16-18 at 8 p.m. in Kresge Little Theatre. The cake is an omen that Creon will soon be executed by the state. See photos, page 12.



DAVID TEMPLETON—THE TECH

From left to right, Tiffany L. Iaconis '08, Diana F. Ye '09, Jennifer N. Resvick '09, and Akua A. Nti '06 of the MIT women's varsity crew teams manned rowing machines in front of the Student Center on Thursday, Feb. 9 for the Row for Humanity event, a Habitat for Humanity fundraiser.

## Police Respond to Party at DU

Several Boston Police vehicles were spotted outside of the Delta Upsilon house late Thursday night following DU's weekly "Drink of the Week" party. DU President Philip E. Cassel '07 declined to comment on the incident early Friday morning. Interfraternity Council President Isaac J. Tetzloff '07 and IFC Risk Manager Jonathan A. Birnbaum '08, also a member of DU, also declined to comment.

—Marissa Vogt

## Students Fined \$50 After Skylight Accident

A freshman who fell through a skylight (reported by *The Tech* Feb. 1, 2006) is recovering and attending class, said Robert M. Randolph, senior associate dean for students. The woman, along with about five other students who were with her at the time, will each be fined \$50 under the old rooftop fine policy, Randolph said.

A new unauthorized access policy has been effective since this Tuesday. Under this policy, students serve up to 10 hours of community service for the first offense and 20 hours for the second, and automatically pay a \$250 fine on the third. The policy was suggested by Undergraduate Association Vice President Jessica H. Lowell '07 last

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ARTS

Blue Man Group brings original performances to Boston.

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## In Short

¶TechCASH will now be accepted at both Au Bon Pain locations in Kendall Square according to John M. McDonald, associate director of enterprise services.

# WORLD & NATION

## Suicide Bomber Kills 23 at Shiite Procession in Pakistan

THE NEW YORK TIMES

A suicide bomber killed 23 people taking part in a Shiite religious procession in Pakistan Thursday, according to Interior Department officials.

News service accounts said that as many as four more people died in rioting that followed the explosion. There was no firm count of the number of wounded, which was described as being in the dozens.

The attack took place in the town of Hunga, about 125 miles from the capital, Islamabad, in the country's northwest.

In recent years, tensions between Sunnis and Shiites in Pakistan have increased, and there have been a number of attacks on processions marking Ashura, which marks the death of the Prophet Muhammad's grandson, Hussein Imam, who is regarded by Shiites as a saint. Sunnis make up about 80 percent of the country's population.

In Afghanistan, at least five people were said to have been killed in clashes between Sunnis and Shiites near the city of Herat, news services reported. And in Iraq, security forces were on high alert as more than a million Shiites marched in processions through cities in the country's south.

## Russian Prosecutor Urges Death Penalty for Beslan Terrorist

By Steven Lee Myers

THE NEW YORK TIMES

MOSCOW

A senior prosecutor asked a court in southern Russia on Thursday to sentence to death the only attacker known to have survived the siege of Middle School No. 1 in Beslan in September 2004, rekindling a contentious debate over capital punishment in the country.

Summing up the state's case against the attacker after an emotionally wrought trial, the deputy prosecutor general, Nikolai I. Shepel, said the gravity of the terrorist siege, which ended with the deaths of 331 hostages, warranted a penalty of death, despite a government moratorium on executions that has been in place since 1996.

His appeal came only two days after President Vladimir V. Putin reiterated his personal opposition to the death penalty but said that he would move cautiously in seeking its final abolishment in Parliament — years after Russia committed to doing so.

"The court's decision should have a sobering effect on those who want to go down the path of terrorism, so that they know their only future is an unmarked grave," Shepel said in his closing remarks, shown on television.

## U.S. Sees Increase in Border Attacks by Mexican Gangs

By Rachel L. Swarns

THE NEW YORK TIMES

WASHINGTON

Mexican criminal syndicates are stepping up their attacks on American agents patrolling the border as homeland security officials here intensify efforts to stem the flow of immigrants and drugs into the United States, American officials said Thursday.

In recent months, scores of border patrol agents have been fired upon or pelted with large rocks as well as with cloth-covered rocks that have been doused with flammable liquid and set ablaze. Since October, agents have been attacked in more than 190 cases, officials said.

Most of the attacks have occurred along the border near San Diego, but shootings have also been reported along the border in Texas near the cities of Laredo and McAllen. In the fiscal year that ended on Sept. 30, there were 778 attacks on agents, up from 374 in the previous fiscal year, homeland security officials said. One rock struck an agent in the eye; a gunshot hit an agent in the leg. The officials could not say precisely how many officers had been injured.

# Bush Gives New Information On '02 Qaeda Plot to Hit LA

By Elisabeth Bumiller and David Johnston

THE NEW YORK TIMES

WASHINGTON

President Bush offered new information on Thursday about what he said was a foiled plot by al-Qaeda in 2002 to fly a hijacked airplane into the tallest building west of the Mississippi, the U.S. Bank Tower in Los Angeles, as he sought to make the case for his record on national security.

Although the administration made public the Los Angeles plot in general terms four months ago, Bush, in a speech to the National Guard Association, disclosed more specific details, including what he said was the planned use of a "shoe bomb" by hijackers to breach the airplane's cockpit door and take over the controls.

In addition, Bush and one of his counterterrorism advisers said that four extremists were recruited from Southeast Asia to carry out the plan, that their leader received training in shoe bombs and that all four had traveled to an undisclosed place in Afghanistan after the Sept. 11 attacks to meet with Osama bin

Laden and pledge their loyalty to al-Qaeda.

Bush and White House officials gave no reason for releasing details of a plot that they first disclosed in October 2005. But Bush's speech came at a time when Republicans are intent on establishing their record on national security as the pre-eminent issue in the 2006 midterm elections, and when the president is facing questions from members of both parties about a secret eavesdropping program that he describes as pivotal to the war on terrorism.

In his speech, Bush said the plot had been "derailed in early 2002, when a Southeast Asian nation arrested a key al-Qaeda operative." He added that "subsequent debriefings and other intelligence operations made clear the intended target and how al-Qaeda hoped to execute it."

Bush and his counterterrorism adviser, Frances Fragos Townsend, made no claim on Thursday that the eavesdropping program, conducted by the National Security Agency, had helped to foil the 2002 plot. But in a conference call with reporters, Townsend did not rule out the pro-

gram as a factor in discovering the plan.

"We use all available sources and methods in the intelligence community, but we have to protect them," Townsend said. "So I'm not going to talk about what ones we did or didn't use in this particular case."

She added that the Los Angeles plot had grown out of the Sept. 11 attacks. As described in the staff report by the independent commission that investigated the Sept. 11 attacks, Khalid Shaikh Mohammed, who is said to be the mastermind behind them, had originally envisioned an elaborate plan with 10 planes that would attack the East and West Coasts simultaneously on Sept. 11, 2001. But bin Laden rejected the plan, the report said, because of its difficulty.

"It was bin Laden who decided that it should just focus on the East Coast, and the West Coast should be held in abeyance until there was a follow-on attack," Townsend told reporters. "It's our understanding now that it was too difficult to get enough operatives for both the East and West Coast plots at the same time."

# Ex-FEMA Chief Reverses Prior Stand, Agrees to be Interviewed

By Eric Lipton

THE NEW YORK TIMES

WASHINGTON

For months, Michael D. Brown, former director of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, has declined to answer questions from Congress about his conversations during Hurricane Katrina with top Bush administration officials. But in an interview on Thursday, he said that his position had changed.

Now that he is a private citizen, he said, "I feel an obligation to answer any questions they put to me."

Brown will have that chance on Friday, when he is scheduled to testify to the Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee, which is nearing the end of a five-month inquiry on the hurricane.

"The public needs to know the entire picture of what was going on," Brown said.

Brown's lawyer, in a letter sent Monday to Harriet E. Miers, the White House counsel, wrote that "unless there is specific direction otherwise by the president" that "Brown will testify, if asked, about particular communications he had" with White House officials and others in the executive branch.

As of Thursday evening, Brown and his lawyer, Andrew W. Lester, said they had received no calls or letters from the White House urging Brown to remain silent.

The testimony will make clear, Brown said, that senior administration officials, including President Bush, recognized the severity of the problem in New Orleans in the immediate aftermath of the storm. But changes in the organization of FEMA and the powers of the director of the agency after it became part of the Homeland Security De-

partment, Brown said, prevented him from effectively leading the response.

The administration has declined House and Senate investigators' requests to turn over e-mail messages and other correspondence from top White House officials involved in the hurricane response. Bush, asked last month whether Brown should testify about his White House discussions, seemed to urge him to not do so.

A White House spokesman, Trent Duffy, said he had nothing to add to that comment.

Brown, whose permanent residence is in Colorado but continues to live here, has formed a disaster-relief consultancy. He would not name clients, but said had signed up a number of companies, including firms that sell communications equipment and work on rebuilding on the Gulf Coast.

# WEATHER

## Snow Possible Sunday

By Angela Zalucha

STAFF METEOROLOGIST

And now, the moment you've all been waiting for: a true Boston blizzard! A low pressure system is currently brewing over the Gulf Coast (see it over Texas on the map?). The air over there is warm, meaning it can hold more moisture, which it picked up from the Gulf. The low pressure air will move eastward and then quickly get pulled up the much cooler Eastern Seaboard. Since cooler air can't hold as much moisture, all the moisture brought over will be released, and we will get lots of precipitation (in this case, snow).

This type of weather phenomenon is called a Nor'easter. How much snow we'll get is still up for debate. The position of the low is critical: too far northwest and dry air at the surface will reduce snowfall; too far southeast and the system will get pushed out to sea. Just right and the low will get caught up with a system dropping in from the great lakes. At this point, it is safe to say we'll at least get a moderate amount of snowfall and some gusty winds Saturday night and Sunday.

The other factor that will give us snow is, obviously, below-freezing temperatures. The jet stream (an upper-level "river" of air) acts as a boundary between warm southern and cold northern air, and usually curves through the US and Canada. Last month the jet was consistently located north, leaving much of the country in the warm region (the warm January was not, contrary to popular belief, directly because of global warming). The jet has finally dipped south, characteristic of a more typical winter pattern, and that's the cause of the recent chilly weather.

### Extended Forecast

**Today:** Mostly cloudy. High 32°F (0°C).

**Tonight:** Cloudy. Low 20°F (-7°C).

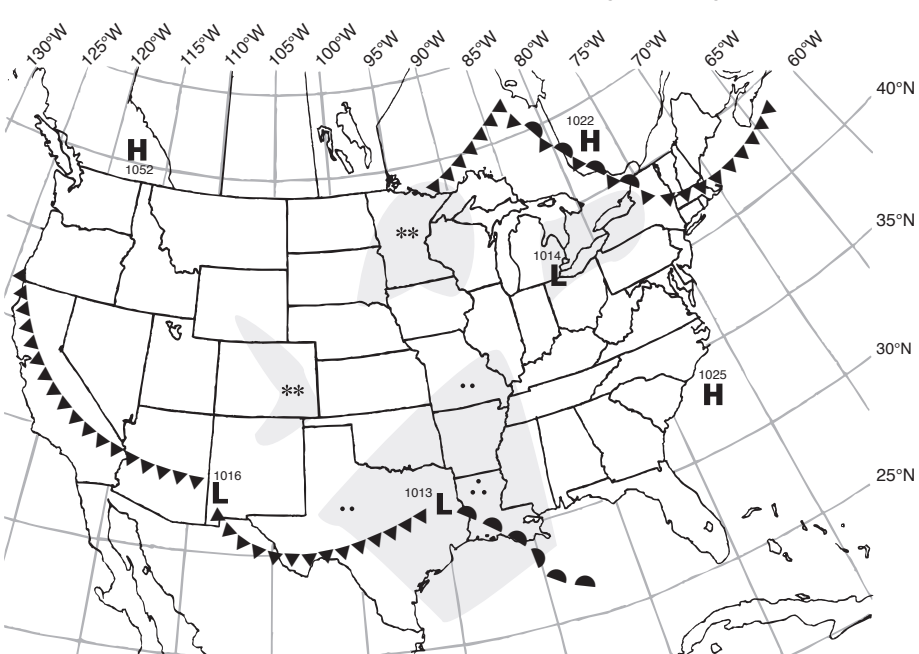
**Tomorrow:** Cloudy with snow showers possible in the afternoon. High 30°F (-1°C).

**Tomorrow night:** Snowy and blustery. Heavy snow accumulation possible. Low 20°F (-7°C).

**Sunday:** Moderate additional snow accumulation. High 27°F (-3°C).

**Sunday night:** Partly cloudy and cold. Low 10°F (-12°C).

Situation for Noon Eastern Standard Time, Friday, February 10, 2006



Weather Systems	Weather Fronts		Precipitation Symbols		Other Symbols
	High Pressure	Trough	Snow	Rain	
H	High Pressure	--- --	* (Snow)	∇ (Rain)	≡ Fog
L	Low Pressure	— — — —	∇ (Snow)	• (Rain)	⚡ Thunderstorm
§	Hurricane	▲▲▲▲ Cold Front	• (Light)	• (Moderate)	∞ Haze
		▲▲▲▲ Stationary Front	•• (Heavy)	•• (Heavy)	

Compiled by MIT Meteorology Staff and The Tech

# Former Guantanamo Prisoners Say They Saw Detainee Abuse

By **Carlotta Gall**  
THE NEW YORK TIMES

LASHKAR GAH, AFGHANISTAN

Seven Afghans have been released from American detention in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, and were freed in Kabul on Thursday, where they spoke to reporters, contending that they had witnessed abuse and desecration of the Quran.

The prisoners, ranging in age from about 30 to about 50, come from the southern and eastern provinces of Helmand, Uruzgan, Khost and Paktika. All had been detained for three or more years, following the American intervention in Afghanistan in late 2001. Dressed in white T-shirts and jeans, the prisoners looked pale but otherwise healthy.

The men said they were aware of a widespread hunger strike among prisoners but that they had not taken part. One said he had joined in a pro-

test against desecration of the Quran by prison guards.

The chief of the Afghan government commission for reconciliation, Sebaghatullah Mojadeddi, greeted the prisoners and told them they were free to return to civilian life. He contended that some had committed no crime and that others who might have been guilty of wrongdoing had been detained longer than they should have been.

The former Taliban ambassador to Pakistan, Abdul Salaam Zaeef, who was himself detained in Guantanamo for four years and released last year, also greeted the prisoners and said it should be the government's priority to secure the release of the remaining 97 Afghans in Guantanamo.

"They are mostly innocent and were not related to the Taliban and al-Qaida," Zaeef contended. "There is no court there, no law and no charges."

Reporters were allowed to question the men. Sharbat Khan, 36, from Khost, said he had been held for three and a half years. "The behavior of the Americans was not good in the beginning," he said. "They insulted the holy Quran and all of us prisoners started a demonstration and they used a kind of gas to make us calm down."

Another prisoner from Uruzgan province, Khudaidad, a laborer who uses only one name, said his American guards would withhold medicines at times, and would sometimes serve bad food as a form of punishment.

Khan Zaman, 45, from the eastern province of Khost, who said he spent four years and three months in custody, said he knew about the current hunger strike but had not taken part. He said that Afghan prisoners were not participating in the hunger strike.

# Report Says Attacks by Insurgents In Iraq Increased Since Invasion

By **James Glanz**  
THE NEW YORK TIMES

WASHINGTON

Sweeping statistics on insurgent violence in Iraq that were declassified for a Senate hearing on Wednesday appear to portray a rebellion whose ability to mount attacks has steadily grown in the nearly three years since the invasion.

The statistics were included in a report written by Joseph A. Christoff, director of international affairs and trade at the Government Accountability Office, who testified before the Senate Foreign Affairs Committee during a hearing on Iraq stabilization and reconstruction.

The U.S. military declassified the statistics so he could present them to the hearing in his report, Christoff said in an interview. The figures cover attacks on U.S. and Iraqi forces and civilians.

The curve traced out by the figures between June 2003 and December 2005 shows a number of fluctuations, including several large spikes in insurgent activity — one as recently as October of last year.

But while U.S. and Iraqi officials have often pointed to the downward edges of those fluctuations as evidence that the steam was going out of the insurgency, the numbers over all seem to tell a different story, Christoff said. "It's not going down," he said. "There are peaks and valleys, but if you look at every peak, it's higher than the peak before."

Officials have recently noted that the numbers of attacks in the final two months of last year dropped after an October peak, which occurred around both Ramadan and a referendum on Iraq's constitution.

But Christoff's chart shows that the number of attacks in December, nearly 2,500, was almost 250 percent higher than the number in March 2004.

But the trend line began even before March 2004, when the number of attacks was already nearly double what it had been in July or August 2003. Christoff's paper cites a senior U.S. military officer saying that "attack levels ebb and flow as the various insurgent groups — almost all of which are an intrinsic part of Iraq's population — re-arm and attack again."

Attacks against Iraqi security forces have grown faster than the overall count; by December 2005 they had grown more than 300 percent since March 2004. Of course, as more Iraqis are trained and put into the field, more of them are targets.

## E-Mail Notes Say Lobbyist Met President Many Times

By **Philip Shenon**  
THE NEW YORK TIMES

WASHINGTON

The disgraced lobbyist Jack Abramoff told a magazine editor in recent days that he had met with President Bush many times and was invited to the president's Texas ranch for a gathering of campaign contributors in 2003, the editor said Thursday.

The journalist, Kim Eisler, national editor of Washingtonian magazine, said in an interview that he had received the information in e-mail messages from Abramoff, a major Republican fund-raiser who pleaded guilty last month to conspiring to bribe public officials. The messages suggest an effort by Abramoff to cast doubt on Bush's insistence that he does not recall the two of them meeting and that whatever contact they might have had was fleeting and for the purposes of a handshake and a picture.

In one message, Abramoff is reported as saying that Bush had "one of the best memories of any politician I have ever met" and that he "saw me in almost a dozen settings and joked with me about a bunch of things, including details of my kids." He is reported to have added: "Perhaps he has forgotten everything. Who knows?"

An Abramoff defense spokesman, Andrew Blum, said he could not comment on the e-mail messages or confirm their authenticity.

Eisler said he had been in contact with Abramoff since interviewing him six years ago while researching a book he was writing about Indian reservation gambling; Abramoff's most lucrative lobbying clients were Indian casinos.

## Panel Advises Risk Warning On Stimulants

By **Gardiner Harris**  
THE NEW YORK TIMES

GAITHERSBURG, MD

Stimulants like Ritalin could have dangerous effects on the heart, and federal regulators should require manufacturers to provide written guides to patients and place prominent warnings on drug labels describing these risks, a federal advisory panel voted on Thursday.

The panel's recommendation promises to intensify a long-running debate about whether the medicines are overused. Nearly 4 million patients take the drugs to treat attention deficit disorder and hyperactivity, and committee members said they wanted to slow explosive growth in the drugs' use.

The committee's action was entirely unexpected. The Food and Drug Administration had convened the panel to help it determine how to research possible heart risks of the drugs. The agency had not asked it to address the drugs' labels at this time, and agency officials seemed taken aback by the votes, saying they would not act on the committee's recommendations anytime soon. "We don't think anything different needs to be done right now," Dr. Thomas Laughren, director of the FDA's division of psychiatry products, said at a hastily arranged news conference after the meeting. "We think the labeling right now is adequate."

The committee voted unanimously to recommend patient guides, and it voted 8-7 to suggest that stimulant labels carry the most serious of the FDA's drug-risk warnings -- a "black box."

"I must say that I have grave concerns about the use of these drugs and grave concerns about the harm they may cause," said Dr. Steven Nissen, a cardiologist at the Cleveland Clinic who is a member of the panel.

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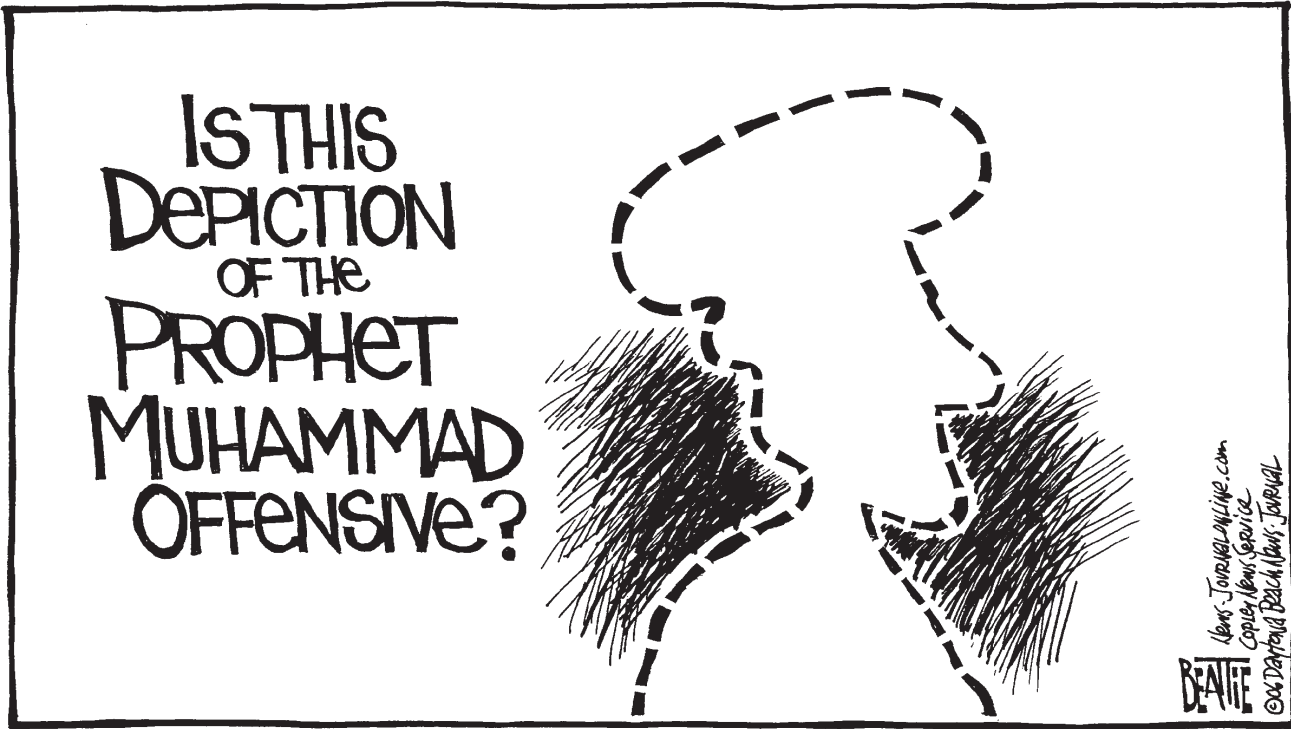
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EXIT INTERVIEW



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February 10,  
2006

# COMICS

The  
Tech

# FUN

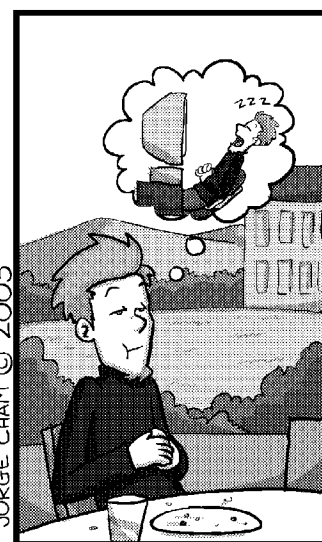
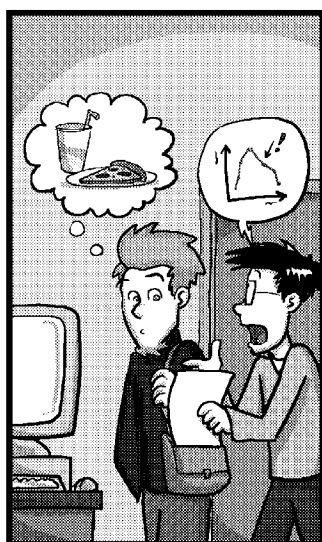
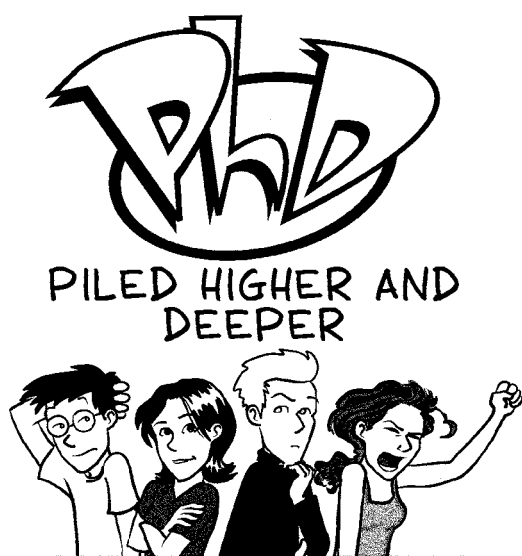
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# PAGES

## Trio

Character profiles: [ALUM.MIT.EDU/WWW/EMIE](http://ALUM.MIT.EDU/WWW/EMIE)

by Emezie Okorafor



[www.phdcomics.com](http://www.phdcomics.com)

# su | do | ku

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Instructions: Fill in the grid so that each column, row, and 3 by 3 grid contains exactly one of each of the digits 1 through 9. Solution on page 14.

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Crossword Puzzle

Solution, page 14

FoxTrot by Bill Amend

Dilbert® by Scott Adams

**FoxTrot** by Bill Amend

**Dilbert®** by Scott Adams

# Yes, you.

It isn't always clear to people at first that they're right for the D. E. Shaw group. Like the poet we hired to head an automated block trading unit. Or the woman who designs solar-powered race cars; we hired her to help launch a new venture in computational chemistry. They didn't think of themselves as "financial types," and neither did we. We thought of them as people with extraordinary talent.

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# ARTS

## MFA Brings Together 20th Century Gems

*‘Degas to Picasso’ Exhibit Features a Wide Range of Fascinating Pieces*

**By Jacqueline O'Connor**  
*ARTS EDITOR*  
*Degas to Picasso: Modern Masters*  
*Boston Museum of Fine Arts*  
*465 Huntington Avenue, Boston*  
*Torf Gallery, Trustman Galleries, Lower Rotunda*  
*On view until July 23, 2006*

The Boston Museum of Fine Arts has brought together another stunning collection, this time featuring over 280 works in three galleries of timeless twentieth century art. Ranging from paintings to photographs to sculptures, the items in the exhibit show the true uniqueness and breadth of art from the last century. The Museum describes the exhibit: “While Bostonians were known for their bold and progressive taste in the last decades of the nineteenth century, the city was slow to embrace the new art of the twentieth century. That hesitation resulted in serious gaps in the Museum’s collections — gaps that curators and collectors have sought to fill in recent decades.”

The diversity of the art in this exhibit makes it one of the finest the MFA has shown in recent years. It boasts legendary artists such as Degas, Picasso, Braque, and Dali, while showing work from a variety of smaller, yet still important artists of the period such as photographer Man Ray, and painters Joaquin Sorolla y Bastida, Andre Dorain, Alexander Calder, and Ernst Ludwig Kirchner. Unlike the art in other exhibits, which tend to fo-

cus on one style, each of these 280 pieces is drastically different from the ones around it, creating a refreshing and fun experience for the viewer. Three works in particular show the breadth of this exhibit. While there are many more, these stood out as particularly interesting pieces that deserved highlighting.

The first is Pablo Picasso’s “The Bull – Lithograph in Six States,” housed at the entrance to the exhibit in the Lower Rotunda. This work, done between 1945 and 1946, shows the creation of a drawing and the progression of the artist’s conception of the animal subject. Six lithographs in simple metal frames hang on the wall, three above three.

The observer’s attention is immediately pulled to the drawing on the bottom right, which depicts the bull in the simplest manner. Purely geometric, the bull has a small circle for a head with two large curves for horns. Although drawn in twelve lines at most, the figure perfectly depicts the animal. The second in the series starts to show the hallmark signs of its creator. The figure is now composed of smaller geometric shapes as finer features such as eyes and a mouth appear. The third image shows a significant jump from the first two. Picasso introduces different levels of shading, and though the legs and body outline remain geometrical, the

horns take a more fluid and realistic turn. Next comes the image on the top right. Two of the formerly line-drawn legs have become more realistic and though more shading is present, the form of the animal stays the same. Finally, image five has a new depiction of the animal’s form, as if Picasso changed his opinion of the shape of a bull. Though the geometrical lines are still visible through the shading, the entire bull has more mass and presence. The final image is the fully three-dimensional drawing of a rather large bull. The geometrical elements that went into the creation of this piece are barely visible, and the bull appears tired and worn. This series was truly fascinating and provided an interesting baseline with which to observe the rest of the exhibit.

Beyond the Lower Rotunda, the Torf Gallery hosts an example of classic impressionism. “Lighthouse Walk at Biarritz” by Joaquin Sorolla y Bastida is a 1906 painting that shows the perfect grace and fluidity artists of the time period mastered. In this magnificent seascape, a girl wearing a bright-red jacket is accompanied by four elegant women in white dresses. The small party walks along a grassy bluff above a lighted blue and purple ocean. Despite the beauty of the scenery, only the young girl gazes out over the ocean, while the four ladies engage in discussion or stare out

of the painting. The sun is low as the shadows stretch out of the painting, and the tide seems to flow back out to sea. The stark contrast between the almost Cubist works in the opening of the show and this classical impressionist painting keeps the viewer on his toes.

The exhibit ranges from the fascinating, to the gorgeous, to the just plain weird. Alexander Calder’s pair of drawings “The Lion Cage” (1930-1939) and “Woman on Flying Trapeze” (1931) looks like part of a third grade art project. Using pen and yellow and pink crayons, Calder invokes the fun and oddity of the circus. “The Lion Cage” depicts four lions basking in the boredom of their cage (Calder goes as far as to picture one of the lions in the ‘play dead’ position), and only one lion sits alert, looking out of the picture at the viewer. The tamer stands to the left as a boy and his father watch the now docile creatures. The other drawing shows a man holding a rope and observing a nude woman hanging by her knees from a trapeze, her arms and hair flying wildly as she swings. The artist does not respect the sanctity of opaqueness in either of these images; the edge of the circus ring is clearly visible through the body of the man in the circus ring.

This exhibit has something for everyone: attendees ranged from five to 95 years old and all seemed capable of finding something interesting. Experiencing these many styles of art, not just the famous Cubist and Impressionist movements, is well worth the trip to the MFA.

*The diversity of the art in this exhibit makes it one of the finest the MFA has shown in recent years.*

### SMORGASBORD SHOW REVIEW

## Blue Man Group Puts on Wacky Original Shows

*Audience is Encouraged to Participate, But Beware of Messy Surprises*

**By Christina Kang**  
*STAFF WRITER*  
*Blue Man Group*  
*Charles Playhouse, Boston*  
*Student Rush Tickets \$25*  
*Through May 2006*

For years I’ve heard about Blue Man Group and its performances around the United States. Three blue (surprise), bald men dressed in black on stage and doing stuff — it didn’t seem worth the ticket price. Then a good friend came back from the show just beaming, so I had to check it out! I wasn’t disappointed.

I was greeted with rock music and the sight of pipes strewn across the ceiling. Then, I noticed that the people in the front were wearing ponchos. Ponchos at a show? That can only mean surprises and messes, a most excellent combination when it comes to entertainment! The energy in the theater was boundless, and there was excitement on faces of all ages.

Paint, music, and pipes were combined together in creative ways: paint flew to the beat of the music, into the blue men’s mouths, onto their faces. Pipes full of paint served as a drumset, and the music of the group was supplemented by a live rock band hidden behind a scrim that occasionally revealed their glow-in the dark, bony appearance.

Indeed, the show was full of surprises, one after another. One of my favorites was the pair of electronic scrolling marquees flanking the

stage. They entertained the audience with general information before the show, and later on became directives, captivating everyone with far-fetched commands.

The interactive nature continued as some members of the audience were invited onstage. One woman was escorted to a table with a vase of flowers and nice silverware, and then treated to a Twinkie and splashed by something unidentifiable that came from equipment rigged to the blue men’s stomachs. After scarfing down most of that unidentifiable stuff, the blue men wrapped up the leftovers in a Chinese take-out container for her to take and enjoy later. Another audience member became a tool in the creation of a work of art, but worry not; he was protected with a blindfold and helmet.

Whether you enjoy music, comedy, audience participatory shows, violence (with safety precautions, of course), dancing, or just a darn good performance, the Blue Man Group is the way to go. After a surprise ending that left me only able to say, “wow, that was so good,” I left



BLUE MAN GROUP

the theater still smiling.

The Blue Man Group first opened in New York City (starting with street performances), winning the hearts of its audience. It then opened in Boston in 1995, and now can also be seen in Chicago, Las Vegas, and even Berlin. Blue Man Group has released two recordings of their mu-

sic (one of which got a Grammy nod), toured the United States, and been featured on TV with “The Jury” and “Arrested Development.”

With continuous changes and variability between different productions of the show, Blue Man Group is entertaining to watch again and again.

### RESTAURANT REVIEW

## Desi Dhaba Serves Exceptional Indian Food

*Traditional Dishes and Flavors Available Close to Campus*

**By Jillian Berry**  
*STAFF WRITER*  
*Desi Dhaba*  
*401 Massachusetts Avenue*  
*Cambridge, MA 02139*  
*(617) 547-4121*

Travel north on Massachusetts Avenue from MIT towards Central Square, and you will come across an unassuming Indian restaurant — Desi Dhaba. The small restaurant is nicely decorated with rich, dark woods and white tablecloths, as well as a beautifully engraved ceiling. The smell of curry and dishes baking in the tandoor (large clay oven) permeate the air and invite you inside to the cozy atmosphere. The menu is extensive, with many authentic appetizers and Indian breads, in addition to rice, meat, vegetable, and seafood dishes. All of this flavorful food

is cooked using the traditional herbs and spices that give Indian food its distinct taste.

As we were a large group, we ordered multiple dishes and shared. I would definitely recommend this to everyone who wants a balanced meal, since the entrees only come with the meat (or vegetable) and basmati rice. We had two different varieties of naan (Indian bread cooked in a tandoor). The first type, Keema naan (\$3.25), was stuffed with spicy minced lamb. The lamb was spread evenly throughout the naan and created a savory filling, though it was often overpowered by the strong flavors of the other dishes. Our second selection was Peshawary naan (\$3.25), which had a sweet filling of almonds, cashews, raisins, coconut, and honey that were mixed together to form a delicious candylike center. Although we had this naan with the meal, it could have easily made for a light dessert, and provided a nice balance

to strong spices of the main dishes.

For the main course, we had Aloo Palak (\$9.95), a vegetarian dish consisting of potatoes cooked with spinach, spices, and herbs. Maybe this doesn’t sound like anything special, but it was amazing, definitely my favorite of the night. The potatoes and spinach were combined with a little spice and a subtle taste of curry to create a totally new taste. We also had Chicken Tikka Masala (\$11.95), pieces of tandoor-baked boneless chicken cooked with a light, creamy tomato sauce. The bite-sized chicken was moist and the sauce flavorful, but a little too acidic.

Finally, the Lamb Rogan Josh (\$11.95) con-

sisted of lamb pieces cooked in a traditional spice with saffron and yogurt. The lamb was perfectly tender and balanced the odd dryness of the yogurt; nothing remained on the plate.

Desi Dhaba does have a few dessert options, but we were all too full to indulge ourselves. Overall, the food was excellent and very reasonably priced for the portion sizes. The restaurant also serves a lunch buffet on weekdays from 11:30 to 3:30 so you can be

sure to try all the different options. On top of everything, it’s within walking distance, so transportation can be paid for in calories alone. I highly recommend this restaurant when you need something warm and filling.

*The smell of curry and dishes baking in the tandoor (large clay oven) permeate the air and invite you into the cozy atmosphere.*

## YEAR IN REVIEW – FILM

# Serious Films Raise Political and Social Issues

## Violence, Revenge, and Corruption Dominant Themes in 2005

By Kevin Der  
CONTRIBUTING EDITOR

**T**he mood in film this past year was pessimistic. In particular, films gravitated toward highly charged political and social themes, and I'll group them in this manner simply to suggest the common ground among them. Whether a slightly satiric look at global arms trafficking and the countries that condone it ("Lord of War"), a portrayal of victorious, corrupt corporations and destructive government officials ("The Constant Gardener," "Syriana," "Good Night and Good Luck"), or the humanization of the Israel-Palestine conflict ("Munich," "Paradise Now," even "Kingdom of Heaven" to a degree), the movie-goer can't help but wonder: what has the world gotten itself into?

Even more intimate stories, through examining race relations and personal adversity ("Crash") or a tormented being destroyed by societal ignorance ("King Kong," "Brokeback Mountain"), don't display much hope. Others were honest and up-front character studies, but with a somber and slightly sinister feel ("Capote," "The Squid and the Whale"). Almost all these films, however, don't conclude with a definite resolution; rather, they end with the curtain still up, asking questions rather than answering them.

Though awards season is in full swing and Oscar nominations have been announced, I'll engage in that discussion in a few weeks' time. For now, here are the ten best films of the year — almost all extremely serious, highly relevant pictures.

### 10. Paradise Now

Two best friends in Palestine are recruited to carry out a suicide bombing mission. The film's greatest strength is the way it conveys the humanity of the men, examining their moral struggles and the evolution of their motivations. Perhaps the most interesting aspect of the film is the straightforward, matter-of-fact portrayal of a dangerous, but very human, place — the casual, instinctive way townspeople duck upon hearing an explosion; a woman approaching a border guard to cross through to another town; a family eating together. It shows us living, peaceful people, up until the moment the peace is shattered.

### 9. Syriana

Stephen Gaghan, writer of "Traffic," weaves a terribly pessimistic tapestry of oil companies and governments taking an active role to further chaos in the Middle East for financial and political gain. Gaghan portrays this climate by including as many viewpoints as possible, from corporate heads to CIA agents to oil workers. He seems to conclude that not only is this chaos everybody's problem, but that everyone con-

tributes to it and nothing can be done to solve it. In an age when oil interests drive political and military decisions, this film can provide a little bit of understanding and awareness of an important issue.

### 8. Crash

This film is the first feature from Paul Haggis, screenwriter of "Million Dollar Baby." It brings together characters from different social and racial backgrounds who find that their lives are implicitly linked simply through their coexistence. Suspenseful, gripping, and intentionally unpredictable, "Crash" portrays the humanity underneath the many layers of stereotypes and misunderstanding that cause tension, cruelty, and violence. It's ironic that this film examines and attempts to dispel stereotypes through the same medium that normally instills them.

### 7. Capote

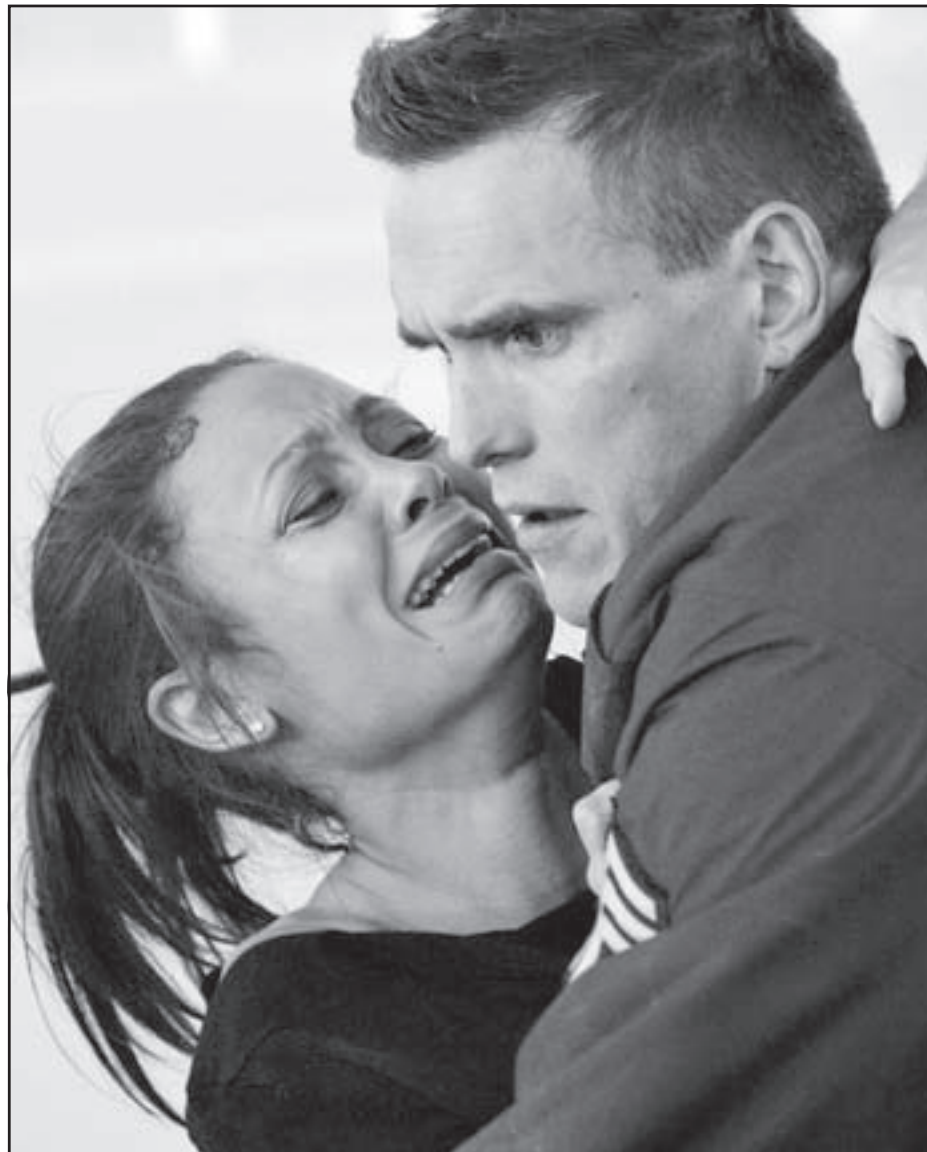
Philip Seymour Hoffman completely embodies the quirky mannerisms of real-life writer Truman Capote, who wrote about the 1959 murders of a Kansas family in his novel, "In Cold Blood." Through his research for the book, Capote befriends and develops an obsession with Perry Smith, one of the killers on death row. The disturbing element is that while Smith views his relationship with Capote as a chance to gain public support and stay his forthcoming execution, Capote in turn uses Smith to construct a more tantalizing, shocking novel through first-hand accounts of the murders. In a kind of passive sadism, Capote seems to believe he's doing all he can to help Smith, but ultimately it's clear that he's driven entirely by self-interest.

### 6. The Constant Gardener

Ralph Fiennes and Rachel Weisz excel in this drama and thriller about drug companies exploiting the rampant AIDS epidemic in African countries. Weisz plays Tessa Quayle, an activist who's murdered early on in the film. Fiennes, as her husband, discovers that Tessa was killed because she discovered the truth about deficient, untested drugs used to treat AIDS patients. Though the film disgusts with its portrayal of corrupt, wealthy businessmen who casually exploit the Third World, it also provides a delicate photograph of life. There is both pessimism and optimism in the view that great sacrifice is required to effect any change on corruption.

### 5. Match Point

"The man who said, 'I'd rather be lucky than good' saw deeply into life," says Woody Allen in his spot-on opening of this film. Chris Wilton (Jonathan Rhys Meyers) is a lucky man when he marries into a wealthy British family and reaps the career benefits that come along



LIONS GATE FILMS

Thandie Newton and Matt Dillon in "Crash," directed and written by Paul Haggis.

with it. He gives up being a good man, however, when he begins an affair with his brother-in-law's fiancé Nola (Scarlet Johansson). Allen is at his best when he simply lets his characters sit around talking, as his dialogue is like a microscope for their minds. For Wilton, the growing tension between himself, his wife, and Nola becomes unbearable, and seems only resolvable in a manner à la Dostoevsky. It's never clear to the audience, though, whether Wilton's luck will hold.

### 4. March of the Penguins

"March" is probably not the first inspiring nature documentary, but it is one of the first with enough star power (Morgan Freeman's narration) to propel it into mainstream popularity. In a year filled with depression and pessimism, this glimpse into the cycle of the Emperor penguin is a reminder that life, at its most fundamental level, can survive seemingly overwhelming trials. These penguins travel for months and line up patiently to enter the breeding grounds, and they huddle together, lattice-like, for protection against raging winds; yet they are not the model of a perfect civilization, as mothers try to steal eggs from others. Continuation of the species is their single goal, and as Mr. Hammond from "Jurassic Park" might say, life finds a way.

### 3. Memoirs of a Geisha

One of many films adapted from novels this year, "Geisha" creates a beautiful, seductive world of a sacred part of Japanese culture, in which geishas are trained at a young age to entertain men with their skills and beauty. The price they pay is the unwritten law is that they cannot pursue love for themselves. Ziyi Zhang portrays the young geisha Sayuri remarkably well as she desperately yearns for romance with the Chairman (Ken Watanabe). Rob Marshall offers stunningly beautiful imagery of flower

gardens, kimonos, and dances that hide the inner torment Sayuri undergoes. "Geisha" is the classic tale of a forbidden love facing barriers from both the characters and society.

### 2. King Kong

Following "Lord of the Rings," Peter Jackson again demonstrates his expertise in rousing action and intelligent use of visual effects, but the true gem here is the sensual (albeit platonic) relationship between Kong and Ann Darrow (Naomi Watts), whom Kong initially takes hostage on the fabled Skull Island. It's Ann's beauty (and affinity for dance and juggling) that attracts Kong, and eventually leads him to fall in love with her. As her faithful companion, he selflessly defends her against all dangers, and even when captured by profit-seeking industrialists, his heart still beats for her in a very human way though his beastial side emerges when he's separated from her. Jackson captures this intimacy with beautiful shots of Ann sitting in Kong's palm as they overlook an ocean sunset, or when they dance together on ice in Central Park.

### 1. Munich

Spielberg's mastery of cinema comes through in this film about the 1972 Munich Olympics, during which eleven Israeli athletes were killed by Palestinian terrorists. He focuses on the hit squad of Israeli intelligence agents who retaliated by killing Palestinians supposedly responsible for planning Munich. Spielberg conveys two ideas the film — he humanizes the Israeli agents as well as their victims, and he shows how each assignment further strips away that humanity. He also advocates peace by showing that violence is only destructive, as each killing by the agents results in additional bloodshed. As Dr. King once said, "He who lives by the sword dies by the sword."



WARNER INDEPENDENT PICTURES



UNIVERSAL PICTURES

## FILM REVIEW ★1/2

# A Picture Not Worth Protecting

## Harrison Ford Can't Secure Broken 'Firewall'

By Kevin Der  
CONTRIBUTING EDITOR

Firewall

Directed by Richard Loncraine

Written by Joe Forte

Starring Harrison Ford, Virginia Madsen,  
Paul Bettany

Produced by Armyan Bernstein, Basil Iwanyk,  
Jonathan Shestack

Rated PG-13

Opens Today

**H**arrison Ford has made some pretty bad movies recently. My favorite (and I mean favorite film to mock) is "Six Days, Seven Nights," in which Ford plays a pilot who's stranded on a remote island and terrorized by sea pirates. "Firewall" continues in the same absurdist vein while recalling elements of Ford's good movies of ages past like "The Fugitive" and "Air Force One." Boasting equivocal baddies, a pot-boiler script, and cookie cutter performances, it even tries to be tech savvy, but apparently they should have hired the consultants from "24" instead. Throw in product placement for iPods and we've got a film that'll see the second-run theaters by Valentine's Day.

Ford plays Jack Stanfield, a software security expert at a local high-tech bank. He'd rather not work in the bank's well-lit offices, instead preferring the darker, "authorized personnel only" backrooms, where nerdy hackers in suits protect the bank's digital vaults from network intruders. When his family is taken hostage in its own home by would-be bank robbers, Stanfield is forced to help the baddies steal money electronically or else they'll kill the kids. Only, he doesn't do what they want. He's later framed for murder and has to go on the run. I know, damn it, the Academy snubbed this one for best original screenplay.

A great deal of acting talent is wasted for this picture. Ford usually looks desperate or confused, covered in the blood of a bad guy he just conked with a blender. A few camera shots seemed so familiar I kept wanting to call him Mr. President. Virginia Madsen, who won over hearts as the compli-



WARNER BROS. PICTURES

With his family held hostage, Jack Stanfield (Harrison Ford, right) is forced to commit electronic theft from his own employers, in the weak thriller "Firewall."

cated oenophile in "Sideways," is reduced to the role of crying wife and mother. Madsen can't be blamed for the wooden role, only the fact that she took it. Then there's Paul Bettany, who delivered marvelous performances as John Nash's friend in "A Beautiful Mind" and the ship's doctor in "Master and Commander." As the villain, Bettany fills the shoes as well as he can, turning from a cold-blooded hostage-taker with the air (and attire) of a businessman to irrational killer. He also yells at his men a lot. Unfortunately,

good effort plus crappy role equals crappy performance.

To appeal to the college crowd, "Firewall" has many artificial scenes to showcase high-tech gadgets. Stanfield (and everyone else in the movie) runs his system on dual Dell ultra-sharp monitors, but he has to do it while running Windows. Need to find some incriminating files? Use the speedy Windows search feature. Gotta find a way to scan the text from a CRT? No problem, just hook up an iPod to fax machine components, take the photo sen-

sor arm and tape it to the monitor, and use image processing software (that Stanfield just wrote) to recognize and parse the grainy text!

Unless something great comes along, Harrison Ford's career is essentially over, merely reliant on name power to finance and attract. When it comes to "Firewall," just pick your favorite Harrison Ford quote — "Don't get excited!" ... "Keep your eyes shut!" ... "Here's where the fun begins!" Wait, not that last one, unless it's at the movie's expense.

### INTERVIEW

## What Would Han Solo Do?

### Harrison Ford Discusses Spielberg, Music, and the Role of College Critics

By Kevin Der  
CONTRIBUTING EDITOR

**H**arrison Ford is one of Hollywood's most successful actors. Aside from his memorable roles as Han Solo and Indiana Jones, he has championed androids, drug cartels, and terrorists (many times), among his many other roles. Starring in the newly released "Firewall," Harrison Ford recently spoke to *The Tech* and other members of college press about his career.

**Q:** Is it more important to make an enjoyable movie for a wide audience or one with less appeal but with a serious message?

**HF:** I think there's room for both and I have an interest in both. As far as a serious message is concerned, it's very difficult to make a film with a serious message. I've seen one this year, and I think it's a remarkable film — "Good Night and Good Luck." It hid its message in a slice of life and reality, and confined itself to a period of time. It didn't seem to have a political agenda other than to expose a period of time in the past.

Sometimes serious themes presented in the context of a film often co-opt the issue and they provide a sort of neat package that can be resolved in two hours and the movie ending which resolves problems is often a movie ending, not a real life ending. It's very difficult to create an argument in film that changes the way people behave. You can offer an experience, but not an argument, because people who resist that point of view will continue to resist that point of view, and they find they're not moved because they know they're in the world of artifice, not in the world of real life.

There are movies I've done with a serious theme — "K-19" has a very serious theme. From a career perspective, a lot of people would say that it was not a good choice to play that

role. People were less interested in me playing Russian submarine captain — an enemy of the United States, as it were. That's the reason I did it, to bump up against those barriers. Having bumped, you want to get back to something that can work, try different kinds of films.

**Q:** On IMDB, you're quoted as saying, "The loss of anonymity is something that nobody can prepare you for. When it happened, I recognized that I'd lost one of the most valuable things in life. To this day, I'm not all that happy about it." What would you change if you could go back and do things over again?

**HF:** Nothing. I'm very lucky to have the opportunities I have in the business and wouldn't have those without the deal I made with the devil, giving up my anonymity.

**Q:** Is there any movie you've ever seen that you wish you had made?

**HF:** "To Kill a Mockingbird." It was a rare film that confronted a social issue and was successful in changing the way people thought. That flies completely in the face of what I said earlier, but there you go.

**Q:** It's said that you're currently involved in a project about Abraham Lincoln.

**HF:** "Manhunt" is the story of John Wilkes Booth, and the guy I'll play is Everton Conger, an army detective who tracks down and eventually finds Booth. We're still working on the script.

**Q:** What's the status of "Indiana Jones 4"? What is it about the role of Indiana and working with Steven Spielberg that led you back to the role?

**HF:** We're closer than we've been in the past and I'm hoping it'll come together soon. They're just fun, great fun movies for the audience as big pieces of entertainment, and they're fun to make. Indiana Jones is a fun character. I like working with Steven, we have a good time.

**Q:** What was [it] about this movie that made you want to come out and talk to us?

**HF:** To be frank, I don't know why this has happened to me, but I continue to age. It's a fact of life that younger members of the audience are more interested in people their age. So because this is my job, I'm conducting myself as

a businessman, and saying that I need to reach out to people of your age to ensure the success of this film.

**Q:** When you read a script, does your visualization while you're reading it agree with the finished film? Are you ever disappointed by it?

**HF:** The first reading of the film is really important because it's the one time I get a really clear emotional reaction to a story and to the character's dilemma. Every time I read it after that I'm informed by the first experience. That's the critical one for me and I make my choices about what to do based on the first time I read it. It takes an understanding of the material and an understanding of the character. If I don't understand the character, I'm not likely to do it unless I can see a way to fix it. But that doesn't mean the film stays exactly the way it was when I read it the first time. There's a director involved, and there may be things that occur to me later on that I want to see accomplished.

**Q:** John Williams has done a number of scores to your films, not only "Star Wars" and "Indiana Jones," but also "Sabrina" and "Presumed Innocent."

**HF:** I'm a fan of his music, John mostly writes big, lyrical, robust heroic themes, and he does so with great skill. His music doesn't sound all the same, it's incredible.

**Q:** How much influence do you have over how the film gets made, or is that left up to the producer or director?

**HF:** It's different under every circumstance. Certainly I am more comfortable with those directors that allow input. I don't like the imperial style of direction. I like to have an input and a degree of influence, but I don't think I'm the

only person to be listened to, and I like to listen to what others are saying.

But when it comes down to it, I'm much more likely to be blamed if we fail. It's a fact of life that actors become brands, and I feel

responsible to those people who come to the theater and have enjoyed my other films to give them one that will meet their expectations. So I do have influence and I try to exercise that in restrained and appropriate ways. But if that doesn't work, I hit them over the head. It's all about achieving understanding.

**Q:** When you first started to act, you said you wanted to be a living actor. Have you found any new motivation?

**HF:** For me, it's going to war zone and fighting your way out. I choose a movie because I think they have the potential to be good, but making them good is a day-to-day situation. It's intensely engaging and for me the reward is good, hard work. It doesn't make me sweat, but it has the same feeling of having accomplished work. You look at a pile of logs that need to be split or a script that has a story to tell and that kind of engagement is so critical — it keeps me interested.

**Q:** Where do you think the role of critics lies?

**HF:** They can have enormous influence over some segment of the audience. A lot of people go to movies that are not critically appreciated and have a good time. Critics only appeal to a segment of people who trust that critic because they follow their opinions, which lie near their own opinions. A discussion in general about the quality of a film helps generate interest. Some people read a review that says the movie's a total piece of dog shit and see that movie anyway because they don't like that critic. It's like a democracy: one man, one vote. I don't change what I'm doing with respect to one person's opinion about what I've done.

*The first reading of the film is really important because it's the one time I get a really clear emotional reaction to a story and to the character's dilemma.*  
—Harrison Ford

*I'm very lucky to have the opportunities I have in the business and wouldn't have those without the deal I made with the devil, giving up my anonymity.*  
—Harrison Ford

# Dramashop Performs ‘The Old Law’



MIT Dramashop’s “The Old Law” opened yesterday in Kresge Little Theater; the last show will be Saturday, Feb. 18. “The Old Law” explores a society where the elderly are routinely put to death so that they will not burden the society. Clockwise from upper left: Yuri A. Podpaly ’07, as Simonides, discusses with lawyers played by Adam C. Love ’07, and Helen F. McCreery ’06 the finer points and personal benefits of executing citizens past a designated age. Ryan Hendrickson, who plays Creon, faces a state-sanctioned execution. His death is early awaited by his son, who hopes to reap financial and social benefits from it. Jonas Kubilius ’08, as one of Duke Evander’s courtiers, strikes a pose, allowing the audience to appreciate his fashionable youth.

Photography by Mary-Irene Lang

## ON THE SCREEN

— BY THE TECH ARTS STAFF —

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

★★★★ **Brokeback Mountain**  
Ang Lee’s gritty and realistic film has been called revolutionary for being a mainstream movie about cowboys who fall in love with each other, but the story is in truth incredibly simple. At its heart, “Brokeback” is a beautifully crafted film that tells a story strikingly similar to some of the oldest tales of love in our society. (Andrew Guerra)

★★★½ **The Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe**  
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. Lucy Pevensie steps through a wardrobe of fur coats and finds herself in Narnia, a magical land with talking animals and mythic beasts, and a White Witch who’s covered the land in eternal winter. But there’s no need to look for religious underpinnings when the fantasy easily stands alone. “Narnia” is a wonderful escape within an escape; like the old professor who owns the wardrobe, I can’t wait to go back. (Rosa Cao)

★★★ **Glory Road**  
In sports movies, the important thing is often not the destination, but the journey. This is true

in “Glory Road,” the Hollywood retelling of the 1966 Texas Western College basketball team. Texas Western played all black players against the all-white national power Kentucky in the 1966 finals and won. The win inspired a generation of black basketball players like Magic Johnson and Bob McAdoo, who went on to revolutionize the game. The real focus of the movie is on the players on the team, the racial obstacles they overcame, and how the journey changed them personally. (Brian Chase)

★★★ **The Matador**  
Just as “Mr. and Mrs. Smith” brought cool to the hit men movie genre, “Matador” brings humor. You will laugh from start to finish at its brash, over-the-top nature. Greg Kinnear plays the complete opposite to Pierce Brosnan’s aging hitman, and the two form an unlikely relationship. If nothing else, go for the sight of Brosnan in a hotel with just his underwear and boots. (Yong-yi Zhu)

★★★½ **Match Point**  
This film deviates from the usual Woody Allen offering. It boasts young, sexy stars and is set in upper-class London instead of his beloved New York. Jonathan Rhys-Meyers plays a young tennis coach who marries into an upper-class British family but falls in love with his brother-in-law’s fiancée, Nola (Scarlett Johansson). The biggest surprise is that this film is a thriller, with each scene building unbearable tension. (Kapil Amarnath)

★★★ **Memoirs of a Geisha**  
A geisha is a woman who holds a powerful sexual allure by playing hardball in a game defined by men. The film, adapted from Arthur Golden’s novel, follows a girl named Chiyo (adult played by Ziyi Zhang), who is sold from her home in a fishing village to become a geisha in Kyoto. As one who captivates men’s hearts through grace and beauty, Chiyo lives her life as an ornament to the wealthy, but dreams of romantic love with the Chairman (Ken Watanabe). So idolized by Western culture, this struggle for romance is perhaps what makes a love story in the life a geisha such a fascinating yet foreign tale. (Beckett Sterner)

★★★★ **Munich**  
Inspired by the very real events of the 1972 Olympics, when eleven Israeli athletes were killed by Palestinian terrorists, this perfectly executed film advocates peace and wisdom. With this film, Spielberg intends to show that any conflict affects the globe, and that events in the Middle East are as relevant to our country’s future as those within our own borders. (Kevin Der)

★★★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 divorced parents as role models. 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)

★★½ **Syriana**  
Writer and director Stephen Gaghan, who penned “Traffic,” discusses the energy crisis and the war for oil in this new drama. Part of an ensemble cast, Bob Barnes (George Clooney) is a CIA operative in the Middle East who must protect U.S. interests in oil, but he starts to question his government’s motives. Though Gaghan presents a convincing, albeit pessimistic world view, he does not provide an artistic vision. Ultimately more enjoyment comes after the final reel, from thinking about the questions that the film raises. (Kapil Amarnath)

★★★½ **Why We Fight**  
Director Eugene Jarecki paints a convincing portrait of how hidden backroom deals turn the government into an oligarchy of elite interests. This political documentary ties together a coherent narrative from a set of perspectives, key facts, and historical contexts. The movie features an NYPD cop who lost a son in 9/11, neoconservative leader William Kristol, a disaffected Pentagon analyst, the pilots who fired the first salvo in the Iraq war, and more. (Beckett Sterner)

Compiled by Kevin Der, Jacqueline O’Connor, and Nivair H. Gabriel

## The Production Department’s Word of the Day



**Coati:** Any of four species of omnivorous mammals of the genera *Nasua* or *Nasuella* of South and Central America and the southwest United States, related to and resembling the raccoon but having a longer snout and tail (see photo at left).

[join@tt.mit.edu](mailto:join@tt.mit.edu)

# Kolenbrander Likely To Succeed Willmore

Kolenbrander, from Page 1

and students. That experience, she said, is important for internal relations as well as communication with the trustees, who are part of “the external MIT family.”

Willmore is stepping down after 40 years at MIT. Before becoming secretary of the Corporation in 1994, she had served as director of public relations services in 1986 and executive assistant to then-President Paul E. Gray, according to *Tech Talk*.

Kolenbrander said that his experience coordinating Leadershape, a six-day IAP conference for 80 MIT students and staff, and serving as interim dean for student life will help him address student concerns in his new role. “The corporation itself is deeply interested in making sure the resources are there for MIT students to excel,” Kolenbrander said.

“I’m grateful for the opportuni-

ty,” and honored to follow Willmore in the role of secretary, he said.

Kolenbrander called the recent turnover in the administration “an opportunity for MIT to enjoy the input of new ideas,” but said that as someone who has served on both the faculty and senior administration, he brings to the job “a sense of history.”

Kolenbrander has been at MIT since 1990, and filled positions as associate professor, interim dean for student life, and special assistant to the chancellor.

Willmore said that Hockfield informed the executive committee of the Corporation that Kolenbrander was her choice for secretary and then the committee, which includes the chairman of the corporation, president, and treasurer, passed the nomination to the full corporation.

Kolenbrander said the full corporation’s vote on his nomination will probably happen at the next meeting on March 3.

## News Briefs, Continued

Continued from Page 1

fall as an alternative to raising the fine from \$50 to a maximum of \$500, as was originally proposed.

—Jenny Zhang

### Dunkin’ Donuts Coming to Student Center

Alpine Bagels will undergo renovations this summer as its managers are in final negotiations to replace the bagel service with a full-service 24/7 Dunkin’ Donuts in August, said Richard D. Berlin III, director of campus dining.

“We think there is a need for it on campus, especially in the Student Center, where students tend to be up late,” manager Phil Sands said. “I think this will facilitate their needs.”

Sands said Cambridge Grill, which serves pizza and burgers, will remain in its current location.

Berlin cited decrease in business on the Alpine Bagels side as cause for the change. Student surveys and discussions with various groups on campus indicated that Dunkin’ Donuts was a popular choice.

Additionally, Berlin said he planned to bring in two more vendors to fill Lobdell Food Court vacancies by this fall

—Angeline Wang



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# Construction Projects Delayed Until Funding Can Be Obtained

Construction, from Page 1

ect, which will provide a renovation and addition to Sloan School and the School of Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences, has been scaled down. According to the MIT 2005 Annual Town Gown Report, designing is scheduled to begin. A project on E52, the main building of the Alfred P. Sloan School of Management, to put all of the management faculty into one building with eight classrooms and 45 student study and community rooms is to restart soon. Plans for a Center for Cancer Research near Building 66 and the Stata Center and a Music and Theater Arts Teaching Laboratory, are lacking funding, Anderson said. MIT also plans to demolish a building it owns located in Central Square at 452 Massachusetts Ave., and replace it with a historic replica. The building will not be preserved because examination of its structure found that restoration was not physically possible, Anderson said. The new building provide contain retail, office, and theater space. City Councillor Henrietta Davis said that she is

introducing a council order to request creative space at the property. The western half of Vassar Street, which is divided by Massachusetts Ave., is still scheduled for construction that will introduce a bike path and trees beginning in Summer 2006, Anderson said. In an assessment of MIT's utilities, Anderson said that no new parking spaces have been created since 1995. Future construction, such as the building of a graduate dormitory, will result in loss of surface parking, he said, and the long-term solution is to create underground parking, though other options will be considered as well. Buildings E32, E33, and E34, as well as MIT Medical's surface parking lot will be demolished, according to the report, and likely to be replaced by an underground parking complex, which may be linked to the development of a new engineering building nearby.

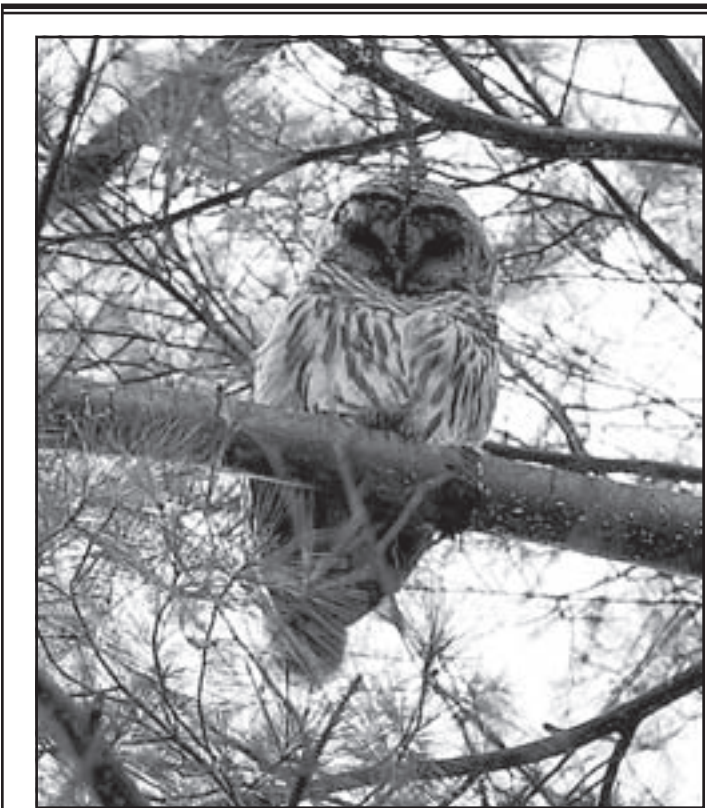
Citizens voice concerns

In response to Anderson's presentation, several community members voiced concerns about the lack of green space on campus. One Can-


tabrigian said that MIT should think ahead not just five to ten years, but a century. MIT can do many more things to take advantage of environmentally friendly technology, she said. Several years ago, Olin Partnership conducted a study to ways to incorporate green space on campus. This study is the guideline MIT uses, Anderson said. Other community members were interested in two other MIT properties, one located at 130 Brookline Street and another, described as a "rubble-strewn lot with a chain-link fence," located at the intersection of Watson Street and Brookline Street. Steven C. Marsh, managing director of real estate, said that the first was purchased for development into a first-class commercial property, though plans have not been finalized. Marsh was not certain about plans for the other property. Planning Board Member William Tibbs said that next year he would like to have a better sense of MIT's vision for construction, since the board does not see plans until the formal permitting process.



DAVID TEMPLETON—THE TECH  
A worker painted new lines on the 77 Massachusetts Avenue crosswalk midday Thursday, Feb. 9.



SCOT FRANK—THE TECH  
An owl watched behind the student center as students entered du Pont for class registration on Monday, Feb. 6.



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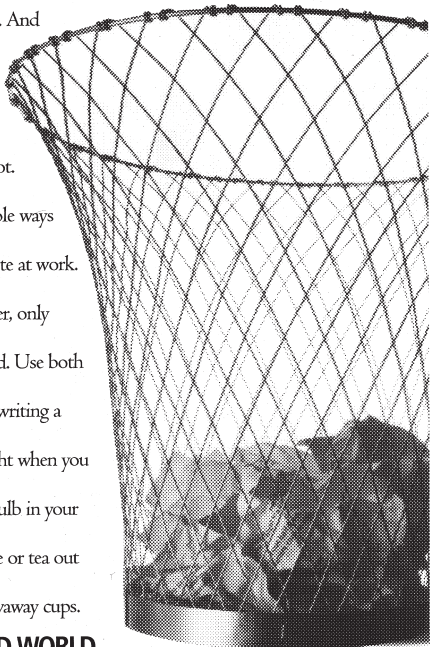
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# Using Wage-Related Premiums, New Plan Works to Offset Costs

Health Care, from Page 1

Medical Department's Fiscal Year 2007 budget request."

In response to the more urgent recommendations of the task force report for shoring up the Medical Department's Budget, MIT medical has "prepared a request for increased funding and for increased staffing," to address concerns about the drop in quality of care that primarily had to do with reduced access to care and increased waiting times. The additional resources, some of which have already been approved, are expected to come from insurance premiums and increased fee-for-service revenues, neither of which are expected to be a significant cost for students.

Vice President for Human Resources Laura Avakian said that changes such as the communication plan for Medicare D were examples of “low-hanging fruit” that were already in process while the task force was working, and have already been implemented.

MIT offers a diverse array of health plans; different demographic subgroups within MIT subscribe preferentially to different plans. The report called for "improved risk pooling and adjustments for demographic differences across health insurance plans" as consistent with the recommendations of the Strategic Review of Benefits committee, "to be implemented as soon as possible." These changes would deal exclusively with employee health plans and would not affect student premiums.

MIT is "self-insured"; that is, it calculates the insurance premiums for each plan separately, based on the cost of the providing care to that group of subscribers over the past year and the projected cost for the upcoming year.

In any year there are a certain number of "catastrophic claims," which are much higher than those incurred by other members of the group.

Professor Peter Diamond, a consultant to the task force, said that pooling of catastrophic claims across health plans "is one way to bring costs [for each of the plans] closer to the theoretical ideal." It would also help stabilize premiums for plans with relatively small numbers of

subscribers.

Avakian described another potential fix for redistributing plan costs for different demographic groups. "It's been a long-standing interest that many employees have had at MIT, creating a category for insurance premium paying of 'employee + 1.'" Such a plan would provide insurance for one employee and a partner or dependent, and would have less expensive premiums than the traditional family plan. It could also create problems for MIT's self-insurance model because "when MIT is paying all the bills, if you charge one part of the population less, then you shift cost somewhere else, logically to the families," Avakian said.

One way to offset higher fam-

ily premiums could be to couple the introduction of the new plan with a version of "salary bending," where employees with higher salaries would pay more for the same insurance plan; as the task force report notes, wage-related premiums are controversial and "would benefit from additional analysis and consultation with the MIT community."

GSC representative Eric Gordon Weese G called the situation "improved" and his colleague Andrea Elizabeth Schmidt G described the current family rates as "reasonable."

Kettyle emphasized the importance of a reserve fund for guaranteeing stability in student premiums despite year-to-year fluctuations in the cost of the plans.

## Police Log

*The following incidents were reported to the Cambridge and/or MIT Police between Jan. 25 and Feb. 6. This summary does not include incidents such as suspicious activity, false alarms, general service calls, or medical shuttles.*

**Jan. 25:** Bldg. 57 (18 Vassar St. Rear), 2:30 a.m., breaking and entering to Alumni Pool.

**Jan. 26:** Burton-Conner (410 Memorial Dr.), breaking and entering, wallet stolen from unlocked room. Bldg. 3 (33 Mass. Ave.), larceny of LCD projector. Walker Memorial (142 Memorial Dr.), 10:00 p.m., larceny of compact disc left on door handle.

**Jan. 27:** Zesiger Center (100 Vassar St.), money stolen from wallet.

**Feb. 1:** Walker Memorial (142 Memorial Dr.), 8:00 p.m., arrest of white male David Scrima, 45, of 150 E. 44th St., New York, for trespass and resisting arrest; his third arrest by MIT Police since Dec. 29

**Feb. 5:** Zesiger Center (100 Vassar St.), MIT ID card stolen.

**Feb. 6:** MIT area, 2:20 a.m., arrest of Zachary A. Skolnik '06, 21, of 407 Memorial Dr. Arrested party was charged with assault and battery with a dangerous weapon and assault and battery (serious bodily injury). During a physical altercation, arrested party struck a victim in the head with a ceramic cup, causing a severe laceration.

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



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.


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# Federer On Schedule To Surpass Sampras

Seshasai, from Page 20

When you just consider the numbers Federer already has racked up, it's hard to imagine how far he can go before he retires. He's the first player since Sampras (12 years ago) to win three consecutive Grand Slam titles. But unlike the American, Federer can play and win on clay, and later this year at the French Open, he will try to complete the career Grand Slam, becoming the first man to do so since Agassi in 1999.

Federer first made his mark in the tennis world in 2001 when he ended Sampras's four year winning streak at Wimbledon. Later that year, he single-handedly defeated

the U.S. in Davis Cup play, contributing to all 3 of Switzerland's points in a 3-2 victory.

These past two years, Federer has only lost 10 matches, winning 24 tournaments on every type of surface and holding a 10-1 record over American Andy Roddick.

In the years preceding Federer's dominance, no other player had taken control of the men's game. He will be the favorite in every tournament, and it's clear that the older guard of players, like Agassi and Lleyton Hewitt, have ceded the honor to him. Unless a young gun like Nadal or Richard Gasquet steps up to present a true challenge, look for Federer to continue to hoist trophies for years to come.

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