



Dawn M. Wendell G steps on Killian Court to look at a mock Olympic gold medal that appeared on the dome the morning of Tuesday, Feb. 28.

On-Campus Rents Set to Increase As Dorms Continue to Run Deficit

By Kelley Rivoire
NEWS EDITOR

Graduate dormitory rents are going up again.

Because of skyrocketing energy prices, MIT says it will hike the rents by five percent next year. The change comes on the heels of last year's 6.5 percent increase.

Graduate students are also getting a raise in their stipend paychecks, but only by 3.5 percent. See "Grad Student Stipends to Increase 3.5 Percent Next Year," page 15.

The Housing Office says it will lose more than \$600,000 this year because rents are not enough to

cover the costs of running and heating the dormitories. Raising the rent won't fix that problem — Larry G. Benedict, the dean for student life, says that Housing will lose even more money next year.

Rents would have to go up by 15 percent in order to cover Housing's deficit next year, but that kind of increase would be unconscionable, says Isaac M. Colbert, the dean for graduate students. He wants MIT to ask alumni — especially alumni who only went to MIT for graduate school — to donate to MIT in order to close the dormitories' deficit.

Graduate student representatives

say MIT's dormitory prices are already more than comparable Cambridge apartments.

"People need to wake up and start doing research," said Daniel J. Abadi G, who works on a Graduate Student Council group concerned about rents. "You can get more for similar or even slightly less off campus."

The group surveyed graduate students last month, and found that 82 percent of single graduate students who moved out of dormitories ended up preferring their new apart-

Housing, Page 15

MacVicar Fellows Selected

By Curt Fischer
STAFF REPORTER

This year's three recipients of the MacVicar Faculty Fellowship, which honors outstanding undergraduate teaching at MIT, share a common commitment to laboratory and project-based learning, and advocate a change in the core curriculum to increase hand-on experience. The MacVicar fellowship, begun in 1992 to commemorate Margaret MacVicar, MIT's first dean for undergraduate education and founder of the Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program. It provides Fellows with \$100,000 over a 10 year period for the development of undergraduate education at MIT.

Professor Leslie K. Norford,

MacVicar, Page 16



The first of three Automated External Defibrillators to be installed this semester was set up in the Student Center. The other two will be installed in the Stata Center and Infinite Corridor, and 6-12 are expected to be added every following year. The AED's were funded by a large-scale CPR event hosted by MIT American Red Cross Team and Network and MIT EMS.

CHRISTINA KANG—THE TECH

Media Lab Post-Doc Found Dead Tuesday

By Jenny Zhang
and Marie Y. Thibault
NEWS EDITORS

MIT Media Laboratory post-doctoral associate Pushpinder Singh '98 was found dead in his apartment by his girlfriend on Tuesday, Feb. 28, according to Senior Associate Dean for Students Robert M. Randolph.

The death is being investigated by the Middlesex District Attorney, said MIT Police Chief John DiFava, who would not further comment on the circumstances surrounding the death.

However, EECS professor Patrick H. Winston '65 said in his class Wednesday that the cause of death was suicide. Winston said he had said that at the time based on speculation, because other than back problems, Singh appeared to be in good health.

Singh "was a wonderful kid" who had a brilliant career ahead. He was gregarious, and would often pick up his laptop to sit in the lounge and talk to people who came by as he worked, Winston said.

Although Singh "always had a very positive outlook," he had injured his back and been in a lot of pain for some time, Winston said.

At the end of January, Singh had given a talk at MIT Endicott House

in Dedham. He "seemed a little down at the time," and Winston said he thought at the time that it was because of the back pain. "He gave a great talk" and "we were all looking forward to the next one," Winston said.

Singh received both his Master of Engineering and PhD in Electrical Engineering and Computer Science from MIT. According to his Web site, Singh would have joined Media Lab faculty next year.

Bo Morgan G, who was advised by Singh through his undergraduate and graduate years, said Singh "had a way of showing people the future," and inspired students. Singh studied the most abstract aspects of artificial intelligence, Morgan said.

Singh had written on his Web site, "My long-term goal is to understand how minds work, so that I can construct a machine that thinks. No small task, but I do have the advantage of an amazing mentor, the redoubtable Marvin Minsky." Minsky could not be reached for comment yesterday.

Singh is survived by his parents and siblings, Randolph said. Two memorial services will be held: one today, and another at MIT next week, Randolph said.

Student Input Increased For Grad Housing Plans

By Rosa Cao
CONTRIBUTING EDITOR

Students and administrators are expressing "cautious optimism" after administrators demonstrated an increased openness to working and communicating with a community of "stakeholders" in the project to build a new graduate dormitory in North-west campus.

While some constraints such as

the footprint of the building (its total size and residential density), the compressed timeline that requires signed architectural plans by March 31st, and the total \$104 million cost remain hard limits, considerably more space has been opened up for community input through the vehicle of stakeholder subcommittees.

In a closed meeting Wednesday, Chancellor Philip L. Clay charged the committee of stakeholders including students, housemasters and administrators to provide recommendations and advisory input into building plans that had previously been regarded as essentially fixed.

In an interview, Dean for Student Life Larry Benedict said, "it was a productive meeting, forward looking. Yes, everyone is still angry about the past, but the past is the past and now we're moving on."

"This was about not having enough student input — the process breakdown as well as the lack of affordable housing," said former GSC president Barun Singh. "The outcome of the Wednesday meeting was on the positive side of what we expected. They've offered an olive branch."

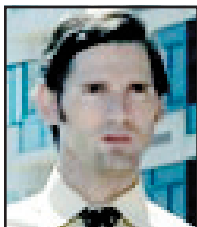
As part of the administration's increased commitment to transparency, minutes from the stakeholders and subcommittee meetings, as well as progress reports will be available on a designated webpage, to be up-

Ashtown, Page 13

In Short

¶ Candidates for Undergraduate Association President and Vice President will debate at 8 p.m. on Monday, March 6 in the Student Center. Representatives from *The Tech* will moderate the debate.

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



ARTS

The Tech predicts Academy Award winners.

NEWS

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WORLD & NATION

Iraqi Sunnis and Kurds Call For Prime Minister's Removal

By Robert F. Worth

THE NEW YORK TIMES

BAGHDAD, IRAQ

Leaders of Iraq's Kurdish, secular and Sunni Arab parties asked the main Shiite alliance on Thursday to withdraw interim Prime Minister Ibrahim al-Jaafari as its candidate for prime minister in the next government, saying al-Jaafari failed to contain the sectarian violence that swept the country over the past week.

The leaders said that if al-Jaafari continues as prime minister, they might try to force his removal by forming a united opposition group larger than the Shiites, in a move that could upend the political process and prolong efforts to form a government.

The request came as al-Jaafari imposed a daytime vehicle curfew in Baghdad on Friday, in an apparent effort to forestall any sermons at Friday prayers that could reignite the sectarian conflict that broke out after the bombing of a major Shiite shrine in Samarra last week. The violence diminished after the government imposed three days of curfew starting last Friday.

"The street is angry, and we need to contain the anger of the street," al-Jaafari said in a televised appearance Thursday night, in a brief statement that appeared to be aimed in part at the nation's imams. Al-Jaafari spoke after the second meeting of a new national security council, created to investigate the Samarra bombing and its aftermath and to prevent further outbreaks.

Kenya Police Disrupt TV Station And Major Newspaper

By Marc Lacey

THE NEW YORK TIMES

NAIROBI, KENYA

Dozens of masked police officers forced a television station off the air in an early morning raid here in the Kenyan capital on Thursday before moving to a newspaper plant, where they disabled the printing press and burned thousands of papers, witnesses said.

The crackdown on the country's second-largest media company came after the government jailed three of its journalists this week over a recent article about political intrigue involving President Mwai Kibaki. Kibaki, elected in 2002, has experienced a flurry of critical press coverage in recent months as his administration has grappled with accusations of corruption and political infighting.

"When you rattle a snake you must prepare yourself to be bitten," declared the country's tough-talking internal security minister, John Michuki, brushing away criticism of the raid.

Officials Brief House Panel On U.S. Bird Flu Preparations

By Brian Knowlton

THE NEW YORK TIMES

WASHINGTON

A top government health official said Thursday that the United States was only about "50 percent" prepared for an avian flu pandemic, prompting lawmakers to call for much more vigorous action to stop the spread of the disease before it arrives here.

In a congressional hearing on international preparations for a pandemic, lawmakers pressed the official, Dr. Julie Gerberding, director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, to quantify the state of the nation's preparedness. "I would venture to say we are less than 50 percent," Gerberding said, "but we are 100 percent more prepared than we were three years ago." She and other experts told members of a House Appropriations subcommittee that preparations could take months or years.

President Bush drew attention to the prospects of a pandemic in October when he said he would ask Congress to spend \$7.1 billion on bird-flu preparations. Congress has since allocated \$3.3 billion, much of it to stockpile anti-viral drugs. The administration has said it would ask for an additional \$2.65 billion for 2007.

Bush-India Pact Would Allow Continued Nuke Development

By Elisabeth Bumiller and Somini Sengupta

THE NEW YORK TIMES

NEW DELHI

President Bush and Prime Minister Manmohan Singh of India announced here on Thursday what Bush called a "historic" nuclear pact that would help India satisfy its enormous civilian energy needs while allowing it to continue to develop nuclear weapons.

Under the agreement, the United States would end a decades-long moratorium on sales of nuclear fuel and reactor components and India would separate its civilian and military nuclear programs, and open the civilian facilities to international inspections. The pact fills in the broad outlines of a plan that was negotiated in July.

In Washington, Democratic and Republican critics said India's willingness to subject some of its nuclear program to inspections was meaningless as long as the country has a secret military nuclear program alongside it, and that the pact would only encourage rogue nations like North Korea and Iran to continue to pursue nuclear weapons. They predicted a bruising fight in Congress, whose approval the pact needs.

At the same time, Bush said he was going forward with a trip on Friday to the Pakistani capital, Islamabad, to meet with the country's president, Gen. Pervez Musharraf, despite a bombing Thursday morning outside a Marriott Hotel and the U.S. Consulate in Karachi. The bombing, a suspected suicide attack, left four dead, including an American Embassy employee.

"Terrorists and killers are not going to prevent me from going to Pakistan," Bush said at a joint news conference with Singh. "My trip to Pakistan is an important trip. It's important to talk with President Musharraf about continuing our fight against terrorists. After all, he has had a direct stake in this fight; four times the terrorists have tried to kill him."

In New Delhi, American and Indian negotiators working all night reached agreement on the nuclear deal at 10:30 a.m. Thursday local time — only two hours before Bush and Singh announced it — after the United States accepted an Indian plan to separate its civilian and military nuclear facilities.

In the plan announced Thursday, India agreed permanently to classify 14 of its 22 nuclear power reactors

as civilian facilities, meaning those reactors will be subject for the first time to international inspections or safeguards.

The other reactors, as well as a prototype fast-breeder reactor in the early stages of development, will remain as military facilities, and not be subject to inspections. India also retained the right to develop future fast-breeder reactors for its military program, a provision that critics of the deal called astonishing. In addition, India said it was guaranteed a permanent supply of nuclear fuel.

The separation plan, according to a senior Indian official, also envisions India-specific rules from the International Atomic Energy Agency, effectively recognizing India as a nuclear weapons state in "a category of its own."

Both sides appeared eager to announce the agreement as the centerpiece of Bush's first visit to India, and did so with few details at a triumphal news conference on the lush grounds of Hyderabad House, a former princely residence in the heart of this capital. But Bush acknowledged that the deal now faced a difficult battle for approval in Congress.

In Victory for Bush, Senate Vote Favors Extension of Patriot Act

By David Stout

THE NEW YORK TIMES

WASHINGTON

The Senate voted overwhelmingly today to extend the Patriot Act, clearing the way for the House to follow suit and send the anti-terrorism bill to President Bush before it expires on March 10.

The 89-to-10 vote was somewhat anticlimactic, since senators who back the bill had defeated a series of parliamentary delaying moves on Wednesday, but it was still good news for President Bush, who regards the measure as the legislative keystone of his anti-terrorism policies. Indeed, President Bush issued a statement half a world away, in New Delhi, before the Senate voted but when it was obvious that the bill's detractors had run out of tactics.

"I applaud the Senate for voting to renew the Patriot Act and overcoming the partisan attempts to block its pas-

sage," the president said. "The terrorists have not lost the will or the ability to attack us. The Patriot Act is vital to the war on terror and defending our citizens against a ruthless enemy."

"This bill will allow our law enforcement officials to continue to use the same tools against terrorists that are already used against drug dealers and other criminals, while safeguarding the civil liberties of the American people."

But reaction to today's vote signaled that the Patriot Act will continue to be debated in the United States long after Congress has approved it. The senators opposing the bill, all Democrats except for the independent James Jeffords of Vermont, argued that the civil rights protections written into the measure were too modest.

"Americans want to defeat terrorism and they want the basic character of this country to survive and prosper,"

said Senator Russell D. Feingold of Wisconsin, who was the only senator to vote against the original bill when it was passed shortly after the attacks of Sept. 11, 2001. "They want both security and liberty, and unless we give them both — and we can if we try — we have failed."

The bill, which extends 16 provisions of the USA Patriot Act (14 permanently and two through 2009), now goes to the House, which will act on it next week. That chamber has already approved the general measure, but it must vote again to accommodate the late changes put in by the Senate.

Since a majority of House members support the Patriot Act — and since the House procedures do not include a filibuster, under which a minority of lawmakers can stall legislation — passage in the House is certain, barring an extraordinary shift in sentiment in the days just ahead.

WEATHER

Desert-Like Conditions

By Cegeon J. Chan

STAFF METEOROLOGIST

Waking up with a dry throat? Or perhaps you have chapped lips? These problems could be blamed on the desert-like conditions entrenched in New England. Although one would generally not compare Boston to the Sahara, since last Friday, Boston has averaged a dew point of roughly 5°F. The dew point is the temperature which must be cooled to reach saturation. An increasing dew point would imply an increase in the amount of moisture. In the Mojave Desert, the average dew point over the same time period has been roughly 25°F, and hence, their air is actually more moist. Outdoor temperatures there are obviously much higher, and hence, their outdoor relative humidity is much lower. But since most of us are trapped in dorms and offices for most of the day, the relative humidity over the last 10 days is actually lower here (indoors) than in the Mojave desert!

The dry air mass can also be (partially) blamed for the lack of snow accumulations on campus from yesterday's storm. Since it was so dry at the surface, much (if not most) of the snow evaporated before it even reached the ground. As the storm exits, windy conditions will prevail for today, lasting until tomorrow. With mostly sunny skies and calmer winds, Sunday will likely be the best day out of the weekend for outdoor activities such as skiing or snowboarding. Next week will see generally tranquil conditions. In the meantime, keep applying the lip balm.

Extended Forecast

Today: Partly cloudy. Windy with gusts up to 30 mph. Highs in the lower 30's (0°C).

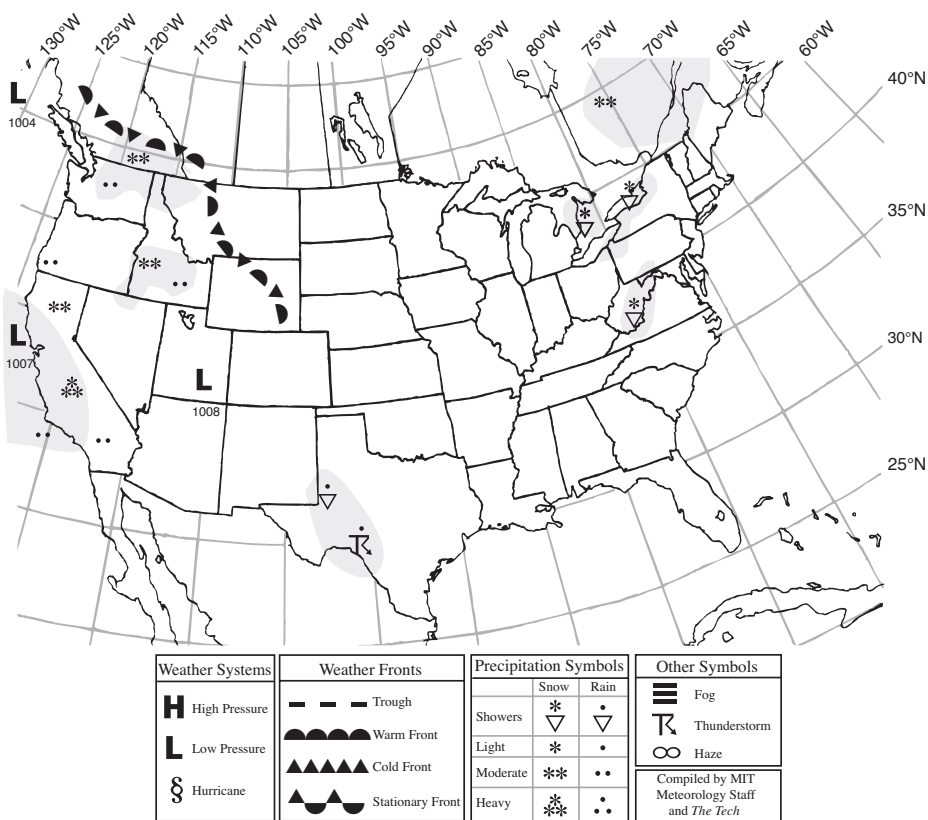
Tonight: Mostly clear. Cold. Windy with gusts up to 25 mph. Lows in the mid 20's (-4°C).

Tomorrow: Mostly clear. Windy with gusts up to 35 mph. Highs in the upper 30's (4°C).

Sunday: Mostly clear. Much less windy. Highs in the lower 40's (6°C).

Monday: Mostly clear. Highs in the lower 40's (6°C).

Situation for Noon Eastern Standard Time, Friday, March 3, 2006



Israel Leader Warns of Harsh Measures to Counter Terrorism

By Steven Erlanger
THE NEW YORK TIMES

JERUSALEM

Israel's acting prime minister, Ehud Olmert, warned Palestinians on Thursday that Israel would use "far-reaching measures" and "an iron fist against any attempt to resume terrorist activity," whether in the West Bank or the Gaza Strip.

Olmert spoke as a new opinion poll showed his Kadima Party continuing to slip less than a month before March 28 elections, but still comfortably on course to form a new Israeli government. The Haaretz-Channel 10 poll indicates that Kadima would win 37 of the Parliament's 120 seats, down two from a similar poll taken in February and 7 from the end of January.

Olmert said at a news conference that he had ordered airstrikes against Palestinians involved in firing Qas-sam rockets into Israel from the Gaza Strip. "Not a few times, terrorists who were about to fire rockets were liquidated before they could fire them, and it was based on my orders, sometimes my personal orders," he said.

In another indication of tough responses in the face of the victory of

the militant Islamic group Hamas in the Jan. 25 Palestinian elections, the defense minister, Shaul Mofaz, ordered that the Karni crossing between Gaza and Israel, the main crossing for agricultural and manufactured goods, remain closed, citing continued danger of a terrorist attack there.

Officials said Wednesday that Karni would be reopened on Thursday so food and aid could be brought to Gaza after international agencies warned that some food supplies were dwindling. Karni has been closed off and on and continuously since Feb. 21, after a mysterious explosion.

While Olmert, at his news conference, said that Israel "respects" Mahmoud Abbas, the Palestinian president, "we are nevertheless disappointed by the fact that instead of fighting terrorism, he has appointed the leader of terrorism as the candidate for prime minister," a reference to Ismail Haniya, a Hamas leader who is trying to form a new government. Olmert rejected Abbas' call for peace talks with him.

But the leader of the Labor Party, Amir Peretz, who has argued that Abbas and other Palestinian "moderates"

must be supported, met with Abbas on Thursday at the Allenby Bridge crossing into Jordan in what he called a "message that we do not lose hope."

Peretz, whose party has been stagnant in the polls at 19 seats, praised Abbas and said at their meeting that "he perceives terrorism as the enemy of both nations."

On Thursday, Abbas stepped back from comments he had made to the London-based newspaper Al Hayat, which quoted him as saying that al-Qaida already was present in Palestinian areas. But he said, "We have information, yet to be confirmed, that al-Qaida, just as it sends its operatives to Jordan and other countries like Saudi Arabia and others, also might send us operatives for sabotage."

In an earlier interview with Al-Jazeera television, Abbas said he intended to transfer broad security powers to the future Hamas-led government, though the general intelligence branch would remain subject to the presidency. "We'll grant Hamas authority over the Palestinians' national security because we need to have one body controlling the situation to ensure security," he said.

Senate Panel Votes Against Plan To Change Lobbying, Ethics Laws

By Sheryl Gay Stolberg
THE NEW YORK TIMES

WASHINGTON

Senators backed away Thursday from expansive lobbying law changes for the second time this week, overwhelmingly voting down a proposal to create an independent office to investigate ethics abuses in Congress.

The plan for a new Office of Public Integrity was rejected, 11-5, by the Senate Homeland Security and Government Affairs Committee. Opponents complained it duplicated the work of the Senate Ethics Committee and violated the Constitution, which provides for the House and Senate to set their own rules.

The vote does not mean the idea is dead; backers said they would try to bring it to the full Senate when the chamber takes up lobbying law changes, possibly next week. But the measure's defeat, coupled with strong disagreements among Republican leaders in the House over what form lobbying legislation should take, suggests the path to changing the way Congress does business will be fraught with obstacles.

The proposal for the Office of Public Integrity would have created an independent office, with a director who had subpoena power. The director, appointed by the Democratic and Republican congressional leadership, would have responsibility for investigating ethics charges, though his decisions could be overruled by a two-thirds vote of the House or Senate ethics committees.

The measure was struck down despite the strong backing of the committee's Republican chairwoman, Sen. Susan Collins of Maine, and its senior Democrat, Sen. Joseph I. Lieberman of Connecticut. Support was so scant during the debate that as the discussion drew to a close, Collins issued a half-joking plea for help.

"If there are any members of the committee who think there's some possibility that Sen. Lieberman and I are right," Collins said, "I would love to hear them speak."

Instead, the panel adopted legislation that would strengthen disclosure requirements for lobbyists, requiring them to submit more frequent reports of their activities and to do so

electronically, in a format that could be easily searched by the press and the public.

The bill would also double from one to two years the so-called cooling-off period during which lawmakers-turned-lobbyists are prohibited from lobbying their former colleagues. And it would extend that cooling-off period to senior Senate aides, who would be barred during that time from lobbying the entire Senate, not just their former bosses, as is the current practice.

The committee also voted, 10-6, to impose new requirements on advocacy groups to report how much they spend lobbying Congress. That provision is aimed at groups like the AARP, which spend millions on television advertisements and other campaigns designed to influence Congress, but do not have to register as lobbyists.

After the meeting, Collins said she thought the panel had produced "a strong bill," even without the ethics office provision. But government watchdog groups, and some senators, complained afterward that the committee had stripped the meat out of lobbying law changes.

National Archives Tells Intelligence Agencies to Stop Removing Material

By Scott Shane
THE NEW YORK TIMES

WASHINGTON

After complaints from historians, the National Archives on Thursday directed intelligence agencies to stop removing previously declassified historical documents from public access and urged them to return to the shelves as quickly as possible many of the records they had already pulled.

Allen Weinstein, the nation's chief archivist, announced what he called a "moratorium" on reclassification of documents until an audit can be completed to determine which records should be secret.

A group of historians recently found that decades-old documents that they had photocopied years ago and that appeared to have little sensitivity had disappeared from the open files. They learned that in a program operated in secrecy since 1999, intelligence and defense agencies had removed more than 55,000 pages that agency officials believed had been wrongly declassified.

Weinstein, who became archivist

of the United States a year ago, said he knew "precious little" about the seven-year-old reclassification program before it was disclosed in The New York Times on Feb. 21.

He said he did not want to prejudge the results of the audit being conducted by the archives' Information Security Oversight Office, which oversees classification. But he said the archives' goal is to make sure government records that can safely be released are available. The audit was ordered by J. William Leonard, head of the oversight office, after he met with historians on Jan. 27.

"The idea is to let people get on with their research and not reclassify documents unless it's absolutely necessary," said Weinstein, who in the mid-1970s successfully sued the FBI to obtain records he used for his book about Alger Hiss, the State Department official found to be a Soviet spy.

The flap over reclassified records takes place at a time when record-setting numbers of documents are being classified, fewer historical records are being released and several criminal

leak investigations are under way. Bush administration officials have cited the need to keep sensitive information from terrorist groups and executive privilege in justifying the need for secrecy, and some members of Congress have called for tougher laws against leaks.

Weinstein met with historians on Thursday to reveal the moratorium and plans for a "summit meeting" Monday with representatives of the intelligence and defense agencies, which have had teams of reviewers at the archives studying and pulling documents.

In a written statement, Weinstein called on those agencies to "commit the necessary resources to restore to the public shelves as quickly as possible the maximum amount of information consistent with the obligation to protect truly sensitive national security information." The secret agreement governing the reclassification program prohibits the National Archives from naming the agencies involved, but archivists have said they include the CIA, the Defense Intelligence Agency and the Air Force.

U.S. Diplomat Is Among Four Dead In Karachi Suicide Blast

By Salman Masood
THE NEW YORK TIMES

ISLAMABAD, PAKISTAN

Four people, including a U.S. diplomat, were killed Thursday when a powerful bomb triggered by a suicide bomber went off in the southern port city of Karachi, according to Pakistani officials. The attack came just two days before President Bush is to visit Pakistan, but Bush said in New Delhi Thursday that he would continue with his trip nevertheless.

The blast occurred at 9:05 a.m. local time near the U.S. consulate and a Marriott Hotel in an upscale area of Karachi, the country's largest city and a commercial hub. Forty-five people were injured in the attack, government officials said.

Pakistani officials said a vehicle was intercepted by Rangers as it tried to ram into the diplomat's vehicle near the consulate. The massive explosion rocked the neighborhood; the attacker's vehicle was completely destroyed, and the vehicle of the diplomat was thrown into the air and then tumbled over.

Belarus Opposition Candidate Injured in Melee With Police

By Steven Lee Myers
THE NEW YORK TIMES

MOSCOW

Security officers in Belarus on Thursday arrested a candidate running against President Aleksandr G. Lukashenko in the March 19 election, setting off a brawl in which the opposition candidate was punched and suffered a bruised face and a broken lip.

The injured challenger, Aleksandr V. Kazulin, was released by the police more than eight hours later, but not before his arrest prompted protests, more scuffles with the police and dozens more detentions in Minsk, the Belarus capital.

Police officers fired warning shots near the police station where Kazulin was being held, in an effort to stop a car carrying his supporters and a photographer, according to his spokeswoman, Nina Shidlovskaya, and the election observer mission of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe.

"Today it was shown that the president is extremely afraid of his own people," Kazulin said in a telephone interview after his release on Thursday evening. "We call on the world community to issue a strict protest against the fact that in the center of Europe a dictatorship is metastasizing."

European Bank Raises Rates Again

By Mark Landler
THE NEW YORK TIMES

FRANKFURT, GERMANY

With Europe seemingly on firm economic footing, the European Central Bank on Thursday raised interest rates for the second time in three months and signaled more increases to come.

The decision, which had been widely expected, lifted the bank's benchmark rate by a quarter-point, to 2.5 percent — a level that its president, Jean-Claude Trichet, noted was still "very low."

Pointing to the bank's new growth forecasts, which were revised upward from December, Trichet sounded confident that European economies were shaking off their long economic slumber. Rising oil prices, though, have pushed up inflation, which Trichet said warranted tighter credit.

"The decision reflects the upside risks to price stability," he said at a news conference in Frankfurt, adding later, "We did not decide today, ex ante, on a series of monthly rate increases."

Those words were a deliberate echo of Trichet's guarded tone in December, when the bank raised rates for the first time in five years. By giving little hint of the timing of the next increase, Trichet has left the bank's 18-member governing council a degree of flexibility.

The euro rose against the dollar Thursday, settling at \$1.2033 in New York, up from \$1.1915 late Tuesday, as currency markets reflected the likelihood of tighter monetary policy. Economists generally expect the bank to act again in June, and nothing Trichet said threw that into doubt.

Panel to Expand Inquiry On Surveillance

By Eric Lichtblau
THE NEW YORK TIMES

WASHINGTON

Leaders of the House Intelligence Committee agreed Thursday to expand their inquiry into the National Security Agency's domestic surveillance program, but Republicans rejected a broader effort by Democrats for President Bush to turn over detailed White House records on the operation.


The developments reflected continued uncertainty in Congress over whether lawmakers should authorize the surveillance program, or seek to rein in an operation that Democrats contend is illegal.

As the committee begins its review, some Republicans are even questioning whether the surveillance program, which was approved by Bush after the Sept. 11 attacks, is needed.

"It doesn't make any sense to fight to keep a program that isn't doing anything," Rep. Heather A. Wilson, R-N.M., who sits on the committee, said in an interview.

"Is the program useful?" she asked. "We just don't know at this point."

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OPINION

Oxymorons 101: MIT Planning

Ruth Miller

Few things on campus ignite more controversy than the Stata Center. Is it just art? Is it just ridiculously over-budget? Is it a symbol? Does it provide good public space? How is it pronounced? (I’ve been told that engineers call it “state-ah” while the more humanities-inclined call it “stat-ah”). Is it even nice to look at? Most people can agree on one thing — Frank Gehry is nuts. But is it a good kind of nuts or the bad kind?

I’ve always said that I think Stata looks like a tumor, if buildings were able to grow tumors. Think about it — parts of a normal building started to copy and crowd themselves, but they still retain the physical attributes of a building (brick and right angles). As the building-tumor becomes malignant, the new parts begin to look less and less like their original selves — metal walls, round things, strange windows and funny angles crop up. Finally, as the cancer becomes terminal, it begins sending roots deep underground — seven stories, to be exact — firmly planting itself forever on Vassar Street.

7.012 aside, Stata does look strange. But is it art? I’ve passed myself off as an artist by defining it as something that lets the viewer relate and raise new self-examining questions or ironies. Granted, by that definition pornography is definitely art, and those giant,

monochromatic canvases are not. But assuming that ability to self-relate is an actual factor in determining “art,” what does Stata say about MIT?

First of all, the tumor analogy is also applicable to MIT planning. Eons ago, someone decided to put all of campus east of Massachusetts Avenue. Then, all the students were to be housed on West Campus. Now, there’s going to be a graduate student community northwest of campus. All this sounds great, but they’re less “plans” than “something to do until we abandon it half-finished.” That’s how we have a hodge-podged, unplanned campus that the Princeton Review ranks 9th for “campus that is tiny, unsightly, or both.” And to complement a malignant tumor of a campus, we get a malignant tumor of a building. For staging this irony, whether intentional or not, Gehry is a genius.

Secondly, the physical size and landscape dominance of Stata speaks of some of the building’s occupants. Computer Science is the bread and butter of MIT. Enough said. So when MIT wants to land tons of square footage, it gives it to its bread and butter department. And when that department is currently the best and most spectacular department (bear with me), it needs the best and most spectacular building of all time to help convince the world that it’s the best and most spectacular place to send money.

This is all fine and good, but Computer Sci-

ence has not always been, and will not always be, the core of MIT. In fact, MIT has a brand-new, very impressive Brain and Cognitive Department building (and new Brain and Cognitive University President). Good for Brain and Cognitive Science. But if, hypothetically, Cancer Research needs a new building, and if they want to demonstrate that they are more revolutionary, more important, and more of an asset to the world than Computer Science and Brain and Cognitive, they need an even bigger building.

This isn’t planning, and it produces a landscape of ridiculously large, visually-exhausting, hugely-expensive buildings. I’m curious to see what MIT will look like in 50 years. If every department gets its Stata (and all the dorms look like Simmons), it might be too much for the eye to handle.

Perhaps ironically, one thing that helps offset a barrage of architectural-daring is green space. Flowerchild or not, a little bit of green goes a long way to relax a person. And the sponsors of each individual building could benefit from neighboring some vegetation, rather than another visually-competitive building. But that requires planning and money, two things of which MIT never seems to have enough.

If future architects want to get the most out of their buck, it might just come to them to demand green space. Otherwise, the strongest advocate of flora might be an anonymous hacker with some putt-putt grass.

Letters To The Editor

Picking the Wrong Battle

I find it disturbing that Mr. Vyas aims to force his ethical considerations onto the greater MIT community through a ban on Coca-Cola products (*The Tech*, Feb. 28). If Indian and Colombian consumers still demand Coca-Cola and make it economically possible for the company to operate in those areas, despite being cognizant of “receding water tables” and other considerations, Mr. Vyas should not presume to speak for them or impinge on their rights to freedom of choice. Neither should he attempt to reduce the freedom of choice for the MIT community, either,

as that would have detrimental effects by creating inefficiencies and an effective monopoly for the other soft drink giant.

One reason why socially responsible movements such as Fair Trade Coffee have been successful is that they offer viable alternatives to products and compete in the marketplace; they do not reduce choices and hurt consumers adversely. The Coke I get from vending machines on campus is not made in Colombia or India. If Mr. Vyas feels so strongly against Coke, he may be better off searching for a job in Pepsi’s Public Relations department, as opposed to attempting to force his individual opinions on a community that cherishes freedom of choice.

Sameer Riaz ’06

Put Your Money Where Your Mouths Are

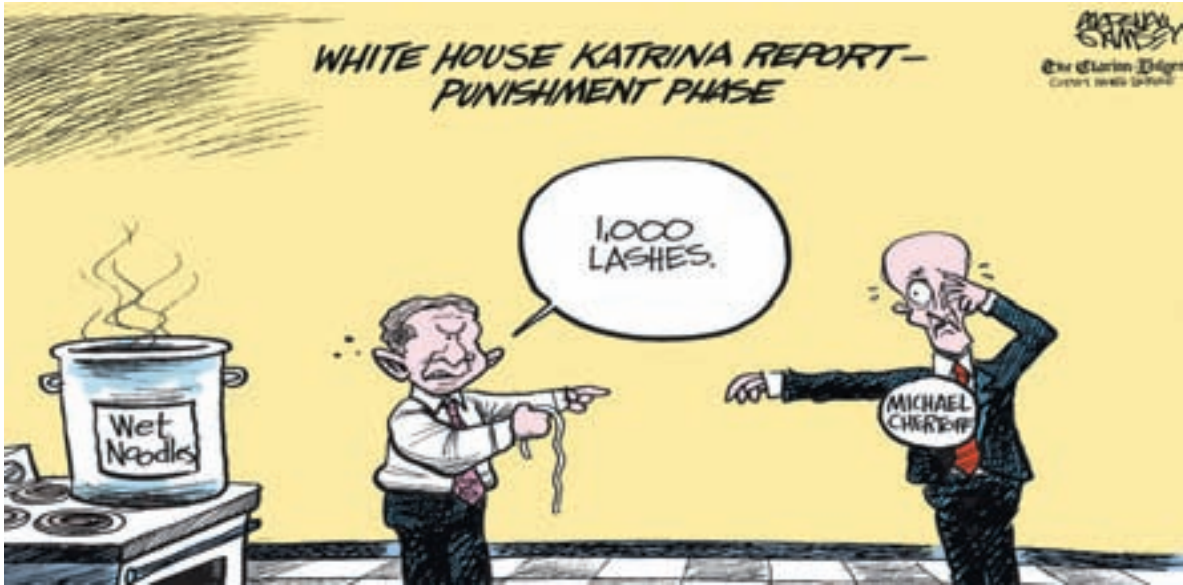
Something seems amiss when people complain about the lack of hacks at MIT (*The Tech*, Feb. 28). We are, after all, a university filled with engineers. Anyone who wants to carry out a hack — well, what’s stopping you? It can’t be lack of talent — after all, you’re here, aren’t you? All that it takes to pull of a good hack is inspiration, a few friends, and a big dose of courage. Don’t be afraid to start small: it doesn’t have to be on the dome to be widely noticed and long remembered. And if you aren’t out there pulling hacks, you’ve got no right to complain.

Jake Beal G

Corrections

A Feb. 24 article, “Teamspot Technology Now Appearing Across Campus,” incorrectly identified IS&T as Information Systems and Technology. It is actually Information Services and Technology.

The Feb. 24 opinion column “Killer Coke” misspelled Colombian as Columbian.



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raffle, and a lot
more!*



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**“if i touch it to this rod
here, maybe it’ll
discharge a little bit.”**

-8.02 professor

The Chorallaries of MIT’s Nth Annual Concert in

BAD TASTE

saturday 4 march . 10:59:59pm . 10-250

March 3,
2006

COMICS

The
Tech

FUN

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PAGES

Trio

TRIO Character Profiles: ALUM.MIT.EDU/WWW/EMIE

by Emezie Okorafor



DEVIANTS FROM THE NORM

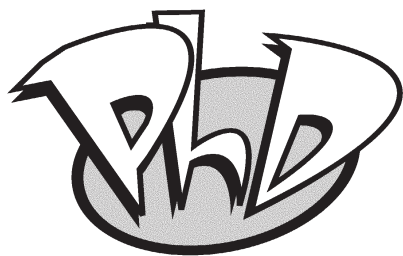
by A.K. Turza



[037] NOT YOURS

Moons of Uranus

by Juan Pablo Mendieta



PILED HIGHER AND
DEEPER



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su | do | ku

© Puzzles by Pappocom

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, tips, and computer program at <http://www.sudoku.com>; see also solution, page 16.

Schleminkel

BIGFOOT CUTS HIS OWN HAIR!



FoxTrot by Bill Amend

Dilbert® by Scott Adams

Crossword Puzzle

Solution, page 16

ARTS

EVENT REVIEW

Chinese New Year's Feast of Plenty

Association of Taiwanese Students Provides Delicious Meal and Talented Performers

By **Jillian Berry**
ASSOCIATE ARTS EDITOR
ATS New Year's Banquet
Brown Living Room
McCormick Hall
Feb. 25, 2006, 7-11 p.m.

On Saturday night, McCormick's Brown Living Room was transformed into a festive banquet hall for the annual Chinese New Year's feast of the Association of Taiwanese Students. With red paper lanterns, red tablecloths, and fortune cookies scattered throughout, we were fully prepared to welcome in the year of the Dog, even though we were a little late: Chinese New Year was Jan. 29.

The main attraction of the event was, of course, the food. Though the meal started about an hour late, since the final dishes took longer than expected to prepare, we were well

rewarded for our patience with the more than 20 authentic Chinese entrées prepared from scratch by ATS members. Plus, they kept us busy during the wait with a code breaking puzzle, which was so complicated I could not even understand how the winner got the answer ("6.270").

The sheer volume of food was astounding, and it was very entertaining to watch everyone trying to balance as much as possible on his plate. Nearly everything was delicious, but a few dishes really stood out. My favorite was probably the salmon: a whole fillet cooked with a simple topping that added the perfect crunch and saltiness to the flaky texture. In addition, the fried spring rolls combined a flavorful filling with the perfect crispy, golden brown wrapping. Another excellent dish was the honey chicken; the chicken and onions were sweet and moist in a flavorful and thick sauce. Finally, I must

mention the outstanding rice cakes — crispy on the outside, sticky and chewy on the inside, with a subtle sweet taste throughout. They went well with many of the very hot and spicy meat dishes.

Dessert, however, could not live up to the main meal. Though there were fabulous almond cookies, which melted in your mouth and provided a sweet — but not overpowering — end to the meal, the other desserts were not worth sampling. In particular, the green tea ice cream was an odd blend of bitter cream — I know it's not meant to be that sweet, but this literally made people cringe. In addition, the chocolate-covered strawberries were a disappointment. Usually a divine dessert, these just tasted of salt. Luckily, there was so much food that I did not really miss dessert, and I am not sure how much more anyone had room for had they been perfect.

Although the food was the main attraction, the ATS provided some traditional Chinese performances as well. Before dinner, Gloria Chao '08 opened with an authentic Chinese dance that set the mood for the evening. After dinner, Angie Chiang '09 played three pieces on the Chinese bamboo flute. Although the second song ended rather abruptly, the third piece, accompanied by Yi Huang on the piano, lulled everyone into a trance-like state of relaxation. Next, Andy Lin '08 and Daniel Jeng woke up the crowd with Chinese yo-yo tricks. They dropped the yo-yos a few times and were not perfectly coordinated, but these mistakes did not detract from the exciting and crowd-pleasing routine. Finally, Serenus Hua '07 left us in awe with his violin performance. He is one of the best violinists I have ever heard, and the power of his music permeated the room, providing a splendid end to a wonderful night.

CONCERT REVIEW

Je Ne Veux Pas Travailler ...

Pink Martini Plays a Show Fit for Dancin' at the Somerville Theatre

By **Katherine Ingle**
Pink Martini
Somerville Theatre
Somerville, MA 02144
Feb. 22, 2006

Being from the state of Oregon, anything that has the words "wild salmon," "hazelnut," or "Thomas Lauderdale" makes my heart skip a beat. Last Wednesday night it probably stopped for a good two hours during a live performance of the group Pink Martini at the Somerville Theatre.

It was more of a homecoming for the two leaders of the band, Lauderdale on the piano and China Forbes doing vocals. Forbes was born here in Cambridge, and both graduated cum laude from Harvard. They now live in Portland, Oregon, and their band is famous around the world for its international collection of music; their new album "Hang On Little Tomato" alone features songs in English, Spanish, French, Ital-

ian, Japanese, and Croatian. Together with a stellar ensemble of ten other musicians, they create and revive music that makes you want to jump out of your seat and start dancing.

Pink Martini opened the night with the crescendo of "Bolero." The violin was an interesting replacement for the cello featured on the CD (Sympatique), and the trumpet notes sounded smooth, yet clear and staccato. I was sitting near the front of the balcony of a sold-out house, but even from my vantage point I could see the audience of preschoolers to grandparents swaying with the music.

The show continued with many of my old favorites, including one of the group's most famous songs, "Sympatique." I think the song

was written for procrastinators everywhere: «Je ne veux pas travailler. Je ne veux pas déjeuner. Je veux seulement oublier, et puis je fume.» (Translation: I don't want to work. I don't want to eat lunch. I just want to forget, and then I smoke). Sometimes before a song, they gave a short history: the title song from the CD "Hang on Little Tomato" is based off a 1964 Hunt Ketchup commercial, and the lullaby "Clementine" from the same CD is written for Forbes's niece, who was apparently conceived on Brattle St. For songs in other languages, they provided short translations.

Many songs were either from old albums or yet to be released, and the performance whetted the audience's appetite for the soon-to-

come third CD. "Eugene, does any of this ring a bell?," a song in Portuguese about singing and dancing, transported me to a sandy beach with a gentle sun. Band features included a trumpet solo that made "Flight of the Bumblebees" sound like a warm-up from Suzuki, Book 2, but as always, Lauderdale was the highlight of the group, the anchor at the piano with his contagious energy.

After a prolonged standing ovation, the encore provided the poignant moment of the night: a German song about a soldier and his radio. The soldier is out on the battlefield with only a radio to connect him with his homeland, and the abrupt end of the song makes it obvious what happens.

After the second standing ovation, the house lights came on, and I was sadly hit with the realization that I had work to do. Riding home on the T, I held onto the t-shirt I bought: "Discover Oregon — with Pink Martini," and sang to myself, "Je ne veux pas travailler ..."

Together with a stellar ensemble of ten other musicians, they create and revive music that makes you want to jump out of your seat and start dancing.

CD REVIEW

Pretentious Scientists Prove Nothing

'With Love and Squalor' Fails to Shine

By **Andrew Guerra**
STAFF WRITER
With Love and Squalor
We Are Scientists
Virgin Records
Released: Jan. 10, 2006

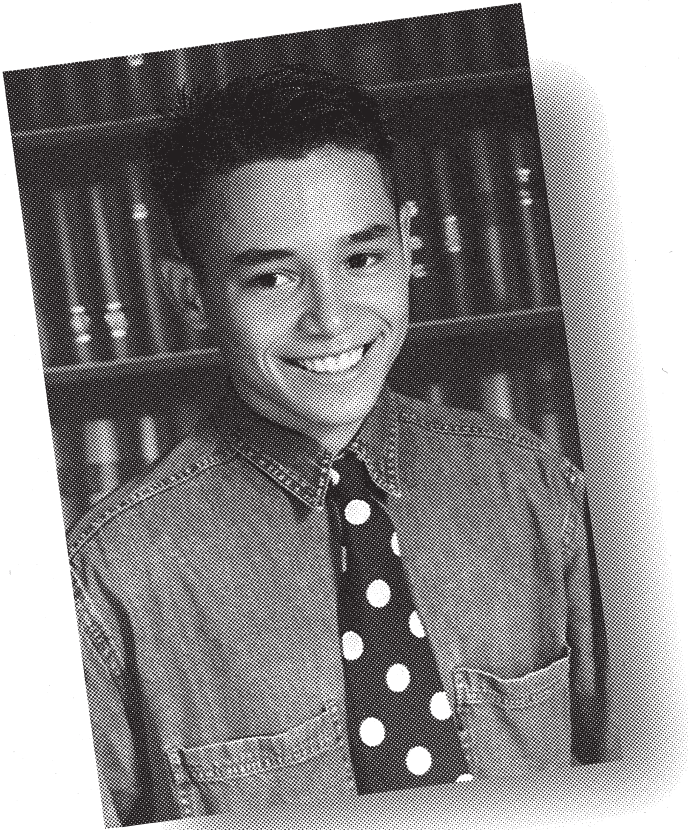
It must be tough to be We Are Scientists. How are they to grab the attention of music listeners attempting to sort through the glut of mediocre music? Of course, this problem is only worsened by their music, which not only stands firmly in the mediocre category, but is also reminiscent of a dozen other more popular bands. We Are Scientists attempts to solve this problem through both the backing of a major record label, Virgin Records, and an attitude that simultaneously mocks the record industry and wants its love. Unfortunately, while they may manage to gain attention, their music isn't cause enough to hold it.

"Of Love and Squalor" is the debut album from the New York based trio. Their sound consists of loud guitar riffs, fast beats, a prominent bass line, and lyrics begging to be considered cool. While We Are Scientists certainly is a little unique, the sound has enough in common with other bands such as Franz Ferdinand, The Killers, and Hot Hot Heat such that there's not much of anything new. Of course, similarity alone does not condemn them to also-ran status — it's certainly true that several of the earlier songs on the CD are quite good, including "Nobody Move, Nobody Get Hurt," "Can't Lose," and "It's A Hit." However, the majority of the songs aren't near the quality of the ones they're mimicking.

For all of the emotional resonance that a title such as "Of Love and Squalor" promises, the songs on the CD fail to leave much, if any, impact. The subject matter certainly seems to be accurately named as most of the lyrics deal with relationships of some type, but none of them aspires to the depth required to describe love. While it's not necessarily a problem that We Are Scientists fails to say anything most of the time, they also fail to provide anything musically compelling. What results is an album full of perfunctory songs, such that it soon becomes almost a chore to listen to them.

When one picks up the "Of Love and Squalor" CD, the most immediately striking aspect is the picture of the band on the cover. Dressed meticulously in their nerd-chic clothing with slightly rumpled shirts and long, unkempt hair, they look to be the very image of indie rockdom, "Rushmore"-inspired pretentiousness. And, to further this, they're holding very cute kittens. Unfortunately, this style reeks slightly of market research. Then, of course, there's the sticker attached to the front, proclaiming "Of Love and Squalor" to be "The (laudatory adjective) debut album featuring the (overblown superlative) single 'Nobody Move, Nobody Get Hurt,'" a move that both acknowledges the ridiculous nature of most record reviews, which regularly proclaim someone new as the best band ever, and looks for similar treatment. Perhaps they realize such hype is the only way "Of Love and Squalor" has a chance of getting a good review. It could be a good purchase for anyone who is desperately in love with a similar-sounding band and cannot wait for the next album, but unfortunately, the rest of us should skip pass over this one.

Their sound consists of loud guitar riffs, fast beats, a prominent base line, and lyrics begging to be considered cool.



Aaron Rodriguez
Ballplayer freshman year.
Little League Coach sophomore year.
Killed junior year.
December 28, 1993
San Antonio, TX

If you don't stop someone from driving drunk, who will? Do whatever it takes.

FRIENDS DON'T LET FRIENDS DRIVE DRUNK.



This space donated by The Tech

What to Look for at the 'Brokeback' Must End With a 'Crash,' Hoffman a Sure Bet

By Kevin Der
CONTRIBUTING EDITOR

In a couple of days, we'll see some of the world's most recognized faces, carefully trained and outfitted by teams of coaches, precariously traverse a stretch of ground that will test their strength, agility, and instincts. Those who falter risk bringing complete ruin to their careers. Indeed, the red carpet at the Academy Awards can be a dangerous place.

Hollywood celebrities have much to contend with if they are to enter Los Angeles's Kodak Theatre unscathed — at the recent Golden Globes in January, fashion designer Isaac Mizrahi publicly groped Scarlet Johansson, among other lewd behavior he exhibited. And, the media will no doubt again pose outrageously rude comments — at last year's Oscars, Chris Connelly of ABC told Orlando Bloom, "Before you were a movie star, you were a serious actor."

The real focus of the event, however, is the films nominated: a quiet, subdued group, for the most part. Mostly pessimistic and downcast, the lauded films this year explore dark themes like revenge and corruption, from satire of global arms trafficking in "Lord of War" to a sinister portrait of familial dysfunction in "The Squid and the Whale." Many excellent films, from "Syriana" to "Munich" to "Paradise Now," also portray the conflict in the Middle East.

I dislike the way one unworthy film sometimes manages to gather some attention from a few critics early winter and have that praise snowball into predictions of that film's complete domination of the Oscars. Often this occurs before the film has even been released. "Chicago" was one such undeserving film whose Best Picture victory stripped the award of credibility that even the recent worthy victors "The Lord of the Rings: The Return of the King" and "Million Dollar Baby" have not been able to completely restore. Having won countless awards leading up to this Sunday, "Brokeback Mountain" is the unworthy film this year. The film is well-directed, but its story is shallow and the pacing stagnant. "Brokeback" isn't a terrible film, but it just can't stand up to the other Best Picture nominees.

Here are some interesting numbers for the 78th Academy Awards. First, all five nominated for Best Picture have directors and screenplays that are also up for awards. "Brokeback Mountain" has the most nominations, a total of eight. George Clooney has three nominations, for acting, directing, and screenwriting. Online betting currently favors Philip Seymour Hoffman to win Best Actor at 1 to 9 odds. Finally, this Sunday, late-night talk show host Jon Stewart will for the first time, before a world-wide audience of hundreds of millions, host the ceremonies that award twenty-four golden statuettes.

Best Picture

"Brokeback Mountain" and "Good Night, and Good Luck" should be replaced by "Mem-

oirs of a Geisha" and "King Kong." Nonetheless, "Brokeback" is most likely to win, given its streak of recent awards. However, "Munich" is the worthiest recipient — this is Spielberg's masterpiece about a team of Israeli intelligence agents who set out on a mission of revenge against Palestinian terrorists who murdered Israeli athletes at the 1972 Olympic games. Spielberg shows that violence is a self-defeating, and, with nuance, subtlety, and expert filmmaking, he humanizes both the terrorists and the Israeli agents who hunt them. "Munich" is unlikely to take the award, however, because Spielberg has already done his best work in "Schindler's List," which did win.

"Crash" is an engaging and thrilling tale of a number of strangers whose lives are linked simply through their coexistence. Recently, it has gained some attention, and is the only contender to "Brokeback." "Capote" is an excellent character study of the writer Truman Capote, but its coldness and detachment make it inaccessible. Finally, "Good Night, and Good Luck" is a quiet film that is less direct in its message and might have been more powerful if it were more engaging.

Best Director

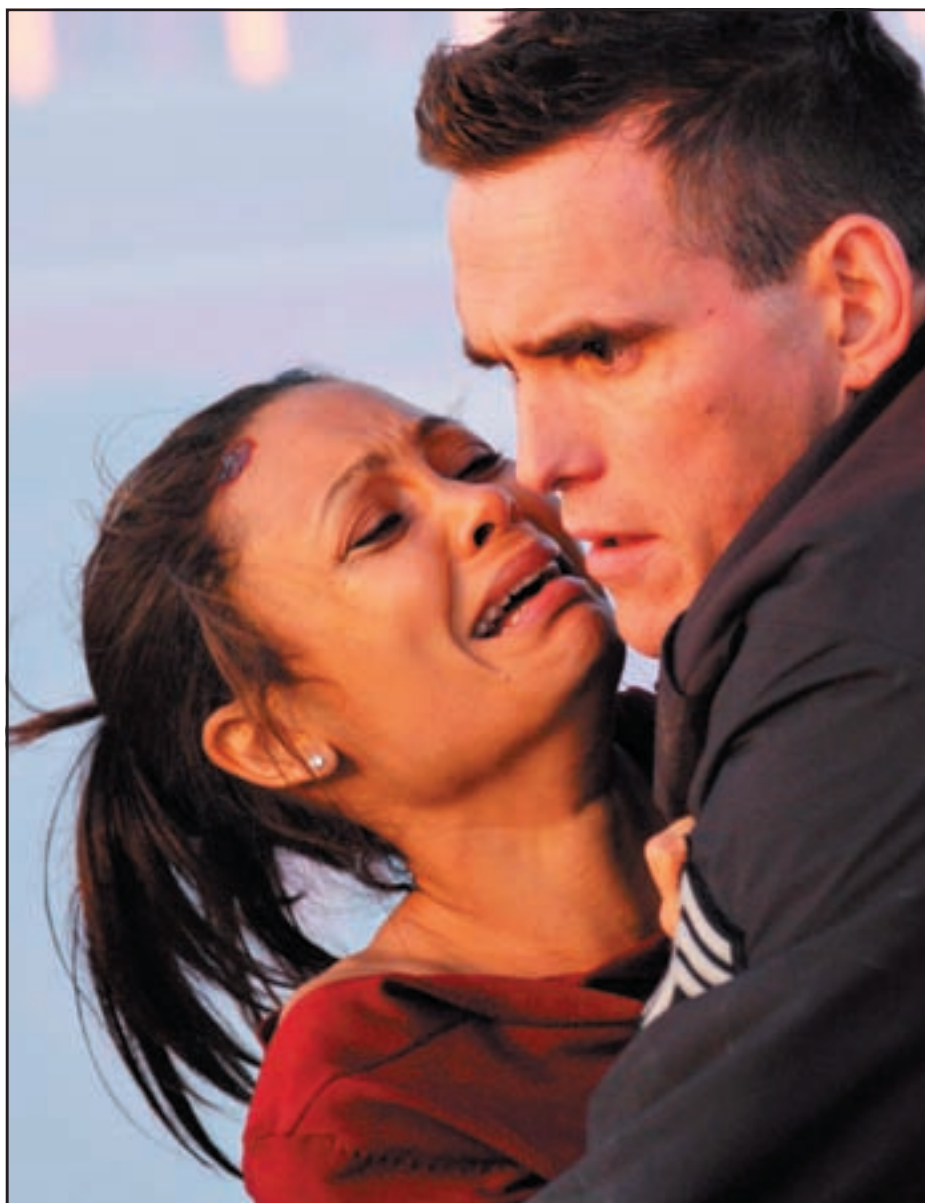
Ang Lee is heavily favored to win this prize for "Brokeback." He never makes the same movie twice, and for good reason — he does it perfectly the first time. "Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon," "Sense and Sensibility," "The Ice Storm" — they're all fantastic and as different as can be. If he wins, it's as much for his direction on these films as it is for the mediocre "Brokeback." Steven Spielberg is nominated for "Munich" but won't win, having already been honored for "Schindler's List" and "Saving Private Ryan." Paul Haggis, George Clooney, and Bennett Miller all deserve their nominations, but only Haggis has a shot aside from Lee.

Best Actor

Philip Seymour Hoffman will win, and rightly so, for nailing Truman Capote's quirky mannerisms. The audience can feel the confused and selfish intents of Capote as the character manipulates a death row inmate to gain material for a novel. Heath Ledger is not to be underestimated, however, and admittedly he does well as a quiet, withdrawn shepherd in "Brokeback," however this role is less challenging than Hoffman's more emotional one. Terrence Howard, Joaquin Phoenix, and David Strathairn all give performances worthy of nomination, but Hoffman is the one who truly deserves the prize.

Best Actress

Keira Knightley portrays Elizabeth Bennet excellently in "Pride & Prejudice," but Reese Witherspoon is the strongest choice as Johnny Cash's wife in "Walk the Line." Charlize Theron won two years ago, and Judi Dench has received Oscars in the past as well. Felicity Huffman sheds the skin of a desperate housewife to



LIONS GATE FILMS

Matt Dillon (right) is nominated in the Best Supporting Actor category for his portrayal of a racist, molesting policeman who is also trying to care for his sick father. "Crash" is the only likely challenge to "Brokeback Mountain" for the Best Picture Oscar.

play a transgendered cross-country traveler in "Transamerica" and is the next likely winner after Witherspoon.

Best Supporting Actor

The biggest acting foul-up at last year's Oscars was the absence of a nomination for Paul Giamatti, who gave the finest performance of his career as a depressed oenophile in "Sideways." He's nominated this year as Russell Crowe's boxing trainer in "Cinderella Man" and nails the role, but it doesn't offer the kind of brilliance that the character of Miles did in "Sideways." Nonetheless, the Academy is known to reward actors for unrecognized previous work and it may happen here. Matt Dillon, of "Wild Things," is unexpectedly effective as a racist police officer who exhibits another side as a devoted son in "Crash." George Clooney

is unlikely to win for "Syriana" and Jake Gyllenhaal is just a bore in "Brokeback." William Hurt managed to be nominated in "A History of Violence" as a mobster with about five minutes of screen time. He is successful, however, in radiating such a degree of vileness it's somehow hilarious for the audience. In the end, look for Dillon or Giamatti to win.

Best Supporting Actress

This category is difficult to predict. Catherine Keener is effective but unmemorable as Harper Lee in "Capote." She provides a kind of rational and humanizing side that plays well opposite Hoffman's Capote. Michelle Williams has a small performance in "Brokeback" as Heath Ledger's wife, and she portrays her character's silent suffering well. Rachel Weisz has a strong chance of winning for her role in "The Constant Gardener," as an activist in Africa working against the corruption of pharmaceutical companies in the Third World. Even though she dies just minutes into the film, she is able to carry the weight of the picture through just a few disjointed flashbacks. Amy Adams in "Junebug" and Frances McDormand in "North Country" are the other two nominees. Weisz gets my vote, but Williams may have an edge.

Best Animated Short

I've only seen one of the nominees, Shane Acker's brilliant "9." Having won many film awards including Best in Show at the Siggraph computer graphics conference, "9" is set in a futuristic world where rag doll creatures must battle a giant mechanical beast that has laid waste to most of their kind. The dark and gritty sci-fi feel is unique among most other shorts, which have been overly cartoony. I haven't seen Pixar's nominated short "One Man Band" but I expect it's the other likely competition.

Best Animated Feature

Created only several years ago, this award has been taken mostly by entirely computer-generated animated films reliant on state-of-the-art rendering techniques. This year, all three nominees employ more traditional animation styles. Hayao Miyazaki's cel animated "Howl's Moving Castle" presents a gorgeous fantasy world, consistent with his style. He won the award three years ago for the gem "Spirited Away" but it's hard to say if "Howl" will be a repeat. Also nominated is Tim Burton's stop-



SONY PICTURES CLASSICS

Philip Seymour Hoffman will win Best Actor for his portrayal of Truman Capote, author of a bestselling novel about the murder of a Kansas family. "Capote" is also nominated for Best Picture.

Continued on Page 11

78th Academy Awards

Continued from Page 10

motion animation “Corpse Bride,” a twisted fairy tale involving the undead (again, typical for Tim Burton). It is, however, the stop-motion “Wallace and Gromit” from Dreamworks Animation that’s most likely to take the Oscar home. The nominees provide a refreshing reminder that animation was a two-dimensional art long before CG came along.

Best Musical Score

John Williams is nominated twice, making his total Oscar nominations 45. His “Memoirs of a Geisha” is the strongest nominee by far, featuring solos from Yo-Yo Ma and Itzhak Perlman, both of whom have collaborated with him in the past. Williams captures the simultaneous beauty and heartbreak of the geisha through a blend of orchestra and Japanese instruments. He crafts themes using the soloists to represent the two lovers, the geisha Sayuri and the man she yearns for, the Chairman. Williams’ mastery of orchestration and understanding of storytelling make “Memoirs” one of his strongest scores this decade.

He also wrote a much more subdued score for Spielberg’s “Munich,” employing haunted female vocals to portray the tragedy of the perpetual violence in the story. It’s an effective and beautiful score, recalling the mood of “Schindler’s List.” On the other hand, “Memoirs” sounds like nothing Williams’ previous work; it could have been traditional Japanese compositions. Williams hasn’t won the Oscar since “List” despite nominations almost every year, so it will be a joy if he finally accepts the statuette this year.

The potential tragedy at the Oscars this year is the chance that “Brokeback” will win best score. Gustavo Santaolalla wrote a handful of extremely short acoustic guitar motifs that are heard sparsely throughout the film essentially unchanged. They effectively convey the barren and subdued nature of the film but are nowhere near the level of the other nominees. Alberto Iglesias mixes African instruments, mostly percussion, with orchestra, but his score is less effective at merging the two than Williams’s. Finally, Dario Marianelli’s “Pride and Prejudice” soundtrack is built around solo piano works reminiscent of the Classical style. These three scores, however, should have been replaced by James Newton Howard’s work in “King Kong,” Patrick Doyle’s score for Harry Potter, and Alexandre Desplat’s compositions from “Syriana.”

Best Adapted Screenplay

The screenplay categories are difficult to

predict, given that each of the five nominees for Best Picture has been nominated for one of the two categories. Historically, the quiet, smaller films tend to win these awards. I’d choose “Munich,” penned by Tony Kushner of “Angels and America” fame. “A History of Violence” has a chance as well. It’s anybody’s guess.

Best Original Screenplay

“Crash” seems to have received the most praise, but I’d choose “Match Point,” Woody Allen’s intimate drama that takes a turn to the dark and suspenseful. As is typical of Allen, a great deal of the picture is simply the characters sitting around talking, and that’s where he excels. He creates tension using the things the characters hide from each other. Any of the other nominees have a chance, too.

The 78th Academy Awards air this Sunday, March 5, at 8 p.m. on ABC.



WARNER INDEPENDENT

Television journalists bravely take on Senator McCarthy and his policies in “Good Night, and Good Luck.”



UNIVERSAL PICTURES

Steven Spielberg’s “Munich” portrays Israeli intelligence agents sent to assassinate Palestinian terrorists who murdered Israeli athletes at the 1972 Olympics. The film deserves to win Best Picture, but is likely to be overlooked.

The Tech Predicts The Oscar Winners			
BEST PICTURE Brokeback Mountain Capote Crash Good Night, and Good Luck. Munich <i>Will win:</i> Brokeback Mountain <i>Should win:</i> Munich DIRECTING Ang Lee (Brokeback Mountain) Bennett Miller (Capote) Paul Haggis (Crash) George Clooney (Good Night, and Good Luck.) Steven Spielberg (Munich) <i>Will win:</i> Ang Lee <i>Should win:</i> Steven Spielberg ACTOR IN A LEADING ROLE Philip Seymour Hoffman (Capote) Terrence Howard (Hustle & Flow) Heath Ledger (Brokeback Mountain) Joaquin Phoenix (Walk the Line) David Strathairn (Good Night, and Good Luck.) <i>Will win:</i> Philip Seymour Hoffman <i>Should win:</i> Philip Seymour Hoffman ACTOR IN A SUPPORTING ROLE George Clooney (Syriana) Matt Dillon (Crash) Paul Giamatti (Cinderella Man) Jake Gyllenhaal (Brokeback Mountain) William Hurt (A History of Violence) <i>Will win:</i> Paul Giamatti <i>Should win:</i> Matt Dillon ACTRESS IN A LEADING ROLE Judi Dench (Mrs. Henderson Presents) Felicity Huffman (Transamerica)	Keira Knightley (Pride & Prejudice) Charlize Theron (North Country) Reese Witherspoon (Walk the Line) <i>Will win:</i> Reese Witherspoon <i>Should win:</i> Reese Witherspoon ACTRESS IN A SUPPORTING ROLE Amy Adams (Junebug) Catherine Keener (Capote) Frances McDormand (North Country) Rachel Weisz (The Constant Gardener) Michelle Williams (Brokeback Mountain) <i>Will win:</i> Michelle Williams <i>Should win:</i> Rachel Weisz WRITING (ADAPTED SCREENPLAY) Brokeback Mountain Capote The Constant Gardener A History of Violence Munich <i>Will win:</i> Brokeback Mountain <i>Should win:</i> Munich WRITING (ORIGINAL SCREENPLAY) Crash Good Night, and Good Luck. Match Point The Squid and the Whale Syriana <i>Will win:</i> Crash <i>Should win:</i> Match Point ANIMATED FEATURE Howl’s Moving Castle Tim Burton’s Corpse Bride Wallace & Gromit in The Curse of the Were-Rabbit <i>Will win:</i> Wallace & Gromit <i>Should win:</i> Howl’s Moving Castle	ART DIRECTION Good Night, and Good Luck. Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire King Kong Memoirs of a Geisha Pride & Prejudice <i>Will win:</i> Memoirs of a Geisha <i>Should win:</i> Memoirs of a Geisha CINEMATOGRAPHY Batman Begins Brokeback Mountain Good Night, and Good Luck. Memoirs of a Geisha The New World <i>Will win:</i> Brokeback Mountain <i>Should win:</i> Memoirs of a Geisha COSTUME DESIGN Charlie and the Chocolate Factory Memoirs of a Geisha Mrs. Henderson Presents Pride & Prejudice Walk the Line <i>Will win:</i> Memoirs of a Geisha <i>Should win:</i> Memoirs of a Geisha FILM EDITING Cinderella Man The Constant Gardener Crash Munich Walk the Line <i>Will win:</i> Crash <i>Should win:</i> Munich MAKEUP The Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe Cinderella Man	Star Wars: Episode III Revenge of the Sith <i>Will win:</i> Cinderella Man <i>Should win:</i> Star Wars ORIGINAL SCORE Gustavo Santaolalla (Brokeback Mountain) Alberto Iglesias (The Constant Gardener) John Williams (Memoirs of a Geisha) John Williams (Munich) Dario Marianelli (Pride & Prejudice) <i>Will win:</i> John Williams (Memoirs of a Geisha) <i>Should win:</i> John Williams (Memoirs of a Geisha) SOUND EDITING King Kong Memoirs of a Geisha War of the Worlds <i>Will win:</i> King Kong <i>Should win:</i> King Kong SOUND MIXING The Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe King Kong Memoirs of a Geisha Walk the Line War of the Worlds <i>Will win:</i> Walk the Line <i>Should win:</i> King Kong VISUAL EFFECTS The Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe King Kong War of the Worlds <i>Will win:</i> King Kong <i>Should win:</i> King Kong
See http://www.oscar.com/ for a full list of nominees.			

ON THE SCREEN

— BY THE TECH ARTS STAFF —

★★★★: Inspired brilliance
★★★★: Solid filmmaking
★★: Mild entertainment
★: Embarrassing drack

★★★★ **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)

★★ **Curious George**
The question is whether we, as adults, can sit through an hour and a half of watching a non-talking monkey and a man in a bright yellow suit voiced by Will Ferrell. The answer, surprisingly, is an emphatic yes. What really sells the movie to adults is the amount of emotion generated with such a simple plot, although the most delightful aspect by far is the music. Before long, you may find yourself buying the soundtrack to a movie that is quite funny and enjoyable, even to those over the age of five.

RESTAURANT REVIEW

Asgard Offers Unique Brunch Close to Home

Dark Atmosphere and Poor Service are Balanced by Tasty and Eclectic Menu

By Chen Zhao, Erica Koval, Jiji Gu, Sally Lou, and Yaa-Lirng Tu

The Asgard
350 Massachusetts Avenue
Cambridge, MA 02139
(617)577-9100
www.classicirish.com

This past Sunday, the five of us decided to go to The Asgard, an Irish restaurant and pub, because of its reasonable prices and convenient location in Central Square. A common location for business lunches as well as student outings, The Asgard is known for featuring live music on weekends and team trivia on Tuesday nights. However, judging by the many empty tables when we arrived, few seemed aware that they also have a full and slightly unique brunch menu, served Saturday and Sunday from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m.

On the walk to Central Square, The Asgard is easily recognizable by the Irish banners hanging outside. The interior is styled like an Irish castle, with high, dark wooden beams and sparse lighting. On weekend mornings, slow jazz plays in

(Yong-yi Zhu)

★★ **Eight Below**
"Eight Below" is a nature movie riding the waves of last year's successful "March of the Penguins" and "Grizzly Man." Disney decided to hop on the bandwagon, but had to bastardize the genre with their requisite gag-inducing scenes. I am happy to say that even Disney can't completely ruin a good thing; if you need an escape and some brain candy, not to mention beautiful scenery and some terrific canine acting, you could do worse than this Antarctic adventure film. (Alice Macdonald)

★½ **Firewall**
Boasting equivocal baddies, a potboiler script, and cookie cutter performances, "Firewall" is a film that'll see the second-run theaters by Valentine's Day. Harrison Ford plays Jack Stanfield, a bank security expert whose life and family are threatened when robbers force him to commit electronic theft from his own employers. A great deal of acting talent is wasted on this picture, and unless something great comes along, Ford's career is essentially over. (Kevin Der)

★★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)

★★★★ **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 **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 on 9/11, a neoconservative leader (William Kristol), 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 background above the drone of the TV's near the bar. This atmosphere would be fine for diners but was much too dark and gloomy for a noon-time brunch.

The brunch entrees range from \$6.49 for a typical breakfast sandwich with home fries to \$9.99 for a very eclectic Full Irish Breakfast which includes eggs, tomatoes, baked beans, sautéed mushrooms, home fries, and four types of meat. The menu lacks diversity as meat, eggs and potatoes constitute most of the offerings, however this is not surprising for an Irish restaurant.

Jiji ordered the Egg's Benedict (\$8.99), served with home fries. Unfortunately, the Canadian bacon that was promised on the menu never made it to the table, but the Hollandaise sauce made this classic brunch entree enjoyable overall. The home fries, extraordinarily well seasoned roasted potatoes sautéed with various vegetables, were universally praised. This delectable side is served with all but two entrees on the entire menu, and if one wants more (because it really is that good), it can be ordered as a side dish.

Erica ordered an English muffin (\$1.49) and Texas French Toast (\$7.49) served with home fries, warm syrup and whipped butter. The waitress also forgot the English muffin, but luckily the rest of Erica's meal was very filling. The Texas French Toast was lightly flavored, offering good contrast to the more boldly flavored home fries.

Sally ventured to try the Full Irish Breakfast (\$9.99). As suggested by the name, the meal was generous indeed, and Sally found the grilled tomatoes, sautéed mushrooms, home fries, and English muffin very appetizing. However, the eggs were bland and the various traditional Irish sausages, termed black and white pudding for the blood content of the meat, were just barely acceptable.

Ling also opted to start off her breakfast with protein, ordering the Steak and Eggs (\$9.99). Unfortunately, the steak was a little dry, even for a well done one.

Chen ordered the special, a Mexican Omelet (\$8.99). A potato-laden and tasteless Irishman's Omelet was accidentally substituted initially, but after this mistake was corrected, she found the

Mexican Omelet to be very similar to a breakfast burrito. The omelet was very flavorful, but on the greasy side.

In contrast to the food, the drinks were very run-of-the-mill. The coffee was certainly not anything spectacular, and the orange juice lacked pulp and had an overly sweet aftertaste, resembling the usual store-bought stuff. For those wanting something stronger in the morning, The Asgard always offers a variety of alcoholic drinks, typically over \$5.

The service was slow due to the open seating policy, three mistakes were made on our orders, and drinks were slow to come. However, the waitress was very kind and happily answered all our questions about the menu and some of the unusual foods.

Overall, The Asgard delivered a well priced and eclectic meal. However, this location is probably better suited for late lunches and dinners because of the dark atmosphere and types of meals offered. Henrietta's Table, which we reviewed last week, is better for breakfast, but The Asgard offers a convenient and enjoyable enough brunch.

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MIT

New Course VI Pre-Orientation Program to be Gender-Balanced

By Yi Zhou

This fall, 30 incoming freshmen interested in a Freshman Pre-Orientation Program will have the opportunity to participate in a new Course VI (Electrical Engineering and Computer Science) program, which will be gender-balanced.

Created to acquaint students with little or no experience in computer science with the major, the one-week program will be modeled after the 6.270 Autonomous Robot Design Competition held over the Independent Activities Period, with similar components such as Legos. According to organizers Julia M. Dennett '08 and Laura A. Waller G, participants will also listen to a lecture series and go on an excursion into Boston.

Course VI administrator Anne M. Hunter said she hopes that the

program will encourage students to take more courses in the department.

Reginald Edwards '09 agreed — “To students who aren’t already techno-junkies or brilliant coders, majoring in Course VI could seem extremely formidable. Not having 6.001 be the first experience with the subject matter for prospective sixers definitely will not hurt enrollment,” he said.

Gender-balance will be a priority when selecting participants, Hunter said. The EECS department has one of the lowest percentages of women.

That the “department has not done as good a job as it could of advertising to all students the broad range of opportunities offered” may contribute to the uneven gender ratio, said Eric Grimson, the EECS

department head. For example, few students know that course VI has a long history of biology-related work, and that over a quarter of the current faculty are involved in that field. The Department of Biology (Course 7) has one of the highest female percentages.

One freshman, Morgan Scully '09, feels strongly opposed to the idea of forcing a balance by gender. “In gender-balancing this program, MIT is only further adding to the problem by making it seem as if women need special attention in order to enter the field of EECS,” she said.

Several other departments offer pre-orientation programs, including Course 1 (Civil and Environmental Engineering), Course 2 (Mechanical Engineering), 7 (Biology) and 22 (Nuclear Engineering).

Subcommittees to Address Issues Surrounding New Grad Dormitory

Ashdown, from Page 1

dated weekly.

“People can now focus on getting this building built,” said Benedict.

Four Subcommittees to guide input

Subcommittee One, with the tightest schedule, is charged with addressing “types of rooms and amount and disposition of common space” in the new building. It will be chaired by Karen A. Nilsson, director of housing, and GSC president Sylvain Bruni, and will include members of the administration and facilities as well as Ashdown Housemaster Terry P. Orlando and members of the graduate student community. Nilsson hopes to convene the first meeting with project architects Rawn Associates as early as Monday.

The remaining three subcommittees are charged with the more intangible issues. Subcommittee Two, chaired by Steven R. Lerman, housemaster of NW30 (the Warehouse), will deal with issues of graduate community on a longer time scale, such as dining options and the new location of the Thirsty Ear Pub.

While the Northwest Corridor has been promoted as the new locus of graduate community, students have expressed concern about its distance from campus, especially in contrast to Ashdown’s central location.

“You’re isolating all the grad students in one little corner,” said Singh, who is also a former chair of the GSC Housing and Community Affairs Committee, at an HCA meeting Thursday. “How do you open up the Northwest and connect it to the rest of campus?”

The third subcommittee, to be chaired by Orlando, is charged with “preserving the spirit of the Ashdown community,” with events like Coffee Hour and other activities traditionally associated with Ashdown.

Whether the Ashdown name will continue to be associated with a graduate dorm is also in question. “The Corporation names buildings. We don’t. Right now it’s NW35,” said Benedict.

In acknowledgment of the need to keep the community appraised of progress and process, the fourth subcommittee, chaired by Benedict, will be devoted to communication issues.

During the construction of Sidney-Pacific, the GSC held informal discussions as to how to keep communications between the administration and community from breaking down in the future.

Though the past six months have

seen a similar lack of communication and resulting dissatisfaction, “what happened in the fall happened,” said Benedict, partly because of personnel turnover. “I’d hope we could get things codified in such a way that we wouldn’t have to repeat such a process again.”

Four resolutions were passed at a GSC general council meeting on Wednesday: a joint resolution with the Undergraduate Association regarding the importance of student input on dormitory projects, student recourse in case of inadequate administrative openness to community input, suggestions for room types and common space allocation in the new building, and a resolution for an extension of the current March 31st deadline for final architectural plans.

“If we push the deadline it will cost more money,” Bruni said. “In our meeting, they were not flexible with the timeline; March 31st is something the executive committee [of the MIT Corporation] voted on.”

“Work expands to take the time available,” said Benedict. “If we had six months, this would take six months. There’s plenty of time to get this done.”

Costs among current concerns

A major student concern discussed at this month’s GSC Housing and Community Affairs meeting was how this increased pressure on the campus housing system would impact rent structures across the system over the next few years.

Asked whether MIT perceived any extra responsibility to students with fewer financial resources, Benedict responded, “that’s a social engineering question; we try to stay away from that as much as possible.”

The Institute will float bonds on the open market to fund the construction of the new building. While “rents will pay it back over time,” Benedict acknowledged, “the building will need support from the Institute for the first few years.”

It may be difficult for Housing to provide that support, given its current deficit and projected increased costs. If the total price of the new building were reduced from \$104 million to \$80 million, as some student proposals may recommend, it would reduce the pressure on MIT Housing to make up the money through increased rents.

“If they can reduce the cost by some of their ideas, terrific, we look forward to that,” said Benedict. Sidney-Pacific was built under cost.

One of the more severe pressures

on the Housing budget comes from rising utility costs. Housing needs “to address systematically the possibility of very large, unexpected increases in utilities” in a way that can’t be in the rents, said Dean of Graduate Students Isaac Colbert.

GSC representative Steven Peters suggested at the HCA meeting that NW35 could be an opportunity for MIT to create an energy efficient building that would be a model for others at comparable cost.

A statement of MIT’s environmental goals on the Environmental Programs Office Web site reads, “MIT has determined that new projects (including, renovations and new construction) and programs will be designed to meet or exceed the “LEED Silver Plus” [environmental] standard.” Such buildings are expected to reduce energy costs.

Although all proposals are still in preliminary discussion and research stages, other possible suggestions include creating three-to-four person suites sharing a bathroom and kitchen. The Cambridge zoning ordinance for that area requires that each “dwelling unit” contain at least 650 square feet.

Concurring with the results of analyses done by the Housing Office, AHEC president Suddhasattwa Sinha said, “There is a demand for cheap housing, but it turns out there is a demand for expensive housing as well.”

“We’re not advocating for all the rooms to be Ashdown style or Tang style,” said HCA co-chair and stakeholder committee member Andrea Schmidt at the HCA meeting. She said Subcommittee One would probably aim for fewer Ashdown-like rooms than there are in Ashdown right now.

At the weekly Ashdown coffee hour Thursday night, the response to progress on input to the new dorm was subdued.

“It gives me some hope as a backup plan that maybe we won’t lose everything if we’re forced to move out, but I’m still very much in favor of keeping Ashdown,” said current Ashdown resident Sian Kleindienst.

“My heart is for that too,” said Orlando. “You can’t deny that there’s a loss here, but this way graduate students as a whole win.”

A survey, not sponsored by the Ashdown House Executive Committee (AHEC), showed that keeping Ashdown as a graduate dormitory was “important” or “extremely important” to 85% of the 169 Ashdown residents who responded.

Official Undergraduate Association Candidates

Position	Name
UA President & Vice-President	Dwight M. Chambers '07 & Victor C. Cabral '07
	Jessica H. Lowell '07 & Steven M. Kelch '08
	Andrew T. Lukmann '07 & Ruth F. Miller '07
2007 President	Susan J. Shin
	Erin Xiaolu Wei
2007 Vice-President	Grace C. Lo
2007 Secretary	Shilpa M. Joshi
2007 Treasurer	Raymond R. Wu
2007 Social Chairs	Sarah J. Cha & Jessica J. Huang
2007 Publicity Chairs	Yahli H. Becker & Justine I. Liu
2008 President	Martin F. Holmes
	JiangWei Zhu
2008 Vice-President	Jonathan A. Birnbaum
	Phi T. Ho
2008 Secretary	Rajat Bhalla
2008 Treasurer	Ada Lipkin
2008 Social Chairs	Amrita V. Masurkar & Daniel R. Stone
2008 Publicity Chairs	<i>Vacant</i>
2009 President	Akash A. Chandawarkar
	Aarthi Ramarathnam
2009 Vice-President	Elisabeth M. Markham
	Samantha F. O’Keefe
2009 Secretary	Deepika Singh
	Jingwen Tao
2009 Treasurer	Alexander G. Alford
	Rachel Kolesnikov-Lindsey
2009 Social Chairs	Shreya H. Dave & Catherine E. Mancuso
	Amirah N. Khan & Tina P. Srivastava
2009 Publicity Chairs	Ting Ting Luo & Wendy Wen

SOURCE—TIFFANY L. SETO '06, UA ELECTION COMMISSION

The UA Election Debate, hosted by *The Tech*, will take place Monday at 6 p.m. on the first floor of the Student Center. Additional students can run as write-ins, but their names will not appear on the ballot.



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CHRISTINA KANG—THE TECH

The only operating elevator at Next House was shut down again on Wednesday, March 1 and Thursday, March 2 from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. so that electricians could fix wiring. It will also be shut down for the same time period today.

ISLAMIC
EQUALITY

Tuesday, 7 March 2006
6:00pm
Moros Hall,
Walker Memorial, 50-140

03.07.06

NUESTRAS
VOCES

Thursday, 9 March 2006
4:00pm
Mezzanine Lounge,
Student Center

03.09.06

TRUE COLORS
DANCE TROUPE

Thursday, 9 March 2006
7:00pm
Simmons Auditorium

03.09.06

VARIATION

DIVERSITY AT MIT

C C
R R
are OpenOffice.org
and LibreOffice Adaptations

Survey Shows Students Don't Look at Market Data

Housing, from Page 1

ments.

So why do so many graduate students still enter the housing lottery, and why do the most expensive graduate residences still have waiting lists? Benedict — the ultimate head of the dormitories — says it's because MIT graduate residences offer services that are not available in private apartments.

MIT's rents include resources like a dean on call, faculty house-masters, night watch, and social programming, not to mention limited cable television, on-campus phone service, Internet access, hot water, and electricity, Benedict said.

Factoring all that in, MIT dormitories are more than 20 percent cheaper than comparable apartments, Benedict said.

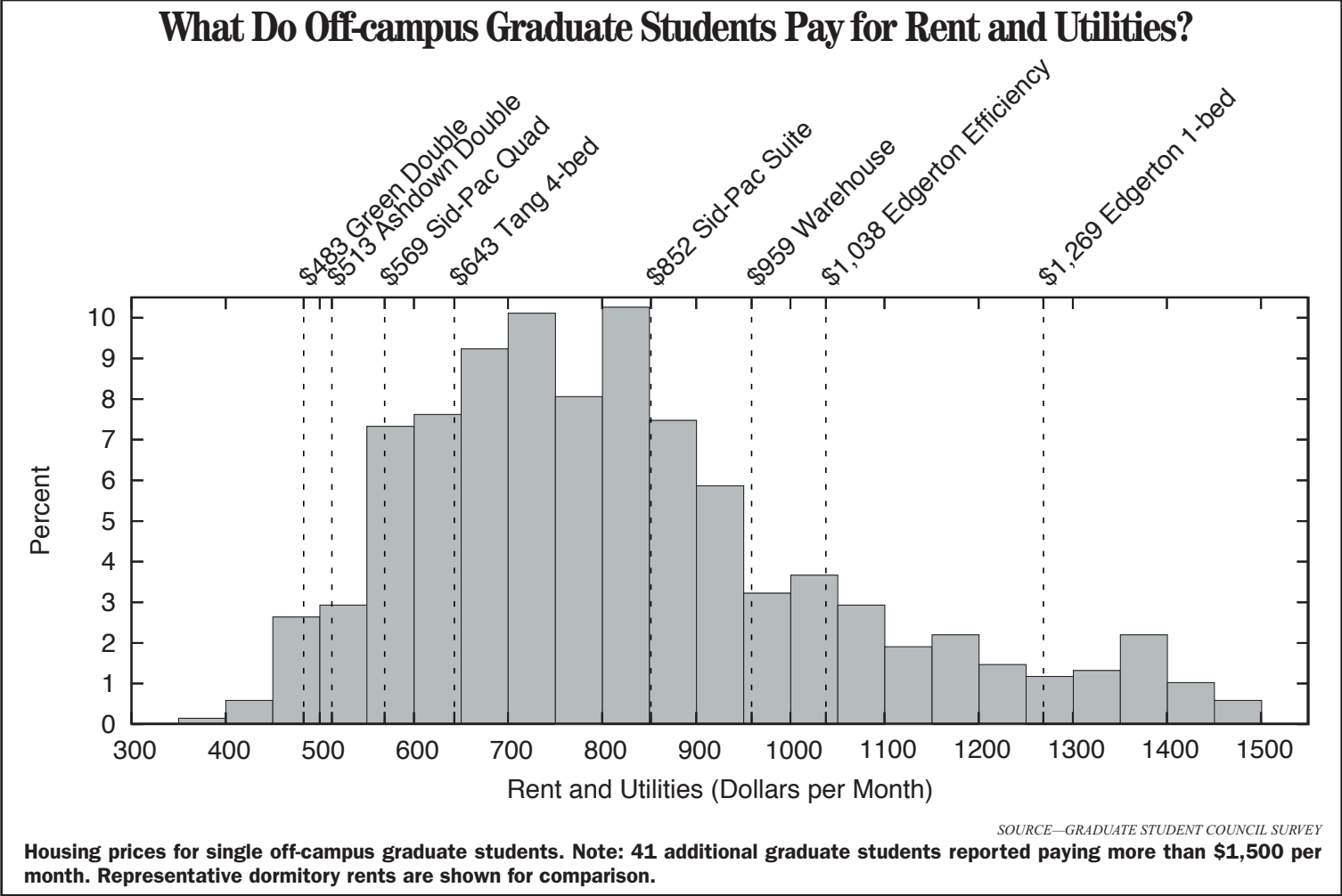
To make dormitories appear more economical, MIT will start separating costs for "rent" and "amenities" — both still mandatory — on student bills, he said.

If expensive dormitories like Sidney-Pacific "weren't desirable, they wouldn't have waiting lists," Benedict said, while the less expensive Ashdown House has struggled to fill its beds, because many graduate students find doubles undesirable.

Robert Wang G, another GSC rent-group member, says graduate students lack the information to make informed choices. The group's survey found that only 27 percent of

respondents looked at apartment listings before entering MIT's lottery. With a better knowledge of the market, Wang said, demand for on-campus housing would drop. "Supply and demand is a bad argument to make when there's asymmetric information," he said.

Complete survey results can be found online at <http://s-p.mit.edu/CGDR/>, and the group can be reached at cgdr@csail.mit.edu.



Grad Student Stipends to Increase 3.5 Percent Next Year

By Kelley Rivoire
NEWS EDITOR

Graduate student stipends next year will outpace inflation, with base stipends increasing 3.5 percent across the board, in comparison to two percent inflation. The increase will bring science and engineering doctoral students who have passed qualifying exams to a salary of \$2121 per month and master's students to \$1939 per month.

Contact teaching assistants, who are students heavily involved in their classes, will earn base stipends of \$2174 per month, and teaching assistants, who provide limited support such as grading alone, will earn

\$1960 per month, according to Dean for Graduate Students Isaac M. Colbert.

Departments can vary the base stipend by plus or minus 10 percent, Colbert said. Setting stipends is a "delicate balance between the real and perceived needs of graduate students," focused on "trying to make life comfortable" for graduate students without pushing too much cost onto faculty, Colbert said. Base stipend numbers are set by MIT's Academic Council, a group that includes MIT's executive officers and academic deans.

Additionally, graduate students with families will see a break in their

health insurance, with the family contribution decreasing 16 percent to \$2660 per year. The single student health care rate will remain the same at \$1440 per year, Colbert said.

Members of the Graduate Student Council urged MIT to reconsider the costs to graduate students with families, leading to the health insurance change this year, Colbert said. "We have more unmet needs on the family side than we do on the individual side," he said.

Only two years ago, the family contribution was over \$4000, Colbert said. This year marks "another small step forward," he said, as there is a "need to try to help student fam-

ilies bear the cost a little better."

Andréa E. Schmidt G, co-chair of the GSC's House and Community Affairs Committee, wrote in an e-mail that this year, the GSC felt that the students with the greatest needs were those with children of spouses who cannot work because of visa regulations.

Last year, the GSC focused on the fact that "Many graduate students with children go into debt thousands of dollars each year to cover their expenses of child care ... or just to pay for their cost of living," Schmidt wrote.

Schmidt wrote that many female graduate students are advised that

the best time in an academic career to have children is during their graduate years, so "if one of MIT's goals is to increase the number of women in academia, then it is one of MIT's responsibilities to give graduate student mothers the support they need."

Though MIT has made significant improvements in its resources for students with children, including a need-based child care scholarship and a maternity leave policy, "many parents in need of formal child care end up juggling their children between friends, neighbors, and babysitters because they can't afford day care," Schmidt said.

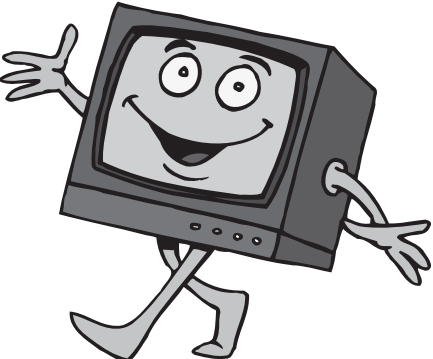
(define A (do you like music?))


(define B (do you like to break the law?))

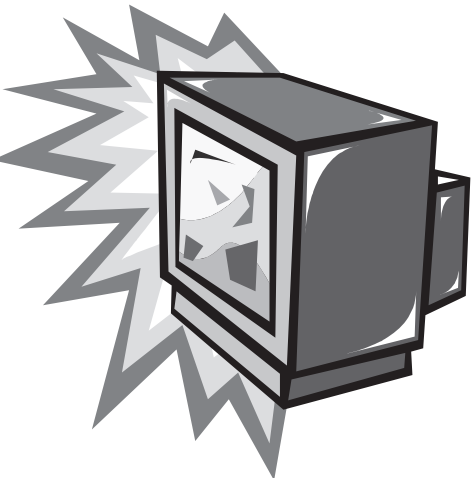
(if (and A (not B))

(goto LAMP)

)







<http://lamp.mit.edu/>

This space donated by The Tech

Solution to Sudoku
from page 8

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

Solution to Crossword
from page 8

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

Fellows Recommend Freshman Projects

MacVicar, from Page 1

Course 4 (Architecture), said that most of his interactions with undergraduates have occurred “in the lab.” He has spent years developing and teaching his laboratory course, 4.411, Building Technology Laboratory, and said that building experience has been key to his success as a teacher — the first time he taught it, he said, no one would have said he was a good teacher. Now, students are helping to design AIDS clinics in Zambia and commend his teaching efforts.

Course VI (Electrical Engineering and Computer Science) Associate Professor Dennis M. Freeman PhD ’86 has only been on the faculty for ten years, but has “been at MIT forever” as a research scientist. He credited his longtime experience supervising graduate student thesis work with giving him a head start in teaching.

Since becoming faculty ten years ago, Freeman has been involved in teaching 6.021, Quantitative Physiology, a course where two projects, one of which is primarily experi-

mental, now constitute the bulk of the workload.

Samuel A. Bowring, professor in Course 7 (Biology), who rounded out this year’s class of MacVicar fellows, also provided copious hands-on experience for his undergraduates — for the last several years, Bowring has co-organized an environmental earth science field trip to the American southwest during the Independent Activities Period.

“There is nothing that can compare to hiking up a volcano and discussing the thermodynamics of melting the mantle or seeing active faults in the field,” he wrote in an e-mail.

Projects help students learn

Both Freeman and Norford contrasted project- and case study-based learning to teaching through problem sets alone. Freeman said MIT has “too much emphasis on homeworks

— I think they’re a little depressing.” In his experience, he said, only the more gifted students benefit from doing lots of problems sets, since many students get discouraged by them.

MIT has “too much emphasis on homeworks—I think they’re a little depressing.”
—Dennis M. Freeman

Incorporating projects into 6.021 and his other courses was a success, said Freeman, because “as a result of the projects, every student knows what’s going on.”

Norford praised MIT’s undergraduate teaching system, saying that “at any university there are some who feel they are too busy to get involved teaching undergrads,” but “on average, there is more devotion to undergraduate education here than at other places. One of the strengths is the common core, and the balance within it. It provides building blocks useful to be able to touch on later.”

Nonetheless, Norford, Bowring, and Freeman all said that MIT’s core curriculum needs revision. Norford, in advocating change, said that “more emphasis on project-based education” would improve the core. Freeman agreed, naming 2.000; How and Why Machines Work, 12.000; Solving Complex Problems, and 16.00; Introduction to Aerospace and Design, as enormously success-

ful programs for involving freshmen in project-based learning. “We’d like more students to have those options” he said.

Whether incorporating projects into the freshman year should be optional or mandatory is still being decided, said Freeman. Last year, Dean of Science Robert J. Silbey, head of the Task Force on MIT’s Undergraduate Educational Commons, reported that mandatory project-based courses will likely be added to the freshman curriculum.

Freeman, Norford, and Bowring were selected from a field of 11 nominees based on the strength of recommendation letters from their department heads as well as many of their former students.

Final decisions are made by a faculty committee which includes several MacVicar Fellows. Choosing this year’s winners was “pretty easy,” said Joanne Straggas, an administrator with knowledge of the committee’s decision-making process.

Both Freeman and Norford plan to use their funds to develop courses for freshman; Freeman recently received a d’Arbeloff grant to develop freshman projects in microscale engineering for the life sciences, and plans to apply his annual \$10,000 MacVicar award to similar projects. Norford, in turn, is planning a freshman-level physics of energy course, and said he hopes to get d’Arbeloff support as well.



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Boston Modern Orchestra Project presents:

Concertos for Indigenous Instruments

Friday, March 10, 2006 at 8:00pm
Jordan Hall at NEC
30 Gainsborough Street, Boston

Reza Vali “Toward that Endless Plain” Concerto for Persian Ney and Orchestra (2005)

Jin Hi Kim Eternal Rock II (2006)(World Premiere)

Henry Cowell Concerto No. 1 for Koto and Orchestra (1962)

Tan Dun “Yi” Concerto for Orchestra (2002)

.....

Boston Secession presents:

Jean Cocteau’s Orpheus

Saturday, March 11, 2006 at 3:00 pm
Somerville Theatre
55 Holland Street, Somerville

The Boston Secession performs live music as accompaniment to a rare classic of French cinema

A mesmerizing mélange of 1950’s high fashion and surrealism, Cocteau’s realization of Orpheus’ journey to the underworld is no toga-draped affair. Rather, Cocteau’s Orphée pits a dreamy, alienated Left Bank poet, Orpheus, against the wiles of the dark temptress of Death – whose turned-out entourage includes a mostly-dead chauffeur with a heart of gold, and a classic Rolls Royce whose radio spontaneously declaims surrealist non-sequiturs.

The Boston Secession underscores the dream-like qualities of the film with its own gorgeous and hypnotic performance of live music including excerpts from Fauré’s *Pavanne*, Monteverdi’s *Orfeo*, Poulenc’s *Gloria*, Mozart’s “Laudate Dominum,” Stravinsky, Bach, Handel and more.

Tickets may be picked up (in person only) at the MIT Office of the Arts (E15-205)

Monday - Friday 10:00am - 4:00pm

One ticket per valid MIT student ID

Police Log

The following incidents were reported to the Cambridge and/or MIT Police between Feb. 6 and Feb. 26. This summary does not include incidents such as suspicious activity, false alarms, general service calls, or medical shuttles.

Feb. 8: Senior House (40 Amherst St.), report of larceny of credit card and cash from room that occurred on Feb. 6.

Feb. 9: Media Lab (20 Ames St.), 8:00 p.m., larceny of research ping-pong table.

Feb. 11: Tang Hall (550 Memorial Dr., 24th fl.), 11:00 p.m., loud party; Ilya Zhadanovsky, 7 Linden St., Allston, and Boris Gershteyn, 47 Adler St., Waltham, both arrested for assault and battery on a police officer, disorderly conduct, and resisting arrest.

Feb. 13: Student Center (84 Mass. Ave., 2nd fl.), 9:30 p.m., Kelly Fujioyoshi, 71 Green St., Cambridge, arrested for trespassing.

Feb. 15: Burton-Conner (410 Memorial Dr.), laptop maliciously damaged.

Feb. 23: Student Center (84 Mass. Ave.), 5:15 a.m., Justin R. Turner, 14 Royal St., Allston, charged with trespassing and outstanding warrants.

Feb. 25: Student Center (84 Mass. Ave.), student shoplifting at The Coop.

Feb. 26: ATO (405 Memorial Dr.), mirror ripped off vehicle.

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



LIANG HONG—THE TECH

Lecturer Peter Dourmashkin '76 describes the fine art of Japanese sword making at a presentation in E38 sponsored by the MIT Japan Program on Thursday, Mar. 2.



CHRISTINA KANG—THE TECH

The back wall of the stage for Next Act's Campus Preview Weekend performance of "Singin' in the Rain" waits to be painted.



OMARI STEPHENS—THE TECH

Danny Fox (left) and Jim Burns (right) of Suburban Glass and Mirror Co, Inc. replace a large pane of glass next to the point entrance of building 66 on Wednesday, March 1.



LIANG HONG—THE TECH

Professor Ian Condry leads a roundtable discussion with Japanese Ambassador and Director of Cultural Diplomacy Seiichi Kondo on the topic of "Cultural Diplomacy, Anime, and Cool Japan" in Bldg. 32 (Stata Center) on Thursday, March 2.

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Royal Bengal

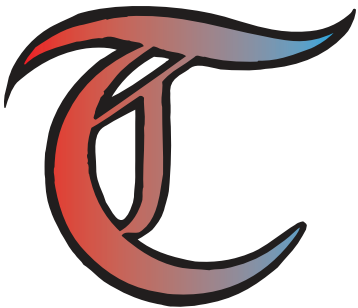
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Undergraduate Association Presidential Debate



8 p.m. Monday, March 6
Stratton Student Center, first floor
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Four MIT Swimmers Get NCAA “B” Bids

Swimming, from Page 20

Springfield College won an unprecedented sixth consecutive team crown with Wellesley College finishing 140 points behind the Engineers for third in the standings.

During the three-day competition, the Engineers set 10 Institute records and qualified four swimmers and a diver for the NCAA Championships.

Swimmer wins at NEWMAC

MIT senior Matthieu Fuzellier grabbed an NCAA “B” qualification with a dominating victory in the 200 back at the 2006 NEWMAC Men’s Swimming Championships. Fuzellier led from start to finish and won by nearly seven seconds, clocking 1:52.13.

The Cardinal and Gray posted its biggest score of the three-day meet in the 200 breast. The Engineers placed four swimmers among the top seven, led by junior Matthew G. Angle, who broke Bruce J. Di Bello’s 2002 school record with a time of 2:08.47.

MIT closed out the championships, as a strong anchor leg by senior Grady Snyder propelled the Engineers to victory in the 400 free relay. The Engineers were in a distant second midway through the event, when senior Josiah Rosmarin split 45.89 to throw Tech right back in the mix. Snyder followed with a swim of 45.83 as MIT finished with an NCAA “B” cut time of 3:05.85.

The final clip was just off the Institute record of 3:05.21 set in 1993, although the final time set a new championship record.

Katz Leads Rifle Team

Junior Anton Katz earned All-Conference accolades from the Mid-Atlantic Rifle Conference after

an outstanding season in which he led the Engineers in both guns in nearly every competition.

Katz earned First Team All-Conference honors in smallbore, closing with the fourth-highest scoring average in the league (577.00). He was also an honorable mention in air rifle as his average total of 577.43 ranked ninth among MAC competitors.

Ball Wins Pole Vault

Nathan B. Ball G earned the Engineers 10 points in the pole vault for Tech’s track and field unit at the 2006 Men’s All-New England Championships. He won the event with a clear of 163.

Senior Uzoma A. Orji followed with two top-notch performances of his own. Shortly after the vault, Orji launched six throws over 61’ with his career second-best and season-best toss of 64’ 7-3/4”, winning the weight throw by nearly six feet.

The following day, Orji finished second overall in the shot put, falling only to Division I rival Derek Anderson of Northeastern University.

Fencing Competes in IFA

This past weekend, the MIT men’s fencing team competed in the 112th IFA Championship, the oldest collegiate championship in the country. The Engineers finished sixth out of 11 teams and sent Igor Kopylov ’09, William T. Walsh ’06, Spencer R. Sugimoto ’08, Trevor T. Chang ’07, and Michael N. Beregovsky ’06 to the championship bracket.

The field included Boston College, Brandeis University, Brown University, Columbia University, Harvard University, New York University, University of Pennsylvania, Princeton University, Vassar College and Yale University.

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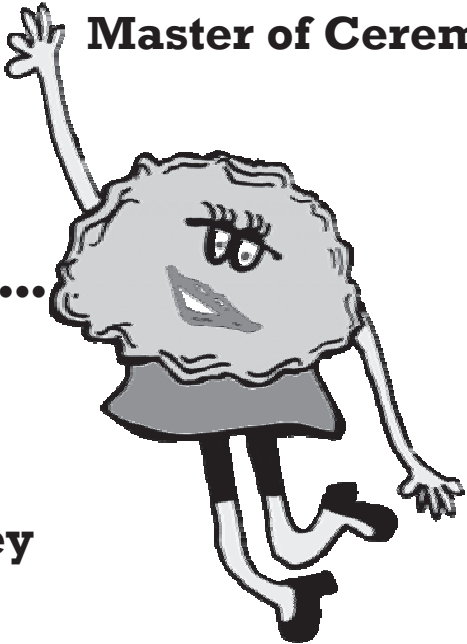
Monday March 6 • 8:00 PM • 10-250

The Fourth Annual Latke/Hamentashen* Debate

Which is superior - The Hanukkah Latke or the Purim Hamentashen? The answer lies in the wisdom of our MIT experts

Professors for the Latke

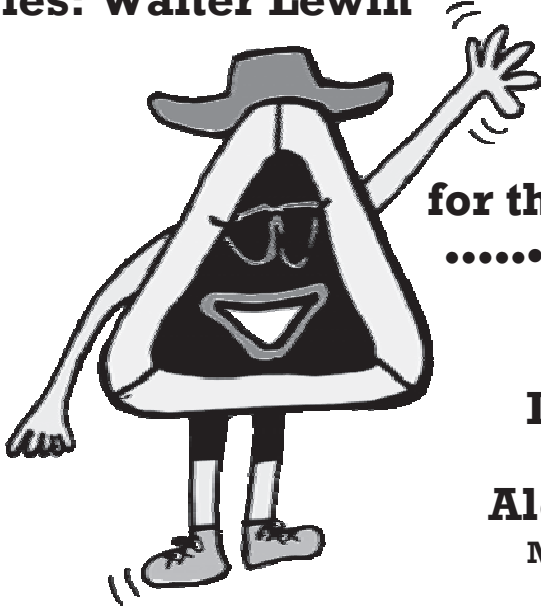
Diana Henderson
Literature
Brian Robison
Music
Dean Robert Silbey
Chemistry



*Latke – A fried potato pancake
Hamentashen – A fruit-filled cookie

Professors for the Hamentashen

Alan Guth
Physics
Daniel Kleitman
Mathematics
Alexander Slocum
Mechanical Engineering



Free Latkes and Hamentashen will be served following the debate!

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Questions? Contact lh@mit.edu

SPORTS

Men's Volleyball Defeats Lasers With Huge Hitting Percentage

ASST. DIRECTOR OF SPORTS INFORMATION

The majority of the opening game was closely played, with Tech's lead never larger than three. Lasell was able to cut its deficit to one (17-16), but MIT went on to score 13 of the

It was a similar story in the second game with the Engineers holding a slim 8-6 advantage. Tech responded with six unanswered points that gave them a comfortable cushion. The Lasers came within five points on several occasions, the last time occurring at 22-17. MIT answered with a five-point burst that propelled it to a 30-18 victory.

The Engineers opened the final game with a pair of four-point runs that resulted in an 8-2 lead. Although Lasell narrowed the margin to five (9-4), that would be the closest it would get as Tech's advantage quickly grew to double-digits.

Jordan X. Wan '06 recorded a

strong all-around performance as he connected on all four of his hitting attempts, collected four assisted blocks, and distributed 40 assists.

Praveen Pamidimukkala '08 tallied a match-high 13 kills and a hitting percentage of .524. Thomas S. Pollom '09 had a solid outing with 11 kills, a .500 hitting percentage, and four assisted blocks.

Robert G. Aspell '06 contributed another strong hitting performance on seven kills for a .545 hitting percentage. Ryan G. Dean '08 and Eugene Jang '09 each totaled two aces, and Dean posted 12 digs.

The Engineers will host Harvard University on Wednesday, March 8th at 7:00 p.m. in Rockwell Cage.



RAY C. HE—THE TECH

Lara L. Hershcovitch '07 performs a scale on the balance beam during the gymnastics match against Springfield College on Saturday, Feb. 25.

D'Auria Named Player of the Year, Bartolotta Given Rookie Honors

DIRECTOR OF SPORTS INFORMATION

MIT (21-8), No. 2 seed in the ECAC Division III Men's New England Basketball Tournament, defeated No. 7 seed Plymouth State

University
(16-11) in
the first
round of
the eight-
team com-

petition on Wednesday.

Senior Michael W. D'Auria '06 was named the New England Women's and Men's Athletic Conference (NEWMAC) Men's Basketball Player of the Year by the league's coaches.

in all-conference voting announced on Tuesday.

D'Auria placed in the top six in five different NEWMAC statistical categories, including scoring (19.0 ppg, second), steals (2.4 spg, second) and assists (3.5 apg, fifth). D'Auria takes home the top honor after being selected First Team All-NEWMAC a year ago and Second Team in 2003-2004.

MIT made a clean sweep of the individual awards as freshman James M. Bartolotta '09 was selected as NEWMAC's Rookie of the Year, while Larry Anderson garnered the conference's Coach of the Year honor.

Bartolotta posted the single-game high in scoring for MIT this year with 31 points in a win over Clark University. Anderson guided the Engineers to a second-place finish in the regular season, their first appearance in the NEWMAC Championship, and a program-record 21 wins.

Swimming coach honored

Dawn Gerken was named NEWMAC Women's Swimming Coach of the Year after leading MIT to a second-place finish at the NEWMAC Championships. National power

Swimming, Page 19

UPCOMING HOME EVENTS

Saturday, March 04, 2006

Varsity Men's Tennis vs. Bentley College
2 p.m., Tennis Bubble and Courts.

MacVicar Day 06

UROP & Beyond:

MIT Students in the Lab and in the World

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- Public Service Center
- UROP Program

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 3:00-4:30 pm,
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 in the Stata Center

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