



The Weather

Today: Mostly sunny, 26°F (-3°C)
Tonight: Mostly clear, 11°F (-12°C)
Tomorrow: Mostly sunny,
24°F (-4°C)
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Tuesday, February 6, 2007

Prof. Begins Hunger Strike, Says Racism Cost Him His Tenure

By Joyce Kwan
ASSOCIATE NEWS EDITOR

An African-American associate professor began a hunger strike yesterday outside of the provost's office, protesting what he claims were racist motives behind the denial of his tenure. Biological Engineering Associate Professor James L. Sherley first threatened the strike on Dec. 19, 2006 in a letter he titled, "A plea to end racism at MIT." The letter prompted Provost L. Rafael Reif to announce plans to create a committee investigating minority hiring practices.

Sherley plans to station outside Provost L. Rafael Reif's office, 3-208, on weekdays from 9 a.m. to noon — ingesting only water, electrolytes, and vitamin supplements — until his demands are met. Sherley, in a second letter sent out via e-mail to members of the MIT community, listed three specific demands: Reif must resign, Sherley's tenure must be granted immediately, and acknowledgement from MIT that racism was a factor in his case and others. Sherley also called for MIT to commit "resources,

faculty effort, and administration effort to develop new effective policies for eliminating racism at MIT."

In an interview outside 3-208 yesterday, Sherley altered his statement, saying that "some form of censure" for Reif would be enough.

Excerpts of Sherley's letters and statements from members of the faculty and administration can be found on pages 10 and 11.

The BE Department decided not to advance Sherley's case for tenure on Dec. 13, 2004. Since then, Sherley has asked senior administrators to overturn his department's decision.

A small crowd turned up at the protest, including students, faculty, and staff, some of them in support of Sherley. According to Sherley, those present in support of him included his advocate Writing Professor Kenneth R. Manning, Harvard Genetics Professor George Church, his entire research group, a few former students, and his wife.

Initially, Sherley considered legal

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Students Learn to Be 'Charming'

MIT Charm School Produces Yet Another Round of Well-Mannered Grads

By Manisha Padi
STAFF REPORTER

MIT's Charm School is a sight to behold. Students sit around tables set with plates and wine glasses, laying napkins in their laps, and clusters of

Feature

young men (and some women) cram around a small mirror, untying and retying bow ties. Charm School students have a variety of classes to choose from and have the option of graduating with a BCh (bachelors in charm), MCh (masters in charm), or even a ChD (doctorate in charm); all graduates will be well-equipped to deal with most common social situations.

Organized by the Student Activities Office, MIT's 14th annual Charm School was held Friday, Feb. 2, 2007, the last day of the Independent Activities Period. "It's an all-office effort to get this organized," said Patrick Raymond, program coordinator in the Student Activities Office. "It's a lengthy process that really ramps up during IAP." According to Raymond, the process begins with recruiting volunteers to teach classes and getting keynote speakers for the

Charm School, Page 18



AARON SAMPSON—THE TECH

David N. Rogers, assistant dean and director of Fraternities, Sororities, and Independent Living Groups, shows Yuan K. Shen G the proper method of cutting meat at Charm School on Feb. 2.

Underdogs Put Up Fight to Win 6.370

MIT's Artificial Intelligence Competition Won by Low-Seeded Team of Seniors

By Curt Fischer
STAFF REPORTER

The excitement was palpable but the action was strictly virtual in Kresge Auditorium, the scene of this year's final tournament for 6.370, MIT's artificial intelligence programming contest. A large and diverse crowd turned out Saturday night to cheer on their favorite programmers as the programs — virtual autonomous robot armies — battled against each other on-screen.

Emerging victorious from the

double elimination tournament was the team My Other Programming Language is Scheme, comprising Mark M. Tobenkin '07 and Dany Qumsiyeh '07. Tobenkin and Qumsiyeh managed to rally from behind to twice defeat team Battletoads (composed of Daniel M. Kane '07, Thomas D. Belulovich '09, Adam P. Rosenfield '08, and Griffin Chronis '08) to claim the top prize of \$5,000 as well as the award for having the army with fastest attack speed.

Thus, for the second year in a

row, a team relegated to the loser's bracket in the early rounds of the tournament came from behind to win it all. This year's final match was especially melodramatic, as winning team My Other Programming Language is Scheme lost the first game in the best-of-three final match against runner up Battletoads, who took home the \$4,000 second prize as well as an award for best overall navigation algorithm.

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GHEORGHE CHISTOL—THE TECH

Dany M. Qumsiyeh '07 (left) and Mark M. Tobenkin '07 (right) leave Kresge stage after winning the 2007 6.370 Final Tournament. Their team, "My Other Programming Language is Scheme," beat "Battletoads" in the competition.

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No. of Applicants Increases

The number of applicants to MIT increased across the board this year, with regular applications rising 9 percent, following a 13 percent jump in early applicants in the fall. A total of 12,440 applications were received during the current admissions cycle; 11,373 applied last year.

The deadline for regular admissions was Jan. 1. A total of 2,743 applications were received from international students this year, marking an increase of 7 percent, according to Matthew L. McGann '00, associate director of Admissions.

In the Early Action application pool, 390 students (11 percent of the 3,493 Early Action applicants) were admitted, 319 were denied admission, and the remaining three-quarters were deferred to regular action decisions, which will be delivered in March.

For additional statistics, see the table on page 17.

News Briefs

In Short

¶ **Windows Vista Enterprise** is available for download by MIT faculty, staff, and students at <https://msca.mit.edu/>.

¶ **The MIT vs. Caltech Blood Battle**, the blood drive sponsored by ARCTAN, will be held from Feb. 12 – 15 in La Sala in the Student Center. The winner of the blood drive will be the school to collect the most pints of blood, adjusted for size of the school. To shorten waiting time, make an appointment at <http://web.mit.edu/blood-drive/www/>. Free pizza will be given to all donors.

¶ **The annual town gown meeting** reviewing reports from MIT, Har-

vard University, and Lesley University will be held tonight at 7:30 p.m. in the Cambridge Citywide Senior Center located at 806 Mass. Ave. The reports describe current activities for the institutions, including data about student population, housing, and future construction plans. The meeting is open to the public and time will be made available for questions and comments.

¶ **The PE Lottery** closes tomorrow. Sign up for classes at <http://web.mit.edu/athletics/www/physed.html>.

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

Walter Alan Backofen '46

MIT NEWS OFFICE

Walter Alan Backofen '46, retired professor of metallurgy and materials science, died at his Marblehead, Mass. home on Dec. 2. He was 80.

Backofen taught at MIT for 25 years, retiring in 1975. He designed new courses and a new laboratory and became recognized for bridging theory and practice over a wide range of real-life problems — from automotive stampings to orthopedic implants and the Star Wars defense shield.

A paper he wrote in 1964 on "superplasticity" identified the ability

Backofen, Page 21

WORLD & NATION

Once-Maligned Colts Defense Shuts Bears Down

By Judy Battista

THE NEW YORK TIMES

MIAMI

In the week before the AFC championship game two weeks ago, Indianapolis Colts coach Tony Dungy joked that one outstanding defensive performance might be considered an accident, and two might be a coincidence. Three, he said, would be a trend.

Does a fourth mean dominance?

It does mean a Super Bowl title for the Colts, who were supposed to have a finesse defense that could not stop the run and ended up with a championship defense that shut down all four playoff opponents. That defense held the Chicago Bears to 265 yards and forced five turnovers, helping the Colts to a 29-17 victory on Sunday night.

Little more than a month ago, such a turnaround seemed like a pipe dream for an injury-riddled defense derided as the Colts' weak link.

And it was hard to imagine that the Colts would play better defense than the Bears, whose franchise identity is built on punishing hits, especially on the slower track of a rain-soaked field like the one on which the Super Bowl was played Sunday night.

After Major Flooding, Indonesia Braces For Disease

By Seth Mydans

THE NEW YORK TIMES

JAKARTA, INDONESIA

Much of this capital city was underwater on Tuesday, and the authorities warned of the possible spread of disease after torrential rains, overflowing rivers, and clogged sewers brought widespread flooding over the weekend.

At least 29 people were reported to have died from drowning, electrocution, or disease. An estimated 340,000 people were driven from their homes, and hundreds of thousands remained without electricity or clean water in the worst flooding in Jakarta in years.

The skies cleared on Monday, but meteorologists said more rain was possible in the days ahead, along with renewed flooding if rivers overflowed their banks again.

Across lower-lying parts of Jakarta that are populated mostly by the poor, water that had risen as high as 12 feet still engulfed entire houses.

Officials estimated that 40 percent to 70 percent of this city of 12 million people was submerged. From the air, it appeared in places that red tile roofs were floating on the brown water.

Iran Diplomat Kidnapped By Iraqis With Official ID

By James Glanz

THE NEW YORK TIMES

BAGHDAD, IRAQ

An Iranian diplomat was abducted Sunday evening when his convoy was stopped by men with official Defense Ministry identification in the Karrada neighborhood here, senior Iraqi and U.S. officials said Monday.

Iraqi security forces captured several suspects after pursuing their vehicles through the streets of Baghdad, two of the Iraqi officials said. The vehicle with the diplomat was not caught, though.

Bombings killed at least 29 people and wounded 90 more in Baghdad as preparations for the latest attempt to secure the city were under way. Those preparations are part of the U.S.-led troop buildup that some U.S. and Iraqi officials view as a last-ditch effort to keep violence in the capital from degenerating into an all-out sectarian war between Shiite and Sunni Arabs.

The abduction of the Iranian took place in a largely Shiite section of the city not far from where a horrific truck bomb killed at least 135 people on Saturday and where residents have complained that the slow pace of the increase in U.S. troops has left them open to attacks.

Once Just an Inconvenience, Orbiting Junk Now a Threat

By William J. Broad

THE NEW YORK TIMES

For decades, space experts have worried that a speeding bit of orbital debris might one day smash a large spacecraft into hundreds of pieces and start a chain reaction, a slow cascade of collisions that would expand for centuries, spreading chaos through the heavens.

In the last decade or so, as scientists came to agree that the number of objects in orbit had surpassed a critical mass — or, in their terms, the critical spatial density, the point at which a chain reaction becomes inevitable — they grew more anxious.

Early this year, after a half-century of growth, the federal list of detectable objects (4 inches wide or larger) reached 10,000, including dead satellites, spent rocket stages, a camera, a hand tool and junkyards of whirling debris left over from chance explosions and destructive tests.

Now, experts say, China's test Jan. 11 of an antisatellite rocket that shattered an old satellite into hundreds of large fragments means the chain reaction will most likely start sooner. If their predictions are right, the cascade could put billions of dol-

lars' worth of advanced satellites at risk and eventually threaten to limit humanity's reach for the stars.

Federal and private experts say early estimates of 800 pieces of detectable debris from the shattering of the satellite will grow to nearly 1,000 as observations continue by tracking radars and space cameras. At either number, it is the worst such episode in space history.

Today, next year or next decade, some piece of whirling debris will start the cascade, experts say.

"It's inevitable," said Nicholas L. Johnson, chief scientist for orbital debris at NASA. "A significant piece of debris will run into an old rocket body, and that will create more debris. It's a bad situation."

Geoffrey E. Forden, an arms expert at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology who is analyzing the Chinese satellite debris, said China perhaps failed to realize the magnitude of the test's indirect hazards.

Forden suggested that Chinese engineers might have understood the risks but failed to communicate them. In China, he said, "the decision process is still so opaque that maybe they didn't know who to talk

to. Maybe you have a disconnect between the engineers and the people who think about policy."

China, experts note, has 39 satellites of its own — many of them now facing a heightened risk of destruction.

Politically, the situation is delicate. In recent years China has played a growing international role in fighting the proliferation of space junk. In 2002, for instance, it joined with other spacefaring nations to suggest voluntary guidelines for debris control.

In April, Beijing is to play host to the annual meeting of the advocacy group, known as the Inter-Agency Space Debris Coordination Committee. Donald J. Kessler, a former head of the orbital debris program at NASA and a pioneer analyst of the space threat, said Chinese officials at the forum would probably feel "some embarrassment."

Kessler said Western analysts agreed that China's new satellite fragments would speed the chain reaction's onset. "If the Chinese didn't do the test, it would still happen," he said. "It just wouldn't happen as quickly."

Democrats to Face Constraints In Revising \$2.9 Trillion Budget

By Steven R. Weisman

THE NEW YORK TIMES

WASHINGTON

With its military spending increases, reductions in popular domestic programs and calls to extend tax cuts, President Bush's \$2.9 trillion budget for 2008 drew fire from Democrats the minute it landed on Monday.

But while Democratic critics may wish to challenge the administration's blueprint, political and fiscal constraints will make it hard for them to assert their own priorities.

In theory, the budget presents the Democrats their first real opportunity to rewrite the administration's policies, especially on tax cuts, that they have been attacking for six years.

But in practice, Democrats know that the only way they can find the revenue to restore the administra-

tion's proposed spending cuts would be to cut back on military spending, delay their stated intentions to balance the budget or rescind the Bush tax cuts in future years. They are not especially eager to do any of these.

The most likely result, even some Democrats acknowledge, will be a limited reshaping of the budget by restoring some proposed cuts in a range of domestic programs, including children's health care, Head Start and home heating assistance for the poor and elderly.

But few Democrats are expected to look for new revenues by calling for an end to Bush's tax cuts, instead of extending them as the president proposed Monday, or to deal with the looming costs of Social Security and Medicare as the postwar generation retires, all of which pose huge budget problems in future years.

"The long-term budget crisis ap-

pears so distant that it's going to be very hard to get politicians excited about it this year," said Robert D. Reischauer, president of the Urban Institute. "The economy is strong, and the deficit seems to be at manageable levels right now. No one wants to risk popular support by doing something courageous."

Since 2001, Democratic leaders have made a point of saying that the Bush tax cuts are unfairly weighted toward the wealthy and dangerous to American solvency. But the tax cuts expire in 2010 and Democrats acknowledge that they are not ready to move on them now.

One development could reopen the tax cuts to revision this year, Democrats say: a signal from the administration that it would be willing to consider a repeal of some cuts for the wealthiest as part of a deal to pay for other priorities.

WEATHER

Weather Models vs. The Groundhog

By Scott Stransky

STAFF METEOROLOGIST

Last week, the weather models used by meteorologists predicted that we would receive two potentially substantial snowstorms. Neither event amounted to more than a dusting of snow. Analyzing the statistical output of the weather models forms the core of most weather forecasters' daily studies, and they usually can be relied upon. The models failed miserably last week. In the first case, the predicted development of the storm did not happen, and in the second case, we received about 1/4 inch of precipitation.

On Feb. 2, the groundhog, Punxsutawney Phil, did not see his shadow, thereby predicting that we would have an early spring. Supposedly, the groundhog awakes from its hibernation and ventures outside. If it sees its shadow, it gets scared, and runs back into its den to resume hibernating. If the groundhog does not see its shadow, it stays outside, knowing that spring will arrive shortly. Many Web sites list Phil's accuracy as 40% or less.

It will be a bit warmer than yesterday the next few days, and the wind chill should not be nearly as low. The weather models predict that the temperature will stay in the 20s°F during daylight hours, dropping into the low double digits at night. They say that we can expect a sunny sky with a few clouds as a high-pressure region moves into the area. Phil, however, would have you believe that spring-like weather is just around the corner.

Extended Forecast

Today: Mostly sunny. High 26°F (-3°C)

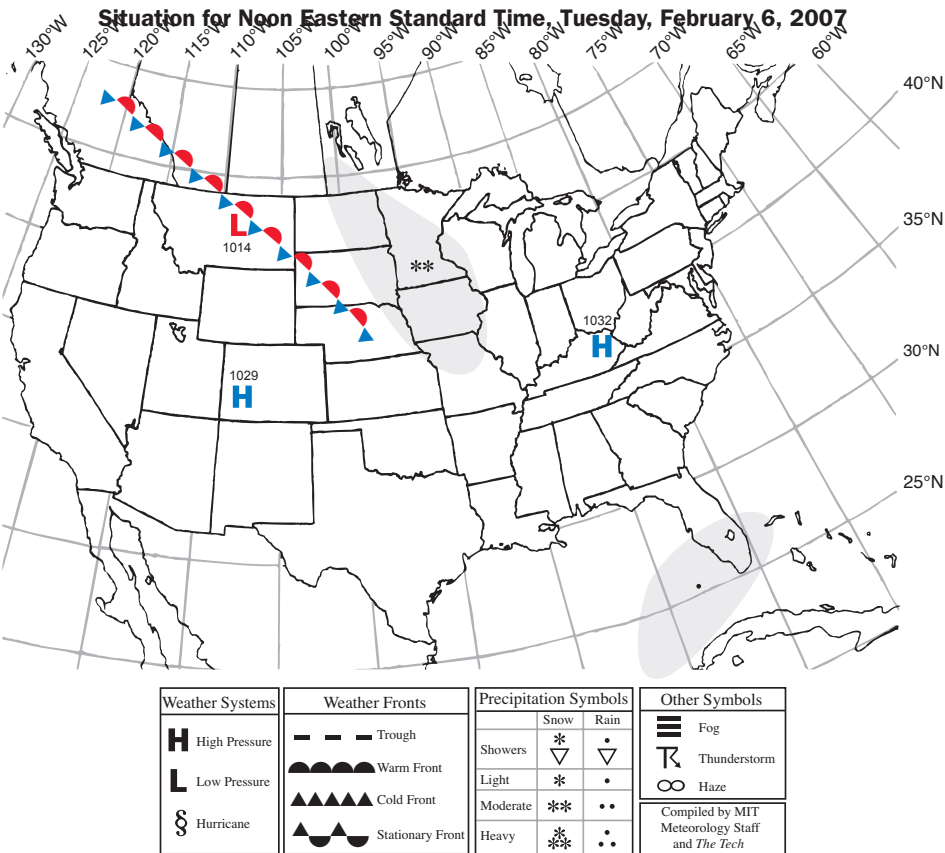
Tonight: Mostly clear. Low 11°F (-12°C)

Tomorrow: Mostly sunny. High 24°F (-4°C)

Tomorrow night: Mostly clear. Low 12°F (-11°C)

Thursday: Mostly sunny. High 28°F (-2°C)

Thursday night: Mostly clear. Low 17°F (-8°C)



GOP Senators Thwart Debates Over US Troop Buildup in Iraq

By Carl Hulse and Jeff Zeleny

THE NEW YORK TIMES

WASHINGTON

Republicans on Monday blocked Senate debate on a bipartisan resolution opposing President Bush’s troop buildup in Iraq, leaving in doubt whether the Senate would render a judgment on what lawmakers of both parties described as the paramount issue of the day.

The decision short-circuited what had been building as the first major congressional challenge to President Bush over his handling of the war since Democrats took control of Congress last month and left each party blaming the other for frustrating debate over a topic that many believe will be important to the 2008 presidential and congressional races.

The two parties deadlocked after Democrats refused a proposal by Sen. Mitch McConnell of Kentucky, the Republican leader, that would have cleared the way for a floor fight on a bipartisan resolution expressing disagreement with the White House plan for a troop buildup in Iraq. In return, McConnell sought votes on

two competing Republican alternatives that were more supportive of the president.

One of those alternatives, by Sen. Judd Gregg of New Hampshire, would declare that Congress should not cut off any funds for forces in the field. That vote was seen as problematic for Democrats because many of them opposed any move to curtail spending, raising the prospect that it could have attracted the broadest support in the Senate.

Monday’s procedural vote, which divided mostly along party lines, left the Democratic leadership 11 votes short of the 60 needed to begin debate on the bipartisan resolution. The resolution, whose principal author was Sen. John W. Warner, R-Va., had been in the works for weeks.

Forty-seven Democrats and two Republicans voted to open debate on the resolution; 45 Republicans and one independent were opposed.

The Republicans run a political risk with their resistance in the event that Democrats are able to persuade the public that the president’s allies are stonewalling in the Senate and shielding the president from

criticism over an unpopular war. But their show of unity, with war critics including Warner of Virginia and Sen. Chuck Hagel of Nebraska siding with the leadership, lent some credibility to Republican claims that Democrats were being unfair.

“I am confident that somehow this matter will be worked out,” Warner said. But Sen. Harry Reid of Nevada, the majority leader, said that “time was tenuous” and that he would not guarantee that Democrats would try again to bring up the resolution. He did promise that there would be coming clashes over Iraq policy as the Senate turned to measures like the president’s request for \$100 billion in emergency Iraq spending.

“You can run but you can’t hide,” Reid told his Republican colleagues on the floor. “We are going to debate Iraq.”

The result left the future of the Iraq fight unsettled, though Senate leaders indicated that they would continue to negotiate. Lawmakers on all sides of the issue said they anticipated that the Senate would ultimately approve a resolution of some kind because of intense public interest in the issue.

Saudis Push to Counter Iranians In Area With Aggressive Mediation

By Michael Slackman and Hassan M. Fattah

THE NEW YORK TIMES

JIDDAH, SAUDI ARABIA

With the prospect of three civil wars looming over the Middle East — and Iran poised to gain from them all — Saudi Arabia has abandoned its behind-the-scenes checkbook diplomacy and taken on a central, aggressive role in reshaping the region’s conflicts.

On Tuesday, the kingdom is playing host in Mecca to the leaders of Hamas and Fatah, the two feuding Palestinian factions, in what both sides say could lead to a national unity government and reduced bloodshed. Last fall, senior Saudi officials met secretly with Israeli leaders about how to establish a Palestinian state.

In recent months, Saudi Arabia has also increased its public involvement in Iraq and its support of the Sunni-led government in Lebanon. The process is shaping up as a counteroffensive to efforts by Iran to establish itself as the regional superpower, according to diplomats, analysts and officials here and throughout the region. Some even say that the recent Saudi commitment

to temper the price of oil is aimed at undermining Iran’s economy, although officials here deny that.

“We realized that we have to wake up,” said a high-ranking Saudi diplomat who spoke on the condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to speak to the news media. “Someone rang the bell, ‘Be careful, something is moving.’”

The shift is occurring with encouragement from the Bush administration. Its goal is to see an American-backed alliance of Sunni Arab states including Saudi Arabia, Jordan, Lebanon and Egypt, along with a Fatah-led Palestine and Israel, opposing Iran, Syria and the radical groups they support.

Yet Riyadh’s goals may not always be in alignment with those of the White House, and could complicate American interests.

The Saudi effort has been taken in collaboration with its traditional Persian Gulf allies and Egypt and Jordan, but it also represents another significant shift in a region undergoing a profound reshuffling. The changes are linked to the toppling of Saddam Hussein and the transfer of power from

Sunni Muslims to Shiites in Iraq, analysts said. They also reach back many years to the gradual decline in influence of Cairo and the collapse of a pan-Arab agenda, analysts and diplomats said.

“The Saudis felt that the Iranian role in the region has become influential, especially in Iraq, Palestine and Lebanon, and that the Iranian role was undermining their role in the region,” said Muhammad al-Sakr, head of the foreign affairs committee in Kuwait’s Parliament. “Usually the Saudis prefer to maneuver behind the scenes,” he said. “Lately they’ve been noticeably active.”

Saudi Arabia has taken public initiatives in the past, including one in 2002, when at an Arab League meeting it proposed a regional peace agreement with Israel in exchange for Israel’s withdrawing to its 1967 boundaries. But it prefers to work quietly, and has not recently taken such a sustained public posture.

“This is not leadership by choice, it is leadership by necessity,” said Gamal Abdel Gawad, an expert at the Ahrum Center for Political and Strategic Studies in Cairo.

Blizzard Leaves Numerous Passengers Stranded in Northwest Airlines Planes

By Joe Sharkey

THE NEW YORK TIMES

Talk about history repeating itself. On New Year’s weekend in 1999, a blizzard left thousands of passengers stranded for hours on Northwest Airlines planes at the airport in Detroit as food and water ran out and toilets became unusable.

The debacle made headlines and prompted cries for federal legislation to force airlines to adopt better customer service procedures. The airlines prevailed against legislation, though, promising that they would police themselves.

But eight years later, much the same thing happened again. On Dec. 29, severe thunderstorms forced 121 American Airlines flights to divert from Dallas to other airports in the region.

Although initial published reports focused on just one flight that was diverted to Austin and sat on the tarmac for more than eight hours, at least three fully loaded flights were stuck that long.

These passengers were subjected to conditions identical to those in

1999: fouled toilets and air, little food and water, and a maddening dearth of information from the airline about what was happening to them.

“This was an amazing example of being treated like we did not matter,” said Melissa Moe, who was on American Flight 1424 from San Jose, Calif., to Dallas. The flight was diverted to San Antonio, where the plane sat for about eight hours before passengers were allowed off. Her 13-year-old son was traveling with her to a holiday in Florida.

“I have never felt so powerless, especially powerless to be able to take care of my child,” Moe said.

The first reports about the Dec. 29 situation focused on Flight 1348, from San Francisco to Dallas, which was diverted to Austin. A passenger on that flight, Kate Hanni of Napa Valley, Calif., spoke out to denounce the indifference that she said American Airlines showed toward her and her fellow passengers, and to demand a campaign for a federal bill of passenger rights.

Now, largely because of efforts

by Hanni, more passengers on other flights stranded that day are coming forward.

Sue Peterson of Morgan Hill, Calif., who was on the American flight from San Jose to Dallas, said her seatmate was a woman in her 80s. “We had already gone through our carry-ons and shared what food we had,” Peterson told me the other day. “About five hours into this, a flight attendant came through with some glasses of water and said there were a few airline snack boxes still available. She sold one of them for \$4 to this elderly woman. We were like — they’re charging her?”

Moe, who lives near Santa Cruz, Calif., said the interminable wait on a plane where conditions steadily deteriorated, and without information on what was happening, was “a horrific experience.” She added, “I can’t believe they had the audacity to sell snack boxes for \$4 after we had been held hostage on this plane at this point for five hours.”

American Airlines said it has sent apologies and vouchers to people stranded Dec. 29.

The Two Apples End a Long-Running Trademark Fight

By Laurie J. Flynn

THE NEW YORK TIMES

The long and winding road has come to an end for the Beatles, at least as far as the dispute over their Apple logo is concerned.

Apple Inc., the maker of the iPod, and Apple Corps, the guardian of the Beatles’ music interests, announced on Monday that they had settled their dispute over the technology company’s name and its use of an apple logo.

Under the new agreement, Apple Inc. now owns all the trademarks related to “Apple” and will license certain trademarks back to Apple Corps Ltd., the London company founded by the Beatles in the late 1960s.

The agreement immediately raised speculation that the Beatles’ music, which has been unavailable on legitimate digital music services, might soon be licensed for downloads from the Apple iTunes service.

Neither company would comment directly on that prospect, though both sides said they were happy to have worked things out.

“We love the Beatles, and it has been painful being at odds with them over these trademarks,” said Steven P. Jobs, chief executive of Apple Inc., who is widely known as a huge fan of the Beatles’ music. The companies declined to provide further details of the settlement.

The new agreement replaces one signed by the companies in 1991, when Apple Corps, which represents Paul McCartney; Ringo Starr; the estate of George Harrison; and Yoko Ono, the widow of John Lennon, moved to ensure that the computer company did not use the apple logo in the music business. The Apple Corps logo is a Granny Smith apple. The logo for Apple Inc. is an apple with a bite taken out of it.

Libby’s Grand Jury Tapes Of 2004 Are Heard in Court

By Neil A. Lewis

THE NEW YORK TIMES

WASHINGTON

Prosecutors in the perjury trial of I. Lewis Libby Jr. on Monday played audio tapes in which Libby was heard testifying under oath before a grand jury that he had not discussed the identity of a CIA operative with fellow administration officials in the summer of 2003.

The sound of Libby’s disembodied voice coursing through the courtroom vividly underlined the contrast between his sworn account and the testimony of the parade of prosecution witnesses presented to the jury in the last two weeks.

Libby, the former chief of staff to Vice President Dick Cheney, is charged with lying to that grand jury and to FBI agents who were investigating the leak to reporters of the identity of the CIA officer, Valerie Wilson.

The jury on Monday listened to 90 minutes of Libby’s grand jury testimony from March 5, 2004, in which he was questioned in a straightforward, almost friendly manner by the chief prosecutor, Patrick J. Fitzgerald. Libby was heard responding in earnest tones, as if he were sometimes straining to remember correctly.

On the tape, Libby was heard saying repeatedly that he could not recall any conversation he ever had with Marc Grossman, a State Department official, about Wilson.

Grossman, who was then the undersecretary of state, has already testified about two such conversations. Grossman told the jury that Libby anxiously asked him that summer about news that a former ambassador had traveled to Africa to investigate reports that Saddam Hussein was trying to buy uranium there for his nuclear weapons program.

National Survey Finds Eating Disorders on the Rise

By Nicholas Bakalar

THE NEW YORK TIMES

In the first nationally representative study of eating disorders in the United States, researchers have found that their incidence is growing among both men and women, and that binge-eating disorder is even more common than the better known anorexia nervosa and bulimia nervosa.

The nationwide survey of more than 2,900 men and women, published in the Feb. 1 issue of the journal Biological Psychiatry, found that 0.6 percent of the population has anorexia, 1 percent has bulimia and 2.8 percent has a binge-eating disorder.

Lifetime rates of the disorders, the researchers found, are higher in younger age groups, suggesting that the problem is increasingly common. Eating disorders are about twice as common among women as men, the study reports.

Experts not involved in the study called it significant.

“This is probably the best study yet conducted of the frequencies of eating disorders in American households,” said Dr. B. Timothy Walsh, director of the eating disorders research unit of the New York State Psychiatric Institute at Columbia University Medical Center.

Wal-Mart and Studios in a Deal Over Downloading Movies

By Michael Barbaro

THE NEW YORK TIMES

Wal-Mart Stores may have lost the online DVD rental battle, but it has no plans to lose the higher-stakes video downloading war.

On Tuesday the company will introduce a partnership with all of the six major Hollywood studios — Walt Disney, Warner Brothers, Paramount, Sony, 20th Century Fox and Universal — to sell digital movies and television shows on its Web site, becoming the first traditional retailer to do so.

The move plunges Wal-Mart into competition with several established sites, like Amazon.com, CinemaNow and iTunes, and given the chain’s penchant for price cutting, could drive down the cost of a digital download.

But supremacy in the digital movie business could prove elusive for Wal-Mart, a company that is used to being the No. 1 seller of everything from DVDs to diamonds.

Apple already dominates the online music and movie industry, leaving a sliver for everyone else to fight over. And Wal-Mart has already stumbled once before with online video rentals, shutting down its DVD rental business two years ago and referring users to its rival Netflix instead.

OPINION



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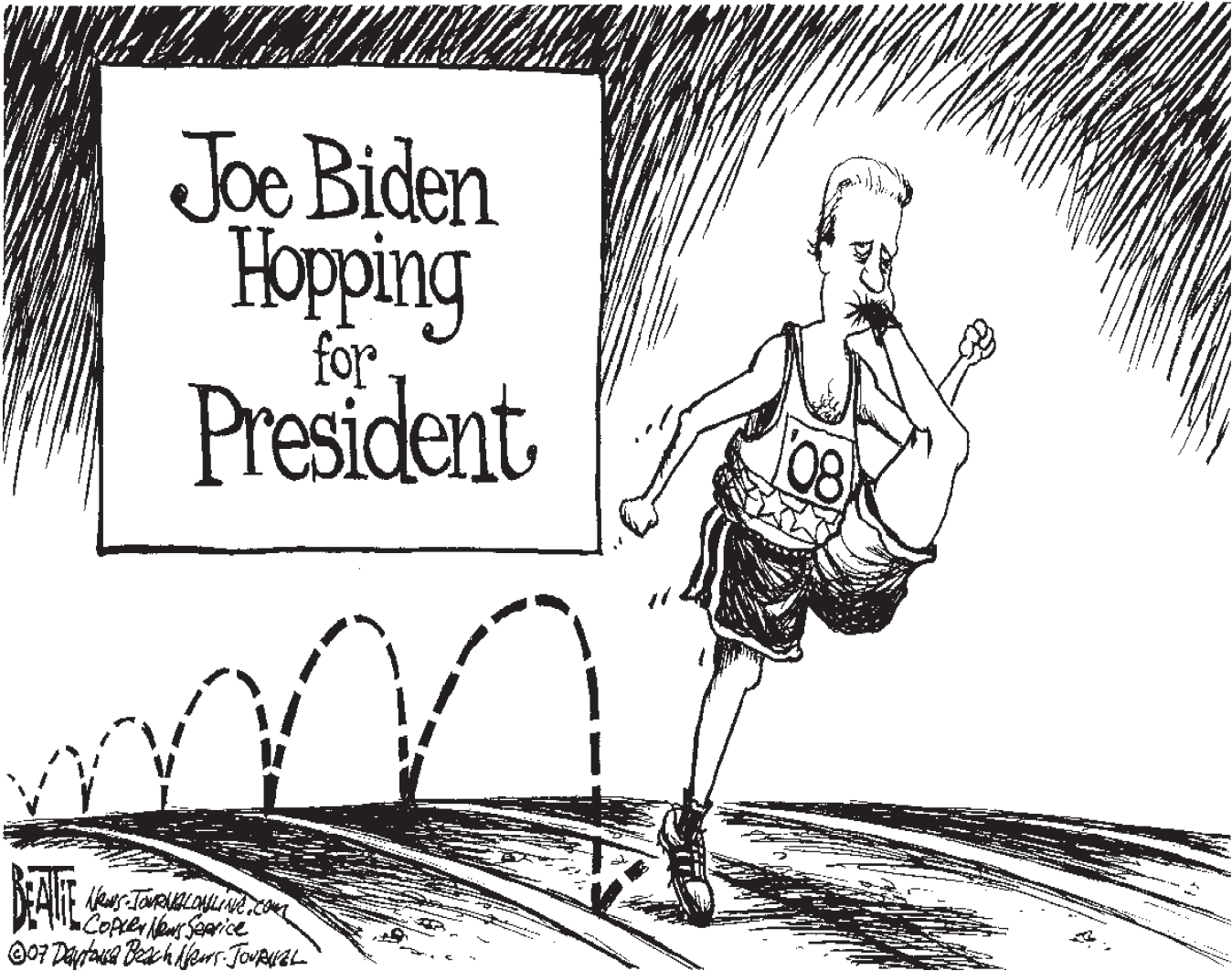
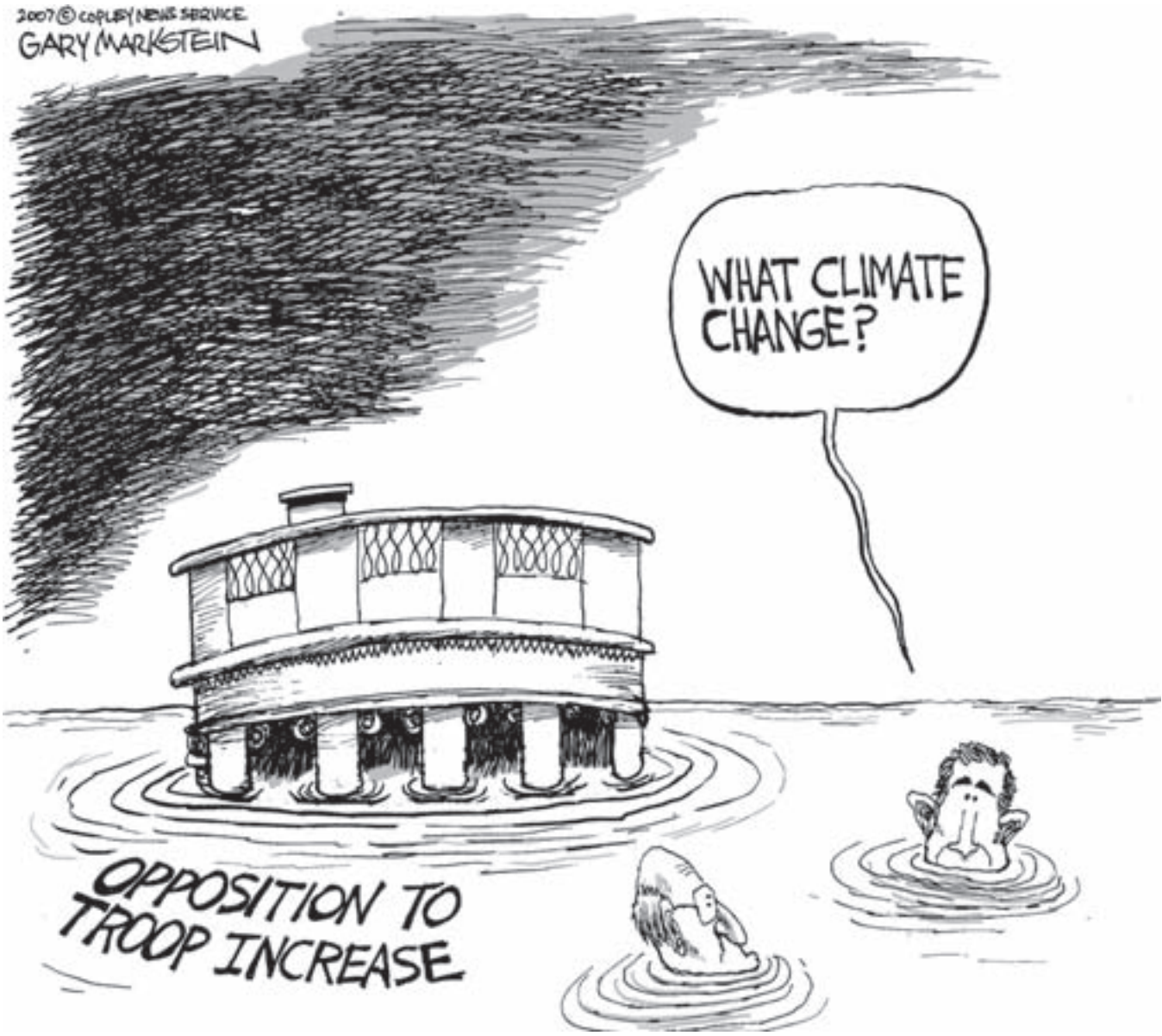
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A Plea For Fairness at MIT

Two years ago, in January 2005, Professor James L. Sherley, the only African-American faculty member ever appointed in the Division of Biological Engineering (BE), filed a letter of complaint about the division-level evaluation that resulted in the denial of his tenure in BE. Prof. Sherley's complaints include charges of conflict of interest and racial discrimination. Provost L. Rafael Reif has now decided that, given the findings of the grievance review committee, Sherley's tenure denial should stand.

Because charges of conflict of interest and racial discrimination cut at the very core of MIT's community values, it is imperative that they be thoroughly pursued, wherever they lead. We are writing this letter because we believe that there remain several issues related to Prof. Sherley's grievance process that need to be further examined. Our concern here is not, *and could not be*, about the scientific merits of Prof. Sherley's tenure dossier, which is not available to us and about which we as a group would be in no position to opine. Our concern in this letter is with the integrity of the grievance process. We would like to highlight a sample of evidence that might help decide whether Prof. Sherley's complaints were given fair, diligent and thorough consideration. The evidence surrounds the following topics:

- ¶ conflict of interest in tenure review;
- ¶ various sorts of unfair treatment to Prof. Sherley as a junior faculty member with respect to:
 - space allocation,
 - space-related impediments and misinformation during recruitment and hiring,
 - problems related to mentorship and tenure review,
 - failure to acknowledge achievements;
- ¶ mishandling of complaint of racial prejudice.

Conflict of interest

The BE Division Head is married to a senior BE faculty member whose relationship with the candidate has been openly contentious. Given this relationship, it would have been appropriate for the BE Division Head to recuse himself from assembling and deciding Prof. Sherley's tenure case. However, not only did the Division Head fail to recuse himself, but he solicited an internal letter from his wife to be included in the tenure file.

The Provost, in his Dec. 22, 2006 letter to Prof. Sherley summarizing the Review Committee's report (to which we do not have access), states: "The Committee found that it was appropriate for [the BE Division Head] to solicit an internal reference from [his wife], given the overlap in your research areas and the fact that you had not asked that she be excluded from the list of referees." In other words the Provost here places the burden for identifying and preempting the conflict of interest on the candidate himself.

This seems to us highly problematic. A tenure candidate should not be expected to openly challenge the judgment of senior faculty members who will play a key role in deciding the candidate's tenure status. MIT's *Policies and Procedures* (7.2) states: "While general responsibility for assuring adherence to these policies must rest with those responsible for appointments and assignments (principally academic and administrative department heads and laboratory and center directors), a particular responsibility for sensitivity to the potential conflicts falls on those whose family or personal relationships may give rise to them."

This makes it clear that the burden of action lies on department heads and on parties whose relationships may compromise (or give the appearance of compromising) due process in professional decision-making. Thus, as Head of BE and as spouse of a senior BE faculty in open conflict with the candidate, the BE Division Head was, in two distinct ways, responsible for avoiding any appearance or potential of conflict of interest. The BE Division Head failed to fulfill his responsibility. As a result, Prof. Sherley was not duly protected from the *appearance* of, and the *potential* for, conflict of interest.

Unfair treatment

Space allocation and space-related impediments and misinformation during recruitment and hiring

In July 1998, Prof. Sherley was hired into a faculty slot reserved for under-represented minorities as established by a special Provost's initiative to promote minority recruitment.

Such a slot came with certain restrictions on laboratory space: any minority recruited in such a line would have to be given space that was *already available* from the hiring unit — not additional space by the Provost. As he was being recruited, Prof. Sherley was never told that he would be hired into a special-initiative minority-faculty slot or that such a slot came with restrictions on how space would be allocated to him. This was confirmed in exchanges both with Prof. Sherley and with senior BE faculty involved in his recruitment and hiring.

These space restrictions have continued to plague Prof. Sherley throughout his career at MIT. We believe that these facts concerning Prof. Sherley's recruitment and lab space raise a variety of questions, including questions about Prof. Sherley's fair treatment as a new recruit and a junior faculty member, and questions about the reliability of the grievance committee's findings vis-à-vis the size of Prof. Sherley's *independent* laboratory space and how much control he could actually exert over this space.

For example, space loaned to Prof. Sherley by a senior faculty in BE has been listed as part of Prof. Sherley's "independent" lab space. Yet Prof. Sherley's dependence on others for lab space has been used to intimidate and pressure him. On July 3, 2006, Prof. Sherley received an email in which the afore-mentioned senior BE faculty threatened to "formally request return of [this space] to [him]." The senior BE faculty wrote to Prof. Sherley: "Remember that it was I who gave you access to that lab." In that email exchange, the senior faculty's threat was explicitly stated in response to Prof. Sherley's handling of a complaint by one of Sherley's assistants who was feeling harassed by one of the senior faculty's assistants. As far as can be gathered from the corresponding email exchanges, Prof. Sherley was handling this complaint in the most appropriate fashion, according to the relevant MIT guidelines.

Problems related to mentorship and tenure review

Various concerns also arise in the context of Prof. Sherley's pre-tenure mentorship and subsequent tenure denial. In question here are descriptions in the Provost's letters of the role of one Department Head in the School of Engineering, outside of BE, who according to the Provost's Jan. 23, 2006 letter, was asked to "review" Prof. Sherley's tenure case. As it turns out, this Department Head who was claimed in that letter to have "agreed with [the BE Division Head's tenure-denial] decision" was subsequently identified as the Head of Aeronautics and Astronautics [Aero-Astro], and the sole African-American Department Head at MIT.

The Aero-Astro Head is also the very mentor whom senior BE faculty had recommended to Prof. Sherley and whom Prof. Sherley had consulted about his tenure dossier, before and after the tenure-denial decision. On Dec. 20, 2006, the Aero-Astro Head categorically stated that *all* he saw of Prof. Sherley's tenure dossier is what Prof. Sherley himself had shown to him in his capacity of mentor. On that same occasion, the Aero-Astro Head unambiguously stated that it would have been "inappropriate" for him to "review" Prof. Sherley's case. Then and on another recent occasion (on Jan. 4, 2007), he emphatically denied having done so.

In light of the identification of the Aero-Astro Head as the other Department Head who "reviewed" Prof. Sherley's case, the Provost's summary letters dated Jan. 23, 2006 and Dec. 22, 2006 display obfuscatory statements about the committee's findings about the Aero-Astro Head's role in Prof. Sherley's tenure denial. In his Dec. 22, 2006 letter, the Provost states: "The Committee confirmed that [the Aero-Astro Head] did not see the tenure case for you that was presented to the BE faculty." Whether he did or not, one is left to wonder if the integrity and fairness of Prof. Sherley's mentorship and/or tenure review were in any way compromised by the Aero-Astro Head's role therein.

An important aside is in order here with respect to MIT's commitment to minority recruitment and retention. The above inconsistency in the Provost's letters is all the more troubling, given the Aero-Astro Head's standing in the minority-faculty community and the need for reliable mentorship therein. Any mishandling of these issues may have long-lasting effects on the quality of mentorship for younger minority faculty and on the recruitment and retention of minority faculty.

Failure to acknowledge achievements

Prof. Sherley charges that his stature, contributions, and awards have not been duly acknowledged by his senior colleagues and that,

even when he demanded acknowledgment, this was denied. Prof. Sherley has provided a variety of examples of this pattern; but there's one that is clearly documented, which relates to Prof. Sherley's status as the first new faculty appointment in BE.

Prof. Sherley has complained to the Provost that the BE Division Head has never acknowledged his (Sherley's) distinction as the first new faculty member hired into the newly formed Division of Bioengineering and Environmental Health in July 1998. In response to this complaint, the Provost, in his Dec. 22, 2006 letter, states: "While you [Sherley] feel that you should have been acknowledged as the first faculty member hired in BE, the Committee found that you were in fact hired in the Toxicology division, prior to the formation of BE."

However official MIT documents (e.g., Prof. Sherley's initial appointment letter dated July 1, 1998) contradict the findings of the committee vis-à-vis Prof. Sherley's initial appointment at MIT. Prof. Sherley's very first letter of appointment from MIT is dated July 1, 1998, and lists his affiliation with *Bioengineering and Environmental Health, and not with the Toxicology Division*. The latter no longer existed as of July 1, 1998: by then the faculty from the former Toxicology Division had become part of Bioengineering and Environmental Health. This simple fact, as straightforwardly documented by Prof. Sherley's initial appointment letter from MIT and by the history of BE, raises questions concerning the reliability of the Review Committee's findings as summarized by the Provost.

Prof. Sherley has asserted that such documented discrepancy about his MIT appointment — in spite of his (and the BE Administrative Officer's) attempts at correcting it — is one instance of a larger pattern of discrimination in BE. Statements to the effect that Prof. Sherley was not "the first faculty member hired in BE" do not simply downplay the significance of the facts, but they take away his place in the history of BE and his legacy to that Division. Though it may seem insignificant to some, Prof. Sherley's place in BE's history, especially given the fact that he's still the only African-American faculty member in BE, is powerfully symbolic in the context of race relations at MIT and elsewhere. It is thus unfortunate that the Provost's Dec. 22, 2006 letter furthers the slight: it suggests that Prof. Sherley's "feel[ings]" are the source of the error rather than close attention to the facts whose documentation lies within the purview of the Provost's office.

Mishandling of complaint of racial prejudice

Racial attitudes, as is well known, are usually complicated and deeply nuanced. When complaints about racial prejudice arise, every possible angle ought to be pursued to reach a reasonable understanding as to influence and impact. Committee members ought to be well versed in the problems involved through experience, knowledge, and/or deep reflection and sensitivity. With these caveats in mind, consider the following statement from the Provost's Dec. 22, 2006 letter to Prof. Sherley: "Although one personal opinion differed, the Committee found strong evidence that racial prejudice did not affect the evaluations of your tenure case among the BE faculty, and found no evidence (as opposed to that opinion) to the contrary."

The Provost's statement that the committee found "strong evidence" that racial discrimination did *not* occur in this case leaves us wondering. While a committee could reasonably state that they uncovered no evidence of racial discrimination, for them to claim to have "found strong evidence that racial prejudice did not affect [said tenure] evaluations" strikes us as highly implausible, especially in this case. And what about that "one personal opinion" in opposition to the committee's conclusion? Is that an opinion of a senior BE faculty? If so, it would plausibly be based on first-hand observations of two crucial sorts of data: interactions between Prof. Sherley and his BE colleagues, and comments about Prof. Sherley by his BE colleagues. Such "personal opinion" should not be so readily dismissed.

Taken all together, the above evidence calls into question the grievance committee's findings and, by extension, the Provost's decision to conclude Prof. Sherley's tenure case on the basis of those findings. Furthermore the above facts suggest that it is *impossible* to separate the specifics and eventual resolution of Prof. Sherley's case from the "barriers that may exist for under-represented minority faculty members and [...] effects that race may play in the

hiring, advancement and experience of under-represented minority faculty" (this is a quotation from the last paragraph in the Provost's Jan. 29, 2007 message to the MIT faculty about Professor Sherley's grievance; this message is posted at <http://web.mit.edu/provost/letters/letter01292007.html>).

In conclusion we are left doubtful as to whether the grievance review committee exercised due diligence in investigating, ferreting out, and interpreting evidence, and in distinguishing fact from opinion. We therefore believe that the following measures are in order:
¶ All aspects of the grievance process should be reviewed by a committee composed of members from inside and outside of MIT to determine the adequacy and fairness of the process. Details of this review should be reported to the faculty in full and in a timely fashion.

¶ Should the committee determine that the process was flawed or inadequate, then appropriate redress should be made to Prof. Sherley.

Last Friday, Feb. 2, President Hockfield rehearsed the Provost's announcement on Jan. 29, 2007 of "plans to undertake a comprehensive, rigorous, and systematic study of the impact of race on the hiring, advancement, and experience of minority faculty at the Institute" and "to take a position of leadership on this important issue." Unfortunately, given the above and related evidence pertaining to Prof. Sherley's grievance process, we feel obliged to point out that, while such an initiative is essential and long overdue, it appears to run counter to the administration's actions vis-à-vis Prof. Sherley's grievance.

Signers

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Department of Linguistics and Philosophy

George M. Church
Affiliated Faculty
Harvard-MIT Division of Health Sciences & Technology
Professor
Department of Genetics, Harvard Medical School

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Michel DeGraff
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Elizabeth Wood
Professor
History Faculty

Do you have an opinion on Sherley's strike? Write to us! letters@the-tech.mit.edu

Attention: Juniors, Seniors and all Graduate Students

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OR

Friday, February 9, 3:30 - 4:30 pm

Room 3-133

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<http://web.mit.edu/scholarships> or foreign-scholarship-advice@mit.edu

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February 6,
2007

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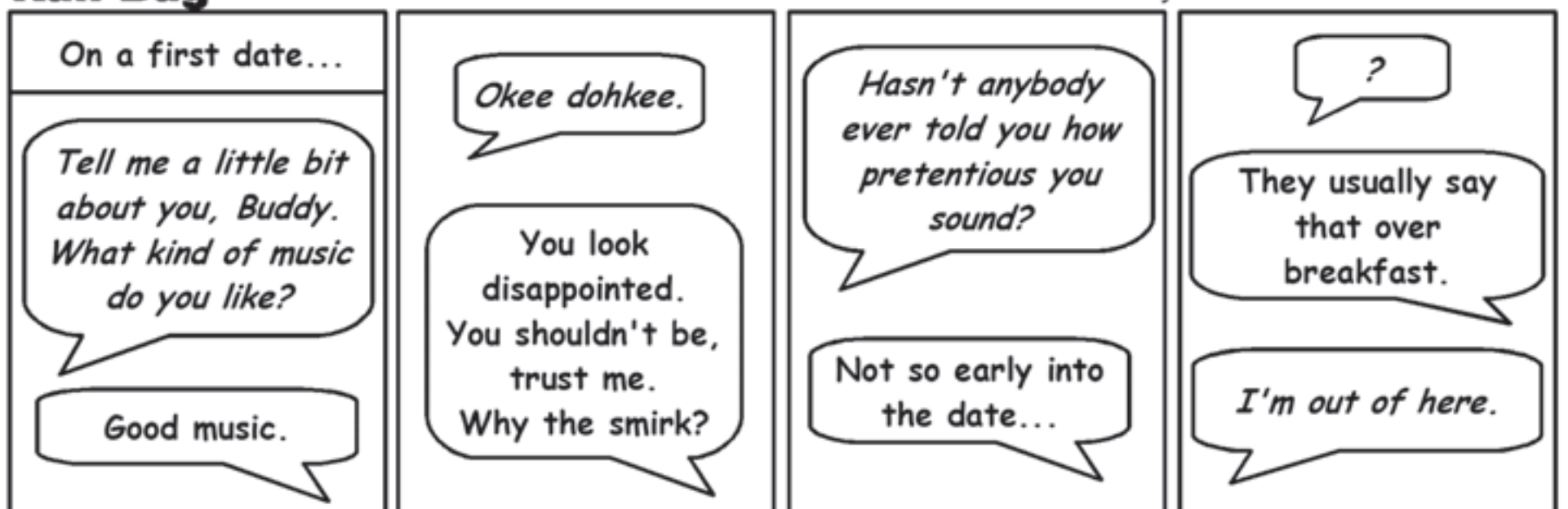
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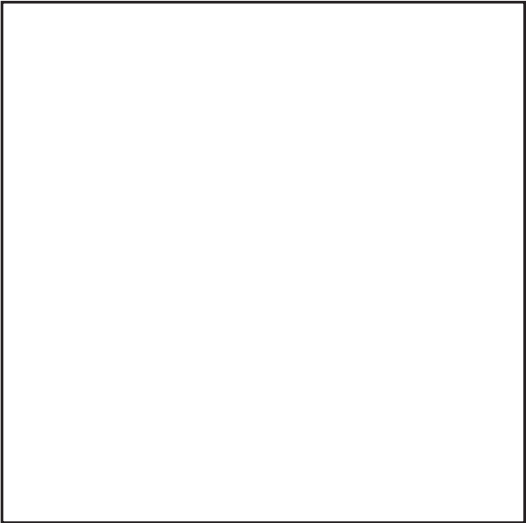
Doonesbury

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Crossword Puzzle

Solution, Page 20



su | do | ku

Fill in the grid so that each column, row, and 3 by 3 grid contains exactly one of the digits 1 through 9. Solution, tips, and computer program at <http://www.sudoku.com>; see also solution, page 20.

Prof. Protests Racism With Hunger Strike

Sherley, from Page 1

approaches, he said, but found them inefficient in disclosing the crux of the problem. “I had to find some way to get people to stop and say there must be something really of great gravity going on here for someone to go to this step,” he said to *The Tech* two weeks ago.

Details of Sherley’s case

In Sherley’s Dec. 19 letter, Sherley argued that his case for tenure was handled carelessly and that Professor Douglas A. Lauffenburger, director of the department of Biological Engineering, performed a racist act by asking “an African-American head who is not in my field of research” to sign off on his decision “not to advance my tenure case for review by Engineering Council in December 2004.” Additionally, Sherley also outlined his main reasons for complaint, which included denial of independent lab space by then Provost Robert Brown and the conflict of interest that resulted from the spousal relationship between Lauffenburger and BE Professor Linda G. Griffith led him to believe his case for tenure was not handled fairly.

According to Reif, after Sherley filed a grievance, a committee of senior faculty members from different MIT departments was appointed to address the issues Sherley had identified. “The committee reported that the tenure process conducted in Professor Sherley’s case was fair,” Reif said.

Sherley received Reif’s negative decision letter on Dec. 22, 2006, which, according to Sherley, denied the existence of the conflict of interest and Sherley’s status as the first hire into BE.

Other acts that affected the handling of his tenure included Lauffenburger’s spousal relationship with Griffith, said Sherley. Griffith is hostile to Sherley professionally and personally, which, said BE Professor William G. Thilly is a conflict that is “nothing private.”

His conflict with Griffith affects Lauffenburger’s ability to make a fair decision, Sherley said.

In a *Tech* interview, Sherley said that Lauffenburger is solely responsible for the decision not to forward his tenure case. According to Thilly, however, it is ultimately the director’s decision after the faculty votes, but there is not much leeway to steer away from the outcome of the faculty votes. Almost all tenured faculty of the BE department voted, and the outcome of the vote is confidential, Thilly said.

Administration, faculty respond

Members of the BE faculty issued a statement yesterday, stating “with certainty and a clear conscience that



MICHAEL MCGRAW-HERDEG—THE TECH

Associate Professor of Biological Engineering James L. Sherley speaks to a small crowd of about twenty outside President Hockfield’s office. To protest his being denied tenure at MIT — a decision Sherley says was motivated by institutional racism — he began a hunger strike yesterday.

race did not play any role in the decision that resulted in Prof. Sherley’s tenure case not being taken forward.” It continued stating that Sherley’s accomplishments in research and teaching, letters of evaluation, and his service to MIT and the broader science and engineering community were evaluated “at the utmost level of integrity and ethics.” Lauffenburger and Griffith were not among those who signed the statement.

The MIT News Office also released a statement yesterday. “MIT’s tenure process is extremely rigorous; less than half of the Institute’s many talented junior faculty members are promoted to tenured positions,” it states.

Shortly after Sherley began his hunger strike, both Vice President for Institute Affairs Kirk D. Kolenbrand and Chancellor Phillip L. Clay sent messages to the MIT community saying that although members of the administration had encouraged Sherley to use other means to protest, his hunger strike will be respected. Also, Clay wrote that there will be discussions over the next few days on tenure procedures and “related issues.”

MIT Professors, including Noam Chomsky, are circulating a letter asking for further investigation into Sherley’s tenure situation, according to a Feb. 5 *Boston Globe* article.

“I’m hopeful that there are people in our administration who are going to look at this and say, you know, we’ve known all along that there was a problem that these things that have happened shouldn’t have happened at

MIT,” Sherley said to *The Tech* two weeks ago.

Reif extended Sherley’s appointment from Jan. 31 to Jun. 30 to “allow Professor Sherley and the Institute to develop transition plans that provide for the continuity of effort and the well being of his research group and for Professor Sherley to move forward with his career,” he said in an e-mail interview. “He is a promising scientist who has a great deal to offer to science and society,” Reif added.

In a Jan. 29 letter to the MIT community, Reif said that he and Hockfield are “deeply committed to removing barriers that may exist for under-represented minority faculty members.” He said that he would work with minority faculty to establish a committee “to undertake a comprehensive, rigorous and systematic study of these issues.”

Hockfield “We owe it to our students and community to take a position of leadership on this important issue, and the progress we have made so far demonstrates that concerted institutional effort can make a difference,” Hockfield said in her letter. Hockfield also wrote about the increased racial diversity of the Class of 2010 and the minority faculty that have been brought in as Martin Luther King Jr. Visting Professors and Scholars.

Both Hockfield and Reif mentioned the Institute’s efforts to improve the gender balance among students and faculty at MIT.

Another “plea” from Sherley

Sherley e-mailed “a second plea”

to members of the MIT community on Jan. 29, 2007. In the letter, he listed his protest demands, explained why he believes he merits tenure, and gives “Evidence of ... Reif’s Obstruction of the Tenure Decision Complaint.”

A stem cell scientist, Sherley said he “established an internationally recognized research program focused on the investigation of adult stem cell asymmetric self-renewal.” His many awards include the Pew Scholars Program in the Biomedical Sciences Award and the Ellison Medical Foundation Senior Scholar Award in Aging Research, which has been awarded to only four other MIT researchers, including Robert A. Weinberg and Susan Lindquist.

“My case will not be in the lower five percent,” Sherley said. “My case will be, at a minimum, right in the middle of the pack.”

Sherley said he met with President Susan Hockfield on Friday, Feb. 2 at 2:30 p.m. to discuss his tenure and hunger strike situation. The meeting was “completely unproductive and disappointing,” he said. According to Sherley, Hockfield asked him to leave MIT without tenure while thanking him for bringing the issue of racial discrimination in academia to the public’s attention. Sherley also said that Hockfield would not overturn the provost’s decision to not take further action after an investigating committee reported that none of Sherley’s

Hockfield’s e-mail on minority faculty issues was sent to the MIT community around 3:50 p.m. that day.

MIT News Office Statement — Feb. 5, 2007

Professor Sherley’s case was assessed and decided on the merits.

MIT’s tenure process is extremely rigorous; less than half of the Institute’s many talented junior faculty members are promoted to tenured positions. MIT has a well-established policy for reviewing and granting tenure to faculty and for handling grievances that arise from negative tenure decisions; the process is thorough and extensive, and we are confident it was followed with integrity in this case.

MIT is intensely committed to developing all reasonable supports to create an environment that will allow every faculty member to reach his or her full potential. At the same time, maintaining the rigor and integrity of the tenure process is at the heart of MIT’s academic excellence.

We understand that Professor Sherley disagrees profoundly with the decision in his tenure case, and that his disagreement raises difficult issues for many in our extended community, most especially Professor Sherley’s family, colleagues, and friends.

We hope those who hold diverging views on the issues Professor Sherley has raised will nonetheless speak and act in the spirit of mutual respect and dialogue that is a hallmark of the Institute’s culture.

A statement from the BE faculty — Feb. 5, 2007

Dear Colleagues and Friends,

Undoubtedly it has come to your attention that Prof. James L. Sherley is protesting his tenure decision. Out of respect and concern for our colleague Prof. Sherley, until now, no public statements have been made by his colleagues in the Biological Engineering Division.

We state with certainty and a clear conscience that race did not play any role in the decision that resulted in Prof. Sherley’s tenure case not being taken forward. As in all tenure and promotion decisions, there was a thorough consideration of Prof. Sherley’s accomplishments in research and teaching, of the many letters of evaluation received from experts in Prof. Sherley’s research areas, and of his service to MIT and to broader science and engineering communities. We believe in our hearts that, as in all tenure cases in our department, it was a fair and honest process executed at the utmost level of integrity and ethics. It is our collective view that Prof. Sherley was treated fairly.

Sincerely,
Angela Belcher, Peter Dedon, Ed DeLong, Forbes Dewey, John Essigmann, Jim Fox, Alan Grodzinsky, Roger Kamm, Alex Klibanov, Harvey Lodish, Paul Matsudaira, Leona Samson, Ram Sasisekharan, David Schauer, Peter So, Steve Tannenbaum, Bruce Tidor, Dane Wittrup, Yanni Yannas, Michael Yaffe



RAY C. HE—THE TECH

Associate Professor James L. Sherley talks to supporters and passersby during his “Walk the Talk” hunger strike to end alleged racial discrimination by Institute administrators. Sherley has vowed to hold a vigil outside of the President and Provost’s office from 9 a.m.—noon on weekdays until his demands are met.

List of Letters, Statements on Sherley, Minority Issues

Author(s)	Date	Full text can be found online at:
James L. Sherley, BE Associate Prof.	Dec. 19, 2006	http://www-tech.mit.edu/V127/N1/1sherley/letter1full.html
L. Rafael Reif, Provost	Jan. 29, 2007	http://web.mit.edu/provost/letters/letter01292007.html
James L. Sherley, BE Associate Prof.	Jan. 29, 2007	http://www-tech.mit.edu/V127/N1/1sherley/letter2full.html
Susan Hockfield, President	Feb. 2, 2007	http://web.mit.edu/hockfield/letters/letter02022007.html
Kirk D. Kolenbrander, Secretary of the Corporation and VP of Institute Affairs	Feb. 5, 2007	http://web.mit.edu/newsoffice/2007/letter-kolenbrander.html
MIT News Office	Feb. 5, 2007	http://www-tech.mit.edu/V127/N1/1sherley/newsoffice.html
Phillip L. Clay PhD '75, Chancellor	Feb. 5, 2007	http://www-tech.mit.edu/V127/N1/1sherley/clay.html
Members of the BE faculty	Feb. 5, 2007	http://www-tech.mit.edu/V127/N1/1sherley/be.html

Excerpt from ‘A second plea ...’ — Jan. 29, 2007

Dear faculty, staff, students and friends at MIT and abroad: ...

Statement of Protest Demands

On January 24, 2007, Provost Reif changed his plan to terminate my appointment on January 31, 2007. He extended it to June 30, 2007. However, he stated in his letter, “This extension provides ample time to develop and implement a transition from MIT that allows you to continue to advance your professional career and provides an appropriate transition for those who currently work in your lab.”

Thus, he continues to obstruct my right to a fair and just hearing of my complaint that my tenure case was unfairly decided because of racial discrimination, conflict of interest, and improper actions on the part of members of the MIT faculty and the MIT Corporation.

The explanation for Provost Reif’s persistent pre-emptory attitude that I should leave MIT before receiving a fair investigation will expose a rotten spot of racism in MIT’s internal institutional policies regarding the hire and tenure evaluation of minority faculty. I hope that the honest and just among you will seek an explanation. The complaint itself delineates the racist practices of members of the BE faculty, in particular its head Professor Douglas Lauffenburger.

At my request, I met with Associate Provost Claude Canizares and my MIT advocate, Prof. Kenneth Manning, on the afternoon of January 24, 2007 to share my protest demands and their basis. These demands are:

1. Professor Sherley must receive an immediate grant of tenure as an admission that his tenure case was unfairly reviewed and decided and that his formal complaint against the negative decision was unfairly handled.

2. MIT must acknowledge the racism discovered in Professor Sherley’s treatment as a faculty member in Biological Engineering (BE) on the part of Provost Robert Brown, Professor Douglas Lauffenburger the head of BE, and other identifiable faculty members (e.g., Professor Steven Tannenbaum). MIT must acknowledge that Professor Sherley’s experience is not an isolated one. MIT must announce an immediate commitment of resources, faculty effort, and administration effort to develop new effective policies for eliminating racism at MIT, with special attention to institutional and individual racist practices that constitute unfair barriers to recruitment and tenure of minority faculty.

3. MIT must obtain the resignation of Provost Rafael Reif because of his demonstrated obstruction of the formal grievance proceeding that addressed Professor Sherley’s complaint. ...

Evidence of Provost Rafael Reif’s Obstruction of the Tenure Decision Complaint

In my previous two open letters, I have spoken to Provost Reif’s action to obstruct my complaint of an unfair negative decision by Prof. Douglas Lauffenburger based on racism, conflict of interest, and the impact of the improper action of Susan Whitehead, a lifetime member of the MIT Corporation and the chair of the BE Visiting Committee. In addition, the failure of Provost Robert Brown to disclose his close personal relationship with Professor Lauffenburger and his spouse Professor Linda Griffith completely invalidated the investigation of my complaint before Provost Reif took over.

However, Provost Reif’s adjudication is also devoid of integrity. Provost Reif’s own words written in his final decision letter sent to me on December 22, 2006 clearly demonstrate his obstruction of my complaint. What shall we say about a Provost who responded in the following manner to the charge that the BE faculty provided an advisory tenure vote to the head of BE, Prof. Douglas Lauffenburger, when they were not themselves familiar with the tenure case?...

Finally, what shall we in the MIT community and abroad say about a Provost who wrote the following response to the charge of racism in MIT’s tenure promotion process, but decided to ignore the importance of the report that provoked it?

“12. Although one personal opinion differed, the Committee found strong evidence that racial prejudice did not affect the evaluations of your tenure case among the BE faculty, and found no evidence (as opposed to that opinion) to the contrary.”

Thus, the Provost chooses to ignore the significance of an independent report that racism played a role in my tenure review in BE at MIT. In the McBay report of 1986, MIT learned that the voices who were willing to accept the risks of speaking out against racism would be few and suppressed. This important lesson has been forgotten. I am one who has decided to take up Shirley McBay’s clarion call to end racism at MIT. I hope that you will join me in the struggle.

Yours sincerely,
James Sherley

Provost’s Letter to Faculty — Jan. 29, 2007

Dear Faculty Colleagues,

Many of you have asked me about the published reports that our colleague, James L. Sherley, has expressed strong opposition to the decisions and processes regarding his tenure case. He believes that race was a factor in the decision not to grant him tenure. We consider charges of this nature with the utmost seriousness. Issues of fairness and the integrity of our academic processes are matters of fundamental concern to the Institute.

The policies and procedures for MIT’s faculty mandate that the substance of tenure evaluations and deliberations be kept confidential to assure the integrity of the process and to respect individual privacy. As a result, I may not disclose or discuss the substance of the deliberations of Professor Sherley’s tenure case. However, I will note that three important faculty reviews occurred between January 2005, when Professor Sherley was notified of the decision not to advance his tenure case, and December 2006, when I notified Professor Sherley that I am not going to overturn the tenure decision:

1. At the request of former Provost Robert Brown, a senior member of the faculty carried out a fact-finding review to answer questions raised by Professor Sherley relating to his tenure case. Professor Sherley agreed with the selection of the faculty member to act as fact finder and provided the specific questions to be addressed. Subsequent to the report of the faculty fact-finder, Professor Sherley filed a formal internal grievance.

2. Early in my service as provost, I asked an ad hoc committee of senior faculty members to address issues Professor Sherley raised in his grievance, including allegations of racial discrimination and conflict of interest. Professor Sherley agreed with the initial selection of the Committee members and was provided the opportunity to review and modify the charge to the Committee. Based on the Committee’s detailed report of its investigation and its findings regarding the adequacy and fairness of the tenure process in Professor Sherley’s case, I advised Professor Sherley that the original

tenure decision would stand. Subsequently, Professor Sherley appealed this decision to President Hockfield and advanced additional information that he had not previously brought forward.

3. Because of the seriousness of this matter, the decision was made to go back to the Committee and to ask them to review Professor Sherley’s additional information. Professor Sherley was given the opportunity to review and comment on what was sent to the Committee. The Committee produced a detailed addendum to its original report. Again, the Committee found that the process in Professor Sherley’s tenure case was adequate and fair. Based on this addendum and the original report, I decided not to overturn the decision in the tenure case. This action is final.

I have recently extended the appointment of Professor Sherley through June 30, 2007. I expect that this time will allow Professor Sherley and the Institute to develop transition plans that provide for the continuity of effort and the well being of his research group and for Professor Sherley to move forward with his career.

Since becoming Provost, and more intensely in the past several months, I have had conversations with many members of MIT’s faculty to talk about how race affects the recruitment, retention, and experiences of under-represented minority faculty members at MIT. President Hockfield and I are deeply committed to removing barriers that may exist for under-represented minority faculty members and to examining and assessing effects that race may play in the hiring, advancement and experience of under-represented minority faculty. As a first step, and using the study of the status of women in science as a guide, we will work with the minority faculty and others to establish a committee of leaders, and provide them with the necessary resources, to undertake a comprehensive, rigorous and systematic study of these issues. President Hockfield and I look forward to reaching out to, and working with, the entire MIT community in these efforts.

Sincerely,
L. Rafael Reif

Excerpt from ‘A plea for help to end racism at MIT’ — Dec. 19, 2006

Dear Colleagues:

... I brought my initial complaint to the attention of President Susan Hockfield, Provost Robert Brown, and Dean of the School of Engineering, Thomas Magnanti, by e-mail, in January 2004. None of them responded in any manner until after an article appeared in The Boston Globe that outlined some of the elements of my complaint, chief amongst these being racist attitudes among members of the BE faculty.

In response to the Globe article, Provost Robert Brown conducted an initial inquiry into events surrounding the evaluation of my tenure case by the BE faculty. He instructed that interviews be conducted with BE faculty members. However, he ignored the issue of a clear conflict of interest that existed between Professor Lauffenburger and his spouse, BE faculty member Professor Linda Griffith, that operated against me during the BE faculty’s evaluation of my tenure case. He ignored the statement by Professor Lauffenburger to me that he had involved upper administration in the development of his decision not to advance my tenure case. He ignored Professor Lauffenburger’s statement to me that he “knew that my race would be a factor in the review of my tenure case.” He ignored the fact that I had heated exchanges involving both Professor Lauffenburger and Professor Griffith together over their delinquency in transferring designated funds to my Child accounts on joint projects for which they were the P.I.’s. He ignored the fact that Professor Lauffenburger never assembled a group of BE faculty to administer the development of my tenure case, despite his conflict of interest due to Professor Griffith’s hostility towards me and my research program. Thus, Professor Lauffenburger, acting alone in this environment of conflict of interest, assembled my tenure case, presented it to the BE faculty, and made the decision not to advance it. Provost Brown’s inquiry did confirm that the BE faculty spent less than 1 hour discussing my case for tenure in a hearing led by Professor Lauffenburger.

Based on his evaluation, Provost Brown concluded that there were no grounds for him to initiate a formal grievance proceeding for my complaint. When asked specifically about his decision to exclude conflict of interest and the involvement of upper administration in a tenure decision made by a department head, Provost Brown stated that he did so because including them would have required that he initiate a grievance proceeding. The specific upper administrators that Professor Lauffenburger named were Dean Thomas Magnanti and Provost Brown himself. Dean Magnanti admitted his involvement, but Provost Brown denied his involvement as his opening statement when he first met with me. Provost Brown moved onto Boston University leaving my unresolved complaint for incoming Provost Rafael Reif to address.

Upon hearing my complaint, Provost Reif ruled that a full grievance proceeding, according to MIT Policies and Procedures, was in order. He assembled an investigating committee of three senior MIT faculty members. They met with me only once, and then months later in January 2006, I received a letter from Provost Reif indicating that he had decided that there were no grounds for reconsidering my case for tenure at MIT.

... President Hockfield agreed to consider my appeal, but asked me to allow that my appeal still fell within the province of the Provost. They both met with my advocate, Professor Kenneth Manning, and me in February 2006 to hear information that the investigating committee had not. I shared the following crucial information with them:

1. There were several damaging acts, motivated by my race, that I either encountered or learned of as a member of the BE faculty....

2. At the time that Professor Lauffenburger was deciding my tenure case, I was contacted by a member of the MIT Corporation. This particular member of the Corporation served on the BE visiting committee and was also on the Presidential Search Committee that eventually recommended Susan Hockfield as the next MIT President. I now know that for a member of the Corporation to contact an untenured faculty member regarding such important Corporation business is improper. Moreover, the nature of the member’s contact was relevant to my race and Professor Lauffenburger’s decision. The call was an inquiry about my confidential outspoken criticism against Provost Robert Brown, also a MIT presidential candidate. I was critical of his publicly displayed lack of cultural competency and racial insensitivity in an MIT forum....

These two acts alone are sufficient cause for overturn of Professor Lauffenburger’s decision. However, there were also many other acts of discrimination related to my race that I related to President Hockfield and Provost Reif that revealed a troubling image of how my race has led to a difference in treatment, support, and regard by Professor Lauffenburger, Professor Griffith, and several other members of the BE faculty.

Based on the information that I shared with them, President Hockfield charged Provost Reif with re-doing the investigation of my complaint. Provost Reif charged the same investigation committee to investigate further, but he instructed them that the conflict of interest constituted by Professor Lauffenburger and Professor Griffith, the action by Provost Brown to withhold lab space from me because of my race, and the improper contact by a member of the MIT Corporation about Provost Brown’s racial attitudes at the time of Professor Lauffenburger’s decision regarding whether to advance my tenure case were all to be excluded from their investigation!...

I am calling on you, my colleagues at MIT, to seek Provost Reif’s immediate resignation for the manner in which he has handled my complaint....

I will go on hunger strike outside the MIT Provost’s office. I hope that you will support me in this effort by joining me in my protest starting on February 5, 2007. Of course, I am not asking you to join me in my hunger strike, just to support me with your presence when you are able.

I will either see the Provost resign and my hard-earned tenure granted at MIT, or I will die defiantly right outside his office. This is the strength of my conviction that racism in American must end. What better place to kill a small part of it than at a great institution like MIT. It is time for leaders at MIT to stop sitting around in monthly faculty meetings wringing their hands about difficulty retaining minority faculty....

Yours sincerely,
James L. Sherley, M.D., Ph.D.
Professor of Biological Engineering



Quickly Constructed Robots Vie For Title; Design, Dress Award

By Mandana T. Manzari

Robot enthusiasts packed into 26-100 on Friday, Feb. 2 to watch the Mobile Autonomous System Laboratory competition, the face-off between robots that had made it to the final stage of this year's contest.

"One of our ideas was for [the robot] to set itself on fire at the end ..." said Karen L. Chu '08, whose robot, Sharara, means spark in Hindi. Sharara was one of the 17 robots that competed in the final contest for the Maslab robotics competition last Friday. This year, 17 teams and 57 participants showed off their robotic designs to the eager audience.

Each Maslab team was given a kit that included the vital components for robot construction, such as an 800 MHz VIA Mach computer, a USB wireless device, and drive motors.

The object of this year's contest was for the robots to find and pick up as many red balls as possible and deposit them into goals marked with yellow tape. Infrared reflective sensors and ultrasound helped the robots accomplish these goals.

The winners of the final contest this year were Team 1, with their robot "12AW12," and Team 14 with their robot "Yellow Hat." The Design Award and Best Dressed both went to Team 12 with their robot "The Washingtons."

With less than a month during Independent Activities Period to construct their robots, teams are pressed for time. Many teams focused on

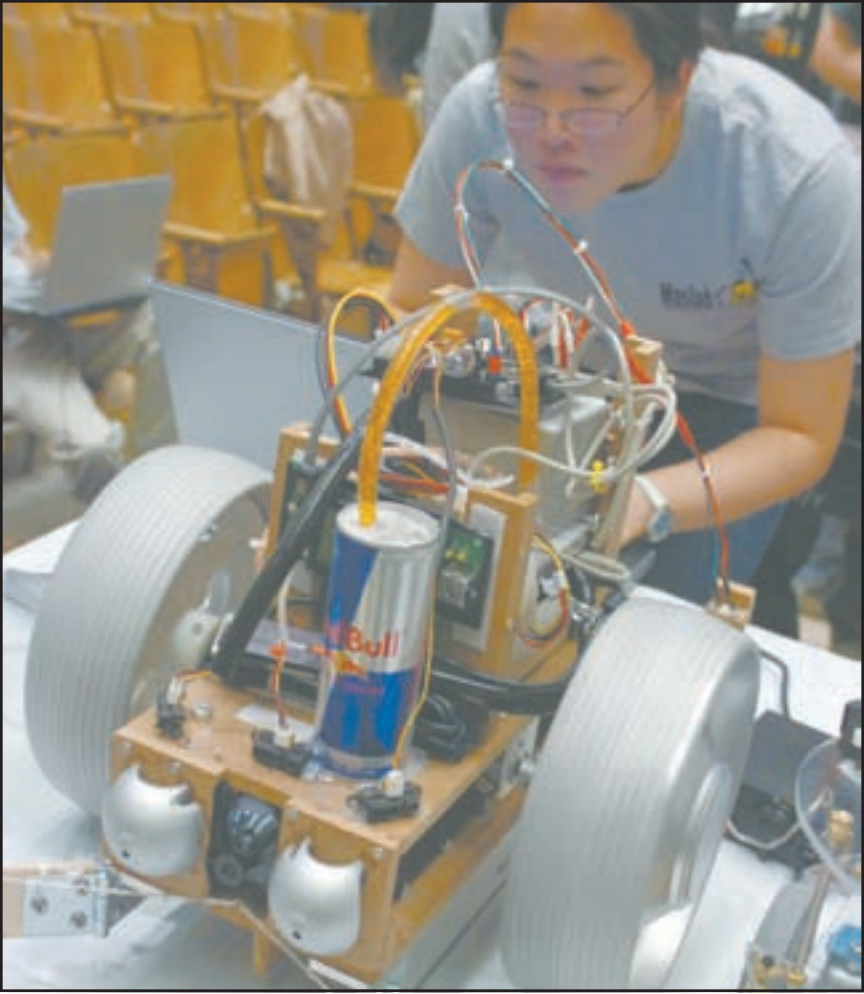
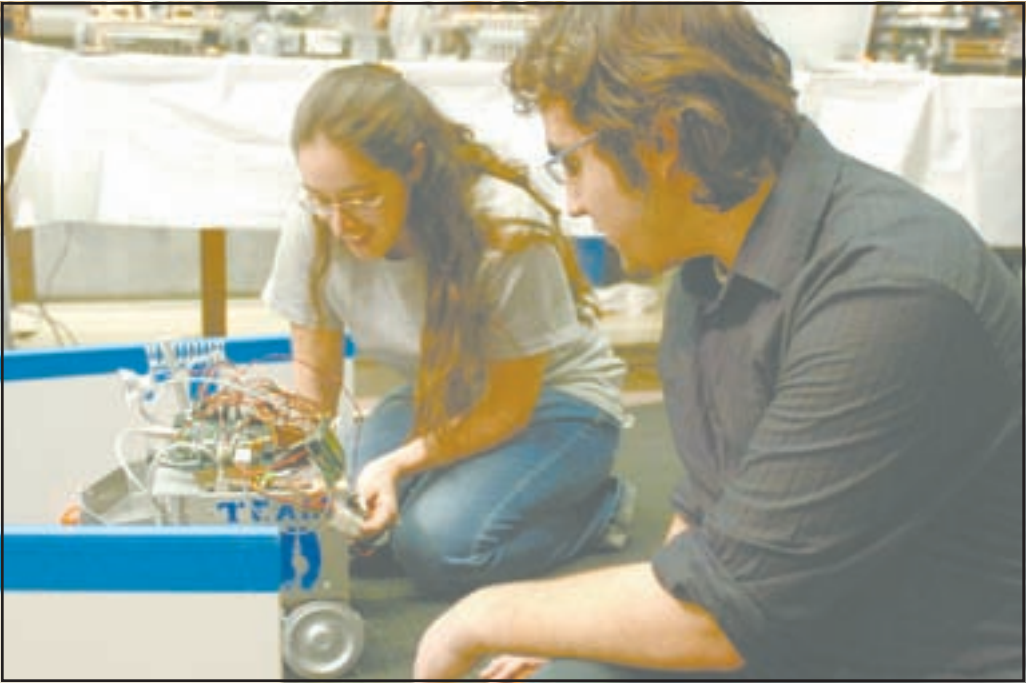
getting their robots to move in the right direction, sense and avoid the walls of the playing field, and pick up the red balls. One of the robots, Team Thirteen's "Mr. Whiskers," was instead programmed to get a sense for and give a visual representation of the playing field using its camera and other equipment, including a gyroscope, and optical encoders.

"Our robot's got a sweet chrome finish over a truck-like body," said Eletha J. Flores '10 of her robot, Fubar.

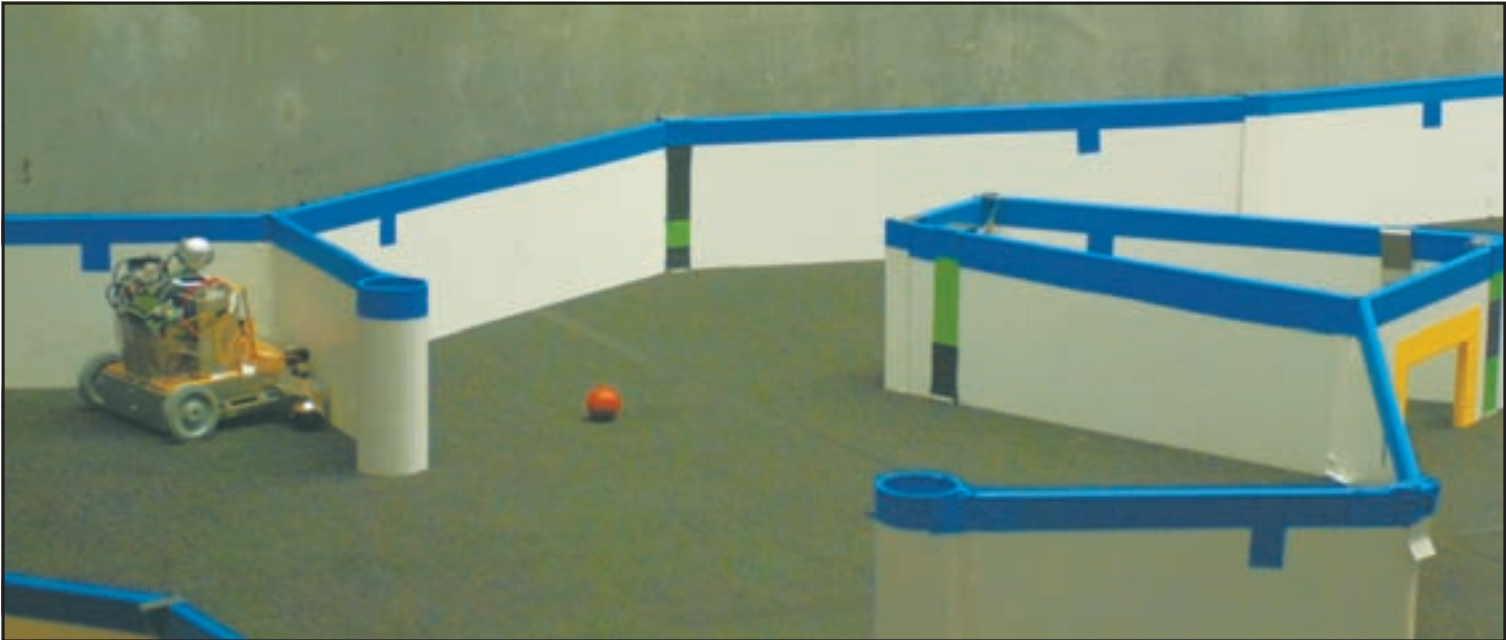
"My favorite 'bot was Team 8's Jolly Roger. Some amazing engineering went into that robot, including homemade omniwheels — now that's hardcore! Watching that thing move was just plain awesome — it was like a UFO," said Maslab participant Aaron E. Ramirez '10.

The robots each had five minutes to put as many red balls into the goals as possible. Picking up a red ball was worth one point, putting the ball within 12 inches of the goal was worth two points, and scoring a goal was worth four points. The layout of the Maslab competition field was unknown to participants until the day of the competition, increasing the difficulty level of the project.

This year, Maslab was sponsored by ITA software as well as Google and Sun Microsystems. MIT alumnus David P. Ziegler '04 described Maslab as "a particularly cool competition because it's such a large engineering space."



Clockwise from top left:
Alex St. Claire '08, Matt Robertson '08, and Yaim Cooper '07 showcase their robots to spectators.
Melodie M. Kao '10 checks over her robot's code on the day of the competition.
A team's robot attempts to avoid obstructions in the playing field.
Eletha J. Flores '10 and Ayman S. Abu Shirbi '09 calibrate their robot.
Photography by Jenny Liu



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GHEORGHE CHISTOL—THE TECH

‘Purple Dragon’ Soars to 6.270 Win

By Kirtana Raja
NEWS EDITOR

Team Purple Dragon roared into the final rounds of this year’s 6.270 competition, taking first place before a large audience of local residents, students, and faculty last Thursday, Feb. 1 in room 26-100.

Sergio Haro ’08 and Julie Shi ’08, made up Team Purple Dragon. Team Supernova (Gary M. Matthias ’08, Jodyann F. Coley ’08 and Stephen J. Pueblo ’08), and Team Make Way for the Dung Beetles (Melanie C. Bomke ’09 and Samuel J. Evans ’09) were second and third place, respectively.

“I never thought I would actually win — it was very exciting,” Shi said.

The theme for this year’s contest was “Snakes on a Plane.” As in past years, robots moved colored balls around on a white, boxed-off area. This year’s competition found robots moving as many of their colored balls into the three different scoring areas of the demonstration arena. The round was won by having the most balls standing in as many of the three different scoring areas as possible.

In total, 47 teams of two or three students each were involved in the competition, said Julia M. Dennett ’08, one of the event coordinators.

The winning team was awarded the Glashan Brick, a metal LEGO brick upon which the winners names are inscribed, as

well as LEGO kits.

Shi and Haro’s robot was seeded first throughout the contest. Their design had their robot moving quickly in the first few seconds of each round to place balls in the scoring areas. It would then remain relatively still afterwards.

Shi noted that during the course of the final elimination rounds, their robot competed against the placebo robots, a spinning Ferris wheel and a slithering snake-bot that were meant to simply fill space without actually competing in the tournament, a few times — a result of being seeded very high and having an odd number of remaining contestants.

Shi said that having to play against the placebos in a few rounds was perhaps not as fair to some of the other teams, who had opponents every round.

“I’m extremely proud to win second place,” said Pueblo. “We all put in a tremendous amount of work, and we knew that our robot would do well.”

Team Supernova’s robot experienced some technical difficulties as the tournament progressed.

Coley said that in general she felt that their robot was pretty consistent, but that if there were anything that they would have done differently, it would have been to try to get the robot to drive straighter. This would have improved the robot’s performance a little by preventing it from going off course

so much, though it is difficult to determine how much a gyroscope will drift.

“If we had a chance to take 6.270 again, we would definitely use shaft encoders to drive more accurately,” said Pueblo in agreement with Coley. “A tip to future 6.270 participants: make sure your robot is consistent and reliable.”

“It was surprising and satisfying to see that our hard work paid off in such a tangible way,” Evans said of his third place robot.

The Dung Beetles experienced some stalling in the later rounds of the tournament, which Bomke and Evans both attributed to various mechanical failures with the robot’s gearbox.

Dennett mentioned that the organizers have started to work on the contest rules and design for next year already.

A notable change will be that organizers may be paid next year, Dennett said.

Dennett said that the event organizers also hope to find a way to prevent the double win situation from occurring, so that only one team can win in every round.

This year, as in the past, several sponsors gave away free items such as t-shirts that audience members scrambled to acquire.

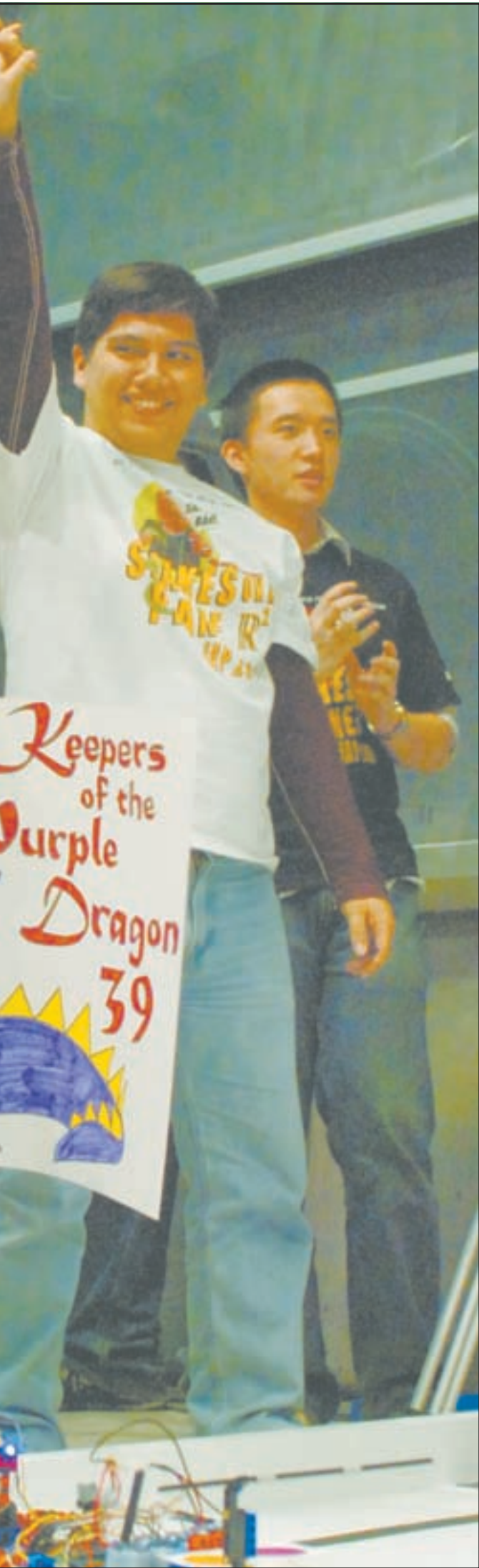
A Web site featuring more information about this year’s contest can be found online at <http://web.mit.edu/6.270/www/about/history.html>.



GHEORGHE CHISTOL—THE TECH



DAVID DA HE—THE TECH



GHEORGHE CHISTOL—THE TECH

DAVID DA HE—THE TECH

Clockwise from top left:
Helen H. Liang '08 of "Three Blind Mice" places her robot, Paul, on the 6.270 playing field.
Team 31's Evan D. Gerard '08 and Dan L. Lopuch '08 bring the robots to organizer Julia M. Dennett's '08 (left) attention.
Gary M. Matthias '08 inspects his team's robot before a match. Team Supernova ended up taking 2nd place.
Katherine J. Hollenbach '07 of "Ringo Star" places their robot on the field and prepares to start it up.
Lisa M. Nakano '08, Andy L. Lin '08, and Mavis Li '08 of team "Alphalpha" cheer on their robot as it competes in one of the final rounds of the 6.270 competition.
Julie Shi '08 and Sergio Haro '08 celebrate as they win the 6.270 Autonomous Robot Design competition.
The competition was entertaining for participants and audience members alike. People watched the bots on two large screens in room 26-100.

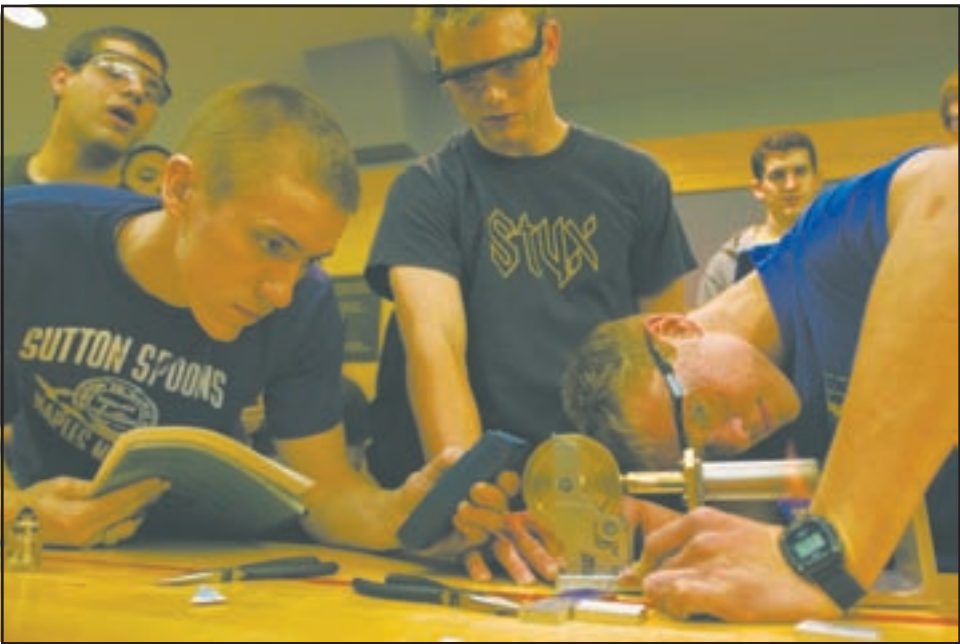


GHEORGHE CHISTOL—THE TECH





2.670: Powered by Hard Work, Denatured Alcohol



2.670 teaches freshmen and Course II majors to use MATLAB, Solid-Works, and machine tools — as well as execute technical drawings — by taking them through the process of building a Stirling engine. Though most make few or no modifications to the basic design, some take the time to design drastic changes to the given parts. The modified engines do not necessarily outperform their “stock” counterparts.

Clockwise from top left:

2.670 professor Douglas P. Hart adjusts Alison S. Greenlee’s ’09 Stirling engine just before the final spin-off on Friday, Feb. 2.

“If it doesn’t explode, it’ll go really fast.” Assistant Matthew “Small-time” S. Humbert ’08 adjusts the quad-cylinder franken-Stirling engine with double-speed flywheel. It was not working by the time of the spin-off.

One of the factors in engine speed is temperature, and here Michael A. Carvajal ’09 holds his hands to keep the heat in close to three running engines — all getting an extra burner in the center.

After lighting the flames under their engines, the 2.670 class watches as their creations purr to life.

Daniel E. Klenk ’09 (right) examines his heavily modified engine as the engine RPMs are measured by Daniel T. Schultz ’07. It clocked in at the fastest speed in the room, 980 RPM.



No. of Applicants for 2006, 2007

Applications	2007	2006	% Change
Total	12,440	11,373	+ 9%
Domestic	9,697	8,805	+ 10%
International	2,743	2,568	+ 7%
Early	3,493	3,091	+ 13%
Regular	8,947	8,282	+ 8%

SOURCE—MATTHEW L. MCGANN '00, ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR OF ADMISSIONS

House, Senate Reach Accord on Pell Grant Increase Last Month

By Diana Jean Schemo
THE NEW YORK TIMES

WASHINGTON

The maximum federal grant for middle- and low-income students to attend college would increase for the first time in four years under a catchall spending bill that House and Senate Democrats agreed to on Jan. 30.

The measure would complete budget issues left over from 2006.

The increase, announced by the chairmen of the House and Senate Appropriations Committees, would raise the maximum grants, under the Pell program, to \$4,310 a year from \$4,050. The last substantial increase in the grants was in 2001.

Senator Edward M. Kennedy, Democrat of Massachusetts and chairman of the Senate education committee, called the increase “an important down payment by Democrats on our commitment to help families with high college costs.”

The move follows a vote by the House, under the Democrats’ agenda in the new Congress, to cut interest rates on some subsidized loans for middle- and lower-income students.

Although the rate cut passed with overwhelming bipartisan support, that bill was criticized by House Republicans and the Bush

administration as benefiting just college graduates faced with repaying loans, rather than broadening access to college for low-income students.

With the announcement last Tuesday, days before President Bush is to release his 2008 budget, Democrats appeared to answer that criticism, part of a broader effort to claim the issue of college affordability.

Even if the president asks for an increase in Pell Grants, as the White House has indicated is likely, Democrats will have already acted to increase the grants.

Republicans generally appeared to support increasing the grants.

Each year, 5.3 million students with family incomes less than \$40,000 a year receive the grants. Although the grants have remained steady, the cost of attending college has outpaced inflation, lowering the buying power of the grants.

The budget bill would increase federal grant money by \$615.4 million, to \$13.6 billion for this year.

An advocate for the US Public Interest Research Group Higher Education Project, Luke Swarthout, said the increase was significant, though students had hoped for a much larger increase.

the second annual
Amorous Intent: Looking for Love
at MIT
exhibition



for hundreds of years, geeks and their hard drives, geeks and their circular research in quantum mechanics, geeks and their uncomfortable synthetic clothing fabrics have been inseparable...okay, so perhaps for just tens of years. but romance would be nothing without these passions, these obsessions, these fascinations!

the wiesner gallery is looking for interpretations of love from MIT students of all traits for its second Amorous Intent exhibition. we want art of all media from the bitinglly caustic, the hopelessly romantic, the wildly unrealistic, the spitefully honest, and all of those in between.

please make your submissions by february tenth to the student art association, w20.429 or contact studentcurator@mit.edu

exhibition opening reception february fourteenth from six to eight.

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Charm School Helps Students Learn Life Skills and Etiquette

Charm School, from Page 1

Charm School's "commencement."

The end result? Two floors of the Student Center decked out in silver and blue stars, balloons, and streamers. A tempting spread of vegetable platters, brownies, cookies, and drinks was set up on the third floor, and groups of about 15 or 20 were gathered at the different stations where the classes were being taught.

Emily B. Flores, Public Service Center office manager, taught a class on "How to Build Your Confidence." While doing a skit with a student volunteer, Flores attempted to show students how not to act if they needed to show confidence. "I'm pretty OK, but Bobby Sue over there, she's so pretty and smart, she can do so many things at once," she said, nervously looking down and twirling her hair in her fingers.

After the skit, Flores gave students tips on how to keep their confidence level up. "Count on yourself, reward yourself, and give yourself a pat on the back," Flores said. "And if you don't know what to talk to someone about, remember the acronym FORE. That means Family, Occupation, Recreation, and Education."

Downstairs, Brian Klatt of the Center for Space Research was running another popular class, "Dress for Success." Looking dapper in a tan blazer, paisley tie, and brown shoes with dark socks, Klatt extolled the virtues of dressing well in a professional setting. "Mechanical engineering is the most formal sect of the engineering professions," Klatt

said. "If you go to a company, you see all these engineers in jeans and t-shirts, and then you start seeing full suits and ties, and you know you've gotten to the mechanical engineers."


Lei Zhang G said that he found the classes enjoyable and informative. "I learned how to tie a bow tie!" he said with a huge grin on his face. He said that he found his new-found ability to tie a bow tie was the most useful, although he also attended "Dress for Success" and "How to Tell Someone Something They'd Rather Not Hear." "I don't know when I'll use it though," he said. "I would wear just a regular tie for most events."

Zhang was not the only one learning new skills at Charm School. Corinna Hui '09 was also taking advantage of the various events. "It's so embarrassing, but I went to the first date presentation," Hui said. "It was really good at teaching communication on a first date, how to let them know what to wear or that you're not interested."

Overall, Charm School seemed to be an enlightening experience for the students who attended. "If I had to choose events to go to, I would probably go to 'Table Manners' or 'Ballroom Dancing,'" Raymond said. "They're both practical and impractical, you know?"

The day ended with a commencement ceremony, which included keynote speakers such as Laura A. Stuart, a former sexual health educator at MIT.


"This is a great event," Hui said. "These are skills that everyone needs that are easy to not learn at MIT. It's a good time being Charmed!"




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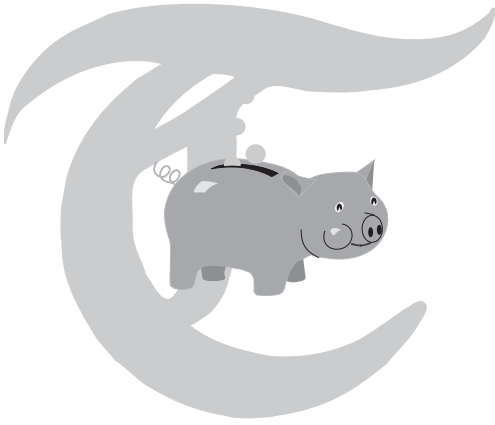



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How to apply: Complete the online application at <http://drucampaign.org/>.

Questions may be addressed to Makiko Hotoda, FAIR Fund National Programs Officer, drucampaign@fairfund.org, or the MIT Crime Club, crimeclub@mit.edu.



MIT CRIME CLUB

The MIT Crime Club first gained notoriety two years ago when our efforts to promote *in vitro* drink testing for date-rape drugs at Harvard, MIT, and BU were featured in the *Phoenix* (Deirdre Fulton, “About Last Night”) and the *Weekly Dig*. Our members have been serving as the Police Log Compilers for MIT and Harvard at the *Cambridge Chronicle*. We were recently invited by FAIR Fund to help identify students with innovative project ideas for deterring violent crime on campus.

Drink more water. :-)

17.908

Race, Crime, and Citizenship in American Law



Malick Ghachem
(Visiting Lecturer in
Political Science)

Thursdays
7:00-10:00pm
66-160

This course surveys the relationship between race and crime in the United States, with a special emphasis on the role this relationship has played in the development of American ideas about citizenship and nationhood.

The course considers a number of case studies that have figured centrally in contemporary debates over criminal law and racial discrimination:

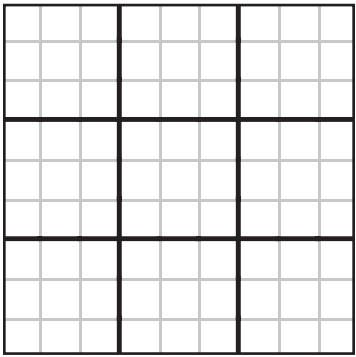
- Capital punishment
- Felon disenfranchisement
- Racial disparities in the war on drugs
- Illegal immigration

This course also considers the distinctive problems that national security concerns pose for racial equality and American citizenship, particularly in the wake of September 11, 2001.

For more information contact Malick Ghachem, mwghachem@yahoo.com

Solution to Sudoku

from page 9

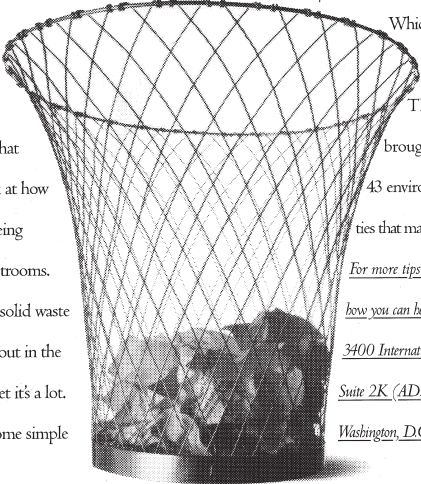


Solution to Crossword

from page 9

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The office has always been a place to get ahead. Unfortunately, it's also a place where a lot of natural resources start to fall behind. Take a look around the next time you're at work. See how many lights are left on when people leave. See how much paper is being wasted. How much electricity is being used to run computers that are left on. Look at how much water is being wasted in the restrooms. And how much solid waste is being thrown out in the trash cans. We bet it's a lot. Now, here are some simple ways you can produce less waste at work. When you're at the copier, only make the copies you need. Use both sides of the paper when writing a memo. Turn off your light when you leave. Use a lower watt bulb in your lamps. Drink your coffee or tea out of mugs instead of throwaway cups. Set up a recycling bin for aluminum cans and one for bottles. And when you're in the bathroom brushing your teeth or washing your face, don't let the faucet run. Remember, if we use fewer resources today, we'll save more for tomorrow.



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The Burchard Scholars Program brings together distinguished members of the faculty and promising sophomores and juniors who have demonstrated excellence in some aspect of the humanities, arts, and social sciences. The Burchard Program format is a series of dinner-seminars held during the academic year to discuss topics of current research introduced by MIT faculty members.

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Backofen an Author, Metallurgy Member, Award-Winning Prof

Backofen, from Page 1

of metals, temporarily given a near nano-size grain structure, to behave like Silly Putty. That paper was recognized for its seminal influence on a now-burgeoning global industry at an International Conference on Superplasticity held in Chengdu, China, in June 2006.

Born in Rockville, Conn., on Dec. 8, 1925, he graduated as valedictorian from Rockville High School in June 1943, entered MIT within days, and soon enlisted in the U.S. Navy. In February 1946 he graduated from MIT with an ensign's commission and bachelor's degree in metallurgy.

By September 1946, he was back at MIT as a graduate student/instructor in the Department of Metallurgy. In 1950 he married Elizabeth (Lib) Wood Warren of Orange, Mass., and received his doctorate with an appointment as assistant professor in the Department of Metallurgy.

Backofen belonged to the American Institute of Mining and Metallurgical Engineers and the American Society for Metals and Materials, and was elected to membership in Tau Beta Pi and Sigma Xi. He was the first in his field to receive its

three principal achievement awards: for teaching (Bradley Stoughton Award, 1958), research (Howe Medal, 1964) and professional leadership (Campbell Lecturer, 1973). He was a popular speaker in his profession and was a pioneering popular-science lecturer on live television for the fledgling Channel 2 of Boston's first broadcast from the roller skating rink across Mass. Ave. from MIT.

During a sabbatical at Dartmouth College, he wrote a book on his technical specialty, deformation processing, in a systems-analysis context that redefined an ancient field for modern times.

In partnership with his wife, he started Hill Farm, where they raised apples, blueberries, and Christmas trees, in East Plainfield, N.H. They also ran an American art and antiques business and founded the Lord Timothy Dexter Press, devoted to exploring New Hampshire history.

He is survived by his wife; a brother, Albert H. Backofen of Greenfield, Mass.; and two foster sisters, Dolores Hoermann of Rockville, Conn., and Lois Shelly of Belleaire, Fla.

There will be no services. His ashes will be scattered at Hill Farm.

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Loan Companies Fall Under Careful Watch By Attorney General

By Jonathan D. Glater
THE NEW YORK TIMES

Colleges and universities from Massachusetts to California began receiving formal requests for information Feb. 2 from the New York attorney general's office as part of an investigation of financial relationships they or individual college officials have with student loan companies.

The inquiry by the attorney general, Andrew M. Cuomo, shows a sharpening focus by government officials on the often undisclosed relationships between loan companies and colleges and universities, particularly as tuition has soared and private student loans have become a lucrative, fast-growing business.

Senator Edward M. Kennedy, Democrat of Massachusetts and chairman of the Senate education committee, is taking aim at so-called preferred-lender lists, which college financial aid offices compile to recommend loan companies to students. Because students tend to rely on advice from those offices, getting on the list is crucial, and lenders use various tactics to curry favor with colleges and universities.

Mr. Kennedy is pushing a bill that would require the disclosure of such arrangements; ban gifts and services worth more than \$10 to college employees; and require lenders to tell students that they might be eligible for low-interest federal loans.

The federal Education Department, which until recently paid relatively little attention to such practices, is now weighing whether to regulate preferred-lender lists, perhaps by requiring colleges and universities to include a certain minimum number of loan companies as options; some institutions have just one or two on their lists.

These combined efforts could pose a peril to some loan companies, which have flourished as private student loans, not guaranteed by the federal government, have grown at an average rate of 27 percent annually since 2001. Private loans now make up 20 percent of total education loan volume; students took out more than \$17 billion in such loans last year, according to the College Board.

But the most aggressive action so far is by Mr. Cuomo, who has demanded information from eight loan companies, including Education Finance Partners and Sallie Mae, the nation's largest student lender, and plans to query more than 60 colleges and universities.

"My office is seeking to ensure that students are being steered toward lenders offering the most competitive rates, not those who offer the best perks to schools or financial aid administrators," Mr. Cuomo said in a statement.

In an interview, Tamera Briones, the chief executive of Education Finance Partners, defended her company, which has arrangements with several institutions in which it sends money to a college based on the amount students borrow, with payments increasing with loan volume. Ms. Briones said loan terms did not change based on whether an institution received such payments.

"What I believe will occur is, a thorough investigation will be done, and at the end of the day, I don't believe that the attorney general's office will find any significant wrongdoing," Ms. Briones said.

She added that her company had cooperated with Mr. Cuomo's office.

Most of the colleges and universities getting letters from Mr. Cuomo are outside New York, but may be subject to the jurisdiction of the attorney general because they have students from the state.

Mr. Cuomo has sent letters to 10 colleges in California, nine in Pennsylvania, and eight in Massachusetts. Seven New York institutions are getting letters, as well as ones in Michigan, New Jersey, South Carolina and Texas, among other states. Some colleges and universities have already received the requests.

St. John's University has received one, said Dominic Scianna, a spokesman, adding that its lawyers were reviewing the letter. The University of Nebraska has gotten one, too, said Kelly Bartling, a spokeswoman there, as has Boston University, said Colin Riley, a spokesman.

John Beckman, a spokesman for New York University, which also

received a letter, said, "We select preferred lenders based on the competitiveness of their rates for the greatest number of NYU students and the quality of the loan service they offer, which is what we shall indicate in responding fully to their questions."

John T. Milgrim, a spokesman for Mr. Cuomo's office, declined to answer questions about how the colleges were selected to receive letters, or to provide a copy of a letter.

"The list of the schools was compiled based on our investigation," Mr. Milgrim said.

The kinds of arrangements loan companies may have with colleges vary. One type is the kind that Education Finance Partners has — paying a college increasing sums of money based on loan activity.

Other lenders, including Sallie Mae, make money available to an institution for loans to students with poor credit, also based in part on private loan volume. Tom Joyce, a spokesman for Sallie Mae, said the company was cooperating fully with Mr. Cuomo's office.

But Mr. Joyce warned against over-regulation of students' options for financing their education.

"Choices about lending programs for students," he said, "and who ought to serve a student and family population are best made on the campus by people who know those students and families best."

"Those decisions should not be made by bureaucrats in Washington," he added.

Mr. Joyce also warned that excessive restrictions on preferred-lender lists might result in students' receiving a barrage of bewildering direct-marketing materials from loan companies.

He said, "Students are still going to go to the financial aid office and say, 'Who do I work with? What do I do?'"

The attention to preferred-lender lists is one more sign that access to higher education has become a hot topic. Just last week, Democratic lawmakers and President Bush appeared to compete to raise the maximum amount of money for Pell Grants, federal grants to middle- and low-income students.

And House Democrats with much fanfare passed legislation last month to cut interest rates on subsidized federal student loans.

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Gaggle Cops *Tech* Election, Fulfills Prophecy

*As Was Written, McGraw-Herdeg '08 Takes Reigns of Monumental 'Tvt*e Publication

SPECIAL TO THE TECH

Once upon a time, in a far land away (China), a panda was born. **Michael “I’m a little pony” McGraw-Herdeg ’08** was confused about his identity, but nonetheless was destined for greatness as the **Chairman** of the 127th Managing Board of *The Tech*. Brought over to the big city of Boston, Little Mic-Mic knew that his time would come, for whenever he was a sad panda, nothing brought greater comfort than singing to himself “such a pretty pony, clippity clop, clippity clop.”

His ascendance to control would be aided by none other than **Managing Editor Austin “>.” Chu ’08**, whose meticulous workings not only lead Link to dominate Hyrule, but helped bring down the evil Lord Zozer, whose year and a half run as Chairman was marked by drunken debauchery and lecherous comments. Unbeknownst to all, Zozer would continue his reign of terror as **Operations Manager** under the guise of **Zachary “what happens if I unplug this” Ozer ’07**, a vibrant member of the “drunk, stubborn, and Texan” leadership coalition.

Who better to control these men but the peaceful leaders of the small-cute-Asian alliance, **Business Manager Cokie “cokie hu, where are you?” Hu ’08** and **Editor in Chief**

Marie “garlic butter!” Thibault ’08. The elder statesman of the group, **Rosa “I’m still not the oldest” Cao G** agreed to continue in her role as **Executive Editor**.

Now the panda was sad, for there was no one to lead the news. But hark, far in the distance, approached the **News Editors Benjamin “it’s not kiddie porn, it’s an indie film” Gleitzman ’09**, **Angeline “At least I’m not JT” Wang ’09**, and **Kir-tana “the strong silent type” Raja ’09** to save the day. And the panda was a happy panda, for who better to balance the news than this racially-balanced triumvirate.

As the panda continued his wanderings through the mystical, magical Tech land, he came across Little India, whose voices were represented by the wise **Opinion gurus Aditya “editorial?” Kohli ’09** and **Barun “Save Ashdown ... please” Singh EE ’06**. Content that the voice of the people would be heard, Mic-Mic decided to have a little fun, seeking the help of the experienced **Campus Life ringmaster Bill “wii” Andrews ’05** and the playful **Arts editor Jillian “Don’t do drugs” Berry ’08**. As they skipped along together, they sang to newly elected **Sports Editor Caroline “Mindy Brauer is my hero” Huang ’10** joyfully, “let’s jump and run, we’ll have lots of fun, won’t you come play with

me?” Fellow **Sports Editor Travis “Jack Bauer is my hero” Johnson ’08** declined to join in, but called the action from the sidelines.

In the land far, far away, there were also those who did not believe in words. They included **Ricky “I’m Mexican but I don’t like cheese” Ramirez ’09** and **Eric “I am in fact not Dutch” Schmiedl ’09**, who together will lead the **Photo Department**. The non-word-believers also counted amongst them the newly crowned **Jessica “saucy” Witchley ’10**, **Queen of Productia**, population: 0.

Although the residents of the far-away land subsisted on sunshine and flowers, the panda recognized that a little money never hurt anyone. Who better to trust with his money than incoming **Advertising Managers Neeharika “happy frosh the first” Bhartiya ’10** and **Ritu “happy frosh the second” Tandon ’10**?

The panda then realized that he needed to get with the times and publish his journeys to the Interweb in a Web 2.0, CSS-compliant blog. For this task, he turned to his trusty **TechnoRector, Shreyes “...” Seshasai ’08**, who promised this would be done...soon.

Finally tired from his long so-journ through China and Techland, Mic-Mic went to seek inner peace

in an isolated bamboo grove. However, no sooner had he romped into the peaceful setting than the voices of past greatness, led by **Contributing Editors Tiffany “Soon to be running fast and far from MIT” Dohzen G** and **Brian “Crufty McCruft Cruft” Hemond G**, Senior Editor **Satwiksai “Revolving door of studenthood” Seshasai G** did not add his soft-spoken voice to the fray, but instead projected an aura of calm, or at least no emotions.

Their voices were soon joined by those of the **Advisory board**, including **Paul E. “Indexing Project” Schindler, Jr. ’74**, **V. Michael “Junior” Bove ’83**, **Barry “Daily News” Surman ’84**, **Robert E. “Hired Gun” Malchman ’85**, **Deborah A. “Web Guru” Levinson ’91**, **Jonathan E.D. “and the Fan Club” Richmond PhD ’91**, **Saul “Desknet” Blumenthal ’98**, **Frank “from Search” Dabek ’00**, **Daniel Ryan “drb” Bersak ’02**, **Eric J. “the Super One” Cholan-keril ’02**, **Jordan “the Jordan” Rubin ’02**, **Nathan “West Coast Style” Collins SM ’03**, **Keith J. “I write for a real newspaper” Winstein ’03**, **Akshay R. “Smooth” Patil ’04**, **Kelley “Still in our Hearts” Rivoire ’06**, **Beckett W. “Still Hot” Sterner ’06**, **Marissa “Mar Mar” Vogt ’06**, and **B(een There) D(One That) Colen**.

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Diverse Strategies Employed For Virtual Domination

6.370, from Page 1

Event directors Adam V. Donovan '07, Matthew M. Papi '07, Yang Yang '07, and Arash Ferdowsi '08 said that changing to the best-of-three format was one of many gameplay alterations this year. With the new format, "teams have a chance to learn from their earlier games," said Donovan.

Previously limited to Boston-area college students, parts of the contest this year were accessible to teams anywhere in the world. Papi said that teams had submitted programs from as far away as South Korea, Costa Rica, and Portugal.

Another major gameplay change was the revamping of the energy system ("energons") that powers the virtual armies. "Last year, there was a lot of energons flowing around," said Jasper Lin G, who won last year's event but helped the directors design the gameplay for this year's contest. With the changes, the programmers were forced to design algorithms to have their armies strategically manage and distribute their energy.

The changes led to a final tournament with considerable diversity of strategies. For example, third-place finishers Georgian n00bs (Zviad Metreveli '10, Lawrence L. Chan '10, Michael R. Fettiplace '06, and Gleb Kuznetsov '10) executed a very defensive, methodical strategy. In the early rounds it was wildly successful, but in the later rounds, a shift to a

larger battleground map favored the fast, attacking strategies of Battletoads and My Other Programming Language is Scheme.

The end result was that the final battles between Battletoads and My Other Programming Language is Scheme were frantic, fast-paced see-saw contests.

The action delighted the crowd, which included not only 6.370 participants, but a large number of MIT students, alumni, and corporate sponsors, as well as a crop of young students from Bay Farm Montessori School in Duxbury, Mass.

For the sponsors, the event was a chance to recruit MIT students. Matthew Flint, lead research engineer at BAE Systems, a defense and aerospace automation firm and a principal sponsor of the event, said that "for BAE as a company, this contest is very closely aligned with what we do every day."

The primary school students from Bay Farm Montessori School had different reasons for their attendance. "Everyone's bragging about it, that they saw it last year," said Ian Wright, age 9, referring to his peers who'd made the trek to last year's final. "It's cool and fun to watch," said Abby Austin, age 11, whose mother Julia works at vmware, another sponsor of the event.

Neither Tobenkin nor his partner has yet decided how to spend their prize money, they said. "With time,



GHEORGHE CHISTOL—THE TECH

Team "Leeeeroooy Jenkins" and team "My Other Programming Language is Scheme" describe their strategies prior to starting a virtual scrimmage in this year's Battlecode Final Tournament. Eight teams qualified for the final tournament, and their fights were projected on a large screen in Kresge Auditorium on Saturday night.

I ruled out buying a digital oscilloscope," Tobenkin said.

Qumsiyeh and Tobenkin agreed that it was very surprising and exciting to win the tournament. They said that in the final rounds of developing their program, they pulled quite a few all-nighters and changed their program to better deal with Battle-

toads' fast attack strategy. "Most of our time was spent on code that we threw away," Tobenkin said.

In eighth place was Jaime Quiñonez '07, the only one of the top eight who was also a finalist last year. Filling out the rest of the finalists were bloodthirsty lawngnomes (Daniel A. Whitlow G) in seventh place,

CompuGlobalHyperMegaNet in sixth place (Kevin P. Modzelewski G), CTU Cambridge in fifth place (Daniel R. Gulotta '07, Albert R. Ni '09, James T. Albrecht '08), and LEEEEEROOOY JENKINS! in fourth place (Trevor B. Rundell '09, Rocco K. Repetski '08, and Eric A. Khatchadourian '06).

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Police Log

The following incidents were reported to the MIT Police between Jan. 12 and Jan. 31, 2007. This summary does not include incidents such as false alarms, general service calls, larcenies, or medical shuttles.

- Jan. 12: M3 (33 Mass. Ave.), 9:38 a.m., Breaking and entering; larceny of laptop computers.
East Lot (25 Vassar St.), 4:28 p.m., Hit and run damage to vehicle.
- Jan. 13: E56 (38 Memorial Dr.), 12:40 a.m., Individuals preparing to leave E56 carrying items.
Fowler St., 11:36 a.m., Malicious damage to vehicle; window smashed.
W89 (291 Vassar St.), 3:56 p.m., Fraudulent use of MIT Tech card.
W20 (84 Mass. Ave.), 8:04 p.m., Suspicious person; party in W20 issues trespass warning.
- Jan. 14: ATO (405 Memorial Dr.), 1:58 a.m., Car responds to area of 405 Memorial Dr. on a report of an individual having an argument with a cab driver; both parties reported to have come to agreement.
W20 (84 Mass. Ave.), 6:14 a.m., Routine check; subject on third floor issues trespass notice.
M50 (142 Memorial Dr.), 10:09 a.m., Routine check; stop of individual and issues trespass warning.
- Jan. 15: 6:49 p.m., Breaking and entering; stolen laptop, wallet, cell phone charge, and calculator; car dispatched.
- Jan. 16: PDT (97 Bay State Rd.), 11:37 a.m., Suspicious act; report of bicycle stolen by a homeless man.
- Jan. 17: W20 (84 Mass. Ave.), 9:38 p.m., Gas leak at Cambridge Grill in W20; Cambridge Fire Department, Facilities, and MIT Police respond.
- Jan. 18: M13 (105 Rear Mass. Ave) #5017, 11:10 a.m., Fraudulent withdrawal from Credit Union account.
W85 (540 Memorial Dr.), 8:29 p.m., Routine check; MIT Police stops suspicious vehicle on Amherst Ave.
W70 (471 Memorial Dr.), 9:38 p.m., Breaking and entering; laptop computer stolen from room.
- Jan. 21: M3 (33 Mass. Ave.), 8:52 a.m., Subject arrested for trespassing and was transported to Cambridge Police Department; Daniel Baldwin, 209 Layden St., Boston.
- Jan. 22: W1 (305 Memorial Dr.), 2:17 a.m., Caller reports vehicle accident at Ashdown; MIT Police car sent to investigate, State Police notified.
M56 (21 Rear Ames St.) 5th floor, 1:02 p.m., Caller states suspicious male rummaging through trash, then sleeping in the kitchen.
- Jan. 23: W20 (84 Mass. Ave.), 8:01 a.m., Routine check; suspicious person found sleeping in third floor coffee shop.
W20 (84 Mass. Ave.), 10:35 a.m., Routine check to investigate person sleeping on second floor.
- Jan. 24: W20 (84 Mass. Ave.), 8:39 a.m., Routine check; trespass warning given.
- Jan. 26: E23 (25 Carlton St.), 8:26 a.m., Caller states she can hear a woman yelling for someone to call for MIT Police; seems to be an argument taking place on MIT ramp; all units clear.
- Jan. 27: SPE (518–520 Beacon St.), Boston University Police Department calls and reports that they received a call from a student who observed an argument on the SafeRide bus; car responding.
M1 (33 Mass. Ave.), 7:23 p.m., Motor vehicle hit by Amtrak Train at Mass. Ave. and Vassar St.; MIT EMS transports victim.
SK (480 Commonwealth Ave.), 11:48 p.m., Reporting person reports that a male subject is standing in the back alley staring into the house; MIT Police check the front and rear of house.
- Jan. 29: W20 (84 Mass. Ave.), 5:32 a.m., Trespass issued to female homeless subject.
E52 (50 Memorial Dr.), 9:11 a.m., Reporting person states a suspicious male (heavysset, green jacket, beard, 30's) walking around aimlessly; trespass notice issued.
W92, 2:25 p.m., Bomb threat; Cambridge Police and Fire notified; building was emptied; note found and discovered through investigation to be five years old.
- Jan. 31: W59 (201 Vassar St.), 3:53 p.m., Breaking and entering, reporting person states her laptop was stolen from her room while she was showering.
W1 (305 Memorial Dr.), 4:26 p.m., Suspicious package; MIT Police, Cambridge Police, and Massachusetts State Police investigate suspicious device at Mass. Ave. and Memorial Dr.
N52 (265 Mass. Ave.), 4:43 p.m., Suspicious package; Cambridge Police Department responds with units to investigate.
M32 (32 Vassar St.), 5:04 p.m., Suspicious package; Cambridge Police Department notifies MIT Police Department of device attached to Stata Center; units respond to investigate.
W1 (305 Memorial Dr.), 7:50 p.m., Reporting person states a bicyclist versus motor vehicle crash has occurred at Mass. Ave. and Memorial Dr. with injury.
M66 (25 Ames St.), 11:52 p.m., Reporting person reports two people acting suspiciously.

COMPILED BY BENJAMIN GLEITZMAN AND ANGELINE WANG

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20.104 Chemicals in the Environment: Epidemiology, Toxicology and Public Health

(Same subject as 1.081, ESD.053J)
William G. Thilly and Robert McCunney
thilly@mit.edu
mccunney@mit.edu

Prereq: 5.112 or 3.091, 7.01x
Units: 4-0-8
Lecture: Tuesday and Thursday T3-5 (56-180)

Relationships between exposure to occupational and environmental chemicals and radiation and risk of human disease. Analysis of U.S. historical data to delimit the historical timing of changes in environmental risk. Analysis of statewide community data to explore the concept of local environmental risks. Basic biochemistry and population genetics of inherited risk factors in drug metabolism, DNA repair and tumor suppression. Potential role of exogenous agents in tumor initiation and/or stimulation of pre-cancerous growth. **New this spring:** a series of occupational case studies presented by the former president of the American College of Occupational and Environmental Medicine and editor of the text “A Practical Approach to Occupational and Environmental Medicine”.

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MIT Fencing Hosts 11 Schools For MIT Invitational

The MIT men's and women's fencing teams hosted 11 teams this past Sunday, Feb. 4 for the MIT Invitational, a fencing tournament held at the Johnson Indoor Track.

Clockwise from right:
Trevor T. Chang '07 attacks a Yeshiva University opponent during his first bout of the men's épée team's second round of competition.

Nancy Hua '07, a foilist, scores a touch against her first Tufts University opponent.

Fencing Head Coach Jaroslav Koniusz has a spirited talk with foilist Spencer R. Sugimoto '08 during a time out.

Photography by Omari Stephens



Holschuh Scores His First Goal of Season

Hockey, from Page 28

rick '10 on the second to record the fastest back-to-back goals by the Engineers this season.

LaBounty (from Ballentine and Kevin M. Farino '10) added a fourth with just 20 seconds left in the opening stanza.

The middle frame saw much of the same, as Studley completed his hat trick with help from Bergin at 15:25 to push the lead to 5-0, before defenseman Bradley T. Holschuh '07 picked up his first goal of the season.

Studley beat Springfield goalie John Jacques for the fourth time early

in the third to make it 7-0, again with Bergin providing the decisive pass. A power play tally from Stephen T. Payne '08 (from Edward J. Sturm '08) and an unassisted goal from Near finished out the comprehensive score line.

Thomas A. Hopkins '07 picked up his second shut out of the season in earning the victory, lowering his goals-against-average to 2.18 in the process. Jacques, typically a back-up for the Pride, took the loss.

The Engineers will return to the ice tomorrow when they host Bryant University at 7:00 p.m. in the Johnson Ice Rink.

Racz Wins 100 Breast, Qualifies For NCAA B

Men's Aquatics, from Page 28

tion Racz was once again dominant in the breaststroke events, winning both the 100-yard (58.22) and 200-yard (2:10.92) versions. His time in the 100-yard qualified him for the NCAA "B" cut, while his time in the 200-yard was nearly four seconds better than that of his closest competitor.

Warnock also had a great weekend. His time of 10:24.28 in the 1000-yard freestyle was tops among

all MIT swimmers, and a personal best in the event. "Ken Warnock's lifetime best in the 1000 free was a great, well-paced swim," Head Coach Dawn B. Gerken said.

The Engineers have almost three weeks to rest before heading to Norton, Mass., for the 2007 New England Women's and Men's Athletic Conference Championship (NEW-MAC), hosted by Wheaton College. The competition begins on Friday, Feb. 23 and concludes on Sunday, Feb. 25.

Dominant Doria Finishes First in the 3-Meter Dive

Women's Aquatics, from Page 28

onds from the NCAA "B" cut.

Diver Doria M. Holbrook '08 also proved her importance to the Cardinal and Gray's chances of success in the postseason, as she won the three-meter diving competition with a score of 317.10.

Head coach Dawn B. Gerken reserved special praise for Erika M. Erickson '08. Her time of 11:42.64 in the 1000-yard freestyle constituted

the top MIT time and a personal best in the event.

"Our distance team really impressed me," Gerken said. "Erika Erickson's lifetime best in the 1000 free was a great, well-paced swim, while Kate Thornton looked phenomenal in the mile."

The Engineers have nearly two weeks to prepare for the 2007 New England Women's and Men's Athletic Conference Championship, which is on Feb. 16 at Wellesley.

MIT Prevails in Close Third Game

Pamidimukkala Leads Engineers with 21 kills, 10 digs, and 3 aces

Volleyball, from Page 28

Nationally-ranked No. 10 MIT raced out to a 7-2 advantage in the second game. Baruch stayed within striking distance for most of the frame as it trailed by five as late as 19-14. A six-point run that was followed by a four-point spree helped power the Engineers to the 30-18 win.

The final frame was much like the first, with 10 ties and 10 lead changes. Baruch established a 10-7 edge which prompted a timeout by MIT. Following the break, the Engineers recorded the next two points. The Bearcats maintained the slim lead as they went ahead, 15-12.

MIT registered three points in a row, but Baruch responded in kind. The Engineers slowly chipped away at the deficit and then took the lead at 24-22. The Bearcats produced the final tie of the match before MIT tallied five unanswered points. Following a service error by the Engineers, a blast by Praveen Pamidimukkala '08 sealed the match with a 30-25 third game win.

Pamidimukkala notched his second double-double of the week

with 21 kills and 10 digs while tallying three aces. Eric R. Reuland '10 also posted 10 digs to go along with 13 kills as Stephen D. Ray '08 and Michael Demyttenaere '10 each recorded six blocks.

Ryan G. Dean '08 registered eight kills, six blocks, and six assists while Eugene Jang '09 earned two aces. Philip M. Rogoz '10 finished

the night with 39 assists, nine digs, and three aces.

Greg Waldvogel paced Baruch with 14 kills and 11 digs as Stephen Hansen collected seven kills and seven digs. Radek Wyrwas distributed 10 assists for the Bearcats.

MIT will play against Rivier College tonight at 7:00 p.m. in Rockwell Cage.

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SPORTS

Hockey Smashes Springfield 9-0
On Four Goals by Senior Studley

By Jeff Lemieux
SPORTS INFORMATION ASSISTANT

Timothy E. Studley '07 scored four goals and John J. Bergin G added three assists to help MIT ease past host Springfield College 9-0 on Friday night.

Studley's four goals was the highest single-game total by an Engineer thus far this season, surpassing Brian A. LaCrosse '07 and Nicholas R. LaBounty '09, who had each

scored three earlier in the campaign.

The win was the Engineers' tenth of the season, compared to only three losses — all by a single goal — and one tie. Springfield fell to 3-7-0 following its second straight loss to MIT. The Engineers conquered the Pride, 10-2, last Saturday.

The Cardinal and Gray's offensive output was relatively spread out, as 11 members of the Institute notched at least one point. Besides Studley and Bergin, other multiple-point performers included LaBounty and

freshman William G. Near '10, who each had a goal and an assist.

It took just over a minute for MIT to tally what would ultimately be the winning goal, as Ryan W. Ballentine '09 scored on a power play at 18:53.

The score remained 1-0 for the majority of the first period, until Studley exploded for two goals in a 14 second span to extend the lead to 3-0. Studley received assists from Near on the first and Dustin P. Kend-

Hockey, Page 27

UPCOMING HOME EVENTS

Tuesday, Feb. 6, 2007		
Men's Volleyball vs. Rivier College	7:00 p.m., Rockwell Cage	
Wednesday, Feb. 7, 2007		
Men's Hockey vs. Bryant University	7:00 p.m., Johnson Ice Arena	

Men's Volleyball Wins,
Coach Dill Sets Record
With 68th Career Win

By Mindy Brauer
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF SPORTS INFORMATION

In his fourth year at the helm of the MIT men's volleyball program, Head Coach Paul Dill earned his 65th career win following a 30-27, 30-18, 30-25 victory over Baruch College on Friday to become the all-time winningest coach in the history of the program.

Dill is the sixth person at the Institute to earn the distinction of compiling the most wins as the head coach of two teams since he achieved this milestone with the

women's volleyball program in 2005.

The Bearcats (0-9) opened the match with three consecutive points, which were then replicated by the Engineers (7-1). After trading points, Baruch scored four unanswered points before MIT tallied five in a row to take a 10-9 lead.

The Bearcats responded with another four-point spurt and eventually held a 16-15 advantage. The teams played back and forth to a 21 all tie when the Bearcats earned back-to-back points. But behind Philip Rogoz's serve, the Engineers went ahead, 26-23 and traded points with the Bearcats to secure a 30-27 win.

Volleyball, Page 27

Men's Medley Wins Opening Event of
MIT Invitational Meet in Just 3:30.61

By Jeff Lemieux
SPORTS INFORMATION ASSISTANT

The MIT men's swimming and diving team honored the careers of its graduating seniors this weekend by putting on an impressive display in the MIT Invitational, held over the course of two days

in the Zesiger Pool.

The Engineers competed against Middlebury College, Tufts University, Wheaton College, and Williams College in their tuneup meet, receiving stellar performances from newcomers Rastislav Racz '10 and Kenneth S. Warnock '10.

Kicking off Friday night in style, the 400-yard medley relay team out-

paced all of its competitors with a time of 3:30.61, just one second off the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) "B" cut.

Tech's 400-yard freestyle relay team was victorious as well, clocking in with a winning time of 3:14.36.

On Saturday, freshman sensa-

Men's Aquatics, Page 27



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Thornton,
Tech Women
Impress in
MIT's Final
Home Meet

By Jeff Lemieux
SPORTS INFORMATION ASSISTANT

Women's swimming hosted the MIT Invitational meet this weekend, an unscored tuneup for postseason competition.

Racing athletes from Middlebury College, Northeastern University, Tufts University, Wheaton College, and Williams College, the Engineers honored their seniors and won three of the 54 events.

Katherine C. Thornton '07 did not disappoint in her final home competition for the Engineers, displaying two stunning performances that illustrated why she will be so dearly missed. Her time of 17:29.11 in the 1650-yard freestyle on Friday night was not only tops among all swimmers, but was over 16 seconds faster than her next closest competitor. She is now ranked fourth in the nation in the event.

On Saturday afternoon, Thornton returned to the water to place second in the 500-yard freestyle by clocking in at 5:12.75, a shade over four sec-

Women's Aquatics, Page 27

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