



OMARI STEPHENS—THE TECH

With the help of his wife, Elizabeth, Matthew J. Spenko G attempts to deduce a problem with his autonomous vehicle. Spenko researches high speed hazard avoidance for the Field and Space Robotics Lab.

Smith Found Not Guilty Of Aug. Arrest Charges

By Kelley Rivoire
ASSOCIATE NEWS EDITOR

Aimee L. Smith PhD '02 was found not guilty of the offenses of disorderly conduct and resisting arrest at a trial last week in Cambridge District Court.

Smith was arrested by police Aug. 25 after calling officers “fucking pigs,” asking them if they “knew anything about 1st amendment rights,” and then crossing her arms when told she was being arrested, according to an MIT Police report.

Judge Jonathan Brant ruled that although there was “no question the words used were inappropriate and impolite... the mere uttering of profanity in a public place” was not itself a crime.

Language alone not a violation

Smith waived her right to a jury trial per advice from her lawyer David Beck, since “there was no way the case was even going to get to a jury... no reasonable jury or judge could have found her guilty,” he said.

Beck cited the 1975 case of Commonwealth v. a Juvenile, in which charges of disorderly conduct were dismissed against a juvenile who used language similar to Smith’s, as precedent. “Disorderly conduct has to be conduct. It cannot

just be speech,” he said.

Smith said that she disputes the accounts given by police officers,

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Mystery Hunters Studiously Defeat Evil in Normalville

By Kelley Rivoire
ASSOCIATE NEWS EDITOR

Hundreds of people greeted last weekend with no plans for sleeping as the annual Mystery Hunt descended on MIT once again.

The hunt began on Friday at noon and continued until Random Hall’s team Physical Plant found the coin, winning the hunt. The concluding ceremony was held on Monday morning. As the winners, Physical Plant will write next year’s Hunt.

Normalville theme for this year

According to the hunt’s Web site, the theme for this year’s hunt was Normalville, a town celebrating its centennial. Struck by meteorites, evil powers were abound.

Participants were charged with collecting shards of the meteorites

By Hiawatha Bray

THE BOSTON GLOBE

The Irish outpost of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology’s Media Lab is shutting down, as MIT officials and the Irish government failed to reach agreement on a plan to fund the operation.

The closure of Media Lab Europe is the second time MIT has failed to gain a foothold for the Media Lab outside the United States. An Asian Media Lab was founded in Bangalore, India in 2001, with aid from the Indian government. But MIT cut its ties to the lab in 2003, handing it over to the Indian government after disagreements about what kinds of research should be undertaken at the lab.

The problem this time was money. At its founding in 2000, the European lab received a \$45 million grant from the Irish government. Media Lab officials hoped to develop the facility into a self-sustaining research center, financed by grants

from corporations. But the grants were slow in coming, due to the impact of the high-tech recession earlier in the decade.

Officials estimated that the Irish lab, located in a former brewery warehouse in Dublin, would need \$13 million to sustain itself for another year. But corporate money didn’t arrive, and neither MIT nor the Irish government were willing to make up the shortfall. As a result, the lab will begin winding down its operations, with final shutdown coming at the end of the month. Roughly 50 employees will lose their jobs.

Simon R. Jones, the lab’s managing director, blamed the lingering effects of the technology business slump earlier in the decade. “In the end, it was too deep and too long a recession,” Jones said.

MIT Chancellor Phillip L. Clay issued a statement, saying Media Lab Europe “was caught in the economic downturn affecting the digital and telecommunications industries”

shortly after the project’s launch.

The Media Lab’s board of directors, which include The Edge, guitarist for the rock band U2, said that the Dublin center had generated valuable research during its short life. “It is important to acknowledge the innovative work of the lab since it was established,” the board said. “Much of this work has been coming to fruition in recent months, with 14 patent applications filed and a number of commercialization opportunities being explored.”

Adrian J. Slywotzky, managing director at Mercer Management Consulting in Boston, said that the failure of the Irish Media Lab illustrates how corporations are pulling back from financial support of research projects that don’t offer a quick profit.

“It is definitely a common problem in the corporate world, where people have been asking harder and harder questions about when will this pay off,” Slywotzky said. “Governments have not filled that gap.”

UA, GSC Plan Redefinition of ASA

By Jeffrey Chang

STAFF REPORTER

The Association of Student Activities is being restructured with the goal of clarifying their role at MIT while giving the group more flexibility and increasing its efficiency.

In a meeting held in December, Graduate Student Council President Barun Singh G and Undergraduate Association President Harel M. Williams '05 said they plan to fix the lack of definition of the ASA, which is a joint committee of the GSC and UA.

“What we’re changing now isn’t procedural things, but the definition of ASA and roles and responsibilities of ASA Exec. All those definitions in place were missing prior to

now,” Singh said. “We’re not trying to set up ASA as a separate student government by any means — it is a part of the UA and GSC.”

The ASA’s responsibilities include allocating MIT’s very limited supply of office space for student groups, recognizing new groups, and enforcing poster policy.

“It hasn’t been clear how the GSC, UA, and ASA should work together to advocate on behalf of student groups,” said Williams.

An unclear relationship makes it difficult for the GSC “to give the ASA the support we think it needs,” Singh said.

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CHRISTINA KANG—THE TECH

Nikhil J. Khanna '08 prepares to hit the oncoming ball in a squash match held on Tuesday, Jan. 18 against Northwestern.

OPINION

Morality cannot be objective without religion

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WORLD & NATION

Anger Simmers at Harvard Following Summers Remark

By Marcella Bombardieri
THE BOSTON GLOBE CAMBRIDGE, MA

A suggestion by Harvard University’s president, Lawrence H. Summers, that women may not have the same innate abilities in math and science as men has touched off an angry response from many Harvard professors, including members of a committee on women’s issues who sent Summers a letter Tuesday complaining that his remarks “impede our current efforts to recruit top women scholars.”

In response, Summers wrote that he did not believe “that women lack the ability to succeed at the highest levels of math and science.”

“I apologize for any adverse impact... on our common efforts to make steady progress in this critical area,” he said in a return letter sent within hours of hearing from the committee.

Summers has emphasized that when he spoke Friday at a conference in Cambridge he was presenting provocative hypotheses based on the research of others, rather than offering his personal views. But the Harvard professors who are upset say that the president of a world-famous university does not have the luxury of speaking as an independent researcher.

Mayors Ask Bush Not to Cut Grants

By James Dao
THE NEW YORK TIMES WASHINGTON

With many cities still facing tight budgets and declining revenues, mayors from across the nation urged the Bush administration on Tuesday not to cut community-development block grants, one of the federal government’s last direct aid programs for cities.

The administration is preparing a budget request to Congress that is expected to freeze or reduce spending on an array of domestic programs like housing and agriculture as part of its efforts to trim the federal deficit, which reached a record \$413 billion in the last fiscal year.

The mayors say they are particularly interested in community-development block grants because cities are allowed to use the money for many kinds of programs, including housing, job development and social services in low- and medium-income communities.

Congress appropriated about \$5 billion for the block grants this year, roughly the same as in recent years. The administration has not released its budget plan for the 2006 fiscal year, which begins in October, but there has been wide speculation that the request will cut the grants by as much as 50 percent.

Businessman Pleads Guilty To Trying to Help Hussein

By Neil A. Lewis
THE NEW YORK TIMES WASHINGTON

An Iraqi-American businessman who profited from the U.N. oil-for-food aid program with Iraq pleaded guilty Tuesday to four criminal counts. The case, against Samir A. Vincent, included charges that he enlisted influential former American government officials, who were not named, to discuss ways to help Saddam Hussein avoid international economic sanctions.

The plea will result in the first conviction in the investigation of the oil-for-food program. Attorney General John Ashcroft said Vincent was cooperating with the inquiry.

Vincent, a naturalized citizen who has long been involved in Iraqi-American affairs, pleaded guilty to secretly working on behalf of the Iraqi government to lobby American and U.N. officials about the sanctions program. In exchange, he received millions of dollars after being given the rights to sell millions of barrels of Iraqi oil, according to the charges.

Rice Refuses to Set Schedule For Withdrawing from Iraq

By Steven R. Weisman and Joel Brinkley
THE NEW YORK TIMES WASHINGTON

Condoleezza Rice, President Bush’s nominee for secretary of state, refused Tuesday to set any timetable for the withdrawal of U.S. troops after the Iraqi elections at the end of this month, but declared that the United States was making “some progress” in training Iraqi security forces.

Under persistent bipartisan questioning at her confirmation hearing before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, Rice also declared that beyond strengthening Iraq’s fledgling police and military, the most urgent task facing Iraqis after the elections was to overcome differences among Sunnis Arabs, Shiites, Kurds and others by seeking political reconciliation among themselves.

“The Iraqis lack certain capacities, and if we focus in this next period after the election on helping them to build those capacities beyond where they are now, I think we will have done a major part toward the day when less coalition help is needed,” she said.

By far the most severe question-

ing came from Sen. Barbara Boxer, D-Calif., whose berating tone clearly rankled Rice and brought an uncharacteristic flash of irritation. In the morning session, Boxer focused sharply on Rice’s past statements about nuclear weapons in Iraq, showing them on a cardboard display.

“I personally believe, this is my personal view, that your loyalty to the mission you were given, to sell this war, overwhelmed your respect for the truth,” Boxer said acerbically.

“Senator, I have to say that I never, ever lost respect for the truth in the service of anything,” Rice responded, her voice sharpening. “It is not my nature. It is not my character. And I would hope that we can have this conversation and discuss what happened before, and what went on before and what I said, without impugning my credibility or my integrity.”

Democrats also focused on Rice’s past advocacy of the Iraq war and her role in deciding how many troops would be needed there, while several Republican Senators called on Rice and the Bush administration in general to be more forthcoming about its strategy and on specifics to back up its claims of progress.

“I can’t give you a timeline,” Rice said, in discussing how the administration planned to measure the success in Iraq that would allow an American disengagement. “But I think we will know when the Iraqis are able to have in place institutions, no matter how fragile and no matter how young, where they’re actually beginning to try and solve their own problems within those institutions.”

Rice opened the hearing by pledging to reinvigorate diplomacy on a number of fronts, from the Middle East to North Korea and Europe. But while going out of her way to commend and compliment various senators for their questions and their support, Rice refused to second-guess the decisions of the past or predict the future.

“This was never going to be easy,” Rice said at one point, responding to a challenge about Iraq from Sen. John Kerry, D-Mass., who was making his most prominent appearance in Washington since his defeat in the presidential election.

“It was always going to have ups and downs,” Rice added. “I’m sure that we have multiple, many decisions, some of which were good, some of which might not have been good.”

Inaugural Preparations Change Washington, Disturb Daily Life

By David Johnston and Michael Janofsky
THE NEW YORK TIMES WASHINGTON

As the capital prepared to celebrate President Bush’s inauguration, the city on Tuesday appeared more like a place under siege. Hour by hour the city of grand buildings and marble statues seemed to disappear behind curtains of steel security fences and concrete barriers.

Piece by piece, the massive security plan that officials promised would be the tightest ever in post-9/11 America emerged, temporarily inconveniencing local citizens and visitors.

Authorities estimate more than a half million or more people will

come into the city for the noon swearing-in at the Capitol, and later, for the parade along Pennsylvania Avenue. On Thursday night, thousands of people are expected to attend formal inaugural balls, private parties and elegant dinners.

Throughout the day on Tuesday, disruptions were the norm. Utility crews with acetylene torches snarled traffic as they welded shut manhole covers along the route of the inaugural parade. Drivers found no-parking signs, temporary street closures and public warnings that 100 blocks of city streets near inaugural events would be restricted.

Pedestrians had it no better. Officials tightened the broad perimeter surrounding the Capitol, the parade route and the presidential reviewing

stand near the White House as construction teams added more security fencing that put more of the city’s best known public spaces off-limits. People outside at lunchtime ducked as fighter jets screamed across the sky at low altitude, practicing for Wednesday’s pre-inaugural ceremonial fly-by.

Elsewhere, security teams swept dozens of hotels and office buildings overlooking the parade route. Uniformed officers in cruisers from more than a dozen law enforcement agencies seemed to be everywhere at once.

Standing outside a security fence surrounding Lafayette Park near the White House, Bonnie McKinney, an advocate for veterans’ benefits, was annoyed.

WEATHER

Arctic Blast

By J.R. Moskaitis
STAFF METEOROLOGIST

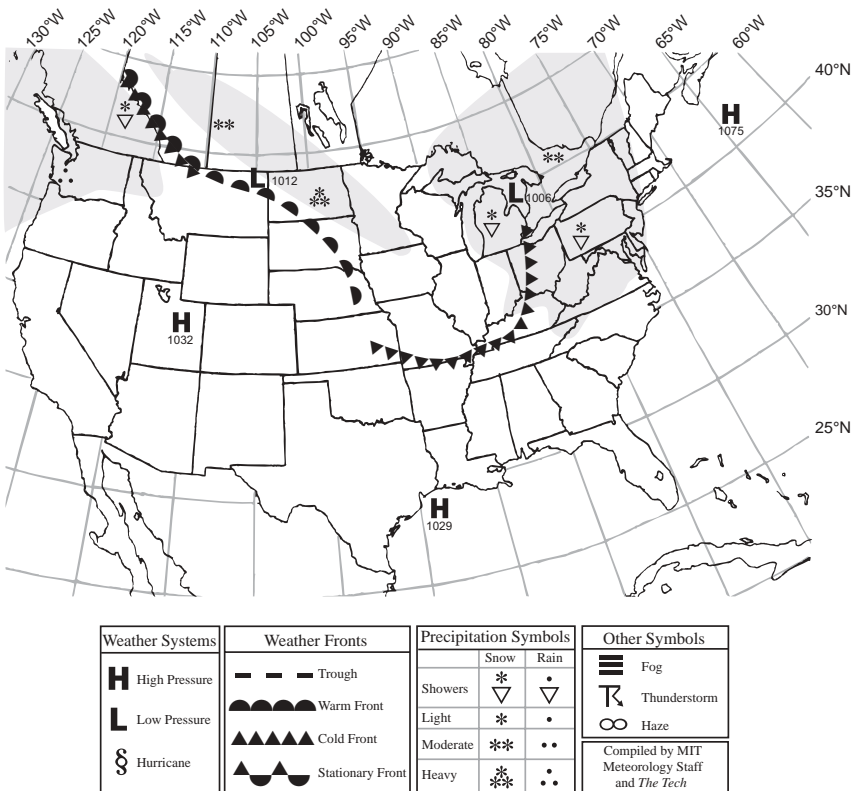
Yesterday was the coldest day in Cambridge since last January, as biting northwesterly winds ushered in arctic air. The high temperature struggled to reach 13°F (−12°C) after bottoming out Tuesday morning at 5°F (−15°C). Today will be somewhat warmer during the daytime, as the wind turns to the southwest in advance of a low pressure system approaching the region. This storm will cause some light snow in the evening hours and overnight. After a relatively tranquil day on Thursday, another arctic blast arrives for Friday, likely even colder than the one yesterday. The low temperature Friday night will likely dip below 0°F (−18°C).

It is little consolation, but our weather would be considered downright balmy compared to that of northern Minnesota recently. On Monday morning the temperature there dropped to −54°F (−48°C), only 6°F shy of the lowest temperature ever record in that state. Now that is truly arctic weather!

Extended Forecast:

Today: Overcast, light snow likely towards evening. High: 24 (−4°C)
Tonight: Light snow, accumulating 3 inches (8 cm). Low: 22 (−6°C)
Thursday: Partly cloudy. High: 31 (−1°C)
Friday: Frigid and windy. High: 10 (−12°C)
Saturday: Sunny, but remaining cold. High: 20 (−7°C)
Sunday: Snow possible, windy. High: 26 (−3°C)

Situation for Noon Eastern Standard Time, Wednesday, January 19, 2005



BU Acknowledges Researchers Exposed to Lethal Bacterium

By Stephen Smith

THE BOSTON GLOBE

BOSTON, MA

Three Boston University researchers became ill last year after being exposed in a laboratory to a potentially lethal bacterium called tularemia, university and public health authorities said Tuesday.

It was the first known instance of researchers in a Boston lab becoming infected with a biological agent they were studying, according to a city public health official, and it came at an awkward time for BU — when it was seeking local and federal approval for a high-security lab to study the most feared infectious diseases in the world.

How the workers became infected remains unclear, although BU officials said that researchers had violated procedures intended to protect them from exposure. Two researchers became ill in May and a third in September, apparently after separate exposures, but their illnesses were not linked to tularemia until October.

BU reported the cases to city, state, and federal health authorities in November — at about the time public hearings on the high-security lab were being held. But neither the university nor the government agencies disclosed the cases to the public at the time, saying there was no risk to public health because tularemia is not transmitted person to person.

Boston Mayor Thomas Menino, who learned of the incident from BU and city public health officials, also decided against telling city residents.

“Right from the moment that he was made aware of the situation, the Public Health Commission assured him there was no public threat whatsoever, and he’s made it clear that if there was any public threat whatsoever, the public would have been advised immediately,” said Seth Gitell, the mayor’s spokesman.

With Menino’s enthusiastic backing, the city Zoning Commission gave its final approval to the

high security biolab last week. The lab must still be approved by the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases — which is considered likely because it’s the same agency that in 2003 selected BU as one of two sites nationally for sophisticated new labs able to study anthrax, plague and other deadly pathogens.

BU and public health officials discussed the incidents publicly for the first time Tuesday after media inquiries.

The president of the Conservation Law Foundation, which has opposed building the high-security lab in an urban neighborhood as dense as the South End, said Tuesday night that the accident highlights the risk of studying dangerous biological and chemical agents.

“The assurances that BU has given that it can maintain perfect control of these facilities are called into question,” said Philip Warburg, leader of the environmental group. “We’re also disturbed that this incident is only coming to light today.”

Boston Police Survey Finds Less Trust of Service, More Complaints

By Suzanne Smalley

THE BOSTON GLOBE

BOSTON, MA

A public safety survey commissioned by the Boston Police Department suggests more public distrust than in past surveys and an increase in citizen complaints about 911 service, excessive use of force, police-visibility in minority neighborhoods, and officers’ professionalism.

The report, released Tuesday, recommends several overhauls, including improvement in 911 emergency services, which were rated lower than at any time since 1997.

The report’s authors suggest that the department examine the management and training of 911 operators, as well as begin tracking 911 calls to evaluate whether they were handled correctly.

The department’s Office of Research and Evaluation also calls for bolstering community policing because many residents complained about seeing officers patrolling their neighborhoods less frequently than in previous years.

The respondents also said the city should start more programs to help reduce youth violence, and the report’s authors said the department

should examine policies on racial profiling and use of force.

Police Commissioner Kathleen M. O’Toole said Tuesday that the department is always working to improve its community outreach efforts and works regularly with criminologists and scholars at the Northeastern University’s Institute on Race and Justice to fine-tune racial profiling and use-of-force policies.

She said 911 response is of particular concern because of frequent complaints about response time, usually from people who call with nonemergencies during peak hours. “I think 911 is something we have to constantly reassess,” O’Toole said. “That’s often a citizen’s only interaction with the Police Department.”

The survey is the broadest and most recent look at how the public looks at the Police Department. It was conducted in late 2003 and has a margin of error of plus or minus one percentage point for citywide data and 3 to 5 percentage points for data broken down by Police Department districts.

Among key findings:

The number of people with a favorable opinion of the Police Department declined from 77 per-

cent in 2001 to 72 percent in 2003.

The number of residents who saw officers working in their neighborhood daily declined from 54 percent in 2001 to 47 percent in 2003.

While 48 percent of respondents overall said racial profiling is a problem for the department, 73 percent of African-Americans and 54 percent of Hispanics said so.

While 25 percent of all respondents believed that use of excessive force is a problem, significantly more African-Americans, 49 percent, did.

A third complained about officers not being fair and respectful to all people. The gap in opinion between white and black respondents widened from 23 percentage points in 2001 to 31 percentage points in 2003.

The department paid \$80,000 to Atlantic Research & Consulting, a Boston professional market research firm to conduct the survey, which was based on phone interviews with 2,023 city residents who were asked more than 60 questions. The respondents were called in November and December 2003, before a surge in homicides and the death of several residents at the hands of police strained the department’s community ties last year.

Iraqi Rebels Release Archbishop But Hold Eight Chinese Workers Hostage

By Jeffrey Gettleman and Edward Wong

THE NEW YORK TIMES

BAGHDAD, IRAQ

Insurgents on Tuesday released a Syrian Catholic archbishop they had snatched from the streets of Mosul the day before, but a few hours later a new hostage drama opened when eight Chinese construction workers were shown forlornly staring at a video camera with masked men pointing guns at their heads.

Also, the Iraqi interior minister issued a bleak forecast, saying that unless enough people vote in the elections on Jan. 30, the country would tear itself apart.

“If there are not good elections, we won’t have a constitution, and there will be chaos, and we will have a civil war,” the minister, Falah Hassan al-Naqib, said at a news conference in the heavily fortified Interior Ministry in Baghdad.

Gunfire rattled behind him nearly the whole time he spoke. Naqib did not specify how much voter turnout

would qualify as a good election.

John D. Negroponte, the U.S. ambassador to Iraq, said he was confident that “elections can and will be conducted successfully,” but he acknowledged that there was no end in sight to the insurgency and that American officials still did not know how big it was.

“I’m not sure anybody has a handle on the size of the insurgency,” Negroponte said at a lunch session with reporters.

Among American and Iraqi officials, estimates of the number of guerrilla fighters have fluctuated wildly, from the thousands, as the Pentagon has said, to the hundreds of thousands, as many Iraqi officials believe.

The newly released archbishop, Basile Georges Casmoussa, was in a jovial mood as he met with friends and well-wishers at his Eastern Rite Catholic church in Mosul, a crime-ridden city in northern Iraq that contains one of Iraq’s larger Christian communities. Christians make up

about 3 percent of Iraq’s total population.

Recounting his abduction, the archbishop said he was coming home from work on Monday evening, just around dusk, when a car suddenly blocked the road in front of him and gunmen jumped out. Insurgents grabbed the 66-year-old archbishop and stuffed him in the trunk.

“I thought these were the last minutes of my life,” Casmoussa said.

He said the insurgents kept asking the same question: Are you an American spy?

“I told them you do not know me,” he said. “We are Christians, and we believe the Americans are occupiers.”

The archbishop was released Tuesday morning.

The eight Chinese workers are still missing, and the only clue to their whereabouts is a hazy video shot in front of a brick wall and broadcast Tuesday on several Arab television channels.

Iranian Officials Reject Bush Warning

By Nazila Fathi

THE NEW YORK TIMES

TEHRAN

Iranian officials declared Tuesday that Iran would not be intimidated by threats, a day after President Bush refused to rule out military action against Iran if it continues to pursue nuclear weapons.

“We are not afraid of foreign enemies’ threats and sanctions, since they know well that throughout its Islamic and ancient history Iran has been no place for adventurism,” Iran’s former president, Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani, told the state news agency, IRNA.

Iran’s defense minister, Ali Shamkhani, appeared to make some threats of his own, saying, “We have developed a might that no country can attack us because they do not have accurate information about our military capabilities,” according to Iran’s Mehr news agency. “We have produced equipment at a rapid pace with the minimum investment that has resulted in the greatest deterrent force.”

Rafsanjani announced in October that Iran had successfully increased the range of its missile, Shahab-3, to 1,200 miles, putting Israel, U.S. military bases in the Persian Gulf and even parts of Europe in range.

The Mehr news agency, which reportedly has close ties to the office of Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, boasted in non-specific terms about Iran’s capacity to retaliate against any attacks. “Today, the Islamic Republic has acquired massive military might, the dimensions of which still remain unknown, and is prepared to attack any intruder with a fearsome rain of fire and death,” it said, according to Reuters.

Israeli Banks Criticized for Handling of Holocaust Assets

By Steven Erlanger

THE NEW YORK TIMES

JERUSALEM

Israeli banks holding assets from European Jews killed in the Holocaust failed to make a determined effort to return the holdings to their heirs, and when they were returned, they were not returned at their proper value, according to a report of the Israeli parliament released Tuesday.

The Israeli government, as custodian for a large part of the assets, also failed to make a serious effort to maintain their value or to return them to survivors or heirs, the report said.

What we have discovered, in particular the attitude of the banks, has filled us with disgust,” said the chairwoman of a parliamentary committee, Colette Avital, a Labor Party legislator.

Under pressure from the United States and Israel, the banks and governments of Switzerland and Austria have worked to disclose the accounts of those believed to be Holocaust victims and survivors, so assets can be returned to relatives. Switzerland, for example, agreed to pay compensation of \$1.25 billion after more than 54,000 dormant accounts traced to World War II or earlier were found in Swiss banks.

The Israeli report, after four years of investigation, found that 9,000 people or their heirs were eligible for compensation from the Israeli government and the banks, amounting to an estimated \$31.5 million. Of those 9,000 names, about 6,000 were listed as victims of the Holocaust by Yad Vashem, Israel’s Holocaust museum.

U.S. Cattlemen Angry Over Plan To Resume Canadian Imports

By Jim Robbins

THE NEW YORK TIMES

HELENA, MONT.

Canada is nearly 200 miles north of here as the crow flies, but it looms very large once again to cattle ranchers like Craig Winterburn.

The Bush administration is moving ahead with plans to reopen the border with Canada to the import of live cattle and beef on March 7, despite two new cases of bovine spongiform encephalopathy, commonly called mad cow disease, in Canada. Both cases were found in Alberta, the province just north of here.

The decision has ignited anger and concern among cattlemen across the West, who say reopening the northern border could endanger an industry that is prospering for the first time in many years. One cattle producers group has asked a federal court to keep the cattle and beef from coming into the United States.

The administration announced Dec. 29 that it would allow the import of cows under the age of 30 months as well as an expanded variety of beef; the new cases were confirmed since then.

Winterburn, who is in the midst of the calving season on his ranch in the hills near Helena, the state capital, is not involved in the lawsuit, but is incensed by the decision to allow imports.

“I truly sympathize with those producers up there in Canada,” he said. “They’re in a world of hurt. But it would stymie the chances of getting Japan to open up again.”

Airbus Unveils A380, Seating 555

By Mark Landler

THE NEW YORK TIMES

TOULOUSE, FRANCE

Europe heralded a new era in air travel here on Tuesday, christening the Airbus A380, a gargantuan, double-deck plane dedicated to the principle that size matters.

As a blue curtain rose in an assembly hall here to reveal the A380, the plane loomed like some kind of preternatural earthbound bird — with a 262-foot wingspan, a 239-foot-long fuselage, a cabin that can comfortably seat 555 and a takeoff weight when fully loaded of 1.2 million pounds.

It was welcomed by a retinue of European leaders, including President Jacques Chirac of France, Prime Minister Tony Blair of Britain and Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder of Germany, for whom the A380 represents not just an ambitious industrial project but a proud symbol of the economic integration of Europe.

The A380’s maiden flight is not scheduled until March. But the pomp and ceremony of Tuesday’s unveiling underscored the critical importance of this plane to Airbus and its fierce battle with Boeing. Airbus, part of the European consortium EADS, surpassed Boeing in the number of planes delivered to airlines in 2004 for the second consecutive year. With the A380, the company, which is owned by Europe’s aerospace industry, will dominate the lucrative segment of very large planes that Boeing pioneered in the 1970s with the 747.

OPINION

Letter To The Editor



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Editors: Joy Forsythe G, Austin Chu '08.

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Homecourt Advantage

I arrived early at Tuesday night's Worcester Polytechnic Institute/Massachusetts Institute of Technology basketball game at the Rockwell Cage pitting the Engineers against the Engineers. I thoroughly enjoyed myself. Serenaded by Fitty Cent's "Shake that ass girl," the two teams executed their warm up drills wearing the same exact colors, and then played a hard-fought game with Poly pulling

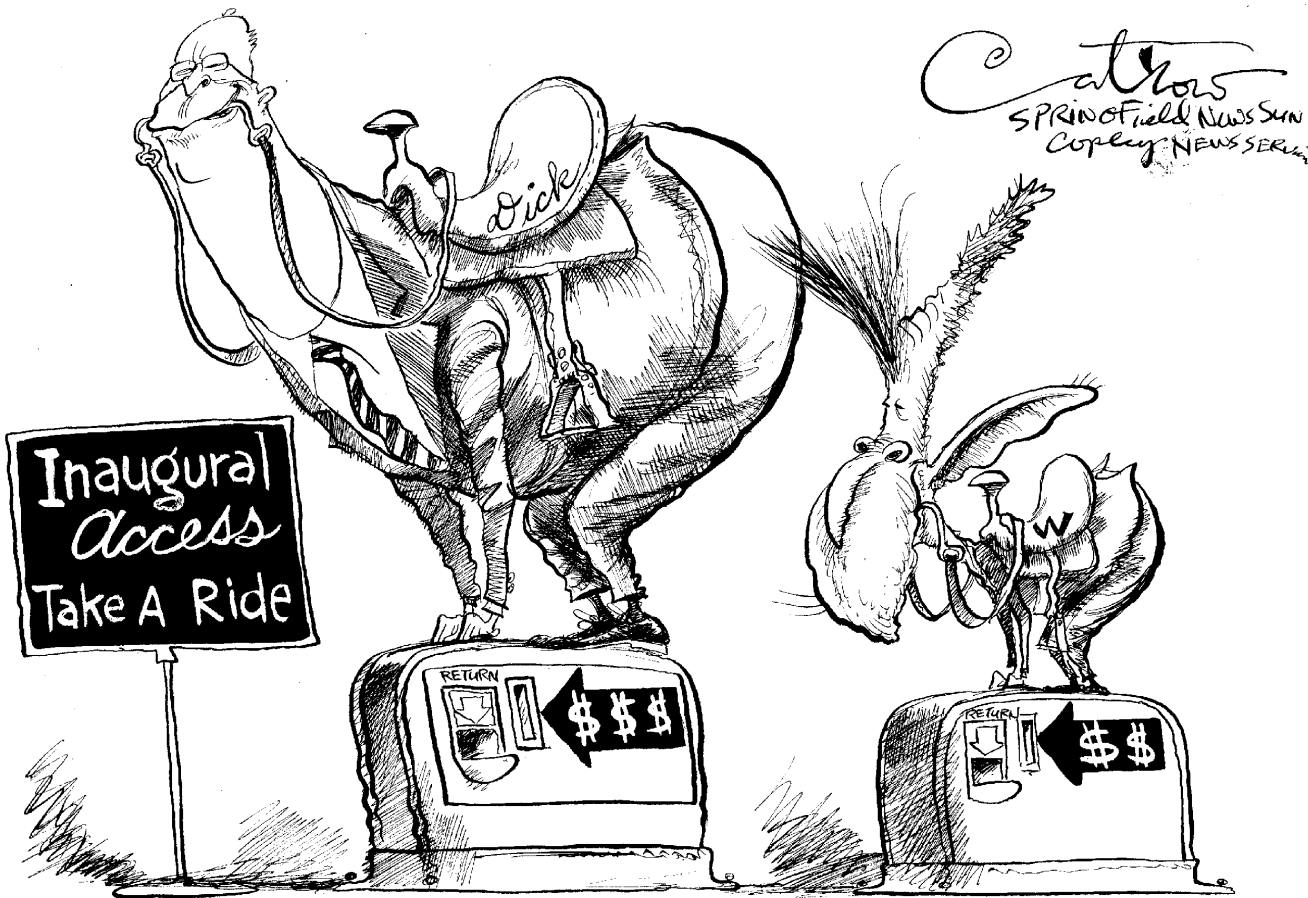
away from Tech at the end for a four point victory.

I recommend these games to all members of the MIT community. I was pleased to see at least three MIT professors in the crowd gestulating wildly at times, but MIT did not seem to have the home court advantage we deserve. Reasons to go: there are cheerleaders (although they refuse to come onto the court during timeouts so we can see them), coach

Larry Anderson is a cool guy, the price is right (free), and our point guard, Danny Kanamori, is not only a good ballplayer, but has a role in the upcoming flick, Coach Carter.

Come on MIT, take a break from your labs and libraries and witness a great American spectacle, unspoiled. Emerson is in town on the 20th.

Bob DeLaney
MIT Center for Real Estate '05



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“Considering the price of California real estate . . . I figure this piece of mudslide is worth about \$1.5 million.”

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Dissents are the opinions of signed members of the editorial board choosing to publish their disagreement with the editorial.

Letters to the editor, columns, and editorial cartoons are written by individuals and represent the opinion of the author, not necessarily that of the newspaper. Electronic submissions are encouraged and should be sent to letters@the-tech.mit.edu. Hard copy submissions should be addressed to *The Tech*, P.O. Box 397029, Cambridge, Mass. 02139-7029, or sent by interdepartmental mail to Room W20-483. All submissions are due by 4:30 p.m. two days before the date of publication.

Letters, columns, and cartoons must bear the authors' signatures, addresses, and phone numbers. Unsigned letters will not be accepted.

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Nationalism in Vietnam and Iraq

Ali Wyne

In one of his most celebrated memoirs, *In Retrospect*, former Secretary of State Robert McNamara identified eleven reasons why the United States lost the Vietnam War. The third of these is, “We underestimated the power of nationalism to motivate a people... to fight and die for their beliefs and values — and we continue to do so today in many parts of the world.” Ho Chi Minh, arguably Vietnam’s most famous statesman, once stated that “You can kill ten of my men for every one I kill of yours. But even at those odds, you will lose and I will win.” Indeed, North Vietnam’s nationalism remained fervent and pervasive even as North Vietnam sustained unconscionable devastation in between 1945 and 1975. The Pentagon Papers grudgingly acknowledged that Ho’s revolutionary organization, the Vietminh, embodied the wishes and dreams of the common people. It was “irrefutably nationalist, popular, and patriotic.”

Insofar as nationalism plays a vital role in global conflicts, Iraq is very much like Vietnam. In fact, the force of nationalism is so strong in Iraq that it has, to a remarkable extent, galvanized Sunni and Shi’ite factions — otherwise virulent enemies — against the United States’ occupation. The Bush administration has reacted to this particular development with perplexity, and has been very reluc-

tant to admit the possibility that resentment of its policies is common among the Iraqi people. The reality is that no people will stay silent as their nation is so drastically and violently transformed.

It is for this reason that the prospects for Iraq are so grim. It is increasingly clear that whoever ultimately triumphs on January 30 will have at best marginal support, and, will, furthermore, find it excruciatingly difficult to unite rival factions. Consider that current interim Prime Minister Iyad Allawi’s approval rating hovers around five percent, while that of interim President Ghazi Mashal Ajil al-Yawer stands at seven percent. If history serves as an accurate precedent, Iraq will most likely be the site of deadly sectarian violence, similar to that which gripped Lebanon during its destructive, fifteen-year civil war. There is no reason to expect any abatement in terrorist activities, and, to the contrary, it is quite plausible that after elections, terrorists will employ even more sophisticated and lethal means to destabilize Iraq.

In the 1950s, American leaders publicly hailed South Vietnam as a democratic nation, even though CIA official Edward Lansdale privately described it as an “emerging fascist state.” The United States’ client leader, Ngo Dinh Diem, was held in contempt by most South Vietnamese citizens, partly because he was a Catholic, unlike the vast majority of South Viet-

namese, who were Buddhist. More importantly, he was reviled because of his suppression of South Vietnam’s nationalist groundswell. The Diem regime closed down newspapers, detained thousands of political opponents, terrorized the Buddhist population, and even employed a 50,000-strong secret police to silence opposition to its rule.

Today, the Bush administration mistakenly touts Iraq as a nascent democracy. Allawi is disdained by the vast majority of Iraqi citizens, partly because he is secular, unlike the vast majority of Iraqis, who are deeply religious. More importantly, he is resented because of his casual willingness to employ repressive means to contain violence and instability in Iraq. Allawi has already reinstated the death penalty, reserved the right to declare martial law in parts of Iraq, and temporarily shut down al-Jazeera — one of the few organs of independent media in the Arab world — for “inciting hatred” and “encourag[ing] criminals to increase their activities.” If terrorism increases in the aftermath of elections, as it almost certainly will, Iraq’s new administra-

tion will resort to even more draconian measures to assure stability, thereby fueling resentment and providing legitimacy to terrorists’ depraved causes. Decently extricating itself from this vicious cycle of repression and violence will require extraordinary ingenuity on the part of the new administration. Whether or not it will know how to or be will-

ing to find reasonable solutions to Iraq’s bedlam remains to be seen.

What is clear, though, is that democracy is a process which must be nurtured from within, not a system which can be forcibly imposed from the outside. It would seem evident that the specter of Vietnam, perhaps the most painful period in all of this nation’s history, would guide

today’s foreign policymakers. After all, the United States’ defeat in 1975 represented its concession of the futility of force to impose change. The Bush administration, however, has demonstrated a tragic ignorance of and contempt for historical lessons. In the epic battle between nationalism and force which is shaping up in Iraq, it looks as if the former will once again prevail.

In fact, the force of nationalism is so strong in Iraq that it has, to a remarkable extent, galvanized Sunni and Shi’ite factions — otherwise virulent enemies — against the United States’ occupation.

No Ethics Without Religion

Nicholas Baldasaro

To many of the modern intellectual or liberal persuasion, religion is a dirty word. The charges frequently brought against religions, and especially Christianity are considerable: that religion has no basis except in revealed texts, that its adherents are established through faith rather than reason, and most significantly, that there is no link between morality and religion and indeed that religion is frequently a force for bigotry, exploitation, and all things under the sun considered unfortunate in general. These opinions are fundamentally misleading and extreme, and a side-by-side comparison of religion with more secular institutions will reveal the truth of it.

Too many detractors of religion take the easy way out of debate by pointing to a holy book, like the Bible, which is filled with fabulous and contradictory tales of mythical origin, and concluding that such a work of fantasy is no basis for either a moral code or a history lesson by today’s rational standards. This is a normal reaction; divine revelation is hearsay to those of us alive 2000 years after the fact. The problem with this technique of dismissing religion though, is that every standard that we know, religious or secular, has such a fault to it — that it is ultimately derived from assumption vulnerable to perpetual challenge. Many physicists accept the most fundamental postulate of physics, that energy only changes form, and cannot be created or destroyed. This acceptance is based solely on one’s personal experience and the say so of other physicists — interestingly, all

of science is logically derived from an article of faith supported by fallible human perception.

One might be inclined to challenge a conclusion so sweeping, on the grounds that while the basis of science may be an assumption, the hard results of science (astronomy, penicillin, eyeglasses) are real and quantifiable, whereas religion is ad hoc and nebulous through and through. This challenge is severely undermined, however, because religion is primarily concerned not with flying planes, but with producing behavior pleasing to a deity or group of deities, or if one prefers, “ethical” behavior. The useful results of the application of science do nothing to change

the bottom line — that it is founded on a fantastic and unprovable tale of matter that cannot be created or destroyed, and this in an environment full of creation. Science ultimately does no better in explaining existence than religion, although thankfully it does produce some useful gad-

gets along the way. Put another way, there is no book not built of grand assumption, no article of wisdom not derived from revelation. The religious then, should not be dismissed simply on the basis of believing things that do not follow from reason.

A second method of detracting from religion focuses not on the supposed absurdity of its origin, but on the supposed ignorance of its following. It is often asserted that the religious crowd has come by its beliefs not by logic and education, but by a sort of group brainwashing, where an emphasis on conformity and devotion supersede a pursuit of knowledge, tolerance, or whatever other good thing one might wish. This challenge, too, is

undermined, because once again the challenge applies to all secular wisdoms as well. The great, great majority of the beliefs about our world are based on the hearsay of those around us, be they friends, family, or college professors. Students in primary and secondary school are in a very real sense being “brainwashed,” the only difference is that that sort of brainwashing has very great consensus amongst our society; we call it education. I doubt any but a handful of physics students in the world have demonstrated Maxwell’s laws, or quantum mechanics, or relativity from first principles laid out in their textbooks. No schoolchild of 18, certified to vote, has any proof of the history in his history book, either. This is only even the tip of the iceberg, when one considers how much disagreement there is amongst experts in any given field as to the very basic assumptions of that field. What any person of secular inclination takes as “reason” or “fact” is in most cases truly nothing other than the consensus of his community, hardly a position of strength from which to sneer at the ignorance of the religious. People form the majority of their opinions based on immersion with others who share that opinion. The same old problem surfaces, namely that since any person by necessity was not present at the conception of discovery, he must take his learning by assurance from the more learned.

A final complaint heard frequently about religion is that it is wholly removed from the realm of ethics or morals. Let us suppose that whenever someone speaks about morality, they seek to praise one kind of behavior and to damn others, and that the first kind is considered by them to be “good” and the second kind “bad.” Many complain that religion amounts to arbitrary edicts set forth thousands of years prior, and that standards for ethical behavior should not flow from religion.

Behavioral standards set forth by religion carry heavy tolls with them — the understand-

ing is that bad behavior leads to punishment, while good behavior is intrinsically pleasing to a higher authority. Additionally, standards are objective and unchanging. Furthermore, standards that reject religion and deities are subjective — any standard devised by a human being is subject to all the flawed thinking and baseless assumptions detailed above. Any attempt by a human to detail an objective basis for behavior must eventually exploit an assumption, turning it back into a one-person religion. Therefore, whoever rejects religion necessarily rejects objective standards for good and bad, because good and bad are mystical character judgments that have no meaning outside of some greater power.

And here the problem arises. Behavioral standards set forth outside of religion are necessarily arbitrary and therefore carry no real toll for deviance. There is a lot of rubbish that floats around on the ocean of philosophy about “self-interest,” and “societal utility” but if good and bad are confined only to a role concerned with public welfare, then bad behavior loses its stigma. Why would one care to act good simply to follow an arbitrary social standard? What does it mean to be good when “good” becomes equivalent only with “nice”? If one wishes to discuss morals and right and wrong, then one must anchor their standard with some assumption about the cosmos, immediately identifying one as religious.

The conclusion to these thoughts is that every person alive is religious, whether or not they care to identify with a larger body of worship. The complaints we all make about this misunderstood institution exist in every other part of our lives. Religion remains a very, very good way to get things done, and those who claim to despise it live it nonetheless. Despite its shortcomings, religion remains as credible a tool for deciphering the reality around us as any other.

Nicholas Baldasaro is a member of the class of 2005.

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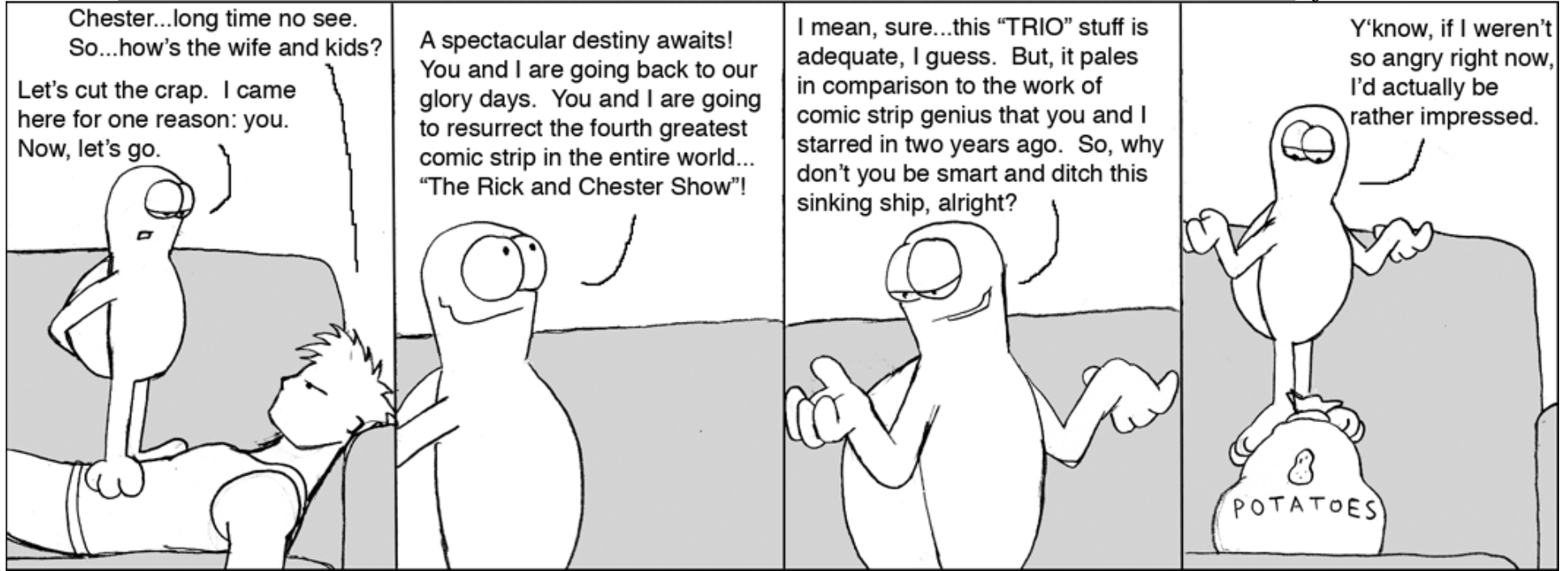
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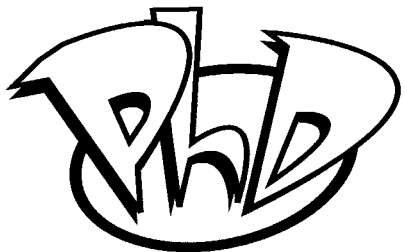


by Brian Loux

More Public Sex from the True Stories File



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Grades Don't Matter, Sources Say

Palo Alto, CA (AP) - Documents obtained by the Associated Press indicate that grades achieved in post-graduate classes have no effect on future prospects for students enrolled in academic institutions.

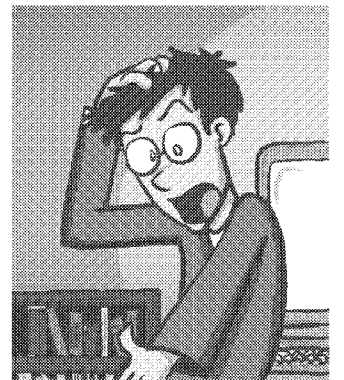
According to interviews with several current and past graduate students, "grades don't count," said former grad student and now billionaire Jerry Yang, co-founder of Yahoo! Inc. "I got mostly B's in grad school, which at Stanford was really really bad."

A poll conducted by the Los Angeles Times showed that over 85% of first year grads believe getting high marks "is worth the effort" and "a valuable way to spend my time". Fewer than 10% of fifth year students felt the same way.

In reality, neither employers nor your parents appear to care if you get an A or a B in your advanced Nonlinear Optimization class. "I'm just glad I don't have to pay for tuition any more," said a mother who wished to remain anonymous.

Reaction among graduate TA's was mixed, with some expressing shock that their late hours grading amount to nothing, while others showed visible relief that losing a student's final exam will not really ruin their life.

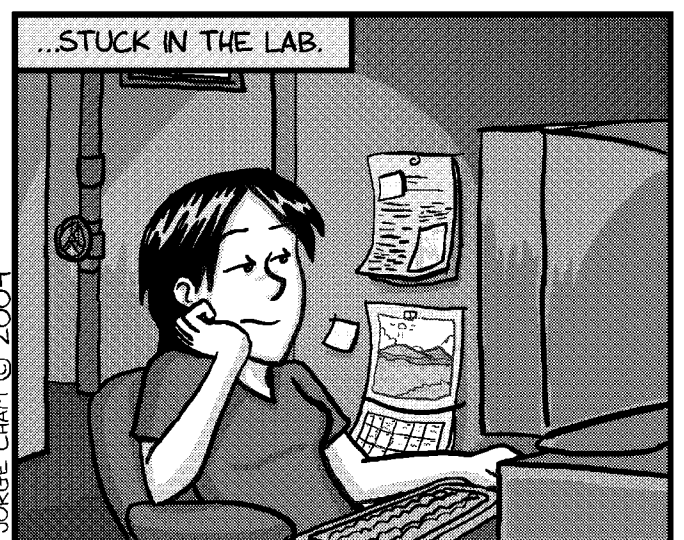
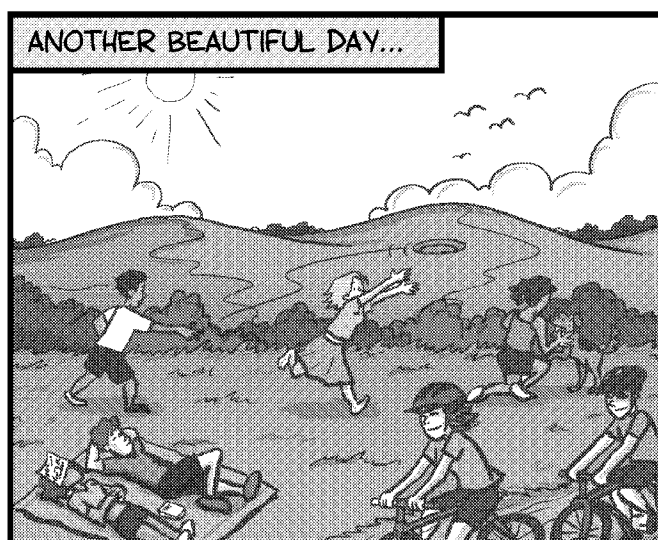
Sources close to academic faculty reveal that this fact is well known among professors. "Of course grades don't matter," said Prof. Smith, "we only care about the lab work." Grades only serve to "feed the ego of the smart students, and break the spirit of the mediocre ones."



NOW you tell me?? A grad student expresses frustration over the revelation

Continued on page A23

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KRT Crossword
Solution, page 11

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Prof. Claims Racism Hurt Tenure Decision

By Marcella Bombardieri and Gareth Cook
THE BOSTON GLOBE

A stem cell research scientist at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology said on Jan. 13 that he is being denied the opportunity to get tenure because of racism.

Dr. James L. Sherley, one of 28 black professors at MIT, said the decision not to put him forward for tenure is only the latest example of racism he has experienced at MIT. He said he has been denied sufficient lab space, paid less than his peers, and repeatedly slighted by colleagues.

Sherley, a proponent of controversial theories about stem cells, also said that he has not been given the freedom to challenge scientific orthodoxy that white faculty members are given.

"This is a case of an uppity Negro, and there is a group of faculty who would like to see me move on," said Sherley, the only black out of about 40 professors in his department.

Asked to respond to Sherley's allegations, MIT released a state-

ment saying: "An allegation of discrimination is a matter of great concern to MIT... These are serious charges that will be handled seriously, according to our well-established procedures for handling grievances."

Sherley's accusations touch on one of MIT's self-acknowledged faults — its trouble increasing the share of non-Asian minorities on its faculty. Black, Hispanic, and Native American professors represent about 4 percent of the 970-member faculty, though that proportion is no lower than at most science and engineering programs around the country.

Former President Charles M. Vest has said the greatest regret of his tenure was not achieving greater diversity among the faculty and graduate students.

"It is a cold, hard fact that there was a time when MIT was a clear leader in attracting women and minorities to science and engineering," he said at a faculty meeting last year. "I do not feel today that we can claim that same leadership position."

His successor, Susan Hockfield, who started her job last month, has cited diversity as a concern.

But only 41 percent of junior professors hired at MIT earn tenure, and there are factors that may complicate Sherley's case. The son of a Baptist minister, Sherley is vocal in his opposition to research using human embryonic stem cells because he thinks this amounts to sacrificing human lives. This stand puts him at odds with most of his scientific colleagues — and once prompted a shouting match with another scientist at a faculty dinner at the Blue Room, a Cambridge restaurant, he said.

Several stem cell biologists contacted by the *Globe* said on Jan. 13 that Sherley's theories about adult stem cells, which do not require the destruction of embryos, are controversial, and that he had not published papers in the field's elite journals.

But Sherley said on Jan. 13 that Douglas A. Lauffenburger, the director of the Biological Engineering division, did not cite Sherley's publications as a reason for not supporting his tenure application. Lauffenburger was traveling on Jan. 13 and could not be reached.

his approach to adult stem cell research was truly promising.

Sherley said that he has made major discoveries, and that MIT has filed 10 patent applications stemming from his work, and one has already been licensed, a sign of its commercial interest.

He stressed that he had not experienced any overt racism at MIT, but that the environment was hostile in myriad ways. He recalled many instances of being asked whose lab he worked in, when he runs his own lab. When he didn't take the advice of other scientists, he said, he was labeled "stubborn" instead of independent-minded.

After a faculty dinner devolved into a shouting match about the relative merits of embryonic and adult stem cells, he said he was no longer invited to the dinners. Slowly, he said, he became more and more ostracized, and the atmosphere became more poisonous.

"This is what racism looks like today," he said.

On Sunday, Sherley sent an e-mail to about 15 people at MIT, laying out his qualifications and examples of how he has been slighted.

"In light of MIT's current initiatives to increase diversity among the ranks of tenured faculty, you should all be embarrassed that I have to be subjected to this," he wrote. "But then, has there ever been a single African American tenure candidate at MIT who was not?"

In the e-mail, Sherley said he wanted Lauffenburger to give him a written apology and send his tenure case forward.

Yesterday, Sherley said he has made appointments with the dean of engineering and provost, both of whom were out of the country and could not be reached for comment. Sherley said that he also requested a meeting with Hockfield, but that her office had not replied yet, other than to acknowledge the request. "I have no plans to leave MIT," he said.

Hockfield did not respond to requests for comment.

Sherley's work focuses on discovering the intricate machinery that stem cells use to divide, and harnessing this machinery to coax stem cells to grow better in laboratory conditions.

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Cat Shelter Construction Project
Friday, Jan. 21, starting noon in the APO Office (W20-415)

Put a roof over the head of a homeless cat! APO will be building shelters for The Cat Connection, a local non-profit organization that spays, neuters, and cares for feral cat populations.

Whether you're interested in membership or just looking for something interesting to do this Friday, stop by for an hour or two and lend a hand for cats and charity!



Ice Skating Social
Saturday, Jan. 22, starting 1:30pm in the APO Office (W20-415)

You're invited to go skating with us! We'll be meeting in the office, then going to Johnson where APO will rent skates for you. All skill levels welcome. Afterwards, we can return to the office for cocoa.

Experience the fellowship aspect of APO! Come hang out and have fun with ice skates!

Informational Meeting
Thursday, Jan. 20, 7pm in W20 Public Dining Room 3 (third floor)

Are you curious about APO or interested in membership? We're looking for enthusiastic, service-oriented students to join our chapter. Our membership vice president will go over the basics and answer questions. Snacks will be provided.

Book Exchange Dropoff
January 24-27, 11am-3pm in the student center lobby

Turn your old books into cash! APO will sell on your behalf and give you the money. Bring books you want to sell to our booth in the student center lobby. To arrange other times, e-mail book-exchange@mit.edu. The sale will run during the first week of term.

Changes to UA, GSC Bylaws to Help ASA

ASA, from Page 1

Williams and Singh said they hope that allowing for more flexibility will empower the ASA executive board to act on its own more, with appropriate checks and balances from student groups, the GSC, and the UA.

Communication to be improved

Part of the change to the ASA will be improved communication with student groups. Many student groups simply want to be informed about what the ASA is doing, particularly through an improved Web Site where procedures and policies are made clear, Williams said.

“I don’t think the ASA has a particular difficulty in communicating with student groups... it’s just that there needs to be more emphasis on keeping things up to date and clear,” Singh said.

“We will send the information [for students to be involved in the changes] at the appropriate time, and we will send things out to student groups and get feedback from representatives,” he said.

Changes to be written into bylaws

The changes will most likely be

written into the UA and GSC bylaws, similar to the way other GSC and UA committees are defined, Singh said. The existing “constitution” will no longer be used. The bylaws will establish operating guidelines for the ASA and clearly define how they can be changed.

Singh and Williams first brought up the issue of the ASA’s unclear role with respect to the GSC and UA at the ASA General Body Meeting in late October.

The GSC will vote on the bylaws change for the ASA in March, Singh said. The UA Senate will probably also vote in March, Williams said.

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William Thomas McKinley, “Childhood Memories”
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Eric Chasalow, Concerning Sunspots (2004)

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The researchers at the Palo Alto Research Center (PARC) invented personal distributed computing, graphical user interfaces, the first commercial mouse, bit-mapped displays, Ethernet, object-oriented programming, laser printing, and many of the basic protocols of the Internet. Today, our research interests range from atoms, to algorithms, to anthropology, involving many areas of computer science as well as the physics of electronic materials. Our **undergraduate internship program** is looking for students of high academic and technical achievement, interested in a summer internship in a research environment.

QUALIFICATIONS

PARC's interests lie in the areas of Computer Science, Electrical Engineering, Math, Physics, Linguistics, Anthropology, and Sociology. Students from any of these disciplines are encouraged to apply. Selections are based on information contained in the student's application and upon on-campus interviews in mid-February. We make our hiring decisions by late-March. The program is small, encompassing about 12 interns on average, and only students from UC-Berkeley, MIT, Cornell, and Stanford are considered.

HOW TO APPLY

Applicants should provide their resume, transcript and optional letters of reference from relevant summer jobs or significant UROP experience while at the university level. Contact MIT's career center to submit your application on InterviewTRAK:
<http://web.mit.edu/career/www/students/monstertrak.html>
Our job posting is listed under the following ID: 861313.

More information is also available at:
<http://www.parc.com/company/employment/undergraduate.html>

Smith Alleges Police Accounts Inaccurate

Trial, from Page 1

but regardless, she was “within [her] rights.”

Smith accused of disturbing peace

MIT Patrol Officer Joseph D’Amelio, who arrested Smith and was also a transporting officer in her arrest on June 4 at MIT’s Commencement, said that Smith approached MIT Patrol Officers Brian J. Sousa Jr., Kevin M. O’Connor, and himself at lunchtime near the Student Center.

D’Amelio said that Smith asked the officers if they “know anything about [their] first amendment rights” and then called them “fucking pigs.”

He said he advised Smith to leave the area three times before telling her that she was under arrest. D’Amelio said Smith then “put her arms into her chest” and resisted arrest.

Officer Sousa called Smith’s behavior “boisterous” and “loud,”

and D’Amelio said that Smith was “disturbing the peace of the people.”

Police account disputed by Smith

Smith called the accounts given by police officers “not factual.” She said D’Amelio threatened her and said, “you remember me, Aimee, don’t you.”

Beck called the descriptions of the incident by police “imaginative construction[s]” that “weren’t quite accurate.” Police exaggerated “to make their case better,” he said.

Smith said that she is encouraged by the verdict. “I’ll keep standing up,” she said.

Solution to
KRT Crossword

from page 7

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

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Grants Guidelines: <http://web.mit.edu/arts/do/funding/grantguide.html>

Application form: <http://web.mit.edu/arts/do/funding/grantform.html>

GSC Recommends New LGBT Office, Dean Position

By Kathy Dobson
ASSOCIATE NEWS EDITOR

At the January General Council meeting last Wednesday, the Graduate Student Council voted to formally endorse the creation of an Office and Assistant Dean of Lesbian, Bisexual, Gay, and Transgendered Services.

The new office and assistant dean will “serve as a centralized place” to coordinate existing services and provide support and education to the MIT community on LGBT issues, said Brian A. Rubineau G, the author of the proposal.

The vote passed with 37 for, 5 against, and 4 abstaining.

Thomas E. Robinson, program coordinator of student life programs, said that in addition to coordinating LGBT activities and reacting to issues in the MIT community, the assistant dean would be able to reach out to other groups such as dormitories, fraternities, sororities, living groups, athletics teams, and minorities.

LGBT group initiated proposal

The LGBT proposal was originally put forth by the LGBT Issues Group, a committee of students, fac-

ulty, staff, and alumni that meets monthly to discuss projects intended to address issues facing the MIT LGBT community. The proposal recommends that the new office be created within the Office of Student Life.

Currently, LGBT programs fall under the MIT Student Life Programs, but there is no office or official position specifically dedicated to coordinating LGBT services. Robinson said that he and James Collin, assistant dean for counseling and support services, have been volunteering to coordinate LGBT services.

“Most of our peer institutions across the country have full-time staffing positions” similar to the proposed position, Robinson said.

Funding tops students’ concerns

Several council members expressed concern about funding the proposal given MIT’s recent budget cuts. “Their concerns were mostly budgetary,” Rubineau said, referring to the other GSC representatives.

In the proposal, the LGBT Issues Group requested \$65,000 annually for salary and benefits for the new position, \$28,000 of which has already been secured through an alumni gift and from the Office of Student Life. Rubineau said that committee members are “trying to secure more of the funding through donors so it wouldn’t be a big burden for the Institute.”

Robinson said that the GSC is the first student group to officially endorse the LGBT Staffing Proposal. He said that Larry G. Benedict, Dean of Student Life, was contacted in December regarding the position and presently, the proposal is “under

review.” Other members of the faculty and administration have endorsed the proposal, including Alan E. Siegel, Chief of Mental Health Service at MIT Medical.

Robinson said that he hopes action will be taken by this summer.

GSC passes other legislation

In addition to passing the LGBT Staffing Proposal endorsement, the GSC also unanimously passed two amendments to the constitution and bylaws.

One amendment simplified the description of the operation of the graduate student-run Muddy Charles Pub at Walker Memorial to allow the Board of Governors more liberty in running the pub. The amendment also revokes the ex-officio membership of the Associate and Assistant Deans for Graduate Education to the pub’s board.

The other amendment changes the GSC Constitution to make it easier to add to the council positions for representatives of newly-built graduate residences.

MACROEPIDEMIOLOGY

BE.102 TR3-4:30 56-169 (U) SPRING 2005 (3-0-9)

Created for new to advanced students interested in a personal integrated perspective of the physiologic, genetic and environmental causes of common mortal diseases. Each student will learn by organizing and analyzing multiple levels of data for a self-chosen disease such as a cancer, vascular disease or diabetes. Beginning with the quantitative complete history of common disease mortality in the U.S. (See <http://epidemiology.mit.edu>.) students will create qualitative, then quantitative, models based on human populations genetics, human somatic genetics, cellular and molecular biology and the history of changes in the human environment. Includes technological approaches to discover the genes, if any, carrying risk for common diseases.

Bill Thilly, '67, Professor of Genetic Toxicology and Biological Engineering
<thilly@mit.edu>

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Margeaux Randolph, Shavonne Hylton

Thu Jan 20, 04-05:00 pm, 2-136

No enrollment limit, no advance sign up
Single session event

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Well come join us, a group of MIT students, as we address safety issues that affect all members of our community. We’ll discuss Saferide; crime mapping; streetlights; a bill we’re supporting that expands access to information about campus crime problems; and a project started by students at another Cambridge-area university, called U-Cabs. Learn how you can act effectively to help make our campus more secure. And pick up a free police whistle or Mini Personal Alarm!

Web: <<http://student.mit.edu/iap/nsshavone.html>>
Refreshments provided

Mystery Hunt Causes Frustration, Pleasure

Mystery Hunt, from Page 1

of clothing “tie,” stumped Physical Plant for 18 hours. He said that a member of the writing team went to Random Hall to check on their progress and walked by a lounge where articles of clothing from previous rounds were assembled. When the writer saw a tie, he asked, “What do you mean, you’re stuck?” said Vandiver. Only a few hours later did Physical Plant understand what he meant, Vandiver said.

At one point, Physical Plant was so frustrated with that puzzle that they “pulled out the Ouija Board,” but unfortunately, it did not give them the correct answer, he said.

Vandiver said that Physical Plant was already thinking about writing next year’s Hunt, but “it’s a process that’ll take a while.”

He said he heard that about 17 man-years of thinking occurs during the hunt, and this number “seems about right” to him.

Some less serious about Hunt

Yang Ruan ’07 was a member of the team Forgive Me Father, which included about 30 members from Third East and Second West halls in East Campus.

“For us, this year at least, it was a much more social hunt than like a swat team, super-suave expert hunters hunt,” she said.

She said she enjoyed the environment of the hunt. “In our room, there were a lot of people who were sleeping on the floor,” and we “had to walk around them.”

“It was like a war zone... in the trench,” and the “casualties of war were lying all around you,” she said.

Robert H. Speer ’06, a member of the the Experimental Study Group/Mathcamp team Manic Sages, which finished in a tie for fourth, participated in the hunt for the third time this year.

“We were coming up with these

ludicrous-sounding answers... every once in a while, one of the ludicrous-sounding answers would be right,” he said.

Speer said he most enjoyed the “flash of inspiration” that comes after “you’ve been staring at this puzzle for hours.” It’s an “amazingly satisfying feeling,” he said.

Speer said that the hunt “got [his] adrenaline flowing,” and he “only slept for eight hours in the whole hunt.”

Puzzles earn rave reviews

“I thought the hunt was really well done this year,” said Catherine Havasi ’03, a member of Manic Sages. There were “a lot of really neat puzzles.” Havasi slept only five and a half hours through the duration of the hunt.

Speer agreed that the hunt was well-written, saying that the “writing team made sure that all their puzzles fit together well” and “had a range of difficulties in the puzzles.”

Speer said the hunt was “more fun this year” than before because his team did better.

Brian J. Pepper ’08, a member of Project Electric Mayhem, a team composed mostly of members from Fifth East hall from East Campus and Tau Epsilon Phi, said that he most enjoyed the duck puzzle, a feature of each year’s hunt and “an elaborate puzzle which requires you to perform a number of steps in order.” This year, the duck puzzle featured a Lord of the Rings theme, he said.

“It’s so out there that you couldn’t help but smile,” he said about the puzzle.

Puzzlers excited for next year

Havasi plans on participating next year and said she is excited that Physical Plant won since she is “looking forward to the kind of hunt they’re going to write.”

Next year, Pepper said, his team, which came in fifth this year is “planning on winning.”

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Information Session

Friday January 21, 2005
4:00 PM - Room 2-105

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Swimming, Diving Teams Keep Records Going Strong

Swimming, from Page 16

Edwards winning the 100 free and 100 back and Carlucci taking victories in the 100 and 200 breast.

Two of those victories were particularly crucial to the final point total, as they lead 1-2-3 sweeps by MIT. In the 100 free, Edwards was closely followed by teammates Josi-

ah B. Rosmarin '06 and Snyder, while in the 200 breast, Carlucci teamed up with Matthew G. Angle '07 and Jeffrey B. Gilbert '05 to dominate Springfield.

Other wins for MIT came from Mark Y. Liao '06, who produced an outstanding back half effort in the 1650 free to win by less than six tenths of a second, Matthieu Fuzellier '05 in the 200 back, and Calvin D. Kao '08 in the 200 IM.

The pair of victories over Springfield came the day after the MIT squads both beat Brandeis in a cross-town dual meet. The women's team won 142-82 while the men won 126-92.

The men started out their meet with a victory in the 200 medley relay, with the team of Edwards, Carlucci, Varsanik, and Fuzellier touching first. The Beavers suffered a short setback in the first half of the

meet, failing to win an individual victory until Kao topped the field in the 200 IM.

Kao's victory sprung the team into motion, with Edwards, Varsanik, and Carlucci following his lead to take the 100 back, fly, and breast, respectively. The string of individual victories in the stroke events gave the Beavers command of the meet again, and they sealed the victory with two victories in free events — Kao and Liao teamed up to finish 1-2 in the 500 free over a fast-approaching swimmer from Brandeis, and the 400 free relay of Fuzellier, Snyder, Kao, and Varsanik touched first as well.

The women had slightly more success in the individual events, with two 1-2-3 sweeps and three athletes winning two events apiece. The first sweep came with Edwards leading the way in the 200 IM, fol-

lowed closely by Jacquelyn M. Nowicke '08 and Dere. The second sweep came in the 100 breast, with Erin M. Zoller '05 taking top honors and Dere and Chambers close behind.

Double individual event winners for the Beavers included Thornton in the 200 and 500 free, Brophy in the 50 and 100 free, and Edwards in the 100 back and 200 IM.

Topping off the exceptional performance were MIT's relay squads. Edwards, Thornton, Larsson, and Brophy took the 200 medley relay, while Zoller, Nowicke, Larsson, and Jennifer J. DeBoer '05 touched first in the 400 free relay.

The weekend victories leave the women's team undefeated at 9-0, while the men's team moves up to 7-1. Both teams are off from competition until a Jan. 23 home meet against Tufts University.

Scoreboard for Swimming and Diving Meets			
Women, January 16: MIT 157 – Springfield 143			
Event	Place	MIT	Result
400 Medley Relay	1	MIT-A (Julianna K. Edwards '08, Melissa E. Dere '06, Annika S. Larsson '08, Sasha B. Brophy '08)	4:12.34
1650 Free	1	Katherine C. Thornton '07	17:47.18
200 Free	1	Brophy	1:58.32
	3	Jennifer J. DeBoer '05	2:01.19
100 Back	1	Moria C. Chambers '06	1:00.72
	3	Erin M. Zoller '05	1:04.84
100 Breast	1	Chambers	1:13.09
	2	Dere	1:14.38.
200 Fly	1	Larsson	2:19.19
	3	Thornton	2:23.83
50 Free	1	Brophy	25.66
1 m Diving	3	Doria M. Holbrook '08	241.79
100 Free	1	Brophy	55.11
	3	DeBoer	56.70
200 Back	1	Edwards	2:09.89
100 Breast	1	Chambers	2:35.74
	2	Dere	2:37.12
500 Free	2	Thornton	5:19.53
100 Fly	1	Edwards	1:01.70
	2	Larsson	1:02.50
3 m Diving	3	Holbrook	229.50
200 IM	2	Zoller	2:20.48
200 Free Relay	2	MIT-A (DeBoer, Jacquelyn M. Nowicke '08, Thornton, Zoller)	1:44.74
Men, January 16: MIT 166 – Springfield 132			
Event	Place	MIT	Result
400 Medley Relay	1	MIT-A (Craig M. Edwards '07, Joseph P. Carlucci '05, Jonathan S. Varsanik '05, Grady A. Snyder '06)	3:33.09
	3	MIT-B (Neil J. Kelly '06, Calvin D. Kao '08, Jeffrey J. Pan '07, Josiah B. Rosmarin '06)	3:46.16
1650 Free	1	Mark Y. Liao '06	16:37.24
	3	Kao	17:14.42
200 Free	2	Rosmarin	1:46.97
100 Back	1	Edwards	54.01
	3	Kelly	57.88
100 Breast	1	Carlucci	1:01.33
	3	Matthew G. Angle '07	1:04.30
200 Fly	2	Davin F. Fan '08	2:00.66
50 Free	1	Varsanik	21.93
100 Free	1	Edwards	48.25
	2	Rosmarin	48.85
	3	Snyder	48.91
200 Back	1	Matthieu Fuzellier '05	2:01.20
	2	Kao	2:02.66
200 Breast	1	Carlucci	2:17.02
	2	Angle	2:18.01
	3	Jeffrey B. Gilbert '05	2:19.25
500 Free	2	Liao	4:50.94
	3	Edwards	4:54.57
100 Fly	1	Varsanik	52.77
	2	Fuzellier	53.09
200 IM	1	Kao	2:02.68
	2	Carlucci	2:06.32
200 Free Relay	2	MIT-A (Varsanik, Fuzellier, Michael D. Dimitriou '06, Snyder)	1:27.70
	3	MIT-B (David H. Friend '07, Liao, Fan, Boris E. Revzin '08)	2:33.07
Women, January 15: MIT 142 – Brandeis 82			
Event	Place	MIT	Result
200 Medley Relay	1	MIT-A (Edwards, Thornton, Larsson, Brophy)	1:58.42
	3	MIT-B (Laura B. Shimmin '05, Chambers, Jessica A. Harpole '07, Katrina M. Sorensen '08)	2:05.58
1000 Free	3	DeBoer	11:45.08
200 Free	1	Thornton	2:03.06
50 Free	1	Brophy	26.03
	3	Zoller	26.36
200 IM	1	Edwards	2:18.27
	2	Nowicke	2:23.83
	3	Dere	2:28.29
100 Fly	3	Larsson	1:03.69
100 Free	1	Brophy	55.21
	2	Nowicke	57.87
100 Back	1	Edwards	1:02.84
	3	Shimmin	1:08.37
500 Free	1	Thornton	5:29.64
	2	DeBoer	5:36.88
100 Breast	1	Zoller	1:14.08
	2	Dere	1:14.17
	3	Chambers	1:14.84
400 Free Relay	1	MIT-A (Zoller, Nowicke, Larsson, DeBoer)	3:53.59
	3	MIT-B (Shimmin, Stephanie A. Sidelko '07, Katrina M. Cornell '06, Jolinta Y. Lin '06)	4:01.87
Men, January 15: MIT 126 – Brandeis 92			
Event	Place	MIT	Result
200 Medley Relay	1	MIT-A (Edwards, Carlucci, Varsanik, Fuzellier)	1:38.32
	3	MIT-B (Revzin, Angle, Liao, Dimitriou)	1:47.74
1000 Free	2	Angle	10:40.02
	3	Harrison K. Hall '08	10:51.09
200 Free	2	Liao	1:49.41
	3	Rosmarin	1:51.39
50 Free	2	Snyder	22.74
	3	Edwards	22.80
200 IM	1	Kao	1:59.82
100 Fly	1	Varsanik	52.85
100 Free	2	Snyder	49.40
	3	Rosmarin	49.91
100 Back	1	Edwards	53.92
	2	Fuzellier	54.77
500 Free	1	Kao	4:54.11
	2	Liao	4:54.37
100 Breast	1	Carlucci	1:00.42
	3	Angle	1:05.54
400 Free Relay	1	MIT-A (Fuzellier, Snyder, Kao, Varsanik)	3:15.91
	3	MIT-B (Rosmarin, Davin F. Fan '08, Revzin, Dimitriou)	3:25.01



STANLEY HU—THE TECH

Coach Larry Anderson, center, gives instructions to the men's basketball team during a time out in overtime play in Babson Park, MA, on Saturday, Jan. 15. MIT lost 85-80 in triple-overtime to Babson College.

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SPORTS

Men's, Women's Swim Teams Win Against Springfield

By Victoria K. Anderson
TEAM ALUMNA

The MIT Men's and Women's Swimming and Diving teams took their first ever pair of victories against New England Women's and Men's Athletic Conference foe Springfield College at home on Sunday, Jan. 16.

The MIT men last beat Springfield in 2001 and the women have not been victorious against them

since 2000; however, at no time have both squads earned dual meet victories over the Pride in the same season. This year, on the other hand, the women won 157-143, and the men took their meet 166-132.

MIT's women were led by two freshman standouts, Julianna K. Edwards '08 and Sasha B. Brophy '08, who each won three individual events. Edwards swept the field in the 100-yard fly, as well as the 100 and 200 back. Her 200 back victory was particularly impressive, as it

involved beating out Springfield senior Megan Skinner, who has won the event by a decisive margin at the NEWMAC Championships the past three years and made the top eight at the NCAA Division III Championships each of those years as well.

Brophy complemented Edwards' work in the stroke events when she won the 50, 100, and 200 free events.

The women's team point total was greatly helped by the efforts of Moria C. Chambers '06 and Melissa

E. Dere '06, who teamed up for a 1-2 finish in the 100 and 200 breast, with Chambers touching first in both races.

Other MIT women scoring victories over the pride included Katherine C. Thornton '07 in the 1650 free and Annika S. Larsson '08 in the 200 fly. Additionally, in the 400 medley relay, Edwards, Dere, Larsson, and Brophy won over Springfield, which has traditionally beaten MIT in the event at dual meets and at the NEWMAC championships.

For the men, the 400 medley relay of Craig M. Edwards '07, Joseph P. Carlucci '05, Jonathan S. Varsanik '05 and Grady A. Snyder '06 set the tone for an MIT-dominated meet by winning the race with nearly 10 seconds over the top squad from Springfield.

Varsanik, Edwards, and Carlucci also racked up two individual wins apiece in the meet, with Varsanik winning the 50 free and 100 fly,

Swimming, Page 15



Sarah N. Trowbridge '08 performs on the balance beam at the gymnastics competition on Saturday, Jan. 15.



Benjamin A. Schreckpeper '05 chases United States Coast Guard Academy's Mike Flint in the 1500 meter race. Schreckpeper came in third place.



Mike Huhs '05 splits three defenders as he goes in for a layup during MIT's 85-80 triple-overtime loss to Babson in Babson Park, MA, on Saturday. Huhs led all players with 24 points and 13 rebounds in the longest game for the Beavers since MIT's five-overtime victory over Wheaton College in 1999.

UPCOMING HOME EVENTS

- Wednesday, January 19**
Varsity Men's Volleyball vs. Emmanuel College
.....Rockwell Cage, 7 p.m.
- Thursday, January 20**
Varsity Men's Basketball vs. Emerson College
.....Rockwell Cage, 7 p.m.
- Friday, January 21**
Varsity Pistol vs. NavyMIT Pistol and Rifle Range, 9 a.m.
Varsity Women's Ice Hockey vs. Bates Club Team
.....Johnson Ice Rink, 7 p.m.
- Saturday, January 22**
Varsity Pistol vs. Navy MIT Pistol and Rifle Range, 9 a.m.
Varsity Men's Track and Field vs. RPI, Williams, Westfield State
..... Johnson Athletics Center, 12 p.m.
Varsity Women's Basketball vs. Smith College
..... Rockwell Cage, 2 p.m.
Varsity Women's Track and Field vs. RPI, Williams, Westfield State
..... Johnsons Athletics Center, 4 p.m.
- Sunday, January 23**
Varsity Men's and Women's Swimming vs. Tufts University
..... Zesiger Center Pool, 1 p.m.

Editor's Note

Due to an editing error, a sentence in Caitlin Murray's article on women's basketball last Wednesday implied that Coach Kristi Straub was inexperienced. In fact, Coach Straub has nine years experience and has led teams to NCAA tournaments. *The Tech* sports department sincerely regrets the error.

—Brian Chase
Sports Editor

Love sports but tired out by running?
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