

FSILGs Face Loss of Option to House Non-MIT Summer Renters

By Omar Abudayyeh
STAFF REPORTER

The ability of Fraternities, Sororities, and Independent Living Groups (FSILGs) to charge and accept non-student summer boarders is in jeopardy. Those boarders have been critical to struggling revenues at FSILGs.

A new committee charged by Dean for Student Life Chris Colombo will be examining whether FSILGs can continue their practice of renting beds to non-MIT affiliates over the summer. The committee will report back to Dean Colombo with the results of their investigation by May 1.

Summer Resident Working Group, plans to have a list of recommendations ready for implementation during the 2010–2011 school year.

After the Institute learned from the Cambridge License Commission and Boston Licensing Board that current licenses only allow for MIT students to live in the FSILG houses, Dean Colombo was prompted to form a committee to investigate current FSILG summer housing policies, said Kaya Miller, the assistant dean for FSILGs.

In past summers, issues with summer housing included trouble collecting rent and boarders outnum-

Summer Housing, Page 10

Bareilles, Hotel Lights To Open for Ben Folds at Spring Weekend Concert

By Elijah Jordan Turner
ASSOCIATE NEWS EDITOR

Sara Bareilles will open this year's Spring Weekend concert, which will be headlined by Ben Folds. Folds will be bringing along the indie band Hotel Lights.

The concert will take place in Johnson Athletic Center at 8 p.m. on Saturday, April 25. MIT community members may purchase tickets online at <http://sao.mit.edu/tickets/>.

Bareilles was selected by the Student Activities Office based on a sur-

vey conducted in the fall, in which students rated ten artists. Bareilles, best known for her 2007 single "Love Song," was the seventh most popular choice, after Jason Mraz, Folds, Dashboard Confessional, Guster, Gym Class Heroes, and O.A.R.

Hotel Lights, formed in 2003 by former Ben Folds Five band member Darren Jessee, will open before Bareilles.

Several students asked about the

Spring Weekend, Page 12



JESSICA LIN—THE TECH

Matthew A. "Baking Chocolate" Ciborowski G (center) and Brian T. "Questions" Basham '12 (right) perform a scene in a "triple dub" format, in which each of three characters speaks for another person, at the Roadkill Buffet's improvisational comedy show Saturday evening in 6-270.

Chorallaries' 'Concert in Bad Taste' Features Comedic, Bawdy Songs

By Maggie Lloyd
STAFF REPORTER

Chances are, if you're Sarah Palin, Barack Obama, or just a member of the MIT community, you got offended by the a cappella group the Chorallaries (or the "Whore-allaries," as they called themselves) at the *n*th Annual Concert in Bad Taste last Saturday night.

From a line that stretched from 26-100 to the Infinite Corridor, students walked straight into a dance party. The lecture hall's chalkboards were decorated with furry Eskimos and Charlie the Unicorn, who was taking it in the rear, while toilet paper rolls were hurled every which way.

As per Bad Taste tradition, the list of the offended was read to the audience by a banana (Tess E. Wise '10). Audience members called for her to "peel it." Cheesy math jokes ("Euler? I hardly know her!"), a Dr. Seuss-inspired, economy-themed story about the administration ("Oh, The Places You'll Not Go!"), and the Bad Taste Top Ten Rejected Video

Games (including Cultural Cultural Revolution, Dr. Mario: OB/GYN, Wii Fat, and MATLAB), were other classics that kept the audience awake until almost three in the morning.

Of course, there were some new elements to this year's Bad Taste. The skits featured some special

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UA and Class Council Candidates

Undergraduate Association	
President / Vice President	Bejamin J. Agre '12 / Razez Lorgat '12 Michael A. Bennie '10 / Margaret K. Delano '10 Ryan W. Jackson '10 / Thomas W. Hay '10
2010 Class Council	
President	Jason A. Scott
Vice President	Laura H. Han
Treasurer	Wen Y. Tang
Secretary	Brittany N. Russo Jeffrey Y. Zhou
Co-Publicity Chairs	Tiffany T. Chu, Crystal J. Mao
Co-Social Chairs	Steven H. Hong, Lynne D. Tye
2011 Class Council	
President	Anshul Bhagi
Vice President	Rishi Dixit
Treasurer	Lulu Wang
Secretary	Kevin A. Rustagi David S. Zhu
Co-Publicity Chairs	Sivakami Sambasivam
Co-Social Chairs	Sheena Bhalla, May Liu Emma M. Rosen, Yu (Jeff) Zhao
2012 Class Council	
President	Nathaniel S. Fox
Vice President	Hannah E. Sparkman
Secretary	Efrain A. Cermenon Christine Chen
Co-Publicity Chairs	Michaela S. LaVan, Ellen B. McIsaac Anjali Muralidhar, Eliana S. Schleifer
Co-Social Chairs	Rena Kuai, Mary X. Wang Kristopher T. Swick, Cynthia Wang

SOURCE: AINSLEY K. BRAUN '10, CHAIR, UA ELECTION COMMISSION

Electronic UA voting opens Monday, March 16 and concludes March 19. Paper balloting is Friday, March 20 in Lobby 10, and the results will be announced the following day. Campaigning officially began Sunday. The UA Presidential/Vice Presidential Debate will be held this Sunday, March 8, on the first floor of the Student Center. The debate, hosted by The Tech and the UA Election Commission, is tentatively scheduled for 8 p.m.

In Short

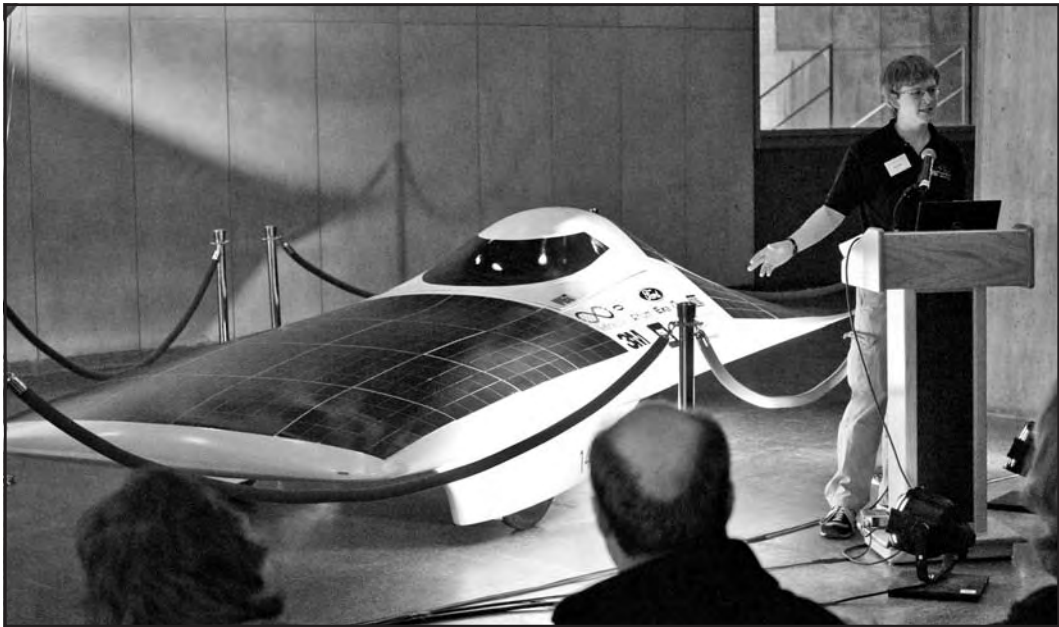
- ¶ The men's basketball team won the first conference championship in their 108-year history with a 76-50 victory over Springfield College on Sunday. The team will play Rhode Island College this Friday night in the first round of the NCAA Division III Tournament.
- ¶ Add Date is this Friday, March 6.
- ¶ The Seventh Annual Latke-Hamentashen Debate will take place

Wednesday night at 8 p.m. in 26-100. Perhaps this year it might not end in a tie.

¶ The Campus Police forced students to leave the area in front of 26-100 on Friday morning, at about 4:40 a.m. A handful of students had been camped out in line for the MIT Chorallaries' Bad Taste concert (see story above, right) since Wednesday night. The students were threatened with trespassing, they said.

East Campus housemaster Thomas J. Delaney and Dean for Student Activities Jed Wartman both contacted former Police Chief John DiFava, who has lodged inquiries within the Police. DiFava said that as far as he was concerned, students should be able to camp out as long as they were not disruptive. Students were back in line on Friday afternoon.

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



SETH A. VILLARREAL—THE TECH

Michael P. Roberts '11, captain of the MIT Solar Electric Vehicle Team, unveils the team's latest solar car, named Eleanor, on Friday. The car is expected to compete in the World Solar Challenge, a 3000 kilometer race through the Australian Outback, in October. Eleanor can reach 90 mph and drive from Boston to New York without recharging.

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WORLD & NATION

A Remake Of AIG Is The Goal Of Rescue

By Mary Williams Walsh THE NEW YORK TIMES

By easing the terms of its \$150 billion rescue package for the American International Group, the government is trying to buy time for the financial conglomerate to slim down and reinvent itself as a simple property and casualty insurer, with a new name, new faces in the boardroom and perhaps an initial public offering in its future.

The government will meanwhile take a preferred stake in the company's crown assets in its fourth attempt to stanch the flow of problems from the insurance giant. The worldwide life insurance division and the Asian insurance operations are being taken off the block, because they are too hard to sell for a reasonable price in the current market and are essentially being used to repay expensive government loans.

The company said Monday that it would create a new holding company, called AIU Holdings, and install its domestic and foreign property and casualty insurance businesses there — with more than 44,000 employees and customers in 130 countries.

China Gets, If Not Relics, At Least A Chance To Snicker At Christie's

By Mark McDonald and Carol Vogel THE NEW YORK TIMES HONG KONG

A Chinese man's assertion that he sabotaged the auction of two Qing dynasty bronzes at Christie's in Paris last week handed Beijing a wry public-relations coup on Monday after it battled for months to block the sale.

A Chinese collector and auctioneer, Cai Mingchao, said at a news conference in Beijing that he had submitted the two winning \$18 million bids for the bronze heads of a rat and a rabbit on Wednesday, but that he had no intention of paying for them. He described himself as a consultant for a nongovernmental group that seeks to bring looted artifacts back to China, and said he had acted out of patriotic duty.

Beijing had vigorously protested the sale of the heads, saying they were looted from an imperial palace outside Beijing in the 19th century and should be returned to China. A group of Chinese lawyers tried to block the auction, but a French court allowed it to proceed. Several Western cultural-property experts said that whatever moral arguments might favor Beijing, it had no legal claim to the bronzes.

Chip Makers' Sales Plunge As Consumers Cut Back

By Ashlee Vance THE NEW YORK TIMES MOUNTAIN VIEW, CALIF.

While accustomed to the boom-and-bust nature of their industry, the companies making the semiconductor chips that run computers, cell phones, digital cameras and even cars find themselves in the middle of a collapse in sales that resembles total chaos.

With sales of most manufactured goods plunging in this recession, demand for chips is evaporating. In January alone, chip sales plummeted by almost a third from the previous year, to \$15.3 billion, according to the Semiconductor Industry Association.

"This is the worst recession the semiconductor industry has seen since its inception," said Sean M. Maloney, the chief sales and marketing officer at Intel, at a news conference Monday.

Consumers have benefited from some of the underlying turmoil. Smartphones and the cheap laptops known as netbooks are getting more powerful even as they drop in price. And the prices for the memory chips used to store information in iPods, digital cameras and cable set-top boxes are plummeting as the companies making the products grapple with overcapacity at their factories.

Major chip makers like Intel, Advanced Micro Devices and Nvidia have felt the sting of businesses and consumers curtailing their spending on computers.

Sanctuaries Established for Abused Afghan Women

By Kirk Semple THE NEW YORK TIMES KABUL, AFGHANISTAN

Mariam was 11 in 2003 when her parents forced her to marry a blind 41-year-old cleric. The bride price of \$1,200 helped Mariam's father, a drug addict, pay off a debt.

Mariam was taken to live with her new husband and his mother-in-law, who, she says, treated her like a servant. They began to beat her when she failed to conceive a child. After two years of abuse, she fled and sought help at a police station in Kabul.

Until only a few years ago, the Afghan police would probably have rewarded Mariam for her courage by throwing her in jail — traditional mores forbid women to be alone on the street — or returning her to her husband.

Instead, the police delivered her to a plain, two-story building in a residential neighborhood: a women's shelter, something that was unknown here before 2003.

Since the overthrow of the Taliban in 2001, a more egalitarian notion of women's rights has begun to take hold, founded in the country's

new constitution and promoted by the newly created Ministry of Women's Affairs and a small community of women's advocates.

The problems they are confronting are deeply ingrained in a culture that has been mainly governed by tribal law. But they are changing the lives of young women like Mariam, now 17. Still wary of social stigma, she did not want her full name used.

"Simply put, this is a patriarchal society," said Manizha Naderi, director of Women for Afghan Women, one of four organizations that run shelters in Afghanistan. "Women are the property of men. This is tradition."

Women's shelters have been criticized as a foreign intrusion in Afghan society, where familial and community problems have traditionally been resolved through the mediation of tribal leaders and councils. But women's advocates insist that those outcomes almost always favor the men.

Forced marriages involving girls have been part of the social compacts between tribes and families for centuries, and they continue, though the legal marrying age is now 16 for

women and 18 for men. Beating, torture and trafficking of women remain common and are broadly accepted, women's advocates say.

Until the advent of the shelters, a woman in an abusive marriage usually had nowhere to turn. If she tried to seek refuge with her own family, her brothers or father might return her to her husband, to protect the family's honor. Women who eloped might be cast out of the family altogether.

Many women resort to suicide, some by self-immolation, to escape their misery, according to Afghan and international human rights advocates.

"Our aim is not to put women in the shelter if it's not necessary," said Naderi, who was born in Afghanistan but grew up in New York City and graduated from Hunter College. "Only in cases where it's dangerous for the women to go back home, that's when we put them in the shelter."

If mediation fails, Naderi said, her organization's lawyers will pursue a divorce on behalf of their clients. Cases involving criminal allegations are referred to the attorney general's office.

Bush Administration Releases Memos On Terror

By Neil A. Lewis THE NEW YORK TIMES

The secret legal opinions issued by Bush administration lawyers after the Sept. 11 attacks included assertions that the president could use the nation's military within the United States to combat people deemed as terrorists and to conduct raids without obtaining a search warrant.

That opinion was among nine that were disclosed publicly for the first time on Monday by the Justice Department, in what the Obama administration portrayed as a step toward greater transparency. The opinions showed a broad interpretation of presidential authority, asserting as well that the president could unilaterally abrogate foreign treaties, deal with detainees suspected of terrorism while rejecting input from Congress, and conduct a warrantless eavesdropping program.

Some of the legal positions had

previously become known from statements made by Bush administration officials in response to court challenges and congressional inquiries. But the opinions provided the clearest illustration to date of the broad definition of presidential power that was approved by government lawyers, including John C. Yoo and Jay S. Bybee, in the months following the Sept. 11 attacks.

In a memorandum dated Jan. 15, 2009, just before President George W. Bush left office, a top Justice Department wrote that the earlier memorandums had not been relied on since 2003. But the official, Stephen G. Bradbury, who headed the Office of Legal Counsel, said it was important to acknowledge in writing "the doubtful nature of these propositions," and he used the memo to formally repudiate the opinions.

Bradbury said that the earlier memorandums were the product of lawyers

confronting "novel and complex questions in a time of great danger and under extraordinary time pressure."

The opinion authorizing the military to operate on domestic territory was dated Oct. 23, 2001, and written by Yoo, at the time a deputy assistant attorney general, and Robert J. Delahunty, a special counsel. It was directed to Alberto R. Gonzales, then the White House counsel who had asked whether Bush could use the military to combat terrorist activities inside the United States.

"The law has recognized that force (including deadly force) may be legitimately used in self-defense," Yoo wrote to Gonzales. Any objections based on the Fourth Amendment's prohibition against unreasonable searches would vanish, he said, because any privacy offense that comes with such a search would be less than any injury from deadly force.

WEATHER

Just When You Thought Winter Was Over...

By Angela Zalucha STAFF METEOROLOGIST

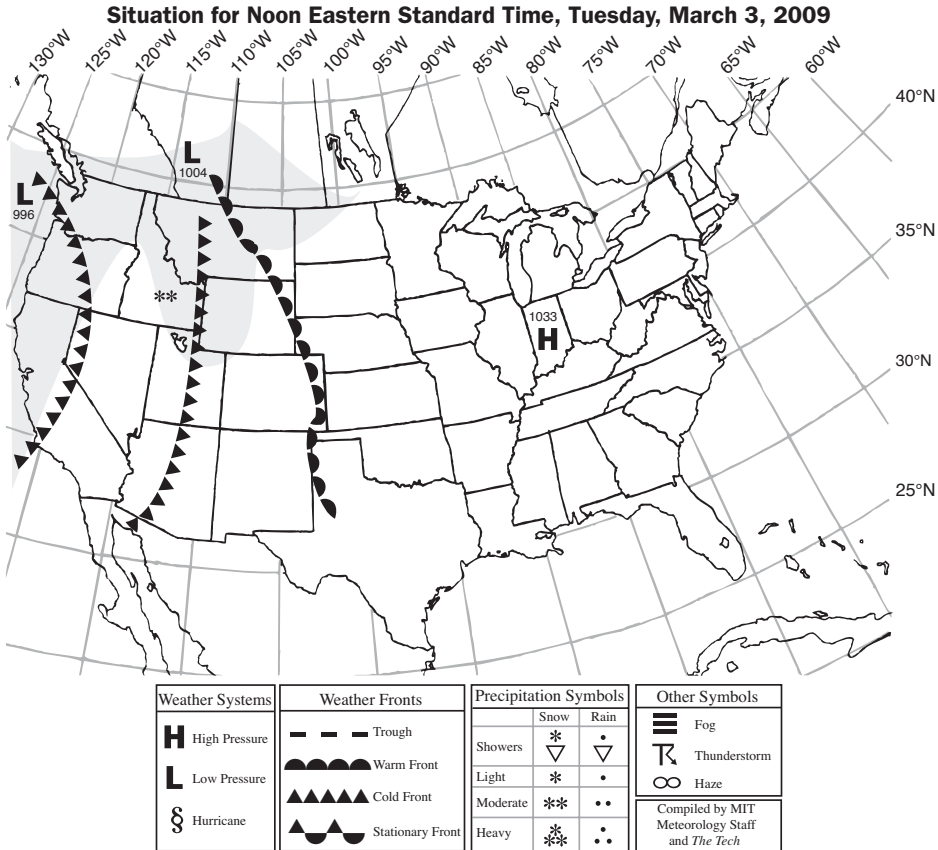
The classic nor'easter swept through New England Monday morning, dumping 7.5 inches of snow at Logan airport (as of Monday afternoon).

Nor'easters, so named because the wind blows from the northeast during the storm, are low pressure systems that develop off the coast of the Carolinas, where the air is relatively warm and moist. As they move northward and encounter colder air in New England, they cannot hold onto their moisture and begin producing precipitation. The type of precipitation is sensitive to the track of the system. If the nor'easter moves far enough inland, Boston and Cape Cod receive rain while northern New England receives snow. If the nor'easter tracks eastward out to sea, Boston and Cape Cod receive snow. If the center of the nor'easter passes over the 40/70 benchmark (at 40°N latitude, 70°W longitude), Boston receives heavy snow.

Temperatures for the work week will remain below freezing and drop into the teens at night. Tomorrow and Thursday will be sunny, but a weak low pressure system will bring clouds on Friday.

Extended Forecast

Today: Mostly cloudy. High 27°F (-3°C).
Tonight: Mostly Clear. Low 13°F (-11°C).
Tomorrow: Sunny. High 30°F (-1°C).
Tomorrow Night: Clear. Low 18°F (-8°C).
Thursday: Sunny. High 30°F (-1°C).
Thursday Night: Clear. Low 18°F (-8°C).
Friday: Cloudy. High 32°F (0°C).



Stocks Tumble Across the Globe Amid Economic Worries

By **Floyd Norris**
THE NEW YORK TIMES

Fears that the world’s economies are even weaker than had been thought ricocheted around the globe on Monday as investors from Hong Kong, to London, to New York bailed out of stocks.

Losses cascaded from one market to the next as concern spread that government efforts so far have not been enough to stabilize troubled financial institutions or broader economies.

The losses were bad everywhere but were especially severe in Europe, where an emergency summit meeting over the weekend ended in bickering and the rejection of a bailout plea from Hungary.

In the United States, the Dow Jones industrial average fell below 7,000 for the first time since 1997 as investors reacted to reports that construction and industrial activity has continued to decline and to a \$61.7 billion loss posted by the insurance giant, the American International Group. It was the largest quarterly loss ever for a company.

In Britain, the major stock market index lost 5.3 percent, and the perfor-

mance of the major Italian index was worse, declining 6 percent. With the dollar also gaining, the losses were even greater for international investors in those markets.

In the United States, the Dow fell 299.64 points, or 4.24 percent, to 6,763.29, while the Standard & Poor’s 500-stock index fell 34.27 points, or 4.66 percent, to 700.82. The Nasdaq composite ended 54.99 points, or 3.99 percent, lower, at 1,322.85.

Crude oil settled at \$40.15 a barrel, down \$4.61.

“It’s pretty despondent everywhere,” said Dwyfor Evans, a strategist at State Street Global Markets in Hong Kong. “OK, there are signs that some of the leading indicators have stabilized to some extent, but it’s at a very, very low level, and we’re not seeing corporate investment picking up, or consumers starting to spend again — in other words, the traditional mechanisms by which economies come out of a recession are absent at this time.”

Hopes that the U.S. economy, which led the world into recession, might lead it back out later this year have been receding.

Over the weekend, the billionaire investor Warren E. Buffett, the chairman of Berkshire Hathaway, wrote in his company’s annual report that “the economy will be in shambles, throughout 2009, and, for that matter, probably well beyond.”

As if to emphasize the problems, the Institute for Supply Management reported that companies in Britain, France, Germany, Italy and the United States said business was getting much worse, particularly in terms of jobs.

Paul Dales, an economist with Capital Economics, pointed to the survey in forecasting that the February employment report will show a decline of 785,000 jobs when it is released on Friday. If so, it would be the largest one-month decline in employment in nearly 60 years.

Last week, the United States revised its estimate of fourth-quarter gross domestic product to show a decline at an annual rate of 6.2 percent, the worst in more than a quarter century. On Monday in reporting that construction activity fell sharply in January, the government also revised the December figure lower.

Suit Seeks To Force Government To Extend Benefits To Same-Sex Couples

By **Abby Goodnough and Katie Zezima**
THE NEW YORK TIMES

BOSTON

The legal advocacy group that successfully argued for sex-same marriage in Massachusetts intends to file suit here on Tuesday seeking some federal benefits for spouses in such marriages.

The target is the Defense of Marriage Act, passed by Congress in 1996, which prohibits the federal government from recognizing same-sex marriage. That law denies federal benefits, like Social Security survivors’ payments, to spouses in such marriages.

Because same-sex marriage is allowed in only two states, Massachusetts and Connecticut, the number of spouses who are denied such benefits is fairly small. But Gay and Lesbian Advocates and Defenders, the group planning to file the federal suit, believes the number will grow as more states consider granting gay and lesbian couples the right to marry.

At least eight other states, including New York, are considering same-sex marriage bills.

The suit, to be filed in U.S. District Court in Boston, does not challenge a separate provision of the act that says states do not have to recognize same-sex marriages performed in other states.

And while the Government Accountability Office has identified more than 1,100 federal statutory provisions in which marital status is a factor in rights and benefits, the suit focuses narrowly on equal protection as applied to Social Security, federal income tax, federal employees and retirees, and the issuance of passports.

A Review Site Called Yelp Draws Some Outcries Of Its Own

By **Claire Cain Miller**

THE NEW YORK TIMES

SAN FRANCISCO

For computer and cell phone users in big American cities, Yelp has become a popular Web site for ranting, raving or just reading about local businesses, from the auto mechanic to the neighborhood watering hole.

Built almost entirely on 5 million reviews by zealous volunteers, the five-year-old San Francisco company shows how the Internet can amplify the voices of individuals to provide useful information to the community.

But as with other big sites that rely heavily on user reviews, like TripAdvisor, Amazon.com and CNet, Yelp is struggling to serve the competing needs of the reviewed businesses, some of whom advertise, and the users, who can safely and anonymously say anything they want.

Yelp has made some recent changes to please business owners. Yet it still refuses to investigate reviews accused of being inaccurate or permit businesses to respond to reviews on the site. Instead, the company operates on the premise that reviewers tend to be truthful and that greater accuracy will emerge from more reviews.

But as the company tries to expand beyond its current 24 cities, maintain its lead over rivals and become profitable, it is beginning to realize that it needs to build trust with businesses, too — especially since their ads provide almost all of the company’s revenue.

Short Of Dentists, Maine Adds Teeth To Doctors’ Training

By **Katie Zezima**

THE NEW YORK TIMES

FAIRFIELD, MAINE

Cindy Merrithew was nervous about having her teeth pulled, mainly because a doctor would be doing the work.

“I was skeptical,” said Merrithew, 47, a nurse’s assistant whose mouth is filled with damaged, brittle teeth. “I didn’t know if they knew much about the dentistry field.”

Dentists are in such short supply in Maine that primary care doctors who do their medical residency in the state are learning to lance abscesses, pull teeth and perform other basic dental skills through a program that began in 2005.

“Doctors typically approach the mouth from a distance,” said Dr. William Alto, a physician at the Maine Dartmouth Family Practice Residency here in rural Fairfield, which conducts one of two dental clinics for medical residents (the other is at Maine General Hospital in Augusta).

“They say ‘say aah,’ take a look at the back of the throat and are done,” Alto said. “Many physicians, even family physicians, have given up that part of the body because they don’t have the skills.”

Maine has one dentist for every 2,300 people, compared with one doctor for every 640, and the gap is expected to widen as both dentists and doctors retire over the next decade. Nationally there is one dentist for every 1,600 people.

Finding The Facts Of A Case Via Video

By **Adam Liptak**

THE NEW YORK TIMES

WASHINGTON

The Supreme Court is entering the YouTube era.

The first citation in a petition filed with the court last month, for instance, was not to an affidavit or legal precedent but rather to a YouTube video link. The video shows what is either appalling police brutality or a measured response to an arrested man’s intransigence — you be the judge.

Such evidence verite has the potential to unsettle the way appellate judges do their work, according to a new study in The Harvard Law Review. If Supreme Court justices can see for themselves what happened in a case, the study suggests, they may be less inclined to defer to the factual findings of jurors and to the conclusions of lower-court judges.

In 2007, for instance, the Supreme Court considered the case of a Georgia man who was paralyzed when his car was rammed by the police in a high-speed chase. The chase was recorded by a camera on the squad car’s dashboard, and that video dominated the court’s analysis.

The federal appeals court in Atlanta had ruled for the driver, Victor Harris, at a preliminary stage in the case, saying a jury should decide whether his driving warranted the aggressive measures taken by the police.

Fannie and Freddie Likely to Stay In U.S. Hands

By **Charles Duhibg**
THE NEW YORK TIMES

Despite assurances that the takeover of Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac would be temporary, the giant mortgage companies will most likely never fully return to private hands, lawmakers and company executives are beginning quietly to acknowledge.

The possibility that these companies — which together touch over half of all mortgages in the United States — could remain under tight government control is shaping the broader debate over the future of the financial industry. The worry is that if the government cannot or will not extricate itself from Fannie and Freddie, it will face similar problems should it eventually nationalize some large banks.

The lesson, many fear, is that a takeover so hobbles a company’s finances and decision-making that independence may be nearly impossible.

In the past six weeks alone, the Obama administration has essentially transformed Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac into arms of the federal government. Regulators have ordered the companies to oversee a vast new

mortgage modification program, to buy greater numbers of loans, to refinance millions of at-risk homeowners and to loosen internal policies so they can work with more questionable borrowers.

Lawmakers have given the companies access to as much as \$400 billion in taxpayer dollars, a sum more than twice as large as the pledges to Citigroup, Bank of America, JPMorgan Chase, General Motors, Wells Fargo, Goldman Sachs and Morgan Stanley combined.

Regulators defend those actions as essential to battling the economic crisis. Indeed, Fannie and Freddie are basically the only lubricants in the housing market at this point.

But those actions have caused collateral damage at the companies. On Monday, Freddie Mac’s chief executive, David M. Moffett, unexpectedly resigned less than six months after he was recruited by regulators, having chafed at low pay and the burdens of second-guessing by government officials, according to people with knowledge of the situation. Fannie Mae has also experienced a wave of defections as people leave for better-paying and

less scrutinized jobs.

Last week, Fannie Mae announced that it lost \$58.7 billion in 2008, more than all its net profits since 1992. Freddie Mac is also expected to reveal record losses in coming days.

Most important, by taking over the companies, lawmakers have gained a lever over the housing market and national economy that many — particularly Democrats — are loath to discard, legislators say.

“Once government gets a new tool, it’s virtually impossible to take it away,” said Rep. Scott Garrett, R-N.J., a member of the Financial Services banking subcommittee. “And Fannie and Freddie are now tools of the government.”

One reason that Fannie and Freddie will never return to their earlier forms is simple mathematics: To become independent, Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac must repay the taxpayer dollars invested in the companies, plus interest. Even if the firms achieve profitability, it could take them as long as 100 years — or longer — to pay back the government. And almost no one expects the companies to return to profitability anytime soon.

In Secret Letter Last Month, Obama Offered Deal To Russia

By **Peter Baker**
THE NEW YORK TIMES

WASHINGTON

President Barack Obama sent a secret letter to Russia’s president last month suggesting that he would back off deploying a new missile defense system in Eastern Europe if Moscow would help stop Iran from developing long-range weapons, American officials said Monday.

The letter to President Dmitri A. Medvedev was hand-delivered in Moscow by top administration officials three weeks ago. It said the United States would not need to proceed with the interceptor system, which has been vehemently opposed by Russia since it was proposed by the Bush administration, if Iran halted any efforts to build nuclear warheads and ballistic missiles.

The officials who described the contents of the message insisted on anonymity because it has not been made public. While they said it did not offer a direct quid pro quo, the letter was intended to give Moscow incentive to join the United States in a common front against Iran. Russia’s

military, diplomatic and commercial ties to Tehran give it some influence there, but it has often resisted Washington’s hard line against Iran.

Moscow has not responded, but a Russian official said Monday that Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov would have something to say on missile defense to Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton when they meet Saturday in Geneva. Obama and Medvedev will then meet for the first time on April 2 in London, officials said Monday.

Obama’s letter, sent in response to one he received from Medvedev shortly after his inauguration, represents part of an effort to “press the reset button” on Russian-American relations, as Vice President Joe Biden put it last month. Among other things, the letter discussed negotiations to extend a strategic arms treaty expiring this year and cooperation in opening supply routes to Afghanistan.

The plan to build a high-tech radar facility in the Czech Republic and deploy 10 interceptor missiles in Poland — a part of the world that

Russia once considered its sphere of influence — was a top priority for President George W. Bush to deter Iran in case it developed a nuclear warhead to fit atop its long-range missiles. Bush never accepted a Moscow proposal to install part of the missile defense system on its territory and jointly operate it so it could not be used against Russia.

Now the Obama administration appears to be reconsidering that idea, although it is not clear if it would want to put part of the system on Russian soil where it could be flipped on or off by Russians. Obama has been lukewarm on missile defense, saying he supports it only if it can be proved technically effective and affordable.

Bush also stressed the linkage between the Iranian threat and missile defense, but Obama’s overture reformulates it in a way designed to appeal to the Russians, who long ago soured on the Bush administration. Officials have been hinting at the possibility of an agreement in recent weeks, and Obama’s proposal was reported on Monday by a Moscow newspaper, Kommersant.



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OPINION

Uncertainty Threatens UA Elections

With the issues of dining reform, GIR overhaul, and severe budget cuts on the horizon, more than ever the Undergraduate Association requires strong student leaders that have the confidence of the student body and the respect of the administrators they will engage.

Editorial

The only way to ensure that the UA's executive officers are speaking on behalf of the student body is through a fair, transparent, and unbiased election process.

For this reason, it is of the utmost importance that the current leaders of the UA take steps to ensure that the upcoming elections are free of taint or even the perception of impropriety.

However, poorly written policies and holes in the UA's governing documents have left the process vulnerable and have made it particularly difficult to resolve charges of conflict of interest by the very people charged with running the process—regardless of whether they are valid or specious. We would like to recommend some changes to ensure that the process remains reliable.

According to the UA Constitution, elections are planned, supervised, and executed by an independent Elections Commission (ElectComm) guided by an Elections Code. The Elections Commission, led by the Commissioner, also consists of a Technical Coordinator—whose responsibility it is to execute the online voting system—and a number of other members responsible for publicity and enforcing elections rules.

This year—though it runs counter to the traditional independence of the Commission—the Technical Coordinator, Evan Broder '10, was simultaneously appointed to ElectComm and to the UA Exec position of Chief of Information Technology (CIT). Though this act in and of itself does not explicitly violate any specific clause of the UA's governing documents, it threatens to infringe on the separation of powers among the Association's branches.

This concern is doubled in this case since the CIT is responsible to the UA Vice President, himself a candidate in this upcoming election.

Upon receiving a complaint from a third party regarding the potential for conflict of interest from this arraignment, the Elections Commissioner attempted to address the matter; however, the UA codes in this situation are decidedly vague. There is no

clear protocol for addressing conflict of interest disputes amongst commissioners and there is also no statute governing the removal of members of ElectComm.

Because of the ambiguity of the UA's governing documents and given that Mr. Broder initially refused to step down, the situation quickly deteriorated—threatening to disrupt the election schedule. In the process of attempting to address the situation, members of the UA Exec were forced to step in to mediate and to help formulate contingency measures.

After a prolonged dispute, Mr. Broder eventually proffered his resignation in a strongly worded message, but the conflict has illustrated a significant weakness in how the UA organizes and governs its own elections. We encourage the UA Senate to implement the following reforms to help shield the process from such issues in future years:

First, the UA should explicitly charge its Judicial Board (JudBoard) with adjudicating claims of conflict of interest and/or dereliction of duty on the part of members of the Election Commission. JudBoard should also be empowered to censure or remove them.

Second, sitting members of the UA Executive Committee and the Principal Officers of the Senate should be enjoined from sitting on the Election Commission.

Third, the Senate should formalize the relationships between the Election Commission and the other branches of the UA such as Exec. It should be made clear that while ElectComm is responsible to the UA as a whole for running a reliable election and that regular reports to the President should be commonplace, the Elections Commission is not subject to Executive authority and is in fact an independent entity.

Fourth, a provision should be made to have the code that runs the UA elections audited on a regular basis by a disinterested third-party—designated by the Senate—to ensure that it is written in a fair and secure manner.

By more clearly defining the procedure for dealing with potential conflicts of interest and by making the separation of authority in these situations explicit, the UA can more readily combat both the overt and the subtle biases that have the potential to taint future elections.

A Technical Solution to a Human Problem

By Michael McGraw-Herdeg

DISSENTING

The only threat “to disrupt the ability to run a timely election” in the latest fiasco from the Undergraduate Association's Election Commission came from the leaders who decided to fire their computer guy three weeks before he was supposed to start running the elections.

The UA could avoid future messes like this by making more commitments do more work to try to adjudicate claims of bias. Or it could preempt many concerns with a simple technical solution: publish the code.

Let students inspect the software that former Technical Coordinator Evan Broder '10 was going to run, and let students themselves decide whether he could have altered the election's outcome for political gain. If he could have tampered with votes or otherwise shown bias, then any possible replacement could too—and the fact that those replacements' bias is not as well-known should not be reassuring. If the system allows

for such bias to intervene, then it needs to be fixed.

Unless the elections system is public, there's no way to gauge what threat, if any, is posed by having a political appointee run that system. I happen to think he hardly posed any threat at all, but how can I really know? In a closed system, there's no way students can possibly trust that whoever runs the system will not affect the election's outcome for whatever reason.

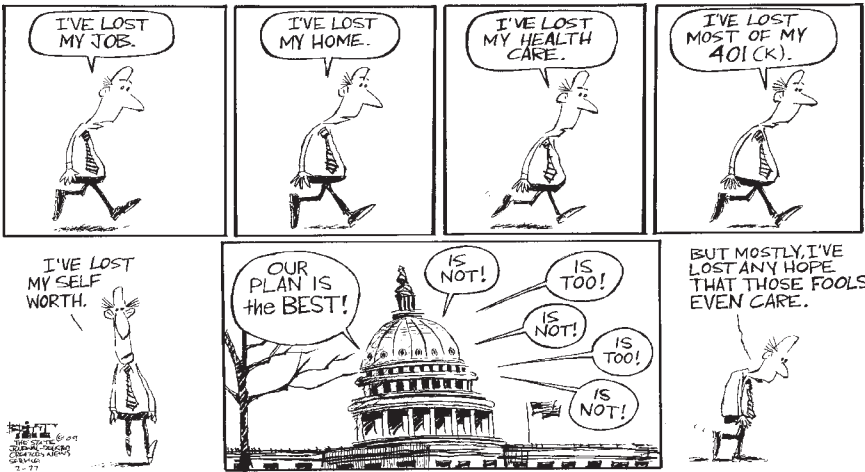
To be sure, there may be those who say that revealing the source code of a voting system will expose its flaws for anyone to abuse. But without scrutiny, how can a closed-source system ever improve? How do we even know now that votes are being counted properly?

When the UA forced the resignation of a perfectly good software engineer, they meant to ensure that students felt confident in the integrity of the election system. Instead, they increased the odds that something will go wrong by March 16, when online voting is to begin. That's hardly a confidence-booster.

And I don't feel very good about an election where I can't see the software that counts the votes.

Corrections

An article Friday about MIT's property development at 650 Main Street gave an incorrect affiliation for Michael K. Owu '86. He is Director of Real Estate for the MIT Investment Management Company; he is not the Director of the Center for Real Estate. The Center for Real Estate is an academic center associated with the School of Architecture and Planning; the MIT-IMCo manages the financial resources of the Institute.



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Obama’s Vision of Change: A United States of Soviet Socialist Republics

Anurag Maheshwari

President Barack Obama’s recent address to Congress started with a promise that he would speak freely and candidly. He acknowledged that the confidence of the American people has been badly shaken as the recession gains momentum, job losses mount, and certainty in the future erodes. He promised the American people that the nation would rebuild and recover stronger than ever.

But even as Obama received plaudits from his media friends for doing his impression of a straight-shooting pragmatist, his diagnoses and proposals belied his true nature as a partisan liberal ideologue. Obama’s speech was full of misrepresentations, omissions and a dangerous willingness to overstep the boundaries of what the federal government’s role ought to be in our society.

The hyper-centralization of everything—from education and health care to our banking system and energy policy—is gradually shifting us towards a cradle-to-grave sovietization of our entire economy, instituting a debilitating dependency of individuals on government for everything in their life.

Obama recognized that lax credit streams from irresponsible bankers were responsible for the housing bubble, but what was missing in his address was a recognition that ALL bubbles, whether dot-com, biotech, or housing, are ultimately lax-credit bubbles, a symptom of predatory malinvestment.

The Glass-Steagall Act (GSA), passed during the height of the great depression, was the cornerstone of the American banking regulatory system for more than 65 years until 1999, when Larry Summers, then Treasury Secretary under President Clinton, lobbied for it to be repealed. This same Larry Summers is now the Director of National Economic Council and Obama’s closest economic advisor. The repeal

of GSA enabled financial markets to engage in legalized fraud under the guise of Structured Investment Vehicles, a type of fund in the ‘shadow banking system’.

From 1999 to 2008, the credit default insurance market skyrocketed from virtually zero to more than \$50 trillion while the entire stock market barely doubled from \$11.2 trillion to near \$20 trillion. This unprecedented leveraging of the U.S. economy was the handiwork of Summers and his cronies. The infamous sub-prime mortgage market fattened from a tiny 4.5% of all mortgage lending to a monstrous 33% by the time the crisis peaked at the end of July 2008.

Obama did not say a single word about the Glass-Steagall Act, its repeal, or whether it will be reinstated. Media propaganda claims that Republicans were in favor of deregulation and the Democrats were against it, but in reality the repeal was a bi-partisan effort, merrily signed into law by President Clinton during his second term.

Instead, Obama’s address was all over the place, bouncing from infrastructure, to tax cuts, to welfare, to energy, to health care and education. And while it’s true that these challenges must be dealt with, we must first recognize the two core problems which threaten our ability to answer these challenges in the long-term.

First, any solution is going to require funding, and if these first weeks of the administration are any indication, the funds will be made available by increasing the money supply as well as foreign and federal debt. Given the shrinking role of the real economy, particularly the manufacturing sector, this reckless move will lead to the long term destabilization of

domestic economy and a precipitous decline in our standard of living. Obama’s plan to cut the deficit in half by the end of his term is a charade—he’s already added \$1.2 trillion to our national debt just to satisfy his congressional cronies. Any promise to not do so again is hollow.

The second problem is the gargantuan, all-pervasive federal bureaucracy which has become a permanent Washington D.C. fixture. Truth be told, issues like education, health care, and welfare programs should be dealt with at the local level, not by some Washington special interest group. A more responsible way to tackle our economic problems is to lower federal taxes and let states and counties develop their own solutions rather than force the country into a one-size-fits-all federal straitjacket.

If Obama truly wanted to be progressive, he could have cut the number of tax brackets from seven to three, so that the federal taxes for bottom 90% wage earners could be uniformly reduced to no more than 5%, for the next 9.9% to no more than 15% while the taxes for the top 0.1% wealthy could be raised to 90%. Cutting capital gains tax for small businesses and reducing the corporate tax for high-tech and clean energy enterprises, coupled with shrinking the size of federal government (already at 21% of GDP) would ensure freedom and social justice.

The two elephants in the room which Obama did not, and perhaps never will, address are congressional oversight of the Federal Reserve and overseas military spending. All malinvestment and credit bubbles are a result of our secretive fractional reserve banking system. Free from accountability, the Fed neither

discloses its operations to Congress nor does Congress exercise any control over the trillions of dollars that the Fed adds annually to money supply. Obama’s rhetoric of disciplining and oversight of Wall Street shamelessly ignores this fundamental reality.

While Obama was quick to honor the service of our brave soldiers and rail against cold-war era weapons systems, his rhetoric cloaked the fact that now we have more than 700 military bases in more than 60 countries around the world.

This hyper-extension of U.S. military power is reminiscent of the evil empire against whom we spent half a century in a titanic struggle. In the address, there was no plan on bringing our troops and war machine home. No plan to dissolve cold-war era NATO. No plan to divest our vast colonial holdings in Europe and Asia and save hundreds of billions of dollars without altering our primacy or destabilizing the balance of power.

We cannot succeed in the Middle East unless most American and foreign troops, seen as colonial occupiers, are withdrawn from that region. A few thousand American peacekeeping troops could be deployed in Cyprus, Bahrain, Egypt, and Jordan to provide a security envelope for Israel and protect the vital shipping lanes in the Persian Gulf, the Red Sea, and the Mediterranean until a workable solution to Arab-Israeli conflict can be found and the enduring problem of international terrorism can be resolved. In the Pacific our presence in Guam and Okinawa is all we need to buffer China. The resources saved could easily be used to reduce the federal debt, expand our industrial production, and make our military stronger.

Obama’s address was high on false hopes that reckless spending without cutting our overseas empire is a panacea to our current problems and future prosperity. It fell short on real change.

“The hyper-centralization of everything ... is gradually shifting us towards a cradle-to-grave sovietization of our entire economy...”

It’s Dangerous to Go Alone!



Take This.

photo@tech.mit.edu

CAMPUS LIFE

Squid vs. Whale

Life Moves Forward

By Charles Lin
SENIOR EDITOR

I am a long way from Texas. If I were in Texas, I would not be freezing my balls off. On Friday, the 27th of February, 2009, the high in San Antonio, TX—the city where I grew up—was 92 degrees. I shit you not. 92 degrees. That is six degrees separated from a boy band and hot enough for swimming. Chapstick. That’s how I know I’m a long way from home. Burt’s Bees Wax Pomegranate Lip Balm. It is the greatest thing ever recommended to me—and the reason my lips aren’t bleeding profusely.

Today, I finished an entire stick of it. You have no idea how much of an accomplishment this is. Seriously.

This is what happened to my last six sticks of chapstick. 1) Melted in dryer in right jeans pocket, 2) melted in dryer in left jeans pocket, 3) loaned to a friend, never returned, 4) loaned to a certain friend, did not want back for fear of herpes, 5) lost, 6) relegated to drawer somewhere. I have never finished an entire chapstick. I’ve never needed to. But here, it is effing cold. Constantly. I have to humidify my room. I’ve sealed my windows with that shrink wrap shit. My guitar cracked because it was so cold. That’s how cold it is.

Screw you, New England.

It happened to me last year. I was fine all winter until one day in February, I overslept, crawled out of bed, and realized how awful this place can be. It’s like the cumulative weight of three freezing months dropping on me like an icicle from the post-doc deathtrap sidewalk in front of the Broad Institute. And normally when that day comes, I skip work and try to get some vitamin D and dopamine.

However, this year, I thought, chapstick. One stick gone. From start to finish. I don’t know why I thought this. I’m assuming it’s a coping mechanism. I also think it’s a sign that maybe I’m adapting.

I’ve always considered myself a Texan. I spent 18 years growing up there. I can shoot a gun and ride a horse (not at the same time, unfortunately). I’ve dabbled in Republican-ism. I own boots. These are qualifying marks.

Here, I have overcoats and a nice collection of scarves. They make me happy.

I go outside when it’s forty degrees out and think it’s a warm day. I jog over patches of ice. I cope. I learn. I adapt. I accept.

My Texan-self circa 2001 would not accept running in sub-freezing temperatures.

But I don’t weigh 130 pounds and worship the Dave Matthews Band anymore. I can’t run the 100-meter dash in under twelve seconds. And the only things left of me from the way-back-when machine are a guitar from 8th grade and pre-1994 five books. That’s really it. *Jonathan Livingston Seagull*; *Contact*; *My Side of the Mountain*; *Surely You’re Joking, Mr. Feynman!*; and *Drama in the 19th Century*.

I’ve been thumbing over them the last few nights. I’ve been thinking of sweaty August evenings in Texas without air conditioning. Damp fingers flipping pages in the din of cicadas. Lingering heat, brush and hill country. I prayed for colder weather, I wished it wasn’t so effing hot.

I got my wish. And in between wondering if one day I’ll get my revenge for the granting of that wish, I think I’m starting to accept that it’s okay to be cold sometimes.

I am using my spare time to find pen pals online and planning expeditions out to sea. I am sit-

ting in my car warming my hands by the vents. I am checking the mail for postcards from warmer lands.

I am debating what chapstick to buy next. Maybe cherry? Maybe something with eucalyptus. Maybe that honeycomb stuff...

In the meantime, I still wear tights when I run bridge loops. I think I will for another few weeks. On the river, the geese gather at the edges of the ice. I like how the water and ice reflect the evening light.

In the Trader Joe’s parking lot, the snowdrifts recede to free buried shopping carts. The wimpy sunlight pierces my window for fifteen minutes between four and five in the afternoon. I spend nights at my desk with a cup of tea watching the snow fall and the wind blow.

A girl I once loved was fond of quoting this line from a Christopher Durang play: “Back in 1939 they couldn’t say ‘Frankly, my dear, I don’t give a damn.’ Now we can say fuck and show decapitations. So life moves forward.”

She’s somewhere in Texas now, God bless her. And I’m up here in New England, where we’re all Godless liberals to begin with.

So life moves forward.

And somewhere in Texas, there’s an old pair of jeans with an oily chapstick stain, the size of a quarter, lingering at the bottom of a pocket.

Ramblings From Hell

For All The Lonely Men Out There

By S. Campbell Proehl
STAFF COLUMNIST

It is Friday night at 8:00 p.m., and I am sitting with crumbs from what was formerly a \$16.99 block of parmesan. My cable hasn’t been working for the past two days. This is unfortunate, because I returned to my apartment ten minutes ago filled with the desire to do nothing but finish this parmesan and watch C-SPAN.

I like C-SPAN, but only on certain days. Only on days like today.

Lately everything has gone wrong. I buy coffee and walk a mile before I take a sip and realize that I forgot to add cream. The logistics of my lab schedule don’t work out. I spend hours attempting to solve problems that I will never understand. I mistype e-mail addresses. I study the wrong material.

After a while, the many mistakes and misfortunes start to have an effect on me. I know they shouldn’t—I am young, smart, and well-educated, and I have it better than 99% of the people on this earth. But it’s all relative, and sometimes I think I deserve to feel sorry for myself. It can get lonely here.

I normally just pop in my headphones, hold my head high, and walk down the Infinite every day, just like everyone else. If everyone else can do it, I should be able to as well. So I walk. I walk quickly so that I don’t have to linger and think about how much time I spend alone at this school. At the end of the day, I scramble out of this cement jungle to get home to my apartment, which is usually empty. I pour myself a glass of milk, take my vitamins, and on the days when I spend a lot of time in solitude, I listen to Ray Charles sing “Lonely Avenue”.

It is during weeks like these that I wonder if exciting things will ever happen in my daily life. I so often find myself scheming in an attempt to draw some color into my day. I change my running route, hoping to jog past the handsome German guy I sometimes see on Washington Street. It’s stupid, I know. At one point or another, we all have to come to terms with the fact that this is what we get, and no matter how much we try to shake things up from day to day, this is it. This is our life.

But I’m not at that point yet. I’m still young. Life hasn’t yet given me all I’m going to get.

And that’s what really makes me lonely,

because I start to think about the really lonely people out there—the guy who stands on St. James Ave. smoking a pipe with tobacco so sweet that I want to bake it into a cake, the old men who walk alone in Chinatown, the lonely professors I see walking the hallways late at night. No matter what time it is, there is always someone, surrounded entirely by his stacks of papers, with his head bent over a wooden desk, facing an old dusty chalkboard. I always wonder if he has anyone waiting for him at home. Lately I’ve been leaning toward no. No woman would allow that.

It is these people for whom I truly grieve on my lonely days. I might spend the vast majority of my time by myself, but at the end of the day, I have my whole life ahead of me. I have two wonderful friends to come home to. I have confidantes. I have kindred spirits. The fact that these lonely men might not have anyone like that is rather upsetting to me.

What do they do when they go home, if they even do go home? It’s so late that they probably can’t be cooking meals. Imagining anyone coming home to Lean Cuisine on a regular basis makes me want to cry.

But maybe I’m worrying about nothing. Maybe they’re not alone. Maybe they have wonderful women waiting for them at home with an open bottle of red and a great Woody Allen movie. Maybe life dealt them something good, and they don’t want something better to happen to them as they toil over equations.

Though on this night, I’m thinking about the fact that with everything that has gone wrong in the last week, all I want is another soul on this couch with me. It would be great to have someone to take over my responsibilities for a while. I have a pile of dirty clothes that need to be washed, but I won’t do them tonight. Doing laundry alone makes me think of those lonely old men who probably don’t have anyone to remind them to sort their lights and darks.

So instead I sit on the couch in my apartment, my “pastel palace,” as I once called it in a poem, and look out at the Cars Only sign on Storrow Drive that is swinging in the wind. And if the cable weren’t broken, I would switch on C-SPAN and watch everyone in their black suits and thank the Lord that I have people to take care of the big things for me.

Call for Nominations!

2009 Student Art Awards

LAYA and JEROME B. WIESNER
STUDENT ART AWARDS

The Laya and Jerome B. Wiesner Student Art Awards are presented annually to up to three students (undergraduate or graduate), living groups, organizations or activities for outstanding achievement in and contributions to the arts at MIT. Established in 1979, these awards honor President Emeritus Wiesner and Mrs. Wiesner for their commitment to the arts at MIT. An endowment fund provides a \$1,250 honorarium to each recipient.

<http://web.mit.edu/arts/about/awards/wiesner.html>

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The Louis Sudler Prize in the Arts is presented annually to a graduating senior who has demonstrated excellence or the highest standards of proficiency in music, theater, painting, sculpture, design, architecture or film. The Prize was established in 1982 by Mr. Sudler, a performer in the arts and an arts patron from Chicago. An endowment fund provides a \$1,250 award to the honoree.

<http://web.mit.edu/arts/about/awards/sudler.html>

Please send nominating letters by Friday March 20, 2009 to:
Susan Cohen, Director, Council for the Arts at MIT- E15-205
cohen@media.mit.edu
<http://web.mit.edu/awards/>

March 3,
2009

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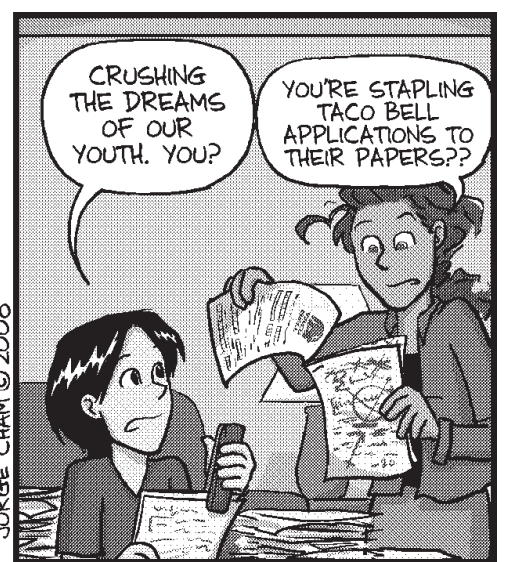
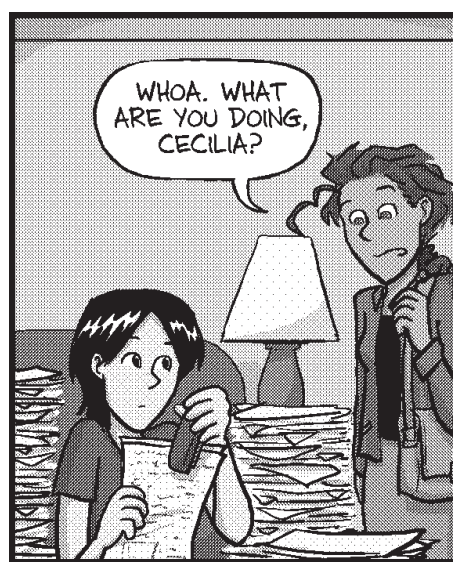
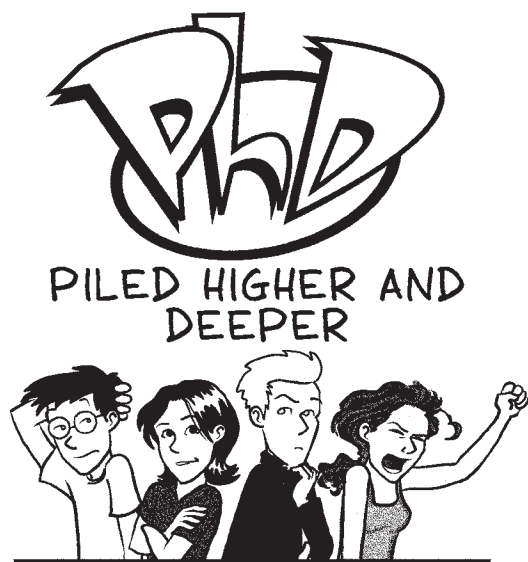
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PAGES

The Daily Blunderbuss

by Ben Peters

The greatest Halloween costume ever.



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Doonesbury
BY GARRY TRUDEAU

Dilbert® by Scott Adams

Steal My Comic

by Michael Ciuffo



su | do | ku

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6		9	7			

Instructions: Fill in the grid so that each column, row, and 3 by 3 grid contains exactly one of each of the digits 1 through 9.
Solution, tips, and computer program at <http://www.sudoku.com>; see also solution, page 13.

Crossword Puzzle

Solution, page 13

- ACROSS**
- 1 Thompson of "Howards End"
 - 5 Econ. agcy.
 - 8 Of singers
 - 14 Our satellite
 - 15 I see!
 - 16 Inspirational discourse
 - 17 Covered walkways
 - 19 Incompetent
 - 20 Railroad employee
 - 22 Hankering
 - 23 P. Goss grp.
 - 24 Signs off on
 - 25 Money player
 - 28 9-to-5 worker
 - 31 Bus. letter abbr.
 - 34 Actress Peeples
 - 35 1945 conference site
 - 36 Easter bloomer
 - 37 Burn with hot liquid
 - 40 Muddy
 - 41 Ooze
 - 43 Frightening shout
 - 44 Previous spouses
 - 45 Certain cash machine
 - 49 Gerund maker
 - 50 "All over the World" grp.
 - 51 London hrs.
 - 52 Gangster's gun
 - 55 Garden company
 - 58 Social occasion
 - 61 Rodent burrows
 - 62 Wagner heroine
 - 63 Here, in Le Havre
 - 64 Splitsville
 - 65 Most likely
 - 66 Mo
 - 67 Middle Eastern nation
- DOWN**
- 1 Out of gas
 - 2 Actress Demi
 - 3 "Happy Days" co-star Erin
 - 4 Opposing position
 - 5 Cliques
 - 6 Of the chest
 - 7 Spanish house
 - 8 Division of a polo match
 - 9 Best policy?
 - 10 __ Khayyam
 - 11 Meat cut
 - 12 To a man
 - 13 Sodium hydroxide
 - 18 Contents abbr.
 - 21 Mooing animal
 - 25 Flower of Texas
 - 26 Bind again
 - 27 Face-to-face exams
 - 28 Bonnie's love
 - 29 Shrine at
 - 30 Concerned person
 - 31 Bursera resin
 - 32 Cynthia of "Sex and the City"
 - 33 Held fast
 - 38 Sign of sadness
 - 39 Inflexible
 - 42 Peeper covers
 - 46 Red Bordeaux
 - 47 Dearie
 - 48 Incise deeply
 - 52 Automaton of Jewish legend
 - 53 Game setting
 - 54 Cicely or Mike
 - 55 Visibly drained
 - 56 Speaker of baseball
 - 57 Lawnmower brand
 - 58 Some sloths
 - 59 Tallahassee sch.
 - 60 In place of

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14				15			16					
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20							21					
22				23			24			25	26	27
			28				29			30		
31	32	33		34					35			
36				37			38	39		40		
41				42			43			44		
45				46	47				48			
49				50			51			52	53	54
			55				56			57		
58	59	60					61					
62							63			64		
65							66			67		



Habitat for Humanity Draws Performances

A Habitat for Humanity benefit concert was held on Friday evening in 10-250. All the proceeds from the event went towards Habitat building projects.

(counter-clockwise from top-left)

MIT's Christian a cappella group the Cross Products performs "Before the Throne of God Above."

Breakdancing group Imobilaré performs to several songs from Disney's *Mulan*.

South Asian classical music group Swara performs.

MIT a cappella group Resonance performs "Headlock" by Imogen Heap.

Photography by Chelsea Grimm



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Committee Hopes To Keep Non-Affiliated Summer Occupants

Summer Housing, from Page 1

bering MIT students.

"Certain houses have not been able to collect from summer boarders," said Alessondra Springmann G, a member of the committee and summer coordinator of pika, an independent living group in Cambridge. Springmann said the failure of FSILGs to require summer boarders to sign contracts was one of several problems.

Other issues involved one or two house members being left with all the living group's responsibilities in a house full of tenants and whether revenue collected from non-MIT residents would have to be taxed differently, according to a report issued by Colombo to the committee.

The committee, which has been meeting for several weeks, includes administrators, resident advisors, members of the alumni corporations, and leaders from many FSILGs. They seek a resolution that allows for current housing practices to continue in a more responsible manner.

“We want to make sure the FSILGs are following responsible policies. It’s about figuring out the best policies

and making sure the houses know everybody," said Miller.

She will include in her suggestions to Colombo that the FSILGs request referrals and conduct interviews in order to ensure every tenant is known beforehand.

While there will have to be policy changes, Miller emphasized that the committee will be an advocate for the students.

"The FSILGs rely on the summer revenue somewhat," said Miller, adding "we have no desire to remove that source of income."

Fraternities especially rely on this income because of the large expenses they incur during rush.


"Some fraternities may spend up to \$20,000 on rush, and some houses generate twice that in revenue from summer boarders," said Springmann.

"One of pika's sources of income is rent from summer boarders. We use funds from the summer for projects such as building wheelchair ramps, repairing the roof, or renovating our kitchen."

C. Emily Davidson '10, pika's treasurer, said income from non-pikan summer boarders was about seven percent of pika's annual revenue.

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MLK Diversity Exhibit Vandalized Twice

President Susan J. Hockfield and Prof. J. Phillip Thompson, Chair of the Committee on Race and Diversity, have issued a statement in response to vandalism of the Martin Luther King, Jr. memorial exhibit last month (see right). The annual exhibit consisted of several student-created displays to promote diversity, human rights, and similar principles, and ran from Feb. 2 through Feb. 9 in Lobby 10.

There were two incidents of vandalism, and organizers of the event were not certain exactly when they occurred.

(1) A display entitled “On the Shoulders of Giants” with cardboard cutouts of Abraham Lincoln, Barack Obama, and Dr. King was altered. The cardboard cutout of Lincoln was removed and replaced with a cardboard cutout of “Crocodile Hunter” Steve Irwin.

(2) A display about the Palestinian/Israeli conflict was removed in its entirety. Nour J. Abdul-Razzak ’09, who was part of the team that created the display, said that the removal of the display was “not appropriate,” and the perpetrators had “no right to just take something away.” Abdul-Razzak said that her group had tried very hard to be sensitive to concerns on both sides of the Palestinian/Israeli conflict.

The statement was issued under the auspices of the Committee on Race and Diversity, which formed in 2007 when the Campus Committee on Race Relations joined with the MLK Committee. It is posted on the CRD’s website, at <http://web.mit.edu/crd/>.

—John A. Hawkinson

Statement From Hockfield and CRD

To Members of the MIT Community,

On behalf of the Committee on Race & Diversity and the Institute Administration, we write to address the unfortunate and mean-spirited vandalism to the recent Martin Luther King, Jr. display in Lobby 10, where multiple figures from the display were stolen or damaged.

Academic excellence only thrives in an open and inclusive environment. At MIT we accept many ways of voicing ideas and sharing dissenting opinions. However, the privilege of working and studying here carries a concomitant obligation to share our views respectfully. Vandalism is not the expression of ideas, it has no place at MIT, and it is grounds for dismissal or expulsion.

This incident serves as a reminder that we must accelerate the important progress the Institute has made building an increasingly diverse community and creating a culture of inclusion that supports MIT’s mission.

Sincerely,

Susan J. Hockfield, President
J. Phillip Thompson, Chair,
Committee on Race and Diversity



The “On the Shoulders of Giants” display was vandalized during the week of Feb. 2; a cardboard cutout of President Abraham Lincoln (pictured above) was replaced with a cutout of “Crocodile Hunter” Steve Irwin (right). A display about the Palestinian/Israeli conflict in the Middle East was also vandalized (not pictured).

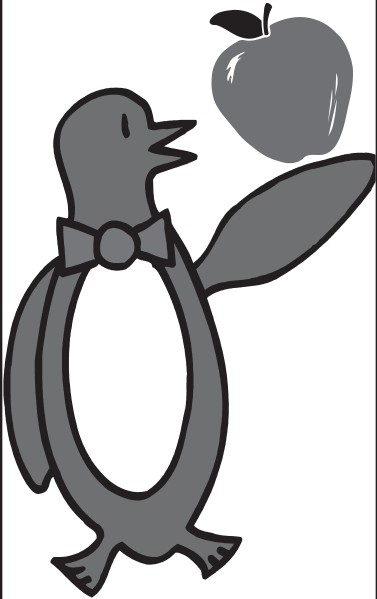


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Spring Weekend Tickets Go On Sale Today

Spring Weekend, from Page 1

artists did not recognize Bareilles or Hotel Lights. Kent M. Willis '10 said he had not heard of either opening act, but will attend the concert anyway. "I like Ben Folds enough to go, regardless of the opening acts," Willis said.

Yi Wang '09 said she liked Bareilles' music, but felt that her music "is good on a CD, but not necessarily good live in the concert setting."

Bareilles's selection was not based solely on the survey responses. Factors such as her appeal to an audience different from Folds's, availability for

April 25, and cost were considered. Bringing Bareilles to MIT will cost \$25,000, half as much as the \$50,000 spent on securing Folds, but \$5,000 more than what was originally allotted for the opening act.

Joshua Velasquez '08, a design strategist at the Student Activities Office who is in charge of publicity for the weekend, said the over-expenditure was necessary to ensure the selection was among the choices in the survey. Funding for the entire weekend will be taken from student life fees and admission fees to the events.

Velasquez also expects the ticketing and security issues that delayed

the entry of some concert-goers last year will be resolved in time for this Spring Weekend.


"Our hope is to refine the ticketing and security processes enough to get everyone into the show to see all three acts," said Velasquez.

Tickets to the concert and other Spring Weekend events are scheduled to go on sale to members of the MIT community today. MIT students can purchase tickets to the concert for themselves at \$15 apiece and for their guests at \$25 apiece. People not affiliated with MIT will be able to purchase tickets to the concert beginning March 30.

The Spring Weekend festival, which will occur from 12 p.m. to 8 p.m. just before the concert, will function as an outdoor music festival with on-campus groups performing. There will also be booths for non-musical student groups and off-campus vendors.

While the pre-concert festival will be free, a dinner from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. will come with a \$3 fee for everyone, including students and general community members.

Student groups can still take part in the festival for free by sending applications to swfestival@gmail.com by March 21.



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- Last day for Graduate students to change a subject to or from P/D/F Grading.
- Last day to change a subject from Listener to Credit.
- Last day for Sophomores to change a subject to or from Exploratory.
- Last day to petition for second S.B. for next February degree candidates.

Visa Hassles May Discourage International Students

By **Cornelia Dean**
THE NEW YORK TIMES

CAMBRIDGE, MASS. When Alena Shkumatava opens the door to the “fish lab” at the Whitehead Institute of MIT, she encounters warm, aquarium-scented air and shelf after shelf of foot-long tanks, each containing one or more zebra fish. She studies the tiny fish in her quest to unravel one of the knottiest problems in biology: how the acting of genes is encouraged or inhibited in cells.

The work, focusing on genetic material called micro-RNAs, is ripe with promise. But Shkumatava, a postdoctoral researcher from Belarus, will not pursue it in the United States, she said, partly because of what happened last year, when she tried to renew her visa.

What should have been a short visit with her family in Belarus punctuated by a routine trip to an American consulate turned into a three-month nightmare of bureaucratic snafus, lost documents and frustrating encounters with embassy employees. “If you write an e-mail, there is no one replying to you,” she said. “Unfortunately, this is very common.”

Shkumatava, who ended up traveling to Moscow for a visa, is among the several hundred thousand students who need a visa to study in the United States. People at universities and scientific organizations who study the issue say they have heard increasing complaints of visa delays since last fall, particularly for students in science engineering and other technical fields.

A State Department official, who spoke on the condition of anonymity, said that delays of two or three months were common and attributed the problem to “an unfortunate staffing shortage.”

The issue matters because American universities rely on foreign students to fill slots in graduate and postdoctoral science and engineering programs. Foreign talent also fuels scientific and technical innovation in American labs. And the United States can no longer assume that this country is everyone’s first choice for undergraduate, graduate or postgraduate work.

Albert H. Teich ’64, the director of science and policy programs at the American Association for the Advancement of Science, organized a meeting on the subject in January with representatives from the National Academy of Sciences and several dozen other scientific and academic organizations. Among other things, he said, the group will try to bring the issue to the attention of the new administration. It would be hard to argue against security checks for foreigners coming to the United States to pursue high-level scientific or engineering work. And some experts argue that people

from certain countries — China, India, Pakistan and Middle Eastern countries are most often mentioned — should be subject to additional scrutiny.

When visa applicants from problem countries seek opportunities in research fields related to national security, the State Department official said, he hoped Americans “would want us to look at those cases very closely.”

Researchers and students seeking to enter the United States routinely encountered difficulties in the months after the Sept. 11 attacks, but as security checks became faster and more efficient, most could count on receiving a visa or a visa renewal in about two weeks. That appears to no longer be the case.

“I started hearing this back in early November,” said Amy Scott, assistant vice president for federal relations at the Association of American Universities. “We are very concerned that we are losing ground here, that people are missing the opportunities to come to the U.S., to teach, conduct research or just participate in a conference.”

John Marburger, President George W. Bush’s science adviser, said in an interview in the February issue of the magazine Seed that “it should be easier to get into the U.S. as a student,” adding, “We really need to be careful about our openness to the world.”

According to “Beyond ‘Fortress America,’” a report in January by the National Academy of Sciences, universities around the world now have the research equipment and infrastructure to compete with their American counterparts. When the United States puts up barriers, the report said, “foreign universities are well positioned to extend competing offers.”

Or as Danielle Guichard-Ashbrook of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology put it: “There are other countries that want these folks. They are the best of the best. They have other options.”

Guichard-Ashbrook directs the International Students Office at MIT. Foreign students eventually make it to campus, she said, although the path may be slow and bumpy and they do not necessarily arrive on time. Problems typically occur if they leave the United States — for family visits or scientific meetings abroad — and then find they need a new visa to return.

She told of one student from the Middle East who agonized when he was called home to the bedside of his dying father for fear he would not be allowed back to his classes. He made the trip, she said, and his return was delayed.

Visa requirements vary from country to country, Guichard-Ashbrook said, but because some students must renew their visas often

and cannot predict how long it will take for their documents to come through, some of them spend a lot of time calculating when they can travel and when they must start the paperwork dance again.

She and others said that students from all over — even the European Union and Australia — had had problems, but that they seemed most acute for people from China, India, the Middle East and Russia. Belarus was part of the former Soviet Union, which might explain some of Shkumatava’s difficulties, said Kathie Bailey Mathae, director of the Board on International Scientific Organizations, part of the National Academy of Sciences.

“You are never going to have a system that is 100 percent guaranteed to get people in, in the time they need to be in,” she said. “But when you see problems recurring and the same sort of problems over and over — that’s when you know you have a problem.”

She said researchers were increasingly unwilling to schedule conferences or other scientific meetings in the United States. Although the problem is particularly acute for meetings organized on short notice, she said, some groups are looking for sites outside the United States even for meetings scheduled two years or more in advance.

“That’s unfortunate,” the State Department official said. “We want

people to think this is the best place to hold their meetings.”

The official said that time limits for visas were ordinarily a matter of reciprocal agreements between nations. Shkumatava’s case, he said, may have been further complicated because Belarus severely limits the number of foreign service officers the United States can have there at any given time.

Shkumatava said her experience was particularly nerve-racking because she was kept from her lab for three months, just as she was struggling to publish new findings before her competitors. When she was required to hand in her passport in Moscow, employees at the embassy lost it, stranding her there for nine days with no documents.

When she returned to the United States, she found that two colleagues had also been stranded by visa problems, one in India and the other in Peru.

Shkumatava said she would probably return to Europe. Her husband, a computational biologist from Germany, left the United States last fall for a job in Vienna. She might have tried to stay on, she said, if entering and leaving the country were not such a “discouraging” process.

“I got the visa and so I am back,” she said. “But it’s for only one year, so next year in December if I am going to stay here I am going to have to reapply for this stamp.”

Solution to Sudoku

from page 8

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

Solution to Crossword

from page 8

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



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A Night of *Bad Taste*

On Saturday evening in 26-100, the Chorallaries held their *n*th Annual Concert in Bad Taste, an event where political correctness and tact are thrown humorously out the window.

(clockwise from top-right)

The MIT/Wellesley Toons make a guest appearance performing "You Whore," a parody of Jason Mraz's "I'm Yours." Left to right: Leslie S. Nachbar '10 (in mask), Samantha Guergenonov, Esther Shang, Krista L. Speroni '12, Isabella Gambill, Akash A. Chandawarkar '09.

Students line up in front of 26-100 on Saturday night; the line was started last Wednesday evening, and ended up snaking around Building 16.

Per Bad Taste tradition, audience members pelt the stage and each other with sheet and toilet paper before the concert.

Tess E. Wise '10 parodies the recent dining protest in Lobby 7 in a skit making fun of east and west campus stereotypes.

Photography by Rachel Fong



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Men's Basketball	
Saturday, Feb. 28, 2009	
NEWMAC Semifinals	
Babson College	39
MIT	50
Sunday, March 1, 2009	
NEWMAC Championship	
Springfield College	50
MIT	76

Men's Fencing	
Saturday, Feb. 28, 2009	
IFA Championship	
MIT	10th of 11

Women's Hockey	
Saturday, Feb. 28, 2009	
MIT (6-15-1)	3
Norwich (17-8-1)	4

Men's Swimming and Diving	
Sunday, March 1, 2009	
NEWMAC Championship	
MIT	1st of 7

Men's Track and Field	
Saturday, Feb. 28, 2009	
NEICAAA New England Championship	
MIT	27th of 33

Women's Track and Field	
Saturday, Feb. 28, 2009	
NEICAAA New England Championship	
MIT	13th of 32

Men's Tennis	
Saturday, Feb. 28, 2009	
Emerson College (0-1)	1
MIT (1-0)	8

Women's Tennis	
Saturday, Feb. 28, 2009	
Bates College (0-1)	2
MIT (1-0)	7

Men's Volleyball	
Sunday, March 1, 2009	
Elms College (9-12)	1
MIT (15-9)	3
Emerson College (2-10)	0
MIT (16-9)	3

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MENG HENG TOUCH—THE TECH

Rachael A. Holmes '11 smoothly displays her ending pose, finishing her the floor exercise at the women's gymnastics meet on Saturday in the duPont Athletic Center. MIT lost the meet against SUNY Brockport, 187.6–182.15.

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Brahms String quintet in F, Op. 88

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