**Missing Mail Leads to Arrest**

By Rebecca Perry

A former Sidney Pacific desk-worker has been arrested and charged with a felony in connection with a string of thefts from the SidPac mail room last summer. The case, which is progressing through the court system now, began with a series of events that unfolded last July and August.

A third floor resident of SidPac had been having a busy semester and didn’t realize that he was missing a check that he should have received several months earlier. When he checked with the company, they confirmed that the check had been sent and cashed. They sent him a copy of the signed check—but it was not his signature.

Another resident realized after a couple of weeks had passed that he was missing a check for an entire summer’s wages. His employer retrieved an image of a signed check, which had the phrase “For Purchase of Car” printed on the front. The signature was a forgery.

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**Getting Involved with SidPac House Government**

By Krishnan Sriram

I have been asked often, “What makes Sidney-Pacific such a vibrant place? How come Sidney-Pacific organizes really creative events time and again? How does Sidney-Pacific function so smoothly and take good care of its residents?” To many, the answer may seem obvious: it is the contribution of all residents who volunteer.

SidPac’s Executive Council: Wen Liu (VP of Information), Leslie Rogers (Chair of the Halls), Mat Walker (President), Hila Hashemi (VP of Residential Life) and Daniel Weller (VP of Resources).

Correct, indeed. However, such an answer is incomplete if one does not appreciate the student leadership within our community. After all, hard-work without direction is meaningless. What is seldom seen at events and outings is the meticulous planning that happens prior. Good planning and organization makes residents want to participate, to volunteer and help out, making it

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Planning on having 200 of your close friends over for breakfast? SidPac Brunch experts share some info that could come in handy. **Page 4.**
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The incidents were brought to the attention of SidPac’s Housemasters and the MIT Police, who began an investigation.

In August of 2008 the MIT Police filed formal charges against Emmanuela Simplisse, a Sidney Pacific deskworker, in connection with crimes involving perhaps a dozen victims. Simplisse, who is alleged to have deposited stolen checks into her personal checking account, is believed to have been an employee of PSG, a Boston based temporary staffing agency that provides workers to MIT.

While undergraduate dormitories are mainly staffed by student deskworkers, graduate residences are generally supplied with workers from one of several temporary services staffing agencies, including PSG. Sid Pac deskworkers report to Building Manager Jack Ahern.

Detective Craig Martin of the MIT Police Department, the lead investigator on the case, confirmed that Ms. Simplisse had been arrested and charged with felony larceny and uttering—or fraudulently endorsing checks. The case, which could take months to resolve, was scheduled for a Compliance and Election Conference on March 20. The case has been assigned to Assistant District Attorney Mr. David Harnagel, of the Middlesex County District Attorney’s office.

Dennis Collins, MIT’s Director of Housing, said that steps have been taken to improve mail security at Sidney Pacific. A wire fence and gate have been installed to restrict access to the mailbox area. However, on a recent evening the gate appeared to be open and unlocked.

Mr. Collins noted that, considering the volume of mail (there are 19 residence halls, and probably thousands of packages and letters delivered on campus every day), serious problems are relatively uncommon.

Still, there is always room for improvement. One resident pointed out that the overflowing “misdirected mail” box in the hallway near the elevators doesn’t appear to have sufficient capacity to handle the volume of misdirected mail placed in it daily by residents. Mail protruding from the box could be easily plucked out by anyone passing by. Several residents observed that at times, mail can be seen falling out of the box and onto the floor. Securing this box would reduce the chances that an important letter might get into the wrong hands. SidPac President Matt Walker noted that a better system is needed and that he is looking into the situation.

Mr. Collins advises anyone who believes they are the victim of a crime to contact the MIT Police by dialing 100 from a campus phone or 617-253-1212.

Misdirected mail overflowing the box on a recent evening

House Government, cont.

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worth their while. Good event hosts rally their volunteer crew, motivate them and make them have fun while contributing their time.

The 50-odd officers in S-P house government are the engines behind all things S-P. While all officer positions are rewarding, each position is unique in character; each individual’s personality may very well have a best-fit officer position. Are you a party animal, or a gourmet chef? The Office of Residential life has 8 committees where you might fit. Are you a gadget-freak, or a number-cruncher? Perhaps you will consider the 10 committees in the Office of Resources. Do you like writing, poster design or web design? The Office of Information has 5 committees to whet your appetite. Are you keen to work not just within S-P, but with the rest of MIT and our neighborhood? The Office of the President has 4 committees placing you on the interface with the outside community. Would you rather be the people’s representative and a helpful resource for your peers and neighbors? You could become one of 13 Hall Councilors-par-excellence.

The fun does not stop here. If you are up for challenge; if strategic thinking is your passion and if you have what it takes to manage a large group of highly motivated individuals, then look no further. There are five executive positions (affectionately... Continued on Page 3
Government, cont.

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ately called SPEC):

President, VP of Resources, VP of Residential Life, VP of Information and Chair of the Halls. The S-P website has more details about all positions (http://s-p.mit.edu/people/officers.php).

For those who will need to go through the MIT Housing lottery for next year, an officer position could provide you a one-year exemption allowing you to stay at S-P. There are other incentives: leadership development, building your soft skills, public-speaking and systems thinking. To me, the best part was the chance to work with the best and brightest from around the world, many of whom have since become close personal friends.

The next year at S-P awaits you. Are you ready? Check the dates for the SPEC election, officer interviews and Hall Councilor election schedule. Applications are open.

### Dates to Keep in Mind

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>March 18</td>
<td>Committee Chair applications open</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday, 4/7</td>
<td>SPEC elections</td>
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<td>Hall Councilor nominations open</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday, 4/8</td>
<td>Committee Chair applications close</td>
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<td>Tuesday, 4/21</td>
<td>Hall Councilor nominations close</td>
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<td>New SPEC takes office</td>
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<td>Wed-Sat, 4/15-4/18</td>
<td>Meet the Hall Councilor candidates</td>
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<td>Wed-Fri, 4/15-4/24</td>
<td>Hall Councilor Elections</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday, 5/5</td>
<td>New House Council takes office</td>
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Sidney Pacific is renowned for its awesome social events. But perhaps nothing attracts as large and hungry a crowd as Sunday Brunch, hosted in the Multi-Purpose Room and open to all SP residents and MIT graduate students.

The line may stretch down the hall, but your nose will tell you that your patience will be well-rewarded, as the aroma of tasty treats wafts past.

Volunteers are always welcome. Benefits include the right to the first taste and the chance to burnish your cooking skills.

Brunch for a Bunch

211 people
832 oz. juice
540 eggs
100 strips bacon
50 lbs potatoes
25 lbs pancake mix
4 gallons milk
1 jar cookie dough

—Wendy’s Count

Bacon-Choco Pancake Taco
(Serves 1)

1 chocolate chip pancake
1 strip bacon
Maple syrup, to taste

Break bacon strip in half; lay strips across center of pancake. Roll up pancake around strips. Drizzle with (or dip in) maple syrup. Enjoy.

—Zenzi’s Favorite