

MIT's
Oldest and Largest
Newspaper



The Weather
Today: Cloudy with
showers late, 70s°F (22°C)
Tonight: Cloudy with
showers, 50s°F (11°C)
Tomorrow: Cloudy with partial
clearing late, 60°F (16°C)
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Tuesday, October 23, 2007

Subcommittee Chosen To Refine Curriculum, Collect GIR Feedback

By Nick Bushak
ASSOCIATE NEWS EDITOR

During last week's faculty meeting, the MIT Task Force on the Undergraduate Educational Commons announced the formation of a subcommittee to collect feedback on the task force's recommendations that were released in October 2006 and determine more specific recommendations for changing the curriculum.

The new subcommittee will provide a "final and specific" recommendation for the changes more generally suggested in the task force's final report last year, Dean for Curriculum and Faculty Support Diana Henderson said. The changes proposed earlier included possible

revisions to the General Institute Requirements and increased emphasis on global education, as well as other curriculum reforms.

The subcommittee will be made up of six faculty and one student, and it will be expected to release its recommendation by the end of the academic year, Henderson said.

The task force has already been collecting feedback on the changes from faculty and students, and the new subcommittee will continue to collect feedback to guide curriculum recommendations. Input has been collected through discussions with the Undergraduate Association, on-

GIRs, Page 12

MIT Plummets in Public Service Rankings; Texas A&M Now Ranked First

By Emily Prentice

While most know about MIT's slide into seventh place in *U.S. News & World Report's* college rankings this year, some might be surprised to learn that in another magazine, MIT fell from first to 13th. This year, political magazine *The Washington Monthly*, which evaluates schools based on service to the country, ranked Texas A&M University first.

The Washington Monthly's rankings, first published in 2005, are based on measures of social mobility, research, and public service. Each of these categories is given equal

weight in the rankings. MIT ranked first in both 2005 and 2006.

"Rank reflects MIT's performance relative to the other universities," Ryan Anderson, spokesperson for *Washington Monthly*, said in an e-mail. MIT's drop to 13th "is most likely the result of changes in the data for a number of institutions." The *Washington Monthly* standings are not as stable as the *U.S. News & World Report* rankings because one quarter of the formula in *U.S. News* is peer review, and the reputation of

Rankings, Page 10

MIT's First Student Life Dean To Retire at End of School Year

By Jeff Guo
STAFF REPORTER

Dean for Student Life Larry G. Benedict will retire at the end of this academic year. As the Institute's first dean for student life, Benedict drew fresh attention to improving the student experience, resulting in the construction and renovation of several dormitories and the expansion of residential dining among other initiatives.

Benedict will leave the Institute after a 35-year career in higher education, eight of which will have been spent as dean for student life at MIT.

"My decision to retire has been several years in the making and I have delayed it in the past because of my great love for MIT, its students and its culture," Benedict wrote in an e-mail statement to Division of Student Life staff on the morning of Oct. 19.

Benedict became MIT's first student life dean after an administration restructuring in 2000 carved out the Division for Student Life as a new body focusing on campus dining, housing, and student services.

"I've very sad to see him go," said Undergraduate Association President Martin F. Holmes '08. "He's been one of the strongest supporters of the UA, student groups, and students in general."

Benedict joined MIT near three high-profile lawsuits, arriving right after the suicide of Elizabeth H. Shin '02 in April 2000. Shin's parents filed a wrongful death lawsuit in Jan. 2002. In Nov. 2002, the parents of Richard A. Guy Jr. '99 also filed a wrongful death lawsuit against MIT, after Guy's 1999 nitrous oxide inhalation death. Benedict was personally named as a defendant in the Julia M. Carpenter '03 wrongful death law-

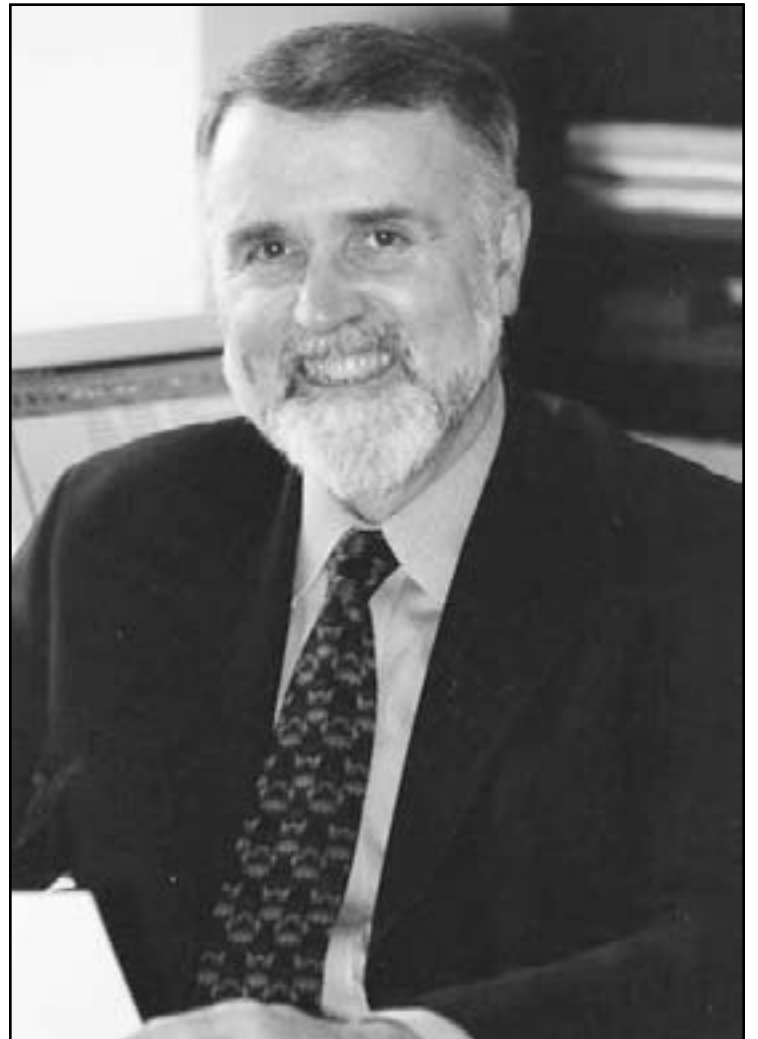


PHOTO COURTESY OF OFFICE OF THE DEAN FOR STUDENT LIFE

Dean for Student Life Larry G. Benedict will retire at the end of the academic year after almost eight years of service to MIT.

suit in 2003. Carpenter committed suicide in April 2001.

Benedict represented the Division of Student Life on the mental health task force in 2001. The task force was formed to evaluate student

support and mental health services at MIT following this string of student deaths.

Before he leaves MIT, Benedict

Benedict, Page 13



ANDREW T. LUKMANN—THE TECH

Boston and Metropolitan Law Enforcement Council Police keep crowds at bay in Kenmore Square after the Red Sox overcame the Cleveland Indians in the American League Championship Series on Sunday night. The World Series will start on Wednesday night as the Sox face the Colorado Rockies at Fenway Park.

Cardboard Boats Compete In Head of the Zesiger Race

'Unsinkable II' Wins Titanic Prize for Most Sinkable

By Jillian A. Berry
STAFF REPORTER

MIT held its first annual Head of the Zesiger Cardboard Boat Regatta Friday, Oct. 19. The event, held one day before the 43rd annual Head of the Charles Regatta, took place in the Zesiger Center Pool and ended with only one boat afloat.

In addition to fastest time, the boats were judged in four categories: best looking, best technically constructed, most spirited, and the illustrious Titanic award for best sinker.

Contestants were allowed to use paper tape and caulk on the seams of their boats, and to paint boats with enamel, lacquer paint, varnish, or water sealant. Each boat had to be less than three meters long and 1.5 meters high. For the races them-

selves, there were semifinal heats in which two boats competed head-to-head. In each round, the three crew members and boat had to paddle — using kickboards as oars — to the 50-meter mark, turn at a buoy, and return.

The boats were judged on a scale from one to 10 by five judges from

Zesiger, Page 15

In Short

¶ **The Nuclear Regulatory Commission** started a special inspection of the MIT research reactor yesterday after receiving a report that a reactor operator was exposed to an unusually high dose of radiation. According to a press release from the NRC, a reactor operator was exposed to 4 rem during operations that would normally incur a maximum exposure of 0.5 rem. The annual radiation exposure limit for reactor operators is 5 rem. The NRC inspection should be completed within three weeks; the report will be made public approximately 30 days later.

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



Annual Head of the Charles brings together crew teams from around the world.

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NEWS

College tuition, fees rise more than double the rate of inflation, the College Board reports.

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WORLD & NATION

Panel Urges Global Shift
On Sources of Energy

By Andrew C. Revkin
THE NEW YORK TIMES

Energy experts convened by the world's scientific academies Monday urged nations to shift swiftly away from coal and other fuels that are the main source of climate-warming greenhouse gases and to provide new energy options for the two billion people who still mostly cook in the dark on wood or dung fires.

In a report commissioned by the governments of China and Brazil, the 15 experts called for, at a minimum, a doubling of both public and private energy research budgets and a firm — and rising — price on emissions of greenhouse gases to encourage a shift in investments toward cleaner or more efficient technologies.

The report, "Lighting the Way — Toward a Sustainable Energy Future," was posted online at www.interacademycouncil.net by the InterAcademy Council, a group representing the world's 150 scientific and engineering academies.

Bruce M. Alberts, a former president of the U.S. National Academy of Sciences and a co-chairman of the InterAcademy Council, said the independent academies would now press the case for their proposals with their respective governments.

Kyrgyzstan's Leader
Dissolves Parliament

By David L. Stern
THE NEW YORK TIMES BISHKEK, KYRGYZSTAN

President Kurmanbek Bakiyev disbanded Parliament and called Sunday for snap parliamentary elections after Kyrgyz election officials announced that voters had overwhelmingly adopted a controversial new constitution and election law in a weekend referendum.

But observers said they witnessed widespread ballot-stuffing and warned that this Central Asian state — home to a U.S. air base that provides critical support to the war effort in Afghanistan — was sliding into authoritarianism.

Bakiev announced the referendum and unveiled the actual document just a month ago. It was, he said, an effort to break once and for all the political impasse that has stymied the country ever since its previous leader, Askar Akayev, was driven from power in March 2005 by violent protests against falsified parliamentary elections.

Organized Crime Takes
Lead in Italy's Economy

By Peter Kiefer
THE NEW YORK TIMES ROME

Organized crime represents the biggest segment of the Italian economy, accounting for more than \$127 billion in receipts, according to a report issued on Monday.

The new figure reflects a trend that has been under way for a few years, the annual report says. The figure last year was \$106 billion, making it not quite the biggest segment of the economy. It also said that the line between legitimate business and criminal activity was becoming harder to discern, making it more difficult to weed out criminal elements.

The annual report is titled "SOS Businesses" and was released by the Confindenti, an association of small businesses. The report, which analyzes the extent of criminality throughout Italian businesses, asserts that through various activities — extortion, usury, contraband, robberies, gambling and Internet piracy — organized crime syndicates account for 7 percent of Italy's gross domestic product.

"From the weaving factories, to tourism to business and personal services, from farming to public contracts to real estate and finance the criminal presence is consolidated in every economic activity," the 86-page report said.

Senator Received Donations
From Phone Company Execs

By Eric Lichtblau
and Scott Shane
THE NEW YORK TIMES

WASHINGTON

Executives at the two biggest phone companies contributed more than \$42,000 in political donations to Sen. Jay Rockefeller, D-W.Va., this year while seeking his support for legal immunity for businesses participating in National Security Agency eavesdropping.

The surge in contributions came from a who's who of executives at the companies, AT&T and Verizon, starting with the chief executives and including at least 50 executives and lawyers at the two utilities, according to campaign finance reports.

The money came primarily from a fundraiser that Verizon held for Rockefeller in March in New York and another that AT&T sponsored for him in May in San Antonio.

Rockefeller, chairman of the Senate Intelligence Committee, emerged last week as the most important backer of immunity in devising a compromise plan with Senate Republicans and the Bush administration.

A measure approved by the intelligence panel on Thursday would add

restrictions on the eavesdropping and extend retroactive immunity to carriers that participated in it. President Bush secretly approved the program after the Sept. 11 attacks.

Rockefeller's office said Monday that the sharp increases in contributions from the telecommunications executives had no influence on his support for the immunity provision.

"Any suggestion that Senator Rockefeller would make policy decisions based on campaign contributions is patently false," Wendy Morigi, a spokeswoman for him, said. "He made his decision to support limited immunity based on the Intelligence Committee's careful review of the situation and our national security interests."

AT&T and Verizon have been lobbying hard to insulate themselves from suits over their reported roles in the security agency program by gaining legal immunity from Congress. The effort included meetings with Rockefeller and other members of the intelligence panels, officials said.

The companies face suits from customers who say their privacy was violated. Administration officials say they worry that the suits, pending be-

fore the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 9th Circuit, could bankrupt the utilities.

House Democrats have balked at the immunity, refusing to include it in a bill they drew up and saying they would not even consider it unless the administration produces long-sought documents on the origins of the program.

Rockefeller received little in the way of contributions from AT&T or Verizon executives before this year, reporting \$4,050 from 2002 through 2006. From last March to June, he collected a total of \$48,850 from executives at the two companies. The increase was first reported by the on-line journal Wired, using data compiled by the Web site OpenSecrets.org.

Neither Rockefeller's predecessor as committee chairman nor his House counterpart received increases in contributions from the phone companies, records show. But industry executives have given significant contributions to a number of other Washington politicians, including two presidential contenders, Sens. Hillary Rodham Clinton, D-N.Y., and John McCain, R-Ariz.

Microsoft Drops Fight Against
Antitrust Regulators in Europe

By Steve Lohr
and Kevin J. O'Brien
THE NEW YORK TIMES

Microsoft has given up its nine-year fight against antitrust regulators in Europe, saying Monday that it would not challenge a court judgment from last month and would share technical information with rivals on terms the software giant had long resisted.

European regulators and some software groups in Europe hailed the deal as a breakthrough that should open the door to freer competition, especially in the market for the server software that powers corporate data centers and the Internet.

The agreement was struck in Europe, but it will have consequences worldwide because the terms for licensing Microsoft's intellectual property will be extended to competitors in the United States and in

other markets. If the new terms enhance competition, as the regulators say, consumers could benefit from lower prices and faster innovation in software.

The Microsoft deal leaves untouched the ruling last month by Europe's second-highest court that provides a strong legal foundation for the European Union's power to force a dominant company to share its intellectual property with rivals.

But just how much effect the agreement will have on the global software marketplace remains uncertain because many issues in the case already have been addressed, either by engineering or by previous legal settlements, according to some industry analysts.

As part of its past efforts to settle its antitrust problems, Microsoft has reached costly agreements with competitors that were the company's

most outspoken critics, including Sun Microsystems, IBM and Novell. In general, analysts said, the private settlements between Microsoft and competitors provided for cross-licensing and sharing technology.

What is clear is how much Microsoft's room for legal maneuvering was limited by the ruling last month by the Court of First Instance in Luxembourg. The court reaffirmed that Microsoft, the world's largest software maker, had abused its market power and said the company must obey a 2004 European Commission order to share confidential computer code with competitors.

After the courtroom setback, Steven A. Ballmer, Microsoft's chief executive, wrote a conciliatory letter to Neelie Kroes, the European competition commissioner, according to a commission staff official.

WEATHER

June or October?

By Garrett P. Marino
STAFF METEOROLOGIST

Yesterday's highs approached, and in some cases surpassed, the 80 degree mark yet again. Logan reached 81 degrees, nearly tying its record of 83 set in 1979. In fact, October to date has averaged more than 5 degrees above normal. Yesterday's warm readings were typical of late June; our average highs should be near 60°F for late October, with average lows in the mid 40s°F. You can thank the unusual warmth of late on a persistent high pressure pattern that has been advecting the warm air into the Northeast. The warm air advection will be suppressed today by the passage of a cold front, bringing us a period of showers late this afternoon and evening. Expect the rest of the week to be more seasonable and pleasant. Our next chance of rain comes this weekend as a slow-moving system currently in the southern Plains moves our way.

Extended Forecast

Today: Cloudy with showers late in the afternoon. Highs in the low 70s°F (22°C).

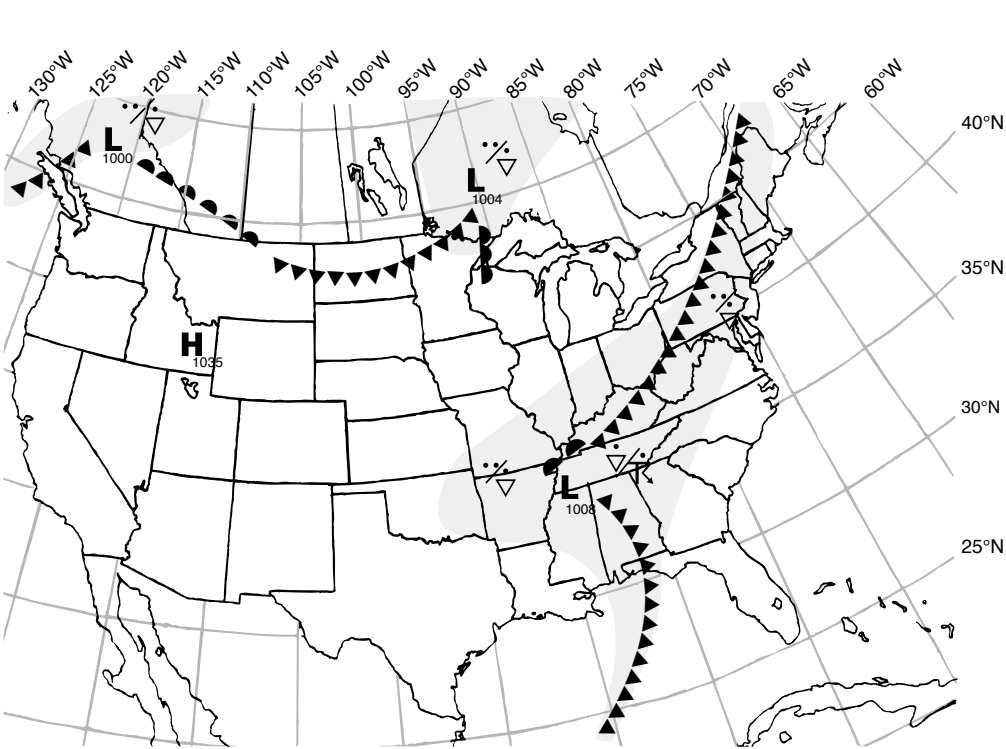
Tonight: Cloudy with showers. Lows in the low 50s°F (11°C).

Wednesday: Cloudy with partial clearing late. Highs near 60°F (16°C). Lows in the mid 40s°F (7°C).

Thursday: Mostly sunny. Highs near 55°F (13°C). Lows in the mid 40s°F (7°C).

Weather Systems	Weather Fronts	Precipitation Symbols	Other Symbols
H High Pressure	--- Trough	Snow * Rain •	☁ Fog
L Low Pressure	— Warm Front	Showers ▽ Light ** Moderate *** Heavy ****	⚡ Thunderstorm
§ Hurricane	▲ Cold Front		∞ Haze
	◐ Stationary Front		Compiled by MIT Meteorology Staff and The Tech

Situation for Noon Eastern Daylight Time, Tuesday, October 23, 2007



Conflict Simmers on a Second Kurdish Front in Northern Iraq

By Richard A. Oppel Jr.
THE NEW YORK TIMES

BAGHDAD

Deadly raids into Turkey by Kurdish militants holed up in northern Iraq are the focus of urgent diplomacy, with Turkey threatening invasion of Iraq and the United States begging for restraint while expressing solidarity with Turkish anger.

Yet out of the public eye, a chillingly similar battle has been under way on the Iraqi border with Iran. Kurdish guerrillas ambush and kill Iranian forces and retreat to their hideouts in Iraq. The Americans offer Iran little sympathy — Tehran even says Washington aids the Iranian guerrillas, a charge the United States denies. True or not, that conflict, like the Turkish one, has explosive potential.

On a recent reporting trip to the Iran-Iraq border, Salih Shevger, an Iranian Kurdish guerrilla, was interviewed as he lay flat on a slab of rock atop a 10,000-foot mountain, with binoculars pressed to his face as he kept watch on Iranian military outposts perched on peaks about four miles away.

He and his comrades recounted how they ambushed an Iranian patrol between the bases a few days before, killing three soldiers and capturing another. “They were sitting and talking on top of a hill, and we approached, hiding ourselves, and fired on them from two sides,” said Bayram Gabar, who commanded the raid, and who like all the fighters here uses a *nom de guerre*.

The guerrillas from the Party for Free Life in Kurdistan, or PJAK, have been waging a deadly insurgency in Iran and they are an offshoot of the Kurdistan Workers’ Party, known as the PKK, the Kurdish guerrillas who fight Turkey.

Like the PKK, the Iranian Kurds control much of the craggy, boulder-strewn frontier and routinely ambush patrols on the other side. But while the Americans call the PKK terrorists, guerrilla commanders say PJAK has had “direct or indirect discussions” with American officials. They would not divulge any details of the discussions or the level of the officials involved, but they noted that the group’s leader, Rahman Haj-Ahmadi, visited Washington last summer.

Biryar Gabar, one of 11 members of the group’s leadership, said there had been “normal dialogue” with American officials, declining specifics. One of his bodyguards said officials of the group met with Americans in Kirkuk last year.

Iranian officials have accused the United States of supplying the fighters and using them in a proxy war, though these claims were denied by the American military. “The consensus is that U.S. forces are not working with or advising the PJAK,” said an American military spokesman in Baghdad, Cmdr. Scott Rye of the Navy.

A senior American diplomat said that there had not been any official contacts with the group and that he was unaware of its having received any support from the United States. He also said that Haj-Ahmadi, while in Washington, did not meet with administration officials.

Because the PKK is on the State Department’s list of terrorist organizations and aiding such groups is illegal, the United States is eager to avoid any hint of cooperation with the PJAK.

Thousands of Evacuees Flee Fires, Find Safety in Chargers’ Stadium

By Solomon Moore
THE NEW YORK TIMES

SAN DIEGO

At Qualcomm Stadium, to which thousands of evacuees fled throughout the day Monday to escape approaching fires, the hazy and acrid air pinched the throat. Despite those reminders of the nearby inferno, the stadium seemed an oasis of order.

Hundreds of volunteers and city workers stacked up towers of pizza boxes, water bottles and blankets. Steaming cups of Starbucks coffee were on offer as well as free massages and reflexology sessions.

A clown twisted balloons for children, several volunteer autism specialists were available to give parents of disabled children a break, and an electric guitarist jammed with his speaker turned low.

The stadium, normally home to the San Diego Chargers of the National Football League, is the county’s largest evacuation center. Many of the evacuees came from hard-hit areas like Rancho Bernardo and Poway, middle-class communities northeast of San Diego where huge fires fed on dry shrub and grasses.

Many families sat in the bleachers all day watching ceiling-mounted televisions for reports of their neighborhoods.

“I saw a live video of our apartment complex burning,” said Raj Panandian, a 26-year-old software engineer. He and several of his neighbors left the complex at 4 a.m. after receiving a telephone call from San Diego County Fire Department officials.

“I had just settled down there six months ago,” said Panandian, an Indian citizen. “I had bought furniture, and everything. The only thing I managed to save was my passport and my H-1 work visa. I think everything else is gone.”

Yuan Ling, 43, a chemical engineer who rents a home across the street from the apartments, said her family left shortly after dawn, as white smoke flooded the house.

“We were one of the last in our neighborhood to leave; we were hoping it would improve,” Ling said. She said she was calling her house periodically to see if there was still a dial tone.

Ling, a native of Shanghai, said that her visiting in-laws were struck by the orderly procession of cars, even

in gridlocked traffic with flames dancing along the side of the road, and by the kindness of donors and volunteers at the stadium.

“I thought, this is amazing,” Ling said. “This kind of thing would never happen in China.”

Victor and Janelle Charles woke up in their Rancho Bernardo condominium before dawn struggling for breath. They watched the flames crest the high hill behind their house and waited until it ignited a tall cross standing about 50 yards away.

“When I saw the cross was ablaze, that’s when I said, ‘OK, we need to go,’ ” Charles said. He and his wife lived in the condo for seven years, but they packed in only 10 minutes and fled down the hill in their car as winds whipped embers across the road.

They still do not know whether their house is standing, and as of Monday afternoon were still trying to figure out where they would sleep overnight.

Carl DeMaio, 33, evacuated his home at dawn, drove straight to Qualcomm and started organizing volunteers who arrived even before city officials did.

Study Finds Rise in Choice of Double Mastectomies

By Roni Caryn Rabin

THE NEW YORK TIMES

More women with breast cancer are choosing to have their healthy breast surgically removed along with their affected breast, a new study has found. Almost 5 percent of patients decided to have the radical procedure in 2003, up from just under 2 percent in 1998.

The study, published in The Journal of Clinical Oncology online, analyzed data from only a small fraction of the estimated 200,000 women who receive breast cancer diagnoses in the United States each year. If the figures are accurate, 8,000 to 10,000 patients each year may be electing to have the procedure, called a contralateral prophylactic mastectomy.

“Some people may think it’s kind of crazy, but you don’t know what you’re going to do until you yourself are faced with the situation,” said Darcy Long, 44, of Maple Grove, Minn., who had a double mastectomy after breast cancer was diagnosed in her right breast last July.

From the start, Long said, “There was no question in my mind: I was going to have a mastectomy on both sides. I wanted to maximize my survivability, and I didn’t want to ever think that I hadn’t done everything that I possibly could to prevent this from coming back.”

The study’s lead author, Dr. Todd M. Tuttle, chief of surgical oncology at the University of Minnesota Medical School, started the study because so many patients were coming to him requesting the procedure. Still, Tuttle said, he was surprised by the increase in contralateral prophylactic mastectomies, an upward trend that shows no sign of leveling off and is occurring even as the practice of breast-conserving surgery is expanding.

Thompson Links Deaths of Daughter and Schiavo

By Marc Santora

THE NEW YORK TIMES

TAMPA, FLA.

In his public life, former Sen. Fred D. Thompson had long refrained from speaking about the death of his daughter from an accidental drug overdose in 2002, an episode that friends and colleagues said had played into his decision not to seek re-election to the Senate in 2002.

But on Monday, when questioned at a news conference about his reaction to the Terri Schiavo case, Thompson opened up about the death, suggesting the Schiavo matter had particular resonance for him because of how his daughter, Elizabeth Panici, known as Betsy, had died.

“Obviously, I knew about the Schiavo case,” he said. “I had to face a situation like that in my own personal life with my own daughter.”

Thompson was visibly flustered by the question.

“I am a little bit uncomfortable about that because it is an intensely personal thing with me,” he said. “These things need to be decided by the family. And I was at that bedside. And I had to make those decisions with the rest of my family.”

Thompson was asked about the Schiavo case on a visit to Florida shortly after he announced his candidacy in September, and his apparent lack of familiarity with the matter led some to question how familiar he was with important issues as he embarked on his presidential run.

Porsche Seen Likely To Gain VW Merger

By Mark Landler

THE NEW YORK TIMES

FRANKFURT, GERMANY

A 47-year-old German law is the only roadblock that stands between Porsche and its long-sought goal of taking over Volkswagen. On Tuesday, the law is likely to be swept away.

The European Court of Justice in Luxembourg is expected to strike down the so-called Volkswagen Law, a statute devised by the German government to protect the auto giant from an unwanted takeover.

While such a decision would be greeted as a significant milestone in Europe’s development of an open market, it would be even more momentous in the way it reshapes the German auto industry.

After Porsche is free to increase its voting stake in Volkswagen, analysts predicted, it will move to become VW’s majority owner — a small, but highly profitable maker of sports cars swallowing a company 14 times its size.

It would be a classic David-and-Goliath tale, if this Goliath were not synonymous with the tiny Beetle.

Porsche has been buying shares in Volkswagen for two years, and it has made no secret of its goal. It has even arranged a \$14 billion credit line for additional stock purchases, though Porsche executives insist they are under no pressure to raise their stake and in no hurry to do so.

One Person’s Trash Is Another’s Lost Masterpiece

By Carol Vogel

THE NEW YORK TIMES

NEW YORK

It’s hardly a place you would expect to find a \$1 million painting.

But one March morning four years ago, Elizabeth Gibson was on her way to get coffee, as usual, when she spotted a large and colorful abstract canvas nestled between two big garbage bags in front of the Alexandria, an apartment building on the northwest corner of Broadway and 72nd Street in Manhattan.

“I had a real debate with myself,” said Gibson, a writer and self-professed Dumpster diver. “I almost left it there because it was so big, and I kept thinking to myself, ‘Why are you taking this back to your crammed apartment?’”

But, she said, she felt she simply had to have the 38-by-51-inch painting, because “it had a strange power.”

Art experts would agree with her. As it turns out, the painting was “Three People,” a 1970 canvas by the celebrated Mexican artist Rufino Tamayo that was stolen 20 years ago and is the subject of an FBI investigation.

Experts say the painting — a largely abstract depiction of a man, a woman and an androgynous figure in vibrant purples, oranges and yellows — is in miraculously good condition and worth about \$1 million. On Nov. 20, it is to go on the block at Sotheby’s as one of the highlights of a Latin American art auction.

OPINION

Why the U.S. and Israel Are Strong Allies

Stephen D. Fried

The value that the U.S.-Israel relationship has to both partners of the alliance is incalculable not only because of its strategic importance, but also because it projects values that matter deeply to the American people.

In their address at MIT on Oct. 3, academics Stephen M. Walt and John J. Mearsheimer argued that support of Israel is not an American interest, and to advance their claim, they suggested that lobby groups run largely by American Jews control and dictate American foreign policy — therefore explaining the United States’ strong relationship with Israel.

As the U.S.-Israel relationship reaches 60 years of unflagging dedication, it is indeed important to consider what precisely is the basis for this strong alliance.

Ultimately, American influence is not aimed at hegemony, but rather is motivated by the sincere conviction that democracy, free-market economy, free press, and Western-styled civil rights optimize the symbiosis between government and people and leads to stability. Israel is the only regime in its region that possesses these qualities, and therefore American support of Israel demonstrates our commitment to these values and furthermore serves as means of projecting our values into a distant sector of the world.

The thesis Walt and Mearsheimer concoct is that “Israel’s security is ultimately not of immediate concern to the United States.” Their attitude (called “neo-realism”) is that America’s national interests supersede any moral imperative or ethical conscience. By extension, according to this school, there is no compelling national interest for America to foil genocide in Darfur because that might interfere with our relationship with petroleum-exporting countries. This bothers me, and I believe it should bother you. Values matter; they define who we are. American foreign policy attempts to make good on those values, and although oftentimes we may fall short of this noble goal, our nation-

al interests will always be tied to them, which is why the Israel Lobby continues to be germane.

Israel is perhaps the single most reliable, capable, and willing friend of the United States in its region and in the world. That statement is not a romanticization but is empirically verifiable by the fact that Israel’s support for the United States’ positions in international forums (like the United Nations) has surpassed any other governments’ — even those of other Western countries such as France, Britain, and Canada — for the last 60 years. Democrats and Republicans across the board have been unified in one voice supporting American friendship with Israel. Whereas support for America among European countries sways with changes in political climate and zeitgeist, Israeli support for America is simply a fact of life.

Israel is perhaps the single most reliable, capable, and willing friend of the U.S. in its region and in the world.

Likewise, in poll after poll, Americans say that they want to support Israel. According to a Gallup poll from February 2007, more than half of Americans rated Israel as a “vital friend,” while 55 percent of the respondents rated the Jewish State as “favorable” and “important,” the only country to be named in both categories. Polls of the House and Senate reveal that 93 percent of representatives and 85 percent of senators express the same sentiments. Legislation that supports Israel (such the Iran Freedom and Support Act of 2005) pass Congress with the highest margins and receive bipartisan support, because Israel’s national security concerns and America’s national security concerns are inextricably linked.

The shared security interest was true during the Cold War and continues to be true in the present global war on terror. Every American

president since Harry S. Truman has personally supported Israel, including Jimmy Carter, who despite his recent change in heart, stated during his own administration: “The survival of Israel is not a political issue, it is a moral imperative. That is my deeply held belief and it is the belief that is shared by the vast majority of the American people ... a strong secure Israel is not just in Israel’s interest. It’s in the interest of the United States and in the interest of the entire free world.”

In the summer of 1942, 400 rabbis went to Washington, D.C. to lobby Congress to take steps to rescue the Jews of Europe, but most people said America had no compelling national interest to do so. American fighter jets flew past Auschwitz in 1944 and bombed a rubber factory nearby instead of saving potentially millions of lives. In 1984, the United States funded Operation Moses, a covert project that airlifted 8,000 black Jews from Sudan to Israel who were at risk of being murdered by paramilitary groups. The operation took American taxpayer dollars and was done at the risk of alienating oil-exporting regimes.

Why was American policy so different in 1984 than in 1942? Perhaps because there was an Israel Lobby that called on America to act upon its values by intervening in the international arena, just as it now does vis-à-vis Darfur. While some may protest that the operation did not advance American interests, I am proud that American policy sometimes upholds ideals instead of surrendering to the pressures of geopolitical forces like oil and nationalism. Israel has similarly committed itself to the same ideals by having the highest percent of its GDP committed to international humanitarian aid and by welcoming the highest number of Darfuran refugees from Sudan of any country in the world.

As we approach the 60th anniversary of the American-Israeli relationship, I am confident that the alliance will continue to be mutual, voluntary, and strong.

Stephen D. Fried is a member of the Class of 2009.



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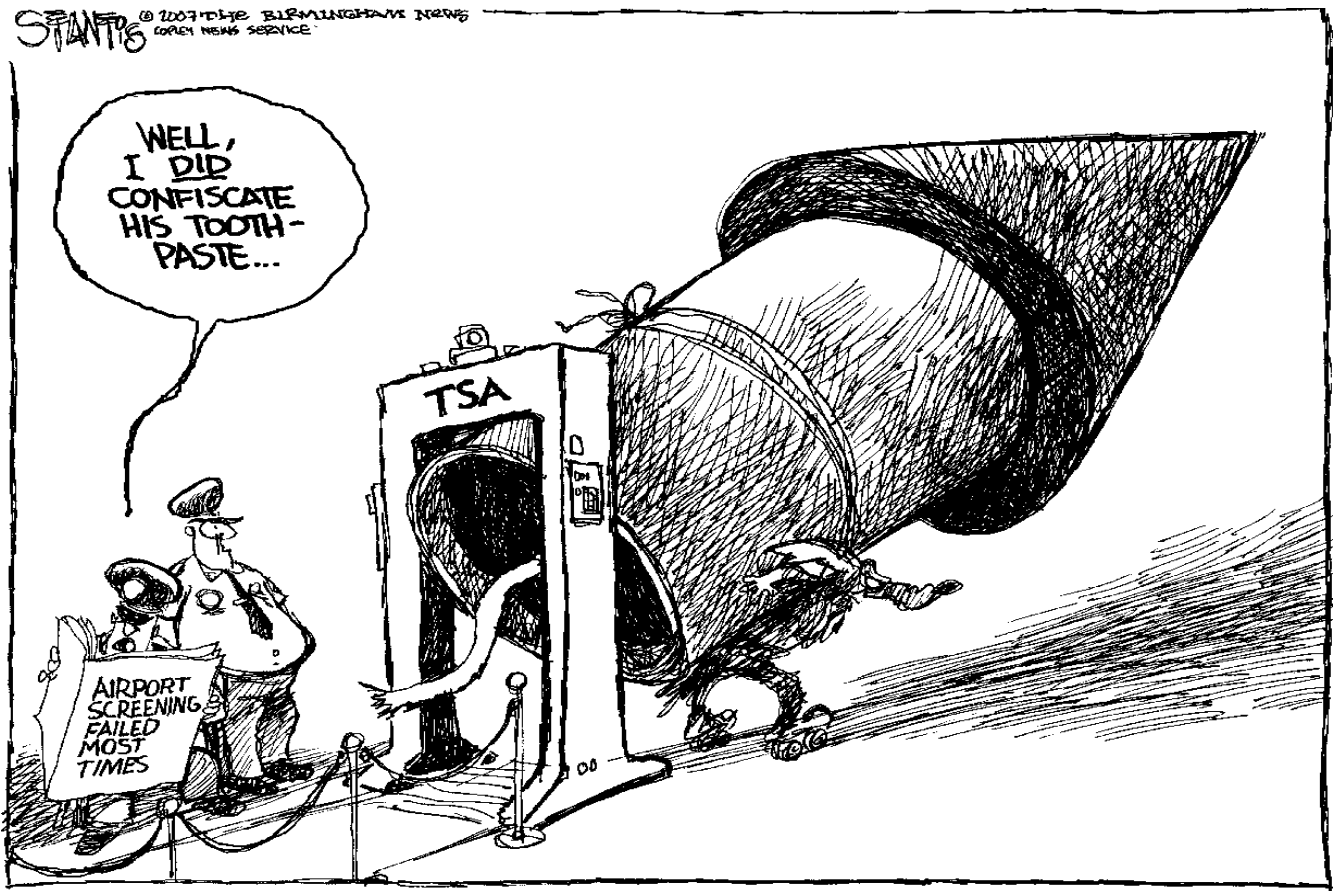
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Congratulations!

With Faith, Hope, and Love,
The Sisters of Kappa Alpha Theta, Zeta Mu Chapter

CAMPUS LIFE

Squid vs. Whale

Bar Story Bad

By Charles Lin
STAFF COLUMNIST

Bad things exist along a spectrum. A flat tire in a thunderstorm is unpleasant. Getting jilted hurts really bad. Getting stuck on a bus to New York for eight hours, now, that's interminably bad.

Any time you have a bad day like that, you always wonder, could things ever get any worse? You know the answer is, oh, absolutely they can! But did you know that sometimes you should hope things get worse? Because the worst day of your life is only a few more mishaps away from being bar story bad.

What is bar story bad? Bar story bad is when things get so bad it's funny. It's a corollary of the B-movie that's so bad it's good. Bar story bad is a beautiful place to be because all bad days end eventually. It sucks to live through it, but from that moment forward you know you've got one hell of a story to tell. And knowing that is the only thing that helps you get through that terrible day.

I know this from experience, and I'm sure most people have had days like this. My life has been full of bar story bad days, which is why I'm the most entertaining person you'll ever meet. Anytime something bad happens to me, I'm always wondering if something even worse could happen to swing this day from being simply miserable to amazingly funny/bad. Just like that day I cut off most of my little toe.

Take my trip last weekend to New York. Getting stuck on the bus is always bad. Traffic sucks. Sitting forever sucks. It's just bad. I was hating my existence and wishing I was uncon-

scious. Then all of a sudden everything stopped and a fireball appeared in the distance. I perked up and started to pay attention. The tides had turned — I had now entered a bar story bad day. I knew from that moment on, anything that happened to me could be used in my favor at all future bars.

Our bus was boxed in by semis on all sides. There was no escape. Police cars zoomed in from every side. My chances of getting into New York at a reasonable hour were dashed, but I didn't care. This was the start of something memorable.

We sat on that bus completely immobilized and just relished how much this sucked. The air smelled like gasoline. Sirens were everywhere. Some guy on the bus started shouting about how it would be no good if someone died in the car wreck, because then the police would have to close off the scene for two hours and take pictures. Wait, what? He was hoping no one had died only because it would mean an extra inconvenience?

The driver checked in with a trucker and found out that a big pile-up had occurred and a truck's fuel tank had exploded. No one had died, but they'd have to clean up the mess for a few hours. I didn't even know cars could explode like that!

With absolutely nowhere to go, there was no reason to get worked up. Sometimes acceptance is key. So everyone on the bus napped or chatted. Life stories were exchanged. I got to know the bus driver really well. She told me stories about growing up in the segregated South and how this white lady made the best hot dogs of

all time, but wouldn't sell them to her so she had to go to the back of the store to buy them from one of the store boys. She told me stories about how much she hated North Carolina when she was growing up because of the social atmosphere and it wasn't until she left that she realized how beautiful a place it was.

We shared stories about living in Texas. She told me about her time in the Air Force living in Greece. We had an animated discussion about just how wonderful Southern food is. She talked about pulled pork that was so good it was elbow deep. I tried to figure out what that meant. Once I did, the barbecue suddenly sounded less appetizing, so I won't share it with you. Nonetheless, she promised to bring me some real barbecue on her next trip up to Boston. And to think, I only got to know her because a truck exploded in front of us. Ain't that something!

As we talked, I also got to sneak in the best text message conversation ever with my friend, Sarah:

Sarah: When are you getting in?

Me: Few hours out. It's a long story involving explosions. Will explain upon arrival. I hope you still have booze waiting.

Sarah: OMG

Me: I know, WTF!

Sarah: Now you have something to write about!

To think I was dying for column ideas!

We waited for about another hour. The bus driver kept repeating her mantra, PMA, positive mental attitude: If we all believe, we'll get what we want. Some guy had to catch a 1 a.m. train to Pittsburgh for a meeting. PMA.

Another old guy spent our delay hitting on a prim and proper college girl from Brookline. PMA. I mentioned that, at the station, I was one person off from getting on the earlier bus. Had I arrived at the station five minutes earlier, I could have missed the wreck entirely. But then, I could have also been in the wreck. And so we talked about how much of life is a spin of the wheel, and how often the big things in life come down to pure dumb luck.

Some guy said how even though things could get worse, things could also get better. But honestly at this point, I was looking forward to things getting worse. Good things happening on an already bad day just bring a day back to being mediocre. I'd much rather reserve good luck for good days. Days when I'm not stuck on a bus.

Things did get worse. Just when the wreck cleared and we finally got on our way again, the sky let loose and something reminiscent of a Texas Downpour hit. I chuckled and watched waves of rain rip across the highway. The bus driver bitched about crazy folks that didn't know nothin' 'bout driving in the rain and we hummed songs about Old Man River together.

We finally got into the city around 2 a.m., only to find no place to park in the Port Authority. She finally illegally parked us and I scrambled out to unload all the bags and get everyone on their way before the Man came and got us in trouble.

Heaving that last portmanteau onto the curb, I thought to myself, tonight couldn't have been any worse, but it also wasn't bad either. I'd have a story to tell. And that ain't all that bad.

Brouhaha Rhythm

Hardly Working

By Michael T. Lin
STAFF COLUMNIST

There's nothing like the lack of supervision, combined with a healthy workload, to help me realize how I work best. I've already taken great joy in flouting virtually every study habit I've ever been told about, like not listening to music with lyrics, or working at my desk instead of on the dinner table (although due to a lack of adequate cash flow for furniture, the two are the same as often as not). When better than college to twiddle with different ways to tool in search of the optimal learning method?

Already I've learned that my bunk has a strange intelligence-enhancing aura that makes psets easier (or, if I fall asleep, at least more relaxing). I've found my columns seem to turn

out better when I write them on something other than the computer — legal pads, the backs of envelopes not occupied by impromptu calculations, the abdomens of squirrels passing by — it doesn't much matter so long as I'm not typing it first. My writing has improved considerably since I discovered that little gem, but I think it's making my laptop jealous.

I honestly can't explain why certain study habits are so helpful when they seem to be completely anti-productive, like listening to "Lonesome Loser" while missing a party to do chemistry homework. Actually, so long as it works, I'm really not inclined to ask too many questions, lest my brain decides to kick the irony up a notch and decree that I can't do integration by parts unless "Separate" by Ryanhood is

playing in the background.

I have to admit, though, I am a little curious as to just how bizarre some study habits might get. Could there be someone out there who can't work unless they're wearing brown tube socks with little green hearts that glow in the dark ... I mean, dark? Or is there perhaps an art history major out there who manages to triple his grade point average simply by lopping off his left ear?

I can't think of a single explanation for the effectiveness of these unorthodox study methods. It's possible that my unnatural ability to think more clearly in close proximity to my bed is actually a strange (and lame) superpower. If that were the case, with time and training, I could use it to become an even more strange

superhero, drawing all the wisdom of the universe from a security blanket wired into my brain.

Or not. Melodramatic pronouncements, unfortunately, only go so far in real life. Besides, even if I did become a bedding-based vigilante, one can only tolerate so many double entendres using the term "pillow talk." Plus, wearing a cape with spandex pajamas has been outdated since Elvis.

Now, if you'll excuse me, I should be going now. Writing this has taken up all of my exposed skin and almost all of my toilet paper, and at least a few squares left over would be nice by the end of the article. I've got a physics assignment that requires my attention, so if you need me ... I'll be in my bunk.

Through My Eyes

Questioning My Character

By Christina Kang
STAFF COLUMNIST

Though my summer was extraordinary, it was also heartrendingly eye-opening. It was more than the suffocating heat, nauseating odor, and hordes of flies. Our group was welcomed by most people, but sometimes I'd find older women gazing scornfully at me, a foreigner marching in with an expensive-looking camera, here to take pictures of their pitiful living conditions.

Have you ever wanted to help but not known how? It seems unfair that I was born into a life with parents who will most likely live to see their great-grandchildren. I have always had plenty to eat and have slept under a roof that doesn't leak green toxic water. Most of the people in these poor areas don't live to be too old. Children crowd the streets since there seem to be about four to seven children per family. Women my age have children, and women only slightly older have grandchildren. The legal marrying age is 18, so many have children before marriage.

It didn't feel right to drink bottled water as the kids around me ran barefoot through slimy water. Their ill-fitting hand-me-downs made my fairly new clothing feel hypocritical. I wished I could switch lives with them and give them everything I have. But the truth is that I didn't want to live there either. Would I trade places with one of these children? What if I could exchange myself for two or three of them? I'd like to think that I would do it, but I'm not sure. If I couldn't, what does that say about me?

Some say that since I'll become a doctor, it is better that I stay healthy and get a good

education. I'll be able to help more people that way. But perhaps one of these children would have cured cancer or helped bring about peace. I'm ashamed to say that I'm still not sure I could have made the switch. I'd like to think I would, but if I was actually put in the situation, would I do it?

Many of the camps I went to had sincere smiles and sparkling eyes. But some in particular seemed to be suffering more from their position. These particular camps still had cute children, but their eyes sparkled with tears instead of laughter. They tugged at my clothing, endearingly calling me "dede," which is "big sister" in Hindi. In one of these camps, there were two children, a girl and a boy, who kept following me around but didn't want their picture taken. The girl was probably about eight years old and the boy was perhaps three years old. Their eyes seemed to beg me to take them away to where I came from, to let them get a taste of my life.

I only saw a fraction of the pain. There is still a lot of pain that I will not see. Behind the smiles, behind the closed doors, who knows what happens? They acknowledge their problems, many even work to solve them. One man, for example, studied in these horrible conditions for several years. Now, he only has one exam left to become a certified M.D.

The difference between most of us and these people is that they seem to accept their fate and work to live the best they can, but at the same time appreciate what they do have. This ability to look at the bright side of things despite darkness in every direction is what astounds me.

It's easy enough to say that you want to help, but when it comes down to it, what re-

ally matters is what you actually do. What happens when you feel there's nothing you can do? When you have no idea of a solution or when you can't be sure whether what you do helps or hurts? I was told by one of the Indian students that a common Indian belief is that the rich are rich because they were good people in their previous lives while the poor are poor as punishment for their bad past lives.

This train of thought makes the poor settle

into their lives, thinking they deserve to be "punished," and makes the rich unwilling to help the poor. A foreigner can only do so much for a country; the country itself must step up to make a widespread and sustaining difference. But how can this happen? As a foreigner, you don't want to change the culture or the people, but if the culture is preventing necessary change (though even this is questionable), what do you do?



CHRISTINA KANG—THE TECH

A young mother watches over her children at a construction site. The children glance longingly at the bright McDonald's restaurant next to them as people eat behind the large, sparkling windows.

Talking Turkey

Who the Hack Is Mr. Gobbles?

By Daniel Turner

OK, so a turkey hangs out in Kendall Square. Big deal — I’ve seen a lot of turkeys in my lifetime. Maybe that’s just because I grew up on a rural Minnesota farm, but that isn’t an explanation for why barely anyone around here seems to know what a turkey is. You see, I walked down the path that leads past Quantum Books into East Cambridge twice a day for over a year. In that time, I saw some pretty strange episodes involving the Kendall Square turkey, affectionately known as Mr. Gobbles. I’ve seen him walking, running, flying, sleeping, munching on grass, and being chased by everyone from obese women to skinny kids.

One of the first incidents was when a short woman wearing wrap-around sunglasses and a flashy yellow shirt passed Mr. Gobbles and asked me, “Hey man, is that a peacock?!” I wanted to give a witty reply about how stupid her question was, but no, I held my tongue

and politely explained that it was a turkey. Wikipedia states, “Turkeys are ... rarely mistaken for any other species.” That site needs amending!

Other days, I hear bits of cell phone conversations like this: “I don’t know what it is [pause as other person replies]. It’s on the other side of a fence.” A couple of times young mothers, with babies in strollers, suddenly have a burst of energy and quickly speed walk past Mr. Gobbles to keep their child out of harm’s way. Mothering instincts or Darwin at work, perhaps? More like ignorance — what is he going to do, eat your kid?!

The worst incident was when two obese women (approximately in their 40s) chased Mr. Gobbles, grinning, laughing, shouting,

and clapping. I suggested they stop. They became very defensive and said that no, this was not for their entertainment (yeah, right) but for the animal’s protection (they didn’t know it was a turkey either). They thought he would run into the street and get hit by a car. Again, I held my tongue and told them, no, he’s been around here for a few years now and has done fine, so please leave him alone. They left looking very sulen, but at least Mr. Gobbles had his peace and quiet.

And then there are all the bored tourists on the trolley tours. They look totally exhausted as the trolley pulls up to the stop light. Then, like wildfire, I see them exchange exclamations of surprise and delight. Suddenly everyone on the trolley whips out cell phones and cameras to

shoot pictures of the turkey from across the street. Then they put away those same cameras as they get a green light and the driver explains, “Up next is MIT, a very famous institution” MIT just isn’t as exciting as a turkey, apparently!

Occasionally I see a group of twentysomething, strapping, smartly-dressed lads from local businesses exchange glances, laugh, point at the Mr. Gobbles, and then mutter something like, “I bet my dad knows what it is.” Come on, you have how many degrees and you don’t know what a turkey is?

When I was in grade school, every fall we had to make drawings of turkeys by tracing our hands. Were most of the so-called intelligent people around here so smart that they skipped these grades? So, hackers, the gauntlet is laid down — please transform the dome into a giant turkey so I don’t have to answer stupid questions any longer and so people will know what they are eating on Thanksgiving.

Wikipedia states,
“Turkeys are ... rarely mistaken
for any other species.”
That site needs amending!



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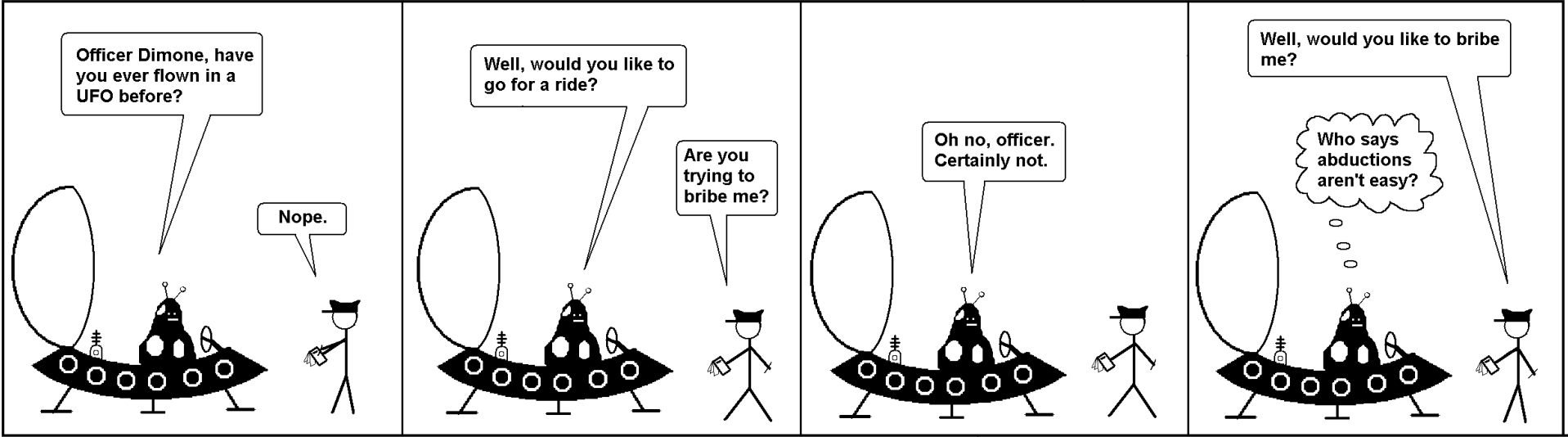
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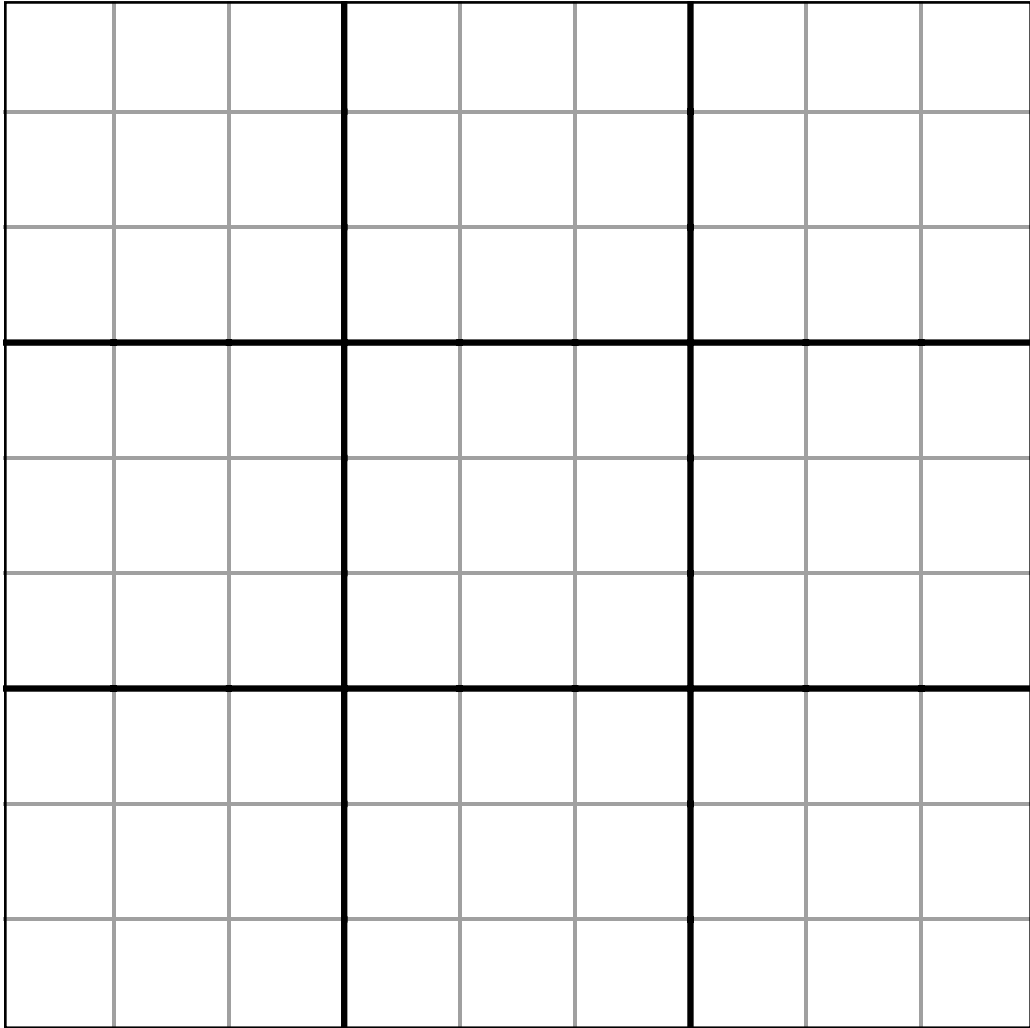


“I’m sorry dear, but I guess I’m just not really into that sort of thing.”

su | do | ku

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Solution, tips, and computer program at <http://www.sudoku.com>

Crossword Puzzle

Solution, page 12

- ACROSS**

1 Profusion

5 God of Islam

10 Nail smoother

14 Paquin of “The Squid and the Whale”

15 Intermesh

16 Mild Dutch cheese

17 Start of Evan Esar quote

20 Bagel topper

21 Short drink

22 Dollar bill artist

23 Wickerwork material

26 Spread wide

27 Sneakier

30 Pleasant

32 Part 2 of quote

39 Campus sports org.

40 North of Mexico

41 Sty denizens
- 42 Part 3 of quote

45 Words of denial

46 Rot-resistant wood

47 Having wings

51 Danish seaport

54 Former Turkish titles

56 Me to Pierre

57 Gray or Candler

60 End of quote

64 Colorful mount

65 Lauder of cosmetics

66 Middle section of a scherzo

67 Math course

68 Extends across

69 Warren of the NFL

DOWN

1 Marsh bird

2 Data

3 Cameo stone
- 4 The way to Lao-tzu

5 In the least

6 Bounded

7 WC

8 St. crosser

9 Fashion lines

10 Tired of it all

11 Model of perfection

12 Preminger film

13 Without content

18 Take away weaponry

19 Befuddled

23 Showed again

24 Automaton

25 Capone henchman

27 Out of __ (discordant)

28 Mad as a Spaniard

29 Chinese currency

31 Atkins or Huntley

33 Centerward
- 34 Greet, in a way

35 Oar holder

36 __ better watch out!

37 Grimm figure

38 Exploiter

43 Shaq of the NBA

44 Arafat of the PLO

47 Separated

48 Work

49 Brazilian palm

50 Leather strip

52 Tunnell of the NFL

53 “The Highwayman” poet

55 Takes to court

57 Taj Mahal site

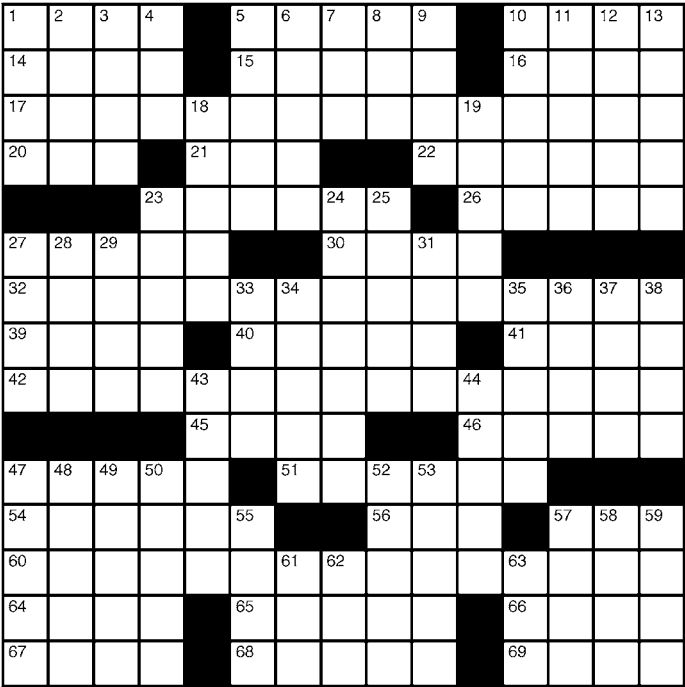
58 Tanker or cruiser

59 On the peak of

61 Recipe abbr.

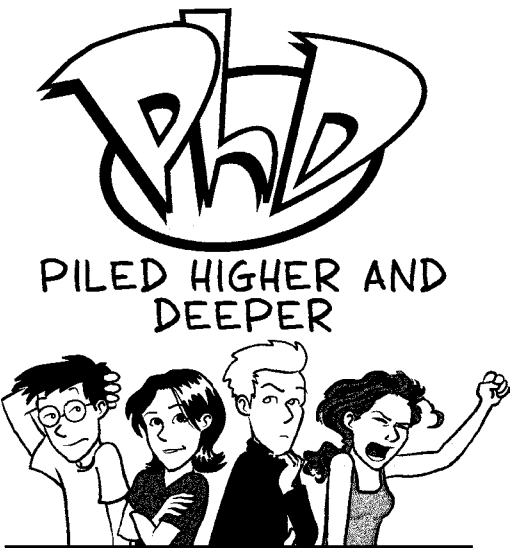
62 Greek letter

63 “__ a Wonderful Life”

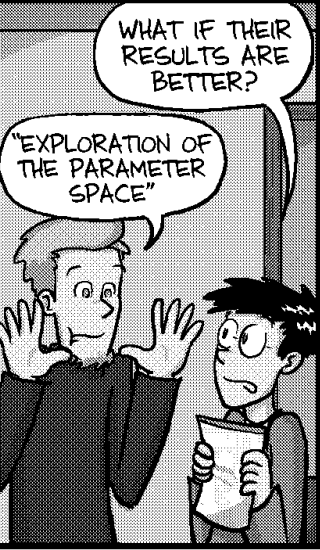
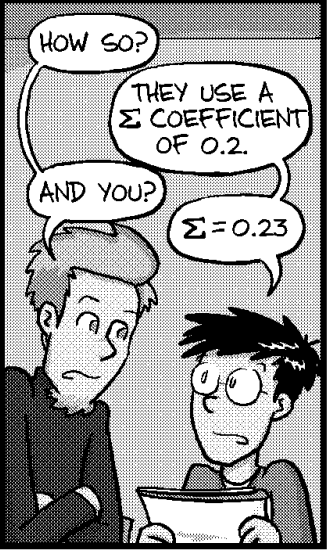
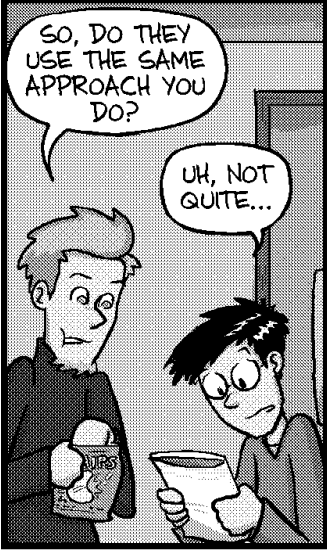
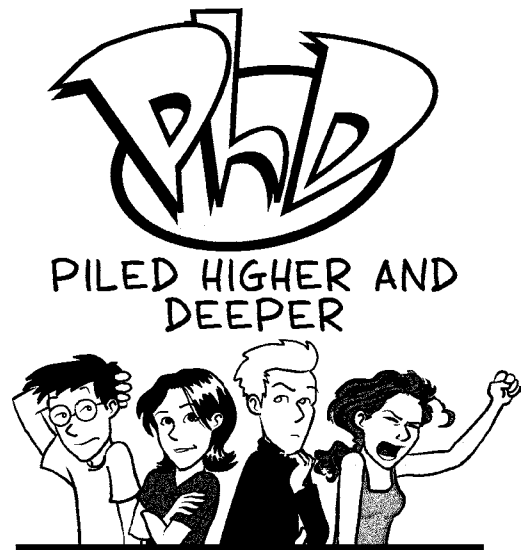


Doonesbury
BY GARRY TRUDEAU

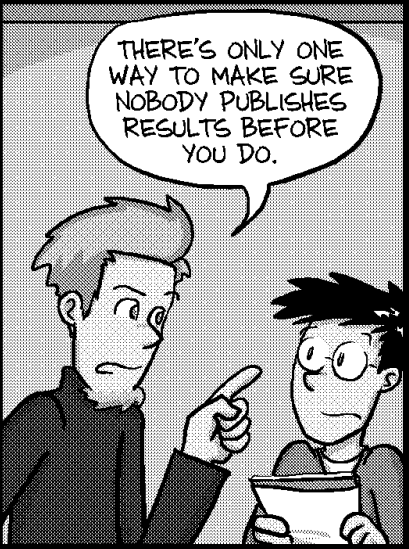
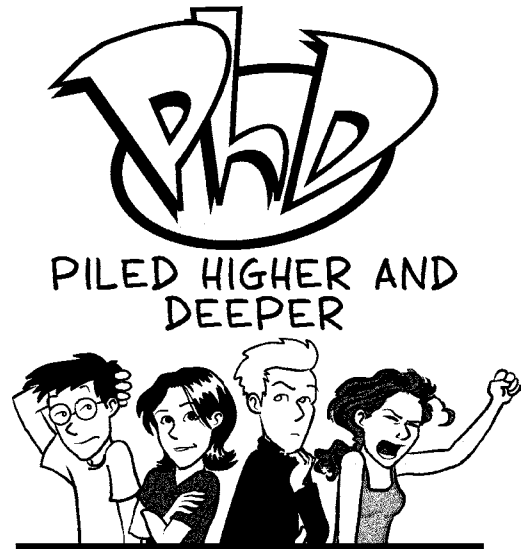
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Institute Falls in Public Service Rankings

Rankings, from Page 1

a school does not vary much over a short time span, Anderson said.

The first category that is addressed by *Washington Monthly* is social mobility. The magazine analyzes schools by predicting graduation rates based on incoming SAT scores and the number of Pell grants awarded. Pell grants are awarded to low-income undergraduates and are a measure of how many under-privileged students attend an institution.

The predicted graduation rate for MIT this year was 102 percent, reflecting the fact that incoming MIT students have very high SAT scores and that there are very few Pell grant recipients this year. *Washington Monthly* does not cap the predicted graduation rate at 100 percent.

The difference between MIT's actual graduation rate (94 percent) and the predicted graduation rate was used as the measure for social mobility. MIT was ranked 205 in this category this year.

The source of SAT score data is the Department of Higher Education, Anderson said. "The change in MIT's SAT scores would not have affected this ranking, nor did it have any effect on the *U.S. News* rankings, because it was just not statistically significant," MIT Director of Institutional Research Lydia S. Snover said.

MIT ranked second overall in the number of PhDs awarded in 2007. This number contributes significantly to the research category ranking. Another component is the amount of research grant money that a college or university is awarded. MIT ranked 15th in this category behind schools such as Johns Hopkins University and the University of Washington, which ranked first and second, respectively.

A common contention with the *Washington Monthly* rankings is how the research category is measured. By using the absolute value of grant money awarded as opposed to a proportional measure that incorporates the size of the faculty or student body, this category gives an advantage to larger schools. *Washington Monthly* argues that this advantage is acceptable because larger schools generally have larger research capabilities.

The final category deals with the amount of community service performed by students and graduates of a school. The category takes into account the number of graduates that join the Peace Corps and the size of Reserve Officer Training Corps programs. These two groups are considered representative of other service organizations even though some schools such as Princeton do not have ROTC programs.

"We feel that participation in the military is a big part of social service," Anderson said. The ROTC program at MIT ranked 13th.

Also included in the community service category is the percentage of Federal Work-Study Funds that are spent on service in the local region. MIT has improved in this area because of new community service programs offered by the Public Service Center, such as ReachOut, a part of the America Reads literacy program.

Although MIT dropped this year in the *Washington Monthly* rankings, the Institute still performed better than many of the most selective colleges and universities in the country that also sit at the top of the *U.S. News* rankings. Harvard University was ranked 27th in this year's *Washington Monthly* rankings.

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College Tuition Rising at More Than Double the Inflation Rate

By Jonathan D. Glater
THE NEW YORK TIMES

Tuition and fees at public and private colleges and universities rose at more than double the rate of inflation, the College Board said in reports released Monday morning.

One report found that while the pace of increase has held steady at four-year private institutions, it has picked up at public ones.

The increases in the cost of higher education continue to drive up the amount that students and families borrow, with the greatest increase coming in private loans, according to a separate College Board report also released this morning.

Tuition and other costs, not including room and board, rose to an average of \$6,185 at public four-year colleges this year, up 6.6 percent from last year, while average tuition at private colleges hit \$23,712, an increase of 6.3 percent. At public two-year institutions, average tuition and fees rose 4.2 percent to \$2,361.

Last year, tuition and fees at public institution rose by 5.7 percent; at private ones, by 6.3 percent and at public two-year institutions, by 3.8 percent.

“The average price of college is continuing to rise more rapidly than the consumer price index, more rapidly than prices in the economy,” Sandy Baum, a co-author of the report who is a senior policy analyst for the College Board and a professor at Skidmore College, told reporters at a news conference on Monday morning. She added that the prices “are probably higher than most of us want them to be.”

Those price hikes reflect increases in the sticker price that colleges advertise, though, Baum said, the average student does not pay that full amount. At public universities, the average student gets about \$3,600 in grants and tax benefits, lowering the actual cost to around \$2,600. At private institutions, aid totals about \$9,300, bringing the cost to \$14,400.

But even the net price, after tak-

ing into account grants and other forms of aid, is rising more quickly than prices of other goods and than family incomes. In recent years, consumer prices have risen by less than 3 percent a year, while net tuition at public colleges has risen by 6.6 percent and at private ones, 4.6 percent.

The changes in tuition at public institutions closely track changes in financing they receive from state governments and other public sources, the report found. When state and local support for public colleges declined over the last seven years, tuition and fees rose more quickly, and as state support has grown of late,

Tuition and other costs, not including room and board, rose to an average of \$6,185 at public four-year colleges this year, while average tuition at private colleges hit \$23,712.

the pace of increases fell, it said.

“We hope that state governments — which really set tuition prices at most public colleges and universities — will do their part to reinvest in higher education,” David Ward, president of the American Council on Education, said in a statement released by the College Board.

Private loans, those not guaranteed by the federal government, continued to be the fastest growing form of borrowing, totaling more than \$17 billion in the 2006-07 academic year. In the same period, students and their families borrowed \$59.6 billion in federally guaranteed loans.

The report on borrowing also included data on loans by full-time students at for-profit institutions, finding that in 2003-04, they took out an average of \$6,750 in loans, approaching the \$7,320 borrowed by students at private colleges, \$5,390 by those

at public four-year institutions and \$3,180 at public two-year ones.

Last year the average Pell grant, the federal government’s grant to the neediest students, declined for the second year in a row, after taking into account the effects of inflation. Baum, the economist, said she expected that decline to halt because Congress recently enacted increases in the maximum amount of the grant, which had held constant at \$4,050 for four years.

“The grants for low-income students haven’t been growing fast enough,” Baum said. As a result the share of tuition that a Pell grant can cover has declined steadily. The increases mandated by Congress will gradually boost the maximum Pell grant to \$5,400 over the next five years, helping to preserve its purchasing power, Baum said.

The College Board’s study drew on responses from 2,976 institutions to questionnaires sent out last October, as well as government agencies and organizations like the National Association of College and University Business Officers.

According to the study, the cost of room and board has also continued to rise and at many public colleges dwarfs actual tuition. At four-year public institutions, tuition, room and board on average now total \$13,589; at private colleges, \$32,307.

Ms. Baum emphasized that while the College Board reports provide information on what is happening in general to the cost of higher education, students and parents should not base their expectations on the reports. Costs vary in different parts of the country as well as at different kinds of colleges, she said.

“The average numbers don’t tell the story for any individual student,” Ms. Baum said.

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UNAUTHORIZED FILE SHARING OF COPYRIGHTED MATERIALS IS AGAINST THE LAW AND MIT POLICY

As the fall semester at MIT is in full swing, we think it is important to remind you about the serious consequences of unauthorized downloading and sharing of copyrighted materials.

We cannot stress more emphatically that unauthorized downloading and sharing of copyrighted files is illegal, contrary to MIT policy, and a serious matter with potentially damaging consequences. MIT strongly discourages such unauthorized downloading and sharing of computer files (web.mit.edu/copyright).

The Recording Industry Association of America (RIAA) has notified MIT and other universities of its intention to continue to sue students for infringing their members’ copyrights. It has been reported that as of the beginning of 2006, the RIAA had filed over 17,500 lawsuits. We believe this campaign will continue and expand. See www.p2plawsuits.com.

It is also worth reminding you that, in addition to the RIAA, many other content owners, including the Motion Picture Association of America, send takedown notices under the Digital Millennium Copyright Act (DMCA) for videos, movies, games, and software. Takedown notices request that access to infringing files on the Internet be removed or disabled. Students should reconsider engaging in any unauthorized activity in light of the pervasive monitoring of file sharing that content owners do on the Internet.

We know that this has been a most stressful experience for those students who have been named in the past. Accordingly, we are writing this note to ensure that you can avoid this consequence by complying with MIT policy and the law. We also want to let you know of resources available to students facing a notice, subpoena, and/or lawsuit from the RIAA or another entertainment industry company.

Copyright Enforcement Activities

In the past few years, companies in the entertainment industry have aggressively attempted to stop unauthorized downloading, copying, and sharing of music and video by college students. They monitor the Internet daily for this activity. This monitoring allows these companies to identify Internet Protocol (“IP”) addresses, but they cannot identify users of those IP addresses. Therefore, when a company determines that an IP address has been used to violate its copyright, a takedown notice is sent to Internet Service Providers (“ISPs”) requesting the ISP’s registered DMCA agent to forward the notice on to the user of that IP address. The notice describes the alleged unauthorized downloading and sharing of certain copyrighted files over the Internet and requests that access to the infringing files be removed or disabled.

It has been MIT’s practice to forward these notices to the identified users. However, MIT does not provide any identifying information to the content owner unless it is required to do so in response to a valid, enforceable subpoena for records.

The RIAA has developed a comprehensive strategy for addressing copyright violations. In addition to takedown notices, the RIAA has been sending campus ISPs two types of notices prior to filing lawsuits: “preservation requests” and “pre-litigation settlement letters.” It has been reported that the RIAA has sent almost 3,000 pre-litigation settlement letters. MIT alone has received more than 50 settlement letters this year.

Preservation Requests

“Preservation requests” notify the ISP that a subpoena may be served on it seeking identifying information about a network subscriber who has allegedly infringed an RIAA member’s copyrighted sound recordings. Like the takedown notices, the preservation request identifies an alleged infringer’s IP address at a particular date and time. The preservation request asks the ISP to preserve contact information for such user.

MIT’s practice is to forward the preservation request to the user, if the user can be identified, with an explanatory email from MIT’s DMCA agent encouraging the user to preserve evidence relating to the claims and to retain, and not delete, any peer-to-peer program. Again, unless served with a proper subpoena, MIT will not release the contact information based on the preservation request alone.

Pre-Litigation Settlement Letters

Outside legal counsel for the RIAA has also been sending “pre-litigation settlement letters” to the DMCA agent for MIT. The settlement letter is directed to the user of a particular IP address. The letter provides information indicating that the user has violated copyright laws. It provides an opportunity to settle the claim as early as possible at a “significantly reduced amount” compared to the judgment amount a court might enter. It also informs the user to preserve evidence relating to the claims and instructs the user to retain, and not delete, any peer-to-peer programs.

MIT’s practice is to forward the settlement letter together with an explanation to the user. Based on the wording in recent copies of the letter, the recipient must settle with the RIAA within twenty (20) days of the date of the letter or face a lawsuit. He or she may want to seek legal counsel before making a decision.

Lawsuits and Subpoenas

If, after a settlement letter is sent, there is no settlement, RIAA member companies have been filing lawsuits in the Federal District Court in Boston against unnamed MIT students for allegedly infringing their copyrights by downloading certain information and, for some, distributing the information to others over the Internet. After filing these “John Doe” lawsuits identifying IP addresses, the companies serve subpoenas on MIT seeking identifying information of the user for that particular IP address.

After providing appropriate notice to the students of the subpoenas and ensuring that the subpoenas are valid, MIT is legally required to provide the information sought by the valid subpoenas. With the subpoenaed information, we understand the companies again try to settle the matter with the identified individuals, and if settlement is not reached, amend the lawsuits to name the individual students and proceed in court.

Technical Questions:

If you have any questions about file sharing, IP addresses on the MIT network, or MIT’s policy on releasing information, please contact copyright@mit.edu.

Finding an attorney to explain your rights and options:

Massachusetts Bar Association Lawyer Referral Service Ph: 617.338.0610 www.massbar.org

Boston Bar Association Lawyer Referral Service Ph: 617.742.0625 www.bostonbar.org

American Bar Association www.abanet.org/legal/services/findlegalhelp/home.html

If you need further help, you may contact Mark DiVincenzo, MIT’s Deputy General Counsel, at 617.452.3985. Although the General Counsel’s Office cannot provide legal advice or referrals, they can provide resources and information that may be helpful.

In addition, as we hope you know, MIT has a care network available to you to provide support to help you. Counseling and support are available for all students through the following offices:

Student Support Services (S3)
5-104 253-4861

Offers personal counseling for undergraduate and graduate students on a broad spectrum of issues including those which may affect a student’s academic performance.

Center for Health Promotion and Wellness at MIT Medical E23-205 253-3646

Offers resources on issues such as sleep difficulties, stress, time management, relaxation techniques, or concerns about a friend in need.

Mental Health Services at MIT Medical E23-368 253-2916

Offers confidential individual and group counseling, psychotherapy, and medication for all students with any personal concerns. Appointments are easily scheduled; walk-in hours available weekday afternoons, 2-4. On call clinicians are available 24/7 for urgent problems.

Housemasters and Graduate Resident Tutors

Offer support and referral to other resources on campus.

Resident Advisors in the FSILGs

Offer support and referral to other resources on campus.

Nightline

Anonymous phone line, run by student peer counselors, available 7 pm to 7 am (3-8800).

You may know someone who is affected by this process. It’s best to advise them to seek legal counsel, and not to hesitate to use the services listed in this e-mail. You can call Mental Health if you are worried about your friend for a confidential consultation.

Sincerely,

Larry G. Benedict
Dean for Student Life

Jerrold M. Grochow
Vice President
Information Services
and Technology

Task Force Supports Global Learning

GIRs, from Page 1

line surveys, and discussions with academic departments, Henderson said.

Thus far, the task force has found several of its recommendations particularly controversial.

For students, the most disputed has been the suggestion for a more rigid Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences requirement, which reduces the number of humanities classes freshmen can take in an attempt to establish a common freshman humanities experience, Dean of Undergraduate Education Daniel E. Hastings PhD ’80 said.

Some faculty have been vocal opponents of the recommendation to allow students the choice of five out of six classes in the science portion of the GIR requirements. There is also disagreement among faculty as to whether or not Electricity and Magnetism (8.02) should be required.

Both Henderson and Hastings said that the subcommittee’s most difficult task involves recommending changes to the undergraduate curriculum.

In order to change the curriculum, new classes need to be designed, Henderson said. Henderson said that pilot classes have been launched to examine new ways of teaching subjects with more multi-disciplinary subject matter.

Hastings said that students need more flexibility in the science curriculum, but determining exactly how much flexibility will be a challenge. For the humanities, Hastings said that more focus is needed in the course offerings, but balancing that focus with the choice and small classes students currently enjoy will be a challenge.

The task force’s recommendation to promote a more global education for students has received largely positive feedback, so work has already begun to implement it, Henderson said.

This past year, the task force worked to obtain funding for the Cambridge-MIT Exchange program, which saw its funding cut by the British government. Money was obtained to support MIT students in the program from MIT’s financial aid budget, Hastings said. This year, the program will aim for a class of 35 students.

The task force is also working with departments to make it easier for students to study abroad. Emphasis has been placed on supporting global education programs, like D-Lab, a course in which students engineer sustainable development projects for the developing world. Another supported initiative is the new undergraduate residence iHouse, a living community which focuses on global education.

Richard C. Maclaurin

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The Tech Lodge

Fraternity at MIT

Solution to Crossword

from page 8

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

Dean's Replacement To Be Announced in Spring '08, Clay Says

Benedict, from Page 1

said he plans to reexamine dining services and further renovate the dormitories. He cited among his current chief concerns the opening of NW35, the new graduate dormitory being built near Sidney-Pacific graduate dormitory, as well as the blue ribbon dining committee, which will address concerns about dining costs and availability.

Benedict says he would tell the next dean to "get to know MIT." "It's a very different place, it has its own personality," he said. "Get to know the students. They're wonderful."

Prior to his arrival at MIT, Benedict served as dean for student affairs at Johns Hopkins University. His first task at MIT was to create the entirely new Division for Student Life, portions of which had previously been part of the Department for Undergraduate Education. "[Benedict] built the division from the many fragments we had to put together," Chancellor Phillip L. Clay PhD '75 said.

During Benedict's tenure, he oversaw the construction of the Zesiger Sports and Fitness Center, as well undergraduate dormitory Simmons Hall and graduate residences the Warehouse, Sidney-Pacific, and the soon-to-be completed NW35. He

expanded the housemaster program to graduate residences and restarted residential dining at Baker House, McCormick Hall, and Next House.

Benedict supported student activities and oversaw a student leadership development initiative, as well as the expansion of the Public Service Center.

"I will remember Larry Benedict as an effective and caring professional of great integrity, energy and compassion," Clay said.

Clay, who announced Benedict's retirement in an Oct. 19 e-mail to the MIT community, has appointed Dean of Graduate Students Steven R. Lerman '72 to chair an advisory committee of MIT staff, faculty, and student representatives that will identify Benedict's replacement.

The committee will decide on qualities desired in the next dean for student life and present Clay with a shortlist of four to 10 candidates, Lerman said. The final decision rests in the hands of Clay, who said he hopes to announce the name by next spring in time for the new dean to start July 1.

In his retirement, Benedict said he hopes to do volunteer work and go fishing. But before anything, he said, he will take some time off.

"I've got to catch up on sleep," he said.

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(c) Yes. I played, earned and won in the Chase +1 Group on Facebook

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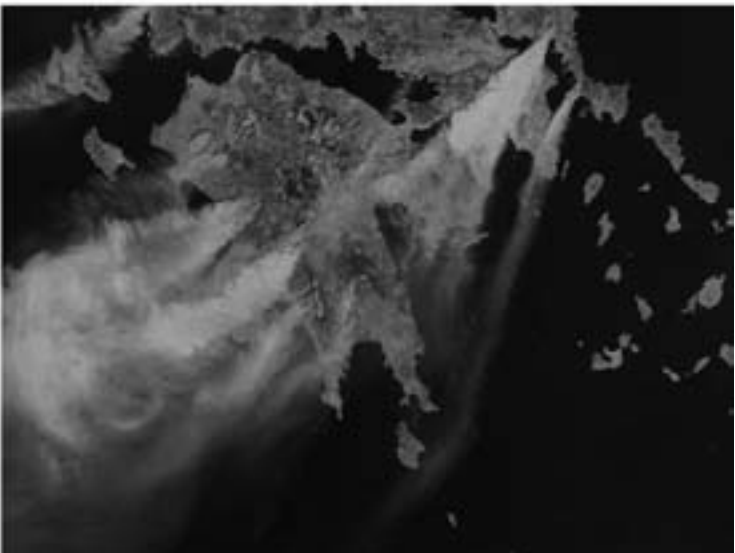
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- By making a check payable to "FHASNE Fire Relief Fund" and handing it to us during the week of October 22nd - 26th at the lobby 10 booth we have reserved for this cause.
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**Sandia will also be conducting interviews on October 24, 2007
at the MIT Career Services Office.**

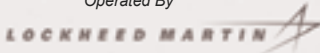
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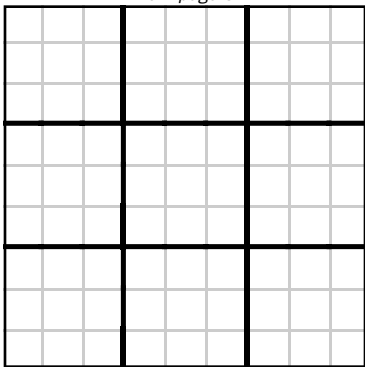
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Solution to Sudoku

from page 8



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'Ship Happens' Wins Z-Center Cardboard Boat Race

Zesiger, from Page 1

the Institute: Professor Wesley L. Harris, Dr. Kim B. Blair, Professor Thomas J. Allen, Professor Donald R. Sadoway, and Dr. Ari W. Epstein PhD '95.

Ship Happens and *Unsinkable II* competed in the first heat. *Ship Happens*, an all-white vessel with partitions for each rower, was captained by Ellann Cohen '08, who was joined by Chensi Ouyang '08 and Rebecca K. Oman '08. The *Unsinkable II*, sporting a lacquered cardboard hull, was captained by Christina A. Jaworsky '11 and manned by Alex T. Val '11 and Justin T. Lan '11.

Contrary to its name, *Unsinkable II* was not so unsinkable. The ship sank before the race even began, and when the team attempted to compete with just two members, it sank again. Although *Ship Happens* automatically won the round, they still completed the course in a speedy 1:58.74 thanks to synchronized, even strokes and straight steering.

"We started with a bunch of boxes that we had left over from when we unpacked," said Jaworsky, captain of the *Unsinkable II*. Jaworsky said she and her teammates calculated the boat size needed to support their weight and painstakingly caulked each seam of the cardboard.

The second heat pitted the two pirate teams, *Conner Four Pirates* and *The Black Pearl*, against each other. The *Conner Four Pirates*, a yellow boat, was led by Ainsley K. Braun '10 and crewed by Maia R. Bageant '11 and Alexander F. St. Claire '08. *The Black Pearl*, which sported a pirate flag and decorative cardboard oars, was captained by Alan D. Foreman '09, while Stephen P. Fournier '09 and Gavin M. Cotter '09 made up the crew.

While the *Conner Four Pirates* were more successful than *Unsinkable II*, water started rushing into the *Pirates'* boat from the start. "The cardboard buckled under our weight," said Jaworsky. Despite efforts to remove the water with a pitcher, the boat sank after approximately 10 yards.

However, the *Conner Four Pirates* valiantly refused to abandon the race, attempting to use the twisted cardboard as a raft for another 10 yards before the vessel finally sank for good. *The Black Pearl*, on the other hand, had a bit of a rocky start as the crew members struggled to reach the water with the kickboards, but they soon leveled off and finished with a time of 3:32.08.

In the final round, *Ship Happens* faced *The Black Pearl*. Although *The Black Pearl* had won its semifinal heat, the water weakened the structural integrity of the boat, causing it to sink shortly after the final race began. The team on *The Black Pearl* tried to keep the cardboard vessel in one piece and dragged it along, but the attempt was unsuccessful. Some members of the audience suggested they "seize [the other team's] boat," but members of the fated boat were determined to go down with their ship if necessary.

Meanwhile, the team from *Ship Happens* tried to beat its previous time, but failed, finishing just over at 2:03.35.

After the final round, prizes were awarded to the teams with winners and runner-ups in each category. With average scores of 6.4 and 8.1, *The Black Pearl* and *Ship Happens* were the runner-up and winner for best looking, respectively. Similarly, the runner-up for best technically constructed was *The Black Pearl* with an average score of 6.2, and the winner was *Ship Happens* with an average score of 8.8. The runner-up and winner for most spirited went to *Conner Four Pirates* and *The Black Pearl*, respectively.

For fastest time, which was based on the heat rounds, *The Black Pearl* was runner-up and *Ship Happens* was the winner. Finally, the Titanic award for best sinker was ironically awarded to *Unsinkable II* with *Conner Four Pirates* as runner-up.

At the end of the Head of the Zesiger only one boat was left intact, but everyone's spirits were floating high. The competition demonstrated MIT student creativity and willingness to get a little wet.



DAVID M. TEMPLETON—THE TECH

Cardboard regatta, Head of the Zesiger, winners Rebecca K. Oman '08, Chensi Ouyang '08, and Ellann Cohen '08 cross the finish line after their first run on Friday, Oct. 19. Their boat, *Ship Happens*, was the only vessel to survive at the end of the day.



DAVID M. TEMPLETON—THE TECH

Gavin M. Cotter '09, Stephen P. Fournier '09, and Alan D. Foreman '09 (left to right) enter their boat, *The Black Pearl*, at the start of the final race at the Head of the Zesiger Cardboard Boat Regatta on Friday, Oct. 19. Shortly after entering the *Pearl*, as the race was starting, the boat started taking on water and sunk.



MARTIN SEGADO—THE TECH

Katharine A. Smolley '08 paints a wooden box at Friday's SaveTFP Crafts Night with fiancé Jonathan L. Mercurio. SaveTFP puts on free events for the MIT community, ranging from Friday Night Coffeehouse to next Saturday's Spooky Skate. For more information, see <http://web.mit.edu/savetfp/>.

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SPORTS

Wonderful Weekend
For a Boat Race

The 43rd annual Head of the Charles Boat Regatta was held this past weekend. Over 1,700 boats completed the 3-mile course.

(clockwise from right)

¶ The MIT heavyweight crew team passes the Weeks Footbridge on Sunday.

¶ Crew teams head towards Weeks Footbridge.

¶ The MIT lightweight crew team charges up the Charles River in the Lightweight Men's Eights race.

¶ Men's heavyweight crew glimmers in the sun in the Championship Men's Eights race on Sunday.

¶ MIT Sloan Crew Club position themselves at the starting line for the Club Women's Eights on Saturday.

¶ Ryan M. Daspit '09 (left) and Ryan A. Flynn '10 (right) row with the men's lightweight crew team on Sunday.

¶ Guitarist Tim Reynolds, founder of the band TR3, headlines the 2007 Row-A-Palooza concert on Sunday.



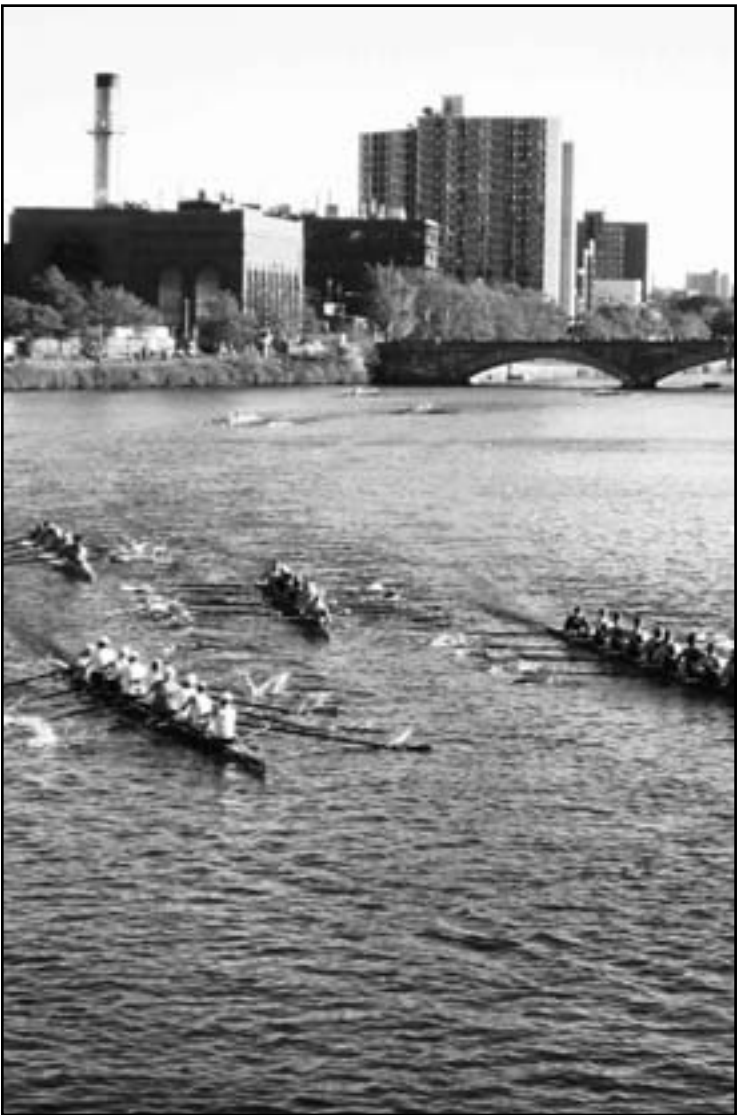
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