

## 2012 Class Council, New Senate Elected

By Natasha Nath

About 20 percent of undergraduates voted to elect new members to the Undergraduate Association Senate and the 2012 Class Council this fall. Rishi Dixit '12 and Andy D. Kalendarian '12 have been elected Class of 2012 president and vice president. Twenty-six new members have been elected to the senate, the majority of which are freshmen.

East Campus faced a tie for the second seat in the senate. Voting in a run-off election to break the tie will end today.

About 25 percent fewer students voted this year than last. President of the Undergraduate Association, Noah S. Jessop '09 attributes this decreased voting rate to the change in timing of the voting period, which happened two weeks earlier than last year. Jessop said that "[election] visibility suffered" due to the change in dates and that many students, especially freshmen, did not have time to learn about and vote for the candidates. However, he said that he thinks bringing the senate together earlier than usual will help make the group "stronger" and "more productive."

Jessop said the earlier elections also contributed to some dorms lacking official candidates: "A lot of people missed the deadlines" for applications to the senate, he said. He also said that the "number of people who want to

get involved every year varies" and that perhaps fewer people wanted to be a part of the group this year.

Due to the lack of official candidates, some senators were elected by write-ins. Cody R. Daniel '11 was one of the unofficial candidates who was voted into the senate to represent Senior Haus. He said that he had not thought about candidacy until Senior Haus sent out e-mail to its residents about the lack of official candidates to the Senate. He said decided to "step up" as he felt he was "capable of the job." His campaigning was mostly casual, he said: he sent out an e-mail to the Haus informing them that he was running and asked his friends to vote for him.

Jorge D. Simosa '12 was another unofficial candidate who was elected to represent MacGregor in the senate by write-in votes. Simosa said he first became interested in the UA Senate during the Activities Fair and didn't think that he "would have a chance to win," but decided to run when he learned that no one else was running. His campaign also included sending out e-mail to the dorm and requesting residents to write him in as a candidate.

Jessop said he hopes to make "the different ways that the UA serves students more apparent and easy to

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## MIT Washington Office Stresses Importance of Science/Tech in Election

By Jingyun Fan

MIT is a multitasker. In addition to being an institute of higher education, MIT is a political force with its own office in Washington.

Headed by William B. Bonvillian, the MIT Washington Office takes it upon itself to track legislation concerning universities or research and development, follow new research policies developed by federal agencies, and to make sure MIT stays involved in national science policy forums. In a nutshell, the Washington Office serves as the connection that links MIT to the rest of the world.

The Washington Office was instrumental in developing the MIT Washington DC Summer Internship Program. Through this program, students utilize their technical backgrounds to participate in the work of federal agencies and advocacy groups, thus influencing public policy.

The Washington Office plays a supporting role when MIT community members become involved in policy and helps forge connections that make their involvement possible. Currently, the Washington Office is even keeping an eye on the presidential campaigns.

"MIT and President Hockfield are very interested in engaging both major candidates at this point, but it

is very important that we reach out equally," said Kirk Kolenbrander, the Vice President of Institute Affairs and Secretary of the Corporation.

Along those lines, an energy debate between the Obama and McCain campaigns, hosted by the MIT Energy Club and Energy Initiative, will be held on Oct. 6 from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. in Kresge Auditorium. Former CIA Director James Woolsey will represent the McCain campaign, and Jason Grumet, executive director of the National Commission on Energy Policy will represent the Obama campaign.

Keeping to MIT's traditionally bipartisan stance, the Washington Office has supplied reference materials and questions to both major contenders — John McCain and Barack Obama — encouraging them to engage in constructive dialogue about science policy. These reference materials include MIT's understanding of the issues at hand along with information MIT professors helped put together. The Washington Office tries to help both candidates' understanding of science and technology issues.

Ensuring that science and technology stay on the bill in the presidential debates is the Washington Office's top priority, but political

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## No. 6 Leaves IFC, Citing Privacy

By Jessica Lin

Delta Psi, better known as the No. 6 Club, left the Interfraternity Council to join the Living Group Council before rush this fall following disagreements with the IFC over the Clearinghouse system policies.

During spring, No. 6 had attempted to make an agreement with the IFC to disengage from the Clearinghouse during rush this fall, arguing that the system infringed on freshmen's privacy. The IFC decided that No. 6 would not be allowed to participate in rush without using the Clearinghouse, since opting out would conflict with their policy of maintaining equal playing field be-

tween fraternities during rush.

The Clearinghouse system tracks the location of male freshmen during rush. Freshmen are required to sign in and out at each fraternity they visit, and the system is updated in real time so that fraternities can see where a particular freshman is at a given time. Freshmen males are automatically put into the system unless they opt out.

"It seemed to us a violation of freshmen's privacy," said M. Tom Kennedy '10, a member and former president of No. 6.

Christopher A. Fematt '09, the IFC recruitment chair, defended the use of Clearinghouse: "We do un-

derstand that everyone has a right to their privacy," said Fematt, but freshmen are "participating in what is our recruitment." Fematt emphasized that the data is only used to locate particular freshmen. "We're not tracking how he felt, what clothes he was wearing, or what he was doing at a frat."

Last spring, No. 6 motioned to end their participation in the Clearinghouse system at a meeting of the IFC. However, they were refused. No. 6 tried to compromise with the other fraternities in the IFC over Clearinghouse. "If the issue was safety, we

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ALEX H. CHAN—THE TECH

At the Cheryl Vossmer Photo Exhibition hosted by the Sidney-Pacific Graduate Community, MIT Police Sergeant Cheryl N. Vossmer (right) showcased her outstanding work to (from left) David J. Dolev, MIT Police Officer Jennifer Ortiz, Justin Zheng G, and MIT Police Officer Loren Montgomery.

## Job Seekers Flocked to Career Fair Last Week

By Robert McQueen

STAFF REPORTER

More students but fewer companies attended last Thursday's Fall Career Fair at the Johnson Athletic Center, according to Robert J. Richard, associate director of the Global Education and Career Development Center.

Richard estimated that about 5,000 students showed up to the fair, up from 4,000 last year. But only 300 companies attended, a 9 percent decrease from last year according to Richard.

With a credit crisis in the air, Lehman Brothers was one of the absent companies. The recently bankrupt firm had reserved a spot at the fair, but didn't send any representatives. On Thursday, promotional flyers sat abandoned at the Lehman booth.

Still, there were more than enough

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## Comedian Russell Peters Will Perform at Kresge in October

By Omar Abudayyeh

Known for his racial humor and "gay Indian" jokes, Canadian comedian Russell Peters will be headlining this year's Fall Festival. Tickets for his show on Oct. 3 in Kresge went on sale for MIT students on Sept. 17 and can be ordered online for \$15 at <https://sao.mit.edu/tickets/>.

The Undergraduate Association Events Committee picked Peters for his popularity among students. "In past surveys, Russell Peters ranked at the top of who students wanted to see perform," said Paul Spangle, assistant director of the Student Activities Office.

Peters, who is of Indian descent, grew up in Canada and much of his humor involves poking fun at racial stereotypes, especially stereotypes about immigrants. Some of his better-known jokes feature immigrant parents beating their children, terrorists, and Indian labor.

Because Peters was in such high demand on campus, the UA worked especially hard to secure him. According to Spangle, the UA will pay Peters roughly \$40,000, more than has been given to acts at previous Fall

Festivals.

He said that the cost will be balanced by sales of tickets, which are pricier this year. Last year, tickets to see comedian Pablo Francisco were \$10 for members of the MIT community, and \$18 for guests and students from other colleges.

This year MIT students will have to pay \$15 to see Russell. Other members of the MIT community, including staff, faculty and alumni, and local college students will have to pay \$25.

Spangle said the increased cost is worth it, considering how big of a celebrity Peters is. Peters will also be accompanied by an opening act of his choice, which is yet to be announced.

Every year it is MIT tradition to celebrate October with a cross-campus festival. In this month-long affair, a myriad array of events occur, ranging from a resounding Jazz Brunch to a romantic Fall Formal. The Lecture Series Committee is joining in as well to offer up a free showing of *Hellboy 2: The Golden Army*. To top the month off, there's a special spin on everyone's beloved holiday known as Hal-lowMIT, which is a carnival open to the MIT community.



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# WORLD & NATION

## Washoe County Will Likely Tip Nevada's Election Outcome

By Jennifer Steinhauer

THE NEW YORK TIMES

SPARKS, NEV.

There are swing states, and within them, swing counties. Here in northern Nevada, there are also swing streets.

Living on one of them, York Way, a busy residential street of single-family homes, is Delta Limon, 42, a Democrat born in Mexico who feels a fissure between her beliefs that Sen. Barack Obama is on her side of the immigration debate but not conservative enough on gay rights.

A few houses away, her neighbor Roger Rowland, a 58-year-old electrician, voted for President Bush twice and feels let down, yet is unable to settle between between Obama, the Democrat, and Sen. John McCain, the Republican.

Other neighbors are Joe Beard, 64, who would no sooner vote for Obama than volunteer for space travel, and Brian and Becky Solomon, new parents in their mid-20s who just as strongly back Obama.

In the emergent swing state of Nevada, Washoe County — home to Reno and Sparks — is the most pendular county of all. Reliably Republican for years, the Republican Party's voter registration advantage has narrowed to 5,000 people from 17,000 in just the last year.

## Radical Shift for Goldman Sachs And Morgan Stanley

By Andrew Ross Sorkin and Vikas Bajaj

THE NEW YORK TIMES

Goldman Sachs and Morgan Stanley, the last big independent investment banks on Wall Street, will transform themselves into bank holding companies subject to far greater regulation, the Federal Reserve said Sunday night, a move that fundamentally reshapes an era of high finance that defined the modern Gilded Age.

The firms requested the change themselves, even as Congress and the Bush administration rushed to pass a \$700 billion rescue of financial firms. It was a blunt acknowledgment that their model of finance and investing had become too risky and that they needed the cushion of bank deposits that had kept big commercial banks like Bank of America and JPMorgan Chase relatively safe amid the recent turmoil.

It also is a turning point for the high-rolling culture of Wall Street, with its seven-figure bonuses and lavish perks for even midlevel executives. It effectively returns Wall Street to the way it was structured before Congress passed a law during the Great Depression separating investment banking from commercial banking, known as the Glass-Steagall Act.

## Foreign Nations Pledge Support for Bailout Plan

By Mark Landler and Carter Dougherty

THE NEW YORK TIMES

WASHINGTON

The United States, having expanded its proposed rescue of the financial sector to include foreign banks, has not yet found any other country willing to join the landmark bailout.

The Treasury Department still hopes to marshal a worldwide effort to cleanse the balance sheets of banks. But Europe and Japan have signaled that they are not ready to mount a rescue of the kind being debated here.

Treasury Secretary Henry M. Paulson Jr. continues to solicit support from foreign governments. His department plans to prod them by giving preference to banks from countries that show a willingness to help the American effort, a senior administration official said Monday.

"We expect other countries to do their part, but we're not insisting their programs be exactly like ours," said the official, who spoke on condition of anonymity. "We're certainly not prepared to put ourselves in a position where there's a free-rider problem."

# Economists' Skepticism Deepens on Bailout Plan

By Peter S. Goodman

THE NEW YORK TIMES

As economists puzzle over the proposed details of what may be the biggest financial bailout in American history, the initial skepticism that greeted its unveiling has only deepened.

Some are horrified at the prospect of putting \$700 billion in public money on the line. Others are outraged that Wall Street, home of the eight-figure salary, may get rescued from the disastrous consequences of its real estate bender, even as working families relinquish houses to foreclosure.

Most economists accept that the nation's financial crisis — the worst since the Great Depression — has reached such perilous proportions that an expensive intervention is required. But considerable disagreement centers on how to go about it. The Treasury's proposal for a bailout, being negotiated with Congress, is being challenged as fundamentally deficient.

"At first it was, 'thank goodness the cavalry is coming,' but what exactly is the cavalry going to do?" asked Douglas W. Elmendorf, a former Treasury and Federal Reserve Board economist, and now a fellow at the Brook-

ings Institution in Washington. "What I worry about is that the Treasury has acted very quickly, without having the time to solicit enough opinions."

The common denominator to many reactions is a visceral discomfort with giving Treasury Secretary Henry Paulson Jr. — himself a product of Wall Street — carte blanche to relieve major financial institutions of bad loans choking their balance sheets, all on the taxpayer's tab.

There are substantive reasons for this discomfort, not least concerns that Paulson will pay too much, thus subsidizing giant financial institutions. Many economists argue that taxpayers ought to get more than avoidance of the apocalypse for their dollars: They ought to get an ownership stake in the companies on the receiving end.

But an underlying source of doubt about the bailout stems from who is doing the asking. The rescue is being sold as a must-have emergency measure by an administration with a controversial record when it comes to asking Congress for special authority in time of duress.

"This administration is asking for a \$700 billion blank check to be

put in the hands of Henry Paulson, a guy who totally missed this, and has been wrong about almost everything," said Dean Baker, co-director of the liberal Center for Economic and Policy Research in Washington. "It's almost amazing they can do this with a straight face. There is clearly skepticism and anger at the idea that we'd give this money to these guys, no questions asked."

Paulson has argued that the powers he seeks are necessary to chase away the wolf howling at the door: a potentially swift unraveling of the American financial system. That would be catastrophic for everyone, he argues, not only banks, but also ordinary Americans who depend on their finance to buy homes and cars, and to pay for college.

Some are suspicious of Paulson's characterizations, finding in his warnings and demands for extraordinary powers a parallel with the way the Bush administration gained authority for the war in Iraq. Then, the White House suggested that mushroom clouds could accompany Congress' failure to act. This time, it is financial Armageddon supposedly on the doorstep.

# Market Volatility Makes Some Retirees Nervous

By John Leland and Louis Uchitelle

THE NEW YORK TIMES

Older Americans with investments are among the hardest hit by the turmoil in the financial markets and have the least opportunity to recover.

As companies have switched from fixed pensions to 401(k) accounts, retirees risk losing big chunks of their wealth and income in a single day's trading, as many have in the last month.

"There's a terrified older population out there," said Alicia H. Munnell, director of the Center for Retirement Research at Boston College. "If you're 45 and the market goes down, it bothers you, but it comes back. But if you're retired or about to retire, you might have to sell your assets before they have a chance to recover. And people don't have the luxury of being in bonds because they don't yield

enough for how long we live."

Today's retirees have less money in savings, longer life expectancies and greater exposure to market risk than any retirees since World War II. Even before the last week of turmoil, 39 percent of retirees said they expected to outlive their savings, up from 29 percent in 2007, according to a survey by the Employee Benefit Research Institute, an industry-sponsored group in Washington.

"This really highlights the new world of retirement," said Richard Johnson, a principal research associate at the Urban Institute in Washington. "It's a much riskier world for retirees, because people don't have defined-benefit plans. They have pots of money and they have to worry about making it last."

Carol J. Emerson, 65, sees herself as particularly vulnerable. Her annual income of \$50,000 comes almost en-

tirely from dividends, and she says she is worried that as her stocks decline, some of those dividends will fall, too.

"If I were guaranteed that the dividend would remain unchanged, I could ignore that the underlying value of my stocks has eroded," she said. "But that is not the way it works. If the value of the stocks doesn't go up again, there are not a lot of companies that can keep on paying a 16 percent dividend."

Nevertheless, Emerson decided to push ahead last week with the rebuilding of her sun porch in Ventura, Calif., not wanting to endure any longer the discomfort of life in a mobile home with a leaky and rusting porch.

"I don't obsess about what is happening, but it is always in the back of my mind," Emerson said, adding that she would cancel the \$30,000 project if she lost faith that stocks would rebound in her lifetime.

# WEATHER

## Fall Has Fallen

By Vince Agard

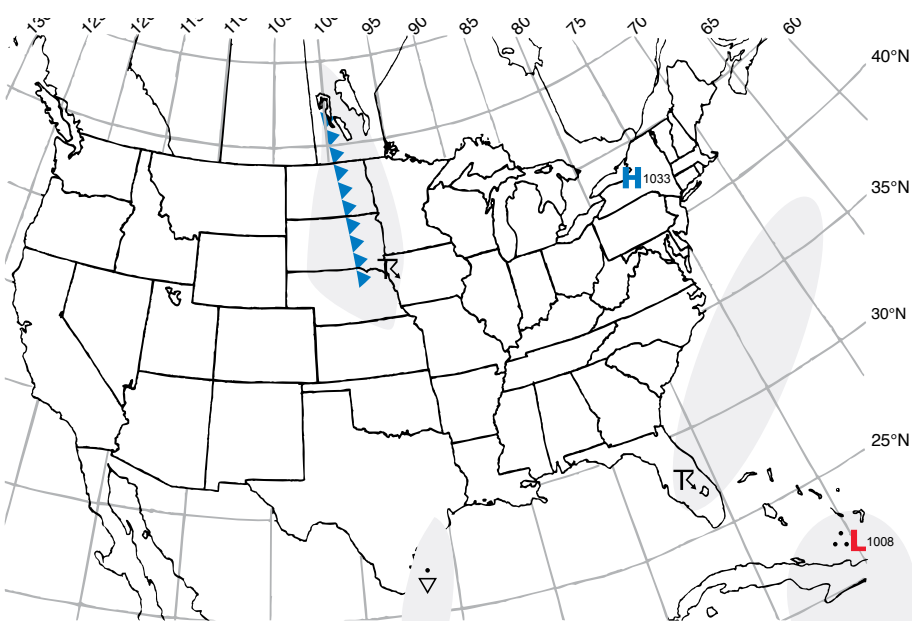
The Autumn season has officially begun as of 11:44 a.m. EDT yesterday morning, and today is its first full day. We can expect gradually falling temperatures through the coming months, as New England transitions from its warm, pleasant summer to another cold, snowy winter. Although you may need to stop wearing flip-flops and start wearing jackets, you will still get to enjoy some sunshine; in fact, October has the greatest average number of clear days of any month in Boston. However, while it may still seem nice outside now, it won't be long until winter weather arrives, as the average date of the first trace of snow is November 4th.

For the time being, however, high pressure will remain in control over the Northeast U.S., resulting in relatively pleasant weather for most of this week. Expect clear and sunny days with highs in the 60s through Thursday. Nights will continue to be a bit chilly, with lows in the upper 40s. Our next chance for rain will come toward the end of the week, as a cold front approaches the area.

### Extended Forecast

**Today:** Sunny, High 64°F (18°C).  
**Tonight:** Clear. Low 47°F (8°C).  
**Tomorrow:** Sunny and calm, High 66°F (19°C).  
**Thursday:** Sunny, Highs in the upper 60s°F (20°C).  
**Friday:** Increasing clouds with a chance of showers, Highs in the mid 60s°F (18°C).

Situation for Noon Eastern Daylight Time, Tuesday, September 23, 2008



Weather Systems	Weather Fronts		Precipitation Symbols		Other Symbols
	High Pressure	Trough	Snow	Rain	
H	—•••••—	—•••••—	* (Snow)	∇ (Rain)	☁ (Fog)
L	—•••••—	—•••••—	∇ (Light Snow)	• (Light Rain)	⚡ (Thunderstorm)
§	—•••••—	—•••••—	** (Moderate Snow)	•• (Moderate Rain)	∞ (Haze)
	—•••••—	—•••••—	*** (Heavy Snow)	••• (Heavy Rain)	
	—•••••—	—•••••—	⊙ (Snow Squalls)	•••• (Heavy Rain Squalls)	
	—•••••—	—•••••—			

Compiled by MIT  
Meteorology Staff  
and The Tech

# With First Debate on Friday, Strategists Analyze Candidates

By Katharine Q. Seelye  
THE NEW YORK TIMES

Sen. John McCain, the Republican presidential nominee, heads into the first debate Friday with a track record as a scrappy combatant and the instincts of a fighter pilot, prepared to take out his opponent and willing to take risks to do so.

He has used fairly consistent techniques during his roughly 30 debates on the national stage: He is an aggressive competitor who scolds his opponents, grins when he scores and is handy with the rhetorical shiv. Just ask Mitt Romney, whom McCain filleted on several occasions in debates during the primaries, perhaps most infuriatingly for Romney when McCain misleadingly asserted that Romney favored a timetable for withdrawal from Iraq.

A review of several of McCain's debates shows that he is most comfortable and authentic when the subject is foreign policy. And in a stroke of good fortune, foreign policy is the topic for Friday, the first of three 90-minute debates with Senator Barack Obama, the Democratic nominee.

Voters give higher marks to McCa-

in as a potential commander in chief, and Obama should expect McCain to question his credentials for the job at every turn — and to distort his views, as Romney insisted he did.

McCain is likely to steer the conversation, as he has in prior debates, to his captivity in Vietnam. It was the bedrock experience of his life and is the organizing principle of his political identity.

He showcased it most triumphantly last October in a debate in Orlando, Fla. The moderator noted that while McCain had strongly supported the troop surge in Iraq, Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton, then the likely Democratic nominee, wanted to pull the troops out. McCain was asked whether the surge was a winning issue for Republicans in 2008. With a quick nod to the troops, McCain, characteristically, hijacked the question and skipped to pork barrel spending, his favorite bete noire.

"In case you missed it, a few days ago, Sen. Clinton tried to spend \$1 million on the Woodstock Concert Museum," McCain said slyly. "Now, my friends, I wasn't there," he continued, letting it sink in why he had

missed that '60s be-in.

"I'm sure it was a cultural and pharmaceutical event," he deadpanned, pausing again to stoke the culture wars. "I was tied up at the time." The audience roared with approval and rose to its feet for an extended ovation. It was an overwhelming display of affirmation almost unheard of in a debate format.

Most of McCain's moments on the debate stage are rarely that dramatic, but they are not without flair. He uses short, active verbs that project strength, and he can connect with audiences on a visceral level using down-to-earth language. He was one of 10 Republicans on stage when the primary debates began in May 2007, but he managed to stand out with one vivid remark. Saying he would do "whatever is necessary" to capture Osama bin Laden, he declared, "I'll follow him to the gates of hell."

But that debate also showed that McCain's performances could be uneven. He stumbled over some words. He looked confused at several junctures and was slow on the draw, retrieving his time on occasion to amend earlier answers.

# Infighting in Iraq Grows as Sunni Patrols Await Power Shift

By Erica Goode  
THE NEW YORK TIMES

BAGHDAD

In Adhamiya, a neighborhood that only a year ago was among the most dangerous in Baghdad, the violence last week seemed almost negligible. A shootout near a checkpoint left two people dead on Sunday. Another man was killed on Monday by a small bomb placed under a car.

Some residents hardly noticed.

But the deaths quickly drew the attention of the U.S. officers stationed in the neighborhood. Both outbursts involved members of the Awakening Councils, the citizen patrols paid by the United States to fight the insurgency.

And both were seen as a worrisome sign of the tension and infighting that have rippled through the Sunni-dominated Awakening groups in recent weeks, just as the U.S. military plans to transfer control of about half the councils to the Shiite-led government.

The U.S. military credits the councils — whose 99,000 members are mostly Sunni Muslims, many of them former insurgents — with help-

ing to greatly reduce violence around the country.

But in Adhamiya and in some other areas of Iraq, the patrols, hailed by many as heroic for making the streets safer, have posed increasing problems. Commanders quarrel and jockey for power and territory. Finger-pointing and threats are common. Some residents complain that the men, not a few of them swaggering street toughs, use their power to intimidate people. Sometimes violence erupts.

"What you have is essentially armed factions, like mini-gangs that operate in a certain set of checkpoints in certain territories," said Lt. Erick Kuyلمان, a patrol commander in the 1st Battalion, 68th Armor Regiment, which operates in Adhamiya.

Kuyلمان said the Awakening Councils had met their original purpose, but he added, "They have outlived, I think, their service since then."

Some U.S. officers say it is no coincidence that the problems have worsened at a critical juncture for the Awakening movement and for U.S. forces.

On Oct. 1, 54,000 Awakening members in and around the capital — including those in Adhamiya, a Sunni stronghold where Saddam Hussein was last seen before he vanished — will move to the payroll of an Iraqi government dominated by Shiite Muslims, who were long persecuted under Saddam.

U.S. military commanders have said the success of the transition is a critical gauge of whether reconciliation is possible at a time when withdrawals of U.S. troops are beginning.

"It's a very big deal to us to make sure that this goes off well," said Brig. Gen. Robin P. Swan, a deputy commander for the U.S. forces in Baghdad. "We are taking it seriously, as is the government of Iraq."

The military has spent months working out the mechanics of the transition, hoping to head off problems. But some U.S. officers have expressed concerns that should the transition go badly, the lure of the insurgency might prove too great for some Awakening members, in particular top leaders, who stand to lose lucrative management fees and higher salaries.

# Worries About Bailout Plans Give Stocks a Downward Shove

By Jad Mouawad and Michael M. Grynbaum  
THE NEW YORK TIMES

NEW YORK

Fresh concerns about the biggest government bailout in history sent stock markets down sharply on Monday, while a weakening dollar sparked a frantic rush into commodities as investors remained nervous about the financial health of Wall Street.

The Dow Jones industrials closed down 372 points, or 3.3 percent, at 11,015.69 after spending the day deep in negative territory. The broader Standard & Poor's 500-stock index finished down 3.8 percent. Commodities and precious metals, including gold, silver and copper, all posted strong gains as investors sought to hedge against the declining dollar.

Capping a volatile day, oil prices jumped 16 percent — their largest one-day gain — to finish at \$120.92 a barrel. Some analysts said the surge was largely a fluke caused by thin trading on the day a key futures contract expired. The more liquid November contract also rose, but it

posted a more modest gain of 6 percent, closing at \$108.97 a barrel.

"It's crazy," said Bart Melek, a commodities analyst at BMO Capital Markets. "It certainly reinforces the Chinese saying 'May you live in interesting times.' It's certainly turning out to be a curse."

A sense of unease settled over the market as investors fretted about the size and details of the government's \$700 billion bailout plan and concerns it could drive up inflation and further depress the value of the dollar. The dollar fell to \$1.4804 against the euro in late New York trading, compared to \$1.4470 late on Friday.

Investors seeking safety showed a preference for commodities like gold, moving away from Treasury bills. The moves implied that investors considered traditional hedges like precious metals to be more reliable than bonds issued by the government, which could face a spiraling debt from the bailout plan.

"The unknowns still seem to be ruling," said Ryan Detrick, a strategist at Schaeffer's Investment Re-

search. And Tom Bentz, an energy analyst at BNP Paribas, said, "What can I say? Every market is just out of control right now."

Monday's concerns were centered on Washington, where President Bush urged Congress to pass the bailout package by the end of the week. The proposed legislation would provide sweeping powers to the Treasury Department to buy bad assets from financial firms.

But Democrats have started questioning the plan, particularly the broad authority it seeks to confer on the Treasury. Some lawmakers said they wanted to include limits on executive compensation at financial firms and support for middle-class homeowners as part of the legislation.

The administration and some Republican lawmakers warned about the consequences of a protracted political battle that could delay the plan. Questions also remain about who will place a value on the bad assets and whether taxpayers will ultimately be able to profit from the enterprise.

## Resignation Rocks Zimbabwe's Tenuous Power-Sharing Deal

By Celia W. Dugger  
THE NEW YORK TIMES

HARARE, ZIMBABWE

Thabo Mbeki's resignation as president of South Africa could hardly have come at a worse time for Zimbabwe, where he had just brokered a power-sharing deal that has now reached a pivotal — and perilous — moment, analysts say.

Morgan Tsvangirai, the leader of Zimbabwe's opposition and the prime minister designate, said Monday that the fall of the region's most influential politician was a blow to Zimbabwe.

But he also said it was now incumbent on the African leaders who named Mbeki the mediator for Zimbabwe to ensure that the promise of the deal was fulfilled, despite the uncertainty about whether Mbeki would continue in the role.

"I think they're aware of their responsibility to complete the negotiations," said Tsvangirai, who spoke with serious understatement during an interview in the private study of his home here in the capital. The interview was Tsvangirai's first since Mbeki was effectively fired by his own party just days after triumphantly concluding the Zimbabwe agreement.

Tsvangirai, 56, and Zimbabwe's president, Robert Mugabe, 84, are at an impasse in the first crucial test of Mugabe's willingness to relinquish some of the complete control he has exercised during 28 years in power. Mugabe did not enter negotiations until July, after African election monitors concluded that a June runoff was not free or fair and African leaders insisted on talks. He said at the signing ceremony for the agreement that he was committed to it.

## North Korea Closer to Restarting Its Nuclear Program

By Elaine Sciolino  
THE NEW YORK TIMES

PARIS

North Korea asked the International Atomic Energy Agency to remove seals and surveillance cameras at the North's nuclear reprocessing facility, the agency's director said Monday, in a setback for both the Bush administration and an international nuclear disarmament agreement.

The move, following a flurry of reports that the North Korean leader Kim Jong-il may be seriously ill, offers further proof that North Korea plans to renew activity at the facility that separates plutonium for use in nuclear weapons at its complex at Yongbyon. It further suggests that the country may be preparing to restart its nuclear weapons program.

North Korea has "asked the agency's inspectors to remove seals and surveillance equipment to enable them to carry out tests at the reprocessing plant, which they say will not involve nuclear material," the agency's director, Mohamed ElBaradei, said in a speech to the group's 35-country board of governors.

He confirmed that the agency's inspectors had observed the restoration of some equipment that North Korea had previously removed during the dismantling.

In a telephone conversation with President Hu Jintao of China on Sunday, President Bush expressed concern about North Korea's announcement last week of its intention to restore the nuclear facilities at Yongbyon to their original state, according to the White House.

## China's Food and Product Safety Chief Steps Down

By David Barboza  
THE NEW YORK TIMES

SHANGHAI, CHINA

The chief of China's food and product safety agency was forced to resign Monday in a growing scandal over the country's tainted milk supply, which has already sickened more than 50,000 infants and killed at least three children, according to the state-run Xinhua news service.

The official, Li Changjiang, is the most senior government official to lose his job in the scandal. His resignation was announced Monday evening, as the government widened its investigation into how an industrial chemical contaminated powdered baby formula and milk products made by some of the country's biggest dairy companies.

It is one of the nation's worst food-safety scandals in memory, exceeding the troubles of a year ago when China was found to have exported tainted pet food ingredients, toothpaste, seafood and dangerous lead-contaminated toys.

The government has already arrested 19 people suspected of intentionally spiking milk supplies with melamine, an industrial chemical made from coal that is normally used in the production of plastics and fertilizer.

It is poisonous when ingested and is banned from food production. But unscrupulous milk dealers here may have added melamine to watered-down milk to artificially inflate protein counts, officials say.

## Congress Considers Great Lakes Conservation Compact

By Susan Saulny  
THE NEW YORK TIMES

In an effort to put to rest the fear that drought-stricken states or foreign countries could tap into the tremendous body of freshwater in the Great Lakes region, the House on Monday began debate on a sweeping bill that would ban almost any diversion of water outside the lakes' natural basin.

The water management bill would also put into place strict conservation rules for the eight states that border the lakes.

The bill is widely expected to win House approval, perhaps as soon as Tuesday.

Known as the Great Lakes Compact, the bill has already passed the Senate and is not expected to be challenged by the Bush administration, which has signaled its support.

With that understanding, the potential House approval is, to the compact's many advocates across the Midwest and Mid-Atlantic states, a long-sought final piece to a complicated puzzle that started taking shape a decade ago in an effort to give the region control over its water. The fear is that without strict, consistent rules on who is entitled to Great Lakes water, it might start disappearing.



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# OPINION

## Understanding the ‘Street’

### A Challenge, Given That it Doesn’t Really Understand Itself

Joe Maurer

The previous two weeks have been called the most turbulent ever in Wall Street’s 200 year history, and with good reason. We’ve witnessed the bailout of Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, the bankruptcy of Lehman Brothers, the sale of Merrill Lynch, the \$85 billion dollar federal loan to AIG, and the pièce de résistance, the Treasury’s plan to purchase \$700 billion in securities from troubled financial firms.

We’ve also witnessed a great deal of confusion and frustration among everyday people who have watched the Dow Jones Industrial Average drop 8 percent in three days, and are justifiably concerned for their own investments. Many people do not understand how the Street works, and so are often shocked or even outraged to hear of billion dollar bailouts and waves of foreclosures.

Part of this stems from a tendency to view the problems of any large firms as being the result of avarice or downright incompetence of a fat-cat management. For similar reasons, populism always makes a strong showing during economic slumps, with people proclaiming the capitalist system unfair or skewed towards the wealthy and powerful. My goal is to clarify these perceptions.

However, while we in academia may reside in our own bubble and be concerned with dorm security, the bubbles I will discuss involve price inflation while the securities deal with mortgages. To start, it is crucial to have an idea as to how the financial system functions and how government actions in the past years have shaped our present situation.

The financial markets consist of two main players: commercial banks and investment banks. A commercial bank is what people normally refer to as a “bank,” where they deposit their checks into savings accounts or take out loans or mortgages. The branch of Bank of America in the Student Center fits this description.

In contrast, an investment bank deals primarily with trading assets. They invest money on behalf of their clients, who are people (called investors), businesses, or other banks. Investment banks trade stocks on stock exchanges, such as the well-known New York Stock Exchange, though they are also involved in trading securities, commodities, and anything else that is bought or sold on contract. The stereotypical stock broker who wears a white shirt and screams trades into a headset on Wall Street would work for an investment bank such as Goldman Sachs.

Most people are unaware of the breadth of what can be traded by investment banks. Mortgages are packaged into securities (a process known as securitization) and sold to investors, commodities such as oil, corn, and steel are bought on futures (contracts that give the owner a right to a certain quantity of the material at a set future date), and treasury bonds are traded freely by investment banks.

After the Great Depression, banks were prohibited from engaging in both investment and commercial activities, which kept their power in check at the cost of reducing their competitiveness. In 1999, however, Bill Clinton signed a bill that effectively repealed this restriction, and led to a rush of consolidation among different types of banks. It is this change that helped to ignite the rush of events leading to our current credit crisis.

This is not to say that banks have been given free reign to do whatever they please for the last decade, however. The job of regulating the banking industries falls to many agencies. The Office of the Comptroller of the Currency (OCC) is in charge of national banks such as Bank of

America, the Office of Thrift Supervision (OTS) regulates smaller banks who are more focused on commercial banking, while the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) has control of markets. The OCC and OTS are divisions of the Department of the Treasury, while the SEC is a separate agency.

In addition the above three letter agencies, the Federal Reserve is in charge of the economy as a whole, and influences inflation, growth, and the money supply. Now, they are working with the Treasury and other agencies to resolve the credit crisis.

This brings about a major issue with the current banking system: multiple agencies all working on fixing their own problems. The complexi-

*I propose consolidating the regulators in the Treasury with those of the SEC to form a single body responsible for managing all financial firms.*

ties of this regulatory system makes it extremely difficult to implement reform or to fix potential problems before they arise. After the 2001 slump, for example, the Fed dropped its’ target interest rate to below the current inflation rate, effectively making it profitable for banks to take out loans. With access to this money, mortgage rates hit all time lows, and the housing boom took off as people were able to afford massive loans to construct and buy equally massive new houses.

Furthering the impact of the law of unintended consequences was the voice of Washington continually urging the benefits of homeownership, as incumbent politicians love to boast about creating more homeowners (as if the forty year adjustable rate mortgages hanging from many of these homeowners heads wasn’t their own financial noose). While all of the signs pointed towards ever bigger and more complex mortgages, regulation surrounding these mortgages did not adapt.

First, the regulation in place completely missed some of the newer and more exotic financial firms who played less traditional roles in the economy. They were able to expand into mortgages to subprime borrowers or specialized in risky interest only loans made to people with poor credit. While some claim that lenders preyed on unsophisticated borrowers, the truth is that many borrowers let dreams and optimism drive their financial lives and built their own ‘castles in the air’.

Additionally, the linking of investment and commercial banks meant that mortgage backed securities became increasingly prevalent. Buoyed by bullish reports about ever rising home values, investors paid premiums for complex securities without fully understanding the value of what was packaged within them. Now ubiquitous, subprime mortgages were bought by even seasoned financial veterans (illustrating the power of blissful ignorant optimism on the markets). Those same securities are now a major cause of the financial industry’s problems.

As I’ve mentioned before, investor confidence is one of the most important aspects to Wall Street’s survival. Unless one party has the confidence to exchange their money for the promise of another type of asset to be repaid in the future (a bank issues a mortgage with the promise that the homeowner will repay it, an investment bank makes an overnight loan to another bank to allow the latter to balance their budget sheet, etc.), Wall Street grinds to a halt. This concept, also known

as liquidity, refers to how easily assets can be exchanged between parties. In the case of some toxic mortgage backed securities, their liquidity is basically nonexistent.

This has been the case this past week. Especially after Lehman Brothers bankruptcy, banks have found it almost impossible to follow through with their transactions. And because so much of Wall Street is interconnected, when one bank can’t complete a trade, no other bank down the line can complete a related trade. When that happens, everyone attempts to look out for themselves by being extremely cautious. Money doesn’t get lent, trades don’t happen, and the institutions that need to trade or take loans in order to survive (like AIG) fail.

Which brings us to the government’s current efforts. While until now the Treasury has focused only on specific cases of institutions deemed “too big to allow them to fail” (Bear Stearns, Freddie and Fannie, AIG), the proposed \$700 billion plan is an attempt at fixing all that currently ails the industry. By serving effectively as the buyer of last resort — much as the Fed has been the lender of last resort for decades — the Treasury hopes to remove what would otherwise be unsellable assets from banks. As they say in a recently released fact sheet, “removing troubled assets will begin to restore the strength of our financial system so it can again finance economic growth.”

I have no doubt that putting this much money into the banks will help resolve the liquidity crisis, although I also have my concerns. First, many experts estimate the total cost will actually exceed \$1 trillion, essentially all of which will be added to the federal debt. While this doesn’t necessarily bankrupt future generations, it still isn’t an ideal situation. If we as taxpayers get lucky, the Fed will be able to hang onto these securities long enough to see them increase in value again, and might possibly even make some money from this bailout. Anyone who claims that the Treasury is permanently adding \$700 billion to the national debt is ignoring their ability to resell the securities.

Additionally, this bill has the potential to be loaded up with extraneous spending before it is approved by Congress, which has the tendency to trade higher inflation for temporarily higher approval ratings. There is also the concern that future banking regulation will go too far, and in the end crimp economic growth. Regulation is an essential part of a functioning capitalist economy, but there is a difference between more regulation and more effective regulation. To start, I propose consolidating the regulators in the Treasury with those of the SEC to form a single body responsible for managing all financial firms. Ensuring that everyone plays by the same rules will make avoiding future crises easier. Meanwhile, the Fed needs to have the scope of its mission reduced to the fundamentals: maintaining a stable rate of inflation. Much as Fannie and Freddie were unable to appease both their public and private masters, the Fed is not the agency that should be attempting to regulate overall economic growth.

It is important to keep in mind that it is easy to overstate the severity of a panic when one is still wading through the wreckage. As MIT students, we owe it to the world to have an adequate understanding of the market economy that will one day employ us, so learning the basics now is essential. The current mortgage crisis has been the culmination of years of bad decisions, from Washington to Wall Street and from the floors of the stock exchange to the kitchen tables of homeowners. We as a society have made poor decisions regarding our financial future. Understanding what the right choices are and speaking out ensure their implementation is the best way of ensuring our future prosperity.

*Joe Maurer is a member of the Class of 2012.*

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# A Tale of Woe on Wall Street

## Why We Need Government Regulation

Gary Shu

This past week, the country sat in awe as the financial institutions of Wall Street tumbled into bankruptcies and takeovers. Lehman and Merrill Lynch are gone as we know it. AIG, once the world's 18th largest corporation, is about to be owned by the government, effectively nationalizing much of the insurance industry. The surviving financial institutions sat around the remains to reluctantly begin cannibalizing their peers in the form of easily-digested portfolios. The US government stood on the sidelines heaping great mounds of tax-paid monies where they could to ensure the banking system didn't collapse upon itself. To hear the possible outcomes — "world-wide economic collapse," "day of reckoning," and "probably once-in-a-century type of event" — is to imagine a future where we drive through modern-day Hoover-villes and surf the internet while sipping our hobo soups.

While the world stands on the brink of a second Great Depression, there is little doubt that the mortgage / credit / banking crisis is a market failure of historic proportions, a clear instance where self-interested capitalism led to systemic catastrophe. One response is that regulation is still unnecessary and that the current debacle is the result of overzealous, immoral greed. Such a cop-out is a reflexive answer that smacks of blind ideology. The mortgage crisis is textbook example No. 1 of the problem with unrestrained free markets. To hear John McCain claim that "selective" regulation is all that was required to the control the avarice of business's captains of industry demonstrates his tunnel-vision of the crisis. The presidential candidate is resorting to stale GOP ideas toolkit with a minimal analysis of the situation and a lack of historical context.

I may not be old enough, but the leaders of our country and of Wall Street should

remember the last time this happened. (After all, it happened in their generation.) I'm talking about the Savings and Loan scandal in the 1980s that brought down hundreds of banks and last prompted the government to hand bailouts around like candy. The blatant amnesia of business and government shows that our institutions do not know how to learn for the mistakes of the past.

I am definitely not old enough, but in 1979 Chrysler also needed a cash infusion to stay afloat whilst fending off highly sought-after foreign cars. The bailout was so the domestic auto industry could get back on its feet after Japanese manufacturers lapped the Big Three. The Asian companies did so by producing cheap, fuel-efficient cars using a new powertrain configuration called "front-wheel drive." Funny enough, Detroit's finest are lobbying Capitol Hill again today for \$50 billion dollars of federal loans so that they can retool their auto plants for a new powertrain configuration to produce cheap, fuel-efficient products called "hybrid cars." Just don't call them subsidies.

The American consumer is not blameless in this mess. We borrowed money on credit for nearly two decades, first on our credit cards. Only by upgrading to ransacking home mortgages were we able to finally break the system. This time, though, globalization has tied much of our money into little pools across the world, from foreign sovereign wealth funds to the Chinese banks. Those firms are just as scared that their "investment" in the American dollar will be worthless as we are. Any contrarian talk of "decoupling" — that the world economy is becoming independent of American economy

— will do little to soothe the worries of European and Asian central bankers. As the cliché goes, "When America sneezes, the world catches cold."

Whose fault is this and how much of this is the result of the government? I'm willing to concede no one might ever know. In fact, it could be none of the government's fault and a mere expression of zeitgeist. Doubtless there will be studies and statistics placing the blame upon along a great chain stretching from the workaday traders on one end and the Commander-in-Chief on the other, with everyone in between, including investment banks managers, hedge fund kiddies, the Fed Chief, our Treasury Secretary, and ghosts of Greenspan's past. Our economic system is simply too sprawling and far-reaching for any single person to ever acquire a clear snapshot at any given time, a consequence of expanding free trade but perhaps not in our interest.

So how do we manage that public interest? The car companies need mandated fuel efficiency standards so that they don't sell SUVs all the way to their (and our) demise. In the same way, the mortgage, securities, and credit industries need rules to ensure financial companies don't hand out credit to the wrong consumers in spite of the desires of both sides of the transaction.

In other words, we must regulate the hell out of it. Government regulation is how the personal, profit-maximizing activities of a few traders or executives don't destroy the profit-maximizing activities of everyone else in the modern world. To those of the economics persuasion who cry "inefficient," let me ask: how efficient do you think Detroit and Wall Street

*Our economic system is simply too sprawling and far-reaching for any single person to ever acquire a clear snapshot at any given time ...*

# CME: An Educational Adventure

Stella Viktoria Schieffer

Humans are generally stay-at-homes who enjoy their zone of comfort. Yet, what is the reason to stay physically close to this support system in a world where the West Coast is just as long of a trip from MIT as a flight over the Atlantic? Where my mother's credit card works just as well abroad as it does in Boston ... ? I was one of 25 MIT students who escaped the sphere of MIT's influence and homely support over the last year on a venture to the University of Cambridge, UK, as part of MIT's CME program.

Whoever comes to visit Cambridge will be convinced he just stumbled into a scene of a Harry Potter movie. The center of Cambridge is full of tiny, winding cobbled streets bustling with students speaking with gorgeous British accents. Every building is either a pub or tea shop, a chapel or a majestic stone-clad university college. These colleges have the same function as dormitories at MIT — just a lot more independent and generally further separated from each other. These special places foster great networking within the community and create an extraordinary feeling of belonging and pride for every member.

I switched the beaver for a boar (my new college's symbol) and took up residence in Queens' College (which sounds more noble than it actually is) right in the heart of Cambridge. "Right in the center" means nothing is further than 5 minutes by foot as the old city is very compact. Still, this short walk is loaded with history and legendary artifacts, just like Newton's mathematical bridge completely constructed without bolts (although that's also only what they tell the tourists). You also pass some of Europe's finest architecture, the country's best choirs and astonishing art treasures, book or science collections.

Another wonderful aspect is the chance of living in a castle overseeing the romantic Cam River and acres of immaculate British lawn for a year. But, this experience would not be complete without the obscurities of everyday British college life. Many houses in Britain, especially within the aged structures of Cambridge, still rely on gravity powered water systems which sometimes left a few of the CME exchange students praying for drops under the shower head. Also the water faucets only come in the separate hot or cold version at the right and left end of the sink. Just like the water system, many other things seem to have fallen stagnant in time. Good old traditions have always been integral part of the 800 year Cambridge history and daily formal, taking your exams wearing a

gown or opening the traditional bumps (rowing races) with the gun shot of a cannon are nothing unusual.

Besides a different perspective on everyday life, the much more interesting part of participating in an exchange is the direct interaction with the unfamiliar. You will find out that the culture and people are not the same, although you basically share the same language. Dr. House and Borat (all Cambridge graduates) prove that the British have an extraordinary sense of humo(u)r which can make interactions and conversation even more enjoyable. British cuisine proved not to be quite as bad as its reputation suggests and, in the end, it only rained about half of the time.

With its high percentage of international students and a much larger range of courses offered, the diversity of people at Cambridge is an eye-opening experience. When your next door neighbor is a history major and you eat together with the anthropology major in the buttery (the Cambridge term for the collective and subsidized dining hall) you might well find yourself philosophizing about feminist architecture over dinner.

This diversity becomes even more attractive, as you will actually find time to spend with those people. The MIT exchange student on Pass/Fail in particular is in an excellent position to really enjoy himself. Since the British academic system relies on a high degree of self-discipline, personal revising and studying, everyone sets his personal study habits and pace. In contrast to MIT's constant assessment, the major grading is delayed to the end of the 3rd term in May. In the three academic terms, all compact 8 week periods, the curriculum focuses on a challenging and rigorous syllabus within your specific engineering degree including lectures, labs and supervisions (which are a breed between recitation and office hours with one professor teaching only two students). Cross-registering with other majors is more difficult, so the responsibility of getting a broader education through HASS subjects is left to one's own judgment, action and interest; only language classes and selected economics/management modules can be taken within the engineering department. The results of this very different approach to learning rightly receive recognition through appropriate transfer credit back at MIT. After all, with a history of over 80 Nobel laureates, education in the other Cambridge rates definitely among the top.

Up until exam time, students dive into the large pool of extracurricular activities, engaging in the popular sport of rowing or debating and listening to talks by Stephen Hawking and

other great minds at the Cambridge Union.

In particular, it is encouraging to see that students actually tend to show up to events (not only for the — generally less frequent — free food) but because they are genuinely excited. The fact that many Club activities usually require a small membership fee, also helps to attract more ambitious members so that on average a lot more things can be accomplished by individual groups.

The fantastic system of cheap inner-European flight-connections and reliable public transport also creates opportunities to escape the Cambridge atmosphere for spontaneous weekend trips for hiking trips to Scotland or sightseeing in Europe's metropolises.

Cambridge is a very social place. It is a favorite activity to enjoy the night with friends at a formal — which comprises a three course dinner served in an old majestic and candle-lit college dining hall; bring your own wine!

With a drinking age of 18 as well as college owned and private pubs and clubs, the student town Cambridge is awake till at least 2 a.m. every day.

The festive annual highlight is May Week, which concludes the time after examinations, featuring the May Balls, ranked among the world's top 10 parties. These sleepless nights with an unbelievable selection of delicacies and finest drinks transform the old university courts into the extravagant worlds of unique fireworks with large ranges of live music performances and other high-end entertainment. Although heavy on your valet, these once in a life time opportunity are definitely not to be missed.

Looking back at the year abroad, all participants brought back unforgettable memories, made long-lasting friendships and returned as true global citizens — having experienced aspects of a different culture, from academics and professional life to everyday social interaction to the fullest. Personal initial hesitations or unsubstantiated fears were quickly dismissed in favor of the infinite charm of Cambridge.

Personally, I regard global learning to be an essential part of any contemporary elite education. This leaves me to hope that the CME program will successfully continue to contribute to international education at MIT and inspire many more student generations.

If you are curious or still hesitant yourself about applying to the CME program please do not hesitate to contact the CME office, the CME coordinator within your major or any Alum.

Stella Viktoria Schieffer is a member of the Class of 2009.

are right now? Right now, government officials are merely putting their fingers in the dike and performing triage by bailing out companies. The next step is to crack down with the full might that is the American government. That way, car companies won't forsake the long view and banks will stop recklessly bloating their quarterly statements. Anything less and we're doomed to repeat our sad past.

Gary Shu is a graduate student in the Engineering Systems Division.

# John McCain: Facts or Fiction?

Dan Yelin

In recent months, the McCain campaign has been undergoing a transformation. The honest, straight talking John McCain of the past has become little more than a slick, well oiled PR machine determined to get your vote at any cost. Let's go over several statements by Mr. McCain in recent weeks. His "Straight Talk Express" has derailed as to create a moral quagmire of epic proportions.

Kindergarten is a time when one learns basic communication, math, reading skills ... and sex ed? According to John McCain, that is what Barack Obama is hell bent on doing: teaching our kids the birds and the bees. This shrill criticism, while at first glance appears well warranted given the perceived nature of the policy, is little more than a gross over-exaggeration of the truth.

What McCain was referring to in his inference that Obama supports teaching sex education for kindergarteners was a proposal he supported in the Illinois State Senate that would have taken the existing grades 6-12 program, and applied it for K-12. Obama's intention is that kindergarteners would be taught about how to recognize "inappropriate touching," and nothing more. It's a smart policy proposal that will teach our nation's children how to avoid predators.

Going on the attack over a plan to keep our nation's children safer is reprehensible. In responding to McCain's allegations, Obama spokesman Bill Burton stated, "for the McCain campaign to use a bill that was written to protect young children from sexual predators as a recycled and discredited political attack against a father of two young girls — a position that his friend Mitt Romney also holds. Last week, John McCain told Time magazine he couldn't define what honor was. Now we know why."

When asked about his position on the issue in a 2002 Planned Parenthood survey, Romney responded that he supported "responsible, age-appropriate, factually accurate health and sexuality education, including information about both abstinence and contraception, in public schools." It must also be noted that Massachusetts had K-12 sex education goals that were in place during the Romney administration, which were never challenged.

Politicians all have occasional tendencies to eschew facts in favor of statements that will have a greater appeal to voters they are trying to reach. Senator McCain's recent assertions of Obama's sex education views are but one in a string of headline grabbing attacks. In another high profile incident, McCain tried to distort the meaning of Barack Obama's statement "you can put lipstick on a pig; it's still a pig," which was in reference to McCain's new claim as a change agent, to a criticism of his choice of Alaska Governor Sarah Palin as his running mate. Senator McCain later disavowed that Obama was comparing Palin to a pig, but only after records surfaced showing him using the same analogy to describe Hillary Clinton's proposed healthcare plan last year.

John McCain has chosen to engage in a campaign of avoiding the issues. We've seen the focus of the race shift from foreign policy to lipstick. Unfortunately for Mr. McCain, the voters are more intelligent and informed than he thinks. In such a pivotal election year, we need John McCain to stop engaging in false pageantry of attack and retail politics, and start debating the issues.

Dan Yelin is a junior in the Department of Political Science.

# CAMPUS LIFE

## Talk Nerdy To Me

### Rule of Tongue

By Christine Yu

69 is a semiprime — a Blum integer — and, more importantly, the only way most guys propose cunnilingus. Out of the handful of times (trust me, I can count it on one hand) that I’ve had this done, over fifty percent have happened in this context. Now, it doesn’t take a Course 18’er to realize that men are getting lazy. Well, speaking of math, I’d like note that the most important part of this position is body proportions. At a mere five feet, I haven’t fooled around with a guy less than eight inches taller than me. This normally doesn’t pose a problem — except here.

However, I’m not sure if I dislike this entirely because of the awkward stretching it forces me to do. I partially blame my hatred of this position for its awkwardness in general. Your butt is in a guy’s face, and you’re thinking, “damn, I shouldn’t have had Anna’s for lunch.” Talking to my buddy list, I realized that many a man has been farted on during this — and exactly how do you handle that? Supposedly, it’s just like any awkward moment, you just laugh and keep going. Although, I’ve got to commend these guys for doing this, as I would imagine the taste to be almost as unappetizing as jizz, especially if it’s Anna’s.

Well, men, there’s much less of a chance of being flatulated on if you just perform cunnilingus correctly (not in the context of

69). However, I don’t think I’ve had this done properly — so, I could be wrong. See, I wanted to write a piece on the little black dress, but due to the magnitude of responses I got noting that I forgot a huge part of oral sex, I realized that I had to fix this. Then, it dawned on me — I left cunnilingus out for a reason: I don’t have much experience with it.

So, I gave in, turning to the experts in porn. (Investigative journalism, at its finest, \*sighs\* the things I do for MIT.) I quickly discovered that almost everything on cunnilingus is lesbian-based. The stuff I found with guys in it; well, they were bald, fat, tattooed, or just plain ugly. Maybe, I wasn’t looking hard enough, since we all know everything is on the internet. However, I quickly lost interest in cunnilingus again.

Watching porn got me more curious about blowjobs, Bukkake, cumshots, facials, face-fucking — there was a lot more material out there, and most of it was hetero. All of this porn watching gave me a midnight reminiscence. I had learned how to give head from porn. An ex suggested this after I called him out on faking. (Guys, just FYI, girls who to

go MIT aren’t stupid. We realize there’s a difference between precum and jizz.) After our relationship failed, I took his advice. It’s gone to good use.

However, I don’t think this advice really works for cunnilingus. From porn, men might get this idea that all women have a Sapphic side and all women are shaved. They might also think that all women squirt and that all women love 69’ing. While these facts might be true for some, it’s certainly not true for all. So, how does a guy learn to perform cunnilingus properly?

Googling this, I found many guides written like erotica. To avoid all that fluff, I’ll summarize them: a.) find the clit b.) arouse her first by licking around c.) communication is essential, find out when you’re doing something right d.) your tongue is not your dick e.) don’t bite, it hurts more than being bitten on your balls. Don’t know where the clit is? Wikipedia has a great entry on it, complete with a diagram! (You have to realize my web history right now is so sketchy.)

However, I think many of the guides left

out the most important rule, “don’t rush.” This is the real problem with 69’ing is you’re trying to do two “very enjoyable” things at once. As one of my friends put it, “it’s like rubbing your tummy and patting your head at the same time.”

A good blowjob takes time, and I assume the same goes for cunnilingus. See, I think my biggest problem with cunnilingus in the past was the question, “are you close?”

This question forced me to master the five-minute fake. Up until now, I hated cunnilingus so much that the only reason I let it be done was as a false ego-booster for the guy. However, after hearing that I was an “antifeminist” for not writing about it, I’m realizing that girls take it very seriously. It’s probably not overrated — I just haven’t met a pussy-eating prince.

So, why aren’t guys performing this? The biggest complaint I’ve heard is pubes. While I’ve recently joined the pro-shaved camp, I don’t think all girls share my view. (However, no one wants to be reminded of carpet during oral.) That being said, if a girl can deal with the taste, guys should be able to handle a little bush. Guys, in general, you ought to realize that you should give back, because a real orgasm is much better than the five-minute fake.

So, guys, start giving back — she tastes better than you anyway.

*Up until now, I hated cunnilingus so much that the only reason I let it be done was as a false ego-booster for the guy.*

## Brouhaha Rhythm

### Vanity Foul

By Michael Lin

STAFF COLUMNIST

I’m the sort of person who has difficulty clothes shopping unless I know exactly what I’m looking for, and it’s hard to know what to look for unless you have a reference source. Consequently, most of my thrift shopping is focused on completing costumes. You’d think it’d appeal to more people — it’s like piecing together a set of armor — only you don’t get “Level 20 Poison Nova upon Level Up” power ups. More practically, costume shopping gives me a goal for Halloween now that I can no longer justify trick-or-treating.

Now, I wouldn’t dare to consider myself in the same vein as the professional cosplayers — I don’t have that much dedication. Or, for that matter, that much money. I have a friend who routinely spends hundreds of dollars to make costumes for anime conventions. That was on top of the significant labor required in

sewing and alterations. The overall effect of a well-made costume is generally worth it, but my inability to manipulate clothes in any way besides washing and drying them means that spending money on fabric would be akin to the Incredible Hulk spending money on a Total Gym. He’d have no idea how to use it, and he’d probably end up ruining it if he tried. As a result, I generally have to make do with existing clothes that resemble the costume I’m trying to make.

For most of the costumes I’m trying to get together, I could do with a good pair of tall, equestrian-style boots — comfortable rugged footwear for a variety of space smugglers and superheroes. Unfortunately, most of the boots in the thrift stores around here have those bordering-on-weaponized block heels that indicate undeniably that they are women’s shoes. Mind you, this is as uncomfortably close to enjoying shoe shopping as I’m willing to get.

In spite of the fact that I otherwise shop primarily by browsing, most of my clothes shopping is (as I said) done with a particular purpose in mind, and I simply lack the decisiveness to decide between more than two pairs of sneakers each morning. That’s another nice thing about a costume — if you put it together, you know what goes with what unquestionably, and you can gear up while listening to ZZ Top’s “Sharp-Dressed Man” without having to pause to pick a pair of cargoes, which tends to make one feel slightly less sharp.

Aside from shoes, there’s little that makes or breaks a costume quite like the right hat. Since people’s eyes tend to be closer to their heads than their feet, a good hat is usually noticed sooner and remembered longer than a good pair of shoes. I can’t even begin to describe the childlike giddiness in the store when I finally hunted down an Indiana Jones fedora, a hat that

is as widely recognizable as it is simply wide. If the hat is distinctive enough — a propeller beanie, for example, or a red, orange, and yellow knit hat with ear flaps and an enormous pompom — the wearer may have little trouble being noticed by everyone within a two-block radius. What it tells them about you when you walk down the street wearing such a hat, however, is questionable.

Thankfully, my brown suede flight jacket finally came back from the dry cleaners after a year or so (long story), which means that my costume possibilities have opened up again, not including whatever it is I might come back with from my thrift store run later today. Now I just need to find a bullwhip to wield and a fridge to climb into, and I’ll be all set for Halloween. Hopefully. I still haven’t decided which rugged-action-hero-for-which-my-build-is-completely-unsuited I want to be this year.

Call SIPB with questions at x3-7788!

Ask SIPB

Drop by our office in W20-557!

BY THE STUDENT INFORMATION PROCESSING BOARD

This week’s column covers e-mail and mailing lists at MIT.

Mailing lists are used for all sorts of things here, and IS&T has placed a large amount of control over mailing lists in the hands of students — we can even create our own mailing lists! Whether you want to get access to loads of free stuff ([reuse@mit.edu](mailto:reuse@mit.edu) and [freefood@mit.edu](mailto:freefood@mit.edu)), or want to follow the latest on your dorm’s discussion list (ask your neighbor if you don’t know already), you’ll need to deal with mailing lists in some form.

#### How do I manage my mailing list subscriptions?

First, you have to know what type of mailing list it is. There are two types of mailing lists at MIT, Moira lists and Mailman lists. To test if a list is a Mailman list, try the command

```
athena% blanche LISTNAME -i
```

and see if it contains something like

```
LISTNAME is a Mailman list on server  
→ PCH.MIT.EDU
```

If there is no mention of Mailman in the output, the list is a Moira list.

#### Moira

Moira lists (also known as traditional or Athena lists) can be used as mailing lists, as well as to give a group of people access to web pages and Athena (AFS) directories. From Athena, an easy way to access Moira lists is by using the mailmaint command, which gives you a menu you can navigate with the arrow keys. Type

```
athena% mailmaint
```

(If you don’t have an athena% terminal window open, click the button at the lower left labeled “Prompt”.)

Alternately, you can use the `blanche` command. To add yourself to the `cluedump-announce` list, if your username is “joeuser,” type:

```
athena% blanche cluedump-announce  
→ -a joeuser
```

To delete yourself from the list, use `-d` instead of `-a`; to view the members of the list (if the list isn’t hidden), just type `blanche cluedump-announce`.

If you have a web browser and MIT certificates, a third way to manage your lists is by going to [webmoira.mit.edu](http://webmoira.mit.edu). If you want to create your own list, you can do so online at [wserv.mit.edu/lc](http://wserv.mit.edu/lc). Fill out a form, and the list will be available immediately for use with commands such as `blanche`. You can also use this website to create Mailman lists (see below).

Note that changes to the mailing lists are only sent to the mail servers approximately every 3–4 hours. You can determine when the last mailing list update was by running the `lastupd` command (in the `consult` locker, so you may need to type `add consult` first). The command `lastupd mailhub` contains a bit more information about the mailhubs in particular.

Our November 22, 2002 column has much more detail on manipulating Moira lists; our website <http://www.mit.edu/~asksipb/> has archives of old columns.

#### Mailman

Mailman lists are an alternative to Moira lists. They’re less

integrated with Athena, but they have a fancier web interface, including automatic list archives and the ability to hold messages for moderation. To subscribe or unsubscribe from a Mailman list, visit the website

```
http://mailman.mit.edu/mailman/listinfo/LISTNAME
```

(replacing `LISTNAME` with the name of the appropriate list, of course).

#### What is this “Spamscreen” folder? Can I spam-filter my e-mail?

MIT runs two spam-filtering products: the open-source SpamAssassin, and its commercial cousin, the Barracuda Spam Firewall. These products assign a score ranging from -5.0 (or below, in rare cases) to beyond 25.0 (for particularly egregious spam specimens) to every e-mail. By default, if this score is at or above 7.5, the e-mail goes to your Spamscreen folder and is deleted after 10 days.

You can configure this threshold and delay, as well as set up blacklists and whitelists (to ensure that particular e-mail addresses are always or never filtered), at the following website:

```
http://nic.mit.edu/cgi-bin/spamscreen
```

To ask us a question, send e-mail to [sipb@mit.edu](mailto:sipb@mit.edu). We’ll try to answer you quickly, and we can address your question in our next column. You can also stop by our office in W20-557 or call us at x3-7788 if you need help. Our volunteer staffers don’t keep regular hours, but afternoons and evenings (even on weekends) are usually good times. Copies of each column and pointers to additional information are posted on our website: <http://www.mit.edu/~asksipb/>



# Ramblings from Hell

## The Strangers We Will Never Meet

By S. Campbell Proehl  
STAFF COLUMNIST

I have been doing this thing for most of my adolescent and young adult life, and I only realized I was doing it about a week ago. It goes like this:

*Act One:* In which I spot a man who intrigues me. I spend days, maybe weeks, staring at him, wondering what kind of person he is. Is he funny or serious? Where did he grow up? Can he start a fire with two pieces of wood and no matches? Can he speak multiple languages?

*Act Two:* In which I continue to stare at him in class or in passing. He may or may not notice this.

*Act Three:* In which whatever has allowed us to remain in proximity (schedules that land us at the same restaurant for lunch, similar bike routes, a class) ends. We go our separate ways without exchanging names or even words.

I call them fascination boys. One of my friends calls them stranger crushes. They are people who I find not necessarily attractive, but interesting. It's something in their manner that I notice, and then I fixate. Not in a creepy, I'm-thinking-about-weird-things kind of way, but in an I'd-like-to-learn-about-you kind of way.

This semester I have a new stranger crush. This is what I have noticed: he wears glasses. He seems quiet. He could use a new hairdo. He seems boring, but could possibly have a dry sense of humor.

When I look at people, my brain goes through a checklist of options: good person or bad person, friendly or unfriendly, quiet or loud, funny or boring. For fascination boys, my mind gets stuck right after the first option. I am left wondering.

This kind of thing has been described before by Jane Austen. In *Pride and Prejudice*, Austen segues Elizabeth Bennet's initial dislike for Mr. Darcy into a defined intrigue for him that he shares for her, noticing small details like "the brilliancy which exercise had given to her complexion."

I notice details like this in my stranger crushes. I also imagine how they would act in all sorts of odd situations — walking through apple orchards, swimming in the ocean, standing on a bridge at midnight.

I never told anyone about these fascinations. Most of the time I assume I have unique experiences, that I am the only person in the world who thinks certain things or does certain things.

But last week roommate told me she had a fascination boy. "So there's this guy in one of my classes," she started. "Yeah ... what about this guy?"

"Well ... that's just it. I don't know. He's not necessarily attractive. I mean, he's not ugly, but he's not attractive. He doesn't talk, but he's interesting. I find myself staring at him for the whole hour and wondering what he's like." This is what started my sudden fascination with the idea of stranger crushes. I discovered last week (by polling several dozen friends and acquaintances) that this is actually a relatively common phenomenon.

My friend Cathy is actually the person who introduced me to the term "stranger crush." Until I talked to her last Wednesday, I had been calling them "fascination boys." Cathy says that she has always had stranger crushes and imagines all sorts of conversations with them in all sorts of odd places. "But you should never talk to your stranger crush," she warned, "It ruins everything."

When I asked a fellow chemistry major, Chris Kennedy, about whether or not he had stranger crushes on girls, he reasoned it this way: "I attribute it to the fact that everyone at this school has to be interesting in some way, or be interesting."

Which got me thinking ... Would I still be intrigued if I talked to one of my stranger crushes?

My stranger crush #3 and I were both at Cafe 4 last Thursday morning. Stranger crush #3 is an interesting one. He is pensive, but seems happy all the time, as if he is constantly laughing to himself about an inside joke. I thought about how to start a conversation when I noticed that he put one and a half packets of sugar into his coffee. I tend to do this as well. "How interesting. I use one and a half packets of sugar too," I said with a smile while we were both stirring. He looked at me like I was crazy. Then he walked away.

From now on, I will never talk to my stranger crush. It ruins everything.

In a way, it's tragic. I have spent weeks (or months) fascinated with these people, and I will never even get to meet them. But I like to think of it as happily mysterious. I can imagine a man as anyone I want him to be — a humanitarian, a short story writer, a computer programmer by day and salsa dancer by night — but I never have to meet him and find out that he is none of those things.

He will forever be a stranger.

*This semester I have a new stranger crush. This is what I have noticed: he wears glasses. He seems quiet. He could use a new hairdo.*



Suelin Chen, Tilke Judd, Mat Caibowitz, "MOLO, MOVement LOoper." Funded in part by the Council for the Arts at MIT, 2008

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involving the MIT police and the  
driver of a dark SUV

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## Steal My Comic

by Michael Ciuffo



## Blobbles

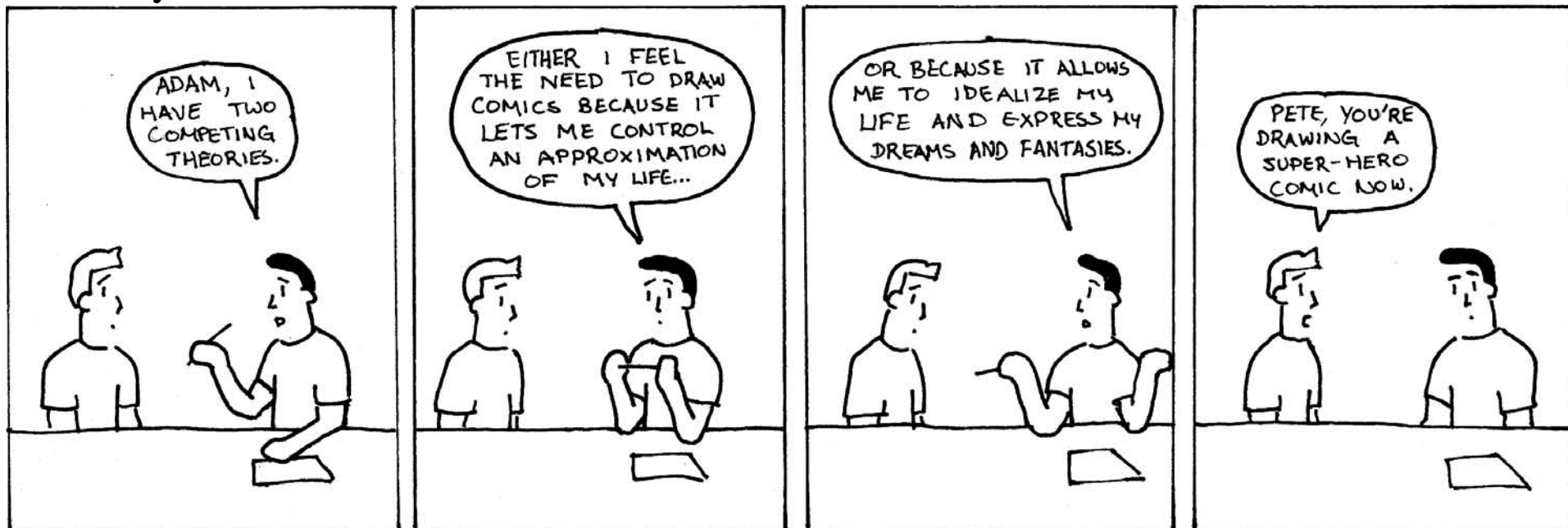
by Jason Chan



*Blobbles* is the comic where you, yes you, make the titles! If you want a comic made out of your title, send a short caption to [blobbles@tech.mit.edu](mailto:blobbles@tech.mit.edu). With a little bit of luck, you may very well see your title being acted out in the next edition of *The Tech* by cute little blobbles!

## Theory of Pete

by Cai GoGwilt



## The Daily Blunderbuss

by Ben Peters



## su | do | ku

© Puzzles by Pappocom

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

Instructions: Fill in the grid so that each column, row, and 3 by 3 grid contains exactly one of each of the digits 1 through 9. Solution, tips, and computer program at <http://www.sudoku.com>; see also solution, page 14.





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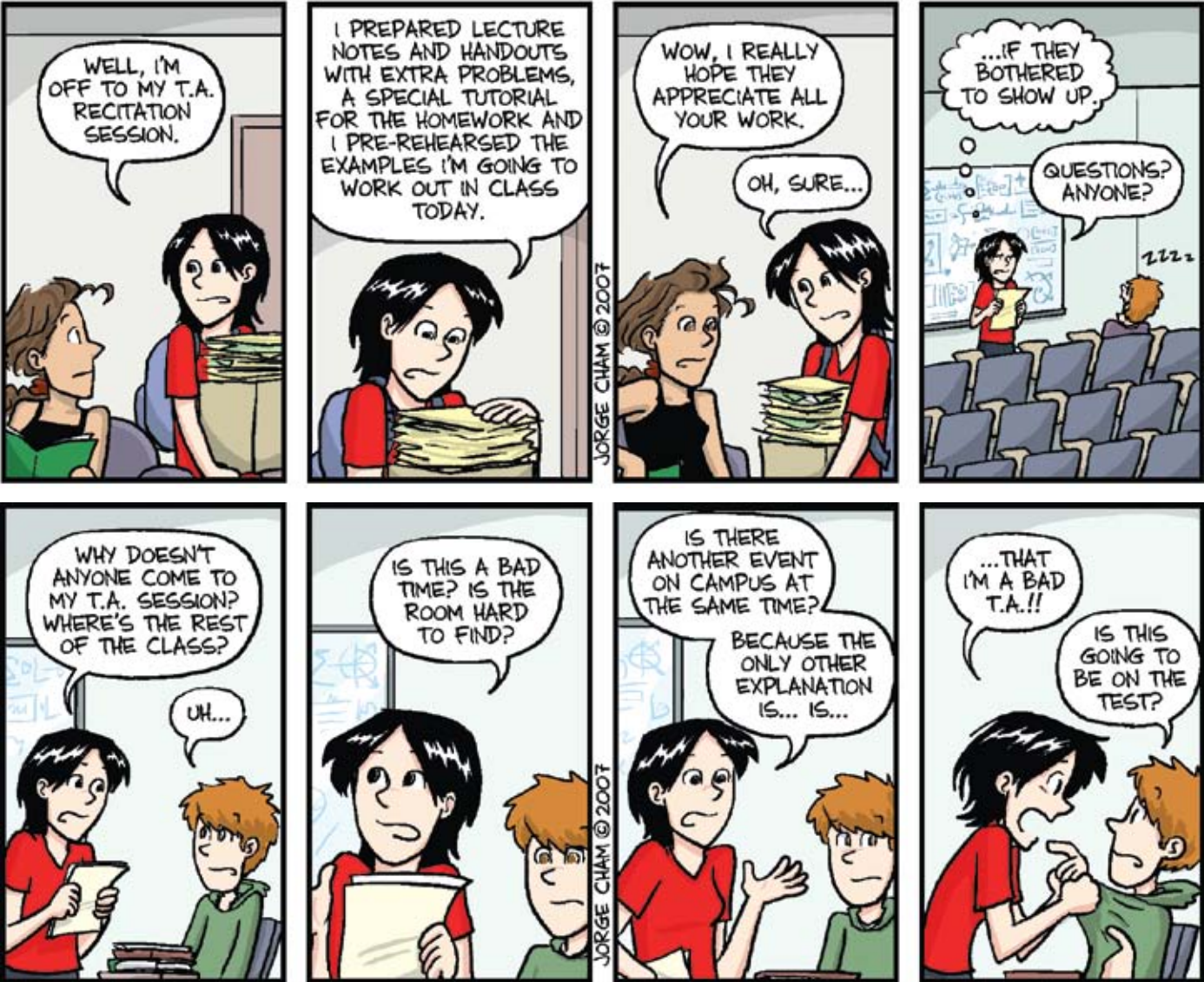
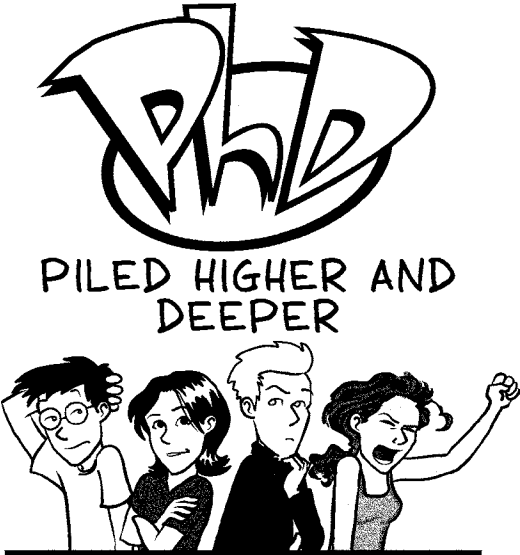
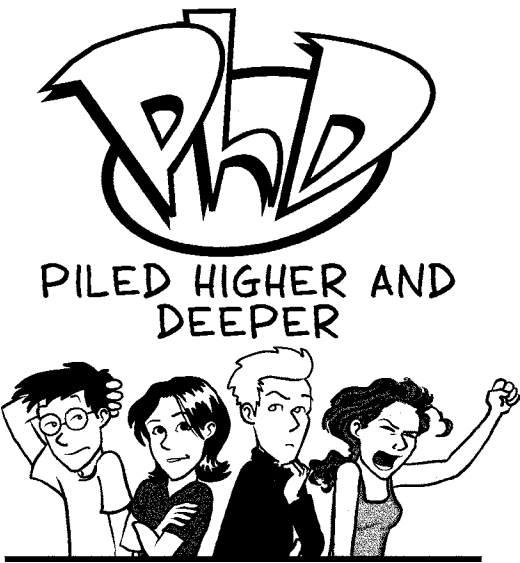
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Crossword Puzzle

Solution, page 16

- ACROSS

1 Put off

6 Metric wt.

10 Bridle strap

14 "Crazy" singer

15 Part of U.A.E.

16 Natural tone

17 Virtual certainty

18 Sound defeat

19 Voucher

20 Pilot's gauge: abbr.

21 Carolyn Gold Heilbrun's pen name

24 Favorite to win

26 Debt chit

27 Boondocks possessive

28 Own-kind feeder

33 Countenance

35 Satirist Mort

37 School collars

38 Tokyo, once

39 Resting place of the

Edmund Fitzgerald

41 Banned pesticide

42 Small crown

44 Statement of self-assurance

45 Author of "The Swiss Family Robinson"

46 Like some missiles

48 Delighted

50 High deg.

51 Gung-ho guys

54 Some time

59 Swiss canton

60 Bring to ruin

61 Greek letters

62 Circuit

64 Violinist Leopold

65 Savoir-faire

66 French city on the Deule

67 Crimebuster

68 Move to and fro

69 Skaters' jumps

DOWN

1 1983 Mr. T flick

2 Beethoven's "Fur \_\_\_"

3 Painter's application

4 Bus. ltr. abbr.

5 12-step plans

6 24 \_\_\_ gold

7 Press

8 Extol

9 Procure

10 New enlistee

11 Canyon reply

12 Writer Murdoch

13 Crazy ones

22 High-IQ crew

23 Funnel-shaped

25 Connect

28 Word after 21A, 39A, 54A, 3D and 30D

29 Actress Jessica

30 On-screen stand-in

31 No ifs, \_\_\_ or buts

32 WWII vessels

33 Greek cheese

34 Tennis situation

36 Blood-related

39 Shop machine

40 Actress Georgia

43 Actor who is Sissy Spacek's cousin

45 \_\_\_Mart

47 Converts as needed

49 "Deck the Halls" syllables

51 Piquant

52 Tremulous sound

53 Web locations

54 Bog

55 E pluribus \_\_\_

56 Fanciful notion

57 "Major Barbara" playwright

58 Printer's measure

63 Shuffle
- |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |
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| 67 |    |    |    |    |    | 68 |    |    |    | 69 |    |    |    |    |



Number 6 Joins LGC

The Search for Conservative Profs.

No. 6 Club, from Page 1

would enter the information into the system, but only release the information to the IFC exec board,” said Ana-Maria A. Piso ’10, the president of No. 6.

Fematt explained that Clearinghouse data is only accessible to the recruitment chairs of each fraternity, who have limited access; as well as the Director and Assistant Director of the IFC, the IFC Recruitment Chair, and one other person hired to work on the database, who have full access. After rush, the data is destroyed. “The information we usually release are just numbers,” said Fematt.

Kennedy said No. 6 also offered to compromise by allowing freshmen to opt in to the Clearinghouse system rather than opt out. He said most freshmen did not know that system existed and so did not know about their right to not participate.

The IFC increased its efforts to publicize Clearinghouse this year, said Fematt. A seminar was held to educate rush chairs so they could talk to freshmen about it, and it was explained in the freshmen rush pamphlets. “It was apparent that freshmen didn’t know about Clearinghouse,” said Fematt. “I openly invited freshmen to come talk to me about it,” he said. This year, five freshmen opted out of the Clearinghouse system.

Disagreements over IFC governance

No. 6 said that their decision to leave the IFC also stemmed from their feeling that the IFC had deeper problems with its governance. Piso said that the IFC makes rules by majority vote, which “doesn’t protect individual fraternity rights.”

The IFC holds monthly rush meetings the second semester of each year, during which any of the recruitment chairs of the member fraternities can motion to change a rule. It was in these meetings that

No. 6’s appeals to change policies on the usage of Clearinghouse were struck down. “I looked into different ways to use Clearinghouse,” said Fematt, “But the other twenty-six Recruitment Chairs said, ‘This is the system, and we won’t change just for No. 6.’”

“The protest by No. 6 brought to attention that there was no sanction for disagreeing with the rush rules,” said Fematt. In response, he said, a new rule banning fraternities from rushing without agreeing to all the rush rules, including the requirement to use Clearinghouse, was put in place to preserve an equal playing field between fraternities. No. 6 also protested this new IFC rule.

No. 6 believes this rule violates a key principle of the North-American Interfraternity Conference. “One of the key principles of the NIC is open recruitment,” said Piso, “meaning that any fraternity can recruit. We thought this rule was against this principle.” One of the by-laws on the NIC website states, “Host institution will not prohibit NIC member fraternity from recruiting/rushing male students on campus.”

In the end, No. 6 believed that leaving the IFC was the best option, and it became a member of the MIT Living Group Council on Aug. 28, 2008. The LGC does not have a system like Clearinghouse.

Piso said being an independent living group did not affect No. 6’s rush this year. “We were at the Greek grill, just in the LGC part,” said Piso. “Our rush was equally successful as the previous years.”

Fematt described the parting between No. 6 and the IFC as “happy and content.”

“Chris [Fematt] firmly believed that a compromise could be reached, but he had to listen to his constituents, who didn’t want a compromise. I think he did an excellent job listening to his constituents,” said Kennedy.

By Patricia Cohen  
THE NEW YORK TIMES

COLORADO SPRINGS, COLO.

Acknowledging that 20 years and millions of dollars spent loudly and bitterly attacking the liberal leanings of American campuses have failed to make much of a dent in the way undergraduates are educated, some conservatives have decided to try a new strategy.

They are finding like-minded tenured professors and helping them establish academic beachheads for their ideas. These initiatives, like the Program in Western Civilization and American Institutions at the University of Texas, Austin, or a project at the University of Colorado here in Colorado Springs, to publish a book of classic texts, are mostly financed by conservative organizations and donors, run by conservative professors and often referred to informally by supporters as conservative centers. But they have a decidedly non-partisan and nonideological face.

Their goal is to restore what conservative and other critics see as leading casualties of the campus culture wars of the 1980s and ’90s—the teaching of Western culture and a triumphal interpretation of American history.

“These are not ideological courses,” said James Piereson, a senior fellow at the conservative Manhattan Institute, which created the Veritas Fund for Higher Education to funnel donations to these sorts of projects. The initiatives are only political insofar as they “work against the thrust of programs and courses in gender, race and class studies, and postmodernism in general,” Piereson said.

The programs and centers differ in emphasis, with some concentrating on American democratic and capitalist institutions and others on the Western canon, the great books often derided during the culture wars as the history of “dead white men.” They sponsor colloquia, seminars,

courses, visiting lecturers and post-doctoral students. At Brown, the Political Theory Project even put on a play by the capitalist heroine Ayn Rand.

Some, like the effort in Colorado Springs and the Program for Constitutionalism and Democracy at the University of Virginia, focus solely on exposing freshmen to classical thinkers. Others favor a return to a more traditional teaching of America’s past, featuring its greatest accomplishments instead of the history of repression and exploitation that had been the trend.

And this week, Cornell is negotiating the final details of a \$50,000 grant from Veritas that will be used to create a Program on Freedom and Free Societies.

According to a list drawn up by the National Association of Scholars, a group created in 1987 to preserve the “Western intellectual heritage,” 37 of these academic centers exist; 20 were created in the past three years.

Many of them have received donations from a handful of relatively new organizations, including Veritas, which was created in 2006, and the Jack Miller Center for Teaching America’s Founding Principles and History. Miller, a Chicago entrepreneur, established the center as an independent nonprofit last fall after he worked with the 55-year-old Intercollegiate Studies Institute, which promotes conservative thought on campus.

Now, thanks in part to years of intensive lobbying by the National Association for Scholars, these projects may soon receive federal money as well. The new Higher Education Act, signed into law last month, provides grants for “academic programs or centers” devoted to “traditional American history, free institutions or Western civilization.”

The provision was “fashioned with this movement in mind,” Ste-

phen Balch, a Republican and the founder and president of the association, said after the bill passed Congress, and “will help it gain even greater momentum.”

It is up to Congress to decide whether to finance the effort, and how much to put toward it. Piereson previously served for 20 years as the executive director of the John M. Olin Foundation, one of the largest financiers of the intellectual right before it closed. “I would have to say in all that time, from 1985 and 2005, when we wound down, I’m not sure we made a lot of progress” on the undergraduate level, he said.

Decades of money from Olin and similar foundations helped create a kind of shadow university of private research institutes on the assumption that conservatives could not find a berth in an academic system dominated by liberals. They have been so successful, though, that they might have helped siphon like-minded thinkers off campus, creating a kind of right-wing brain drain.

Now, Piereson said, “what we’re trying to do is actually go onto the campus and fund professors who have the support of their deans, provosts and colleagues and try to influence the undergraduate curriculum.” That may be easier to do now, since the fevered pitch of ideological battles on campus has quieted in recent years. Supporters have still tried to keep a low profile, though, to avoid arousing potential liberal opponents, Piereson said.

Veritas has spent \$2.5 million to support existing centers or create new ones on 10 campuses. In April, it received a \$1 million matching grant—the final donation Olin made before zeroing out its bank balance.

Colorado Springs used its \$50,000 grant to publish “A Free Society and Its Challenges,” a collection of clas-

Conservatives, Page 17



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# Election Turnout Decreased 25 Percent in Past Year

**UA Elections**, from Page 1

understand” so that more people are encouraged to apply for Senate positions. He said he is excited to work with the large number of freshmen in this year’s senate. He wants to “make it clear to the freshmen what the UA does” so that they can contribute to the MIT community.

Like last year, Bexley did not elect a real candidate in this year’s UA elections; they instead chose ‘Wellesley Girl’s Crossbow’ — a reference to the stabbing last year at Next House — to represent them in the Senate.

**2012 elects Dixit and Kalendarian**

The 2012 class President Rishi Dixit ’12 says the competition for this year’s presidency was high. Dixit said that in such a situation, he and Kalendarian thought that the person who would win would be the person with “the most name recognition.” Dixit

said he and Kalendarian decided to “go out, talk to people and be funny.” They made and distributed ten distinct flyers to “get their names out.”

Dixit and Kalendarian met in the Freshman Leadership Program during pre-orientation. Dixit said that FLP played a big role in his success as it made him “much more comfortable with people” and helped him to “understand them better.”

Both Dixit and Kalendarian have already started brainstorming ideas for

study breaks for the class of 2012. One of these is a “puppy study-break” in which they would bring in puppies for people to play with. Dixit said, “MIT students know how to relax. Our job is to facilitate their relaxation. And the best way to relax is to laugh.” He also said that he and Kalendarian will be in the student center between 12 and 1 every Sunday to answer questions and take suggestions from members of the Class of 2012. “Anything you want,” he said, “we’ll be there.”

2012 Class Council	
President	Rishi Dixit
Vice President	Andy D. Kalendarian
Secretary	Anjali B. Thakkar
Treasurer	David S. Zhu
Social Chairs	Sappho Z. Gilbert and Cynthia Wang
Publicity Chairs	Michaela S. LanVan and Ellen B. McIsaac

SOURCE: UNDERGRADUATE ASSOCIATION

## Undergraduate Association Senators

Constituency	Seats	Representative(s)
NW35 Phoenix Group	1	Samuel Rodarte ’12
Baker House	2	Cyril Lan ’11 Daniel L. Katz ’12
Bexley Hall	1	Wellesley Girl’s Crossbow*
Burton-Conner	2	Zachary D. Tribbett ’12 Caryn E. Krakauer ’11
East Campus	2	Vrajesh Y. Modi ’11 <i>Run-off election pending</i>
MacGregor House	2	Iman S. Fayyad ’12* Jorge D. Simosa ’12*
McCormick Hall	2	Eleni Orphanides ’10 Ye Yao ’11
New House	2	Richard A. Dahan ’12 Shin Nee S. Wong ’12
Next House	2	Tim Stumbaugh ’12 Hongyou Xiong ’12*
Random Hall	1	Ekaterina Kuznetsova ’09
Senior House	1	Cody R. Daniel ’11*
Simmons Hall	2	Daniel D. Hawkins ’12 Vinay Tripuraneni ’11
Interfraternity Council	5	William G. Near ’10 Keone Hon ’10* Kevin M. Marengo ’10* Sun Kim ’11 Brandom T. Lew ’10*
Panhellenic Association	1	Anila Sinha ’10 *
Living Group Council	1	Alexander W. Dehnert ’12*
Off-campus	1	Nelson Elhage ’09*

SOURCE: UNDERGRADUATE ASSOCIATION

\* indicates a write-in candidate (10 students, one crossbow).

Candidates from the following six constituencies ran for UA Senate seats uncontested: NW35 Phoenix Group, Next House, New House, Burton-Conner, Random Hall, and the Interfraternity Council.

A run-off election between Harrison L. Bralower ’11 and Sarah E. Dee ’10 is being held to fill the final East Campus Senate slot. Voting for the run-off started on Saturday and ends today at 5 p.m. at <http://vote.mit.edu>.

## Number of Fall Voters

	2008	2007	2006	2005
Freshman Voters	406	585	527	466
Sophomore Voters	186	237	213	284
Junior Voters	166	196	189	205
Senior Voters	137	185	124	205

SOURCE: UNDERGRADUATE ASSOCIATION

These numbers reflect online votes cast in each year’s fall UA elections; they do not include paper ballots.

## Where Do Online Voters Live?

Constituency	Actual Voters	Eligible Voters	Percent
Ashdown	17	55	30.9%
Baker	86	323	26.6%
Bexley	23	118	19.5%
Burton-Conner	107	355	30.1%
East Campus	112	368	30.4%
MacGregor	59	342	17.3%
McCormick	80	236	33.9%
New House	58	299	19.4%
Next House	76	343	22.2%
Random Hall	29	91	31.9%
Senior House	29	145	20.0%
Simmons Hall	78	332	23.5%
Interfraternity Council	115	547	21.0%
Panhel	2	111	1.8%
LGC	12	73	16.4%
Off-campus	12	137 *	8.8%
Total	895	4248 **	21.1%

SOURCE: UNDERGRADUATE ASSOCIATION

A total of 895 students voted online during last week’s Undergraduate Association Senate and 2012 Class Council elections. This is approximately 20 percent of eligible students, a decrease in voter turnout compared to last year’s fall election turnout of approximately 30 percent. Additionally, about 45 students voted on paper this year.

\* Off-campus residents were not registered in the database until they explicitly requested it; a total of 17 undergraduates registered. The 137 number is an estimate of how many eligible undergraduates live off-campus.

\*\* This number includes 20 students who live in graduate dormitories and 353 students whose living situation is unknown.



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*5-217*

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MIT-France intern Yuliya Bentcheva at Jean Nouvel in Paris

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**Date:** Tuesday, September 23, 2008  
**Time:** 7:00 p.m.  
**Place:** Le Meridien Hotel

We remind you that the resume submission deadline is Wednesday, October 8<sup>th</sup>. First round interviews will be held on Tuesday, October 21st. Second round interviews will be held on Thursday, October 23rd.

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- Pearl S. Buck



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# Pell Grant Changes Proposed

By Tamar Lewin  
THE NEW YORK TIMES

A panel of education experts and researchers on Thursday proposed a broad reconfiguration of federal policies on financial aid for college, including a simpler application process, Pell grant maximums linked to the consumer price index and, most radically, federally financed college savings accounts for children in low-income families.

The panel recommended scrapping the current federal financial aid application, a dauntingly complicated form known as the Fafsa, and having the government get all needed financial information from the Internal Revenue Service.

“More tinkering with a system built piecemeal in the last century is no longer an option,” said Sandy Baum, a Skidmore College economics professor who served as co-chairwoman of the panel, the Rethinking Student Aid study group, which was organized by the College Board.

Students’ eligibility for Pell Grants, the most important federal aid to needy students, would be based on their family size and adjusted gross income.

“It is just imperative for our economic future and our civic future that we invest effectively in more students achieving success in college,” said Michael McPherson, president of the Spencer Foundation and co-chairman of the panel. “One of the challenges is the growing gap between the price of college and families’ ability to pay.”

Although the report is certain to get intense scrutiny from Congress and education groups, it is unclear whether the recommendations will win enough support to have much chance of being adopted.

The group called for linking the maximum a student can borrow through the Stafford Loan program to the federal poverty level, allowing that maximum to rise with inflation; it also recommended that the standard 10-year mortgage-style repayment plan be replaced with a graduated repayment plan, so payments would rise along with borrowers’ income.

It also called for making the interest rates of federal loan programs to parents low enough to discourage families from turning to private student loans. With tuition rising faster than inflation, college affordability has become a growing concern for both voters and Congressional leaders.


“We will take a look at these and other recommendations that explore innovative ways to deliver student aid and help make college more affordable,” said Rachel Racusen, a spokeswoman for Representative George Miller, the California Democrat who is chairman of the House education committee.

“It is a welcome report,” said Molly Corbett Broad, president of the American Council on Education. “The big question is what we have the political will and the financial commitment to

Education, Page 15

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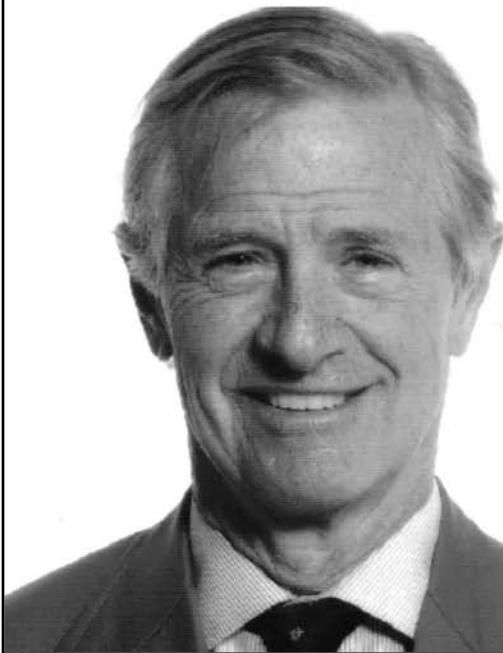
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**Solution to Sudoku**  
from page 8

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



# MIT Washington Office Lobbies for Research Funds

DC Office, from Page 1

commentators worry that these vital issues are being glossed over. Thomas Friedman contends in his New York Times column that “While we still have enormous innovative energy bubbling up from the American people, it is not being supported and nurtured as needed in today’s super-competitive world. Right now, we feel like a country in a very slow decline — in infrastructure, basic research and education ...” Indeed, these are grim predictions especially for the MIT community. And according to Bonvillian, the new president’s policy will play an important role in MIT and its missions to pursue great science and great technology.

Numerous MIT faculty members are involved in policy-making. On Sept. 12, institute professor John M. Deutch testified for the US Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources. Deutch pushed for a tax on carbon emissions, increased energy efficiency standards, a dramatic increase in federal funding for research on alternative energy solutions, development of domestic gas production infrastructure, and expansion of commercial nuclear power.

On Sept. 10, President Susan Hockfield testified for the House Committee on Energy Independence and Global Warming. In an op-ed article in the Washington Post from Sept. 11, Hockfield called for increased federal funding for energy research. She wrote “In my view, the nation should move promptly to triple current rates [of energy research funding], then increase funding further as the Energy Department builds its capacity to convert basic research into marketable technologies.” Hockfield wrote that she believes doing this will help

untangle the nation’s “triple knot” of a failing economy, energy consumption and security politics, and growing evidence of climate change.

Hockfield has been busy traveling and speaking about science policy. This June, Obama invited President Hockfield to speak on a nonpartisan forum at Carnegie Mellon University. The forum, which concluded Obama’s “Change that Works for You” tour, highlighted investments in education, green jobs, and fair trade. President Hockfield is also co-chair of the American Association of Universities, a task force of major university leaders working to advise national leaders. Recently, President Hockfield has also invited both McCain and Obama to speak on energy, science, and technology policy at MIT.

Deutch and Hockfield reflect the Washington Office’s policy stance. “There is no magic bullet”, said Kolenbrander. MIT supports both nuclear and alternative energy and believes we must work aggressively to improve both. As for research funding, more is always better. “The nation’s wellbeing depends on sustained commitment by the federal government to support the research and innovation that goes on at MIT” said Kolenbrander.

The Washington Office’s interest extends beyond the campaigns. Whichever candidate becomes President, the Washington Office will continue its long history of involvement in national science and technology policy. It will continue to lobby for financial support for research, raise awareness among young people about the excitement and opportunities in science and technology, and help our nation’s policy-makers promote science and technology.

## New Loans Considered

Education, from Page 14

do. So the notion of beginning to save for college at a much younger age is a great idea, and we know that would make a huge difference, but there are significant cost implications.”

Perhaps the most unusual aspect of the plan involves the federal government opening — and financing — college savings accounts for low-income children.

Unlike children in affluent families, many low-income children do not grow up with parents who expect them to get a college education, or have any plan for paying the tuition.

So the panel proposed that the government create accounts for children in low-income families, long before they reached college age. The government

would add money each year until they turned 18, but the accounts could only be drawn against for college expenses.

“Imagine the impact on the single mother of a 7-year-old who receives a letter informing her that the federal government has just put aside \$250 toward the college education of that child and that this money will earn interest until the child is ready to enroll,” the report said.

If the program began at age 12, and the yearly deposit was 10 percent of the Pell Grant that the child would be eligible for, it would cost “less than \$3 billion” a year, Ms. Baum said Thursday. She said 12 was probably the latest it would make sense to begin such a program, and added that the group had also estimated costs of starting it at age 5.

## Candidates’ Science Stances

### Energy

McCain is enthusiastic about increasing America’s nuclear energy sources, setting a goal to build 45 new nuclear reactors by 2030. In addition, McCain wants to lift the ban on off-shore drilling to increase America’s oil supply.

Obama favors funding for alternative energy; his goal is to have 25 percent of electricity come from renewable resources by 2025. Obama says he will consider off-shore drilling in Florida to give temporary fuel-relief while an alternative energy and fuel efficiency plan is being developed.

### Stem Cell Research

Both McCain and Obama have

acknowledged that stem cell research will continue under their administrations. Both have underlined the importance of having stringent government oversight of the ethical and scientific concerns that arise.

### Space/ NASA

Both McCain and Obama are supportive of aeronautics research, which includes completing the International Space Station.

McCain has committed to funding NASA’s Constellation Program.

Obama’s education plan had temporarily threatened NASA funding by suggesting funds for the plan would be acquired by delaying the Constellation Program; however, Obama later retracted his plan


to cut NASA funding and instead committed to funding an additional NASA shuttle mission.

### Global warming

McCain’s cap-and-trade program allows companies to trade green-house gas emission credits. McCain wants to reduce green-house gas emissions to 60 percent below 1990 levels by 2050.

Obama wants to reduce emissions by 80 percent by 2050, also achieved by a cap-and-trade program, but proceeds of the emission permits will go to investments in clean energy, assistance to families, and habitat protection.

—Jingyun Fan



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Information Session: September 25, 2008. 6pm in Room 5-233.

On-Campus Interviews: November 4th, 2008.

Resume Drop Date: October 21, 2008.


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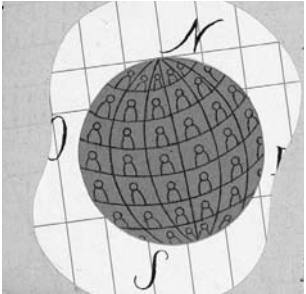


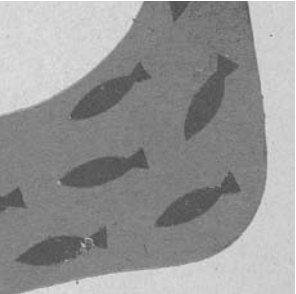
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# More Students Attended Fair

### Upcoming Career Fairs

For those who missed the fall Career Fair, there will be many more opportunities to interact with recruiters.

On Oct. 31, the Boston Career Forum 2008 will take place at Boston Convention & Exhibition Center. With over 190 global companies participating and 1,200 jobs advertised, this event is the world's largest

English-Japanese Bilingual job fair. Students must register at the Boston Career Forum website in order to attend.

The Taiwanese Career Fair will expose any MIT student who is interested in working in Taiwan to what careers and internships are available in Taiwan. Registration will be free for students, and the fair will be held in the Student Center in early February 2009. The 14th annual European Career Fair will take place in January 2009. Organized by

Global Education Fair	Oct. 8, 2008	Boston Career Forum 2008	Oct. 31–Nov. 2, 2008
Federal Agency Career Fair	Oct. 22, 2008	SUMA Internship Fair	Dec. 5, 2008
Boston Career Forum 2008	Oct. 31–Nov. 2, 2008	European Career Fair	Jan. 24–26, 2009
SUMA Internship Fair	Dec. 5, 2008	Taiwanese Career Fair	Jan. 2–3, 2009
European Career Fair	Jan. 24–26, 2009	MIT Tech Fair	Feb. 2, 2009
Taiwanese Career Fair	Jan. 2–3, 2009	Impact Career Expo	Feb. 12–13, 2009
Global Education Fair	Oct. 8, 2008	IvyPlus eFair	TBA 2009
Federal Agency Career Fair	Oct. 22, 2008		

the MIT European Club, The European Career fair will host more than 140 employers with careers and research opportunities in Europe. For more information, visit <http://www.euro-career.com/>.

The Impact Career Expo will bring environmentally conscious companies to the MIT Campus in early February. Last year, 11 companies participated in the event including Teach for America, GreenMountain Engineering, and ICF International.

—Robert McQueen

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CareerBridge Resume Submission Deadline

[www.cornerstone.com](http://www.cornerstone.com)

Boston, MA

Los Angeles, CA

Menlo Park, CA

New York, NY

San Francisco, CA

Washington, DC



RAMYA SANKAR—THE TECH

The Lehman Brothers' booth was empty at the Career Fair, except for several packages of recruiting material that had been previously mailed. Lehman Brothers declared bankruptcy shortly before the fair citing losses from the subprime mortgage crisis.


# 9 Percent Fewer Employers Attended Career Fair

**Career Fair**, from Page 1

companies to fill the gaps. Recruiters from Microsoft, Exxon Mobil, Google, Procter & Gamble, and McKinsey & Company drew large crowds. Oracle and Apple brought big-screen televisions and large posters. Apple set up tall chairs and round coffee tables to give the sense of an open-air cafe. Companies filled both the ice rink and the indoor track on the second floor.

Richard said that having fewer companies this year made the fair more vibrant. Those companies that did attend the fair showed greater confidence and interest in MIT students, Richard said. Also, Richard said that more employers this year reserved private rooms at the GECDC for interviews.

Preparation for the fair lasted through the summer and involved a partnership between the Graduate Student Council, the Class of 2009 and the Society of Women Engineers. Richard praised this year's organizers and said this was the most efficiently run career fair in recent memory.



## What are you doing for IAP?

### January Scholars in France 2009

Foreign Languages and Literatures (FL&L) invites MIT undergraduates to apply for the January Scholars in France program.

The program (IAP, non-credit, all expenses paid) will send up to seven students to Paris to experience two weeks (January 4-19, 2009) of tutored immersion in the cultural life of one of Europe's most interesting cities.

Activities will include events such as attending plays, movies, concerts, and operas; viewing permanent and special exhibits at art and history museums; and exploring hidden places in Paris as well as better known ones.

Upon return, the remaining time of IAP will be used to create a collective, multi-media document that will be displayed on the FL&L web site throughout the year.

Application deadline is October 3, 2008.

For more information and application forms, go to [web.mit.edu/flf/www/jsf](http://web.mit.edu/flf/www/jsf) or come to FL&L's main office in 14N-305.

To view past years' programs go to <http://web.mit.edu/jsf>

### Solution to Crossword

from page 10

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



# Increase in Right-Wing Programs

Conservatives, from Page 11

sic writings including Plato’s “Apology” and The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.’s “Letter From a Birmingham Jail.” Every incoming freshman last fall and this fall was assigned readings from it.

Amid the get-to-know-each-other barbecues and field trips to Pike’s Peak during orientation last month, the college organized freshman seminars devoted to the readings.

At first some faculty members were suspicious of where the idea and financing had come from, said Robert Sackett, a history professor who publicly voiced his concern. Yet he added, whatever the back story, who could object to teaching King or Plato?

“An assignment that I initially had some doubts about has turned out better than I expected,” said Sackett, who points out that he is not a conservative. “I could see using it again.”

Although a few critics have accused these programs of having a right-wing agenda, many administrators and faculty have embraced the extra resources.

“The kind of thing that we’re proposing and developing transcends all those political differences whether you’re right, left or center,” said Robert Koons, the director of Texas’ program, who describes himself as a run-of-the-mill Republican. “It’s not the answers, but the questions” about ethics, justice and civic duty that are being discussed, he said.

Ideas for the new strategy began percolating in 2005 when the Philanthropy Roundtable, an association of foundation officials and big donors, met and shared their complaints about higher education. A few months earlier, Piereson wrote an article in the roundtable’s magazine warning donors not to endow university programs or faculty chairs. “Once the endowment check

is written, the donor loses all control over the program he has funded,” he advised.

Conservatives have begun to realize, said Peter Wood, the executive director of the scholars’ association, that their contributions to colleges and universities frequently pay for what they see as left-leaning academic programs that run counter to their world views.

Instead of making no-strings-attached donations, he said, conservatives started asking “ought there not be some way that we could reach the donors and convince them that their donations to higher education could be more wisely spent?”

Although there are no formal links between the organizations, an informal network of advisers and activists work to bolster each other’s efforts. The Jack Miller Center spent \$3.6 million in the past year to create among other things, a civics center at Florida Atlantic University and summer programs at two other colleges for professors. Several summer attendees like Michael Poliakoff, the vice president for academic affairs for the University of Colorado system, also received grants from Veritas.

The Thomas W. Smith Foundation, dedicated to supporting free markets, has started paying for scholarly centers on campuses as well, said Piereson, who is on its board of trustees. Last year the foundation gave \$1 million to Brown’s Political Theory Project, which also received money from Veritas and the Jack Miller center.

“There’s a network of institutions out there” that know the academic landscape, said David DesRosiers, the executive director of Veritas. “We came in as venture capitalists, and they picked the stocks we invested in.”

Peg Bacon, the provost at Colorado Springs, said she had already been interested in having the entire

campus read the same book, when Poliakoff suggested using the “Free Society” collection. Bacon said she first checked out the Center for American Universities at the Manhattan Institute, which runs Veritas.

“I saw it does a lot of things around civil rights,” she said. It looked like they had a variety of perspectives,” she said, and “they weren’t controlling” the specific assignment, which was decided by the faculty. She asked a handful of professors to review the book, which also included the U.S. Constitution and writings from Alexis de Tocqueville and Frederick Douglass. None detected any particular bias.

The faculty was so pleased with the way the program turned out in 2007, Bacon said, that they unanimously agreed to repeat it this year.

Asked about the possibility of establishing a center at Colorado Springs, Poliakoff said, “I have no set road map.” As for other plans with the university system, like endowing a chair in conservative thought on the Boulder campus, Poliakoff said there was no connection. “There is no vast right-wing conspiracy,” he said with a smile.

Elsewhere, proponents have had a bumpier road.

In 2006, at Hamilton College in Clinton, N.Y., opposition from the faculty forced the administration to withdraw its support of an alumni-financed center focused on capitalism, natural law and the role of religion in politics. Many faculty members questioned if Hamilton would have sufficient oversight of it. At the time, the chairman of the faculty assembly, John O’Neil, was quoted as saying, “There are people on the faculty who think this center has an explicit, right tendency.”

The alumni donors and professors ended up opening the Alexander Hamilton Institute for the Study of Western Civilization as an independent entity in 2007.

# Colleges Move Away From ACT, SAT Tests

By Sara Rimer  
THE NEW YORK TIMES

A commission convened by some of the country’s most influential college admissions officials is recommending that colleges and universities move away from their reliance on SAT and ACT scores and shift toward admissions exams more closely tied to the high school curriculum and achievement.

The commission’s report, the culmination of a yearlong study led by William R. Fitzsimmons, the dean of admissions and financial aid at Harvard, comes amid growing concerns that the frenzy over standardized college admissions tests is misshaping secondary education and feeding a billion-dollar test-prep industry that encourages students to try to game the tests.

A growing number of colleges and universities, like Bates College in Maine, Lawrence University in Wisconsin, Wake Forest University in North Carolina and Smith College in Massachusetts, have made the SAT and ACT optional. And the report concludes that more institutions could make admissions decisions without requiring the SAT and ACT.

It encourages institutions to consider dropping admission test requirements unless they can prove that the benefits of such tests outweigh the negatives.

“It would be much better for the country,” Mr. Fitzsimmons said in an interview, “to have students focusing on high school courses that, based on evidence, will prepare them well for college and also prepare them well for the real world beyond college, instead of their spending enormous amounts of time trying to game the SAT.”

Mr. Fitzsimmons’s group, which was convened by the National Association for College Admission Counseling, also expresses concerns “that test scores appear to calcify differences based on

class, race/ethnicity and parental educational attainment.” The report calls on admissions officials to be aware of such differences and to ensure that differences not related to a student’s ability to succeed academically be “mitigated in the admission process.”

“Society likes to think that the SAT measures people’s ability or merit,” Mr. Fitzsimmons said. “But no one in college admissions who visits the range of secondary schools we visit, and goes to the communities we visit — where you see the contrast between opportunities and fancy suburbs and some of the high schools that aren’t so fancy — can come away thinking that standardized tests can be a measure of someone’s true worth or ability.”

Mr. Fitzsimmons said that at Harvard high school grades and the College Board’s individual subject tests are considered better predictors of college success than the SAT, also administered by the College Board, or ACT, and that the university is studying the use of standardized tests in its admissions. He added that it was possible that the university might eventually make such tests optional.

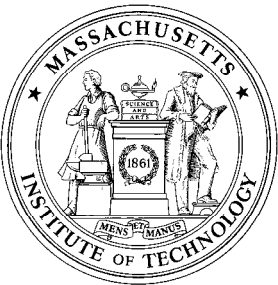
The admission counseling association gave the report to The New York Times in advance of its official release at its annual meeting in Seattle this week. The report emphasizes academic research that suggests that test preparation and coaching results in an increase of 20 to 30 points on the SAT, which it calls “a modest gain (on the old 1600 scale)” that “is considerably less than the 100 point or more gains that are often accepted as conventional wisdom.” Even so, the report acknowledges that test preparation can raise scores, however modestly, and that students without the financial resources to get such help may be “penalized for lower test scores” in some admission and scholarship cases.

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Sports Shorts, continued

Sports Shorts, from Page 20

'09 was the next best MIT runner, crossing the finish line in 18:44, good for 12th place. Anna M. Holt-Gosselin '11 placed 15th with a time of 18:51 and Jennifer A. Doyle '09 was four seconds behind coming in 18th. Three other MIT runners finished the race in under 20 minutes. Andrea E. Bradshaw '09 came in 23rd at 18:57, Elizabeth M. Finn '09 finished in 19:01 for 27th, and Katy Gordon ran 19:11 to finish 30th overall.

MIT's 67 gave the team a convincing victory over second-place Amherst with 88. Springfield was the next best NEWMAC squad, finishing fifth with a score of 153. The Engineers will now travel to Williamstown, Mass. to take part in the Purple Valley Classic next Saturday, Sept. 27.

—Greg McKeever, DAPER Staff

Men's Soccer Overpowers Newbury, 8-2

In the inaugural meeting between both programs, the MIT men's soccer team defeated visiting Newbury College 8-2 on Friday. Zachary E. Kabelac '12 paced the Engineers with three goals and two assists as Christian W. Therkelsen '11 registered his first hat-trick of the season.

MIT opened the scoring 3:18 into the contest when Neil S. Zimmerman's '09 throw-in from the far sideline crossed the box and was redirected by Therkelsen's left foot. Almost nine minutes later, Max S. Stein-Golenbock '12 sent a throughball which was chased down by Zimmerman, who outraced three Newbury defenders and tapped the ball into the left side of the net. Kabelac then set up Therkelsen at the 13:50 mark before registering a solo blast from 25 yards out 15 seconds later to give the Engineers a 4-0 lead.

The Nighthawks (0-6-0) ended the shutout in the 30th minute when John Mawson corralled a rebound and found Andy Osei for his second goal of the season. MIT extended its advantage on Kabelac's shot that deflected off a Newbury defender and sailed into the right side of the goal. The Nighthawks quickly answered with a solo effort by Anthony Fannoh III, who converted a turnover by the Engineers outside their box. Therkelsen completed the hat-trick courtesy of a feed from Kabelac in the 36th minute and then returned the favor four minutes later to put the Engineers up 7-2 at the break.

MIT carried the momentum into the second stanza as Lance Wall registered an unassisted goal after 3:48 elapsed. The remainder of the match was a defensive battle with each side posting two shots on goal.

In net, Dylan S. Rankin '12 collected four saves through 61 minutes while Javier M. Duarte '10 closed out the game with one save for the Engineers.

MIT continues play at home on Monday, Sept. 22 when it hosts Emerson College.

—Mindy Brauer, DAPER Staff

SCOREBOARD

Men's Cross Country	Men's Soccer
Saturday, Sept. 20, 2008	Saturday, Sept. 13, 2008
UMass-Dartmouth Invitational	Newbury College (0-6-0) 2
MIT 3rd of 38	MIT (6-0-1) 8
Women's Cross Country	Women's Tennis
Saturday, Sept. 20, 2008	Saturday, Sept. 20, 2008
UMass-Dartmouth Invitational	Mount Holyoke College (1-2) 1
MIT 1st of 41	MIT (3-0) 8
Field Hockey	Women's Volleyball
Friday, Sept. 19, 2008	Saturday, Sept. 20, 2008
Daniel Webster (3-2) 0	Smith College (2-6) 0
MIT (3-5) 9	MIT (7-5) 3
	University of Massachusetts Boston (7-6) 1
	MIT (8-5) 3
Football	Men's Water Polo
Saturday, Sept. 20, 2008	Friday, Sept. 12, 2008
MIT (2-1) 38	Harvard University (2-1) 10
Framingham State College (2-1) 42	MIT (3-6) 9
	Saturday, Sept. 13, 2008
Rifle	Bucknell College (5-4) 12
Saturday, Sept. 20, 2008	MIT (3-7) 6
University of the Sciences 2001 (s), 2100 (a)	
Massachusetts Maritime 1790 (s), 1916 (a)	
MIT 2138 (s), 2192 (a)	

MIT Rugby Defeats Penn State, Cornell; Middlebury Takes First

Rugby, from Page 20

field a team for this match. Again, the ladies from MIT made their presence felt with the most convincing win of the tournament, a 24-0 drubbing. This game saw Ogunniyi

put herself in the score column not once, but three times, with Snyder making all of her conversion kicks. Snyder also provided a rare treat not often witnessed in U.S. rugby, scoring a 30-meter 3 point drop goal that split right down the middle of the up-rights. Defensive efforts were led by flanker Kristen M. Anderson '11 and Sophie Lee '12.

On a rainy Sunday, the time had come to decide the champion of the division as MIT faced Middlebury College. The ladies, bruised and sore but excited, took the field and received the kickoff deep in their own side of the field. The wet conditions got the best of the players' hands with both teams exchanging knock ons and scrums. Eventually, Middlebury gained control midway through the first half, creating an overload that allowed their fly-half to make the game's first try. At the restart, the Lady Engineers went down and on a turnover, created by Umhoefer, set up camp in Middlebury's end of the field for ten

minutes. The closing minutes of the first half saw a moment of back-line genius as Snyder, Umhoefer, and Samantha R. Cohen '11 who built a drive to the 10-meter line followed by an amazing off load pass to Amy Kelly G. A play by Baccarella saw the captain dive across the line for the tying try. Snyder's conversion put MIT into the lead 10-5 to end the first half.

The second half saw a heroic effort from MIT's defense as both sides refused to give an inch to the other. Led by Lee, who repeatedly made her presence known in one way or another, the MIT defense held strong for 17 of the 25 minutes. But in the 18th minute of the second half, Middlebury ran in for an easy go-ahead try under the post. The twilight of the game saw Snyder make an amazing individual play to kick and chase the ball 50 meters into her try zone, but two Middlebury beat Snyder to the ball. The game ended with Middlebury taking the prize 12-7.

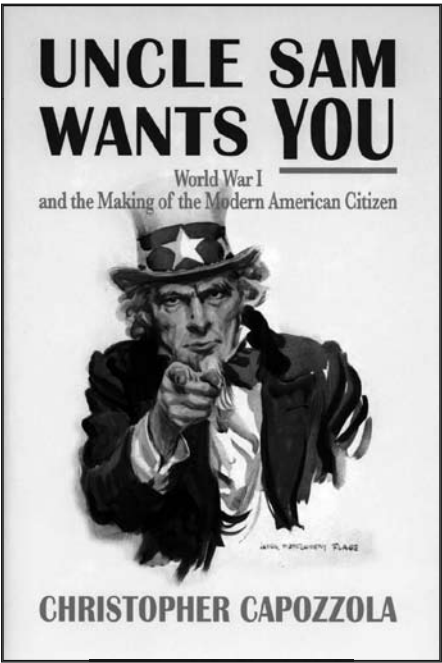
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SPORTS



RACHEL FONG—THE TECH  
Alona Birjiniuk '09 takes possession of the ball during the match against Daniel Webster College on Friday, Sept. 19 at the Jack Barry Field. The Engineers won by 9-0 as they claimed their second consecutive victory this season.

Women's Tennis Overcame Mount Holyoke College 8-1 on Saturday

By Jennifer Rees  
TEAM MEMBER

MIT Women's Tennis defeated Mount Holyoke this past Saturday, making their record 3-0 this season.

The day started with the doubles matches. First off were Leslie A. Hansen '10 and Anastasia Vishnevetsky '12, winning their match with a solid 8-0 win. The next matches passed in a blur. The number two team of Melissa A. Diskin '11 and Anisa K. McCree '10 lost their match 5-8, while the number three team of Karina N. Pikhart '09 and Yi Wang '09 pulled out a close match of 8-6. Alexandria C. Hall '12 and Jennifer A. Rees '11 won their exhibition match 8-2 and

were followed by Kerry R. Weinberg '10 and Jenny C. Dohlman '11 with their hard earned win of 9-8 (7). During Weinberg and Dohlman's match, the women's team was cheering with quite a few nicknames, some old, many new, giving a lighter tone to the atmosphere. By the end of the doubles, MIT was in the lead with a 2-1 score.

Next up were the singles matches. First up was Hansen who defeated her opponent with a decisive 6-1, 6-0 win, taking MIT to a lead of 3-1. Next off was Vishnevetsky, who mirrored Hansen's score, even losing her only dropped game at the same time Hansen did, showing an uncanny bond between the doubles partners. The next matches finished within minutes of each other. McCree de-

feated her opponent with a score of 6-1, 6-4, as did Hall. Hillary E. Jenny '12 won her exhibition match in a close 6-1, 7-6. Soon to follow was Kimberlee Boonbanjerd Sri '12 with her win of 6-3, 6-3. Katherine M. Smyth '10 was finished with her match not long after, barely losing 7-5, 6-0. Pikhart defeated her opponent in a quick 6-0, 6-4. Wang finished her match closely afterwards, defeating her opponent 6-4, 6-2, leaving MIT with a 7-1 lead. Rees finished her exhibition match with a close score of 6-3, 6-4, leaving Diskin front and center. Her match was long and tough, and Diskin fighting for every point. She pulled it out in the end with the close score of 7-5, 7-5. This left MIT with a decisive 8-1 win over Mount Holyoke.

MIT Women's Rugby Takes Second Place In Beantown Div. III

By Brandon Sparks  
TEAM COACH

The weekend of September 13-14 saw the MIT Women's Rugby Club doing battle in Amherst at the



Beantown Women's Collegiate Rugby Tournament. On Saturday, MIT defeated Pennsylvania State University's B Team 14-10 and dominated Cornell University's B Team 24-0. In the finals on Sunday, Middlebury College topped MIT 12-7.

The perennial rugby powerhouse Lady Lions showed up in force, bringing 53 players. This game was a suspenseful one from the kickoff. The inside center from the Penn State squad put the first points on the board ten minutes into the first half to lead 5-0. This was the wake-up call that MIT needed after the two and a half hour trip west. Led by young captain Alyssa M. Baccarella '11, the MIT squad came back strong, determined to make a statement. With organized defensive play and strong pack work MIT was quick to regain possession. The ladies exploited Penn State's weak back line when a pass from Elizabeth B. Umhoefer '10 reached Adedoyin

T. Ogunniyi '11 and she scampered in for a try under the post. Ashley M. Snyder G made the conversion to bring the score 7-5 and conclude the first half.

The second half saw both teams coming out strong. Again, a Penn State forward trudged in for a well-deserved score. MIT was awarded a scrum shortly after the restart and began to move the ball towards the Lady Lions try-zone. MIT saw their efforts rewarded when Ogunniyi broke through the Penn State back line for a 30 meter try. Snyder again made the conversion to bring the score to 14-10. The last 10 minutes of the second half saw some of the most intense rugby of the weekend with Penn State setting up camp five meters outside the try-zone. The MIT ladies were able to hold them off, led by the hard-hitting full-back Sarah T. Gomez '11 and a strong team defensive stand. The whistle blew signaling the end of game and sealing the win for MIT.

The second game of the day pitted the MIT squad against the Cornell B Team. Cornell, suffering numerous injuries in their first game, had to pull from their Division I squad to

Rugby, Page 18

UPCOMING HOME EVENTS

- Tuesday, Sept. 23, 2008**  
Field Hockey vs. Nichols College 7:00 p.m., Jack Barry Field
- Wednesday, Sept. 24, 2008**  
Men's Tennis vs. University of Massachusetts Boston 4:00 p.m., duPont Courts
- Thursday, Sept. 25, 2008**  
Men's Water Polo vs. Brown University 7:30 p.m., Zesiger Center
- Friday, Sept. 26, 2008**  
Women's Tennis ITA New England Championship 8:00 a.m., duPont Courts

Rifle Opens Season With Pair of Convincing Victories

The MIT rifle team got off to a quick start in the 2008-09 season, sweeping both guns against the University of the Sciences in Philadelphia (USP) and the Massachusetts Maritime Academy. The Engineers registered match-high scores of 2138 in smallbore and 2192 in air rifle.

Sports Shorts

Emily F. Houston '10 was the high shooter in both events, scoring a 568 in smallbore and 566 in air rifle. Teammate Joseph K. Lane '11 placed second in both guns, finishing just three points behind Houston in air rifle and totaling 556 in smallbore. Nigel C. Kojimoto '12 completed the MIT sweep of the top three places in the air event recording a score of 553.

The University of the Sciences co-ed team finished second in both guns, with scores of 2001 in smallbore and 2100 in air. The USP women's team scored 1795 in smallbore and 1966 in air. Massachusetts Maritime rounded out the competitors with scores of 1790 in smallbore and 1916 in air rifle.

The Engineers compete next beginning Friday, October 11 when they travel to Annapolis, Md., to take on the Naval Academy in a three-day event.

—Greg McKeever, DAPER Staff

Nationally-Ranked No. 23 Women's Cross Country Wins UMass-Dartmouth Invitational

Jacqueline M. Wentz '10 once again led the nationally-ranked No. 23 MIT women's cross country team to an impressive victory at the UMass-Dartmouth Invitational over a field that included defending national champion and nationally-ranked No. 1 Amherst, as well as eight other NEWMAC schools.

The Engineers used consistency to capture the top spot in the meet, as seven Tech runners would finish in the top 30 overall. Wentz completed the five-kilometer course in 18:30, finishing fourth. Adrienne M. Bolger

Sports Shorts, Page 18

Women's Volleyball Tops Smith and UMass-Boston

The MIT women's volleyball team swept New England Women's and Men's Athletic Conference (NEWMAC) foe Smith College, 25-14, 25-20, 25-11, before defeating UMass-Boston, 22-25, 25-15, 25-17, 25-20, on Saturday.

Katrina M. Ellison '10 had a solid outing for MIT, tallying eight digs, five kills, four aces, and two blocks. Barden E. Cleeland '10 posted 10 kills and two blocks as Kelly E. Schulte '12 added six kills. Catherine Melnikow '10, Jennifer Li '11, and Lindsay E. Hunting '09 each notched three aces while Melnikow dished out 28 assists. Hunting collected a match-high 10 digs as Alexandra T. May '10 contributed seven digs.

Against UMass-Boston, May paced MIT with 18 kills and 11 digs. Cleeland contributed 14 kills and two blocks. Li tallied eight kills, five aces, and four blocks as Schulte posted nine kills and two blocks. Melnikow amassed 39 assists and 10 digs while Hunting picked up nine digs and three aces. Ellison and Evelyn C. Corder '12 each dished out three assists as Ellison recorded a pair of aces and blocks.

MIT and Smith will continue NEWMAC play on the road on Tuesday, Sept. 23. MIT will travel to Springfield College while Smith will make the trip to Clark University.

—Mindy Brauer, DAPER Staff



WILLIAM B. YEE—THE TECH  
Kelly E. Schulte '12 leaps up for a kill in the game against Smith College last Saturday, Sept. 20. MIT swept Smith College and later University of Massachusetts Boston 3-0.