

## DiFava, Pierce Discuss Hacking At EC

By Elijah Jordan Turner  
STAFF REPORTER

Last night, MIT Director of Facilities and Security John DiFava and Captain Albert F. Pierce Jr. met with about sixty students in East Campus' Talbot Lounge for an hour-long question and answer session on hacking. DiFava suggested that his top priority is keeping hackers safe, but ultimately said that the MIT community needs to have a large discussion about how hacking should be addressed on campus.

Alluding to hacking-related arrests at the Faculty Club and the Plasma Science and Fusion Center over the past two years, DiFava began the evening by expressing his awareness of the power vested in the police department.

"That word, 'you're under arrest' stays with you for the rest of your life," said DiFava.

Given the gravity of an arrest, DiFava said that he prefers not to escalate incidents to that level. Since January, there have only been about thirty arrests, most of which did not involve MIT community members. In addition, he added that his personal experience growing up in Boston made him sympathetic to the ways of college students.

"I'm 56, but I wasn't born 56," said DiFava. "I was your quintessential city kid, so I know what it's like. I just didn't get caught."

Pierce echoed DiFava's sentiments, saying that resolving hacking issues requires mutual respect between the police and students.

DiFava said that his current position is more difficult than his previous job as a state police officer in part because of the Institute's tradition of hacking. Whereas most crimes off-campus are black-and-white, hacking presents a grey area — there are no concrete rules to follow.

"I'd rather deal with another prison riot than this hacking," said DiFava.

Because of the lack of clear guidelines, individual officers who respond to incidents are faced with the difficult task of deciding how to handle each individual case.

"They're not getting any guidance — and that's not fair," he said. "My feeling [is] tell me how you want me

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## Hockfield Promises More Student Input

By Sandhya Rawal

President Susan J. Hockfield met with the MIT Undergraduate Association in an senate meeting last night to discuss student issues and how to open channels of communication between students and the administration.

She apologized for the administration's opacity and promised to schedule more meetings between students and administrators, and to hold monthly student lunches where students could talk to her one-on-one.

Hockfield began the night by reassuring students that the recent economic crisis would not affect MIT's financial aid policies, and talked briefly about MIT's role in the elections. But questions from the floor quickly turned the discussion to the issues brought up by the Campaign for Students, which organized a protest in Lobby 7 two weeks ago over student involvement.

Hockfield acknowledged that there was considerable room for improvement. "I think that we have been really bad with the communication," she said. "We're trying really hard to figure out what the communication channels should be."

Several students asked about the administration's policy on hacking. Hockfield said that there has not been a shared understanding of the definition of hacking. In order to define the



DAVID M. TEMPLETON—THE TECH

(foreground, from left) Undergraduate Association Senate Speaker Jason C. Forte '09, Vice President for Institute Affairs and Secretary of the MIT Corporation Kirk D. Kolenbrander, President Susan J. Hockfield, and UA President Noah S. Jessop '09 address a packed UA Senate meeting on Monday evening in W20-400.

acceptable bounds of hacking, Hockfield said she hoped "that [students] will meet with the Chancellor to discuss this and many other issues, not once, but many times." The UA expects to have several conversations to clearly define acceptable hacking.

One student asked about the issue of limited accessibility and the administration's complete lack of response

when the issue was raised last February. Hockfield apologized for the administration's lack of response: "I am enormously disappointed that an issue brought up in February has not been addressed," she said.

In response to a suggestion to hold office hours, President Hockfield said that small lunch groups will be started to meet with her to discuss issues. "We

will put student lunches on my calendar once a month," she promised.

On the topic of W1 and the delay in construction, Hockfield confirmed that MIT won't be opening that residence in 2010 ... that means that any expected increase in admitted students will not be happening."

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## Steam Pipe Explosion Damages Building 66

By Jeff Guo  
NEWS EDITOR

Building 66 sustained extensive water damage after a high-pressure steam pipe burst in the sub-basement Friday night, according to Steven K. Wetzel, manager of facilities for the Chemical Engineering department. No one was injured, Wetzel said, though repairs will probably cost upwards of seven figures.

Graduate students said they felt the building tremble as if there had been an earthquake.

"All of a sudden we heard this really loud explosion ... you could hear this whooshing sound, and the whole building shook," said Sanjoy Sircar G, who was working in his lab on the third floor at the time.

Sircar said he didn't immediately realize that it was a steam explosion. He said he and his lab mate just knew to get out immediately. "I grabbed my coat, he grabbed his laptop, and we ran to save our lives," he said.

The burst pipe had been carrying

Building 66, Page 17

## Harvard-MIT Math Tournament Will Hold Separate Contest for Local Kids

By Zeina Siam

To reach out to students in the Cambridge area, organizers of the Harvard-MIT Mathematics Tournament will be holding a new contest this Saturday exclusively for local high school students.

The new contest will feature easier problems, and is only open to stu-

dents who have not participated on a top 10 HMMT team in past years and go to school within 75 miles of Cambridge. It will be held on Nov. 8 at Harvard's Science Center. The traditional spring contest held in February will continue as scheduled.

HMMT began in 1998 as a high school math tournament, and stu-

dents from Lexington, Arlington, and Newton once routinely made it into the top ranks. But organizers say that as HMMT grew more popular, teams from other states and even other countries came to dominate the contest.

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MARTIN SEGADO—THE TECH

Leslie S. Nachbar '10 of the MIT-Wellesley Toons co-ed a cappella group sings at the third annual Concert for a Cure on Saturday evening in 10-250. The show featured a cappella groups from many local colleges, and raised money for the Accelerated Cure Project, a multiple sclerosis charity.

### In Short

¶ Ann M. Graybiel PhD '71, a professor of Neuroscience in Course IX, has been appointed an Institute Professor. Graybiel's research showed the basal ganglia's role in memory and habit formation.

¶ Want to see what voting might be like in the future? Scantegrity is an add-on to allows voters to check if their vote has been counted correctly. The public can test it out at the Stata Center tomorrow from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. outside 32-124.

¶ Starbucks Coffee will give voters a free tall brewed coffee today at participating stores. See: <http://www.starbucks.com/sharedplanet/news.aspx>

¶ Ben & Jerry's will give out a free scoop of ice cream today from 5-8 p.m. to celebrate Election Day. See: [http://www.benjerry.com/features/i\\_voted/](http://www.benjerry.com/features/i_voted/)

Send news information and tips to [news@the-tech.mit.edu](mailto:news@the-tech.mit.edu).

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democracy at MIT

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MIT at the polls

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#### POLICE LOG

Seventeen larcenies  
were reported in the first  
three weeks of October.

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# WORLD & NATION

## Obama Announces That His Grandmother Has Died

By Jeff Zeleny  
THE NEW YORK TIMES

CHARLOTTE, N.C.

Madelyn Dunham, who watched from afar as her only grandson rapidly ascended the ranks of American politics to the brink of the presidency, did not live to see whether he was elected.

Dunham, 86, Sen. Barack Obama's grandmother, died late Sunday evening in Hawaii after battling cancer, which Obama announced upon arriving here on Monday for a campaign stop on the eve of Election Day.

"She has gone home," Obama said, his voice tinged with emotion as he briefly spoke of her death at a campaign rally here. "She died peacefully in her sleep with my sister at her side, so there's great joy instead of tears."

Obama learned of his grandmother's death at 8 a.m. on Monday, aides said, but appeared at a morning rally in Florida without making an announcement. A written statement was issued around 4:30 p.m., in the name of Obama and his sister, before he spoke at an evening rally in Charlotte. The delay was intended to allow his sister, who was six hours behind in Hawaii, time to take care of a few details before news of the death became public.

## Zaragoza, Beneficiary of Spain's Heady Years, Feels the Undertow

By Nelson D. Schwartz  
THE NEW YORK TIMES

ZARAGOZA, SPAIN

Few places in Europe have prospered in recent years like this bustling crossroads city of 700,000, halfway between Barcelona and Madrid.

Factory employees here pulled overtime shifts. Companies hired temporary workers to satisfy growing consumer demand. A half dozen new bridges were built across the Ebro river, and office buildings were filled as fast as they could be thrown up.

The capital of Spain's fastest-growing region, inland Zaragoza kept booming even as the overbuilt Mediterranean coast came to symbolize how real estate excess was not just an American ailment.

But just as the cold autumn wind is blowing down from the Pyrenees, Zaragoza and the surrounding region of Aragon have suddenly been hit by a sharp economic downturn. And the troubles here make clear that what had been seen as a crisis confined largely to finance and real estate is quickly spreading to more fundamental sectors of the European economy, such as manufacturing.

## New Terrain for Panel on Bailout

By Mark Landler  
THE NEW YORK TIMES

WASHINGTON

There was a rare moment of levity at the Treasury Department on Friday as the children of government workers scampered from office to office in Halloween costumes. A few minutes later, the children were gone and the hallways were retaken by grim-faced grown-ups — handing out tricks and treats of a different sort.

The Treasury building is ground zero for the Bush administration's \$700 billion rescue of the financial system — an ambitious, increasingly embattled program that passed an early milestone last week when the government wired the first \$125 billion to the nine largest banks in the United States.

Having been handed vast authority and almost no restrictions in the bailout law that Congress passed a month ago, a committee of five little-known government officials, aided by a bare-bones staff of 40, is picking winners and losers among thousands of banks, savings and loans, insurers and other institutions.

It is new and unfamiliar terrain for the officials, who are making monumental decisions — a form of industrial policy, some critics say — that contradict the free market philosophy they usually espouse.

# With Internet, Presidential Race Rewrites the Rules

By Adam Nagourney  
THE NEW YORK TIMES

The 2008 race for the White House that comes to an end on Tuesday fundamentally upended the way presidential campaigns are fought in America, a legacy that has almost been lost with all the attention being paid to the battle between John McCain and Barack Obama.

It has rewritten the rules on how to reach voters, raise money, organize supporters, manage the news media, track and mold public opinion, and wage — and withstand — political attacks, including many carried by blogs that did not exist four years ago. It has challenged the consensus view of the American electoral battleground, suggesting that Democrats can at a minimum be competitive in states and regions that had long been Republican strongholds.

The size and makeup of the electorate may be changed because of Democratic efforts to register and turn out new African-American, Hispanic and young voters. This shift could have long-lasting ramifications for what both parties do to build enduring coalitions, especially if intensive and technologically driven voter turn-

out programs succeed in getting more people registered and to the polls.

"I think we'll be analyzing this election for years as a seminal, transformative race," said Mark McKinnon, a senior adviser to President Bush's campaigns in 2000 and 2004. "The year campaigns leveraged the Internet in ways never imagined. The year we went to warp speed. The year the paradigm got turned upside down and truly became bottom up instead of top down."

To a considerable extent, Republicans and Democrats say, this is a result of the way that the Obama campaign sought to understand and harness the Internet (and other forms of so-called new media) to organize supporters and to reach voters who no longer rely primarily on information from newspapers and television. The platforms ranged from YouTube, which did not exist in 2004, to the cell phone text messages that the campaign was sending out to supporters on Monday to remind them to vote.

"We did some very innovative things on the data side, and we did some Internet," said Sara Taylor, who was the White House political director during Bush's re-election campaign.

"But only 40 percent of the country had broadband back then. You now have people who don't have home telephones anymore. And Obama has done a tremendous job of waging a campaign through the new media challenge. I don't know about you, but I see an Obama Internet ad every day. And I have for six months."

Even more crucial to the way this campaign has transformed politics has been Obama's success at using the Internet to build a huge network of contributors that permitted him to raise enough money — after declining to participate in the public financing system — to expand the map and compete in traditionally Republican states.

No matter who wins, Republicans and Democrats say, Obama's efforts in places like Indiana, North Carolina and Virginia — organizing and advertising to voters who previously had little exposure to Democratic ideas and candidates — will force future candidates to think differently.

"The great impact that this election will have for the future is that it killed public financing for all time," said McCain's chief campaign strategist, Steve Schmidt.

# Networks May Call Race Before Voting Ends

By Jacques Steinberg  
THE NEW YORK TIMES

At least one broadcast network and one Web site said Monday that they could foresee signaling to viewers early Tuesday evening which candidate appeared likely to win the presidency, despite the unreliability of early exit polls in the last presidential election.

A senior vice president of CBS News, Paul Friedman, said the prospects for Barack Obama or John McCain meeting the minimum threshold of electoral votes could be clear as soon as 8 p.m. — before polls in even New York and Rhode Island close, let alone those in Texas and California. At such a moment — determined from a combination of polling data and samples of actual votes — the network could share its preliminary projection with viewers, Friedman said.

"We could know Virginia at 7," he said. "We could know Indiana before

8. We could know Florida at 8. We could know Pennsylvania at 8. We could know the whole story of the election with those results. We can't be in this position of hiding our heads in the sand when the story is obvious."

Similarly, the editor of Slate, David Plotz, said in an e-mail message that "if Obama is winning heavily," he could see calling the race "sometime between 8 and 9."

"Our readers are not stupid, and we shouldn't engage in a weird Kabuki drama that pretends McCain could win California and thus the presidency," Plotz wrote. "We will call it when a sensible person — not a TV news anchor who has to engage in a silly pretense about West Coast voters — would call it."

All the networks (and other news organizations with their own Web sites) were engaging in similar debates on Monday about striking the following

balance: not relying too much on early exit poll data — which had suggested, at least early on Election Day in 2004, that John Kerry might be on track to defeat George W. Bush — while not being so cautious as to be beaten to the punch by a competitor who announces an emerging result first.

When asked how Katie Couric, who is leading the network's coverage, might present the network's projection to viewers, Friedman said he could imagine her saying, for example, "Given what we know about the results, or the projected results in various states, it's beginning to look like it will be very difficult for John McCain to put together enough votes to win this election."

The decision desk director of ABC News, Dan Merkle, said, "I think at ABC we're going to be more cautious than that, in terms of telegraphing which way the election is going."

# WEATHER

## Steady Blue (Clear View) and Democrats Too?

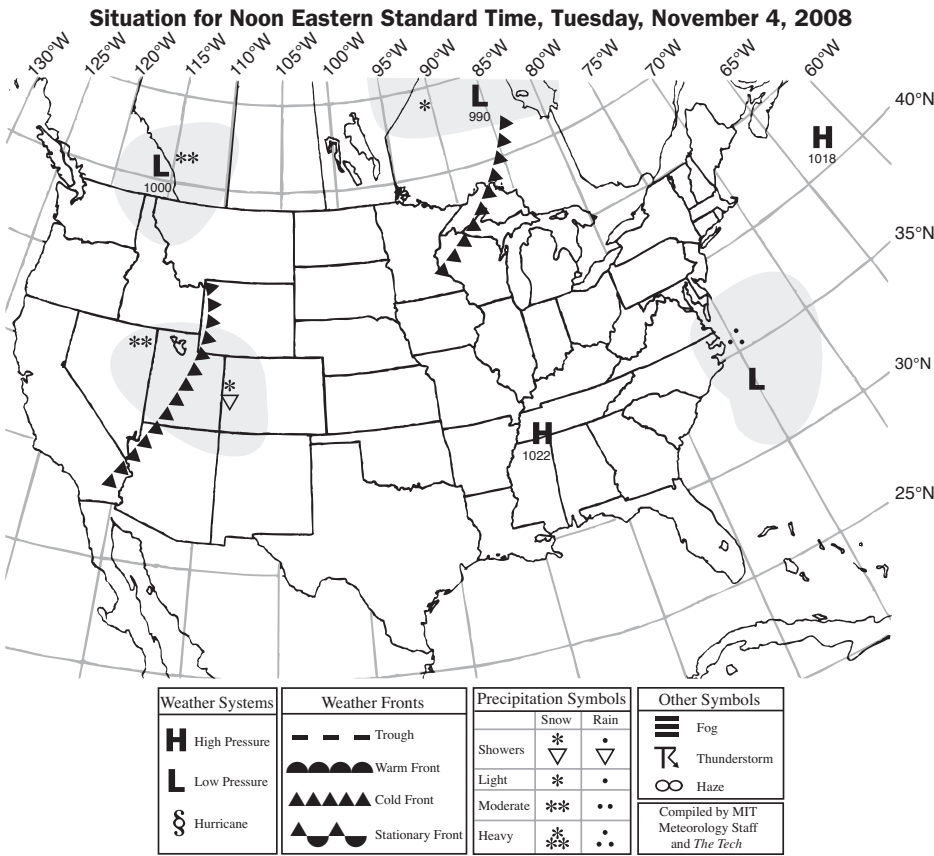
By Cegeon J. Chan  
STAFF METEOROLOGIST

Can today's weather affect the US election? According to an article in the June 2007 edition of the *Journal of Politics*, it can. In any election, rain and wind can impact voter turnout. Although there is likely a low correlation, there appears to be a signal in this study: rain benefits Republicans. Because democrats are more likely to live in urban areas, rain will impact Democratic "peripheral" voters more. The city folks are likely to have longer time outdoors, such as walking to polling stations, waiting for public transportation and in longer lines at urban polling places. As a result, these peripheral voters are presumably less inclined (or even less able) to go vote, and hence fewer democrats show up when it is raining. According to the study, for each inch of rain (above normal), the Republican presidential candidate received an extra 2.5 percent of the vote. So in a close election, rain can impact the election results.

How's today's weather for the swing states? According to the *New York Times*, the swings states are Missouri, Florida, North Carolina, Ohio, and Indiana. No rain is expected for four of the five states. Only in North Carolina (including all of its major cities) will it be raining. In fact, that's the only place in the eastern US affected by any precipitation. In our region, seasonably warm temperatures are expected for today and tomorrow. No reason for either Democrats or Republicans not to show up today to vote.

### Extended Forecast

**Today:** Sunny. Highs in the mid 60s°F (18°C)  
**Tonight:** Partly cloudy. Lows upper 40°F (9°C)  
**Tomorrow:** Partly sunny. Highs in the upper 60s°F (20°C)  
**Tomorrow Night:** Mostly cloudy. Low in the lower 50s°F (11°C)  
**Thursday:** Rain. Highs in the upper 50s°F (15°C)





# Afghan Officials Aided an Attack on U.S. Soldiers

By Eric Schmitt  
THE NEW YORK TIMES

WASHINGTON

An internal review by the American military has found that a local Afghan police chief and another district leader helped Taliban militants carry out an attack on July 13 in which nine U.S. soldiers were killed and a remote American outpost in eastern Afghanistan was nearly overrun.

Afghan and American forces had started building the makeshift base just five days before the attack, and villagers repeatedly warned the American troops in that time that militants were plotting a strike, the report found. It said that the warnings did not include details, and that troops never anticipated such a large and well-coordinated attack.

The assault involved some 200 fighters, nearly three times the number of the American and Afghan forces defending the site.

As evidence of collusion between the district police chief and the Taliban, the report cited large stocks of weapons and ammunition that were found in the police barracks in the adjacent village of Wanat after the

attackers were repelled. The stocks were more than the local 20-officer force would be likely to need, and many of the weapons were dirty and appeared to have been used recently. The police officers were found dressed in “crisp, clean new uniforms,” the report said, and were acting “as if nothing out of the ordinary had occurred.”

The attackers were driven back after a pitched four-hour battle, in which American artillery, warplanes and attack helicopters were ultimately called in. Still, the militants fought in ways that showed imaginative military training, if not sophisticated weapons.

In the midst of the battle, American soldiers were at times flushed out into the open when they fled what they thought were grenades, but were in fact rocks thrown by Taliban attackers, the report said. The day before the attack, the militants began flowing water through an irrigation ditch feeding an unused field, creating background noise that masked the sounds of the advancing fighters.

The base and a nearby observation post were held by just 48 American

troops and 24 Afghan soldiers. Nine Americans died and 27 were injured, most in the first 20 minutes of the fight. Four Afghan soldiers were also wounded.

The intensity of the attack was so fierce, the report said, that American soldiers shot at insurgents as close as 10 yards away, often until their weapons jammed, and at militants who shimmied up trees overhanging their positions to shoot at the Americans.

The attack on the outpost, near Wanat, caused the worst single loss for the American military in Afghanistan since June 2005, and one of the worst overall since the invasion in late 2001. It underscored the vulnerability of American forces in Afghanistan, as well as the continuing problem posed by uncertainties over the loyalties of their Afghan allies, especially the Afghan police.

The military investigating officer, an Army colonel whose identity was not disclosed in a redacted copy of the report provided to The New York Times, recommended that the police chief and the district governor be replaced, if not arrested.

# Guantanamo Tribunal Convicts Al Qaida Propaganda Chief

By William Glaberson  
THE NEW YORK TIMES

A military panel at the Guantanamo naval base convicted a former Qaida propaganda chief of terrorism charges on Monday and sentenced him to life in prison, giving the Bush administration a second conviction in a war-crimes trial there.

But the conviction of the detainee, Ali Hamza al Bahlul, was a measured victory for the government, which has been struggling for seven years to prove the effectiveness of its military commission system for trying terrorism suspects at the U.S. naval station at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

The guilty verdict had been expected because Bahlul, a Yemeni who prosecutors said was a close aide to Osama bin Laden, did not offer any defense. Saying he did not accept the authority of the tribunal, he insisted that his lawyer remain mute in a week-long trial that drew little attention.

The Pentagon’s response to the verdict was muted. “Al Bahlul received a full and fair trial,” said a spokesman, Cmdr. Jeffrey D. Gordon.

The conviction did not appear

likely to affect the contentious debate about the use of military tribunals, said Glenn M. Sulmasy, a national security law specialist at the Coast Guard Academy. “This was a victory for the government,” Sulmasy said, “but it may not have positive impact because of the erosion of support and legitimacy for the commission process.”

Bahlul was convicted of conspiracy, solicitation to commit murder, providing material support for terrorism and other charges. Prosecutors said he made a recruiting film, “The Destruction of the American Destroyer USS Cole,” which described the 2000 attack that killed 17 sailors on the ship in the Yemeni port of Aden.

The panel of military officers deliberated for less than an hour on the sentence Monday afternoon, after announcing its guilty verdict in the morning. The only other detainee convicted after a Guantanamo trial, Salim Hamdan, a former driver for bin Laden, is set to complete his five-month sentence next month, after a military judge gave him credit for more than five years awaiting trial.

Last year, an Australian detainee,

David Hicks, pleaded guilty to providing material support for terrorism in exchange for a nine-month sentence.

Bahlul’s trial came after a series of new challenges to the Pentagon’s prosecution efforts. Last week, a military judge undercut the case against another detainee, Mohammed Jawad, by barring the use of his confession to an attack on American soldiers. The judge ruled that it had been obtained through torture by Afghan officials.

Jawad’s case has drawn wide notice because he was a teenager when he was detained in Afghanistan in 2002. His trial, scheduled Jan. 5, is the only other war-crimes trial expected before President Bush leaves office. The trial of Omar Khadr, a Canadian who was also detained as a teenager, is scheduled for Jan. 26, six days after the start of a new administration.

Pentagon officials have pressed to get the commission system moving quickly, filing charges against nearly two dozen detainees over the last year and expanding the staffs of military lawyers prosecuting and defending the cases.

# U.S. Sales of New Cars and Trucks Plummet in October

By Bill Vlasic and Nick Bunkley  
THE NEW YORK TIMES

DETROIT

Sales of new cars and trucks in the United States plummeted in October to levels not seen in the auto industry in 25 years.

The stunning fall-off affected all automakers, as shaky consumer confidence and the inability of many eager shoppers to get loans because of tight credit drove sales down 31.9 percent during the month compared with the same period last year.

The grim results — particularly for General Motors, whose sales dropped by 45 percent during the month — raised new concerns about the chances of survival for Detroit’s troubled Big Three.

The auto figures add to the steady march of statistics that suggest the broader economy is grinding to a slower pace. A measure of overall manufacturing activity in the United States fell last month to its lowest level in 26 years, according to data released Monday. The Commerce Department also said that construction spending

fell for the eighth time in 10 months in September.

For the auto industry, analysts said the annualized sales rate for the month was the worst recorded since 1983, and few saw any hope for recovery in the industry before 2010.

The sharp decline will only further burden the Detroit companies, and may increase pressure in Washington to provide emergency financial aid to General Motors, Ford and Chrysler.

GM has been burning through an estimated \$1 billion in cash each month since middle of the year, although some analysts believe that figure has grown substantially with the drastic drop-off in demand for new vehicles.

“If they can’t get any help, whether it’s through the government guaranteeing loans or getting a total bailout, we could definitely see one of them going bankrupt,” said Rebecca Lindland, an analyst with IHA Global Insight.

GM, which is pursuing a merger with Chrysler, was recently turned down by the Treasury Department for \$10 billion in federal assistance. All

three Detroit automakers are hoping for the release of \$25 billion in low-interest loans from the Energy Department for the development of more fuel-efficient vehicles.

Sales of new vehicles had been declining throughout the year because of unstable gas prices, a weak economy and a tightening of credit by banks and other lenders.

Automakers reported total sales of 838,000 vehicles during October, the lowest total since January of 1992. However, the annualized selling rate in that month — a projection of full-year sales at the current rate — was a miserable 10.5 million vehicles, the worst since February of 1983, according to Ward’s Autodata.

Analysts said showroom traffic dried up during the month because of consumer fears about unemployment, continued declines in housing prices, and the aftershocks of the Wall Street financial crisis.

“Consumer confidence is the number one reason we are where we are,” said Jesse Toprak, chief market analyst for the auto-research Web site Edmunds.com.

# Technology Giants Draw a Foe: Dolly Parton

By Matt Richtel

THE NEW YORK TIMES

SAN FRANCISCO

Tuesday marks the end of a battle that has lasted for more than two years, with each side predicting apocalyptic consequences should it lose.

Not the fight for the presidency — the one pitting Google against Dolly Parton.

The titan of Silicon Valley and the queen of country are two of the many combatants in a high-technology dispute over precious slices of the nation’s airwaves. The issue comes to a head on Election Day, when the Federal Communications Commission votes on a proposal to make a disputed chunk of radio spectrum available for public use.

Google, Microsoft, Hewlett-Packard and other technology companies say the spectrum could be used by a whole new array of Internet-connected wireless gadgets. They say freeing it up would encourage innovation and investment in much the same way that the spread of Wi-Fi technology has. (This would generate more business for technology companies.)

But a coalition of old-guard media — from television networks to Broadway producers — is objecting to the proposal, saying it needs a closer look. The opponents argue that signals sent over those frequencies could interfere with broadcasts and wireless microphones at live productions.

# Jury Finds Venezuelan Guilty in South American Spy Case

By Alexei Barriounevo and Carmen Gentile

THE NEW YORK TIMES

BUENOS AIRES, ARGENTINA

The diplomatic tangle between Venezuela, Argentina and the United States reached a new pitch on Monday, when a jury in Miami convicted a wealthy Venezuelan businessman of acting as an “unregistered agent” of Venezuela on American soil.

The case, known in Latin America as “Suitecasegate,” started last year with the discovery of a mysterious suitcase filled with \$800,000 in cash at an airport here. But it has erupted into a long-running scandal that has aggravated tensions between the United States and its neighbors to the south.

Franklin Duran, the businessman convicted Monday, went on trial in Miami for conspiring to cover up the origin and destination of the suitcase: It was a secret contribution, prosecutors said, sent by Venezuela’s government to bolster the campaign of Argentina’s president. Duran faces a maximum of 15 years in prison.

The case has become a symbol of the antagonism between the Bush administration and President Hugo Chavez of Venezuela, who has used his nation’s oil wealth to spread his influence throughout the region.

The scandal has also soured America’s relations with Argentina and its president, Cristina Fernandez de Kirchner, whose legitimacy has been challenged by the revelations of secret campaign donations from outside her country.

Both Chavez and Kirchner accused the United States of political motivations in bringing the case last December, a charge officials in Washington and Miami have repeatedly denied.

# A Feud at the Top Paralyzes Ukraine

By Sabrina Tavernise

THE NEW YORK TIMES

KIEV, UKRAINE

Four years ago this month, hundreds of thousands of people took to the streets of this capital city to take back an election they saw as stolen. That outpouring, called the Orange Revolution, brought fresh hopes for freedoms and for a release from the country’s Soviet past that few other former republics had ever experienced.

The early promise of those days frayed in recent years, but economically times were good, and the country always seemed to manage.

But now, confronted by the global financial crisis, the new Ukraine is facing the single biggest test of its stability, and its leaders, by most accounts, seem to be at risk of failing.

Prime Minister Yulia V. Tymoshenko and President Viktor A. Yushchenko, former political allies, are now locked in a bitter power struggle that has paralyzed the state, leaving it without a leader at precisely the time it most needs one.

Even as the West bends to help it, with the International Monetary Fund pledging an emergency \$16.5 billion loan last month, it barely pulled itself together to meet the conditions for the money. Yushchenko, intent on getting rid of Tymoshenko, is trying to force early elections for December. To make sure the elections come off, his party spent most of last week trying to slip a campaign finance clause into the legislation package that was required for the loan.

# Coach Maradona? New Post Creates Stir in Argentina

By Dan Rosenheck

THE NEW YORK TIMES

“Soccer has a god. That god is Argentine, and his name is Diego Armando Maradona,” proclaims the Web site of the Church of Maradona, an online fan club of Argentina’s unrivaled athletic icon that claims some 20,000 members.

But this month, Diego Maradona, the country’s 48-year-old sporting titan, will try his hand at an all-too-earthly task: managing Argentina’s men’s national team, which has failed to reach the semifinals of the World Cup since “El Diego” himself starred for them in 1986 and 1990.

After retiring 11 years ago, Maradona has remained in the spotlight primarily as the country’s leading real-life soap opera star, waging a series of well-publicized battles with drugs, obesity, the media and past lovers. Now, the hopes and dreams of 40 million soccer-mad Argentines will rest on the shoulders — much-slimmed after a stomach-stapling operation in 2005 — of a man who, in the words of the local newspaper columnist Horacio Pagani, will be “the least prepared manager in the history of international soccer.”



# OPINION

## The State of Democracy at MIT

### A Call to Action

Dan Yelin

As I sit here writing in the student center, I gaze upon Kresge Auditorium — the voting place of Ward 2, Precinct 2 in the City of Cambridge. Today, many citizens will come to this place to cast their ballots in national, state, and local races — to elect whom they will entrust with the sacred duty to represent the constituency in the halls of government. It's ironic though, that we will exercise our greatest civic duty and most sacred right as Americans on the very grounds of an institution that runs itself in such an autocratic fashion.

Elections are designed to ensure accountability in the system. No elected official would in their right mind consider making a decision without first soliciting input from or gauging the feelings of their constituents. Unfortunately, MIT administrators are not elected and as such have essentially free reign to do whatever they want to reshape the Institute without student input or fear of repercussions. For the administration, their greatest fear isn't that the students are unhappy — it's that a negative article about MIT will run in the Boston Globe.

While the recent Globe article about cats sure was nice, it's superficial compared to the real state of affairs on campus. Time and time again, student interests have been cast aside. Whenever a problem pops up on campus, the administration employs the oldest trick in the book — create a commission or taskforce to discuss the issue. Nothing makes a problem go

away easier than creating another bureaucratic institution with no real authority to accomplish anything and having it meet a few times over the course of several months until student interest dies down. This tactic simply sweeps the problem under the rug, hopefully never to be seen again.

I simply find it shocking that of all the talks President Hockfield has given on improving candid input and diversity at MIT, both are severely lacking on the Academic Council, the

*While the recent Globe article about cats sure was nice, it's superficial compared to the real state of affairs on campus.*

chief policymaking board of the institution. Where are the students? Diversity manifests itself in many ways; however, this injustice appears to be one that the administration is quite all right with overlooking.

The student body should have the right to elect a student to represent their interests on the Academic Council. Student representation in MIT governance can only have a positive effect. It will serve to elevate the debate as more perspectives and points of view are considered when making major decisions. In addition to being able to have legitimate input on policy matters, student members of the Academic Council will be able to ensure ac-

countability and transparency in Institute affairs.

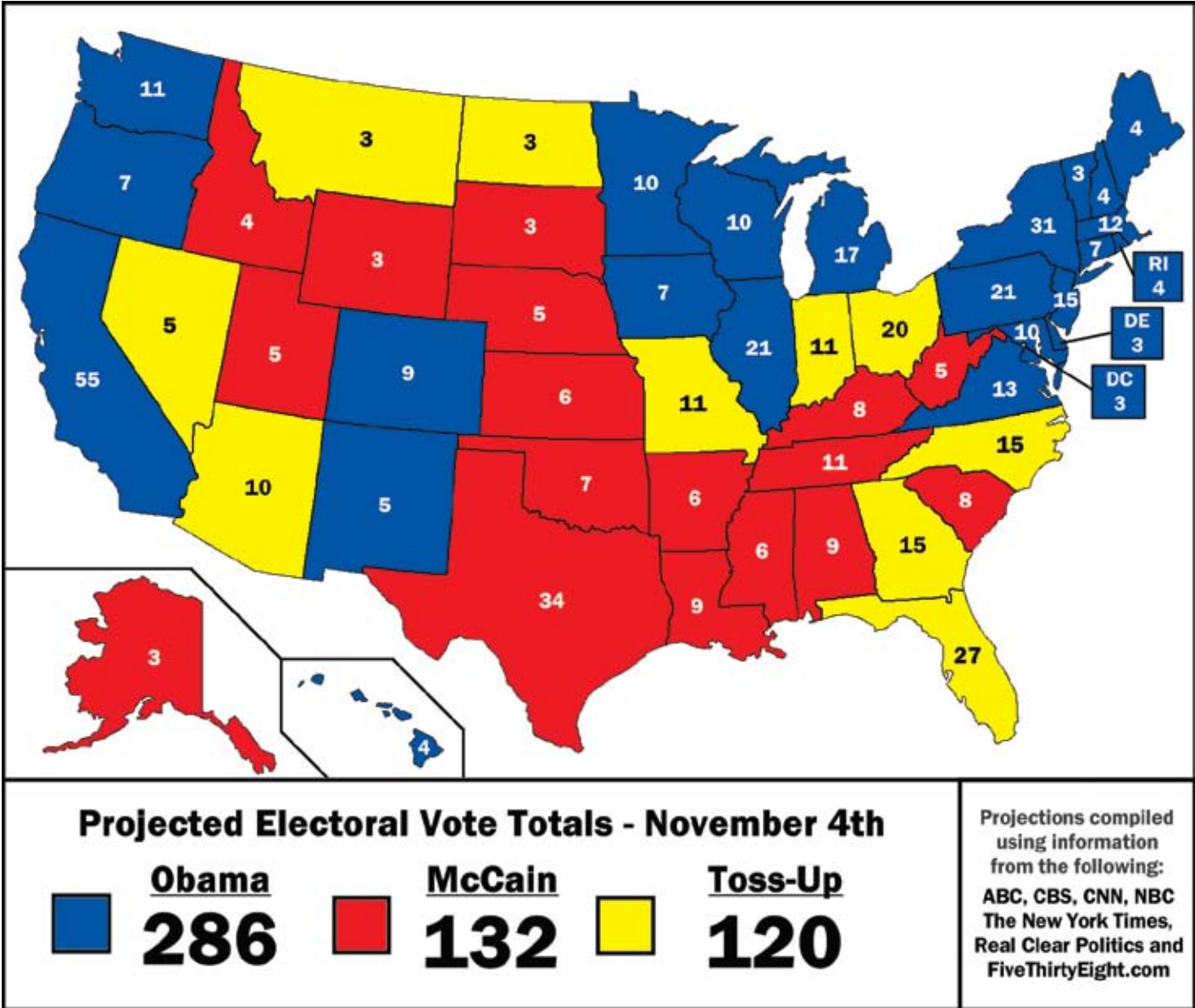
Only then can we work to reform the current system to ensure that situations such as the botched evictions of residents of Green Hall and the mishandling of the Star Simpson case do not happen again. As many of you remember from the recent Lobby 7 sit-in, the 'Campaign for Students' is a new, grassroots effort to try to instill a greater sense of communication and transparency between student and administrator in the decisions that will affect our community. What did the administration do? It created the "Taskforce for Student Engagement" to meet several times to address the issue — what an innovative solution!

As it goes in national politics, the only way to incite constructive change is to make sure that our voices are heard. I urge all of you to contact President Hockfield, Chancellor Clay, and Dean Colombo to voice your opinions on the state of administration-student relations at the Institute and to demand student representation on the Academic Council.

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# MIT at the Polls

## Results of the FAP Voter Survey

Manvi Goel

What are MIT students thinking about regarding this year's presidential elections? The Forum on American Progress (FAP) has long been pondering this question. As a student group that aims to explore America's role on the world stage, FAP decided to conduct a political interest survey in the weeks leading up to the Election Day. The results of our survey will hopefully offer some insights into how we, as a student body, might behave at the polls.

Our poll — which was hosted online and promoted via campuswide e-mails — received 605 responses from both graduate and undergraduate students.

We asked first how many students actually had plans to vote in this year's election. We were pleased to find that 91 percent of those

surveyed were registered to vote — with 85 percent having already made arrangements to vote absentee or early in person.

Next, we wanted to know how the student body would break down by party affiliation. We were not surprised to find that more than a quarter of MIT students describe themselves as "Independent." Perhaps this result is indicative of our Institute's mission — to engage students in thinking about world problems with a sense of open-mindedness that emphasizes critical thinking and objective analysis. MIT students are frequently praised for being independent thinkers. As an extension of this mindset, are we less inclined to tie ourselves with one political party and, therefore, only one set of policy positions and objectives? Party affiliations aside, Senator Barack Obama commands 72 percent of students' support.

What concerns us as an organization is how MIT, as a leading institution of science, engineering, and technology in the country (if not the world), can begin to take a leadership role in influencing American public policy. Eighty percent of students feel that MIT has a somewhat or very large role in affecting America's science policy. Yet, why is it that when asked how politically active we are on a scale of one to ten, most of us say five — just average?

As students, we should be finding ways to

connect what we learn in class and through UROPs to the world's demands for social and economic change. FAP encourages this outlook and the dialogue that is needed to cultivate it. We commit ourselves to raising political awareness on campus on issues of public policy. We continue to ask ourselves and the larger MIT community: how can America sustain its leadership in a manner that advances the global community's progress?

In a few hours, we will find out how closely MIT students voted with respect to everyone else in the country. More importantly, we will know who our next president will be. Today can be a turning point in our nation's progress. We ask you to consider, as you cast your ballot, how you will effect societal change — during your time at MIT, and far beyond.

Manvi Goel '10 is the leader of the Forum on American Progress.

# Science With a Side of Politics

Manisha Padi

If you've eaten lunch in Lobdell or the Kendall Food Court in the past few weeks, the following pattern of conversation may seem familiar to you: as you're catching up with a friend, you overhear the next table loudly debating the latest Sarah Palin scandal. Amused, your friend pulls up a video montage of Barack Obama's most recent slip-ups and the two of you start laughing over the mudslinging going on in the press. Soon, you realize the next table has been sucked in, and by the end of lunch the whole room is going.

MIT's campus has never been known as the center of political activity, but the 2008 election has everyone riled up this year, and with good reason! Not only is this the first time most of the student body have had a say in the running of the country, but the entertaining, fun-filled spectacle that the media is providing has captured the imagination of even the most apathetic citizens.

The intense speculation has moved beyond idle curiosity and has been reinforced and reflected by student participation in many events on campus. The Economics Department hosted a panel on the financial crisis, which was even mentioned by President Susan Hockfield in her autumn Letter to the Community as recommended listening for the whole MIT community.

The Energy Initiative hosted a high-profile

debate about both candidates' energy policies and economics professor Jonathan Gruber gave a well-attended talk about healthcare policy last week. The halls have been plastered with election-related posters, including Poverty Week briefings on the candidates' positions and advertisements for debate-watching parties that ended up hosting record turnouts.

The effort to get students more engaged in politics has been successful due to efforts both from the student body and the administration, and bodes well for the future of the United States. The continued success of this large, diverse nation relies on constant innovations in science and technology. We need energy, healthcare, the Internet, and strong military defense systems to improve our society and advance us into the 21st century.

The excitement that MIT feels about the four crucial years ahead shows how important our unique role is in shaping the future. People with deep scientific knowledge and a real commitment to moving our society forward can make a profound difference, no matter who our next president is. However, when the time comes for our generation to take leading roles in government, I believe MIT alumni will point to the 2008 election as one of their inspirations to labor in the pursuit of broad social change.

Manisha Padi '10 is a member of the Forum on American Progress and a former Tech columnist.

The excitement that MIT feels about the four crucial years ahead shows how important our unique role is in shaping the future.

# Why You Should Keep Caring

Elizabeth Leshen

In a few hours, the election campaign that has captivated the American news media for the past two years will come to an end. This dynamic campaign has made the American political process a conversation topic in living rooms around the country, as well as in many a dorm room at the Institute. The campus has shown more political awareness in the past six months than I've seen in my previous two years at MIT. Whether or not you're happy with the election results tonight, here's why our campus should continue to be engaged by public policy.

The next president, as well as Congress, will continue to rely on MIT's expertise to confront many critical issues over the next four years. MIT faculty and administrators have been regularly testifying in Washington on issues such as economic instability, global warming, and healthcare. Our elected politicians are making policy decisions based, in part, on information from the same people who teach our classes.

The student body has begun to realize the

influence that MIT's innovative and unbiased research carries in Washington. However, what many students have yet to understand is that our professors are testifying not simply because they are experts in high demand — they are also testifying because they believe themselves that their expertise should improve public policy decisions.

All members of the MIT community feel the impact of public policy in their academic and professional lives. American policy affects research funding, regulatory barriers, and ethical decisions. It is in our best interests, as members of the academic community, to ensure that policy decisions are grounded in the best evidence available.

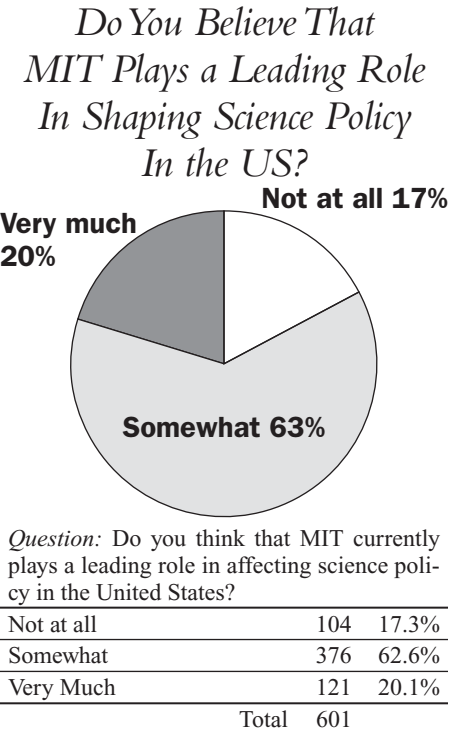
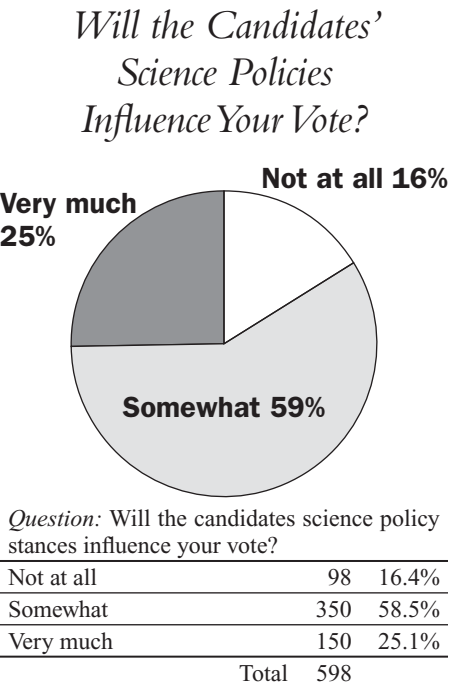
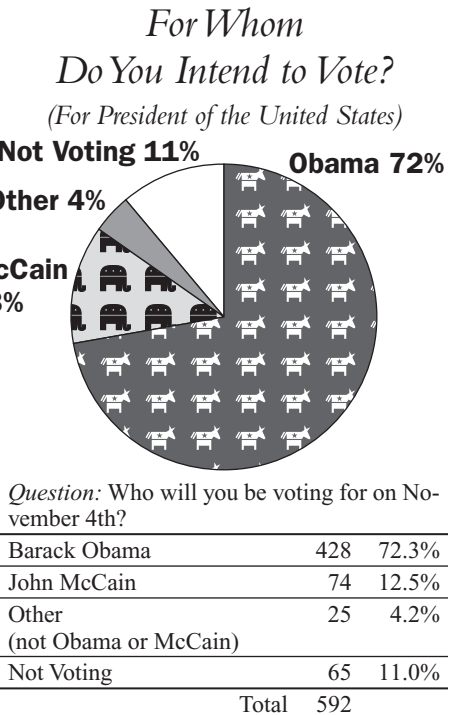
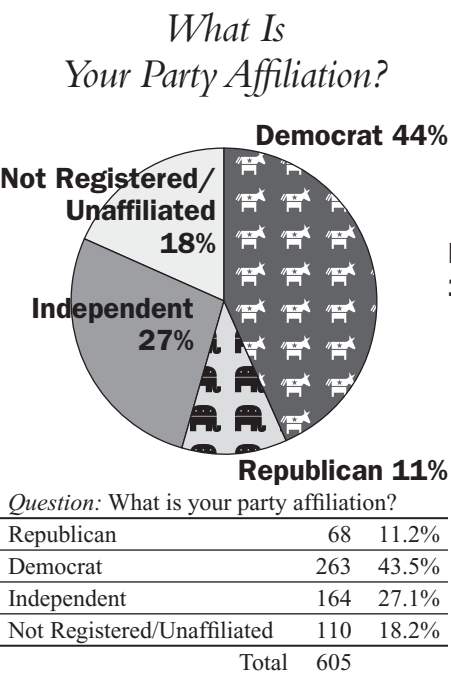
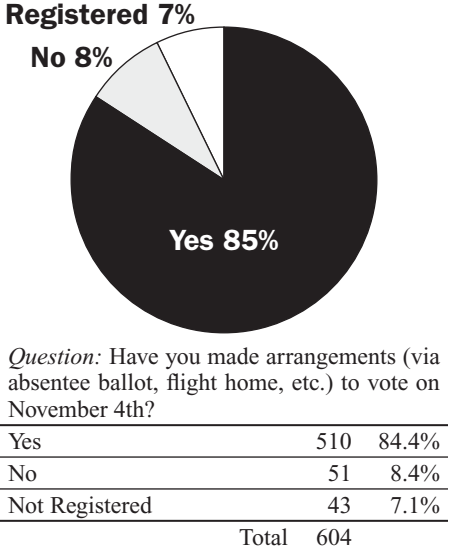
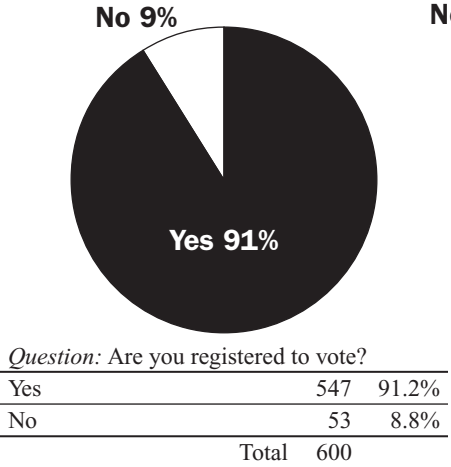
MIT as an institution has demonstrated countless times throughout its history a commitment to grounding policy decisions in reliable research. As students who may one day also be experts in our chosen fields of study, we must maintain an understanding of critical policy issues so that we can, if called upon, use our expertise to improve policies that affect us all.

Elizabeth Leshen '10 is a member of the Forum on American Progress.

The next president, as well as Congress, will continue to rely on MIT's expertise to confront many critical issues over the next four years.

## FAP MIT Election Survey Results

Are You Registered to Vote? Have You Made Plans To Vote? (Absentee, Trip Home, etc.)



This survey was compiled using responses from 605 graduate and undergraduate students who responded to an e-mail invitation to take a SurveyMonkey.com poll during the period from Monday, Oct. 20 to Tuesday, Oct. 28.



# Obama: Politician or Celebrity?

*The Answer is 'Both'*

Maggie Liu

It has been a long debated question whether Barack Obama is more of a politician or a celebrity. As a presidential candidate, he has come under heavy fire for his celebrity status. Seeing that all presidential candidates are under the merciless eye of both tabloid reporters and political columnists, the question is whether he has really earned this dubious reputation — and whether it matters.

While McCain's campaign to link Obama's name with the likes of Britney Spears and Paris Hilton has cast a negative light on Obama's fame, it also underscores Obama's undeniable popularity among the younger generations. The question of why younger voters have supported Obama has been analyzed, dissected, and spat out in crumpled sheets. For the comprehensive range of reasons why an MIT student would support

Obama, simply read Spenser Skates' article in *The Tech* Volume 128, Issue 51.

What I'm interested in is what makes Obama such an iconic figure. I think that for many young voters, and young people in general, Obama has transcended the celebrity status. Humans are by nature intrigued by the lives of others and tabloids only tap into this innate thirst for (for lack of a better word) gossip. Even for bystanders who scoff and look down on celebrity gossip, they are nevertheless intrigued by the lives of the stars — who's in relationship with whom, who's in custody battle over which adopted child, and what boutique the nth Disney channel pop sensation shops in.

Barack Obama's position in pop culture is eons above that. While the interest may be rooted in way that the junior senator from Illinois has challenged deeply rooted social stigmas, he has overcome the initial stereotypes

and backlash from playing the 'race card.' I think that many voters are so intrigued and drawn by Obama not by who he is but more so for what he stands for. Obama, like the late J.F.K., is the epitome of vitality and potential. Many associate him with the change that America needs, the 'young man with fresh ideas' that could turn around the economy and prevent American from running down to the ground.

For these reasons and then some, Obama has more than a fanbase. It's more like a cult following. It's been a while since there's been such a hubbub about a \*gasp\* politician among the young and restless. Al Gore had stirred some interest eight years ago, but it had by no means been on the scale as Obama is now.

Obama has earned not only the support of many college students, he's also earned nods from many other celebrities. Though it's true that Hollywood tends to be liberal-minded and partial towards political anomalies, it's quite something for stars to talk about Obama more than the next "It" bag. Designers who often sniffle in disdain and bore at politics

have been releasing Obama paraphernalia like mad. Want a bag to display your support for Obama while running from the Stata Center to 10-250? Then the Marc Jacobs button tote is for you. Want something to support Obama but don't want anything too kitschy? Then Proenza Schouler's Obama bracelet's the Obamaphenalia for you.

While some cynical anti-Obamaites may point and shrilly accuse a conspiratorial marketing ploy behind the presidential campaign, it only shows the breadth of Obama's influence and support.

In the worst scenario, Obama does not become president but ends up filming a documentary and wins three Oscars. Hey, Al Gore lost the presidential race but won the Nobel Peace Prize and a leading place in the green movement. Not too shabby.

Regardless of the outcome of the elections, Obama is a more than worthy candidate. Considering how talented he is as an individual, he will be welcome warmly in not only the political arena but many other fields of life. If an individual possesses capabilities and such charisma, he doesn't have much to fear.

*In the worst scenario, Obama does not become president but ends up filming a documentary and wins three Oscars.*

## Kicking the 'False Idol'

*Life Lessons from George Soros*

Gary Shu

George Soros described his experience during World War II as a Jew as his formative year. In escaping from the Nazis, Soros' father understood that "there are times when the normal rules don't apply." As described in the title of his talk last week, "The New Paradigm for Financial Markets," the world is entering one of those very times. People haven't a clue of the value of assets that serve as the foundation of the world economy, our leaders are fumbling their way through the dark, and the world is entering uncharted territory. As a result, the markets yo-yo like a cheap kid's toy.

Ironically, while Soros was speaking on stage at MIT last week, the Dow Jones index was staging a record rally which produced the second-highest all time point gain. This was in anticipation of a substantial Fed interest rate cut for the next day. What happened the next day when a rate cut actually happened?

Perception is reality. The Dow barely budged.

George Soros is a fan of "reflexivity," a phi-

losophy that he picked up from his readings of the philosopher Karl Popper. The basic tenet is that the act of comprehending an idea will influence and change the very system that was beheld. Similar to Heisenberg's Uncertainty Principle in physics — where the act of observation will affect the location wavefunction of a particle — reflexivity naturally extends to financial markets.

Traders are intimately integrated with the financial system; the very actions of buying and selling financial products in the market produce the value of the good. What a buyer perceives to be the price will actually create the price. The failure of the banks caused the limbo the world is currently hanging in, all due to a compounding error of human perception in the valuation of mortgages and their associated securities. Coupled with a system that held up this magnificent and risky Ponzi scheme, we were none the wiser until it

came crashing down and the deleveraging began.

There is a logical extension of Soros' belief in reflexivity — there is no such thing as a completely free market. Soros minted his fortune off those who believed otherwise. Markets are surrounded by very private controls. Governments

back the contracts that stipulate what is or isn't allowed. Officials decide what the market-wide interest rates are. Lately and even more dramatically, regulators have swooped upon the economy like the Grim Reaper, deciding which

firms live and which firms die.

The actions of the Bush administration highlight the contrast between Republican dogma and Soros' philosophy even more sharply.

*The actions of the Bush administration highlight the contrast between Republican dogma and Soros' philosophy even more sharply.*

## Party-Based Elections

*How to Ensure That Your Vote Really Matters*

Stella V. Schieffer

The roots of the current American electoral system date back to the days of the Constitutional Convention in 1787. Undoubtedly, many things have changed over the last 221 years and I would like to pose the question: Are major reforms of the national election system sensible and overdue? The way that America conducts its elections is very different from that of many other countries in the Western

world. Comparing the American system to other strong democracies, such as Germany, unveils a number of fundamental — and very interesting — differences in the representation of candidates, the party system and general voting procedures themselves.

First of all, the German electoral system stresses the principle that all power comes from the electorate. A direct voting system determines the composition of the state parliaments (Landtag) and the national parliament (Bundestag) according to proportional repre-

sentation. Germans do not vote for single candidates and electors, but cast their vote for one of the many parties including, for example, Conservatives, Social Democrats, the Green Party or the Liberals.

With two distinct votes per person, every voter has direct influence on firstly, the representation within his electoral district and secondly, the percentage-wise representation of seats in the Bundestag by the various parties. As long as a party receives a minimum of 5 percent of all voters' votes, it is eligible for proportional representation within the national parliament. Currently there are five parties represented in parliament. The chancellor position, currently held by Angela Merkel, is appointed by the Bundestag. To achieve absolute majorities in Bundestag decisions, parties form coalitions cooperating with another party to work towards common goals.

The decisions about which candidates will be eligible to get a seat in the Bundestag are based on a ranking list established by majority votes within each party in every state.

The emphasis on the proportional representation of parties allows for a far more accurate depiction of and a greater diversity of choices for the electorate. This would be particularly valuable in this election where such a great number of important issues are at stake — namely the healthcare system, the Iraq war, energy security and the current economic situation. The fact that even minorities have a chance to have a say in government, in contrast to a "winner-takes-all" mentality, gives every voter's voice an impact and does

not completely disregard votes cast for the party that did not achieve the majority in one's electoral district.

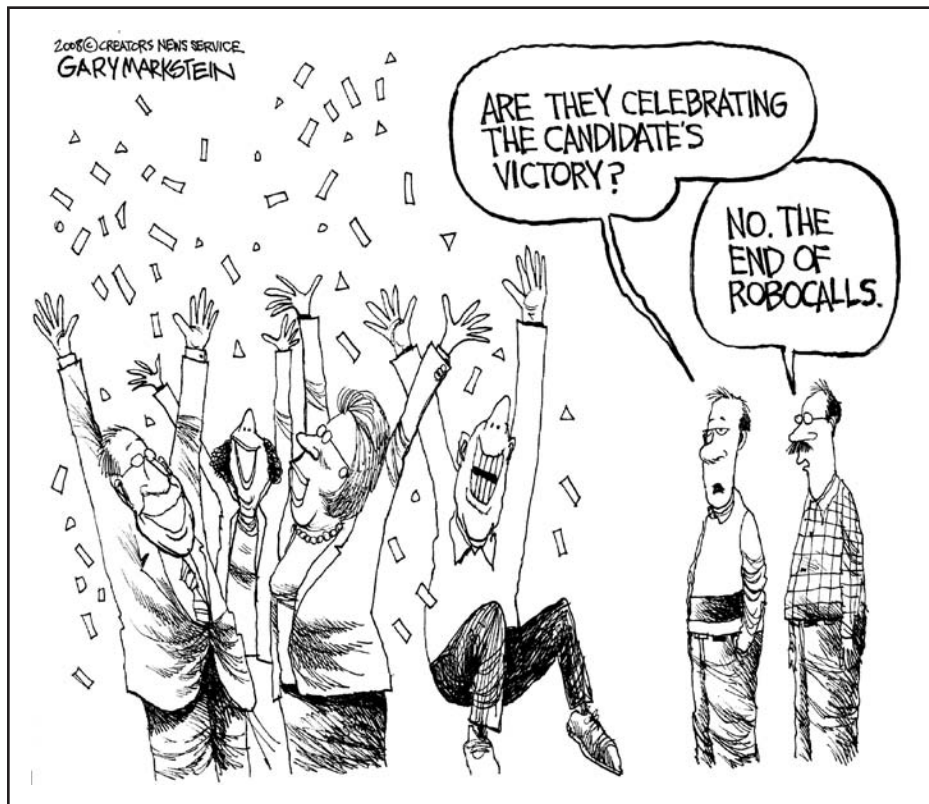
Another advantage of voting for a party instead of specific candidates is the fact that you make a statement about the general political

course of action you would like to see; you support the political philosophy and aims of the party. In contrast to individuals whose ideologies and interests might evolve or be influenced, the party will pursue the same basic goals throughout its legislative period.

It also makes it unnecessary for politicians to waste their energy, time and money on election campaigns boosting up their individual popularity in emotionally charged election debates. In the entire campaign process, American politicians run the danger of making themselves dependent on donations from powerful industrialists, of becoming vulnerable to committing to personal favors and being corrupted by intensive lobbying. In Germany, parties are mainly financed from taxpayer money (dependent on their parliamentary representation) and from membership fees.

With a voter participation rate of 77.7 percent in the last German national election, in contrast to 43.6 percent in the last U.S. presidential election, the German citizens seem to be proud to actively participate in politics and to see their input being recognized and realized. Perhaps a "fairer" representation of everyone's interests within US politics could also boost American political activity? Wouldn't it be nice to truly believe that your vote really mattered — each and every time you left the ballot booth?

*To achieve absolute majorities in Bundestag decisions, parties form coalitions cooperating with another party to work towards common goals.*





# Forced to be Free

## Mandatory Voting in Belgium

Florence Gallez

“Now shut up and do what I say: express yourself, go and vote!”

This is the skewed, illogical logic behind Belgium’s voting laws — which have been mandatory since 1892 — and what the government has been telling its people as it drags them on a leash to the polling stations at the time of national elections.

Actually, it only has to drag a rebellious minority (like me) as most Belgians tend to support this system, according to various opinion polls and my own unofficial survey of my compatriots.

“It does force people to think a bit about politics and our society. It forces people to think about whom to vote for and to form an opinion,” writes a Flemish girlfriend to me in an e-mail. “It gives an easy incentive to people who would only care a bit but don’t want to put too much effort into it, that is, the people who wouldn’t want to go through the paperwork to register like in the US, to think a little. It’s easy to vote in Belgium, you just show up, it takes five minutes.”

But what kind of thinking can one do at gunpoint? How informed and genuine can it be if it is manipulated from the top? ‘Forced thinking’ ... it sounds funny, not to say tragic.

As I watch Americans deciding not only who to vote for in the Nov. 4 election, but also whether or not to vote in the first place, I cannot help but ponder this dilemma and question my little country’s strong-handed democratic practices.

Indeed, at the heart of the debate is the very definition of democracy. Although it comes in various forms and varieties, democracy is based on two core principles: it is all-inclusive, giving equal access to power to all those involved, and it guarantees universally recognized freedom and liberties.

As for democratic governance, here too there are numerous models, but most fall within three categories: direct, deliberative, and election-centered, with some democratic systems combining elements of the three.

Belgium, a constitutional, popular monarchy and parliamentary democracy — and as I write still up to its neck in communitarian tensions between the French- and Flemish-speaking parties and heated negotiations for state reform — favors the election-based system of democracy.

By far the most familiar model of democratic legitimacy, it rests on the election of public officials to make and enforce laws. But why does Belgium make this ‘freedom to vote’ — ‘It is a freedom we have fought for,’ goes the argument — compulsory?

Participating in national elections is considered a right of citizenship by most democratic governments. But why is Belgium, with a handful of other countries such as Austria

and Australia, pushing this right down people’s throats?

Some democratic governments take it further and see this participation as a citizen’s civic responsibility. Fair enough. But some of them force this concept upon their people with compulsory voting. And it is when some of these ‘democracies’ impose sanctions for not voting that go from fines to imprisonment that you start to seriously scratch your head.

In Belgium, a voter who does not return to the ballot boxes may face a fine ranging from 25 to 125 euro, depending on whether there is repetition. Not presenting oneself in four elections within 15 years may lead to disenfranchisement, which amounts to an infringement of civil rights. Refraining from voting may also lead to various forms of discrimination, such as difficulties in getting a job within the public sector.

Although I cannot cite specific cases that I know of, failure to pay one’s fines will result in a notice of possible imprisonment.

To be fair, entering a polling booth is mandatory, but marking a ballot paper is not. So there is the option of not voting by handing in an empty or an invalid vote. But after the election, a list of all those who didn’t present themselves is sent to the office of the public prosecutor. Continued non-attendance can result in being barred from the electoral list for 10 years, and thus becoming ineligible for a nomination, distinction or promotion by a public authority. Explanations for a decent reason for absence, such as on medical or religious grounds, however, may be accepted.

Now, with the added ‘Big Brother’ capacities of technology, non-participation is impossible. As a Brussels-based Belgian friend and high school teacher told me by phone: “The machine swallows up your ID card and doesn’t give it back until you are done. There is no escaping it.”

Why such tactics and threats to ensure that citizens perform their civic duties? Can’t they be trusted to do the right thing, make the right, mature decisions?

Turnout is the culprit — so to speak ... Or rather, its overt nature is. Voter turnout figures provide the most obvious way to measure political engagement, and its ability to generate headlines may well make some of the participating parties fret.

Essentially, the purpose of Belgium’s obligatory voting laws is to fulfill the democratic ideal of full representation: to make the vote possible for all, including the poor, and ensure diversity in Parliament. If the vote was not compulsory, only a wealthier and more educated minority would be more likely to vote,

the reasoning goes. In a country of 10 million, such considerations matter, proponents say.

But such thinking does not account for ‘donkey voting,’ numbering the candidates’ boxes sequentially from top to bottom, or scribbling some unintelligible signs or insults on the ballot-paper. ‘Protest’ or ‘random’ votes, checking off a candidate at random to get one’s ‘duty’ out of the way, is often the recourse of those voting against their free will. Studies show that such voters are likely to check the top candidate, and in Belgium such votes have boosted the ratings of the extreme right Vlaams Belang party.

Although I applaud protest voting as an act of defiance as the practice casts doubt over the legitimacy of the democratically elected government, it fosters a culture of irresponsible, at times dishonest and counter-productive behavior.

People who don’t like to be told what to do may also be inclined to vote against those who are making them go out to vote, i.e. the government. Another counter-productive and falsely representative response.

Another strong argument of those in favor of compulsory voting is its educational effect: that it engages people who would not otherwise bother learning about — and taking part in their country’s politics. But shouldn’t education on civic life start in the classroom, in a free, open environment and be enjoyed rather than enforced? I do not recall any civic classes in the 12 years I spent in Belgium’s educational system, including primary and high school. If ‘educating’ us mattered, wouldn’t this have been otherwise?

It is also glaringly obvious that in such a system, appearances matter more than genuine substance, as compulsory voting makes the governing party appear more legitimate. Instead of tackling the problem of political disenfranchisement, this engineered support of a larger proportion of the population covers it.

The biggest misstep such voting laws make, however, is the fact that they trample on democracy’s other core principle: freedom. The right to vote includes the right not to vote, the freedom to be apolitical. Similarly, the right to vote does not come with an obligation to take action upon one’s voting. The oft-cited argument that disgruntled citizens who refrain from voting should stop complaining is alarming. Whining and criticizing are part of freedom of expression and voicing such discontent does not come with the obligation to participate in fixing the issues in question.

Applying such flawed logic on a global scale, including in authoritarian regimes, would come at high risks for the complainer/dissenter: criticizing the Russian or Burmese

government among one’s circles or online is one thing, picking up one’s pitchforks to go and face the state police’s truncheons on the streets is an entirely different thing. It is easy for those sitting in stable and comfy countries to call for more active, practical involvement from the people, but the conditions for safe participation are not uniform and prevalent across the planet.

Most insulting of all in the compulsory voting system is the patriarchal, condescending and dictatorial attitude of the government towards its citizens, whom it sees as too immature and irresponsible to make their own decisions. It is based on negative assumptions about the people — that once left to their own devices, they will stay at home and won’t vote. In other words, it is based on distrust. The government doesn’t trust its people to make the right decisions. And without trust, what can there be? ...

Hold on, I have only told half of the story. As is common with most countries that have compulsory voting laws in place, Belgium only weakly enforces its compulsory vote. As in countries that offer loopholes, many non-voters in Belgium go unpunished, despite the clearly stated and publicized sanctions. Despite these laws, the level of absenteeism in the last couple of elections hovers around 9 percent, with 9.7 percent in the June 2007 election. A close reading of the legislation reveals that non-attendees can face sanctions.

You heard right. That’s selective application of the law. Like in Russia, or similar authoritarian regimes. Nice.

What most Belgians make out of this is that the government uses these mandatory voting laws mostly as a deterrent to non-attendance. Although the authorities do keep track of non-attendance, sanctions are only loosely applied. The threat of receiving fines and other sanctions and discriminations is what makes many a citizen go out and vote, as my own Belgium-based connections have confirmed by phone for this story.

So to sum up, the Belgian government uses fear to control and manipulate the electorate — hardly a recipe for a mature, functional relationship between the government and the governed, and for a healthy democracy.

I am all for performing one’s civic responsibilities, but those duties should not be inculcated with rules and whips, with force and sanctions, as does the current election-based model of Belgium, which keeps the electorate out of policy-making.

Instead, why not apply the laws of a direct or deliberative democracy, in which people participate directly in the very making of these civic duties, laws and policies? A discussion-based involvement of the people in law-making can only lead to increased and genuine engagement, and respect.

Only when my government stops spanking me will I ever be able to respect it.

*People who don't like to be told what to do may also be inclined to vote against those who are making them go out to vote, i.e. the government.*

The Next Four Years

Mudslinging Campaigns

Nuclear Policy

Gay Marriage

Give a damn?

Do something about it!  
*letters@tech.mit.edu*

# CAMPUS LIFE

## Talk Nerdy To Me

*I See London, I See France, I See ... Briefs?*

By Christine Yu  
STAFF COLUMNIST

The media portrays nerds as wearing pocket protectors, taped glasses, and “outdated” underwear. Girls don “granny panties,” whereas guys don “whitey tighties.” At MIT, I’ve encountered pocket protectors and taped glasses, but never briefs.

I thought once, prior to a hookup, that I had finally encountered briefs. Fashion-conscious individual that I am, I had to interrupt the post-coital cuddling to ask about his underwear. It was then that — to my dismay — he informed me that the underwear in-question was really a pair of boxer-briefs. He proceeded to defend his decision, as if briefs would kill my libido.

That night, with the lights off, there was no way I was going to notice the extra centimeters of length that make the difference between briefs and boxer-briefs. However, I found it

interesting that he treated briefs with such a stigma.

For both guys and girls, briefs are the “cool” undergarments until middle school gym class. In first grade, I remember a boy got “pantsed” on the playground, and he proudly stood in his Power Ranger briefs. No one gave him any grief — it was the Red Ranger!

As a child, I loved my Monday through Sunday undies even more than light-up shoes, and that’s saying something. I never wore my panties in the correct order, but I never cared to either.

However, I hate to kill childhood nostalgia, but it’s a rite of passage to go through the scrutinizing glances from fellow peers in the middle school gym locker room. Often times, this forces kids to conform — switching to boxers or bikinis.

Later on, the only person who usually sees

our underwear is our sexual partner. So, our concerns gravitate to his or her opinion.

I used to sell lingerie, and I’m going to go against everything they taught me and say, “It’s not about what you wear, but how you wear it.” It sounds cliché, but think of it this way, briefs are sexy — not nerdy — in Calvin Klein ads. It’s not just because the guys have perfectly sculpted bodies, it’s because of the confidence that exudes from the photos.

The same theory applies to girls. If a girl is wearing a thong that makes her constantly pick at her butt, or wear a look of constipation, then the thong loses its sex appeal. Speaking of thongs, there is such an item as the comfortable thong. Hanky Panky uses this lace that seriously makes it feel almost like a cotton bikini, same goes for their lace boy-shorts, which according to the retail world is what men want now.

I think that wearing scandalous underwear

all the time is trying too hard. I mean, during sex, the underwear almost always comes off. “Granny panties” worn with confidence are much sexier than a thong worn with a look of terror. The same goes for boxers versus briefs versus boxer-briefs. Heck, I say, go commando if it’s more comfortable! (Just make sure to wipe or use a Nundie and zip carefully ...) Shopping for underwear should be like shopping for shoes — comfort matters for the everyday pairs.

The media portrays underwear as an integral part of sex. Based on my retail experience, I’ll say that it’s all propaganda. Unless it’s covered in brown stains or an obvious gift from an ex (\*coughs\* Cupid boxers), underwear should never be a cock-block. Sexiness isn’t about La Perla or Victoria’s Secret, but it’s about confidence, which is the sexiest creation anyone can wear to bed.

## Ramblings From Hell

### Charles and Sarah Settle for Less Than Perfect

By S. Campbell Proehl  
STAFF COLUMNIST

All this talk about electing the perfect man to run the country has gotten me thinking. Is there a perfect man? Not a leader, not a commander-in-chief, but a man. A real man. A man who could be a husband, friend, confidante, lover, and comedian all in one. What would that man be like?

Well, he wouldn’t be like John McCain. But that’s beside the point.

First, he would have to be smart. Not only smart, but fascinating and witty. Someone whose every word packs so much punch that you think you might just melt and die every time he speaks (or writes). Not a lot of men have this quality. There have been very few in history (so far I only count Benjamin Franklin, Oscar Wilde, and a couple of others). The perfect man would be so funny that women could never stay mad at him. He would know women and hold their laughs in the palm of his hand.

A true man would also have to understand the female psyche. When it comes to love, women don’t think in black and white like men. We analyze and think and plan and fret. And sometimes (more like a lot of the time), there is a bit of a difference between what we say and what we mean. The perfect man would speak woman. Fluently.

He would have to be brave. I’m not saying that women should be weaker than men. I think both sexes should be brave, and we’re in an era in which both men and women can be powerful and stand up for things. But there’s something about Clive Owen running through bullets to protect Kee and her baby in Children of Men

that is both sentimental and powerful at the same time. Or James Bond — the way he just throws on a collared shirt and fights evil with valor — he’s so gallant.

Finally, the perfect man would be a soul mate, though that’s something that isn’t immediately apparent. It’s something that has to be discovered over time.

But of course this man doesn’t exist. I learned this during my junior year of high school. There was a boy — a popular boy — who I thought was perfect. He was the only person in our grade who was smarter than me. He was sensitive and cute. And he made me laugh. I thought he was a demigod. But then I dated him and realized that though he had all of those qualities, he wasn’t perfect, because he didn’t get me. I know he didn’t get me, because he broke up with me and then later told my twin sister it was because I had no soul. (I checked with God, and he confirms that I do have one.)

As I get older, I often find that the most beautiful things arise out of nature’s imperfections and rarities, like sunsets after a volcano eruption or four-leaf clovers. As I have dated more people, I have found that imperfections are what make them more perfect. The birthmarks, the uneven lips, the moments when I am the brave one in the relationship are all, in a way, things of perfection. People say that if you are mixing colors, it is nearly impossible to create the same exact color twice. I like to think of people this way: someone’s tiny flaws and idiosyncrasies blend to form someone who is wholly unique. A real, verifiable, perfect person.

By Charles F. Lin  
CAMPUS LIFE EDITOR

My search for the perfect woman ended in May of 2005 when I wrecked my car as I was driving my ex-girlfriend back from her grandfather’s funeral. Standing by my wrecked Camry watching her hands shake, I came upon the realization that I was not the sort of man that deserved anyone even approximating perfection.

This ended a quest for the perfect girl that began in 1998 with my crush on Erin Anderson, the most popular girl at Hobby Middle School. In the years between, I had many close flirtations with perfection. Perfect was different every time she walked into the room. One, I fell in love with because she wrote and directed a hit play. Another, I became infatuated with when I discovered she could shoot a shotgun while riding a horse. I nearly married one for her hat and record collection.

There have been those who were logically perfect for me. I could see the two of us happily married and steadily paying off a 30 year mortgage on a nice farm house. And others who were so irrationally wrong for me that I only loved them in spite of my better judgment. These were great fun, but they often resulted in me maxing out my credit cards in strange places.

In each and every case, perfect was not what it seemed. Flaws crept in from the cracks, annoying ticks developed. Republican tendencies emerged. More frightening, I found that however perfect they seemed, I could already see myself getting bored one day. I’m certain by my number of failed relationships that the feeling’s mutual.

I didn’t qualify the criteria for perfection until one summer when I talked to my best friend Kate

about it. I knew at that time that there was probably no such thing as the perfect woman, but I still believed there was someone out there who was perfect for me. Somewhere a girl existed between 5’3” and 5’8”. Smart. Good with animals. Could sing. Unfailingly loyal. Pretty, but not so pretty that I had to worry about Antoine, the French exchange student, stealing her away.

I hoped this girl could tolerate my many imperfections. And I hoped her imperfections were of the cute variety. Drinking milk straight from the carton, accidentally cursing in public. These things I could handle. Other imperfections? Well hopefully I could learn to live with them over time. There was really only one deal breaker: she could not like the Rolling Stones more than the Beatles.

I did not think these requirements were too stiff. I did not know at the time anyone who fit the bill, but I was sure that someone was out there for me. What I failed to realize more than anything was that I had described not the perfect woman, but the perfect woman for me at that moment, and only at that moment.

I know now that my ideal of perfection changes, it varies, and at times it is downright trivial. At a week at the Cape this summer, perfect was any girl within 1 standard deviation of normal who looked nice in a linen skirt. Every year from January to March, my perfect girl morphs into someone who loves Duke Basketball and accepts that I will love Duke Basketball more than her. I am not even kidding.

With criteria like that, why allow me to define perfection, more than that, why even bother? Like I said, I am not to be trusted with perfection.



Odds of a child becoming a top fashion designer: 1 in 7,000

Odds of a child being diagnosed with autism: 1 in 150

Some signs to look for:

No big smiles or other joyful expressions by 6 months.

No babbling by 12 months.

No words by 16 months.

To learn more of the signs of autism, visit [autismspeaks.org](http://autismspeaks.org)



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Call SIPB with questions at x3-7788!

Ask SIPB

Drop by our office in W20-557!

BY THE STUDENT INFORMATION PROCESSING BOARD

This week, we talk about a few miscellaneous things that might make your life easier.

Can I connect to Athena remotely?

Yes — IS&T maintains a set of official dialup servers, and SIPB maintains the Linux dialup *linux.mit.edu*. There are also many private dialup machines, run by various groups, that they maintain for their members. The name “dialup server” is a historical artifact from the days when there were large banks of modems, and you had to dial-in over a phone line to get a connection.

To connect to a dialup, you’ll need to use the ssh (Secure Shell) protocol, which comes in various flavors. The simplest ones will just give you a text terminal, but you can also use X forwarding to use graphical applications with the X Window System.

The official dialup machines are Sun Solaris servers, which sometimes are slow to respond and do not support Linux-only software. If you want to use a faster Linux server, SIPB maintains *linux.mit.edu* (“Linerva”), a Linux dialup that runs Debathena (another SIPB project; see *debathena.mit.edu* for more details). If you’re using SecureCRT, you can open the “Athena” connection’s properties and change the server to *linux.mit.edu*.

From a Windows machine, you can download SecureCRT from <http://web.mit.edu/software/>. This will just give you a text console; to get graphical capabilities, you should download X-Win32 from the same site.

From a Mac or Linux machine, you can connect by opening a terminal and typing `ssh USERNAME@linux.mit.edu`. To run graphical programs, replace `ssh` with `ssh -Y`. On a Mac, *Terminal.app* is in `/Applications/Utilities`, as is *X11.app*, needed for graphical programs. If you don’t have X11, you can install it from the Mac OS X installation discs.

You can also visit <http://athena.dialup.mit.edu/> from a web browser with Java; however, many people find the Java applet limiting — for example, it does not support copying and pasting.

What is a VPN and why would I use it?

ISPs will often set up port filtering and other things for network security purposes. (Incidentally, MIT does not.) Unfortunately, this can lead to problems running some applications that use the network, and there are some MIT-specific

applications that check for MIT-specific IP addresses, such as Student MATLAB. A Virtual Private Network (VPN) helps you use MIT computing services, effectively putting your computer on MITnet even when your connectivity is provided by some other ISP, and thus bypassing the blocks that interfere with applications. You can enable the VPN when you need it and disable it when you don’t.

You only need the VPN if you are connecting from off-campus; dorm and FSILG residents are already on MITnet. The MIT VPN Client is available for Linux, Macintosh, and Windows. You can download the VPN software from <http://web.mit.edu/ist/services/network/vpn.html>. Be sure to read the “Known Issues at MIT” page for your platform.

How do I set up my personal computer to print to Athena cluster printers?

There are a couple of ways to set this up. Older students may be familiar with KLP/KLPR, applications that allow you to authenticate with Kerberos to cluster printers. However, the printers in public Athena clusters no longer require Kerberos authentication.

If you’re using Debathena on your Ubuntu or Debian GNU/Linux machine, printing to cluster printers is already set up for you! Otherwise, to set up printing to a cluster printer, you’ll need to know a couple things about that printer first — log in to Athena, and run the command `hesinfo printername pcap`. If you need the name of a printer, try the command `cview printers`. The output will look something like:

```
athena% hesinfo ajax pcap

ajax:rp=ajax:rm=PAPER-PUSHER.MIT.ED
U:ka#0:mc#0:auth=kerberos5:xn:
```

From this, note the “rp” (ajax) and “rm” (paper-pusher.mit.edu) values, which name the print queue and server, respectively. Now go to your computer’s Add Printer dialog, and choose the option to create an “LPR” or “LPD” printer. (On Windows, this is considered a type of local printer.) Enter the print queue and print server names when prompted. If you need detailed instructions, see one of these pages:

- Windows XP: <http://itinfo.mit.edu/article.php?id=6376>
- Windows Vista: <http://itinfo.mit.edu/article.php?id=8492>
- Mac OS X: <http://itinfo.mit.edu/article.php?id=8246>

That’s hard. And I have to do this again for each printer?

Yeah. Another option is to use *quickprint.mit.edu*. This website, created by a SIPB member, allows you to upload a PDF, PostScript, or plain-text document and select (from a map!) a cluster to print it to. Moreover, Windows XP or Vista users can install quickprint as a network printer, so they can print from any application. When you print a document, it will be uploaded to the quickprint website and stored there for up to a week, so you can choose when and where to print it.

I want to set up a blog or a wiki. Can I do this easily?

Certainly. The popular SIPB project *scripts.mit.edu* provides hosting for CGI scripts in a number of languages (PHP, Python, Ruby, sh, etc.); a sister project, *sql.mit.edu* provides MySQL databases that run the backend of popular web applications. You can sign up your own locker, or the locker of a group that you maintain, for the scripts service. You can also ask for a *somename.mit.edu* hostname, instead of the default *lockername.scripts.mit.edu*. Visit <http://scripts.mit.edu/> for instructions on how to get started. Running

```
athena% add scripts

athena% scripts
```

will bring up a menu of software that can be automatically installed.

How can I listen to music on demand?

SIPB’s LAMP service (the Library Access to Music Project) allows you to listen to a large collection of CDs via MIT cable TV. All you need to do is visit <http://lamp.mit.edu/> (you’ll need your MIT personal certificate), search for the music you want to listen to, and tune to the appropriate channel. Unlike P2P music sharing, LAMP’s design, which uses MIT’s analog music license, is guaranteed not to get you into legal trouble.

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. Copies of each column and pointers to additional information are posted on our website: <http://www.mit.edu/~asksipb/>

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## ARTS

## CONCERT REVIEW

## New and Old

## BSO Plays Music of Messiaen, Boulez, and Berlioz

By Sudeep Agarwala

ARTS WRITER

*Et expecto resurrectionem mortuorum,*  
Olivier Messiaen*Notations I-IV,* Pierre Boulez*Harold in Italy (Op. 16),* Hector Berlioz*Boston Symphony Orchestra*

Friday, 24 October 2008

Sometimes I worry that my particular brand of love for Jane toes a fine, but distinct, line between nuisance and comedic relief. She puts up with a whole lot: I constantly talk to her during lecture, disturb her while she's in the middle of her experiments, push my fiber pills on her like I were a dealer, tell her dirty jokes (loudly) when we're in public and insist on detailing the most horrific details of my ever-faltering love life.

Don't think for a moment that I don't appreciate it.

So Friday night at BSO's *Repartee Series* was supposed to be my shot at bit of normalcy. The BSO's concert series is aimed towards an interesting slice of the concert-going population, an audience between the ages of 21 and 38. The entire point of the evening was to try not to embarrass Jane: not only was I on my best behavior, but I had even dressed up to go to the symphony. And the reception was spectacular — light guitar and violin music accompanied cocktails and *crudité* in the small room, full of people, we entered that evening — a wide variety of people too, from young professionals to students like ourselves. The conversation was sparkling, the company was interesting, and everything looked good until — well — the program.

Messiaen, Boulez and Berlioz don't make for an easy evening—the first two were writ-

ing in the mid-to late twentieth century whose names are often synonymous with inaccessible and the third is the often-maligned, early nineteenth century French composer whose Romantic style and appreciation of Beethoven have earned him infamy. Oh, poor, poor Jane — I really *did* try this time.

That said, the Repartee Series was surprisingly effective. Introductory remarks by BSO cellist Mickey Katz initiated a dialog with the audience about the very contemporary music they were about to hear—and surprising too: Mr. Katz certainly encouraged the audience to pay attention to specific details of the music and this was expected. What was surprising to hear was that even Mr. Katz even tends to zone out. It was a relief that in an evening full of incredibly difficult music, here was one of the initiated telling us it's OK, even expected, to be bored with some of it.

But what a concert it was: Western music, in many ways began in the cloisters of the cathedral of *Notre Dame* with the development of polyphonic organum as formalized by Leoninus and Perotinus. It's this same tradition that haunts us nearly one millennium later, as French composers returned to the Gregorian chant tradition as a basis for composition. Olivier Messiaen's *Et expecto resurrectionem mortuorum*, acknowledges this tradition and incorporates these ideas in very novel ways with different ideas surrounding tonal systems. Composed with an ensemble of wood winds, brass, and metallic percussion, the work explores Messiaen's deep appreciation and faith in Catholic mysticism combined with pan-cultural spirituality.

It's a difficult work (and loud) to listen to. Messiaen's work was a stately expression of majestic grandeur. Friday's performance was

careful to balance the intellectual groundwork of the music with the deep spirituality that pervades it. Levine's BSO centered around the central motifs and plainchant-like motives that offer a narrative for the piece and, most importantly, make the piece interpretable.

But more than interpretable, Messiaen's work was moving — it was crushing to hear the plaintive *De profundis* in the first movement, through the chorale sections in the third movement, and ultimately uplifting to hear the driving pulse of the gong in the fifth movement — *and I heard the voice of a great multitude*.

It's not to discredit the concert, however, that the Boulez offered no such consolation. As with the Messiaen, the work was thoughtfully performed. Pierre Boulez, a student of Messiaen, approaches music from a very different perspective in his orchestral transcriptions of his piano work *Notations I-IV*. The contrast was not unwelcome — to hear Messiaen's bold phrases compared to Boulez's dense orchestral texture highlighted the vast spectrum of thinking in the late twentieth century, even within works stemming from a similar tradition.

It was initially disappointing to conclude the evening with Hector Berlioz's *Harold in Italy* (Op. 16): Although it seemed anticlimactic to end the evening with music from a French composer writing in the early nineteenth century, Levine's programming revealed the virtue of re-listening to traditional music with new ears.

After an evening with Messiaen and Boulez, Berlioz's ear to the non-traditional became obvious: a programmatic symphonic viola concerto, the work tells portions of the Byron's *Childe Harold's Pilgrimage*. Per-

haps most novel, however, were passages that might have been written in the past century—confusing shifts of tonal center punctuated the first movement while a transcendental viola solo (simple *arpeggios* in the background of an orchestral march, here, performed expertly by Steven Ansell) highlighted the novel sound world Berlioz was forging. Perhaps most interesting (and novel for Berlioz's day) was the fourth movement when a string quartet and the viola soloist leave the orchestra and, midway through the movement, play from backstage.

It was surprising that *Harold in Italy* turned out to be the most difficult piece of the evening. As well as it was performed, I was relieved to see Jane turn to me and gawk at the length of the symphony after the first movement — I had the exact same thought. Sure, it was enlightening to hear Messiaen and Boulez, teacher and pupil, in grand summary of music as it has come to stand now.

Berlioz has his place in this conversation, an innovator thinking nearly fifty years ahead of his time. If nothing else, it was impressive to see the BSO utilize its full talents to faithfully represent music from all walks of composition. And it's worth having some faith in Levine's programming order for the evening: it takes hard work, often as much as an evening of straining to understand the music of our own time, to really comprehend the music from a past era.

Friday night's concert was educational. Although an unconventional and initially terrifying experience at the symphony, what made the evening so gratifyingly difficult is also what made the evening so rewardingly interesting.

Jane. Maybe it's just best to think of all the cool stories you'll have to tell ...

## ALBUM REVIEW

## Crossing Party Lines

## Snarky Puppy is a Mix of Thoughtful and Funky

By Sam Markson

*Snarky Puppy**Bring Us the Bright**Sitmom Records**Performed at Killian Hall*

October 23, 2008

We all love to be wordy. Shuffle through your friends' facebook pages, and you'll no doubt find a slew of open-minded comrades summarizing their musical preferences as "everything." That is, everything by the Shins. Or, alternatively, Shostakovich.

I admit, it's hard to cross musical party lines. After listening to a group or a song for a while, one becomes attuned to its particular message,

its particular mode of expression. Lots of songs might sing about love, for instance, but each has a unique way of coloring it. We get accustomed to extracting emotion from music in a certain way, and, as with learning a language, we assign one genre primary status. Sure, I took Spanish in high school. No, I never try to watch Univisión.

So it's a nice pleasure when we come upon music that crosses party lines for us. Billing itself as a jazz-funk-experimental group from Denton, Texas, Snarky Puppy bridges into reggae, ska, progressive, electronic, and even klezmer. On their webpage, the band says, "It's like a party, but deep. It's a deep party." And it's true. Their music is both thought-provoking and funky. When listening, you don't have to

sacrifice groove for emotional integrity. This is mind-expanding stuff, but without all the auditory pain associated with much of the avant-garde scene.

Their latest album, "Bring Us the Bright," has no holes in it. The title track is a effervescent jaunt with an electro-Latin feel. Entrancing guitar work from Chris McQueen on the acoustic. While a largely instrumental group, the select use of vocal as a form of accompaniment gives the track a very relaxed flavor.

The second track, "Loose Screws," is a solid chaser, and the perfect remedy for all the listeners who needed no more than one 4/4 track. Composed and arranged by drummer Robert "Sput" Searight, *Screws* is a highly syncopated. Oscillating between Latin (including a brief

vocal solo — the only on the album with real words), funk, and electronica, the chart has Zornian genre-swapping without without any anarchic anti-transitions. Sure, you can't count the rhythm, but you foot still wants to keep tapping. Includes a face-melting solos from saxophonist Chris Bullock and organist Bobby Sparks.

"Strawman" is more face-melting funk/electronica. In 5/4. 'Nuff said. Bass line may cause defibrillation.

Most interesting track on the set might be "34 Klezma." As its name implies, the tune is strongly imitative of a klezmer bulgar. Guest string section captures an Old World feel while still imbuing the tune with a New World freshness. Intense development and release, moving between heart-rending minimalism and mind-bending harmonic richness and rhythmic intensity. It's like Fiddler on the Roof, except the roof's on fire.

"Strange Dream" is also pretty eponymous. Moog synth used heavily by Bobby Sparks on this one. Very floating feel — the loving, friendly side of psychedelia. Smooth, without being smooth jazz.

The sixth track, "Celebrity," is without doubt the catchiest tune on the album, with a chilling compound rhythm on keys laid over a pounding bass line. The same riff (it *will* get stuck in your head) is passed throughout the band in the song, lending a unified, highly listenable quality to the piece. Perfect night-driving music.

"Making the Circle" is more syncopated intensity, with more start-stop action and heavy bass ostinato. Keeps you on you toes.

"And Soon We'll Be One," has the same drive as the rest of the album, but with just a bit more end-of-album finality.

So, for all the listeners out there who are tired of having to choose between thinking and partying, let there be Snarky Puppy. "Bring Us the Bright" is a solid effort on behalf of this relatively recent group, and let's hope they continue to bring us more and more of their fresh sound.



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ALBUM REVIEW

# Ten Songs From the Time Capsule

## A Songbook of Life In and Out of Montana

**By S. Balaji Mani**  
*STAFF WRITER*  
*Jeff Ament*  
*Tone*  
*Produced by Brett Eliason*  
*Monkey Wrench Records*  
*September 16, 2008*

As Eddie Vedder has pointed out at many Pearl Jam shows, “we’ve all been benefiting from the long term friendship between Jeff Ament and [Pearl Jam guitarist] Stone Gossard.” It’s True that it was the songwriting duo that sent Eddie Vedder a demo tape almost two decades ago, which contained nascent versions of future Pearl Jam hits like “Evenflow” and “Alive.” Since the birth of Pearl Jam, Jeff Ament has maintained his status as one of rock’s most innovative and energetic bass players. In Pearl Jam alone he has numerous songwriting credits, and has tried his hand at writing lyr-

ics. Outside of his main act, Ament has been most involved in a group called Three Fish, an eastern-influenced trio that composed both mantra-like anthems and raw rock songs. Despite his numerous years speaking the Pearl Jam vocabulary, Ament reveals his own personal diary on his debut solo release *Tone* with little help from outside musicians. Released just last month, *Tone* comes in a digi-pak case similar to that of the last couple Pearl Jam releases. A collage on the front, Ament’s own handmade effort, is a mixed media depiction of his native Montana, which incidentally is where he composed the majority of the tracks. The image focuses on an Icarus character flying free over a forest (and later plunging to his death with burning wings on the inside). The liner notes serve as a reduced diary of the last twelve years in Ament’s life; this dense booklet contains rough versions of typewritten lyrics supplemented with handwritten

comments, notes and drawings, some indicating the date and location of the song’s birth. Right from the garage-punk opener “Just Like That,” it’s clear that Ament is trying to break a lot of new ground. One thing to remember is Ament took on all the performance credits for this record, excluding drums and a guest vocal contribution from King’s X front-man Doug Pinnick. Ament screams and tests the bottom of his range on the opener, switching attitudes on the next tune by singing confidently and occasionally hitting his falsetto. On this particular track, “Give Me A Reason,” Ament writes a dual letter to his high school PE teacher and President George W. Bush, demanding “Can I live with what you choose? / Can I love my king?” By the end of the song, Ament comes to his senses and addresses the authoritarians one final time: “I don’t trust you!” Ament’s unconventional instrumentation and harmonic choices on songs like “Relapse”

and “Life of a Salesman” prove that he’s looking for something deeper on this album. The variety of songs is almost unnatural for a debut solo album. However, on closer inspection the genre-spanning makes perfect sense: “Hi-Line” and “Say Goodbye” could have easily slipped onto a Three Fish album. A meager 3,000 copies of *Tone* were pressed and distributed through the Pearl Jam’s fan club and a few indie stores across the country. If you can’t find your copy, Ament decided to put it up for digital download at [pearljam.com](http://pearljam.com). While the physical copy is a beautiful work of art itself, giving context to the songs themselves, the 5 dollar download is worth every penny. This is not a Pearl Jam album, nor is it filler until the next one (like most solo albums): this is an artist, skateboarder, activist, and musician documenting the past twelve years of life as best as he can in 33 thought-provoking minutes.

CONCERT REVIEW

# Keith Jarrett is Better Than You, and He Knows It

**By Sam Markson**  
*Keith Jarrett Trio*  
*Symphony Hall*  
*October 26, 2008*

The trailblazer of egoism in Jazz might be Miles Davis, or perhaps Charlie Mingus; each declared jazz to be art, not just entertainment. They didn’t smile. They didn’t laugh. If you screwed around with them, they punched you in the face (in Mingus’ case). But they were brilliant, so they got away with it. Keith Jarrett is maintaining this tradition proudly. After his latest show at Symphony Hall, he called out several audience members for taking photographs, one by one, pointing, and generally making known his disgust. A guy in the front insisted that they did it because they “liked him.” Jarrett respond, “like

me? I am not my complexion.” The crowd gasped. Did he really say that? No points for subtlety, but he gives some food for thought. Jarret doesn’t want to be reduced to a photograph, and the fact that he can get away with that is a testament to his art, and the reverence the audience has for him. It’s not through showiness — he doesn’t move much, nor is he much of a public speaker. He doesn’t screech out high notes or jump into the crowd. His amp doesn’t go up to eleven. What Jarrett has is understanding. Understanding of how much, and when. A lot of musicians can spit out intense riffs in random succession, but it takes a guy like Jarrett to get a deep, vintage sound. It’s mellow and intense at the same time. As this show was a celebration of Jarrett’s trio, bassist Gary Peacock and drummer Jack DeJohnette filled in the gaps. Two and a half

decades of playing together show. These guys have an internal pulse going — a communion — that’s hard to detect at times, but jaw-dropping when it comes out. Peacock and DeJohnette play with both meter and harmony — Peacock is never in tune, and DeJohnette is never on the beat. But you know they know exactly where they are, because when the trio comes back to the melody all three are on it. It’s like watching shadows dance on a wall — amorphous, but beautiful. Peacock and DeJohnette match Jarrett’s artistry by carefully determining when to sing out, and when to lay low. The first three tunes were slower ballads, requiring less intense (but nonetheless rhythmically complex) solos from DeJohnette in particular. His kit consisted of more cymbals than drums, adding a ringing color to the songs that most drummers in jazz can’t emphasize. However, during the second set DeJohnette

displayed a master level of musicianship as he played continuous notes on every inch of his drumkit. As the solo died down, the legendary drummer’s footwork emerged, pounding through the venue in a nimble, odd meter. After the show, the audience clapped the trio through two encores, including a wildly fast cover of Monk’s “Straight, No Chaser.” Jarrett dropped out after the head to let the two other guys go. Flurry after flurry of one-handed rolls, and neck-length slides flowed over the audience for the next five minutes, a capriccio for drumset and bass. It’s showing off, but two and a half decades of being one of the premier jazz pianists give you that license. And the audience loved every bit of it. Jarrett might not be back in Boston for a while, but if you get the chance to see him, go. Just leave your camera at home.

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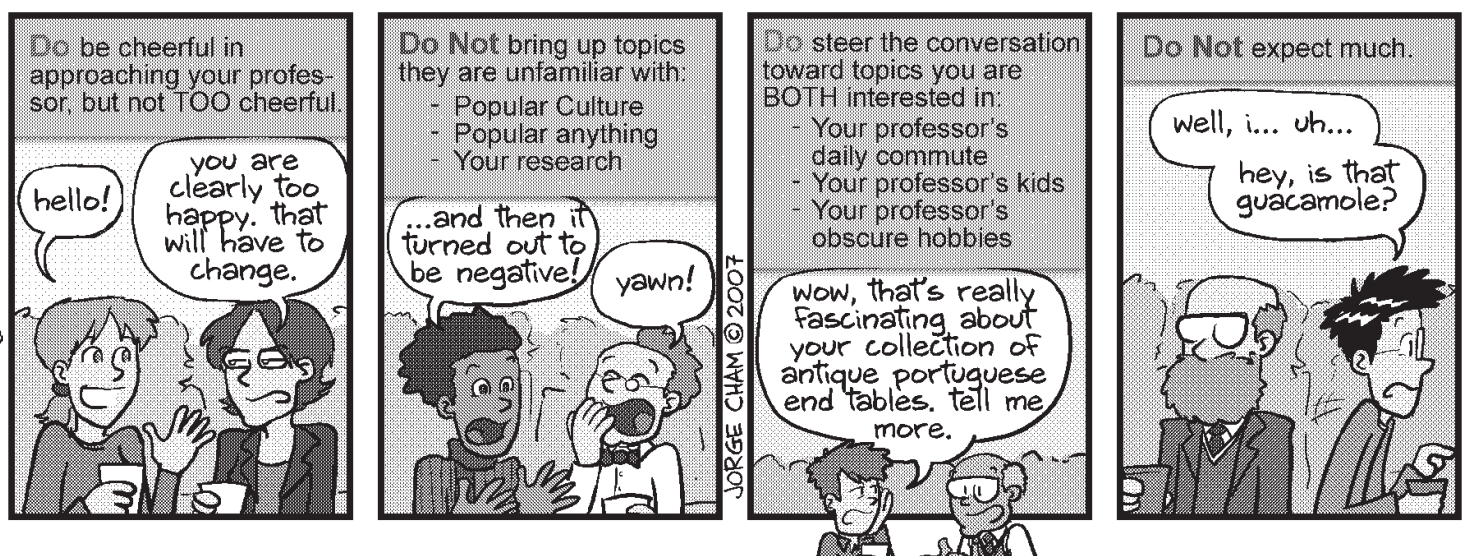
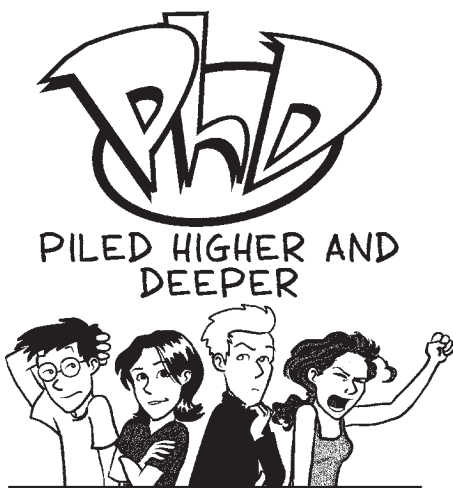
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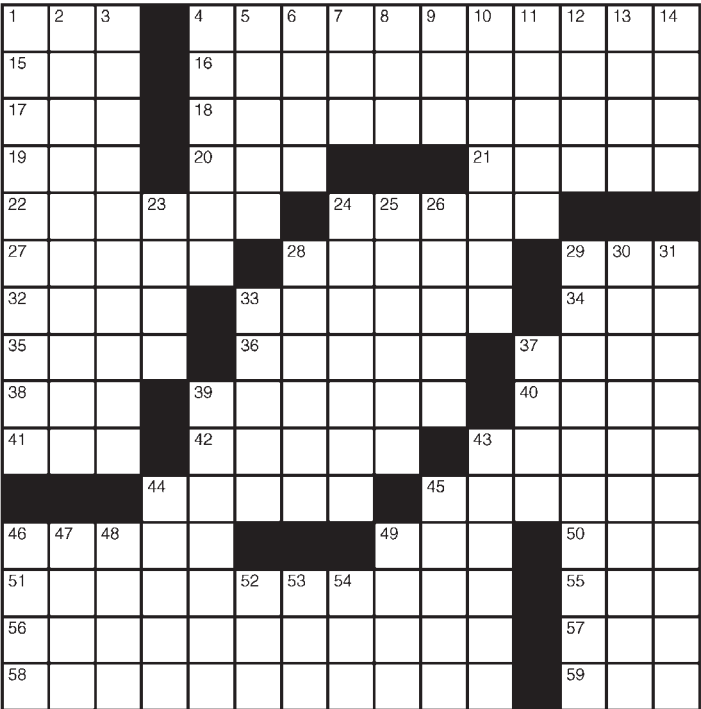
## Dilbert® by Scott Adams



Crossword Puzzle

Solution, page 16

- ACROSS**  
1 Small pitcher  
4 Winner or loser?  
15 United  
16 Exploit too much  
17 SHO rival  
18 Authenticity  
19 Saul's uncle  
20 High dudgeon  
21 Dodger Pee Wee  
22 Refrigerator sticker  
24 Speaks roughly  
27 Canadian tribe members  
28 George Sand novel  
29 WWII soldiers  
32 Taxis  
33 Closet item  
34 Former queen of Spain  
35 Border on  
36 Chekhov or
- Bruckner  
37 Back part  
38 They: Fr.  
39 A Gandhi  
40 Royal Peruvian  
41 Book before Esth.  
42 Nary a soul  
43 Yellowish-pink  
44 Barely making do  
45 Delay  
46 White with age  
49 Memo acronym  
50 Altar of stars  
51 Allotments  
55 Actor Kilmer  
56 Extinct  
57 Pierre's here  
58 Winner or loser?  
59 Equivalent wd.
- DOWN**  
1 Winner or loser?  
2 Too much to take
- 3 W  
4 Hobgoblins  
5 Stave off  
6 Descartes or Magritte  
7 Island group in the Moluccas  
8 Mil. watchdog grp.  
9 Kesey or Follett  
10 Like bogeys  
11 Elaine's last name on "Seinfeld"  
12 On the sheltered side  
13 Velvety flora  
14 Projection on a basilica  
23 Home in a tree  
24 Seeking tenants  
25 Dick Cheney's predecessor  
26 Tuscany
- commune  
28 Presidential also-ran of the past  
29 "Commander in Chief" star  
30 Factual fault  
31 Winner or loser?  
33 Asian capital  
37 Phnom Penh cash  
39 Mushroom with black gills  
43 Lethal substance  
44 Wear away  
45 Chrissie of the Pretenders  
46 Pilgrimage to Mecca  
47 Butter substitute  
48 Cry of dismay  
49 Edibles  
52 Light gray  
53 Keyboard key  
54 Despot Amin

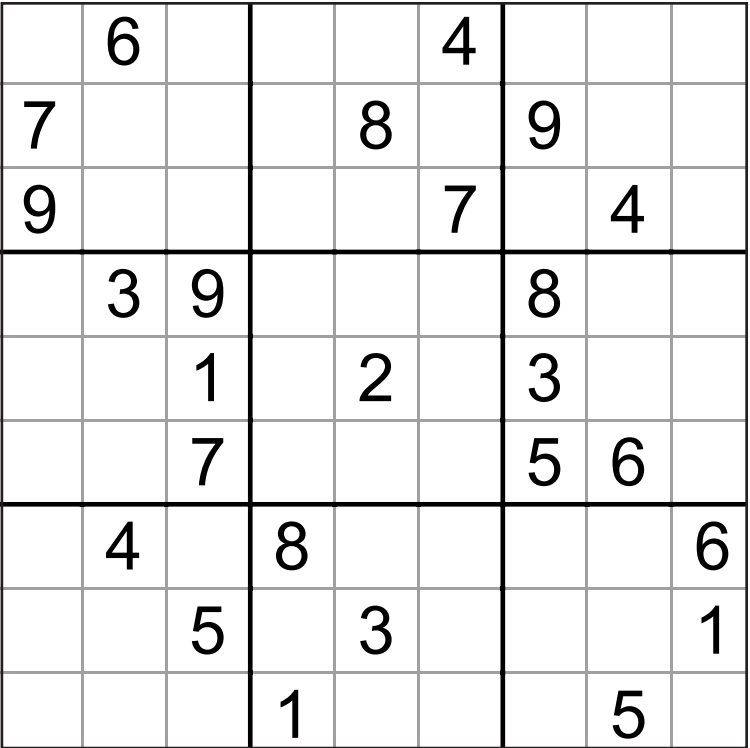


su | do | ku

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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.

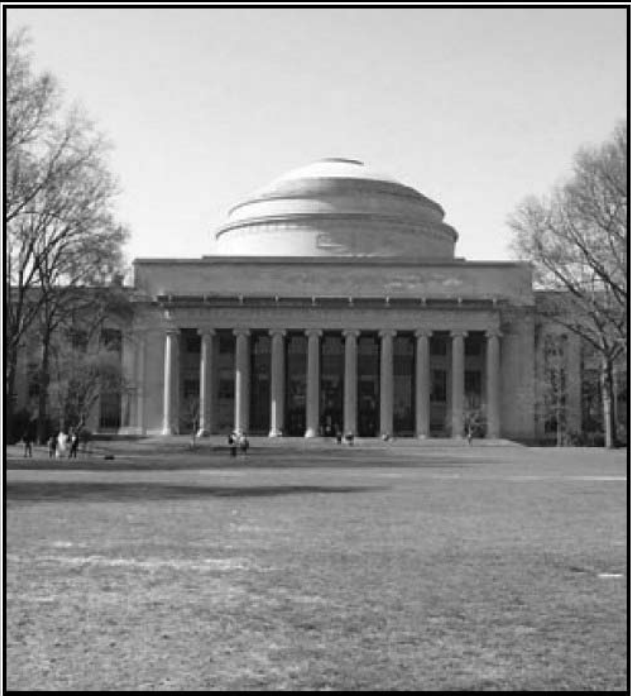
Solution on page 16.



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

The Daily Blunderbuss

by Ben Peters

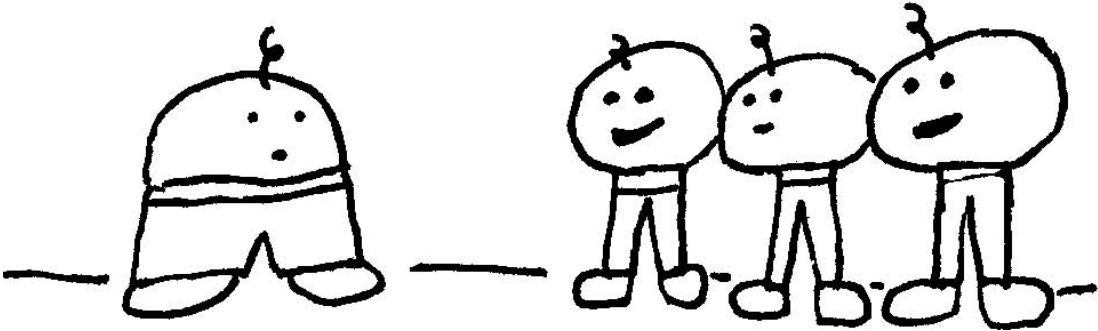


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Blobbles

by Jason Chan

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Thanks to Michael Lin for today's caption.  
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UNGYN UO NSTO GA MPFKSIO:

LSPYNOBFK, L.I., YBSMMGDGYSPGFA FD HFBO RSHM GA  
YFRHBOV HBSAO. ZFQKASB FD YWLOKAOPGYM, 1978.  
8(3-4): H. 237-251.

EOOH GA RGAC PNSP PNO BGLKSKW MPFKSIO SAAOV GM  
FABW FHOA DFK MYSAAGAI RFACSW PNKFQIN DKGCSW,  
AGAO PF DGTO.

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CONGRATULATIONS TO THE WINNER OF PUZZLE #1, HANH PHAM



# DiFava Wishes Hackers Would Contact Police First

DiFava, from Page 1

to play it.”

When asked to clarify what he meant by guidance, DiFava suggested that President Susan J. Hockfield, the students, faculty, and all relevant members of the MIT community need to come together to discuss how they feel this tradition ought to be preserved. However, there was also skepticism that such a conference will occur, primarily because hacking is still a nameless operation.

Whatever happens, DiFava said he believes safety should be at the center of any future policy on the MIT tradition. He referred to an incident Friday night where a steam pipe exploded in the sub-basement of Building 66. “Imagine if a hacker had been nearby,” he said.

DiFava added that there are legal problems to giving hackers free reign. “The longer [hacking] goes without control, the more liable MIT might be for not exercising due diligence,” he said.

Students were also curious about the campus police department’s policy on escalating cases to the Cambridge District Court. DiFava responded that both he and the city would prefer that on-campus incidents be handled by MIT Police.

He explained that Cambridge Police are almost never found on campus unless they are perform-

ing traffic duty. Most episodes on campus end at the Committee on Discipline, but particularly serious crimes, including those involving an arrest, make their way to Cambridge District Court.

DiFava said the incidents at the Faculty Club and the Plasma Science and Fusion Center in recent years were escalated because those involved initially attempted to elude responding officers. In both cases, police decided to file breaking and entering charges based on evidence that the involved students gained unauthorized access to locked areas.

“If you have a space that’s locked, and you enter that space, it’s a B-and-E”, DiFava said.

DiFava’s definition was met with dissent from attendees, with one mentioning that hacking invariably involves access to locked areas. This underscored the discord within the MIT community about how to best deal with hacking. DiFava recalled receiving e-mails from an indignant professor whose office was entered in the June incident at the Plasma Science and Fusion Center, while also receiving complaints that the incident was blown out of proportion. There is simply no current consensus among community members, he said.

Still, both DiFava and Pierce said they don’t believe the hacking tradition is going away.

“We’re not going to prevent [hacking]”, said Pierce.

The two made a distinction between those hackers — the “great part of the hacking community” — that have performed some of the most notable and legendary hacks (including placing a police car on top of the Great Dome in 1994) and what they called the “wannabes.” Real hackers, they said, don’t get caught. The MIT Police are most concerned about the “wannabe” hackers because they are fearful that the hackers’ inexperience may result in injuries.

Among the controversial statements by DiFava at the meeting was one in which he stated he wasn’t sure those involved in the Faculty Club and Plasma Fusion Center incidents were hackers. DiFava, Pierce, and the attendees debated whether the definition of a hacker included those who merely explored tunnels, shafts, and other secluded areas without the intention of putting up a hack.

DiFava said he believes the hacking controversy could be resolved if hackers were to notify police before attempting hacks and risking encounters with police.

“Ideally, I’d like hackers to have enough trust in us to tell us what will happen, where it will happen, before it happens,” said DiFava. But given the secrecy of the hacking community and the loss of former Director of Admissions and hacker advocate Marilee Jones, DiFava said he does not know how this can become a reality.

At the end of the meeting, DiFava urged students to regard the MIT Police as positive members of the community.

“Rather than listen to rumors, contact us,” DiFava said.



Dean of Student Life Costantino “Chris” Colombo (left) and Dean of Undergraduate Education Daniel E. Hastings ’78 Judge baked dishes at Burton-Conner House’s annual Apple Bake contest in the Porter Room on Sunday afternoon. A total of \$500 was given out to the winners in five different apple dish categories.

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# Colleges Gave Record Amounts Of Aid, Raised Tuitions Slightly

By Tamar Lewin  
THE NEW YORK TIMES

Tuition costs rose slightly faster than the Consumer Price Index last year, and students received record amounts of financial aid, according to the annual reports on college pricing and student aid released Wednesday by the College Board.

But while financial aid is growing, average student borrowing is still going up, as well.

Moreover, many education experts said that the report's findings of relatively stable college affordability, based on data gathered before the current economic downturn, might already be outdated. With the troubles in the stock market, they said, both public and private colleges may soon be in serious financial straits, forcing large increases in tuition.

"Given the economic strain on state budgets, the pressure on state governments to shift the cost of education to students and families may prove irresistible," said Molly Corbett Broad, president of the American Council on Education, which represents 1,600 colleges and universities. "Private institutions, too, given the loss of endowment income and expected cutbacks in private giving, will likely be forced to increase tuition at the same time they struggle to increase institutional financial aid."

For the current school year, the reports found, the average in-state tuition and fees at public four-year institutions increased by 6.4 percent — to \$6,585 — not much more than the 5.6 percent rise in the Consumer Price Index. At two-year public colleges, average tuition and fees rose 4.7 percent, less than inflation, to \$2,402. Private four-year colleges and universities' average tuition and fees are \$25,143, 5.9 percent higher than last year.

"College prices are doing what other prices are doing," said Sandy Baum, a senior policy analyst for the College Board and a Skidmore College economics professor. "They're not going up more rapidly; they're just keeping pace. But then, we had an unusually high rate of inflation. And with the current economic crunch, we don't know what will happen next year."

Already, state cuts to university budgets have led to announcements of tuition increases in more than a dozen states, including some that will take effect in the spring semester.

But as the costs of college rise, so does student aid. Last year, the reports said, graduate and undergradu-

ate students received more than \$143 billion in financial aid, including grants, federal loans, federal work-study assistance and federal tax credits. In addition, they borrowed \$19 billion from state and private sources.

Undergraduates received an average of \$8,896 in financial aid, including \$4,656 in grant aid and \$3,650 in federal loans, an increase of about 5.5 percent over the previous year, adjusted for inflation, according to the report.

After holding steady at 5.2 million for two years, the number of Pell Grant recipients rose to 5.4 million last year.

"The Pell Grant scholarship, which Congress has significantly boosted in the past two years, is playing an increasingly important role in expanding college access, especially for low- and middle-income families," said Representative George Miller, Democrat of California and chairman of the House Education and Labor Committee.

While the tuition report, "Trends in College Pricing," covers this academic year's costs of college, "Trends in Student Aid" is based on the previous academic year's data.

Private loan volume declined slightly that year, but still represented almost a quarter of the total loan volume.

"In '07-'08, the full effect of the credit crunch wasn't evident, but it was starting — credit was getting tighter," Ms. Baum said. "We all expect that private loans will be down next year. More families are understanding that it makes sense to get all the government loans they can."

For most families, net tuition — the discounted amount most students actually pay — is more important than a college's published tuition.

At private four-year institutions, the average net tuition, after grants and tax benefits are subtracted, is about \$14,900, some \$10,200 less than the published price — and that net price has been growing more slowly than the published price.

At public four-year colleges, where the net price has been increasing faster than the sticker price, the net tuition is about \$2,900, or \$3,700 less than the published tuition.

And at public two-year colleges, the net price has steadily declined, and now is only about \$100, or \$2,300 less than the published tuition. Because of their higher prices, private colleges, especially second-tier institutions without large endowments, may have big problems next year.

"Private colleges face a real quan-

dary," Ms. Baum said. "Everybody's going to have more people applying for financial aid, and it could really be that they're going to lose enrollment if they can't meet the need."

Since the markets went into free fall last month, private colleges have been working to persuade worried families that their institutions may still be affordable.

"In these tough economic times, Job 1 of every private college and university will be keeping their student aid budgets in line with growing financial need, and working creatively to keep student out-of-pocket costs as low as possible," David L. Warren, president of the National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities, said Wednesday in a statement. "Eighty-one percent of full-time, dependent students at private colleges receive institutional grant aid, averaging \$10,011."

With worsening economic conditions, public and private institutions alike may cut back the "merit aid" offered to attract particular students — often, those whose grades and test scores will improve their rankings — and use that money on aid to needier students instead.

According to the report, public four-year institutions give only 44 percent of their aid dollars to students with financial need. On average, 38 percent of the public universities' aid goes to non-need-based merit aid, and 18 percent to athletic scholarships.

"There's a real public policy question there," Ms. Baum said.

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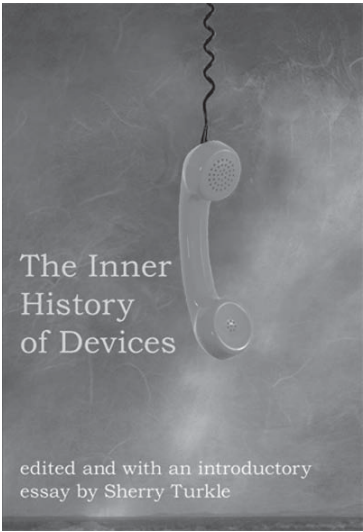
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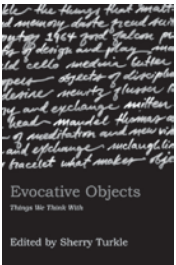


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# Police Log

The following incidents were reported to the MIT Police between Oct. 1 and Oct. 22, 2008. This summary does not include incidents such as false alarms, general service calls, or medical shuttles.

- Oct. 1:** 233 Mass. Ave., 9:46 a.m., Larceny of wallets, watch, and laptop.  
W13 (52 Mass. Ave.), 5:21 p.m., Reporting person in station to report a past assault and battery by person known to victim.
- Oct. 2:** North Lot, 10:35 a.m., Party reports hit and run property damage while parked in the North Lot.
- Oct. 3:** W16 (48 Rear Mass. Ave.), 9:32 a.m., Unwanted person attempting to event; person issued a trespass warning.  
E52 (50 Memorial Dr.), 10:48 a.m., Report of suspicious call and package from Sept. 29.  
M37 (70 Vassar St.), 7:26 p.m., Suspicious package.  
Lot 13 (21 Amherst St.), 8:05 p.m., Larceny of bicycle the day before from Amherst and Hayward St. bike rack.  
M56 (21 Rear Ames St.), 8:40 p.m., Larceny of laptop computer.
- Oct. 4:** 407 Memorial Dr., 3:21 a.m., Reporting person states that an unknown male was found inside residence and, when confronted, fled the area in an unknown direction of travel.  
M14 (160 Memorial Dr.), 6:50 p.m., Larceny of laptop from Hayden Library.
- Oct. 5:** W20 (84 Mass. Ave.), 11:36 p.m., Larceny of bicycle.
- Oct. 6:** E23 (25 Carlton St.), 9:19 p.m., Reporting person states that two males were being confrontational to people in the MIT Medical lot. Second call received regarding an armed robbery at E23. Two suspects — 1) Manuel Alejandro Leonorcedeno, 76 Clarkson St., Boston, Mass. and 2) Jeffery Mayala, 140 Central St. Apt. 2, Somerville, Mass. — transported to Cambridge Police Department for booking.
- Oct. 7:** E51 (70 Memorial Dr.), 8:42 a.m., Larceny of bicycle secured with cable lock on Sept. 27.  
W20 (84 Mass. Ave.), 2:14 p.m., Harassing phone calls.  
M26 (60 Rear Vassar St.), 6:14 p.m., Larceny of bicycle secured with cable.  
M54 (21 Rear Ames St.), 7:29 p.m., Larceny of wallet from office area.
- Oct. 9:** W32 (100 Mass. Ave.), 5:57 a.m., Malicious damage to men's sauna the day before.  
E18 (50 Ames St.), 1:10 p.m., Larceny of tools on June 1.
- Oct. 10:** NW35 (235 Albany St.), 11:34 a.m., Larceny of electronics on Sept. 30.
- Oct. 11:** M31 (70 Rear Vassar St.), 7:55 p.m., Report of fraudulent credit card charges the day before.
- Oct. 12:** NW12 (139 Albany St.), 11:30 p.m., Report of vandalism to train, tagging on side of car.
- Oct. 14:** M38 (50 Vassar St.), 6:45 a.m., Report of attempted breaking and entering of office area the day before.  
M24 (60 Rear Vassar St.), 4:19 p.m., Larceny of everything in the room.  
W35 (100 Vassar St.), 7:37 p.m., Larceny of wallet.
- Oct. 16:** M16 (21 Rear Ames St.), 12:16 p.m., Report of attempted breaking and entering of motor vehicle parked in Albany garage.  
M36 (50 Vassar St.), 1:51 p.m., Larceny of backpack.  
M10 (122 Memorial Dr.), 2:35 p.m., Larceny of backpack.
- Oct. 17:** NW35 (235 Albany St.), 2:23 a.m., Report of a fight outside of Ashdown. MIT Police units respond to assist Cambridge Police.  
M56 (21 Rear Ames St.), 3:14 a.m., Report of suspicious activity at the book drop-off bin. Report of three males on bikes leaving the area.  
W71 (500 Memorial Dr.), 4:03 p.m., Larceny of bicycle earlier in the day.
- Oct. 18:** M2 (182 Memorial Dr.), 2:39 p.m., Larceny of laptops from office.
- Oct. 19:** E19 (400 Main St.), 5:10 p.m., Suspicious activity; reporting person states two males with property at E19.
- Oct. 20:** M7 (77 Mass. Ave.), 12:32 a.m., Window broken in office on Oct. 17.  
M2 (182 Memorial Dr.), 10:54 a.m., Report of strange note left.
- Oct. 21:** M46 (46 Vassar St.), 3:21 p.m., Person in headquarters to report assault by another employee.  
M33 (125 Mass. Ave.), 5:50 p.m., Larceny of bicycle of M33 rack.  
W85 (540 Memorial Dr.), 11:27 p.m., Reports of two suspicious males in area of Westgate lowrise courtyard, possibly attempting to steal a bicycle. Possible gray van with tinted windows seen leaving area.
- Oct. 22:** M9 (105 Mass. Ave.), 10:45 p.m., Routine check of operator of suspicious vehicle in front of Bldg. 9.

COMPILED BY ANGELINE WANG

## Solution to Sudoku

from page 13

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

## Solution to Crossword

from page 13

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



# Leak Engulfed Bldg. 66 In Steam Cloud; Repairs Could Cost Millions

Building 66, from Page 1

400-degree steam at 200 psi, Wetzel said. “If someone had been down there, they probably would have been killed,” he said. Wetzel said the cause was an expansion joint that had separated.

From the sub-basement, the steam billowed out to fill the building. The heat from the steam set off sprinklers on the second floor, causing water damage from the second floor down.

“There was steam everywhere . . . you couldn’t see anything inside,” said Sreeram Vaddiraju, a post-doc who was walking toward Stata when the explosion happened.

Sircar said he saw the second-floor lounge flooded with water on Friday. Vaddiraju said there was water gushing down staircases when he tried to enter Friday night to assess the damage to his lab on the fourth floor.

Both Sircar and Vaddiraju estimated that about 20 people were in the building at the time of the explosion, judging by the crowd of students standing outside.

Both Wetzel and Director of Facilities and Security John DiFava said it is too early to tell how much repairs will cost, but Wetzel said: “it’s much more than a million, let’s put it that way.”

Hardest hit was the Chemical and Biological Engineering teaching lab in the sub-basement, where the vented steam melted ceiling tiles and damaged equipment. Water from above also flooded the lab.

Crews worked around the clock this weekend to pump out the water and clean up the fallen debris.

By as early as Saturday morning,

the upper floors were mostly dry and some students were able to return to their labs to retrieve their belongings. Vaddiraju said the building was still “extremely humid” — and quite smelly — on Saturday afternoon. “My glasses fogged up,” he said.

On Monday, the damp smell was not completely gone, but classes continued as usual in the lecture rooms on the first floor.

The lounge on the second floor, which had been soaked by the sprinklers, was dry and open to students. “I thought the lounge would take massive reconstruction,” Sircar said. “[Facilities], in a day and a half, did an outstanding job.”

The upstairs labs on the third floor and above were largely unaffected except for some damage from the condensation and from falling ceiling tiles. Vaddiraju said that his lab equipment was mostly functional, though the printers had stopped working.

“In our lab, some papers got smudged from the steam, that’s all,” Sircar said.

The experience left Sircar slightly wary of all the exposed pipes in the basement and sub-basement levels. “You walk through the tunnels all the time,” he said. “You have to question what maintenance is performed on these pipes.”

Building 66, officially called the Landau Building, houses classrooms and most of the Chemical Engineering department. It was named after Ralph Landau ScD ’41, a chemical engineer who founded the Scientific Design Company, Inc.

Building 66 is one of several buildings on campus designed by I.M. Pei ’40.

# Hockfield Says Financial Crisis Won’t Affect MIT’s Core Mission

Hockfield, from Page 1

Still, Hockfield maintained that “funds have not dried up,” as a previous *Tech* headline stated. W1 construction was delayed because the financial crisis made the value of the endowment hard to predict, she said. In reallocating the \$90 million, MIT is simply protecting the unrestricted funds for what the money might have to be used for, Hockfield said.

In an Oct. 15 letter to the MIT community, Hockfield wrote that “for now, we do not foresee making any dramatic changes to our budget plans for this year.” In an Oct. 31 letter to alumni, she wrote the same thing:

“For now, we do not foresee making any dramatic changes to our budget plans for this year.” She decided on Friday, Oct. 17 to postpone the \$90 million spending on W1.

Hockfield also emphasized the importance of need-blind admission and need-based financial aid and that the our current economy will not affect these two policies that are “fundamental to who we are.”

The final question at the meeting was whether the administration would have handled the Star A. Simpson ’10 situation the same way today, or if it would provide stronger support to its students. “I don’t think that the response was our finest hour,” Hockfield

said. “[The administration] said too much, spoke too soon.”

During the discussion, Hockfield also addressed recent events at MIT, including MIT’s role in the elections and the upcoming Diversity Leadership Congress.

MIT reaches out to both political campaigns to provide a view of what is needed for education and research, with a particular focus on energy, Hockfield said.

The Diversity Leadership Congress will join MIT students, administrative leaders, and diversity experts in an effort to diversify and “help build leadership culture at MIT,” Hockfield said. The DLC will meet on Nov. 18.

# As Competition in Math Contest Heats Up, An Alternative for Local Students

HMMT, from Page 1

“We had a team from Turkey last year, and a team from China will be participating this year,” said Beth Schaffer ’11. Schaffer, along with Rishi Gupta ’11 and Yi Sun from Harvard, are organizing HMMT this year.

The popularity of HMMT and the increased difficulty of its problems has led to a decline in the number of local students participating in February’s tournament. “The growing competitiveness has made the [local] students intimidated,” said Schaffer.

They hope that the new tournament will bring back some of those students. Already, they have signed up 300 students, Gupta said.

For the new tournament, Gupta said, test-writers have crafted problems that are still interesting but are not as devilishly hard as the questions on the spring exam.

HMMT is an annual high school math competition organized by Harvard and MIT students. Undergraduates write, organize, and run the contest held in February.

Schaffer said a frequent misconception high school students have is that winning the tournament will secure a spot at Harvard or MIT.

“We have placed a warning [on

our website] that says: Participating in, or even scoring well at HMMT will not get you into Harvard or MIT,” she said. “We have no affiliation with the admissions offices at either of these schools.”

Gupta said participating in HMMT is just “like getting one point out of 80 for [an] admissions checklist.”

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# Hungry Scientists' Handbook Outlines Nerdy Delights

By Julia Moskin  
THE NEW YORK TIMES

When does a recipe become a science project?

Is it when the compulsion to create an edible electrical circuit keeps a cook up all night, wrapping Twizzler string licorice in pure silver?

Is it when a baker decides to bake 20 equilateral-triangle-shaped pecan pies for Thanksgiving, then attach them together with magnets to form an 80-serving icosahedron? (The recipe begins with 30 cups of flour and two large sheets of 24-gauge steel.)

Certainly, when the urge to build a better chocolate fountain — and then fill it with 10 gallons of hot gravy — becomes irresistible, some line between cooking and science has been crossed.

“It’s not really about culinary excellence, the way someone who wanted to make better bread might experiment with floor tile and firebrick in their oven,” said Patrick R. Buckley ’03, a mechanical engineer who has collected 20 food-science projects into a new book, “The Hungry Scientist Handbook” (Collins Living), with Lily Binns, a food writer. “It’s about seeing if something can be done. And even if you fail, you’ve learned something — just like in the lab.”

Any cook who has pulled a fallen cake out of the oven or tried to speed-cook short ribs has encountered the

immutable laws of food science. And among the most revered chefs working today are those who embrace the kitchen as a laboratory, like Heston Blumenthal, Ferran Adria, and Thomas Keller.

But some professional scientists (and a few amateur lab rats) are taking the research in a different direction. Rather than scenting mozzarella cheese with rose petals, they’re sticking metal forks into hot dogs and cooking them by electrocution. They’re using Play-Doh extruders to make pixelated sugar cookies.

More high-school science fair than hushed temple of flavor, this subculture embraces projects that are big, loud, dangerous, smoking, absurdly time-consuming and seemingly pointless — although the process is treated with great solemnity.

As a cook might taste a sauce and draw on a lifetime of flavor memory and experience to figure out what it needs — acid, sugar, salt, fat? — these scientists draw on laboratory experience and academic training to answer arcane questions such as: What is the best way to fling marshmallows over a long distance?

“As in all research, it’s a question of taking on a problem and thinking and thinking and thinking about what could be used to solve it,” said Windell Oskay, a design engineer at a scientific instruments company, and developer of an edible eye composed of malted milk balls, gelatin

capsules, and cake decorations.

On websites like *instructables.com*, *evilmadscientist.com* and *hungryscientist.com*, teams of researchers — many of them in the San Francisco Bay area — comment on, assist and build on one another’s work.

These sites are rife with Halloween-ready projects like a bubbling dry-ice martini (stirred, not shaken, or it might explode), a watermelon sculptured into a model of the human

*Any cook who has pulled a fallen cake out of the oven or tried to speed-cook short ribs has encountered the immutable laws of food science.*

brain and a pumpkin transformed into an elementary camera.

Oskay and his wife, Lenore Edman, are the fertile brains (and nimble fingers) behind *evilmadscientist.com*. He has a Ph.D. in physics, she works at a biotech company, and they live in Sunnyvale, Calif. Normally (if the word can be used in this context), their culinary work ranges from the seriously daunting (they built a three-dimensional printer that uses sugar, not paper, as its two-

dimensional medium) to the merely exhausting (butter cookies shaped to illustrate a fractal pattern known as the Sierpinski carpet, in which a square is endlessly divided into nine smaller squares — like a tic-tac-toe board — with the center square removed).

“It’s important that the dough not rise too much or be too buttery, so the pattern remains crisp,” Lenore Edman said. “I found the Cook’s Illustrated recipe worked perfectly, but you could also do it with marzipan or hard candy.”

Turkey Tek, an occasional Thanksgiving gathering of Bay Area scientists, has created some of the largest and most ambitious pieces, like the 20-sided pecan pie. “They have done a lot of work on the traditional crust-to-filling ratios,” Oskay said.

While a student at MIT, Buckley worked at Lawrence Livermore Laboratories, the vast government research center in Livermore, Calif., dedicated to national security, as part of a team assembling 200 giant lasers to study thermonuclear reactions.

“It was incredibly precise and demanding work,” he said. “I think many scientists enjoy cooking because it’s a little like lab work, but not too much.”

Two weeks ago, Buckley took gallons and gallons of liquid nitrogen to Austin, Texas, for Maker Faire, an

annual gathering sponsored by Make magazine, one of the bibles of the do-it-yourself movement. Like tens of thousands of other craft types, they were there with a project: Microbatch Cryogenic Ice Cream. The mixture of heavy cream and liquid nitrogen freezes almost instantly at room temperature, so patrons can make up their own ice cream flavors, mix and eat them on the spot. (Most authorities recommend protective gear when working with liquid nitrogen.)

“What I learned at Maker Faire is that people never think that their own flavor creations are bad,” Buckley said last week at Binns’ apartment in Brooklyn, calmly splashing the smoking gas over his outstretched palm into a bowl of heavy cream, sugar, muddled mint leaves and rye whisky. “Even if everyone else thinks it’s disgusting.”

Last summer, Buckley drove his cryogenic ice cream truck (a DHL truck he bought on *Craigslist.org* and converted himself) to the Burning Man festival in the Nevada desert, stocked with every flavoring he could think of.

“Fresh mint, pomegranate syrup, single-malt whiskey, beets, cucumbers, popcorn, garlic salt, avocado, you name it,” he said. He hadn’t reckoned with the demanding Australians. “They wanted Vegemite,” he said. “And they were quite determined about it.”

The impressively delicious mint-julep flavored ice cream that emerged from the stainless-steel bowl after about 30 seconds of vigorous stirring was creamy and brightly flavored, with the mouth-coating density of premium ice cream. “It freezes so fast that ice crystals don’t have time to form,” Binns said. “That is what makes the texture so creamy.”

The two, who met as high school freshmen in 1994, say liquid nitrogen is obtainable at welding-supply stores, though three such places in New York City flatly said they would not sell it when this reporter inquired by phone. Moving and storing it requires a Dewar, a double-walled flask available at medical-supply outlets.

(Liquid nitrogen is used for cryogenic preservation of specimens, and also “for freezing off warts and moles,” Binns said. “It’s not very appetizing.”)

Flavor may not be the point of these projects, but it is not completely irrelevant. While trying to develop a cake frosting that conducts electricity to light a birthday cake with light-emitting diodes (LEDs) instead of candles, Buckley and Binns rejected frosting made of Gatorade, which seemed promising, because of its high-electrolyte formula. They also tried to make frosting out of electrode gel, the conductive substance smeared on human skin before electrodes are attached for medical procedures, like cardiac stress tests. That, Binns said, simply tasted disgusting.

The solution, one of the most grueling and yet heroic projects in the book, involves covering a frosted cake with a lattice of string licorice, each string wrapped in edible silver, a traditional garnish for certain luxurious Indian dishes and sweets.

Powered by batteries, the silver conducts enough electricity to light tiny, glowing LEDs, which shine in different colors. When finally alight, the cake is delightfully colorful, festive and engineered for efficiency: there is no dripping wax, no risk of house fire, no worry of how to carry a flaming cake through a drafty hallway without extinguishing the candles.

However, it does deprive the birthday girl or boy of the chance to blow out the candles and make a wish.

When this potential flaw in the project was pointed out, there was a short silence from the researchers.

“Well, you could always stick a candle in the middle,” Buckley finally said. “But only if you really had to.”

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# Dominance in Forms Is Key to MIT Sport Taekwondo's Victory

Taekwondo, from Page 20

team) level, completely wiping out the competition. With all three teams going undefeated, women's B1 (Sun, Hui, and Markham), B2 (Ho, Zhu, and Chin), and B3 (Quddus, Hong, and Nix) swept the medals in a 1-2-3 finish.

In a great show of perseverance and endurance, the Men's B4 team (Wenxian Hong '10, Rafael A. "Maverick" Raya '10, and John S. Pineda '10) fought through a tough division and came out with the bronze. Raya and Pineda simultaneously sparred in the novice (C-team) division. With barely any time to rest between matches, they ran back and forth between rings, tearing up the competition at both levels. Men's C1 (Mark J. Yen '11, Raya, and Pineda) took gold in a huge division.

Another highlight of the tournament was the great representation MIT had from beginners who had

just finished the Sport Taekwondo P.E. class, taught by MIT Sport Taekwondo Coach Daniel B. Chuang. These competitors showed their energy in the rings, while trying out what they had learned in the class.

In the D-team (first-time sparring) division, the men's D1 team (Ryan A. Rosario '12 and Ijeoma Emeagwali '12) took gold, prevailing over much larger opponents. Women's D1 (Heejung Kim '12) took silver.

After totaling the points in each division, MIT came out on top with 526 points. Rival Cornell took second, with 405 points, and Tufts University followed with 227.

Despite strong showings in all levels of competition and an overall win at the first tournament of the year, the team is already training hard for the next tournament at Cornell this weekend. This will be the last tournament of the fall semester, and MIT hopes to use its momentum to reclaim the league cup.

# Wacky Series Features Weather Delays, Blown Calls, Changed Rules

World Series, from Page 20

Not to be outdone by the umpires, the elements also played their role in making the series interesting. The start of Game 3 was delayed due to rain and began at 10:06 p.m., the latest start in World Series history. That game was won by the Phillies the next morning, on a walkoff swinging bunt by Carlos Ruiz in a ninth inning that featured a five-man infield by Tampa Bay and a ball that never left the infield (except on a throwing error by the catcher).

Game 5 was suspended in the middle of the sixth inning, with the score tied at 2, after rain had turned the infield into a mud pit and the first-row seats into waterfront property. The game was resumed two days later, after League Commissioner Bud Selig declared a new rule that World Series games would not be shortened. As a result, the Phillies clinched the title on a 3 in-

ning contest that opened with a relief pitcher facing a pinch hitter.

Although the Series featured entertaining baseball from both teams, it produced extremely low TV ratings. Partly because of the lack of a big-market team (such as Boston, New York, or Los Angeles) and partly due to the MLB's insistence on a later start time, the Series only managed an 8.4 rating, down 17 percent from the previous record low two years ago and about a quarter of the rating of the Phillies' last championship in 1980.

Nevertheless, the Phillies' victory set off massive celebrations in the city. Fans tipped over Porta-Potties outside of Citizens Bank Park after the victory, and an estimated 2 million fans attended the victory parade.

But for the rest of us (non-Phillies) fans out there, there's always next year ... (How many times have you heard that before?)

Sports Shorts, from Page 20

Both the men's and women's cross country teams will look to build on their victories with strong showings at the NCAA Division III New England Regional championship in two weeks in Williamstown, Mass.

—Greg McKeever, DAPER Staff

## MIT Stuns Wellesley in NEWMAC Women's Soccer Quarterfinals

Jean "Liz" E. Theurer '10 made her first goal of the season a memorable one by scoring the lone goal on Saturday as the visiting Engineers knocked off Wellesley College in the NEWMAC Women's Soccer Tournament Quarterfinals.

After a scoreless first half that saw each team take seven shots, Theurer broke the tie just 3:29 into the second half. The MIT junior had her first attempt stopped by Wellesley's Sarah Gray, but Theurer scrambled to her feet more quickly than the Blue keeper to knock the rebound into the back of the net.

Wellesley had a great scoring opportunity with 10 minutes left to play when Catherine Caruso sent a pass to Amanda Young. However, Young's shot from eight-yards out was saved by MIT's Stephanie V. Brenman '09, and the Engineer's held on for the 1-0 victory.

For the game, Wellesley held a 16-14 advantage in shots. In goal, Brenman finished with nine saves for the Engineers, picking up her eighth shutout of the season. In net for Wellesley, Gray picked up seven saves in her second career start.

The win advances MIT to the conference Semifinals to play top-seeded Springfield College. The Engineers have won three straight and are 4-1-1 in their last six games.

—James Kramer, DAPER Staff

Scoreboard, from Page 20

Men's Soccer		Women's Volleyball	
Saturday, Nov. 1, 2008		Saturday, Nov. 1, 2008	
MIT (14-2-2)	1	MIT (20-15)	3
Babson College (14-4-1)	2	Mount Holyoke College (4-15)	0
Women's Soccer		Men's Water Polo	
Saturday, Nov. 1, 2008		Thursday, Oct. 30, 2008	
MIT (7-8-2)	1	Brown University (14-9)	15
Wellesley College (8-6-2)	0	MIT (7-12)	10

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SPORTS

MIT Sport Taekwondo Captures Top Spot at Home Tournament

By Christine M. Lee  
TEAM MEMBER

On Saturday, October 25, the MIT Sport Taekwondo Club organized and competed in the first Ivy Northeast Collegiate Taekwondo League (INCTL) tournament of the season. Hosted on campus at the Johnson Athletics Center, the tournament was one of the biggest in the history of the league, with 343 competitors from 21 schools. 53 of MIT's own competed in a long day of forms and sparring. In the end, MIT emerged victorious, taking first place overall and showing its depth in many individual divisions.

The day began with forms competition, where choreographed techniques are judged based on grace, power, and precision. Despite new standards in judging, MIT dominated, outscoring any other team by 2 to 1.

Black belt competitors set the stage, capturing three of six possible medals. Newcomer Erika Lee '12 took silver in women's black belt division, while sophomores Benjamin M. Huan '11 and Daniel J. Sauza '11 took gold and silver respectively in the men's division.

Double-placing in two divisions, Stephanie E. Nix '09 and Elisabeth M. Markham '09 took first and third in the women's red belt division, while blue belts Shammi S. Quddus '10 and ZheChen "Mary" Hong '10 took first and second in their division. Tylor J. Hess '10 won third in the men's blue belt division.

Despite fierce competition in the lower belt groups, Andrew K. Sugaya '11 won first in the men's green belt division, and Grace S. Kim '09 took second in the women's green

belt division. Sparring competition immediately followed forms, and MIT came through to win several nail-biting matches. The women's teams dominated throughout the tournament, beginning with advanced (A-team) sparring. The women's A2 team (Club President Jaclyn J. Ho '09, Han Zhu '09, and Christine Chin '09) took silver, beating out Cornell University's top team—long time rivals—in style. Zhu, who was down by three points, made an exciting comeback

in the second half of the match to win. Chin, keeping MIT supporters on their toes, pulled through to capture victory with a dramatic win in sudden death overtime. The women's A1 team (Ranbel F. Sun '10, Corinna Hui '09, Markham, and Hong) took bronze, despite having a tough match-up against Harvard early in the brackets. Continuing the trend from last season, the women's teams were unstoppable in the intermediate (B-

Taekwondo, Page 19



WILLIAM YEE—THE TECH

Benjamin M. Huan '11 lands a kick to the backside of SUNY Albany's Owen Smith during the A-team (advanced) sparring competition at the MIT Sport Taekwondo Tournament held in the Johnson Athletics Center on Saturday, October 25.

Phillies Top Rays, Win Second World Series In Franchise History

By David Zhu  
STAFF COLUMNIST

Well, the 2008 Major League Season has finally come to a close. Last week, the Philadelphia Phillies

defeated the Tampa Bay Rays in perhaps one of the most controversial and strange Fall Classics in recent memory, featuring artificial turf and catwalks, umpiring gaffes, a rain delay, and the first suspended game in World Series history.

The Phillies won the series four games to one on the strength of their pitching and their offense, which found ways to scrape together just enough runs (three of the Phillies' four wins were by one run). For example, in Game 1, which Philadelphia won 3-2, the Phillies went 0-for-13 with runners in scoring position and stranded 11 men on base. This offensive lethargy continued throughout the series until Game 4, when the two teams combined for six home runs, including two by Ryan Howard and one by Phillies pitcher Joe Blanton.

While Joe Blanton helped out with his bat, the rest of the Phillies' pitchers contributed with stellar outings. The pitching staff, led by World Series MVP Cole Hamels—who also won the NL Championship Series MVP—allowed the Rays an average of just over two-and-a-half runs per game, shutting down an offense which scored 43 runs in their last series against the Red Sox.

Although the players from both teams performed to the fullest extent of their abilities, the umpires certainly didn't. The umpiring crew, led by crew chief Tim Welke, blew several important calls which almost certainly would have affected the outcomes of the games. For example, they missed a balk by Cole Hamels in Game 1, and in Game 4 Jimmy Rollins was called safe on a play where he was clearly tagged out at third base. In Game 5, home plate umpire Jeff Kellogg was inconsistent with his strike zone, calling balls on pitches that were well inside the strike zone, and vice versa.

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UPCOMING HOME EVENTS

Tuesday, Nov. 4, 2008		
Women's Volleyball vs. Babson College	7:00 p.m.,	Rockwell Cage
Wednesday, Nov. 5, 2008		
Men's Ice Hockey vs. Daniel Webster College	7:00 p.m.,	Johnson Athletic Center
Men's Soccer vs. Worcester Polytechnic Institute	7:00 p.m.,	Steinbrenner Stadium

Men's Cross Country Captures NEWMAC Championship

Jacob J. Ruzevick '09 captured Runner of the Year honors for the second year in a row and helped lead the MIT men's cross country team to the New England Women's and Men's Athletic Conference (NEWMAC) championship Saturday at Franklin Park in Boston. The Engineers have won every NEWMAC championship since the inception of the league, a streak that stands at 11.

Ruzevick (25:25) refused to relinquish his hold on the Runner of the Year award, pulling away from a pair of Coast Guard harriers in the final mile for a three-second victory. Tech placed six other runners in the top 11 on the way to a thirteen-point victory over Coast Guard. Hemagiri Arumugam '10 crossed the finish line at 25:49 to place fifth. Jeremiah "Yermie" R. Cohen '09 (25:58) and Trevor B. Rundell '09 (26:04) were directly behind. Paul D. Welle '11 rounded out the scoring for the conference champions, finishing ninth with a time of 26:16.

Andrew T. Erickson '11 took home the Rookie of the Year award as the top first-year finisher in 10th place. Jack H. Bourbonnais '10 and Gihan S. Amarasiriwardena '11 also earned All-Conference honors by placing in the top 14.

MIT finished with a total of 28 points. Coast Guard was second with 41 points and Springfield came in third with 93 points.

—Greg McKeever, DAPER Staff

Women's Cross Country Races to Second Consecutive NEWMAC Championship

For the second year in a row, the MIT women's cross country team captured the NEWMAC championship, held Saturday at Franklin Park in Boston. Eight MIT harriers earned All-Conference honors by placing in the top 14, including top overall finisher and NEWMAC Runner of the Year Jacqueline M. Wentz '10.

Wentz completed the five-kilometer course in 18:28, more than 12 seconds faster than her nearest competitor. Andrea E. Bradshaw '09 (18:59) led a group of four Engineers through the chute, finishing fifth. Katherine J. Eve '12, Maria J. Monks '10 and Janice O'Brien '12 were directly behind Bradshaw. Eve received the NEWMAC Rookie of the Year award as the top first-year finisher in the race. Anna M. Holt-Gosselin '11, Jennifer A. Doyle '09 and Elizabeth M. Finn '09 were also named to the All-Conference Team.

MIT finished with a total of 27 points, giving them a comfortable victory over second place Wheaton College (77 points). Springfield College finished third with 87 points.

Sports Shorts, Page 19

SCOREBOARD

<b>Men's Heavyweight Crew</b> <b>Saturday, Nov. 1, 2008</b> Dartmouth Invitational MIT 17th of 25	<b>Women's Fencing</b> <b>Saturday, Nov. 1, 2008</b> The Big One MIT 2nd (sabre), 1st (foil), 7th (epee)
<b>Men's Lightweight Crew</b> <b>Saturday, Nov. 1, 2008</b> Dartmouth Invitational MIT 13th of 25	<b>Field Hockey</b> <b>Saturday, Nov. 1, 2008</b> MIT (6-13) 0 Springfield College (13-6) 2
<b>Women's Openweight Crew</b> <b>Saturday, Nov. 1, 2008</b> Dartmouth Invitational MIT 1st of 17	<b>Football</b> <b>Saturday, Nov. 1, 2008</b> Plymouth State University (8-1) 27 MIT (5-4) 14
<b>Women's Lightweight Crew</b> <b>Saturday, Nov. 1, 2008</b> Dartmouth Invitational MIT 13th of 17	<b>Men's Ice Hockey</b> <b>Thursday, Oct. 30, 2008</b> Boston College (0-1) 2 MIT (1-0) 3
<b>Men's Cross Country</b> <b>Saturday, Nov. 1, 2008</b> NEWMAC Championship MIT 1st of 7	<b>Pistol</b> <b>Friday-Saturday, Oct. 31-Nov. 1, 2008</b> MIT (2-0) 6004 U.S. Coast Guard Academy (0-2) 5874
<b>Women's Cross Country</b> <b>Saturday, Nov. 1, 2008</b> NEWMAC Championship MIT 1st of 10	<b>Sailing</b> <b>Saturday-Sunday, Nov. 1-2, 2008</b> Erwin Schell Trophy MIT 2nd of 18 Victorian Coffee Urn MIT 8th of 17 New England Freshman Championship/Nickerson Trophy MIT 7th of 15
<b>Men's Fencing</b> <b>Saturday, Nov. 1, 2008</b> The Big One MIT 5th (sabre), 6th (foil), 7th (epee)	

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