

Ig Nobel Winner Shows Knuckle Cracking Won't Cause Arthritis

By Divya Srinivasan

“Mother, I know you can hear me. Mother, you were wrong! And now that I have your attention, can I stop eating my broccoli, please?” Donald L. Unger raised his hands in mock rebellion. He had defied his mother’s words for three quarters of his life systematically cracking the knuckles on his left hand and leaving his right knuckles free for 60 years, demonstrating (if only anecdotaly) that knuckle cracking does not cause arthritis. For this achievement, he won himself the Ig Nobel Award in Medicine, presented last night at the 19th First Annual Ig Nobel Prize ceremony yesterday evening.

The event, which was held at the Sanders Theater on Harvard Campus, awarded Unger and nine other scientists in various fields for their scientific creativity. In the words of Marc Abrahams, Ig Nobel Prizes are awarded to scientists for “achievements that first make people laugh, then think.”

Ig Nobel Prizes are awarded in all the same categories as the higher-profile Nobels — physics, chemistry,



BIYEUN BUCZYK—THE TECH

While wearing a brassiere over his mouth, Professor of Physics Wolfgang Ketterle, recipient of the Nobel Prize in Physics in 2001, gives two thumbs up to the winner of this year’s Ig Nobel Public Health Prize. The winner, Dr. Elena N. Bodnar, created a bra that can be taken off and used as a “gas mask” in the event of an emergency.

medicine, economics, peace and literature — as well as four additional categories: public health, biology, mathematics, and veterinary medicine.

Unlike the Nobel Prizes, Ig Nobel festivities allow prizewinners to show the audience their inventions

and discoveries. Elena N. Bodnar, recipient of the Ig Nobel Prize for Public Health, demonstrated her brainchild: a brassiere that can be converted into a pair of gas masks. Using Nobel Laureates Wolfgang

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Class Council, Senate Elections End Today

By Meghan Nelson

STAFF REPORTER

Elections for the UA Senate and 2013 Freshman Class Council have been ongoing this week and end today.

Online voting, which began on September 26, ended last night, but students who have not yet had a chance to vote can do so with paper ballots today from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. in Lobby 10. Election results will be announced tomorrow via e-mail.

This year the number of senate seats allocated to fraternities rose to six from five and the number of seats given to sororities rose to two from one, due to increased membership in both types of organizations, said Harrison L. Bralower ’11, UA Election Commission vice chair.

Four candidates are running for freshman class president: Danielle A. Class, Bryan H. Lee, Dalitso Nkhoma, Ignatius “Iggy” Chen. Ryan

T. Normandin (also a *Tech* staffer), whose name is listed as a candidate for president, is running instead for MacGregor Senator.

While “about the same” number of freshmen are running for election compared with previous years, Bralower said that this year is unusual in that all the presidential and vice presidential candidates are running as individuals as opposed to paired tickets, which has been common in past years.

All presidential candidates have expressed a desire to unite their class. Danielle Class wants to organize trips for the class and events with all class members together: “I don’t want people to get to senior year saying they just met someone awesome they didn’t know before.”

Nkhoma said that as class council president she would “try to make

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Media Lab Construction Is Scheduled To Finish in Nov., MIT Facilities Says

By Joy E. Lee

STAFF REPORTER

Construction of the new Media Lab is on track to finish in November, according to Arne Abramson, who is managing the project.

Meanwhile, steam pipes are being replaced on Amherst Alley, a project that should finish sometime over the next week, according to the MIT Facilities website.

Normal hours for construction have been from 7 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., but as the finishing touches are put on the new facility, Abramson said people should expect more weekend construction to take place.

Media Lab construction began in June 2007. When complete, the new facility will connect to E15, the lab’s current home, will add 163,000 square feet of space, and will be shared by several programs, including Visual Arts and Comparative

Media Studies. The new building includes lab space, meeting rooms, and office space arranged in an open layout designed to allow different groups to interact freely, according to the MIT Facilities website. Exhibit space is also planned.

Construction noise has disturbed some residents of East Campus’s east parallel. Anthony J. Tortorello ’10 said, “I used to live street-side when they had pile drivers going. It kind of affected my studies. Like when the vibration shook the table so much that my monitor fell off.”

Some residents, especially those whose rooms face east, toward the construction site, have been woken up in the morning by construction.

Construction has been less disruptive to residents whose rooms face the courtyard. Jessica C. Agatstein ’12 said, “I’m fairly indifferent, but I know that it has bothered some

people in the dorm.”

Complaints related to construction on Amherst Alley mostly concern the lack of a sidewalk for a portion of the street, where bikers and pedestrians must share a narrow space. Jeremiah J. Noordhoek ’11, who rides a bike to class says, “In the morning, when I’m trying to get to class on time, I have to stop and wait for people to walk by. There’s just no room.”



PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY ARFA N. ALJAZI

Candidates for Freshmen Class Council use their pages on the Undergraduate Association website as a primary means of informing voters of their platforms.

Same Answers at State of Institute

MIT President Susan J. Hockfield delivered a 20-minute overview of the Institute’s financial climate in front of several hundred staff and a few students at the State of the

Institute forum on Wednesday. Hockfield noted an intent to finish MIT’s \$150 million in budget cuts in two years, rather than the three years initially proposed by the administration in 2008. Following this speech, administrators answered both pre-submitted and impromptu questions from the audience (select questions, p.13).

Hockfield’s remarks, though targeted at staff rather than students or faculty, were similar to those provided to the Faculty at the Sept. 16 Faculty meeting, as well as the opening remarks at the two

Institute Q&A, Page 13



SAM RANGE—THE TECH

Provost L. Rafael Reif, left, explains the process used to pre-select questions the administrators answer at Wednesday’s State of the Institute forum in Kresge Auditorium. Executive Vice President Theresa M. Stone SM ’76 is to the right.

EC Fire Ruled not Arson

The trash chute fire at East Campus on Sept. 8 has been ruled not arson by the Cambridge Fire Department (CFD), according to MIT spokesman Nathaniel W. Nickerson.

News Brief

Nickerson said that the CFD communicated this preliminary determination to the MIT Police, though the CFD’s investigation technically remains open for another month or so, to allow for additional information to come to light.

Cambridge Fire representatives declined to comment on the still-ongoing investigation.

The fire occurred in a trash chute around 1:30 a.m. on Tuesday Sept. 8, and a report released by Cambridge Fire the following week said, “We found a lighter inside trash container, on top of the trash.”

The fire did not damage any property directly, but sprinklers released water that flooded several students’ rooms, resulting in several thousand dollars in property damage, *The Tech* estimates.

—John A. Hawkinson

In Short

¶ **Watching the endowment?** The Report of the Treasurer for the year ending June 30 comes out late today. See <http://vpf.mit.edu/>, under reports.

¶ **The Athena combination** for en-

try to Athena clusters changed yesterday. To get the new combo, type “tellme combo” in an Athena terminal window, or ask a friend.

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

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WORLD & NATION

Poll Suggests Decline in Support For a Right to Abortion

By Laurie Goodstein
THE NEW YORK TIMES

For most of the last two decades, a clear majority of Americans has supported the right to abortion. A new poll, though, suggests that support for abortion may have declined, with the public almost evenly divided over the issue.

The apparent shift, which contradicts some other recent polls, appears in a poll by the Pew Research Center released on Thursday. A 2008 poll by Pew researchers had found that those in favor of keeping abortion legal outnumbered opponents, 54 percent to 40 percent. In the new Pew poll, the gap has narrowed: 47 percent of those surveyed said abortion should be legal in all or most cases, and 45 percent said it should be illegal in all or most cases — a difference within the poll’s margin of sampling error.

The new survey did not find the reasons for the shift in opinion. But Pew researchers pointed out that the shift has occurred since the election of President Barack Obama, a Democrat who supports abortion rights but has often spoken about the need to reduce the number of abortions. New York Times/CBS News polls, as well as others, found no such shift after Bill Clinton took office.

After Lewis’ Exit, Bank of America Searches for New Chief

By Eric Dash and Louise Story
THE NEW YORK TIMES

Who will lead Bank of America out of this mess?

That question is reverberating through Wall Street and Washington following the abrupt resignation of Kenneth Lewis, the bank’s beleaguered chief executive. On Thursday, a day into this remarkable boardroom drama, bank insiders and a rapt audience in the financial community were grasping for a clear answer.

No sooner did news of Lewis’ resignation break Wednesday evening than the handicapping began. Wall Street odds-makers tossed out the names of half a dozen possible successors. But Bank of America directors have only just begun to consider their options. The search is expected to take weeks.

Few banking executives have the skill and experience to run Bank of America, a coast-to-coast giant with nearly \$1 trillion in deposits — a bunch of giant-size problems.

Urging Information and Shots, Officials Track Flu

By Donald G. Mcneil Jr.
THE NEW YORK TIMES

Swine flu is widespread across the entire country, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention announced Thursday as federal health officials released Tamiflu for children from the national stockpile and began taking orders from the states for the new swine flu vaccine.

Also, as anecdotal reports and at least one poll showed many Americans are nervous about the vaccine, officials emphasized that the new shots were nearly identical to seasonal ones, and said they were doing what they could to debunk myths about the vaccine.

Dr. Anne Schuchat, the Disease Control Center’s director of immunization and respiratory disease expressed particular worry about pregnant women. As of late August, 100 had been hospitalized in intensive care, and 28 had died.

Because pediatric cases are increasing, the Department of Health and Human Services on Tuesday released 300,000 courses of children’s liquid Tamiflu from the national pandemic stockpile, with the first batches going to Texas and Colorado.

Some was past its expiration date, Schuchat said, but the Food and Drug Administration tested the stocks and certified them as still usable.

China Celebrates, Worldless On Traumas in Their Past

By Andrew Jacobs
THE NEW YORK TIMES

CHANGCHUN, CHINA

Unlike in other cities taken by the People’s Liberation Army during China’s civil war, there were no crowds to greet the victors as they made their triumphant march through the streets of this industrial city in the heart of Manchuria.

Even if relieved to learn that hostilities with Chiang Kai-shek’s Nationalist Army had come to an end, most residents — the ones who had not died during the five-month siege — were simply too weak to go outdoors. “We were just lying in bed starving to death,” said Zhang Yinghua, now 86, as she recalled the famine that claimed the lives of her brother, her sister and most of her neighbors. “We couldn’t even crawl!”

In what China’s history books hail as one of the war’s decisive victories, Mao’s troops starved out the formidable Nationalist garrison that occupied Changchun with nary a shot fired. What the official story line does not reveal is that at least 160,000 civilians also died during the siege of the northeastern city, which lasted from

June to October of 1948.

The People’s Republic of China basked in its 60th anniversary on Thursday with jaw-dropping pageantry, but there were no solemn pauses for the lives lost during the Communist Party’s rise to power — not for the estimated tens of millions who died during the civil war, nor the millions of landlords, Nationalist sympathizers and other perceived enemies who were eradicated during Mao’s drive to consolidate power.

“Changchun was like Hiroshima,” wrote Zhang Zhenglu, a lieutenant colonel in the People’s Liberation Army who documented the siege in “White Snow, Red Blood,” a book that was immediately banned after publication in 1989. “The casualties were about the same. Hiroshima took nine seconds; Changchun took five months.”

The 40,000 who survived did so by eating insects, leather belts and, in some cases, the bodies that littered the streets. By the time Communist troops liberated the city, every leaf and blade of grass had been consumed during the final desperate months.

There are no monuments or mark-

ers recalling the events that decimated Changchun’s populace. Most young people have no knowledge of the darker aspects of the siege, and the survivors, now in their 70s and 80s, are reluctant to give voice to long-buried trauma.

“I’ve always heard that Changchun was captured without bloodshed,” Li Jiaqi, a 17-year-old high school student, said as she sat on the steps in front of the city’s Liberation Memorial.

Chinese scholars have largely steered clear of the subject. Several historians, when asked about the episode, declined to be interviewed. Zhou Jiewen, a retired nuclear physicist in Changchun who has become a self-taught expert on the siege, explained that many key details, if widely disseminated, would tarnish the army’s reputation as defenders of the common man. Those include shooting civilians who tried to escape the city and ignoring the pleas of mothers holding aloft starving children on the other side of the barbed-wire barricades. “To cause so many civilians to die was a great blunder by the PLA and tragedy unparalleled in the civil war,” Zhou said.

New Fossil Skeleton from Africa Predates Lucy

By John Noble Wilford
THE NEW YORK TIMES

Lucy, meet Ardi.

Ardi, short for *Ardipithecus ramidus*, is the newest fossil skeleton out of Africa to take its place in the gallery of human origins. At an age of 4.4 million years, it lived well before and was much more primitive than the famous 3.2-million-year-old Lucy, of the species *Australopithecus afarensis*.

Since finding fragments of the older hominid in 1992, an international team of scientists has been searching for more specimens and on Thursday presented a fairly complete skeleton and their first full analysis. By replacing Lucy as the earliest known skeleton from the human branch of the primate family tree, the scientists said, Ardi opened a window to “the early evolutionary steps that our ancestors took after we

diverged from our common ancestor with chimpanzees.”

The older hominid was already so different from chimps that it suggested “no modern ape is a realistic proxy for characterizing early hominid evolution,” they wrote.

The *Ardipithecus* specimen, an adult female, probably stood 4 feet tall and weighed about 120 pounds, almost a foot taller and twice the weight of Lucy. Its brain was no larger than a modern chimp’s. It retained an agility for tree-climbing but already walked upright on two legs, a transforming innovation in hominids, though not as efficiently as Lucy’s kin.

Ardi’s feet had yet to develop the arch-like structure that came later with Lucy and on to humans.

Tim D. White of the University of California, Berkeley, a leader of the team, said in an interview this week

that the genus *Ardipithecus* appeared to resolve many uncertainties about “the initial stage of evolutionary adaptation” after the hominid lineage split from that of the chimpanzees. No fossil trace of the last common ancestor, which lived some time before 6 million years ago, according to genetic studies, has yet come to light.

The other two significant stages occurred with the rise of *Australopithecus*, which lived from about 4 million to 1 million years ago, and then the emergence of *Homo*, our own genus, before 2 million years ago. The ancestral relationship of *Ardipithecus* to *Australopithecus* has not been determined, but Lucy’s *australopithecine* kin are generally recognized as the ancestral group from which *Homo* evolved.

Scientists not involved in the new research hailed its importance.

WEATHER

It’s Raining Pumpkins!

By Allison A. Wing
STAFF METEOROLOGIST

Fall is officially here! There are several ways one may have noticed that the seasons changed. First of all, Halloween merchandise is all over the stores (time to start planning your costume). Yesterday’s cool temperatures were another hint, a trend that will continue today. Finally, this weekend is the “Great Glass Pumpkin Patch,” in which the MIT Glass Lab displays and sells over 1,000 handblown glass pumpkins. Unfortunately, the weather may not cooperate this weekend and we may have a wet and rainy pumpkin patch.

Today we will have experience increasing cloudiness as a low pressure system begins to move into the Northeast. The temperatures will continue to be slightly below normal and there is a chance of showers in the evening. The weather from Friday night through the rest of the weekend will be much more unsettled, however. An upper level trough will move through the Great Lakes and Ohio River valley into our region on Saturday and Sunday as a cold front gradually pushes through. Convergence of moist air over Southern New England will make the conditions prime for rainfall. Rain showers are likely throughout the day on Saturday, heaviest after 2pm. We may also hear a rumble or two of thunder. Rainfall may accumulate from 0.25" to 0.50", with larger amounts possible in thunderstorms. Watch out for puddles when you step off the sidewalk. Scattered showers will continue Saturday night into Sunday morning but should taper off by midday. An additional 0.50" of rain is possible, with storm totals of 1 to 3 inches (again, more is possible if we get hit with a thunderstorm or two). The next high pressure system should start to move in to the region on Monday, so the beginning of next week will be dry with seasonably mild temperatures.

Extended Forecast

Today: Mostly cloudy with a high of 63°F (17°C). Winds from 10 to 15 mph.

Tonight: Mostly cloudy with a chance of showers mainly after 11 p.m. Low of 53°F (12°C). Winds from the west around 10 mph then shifting to from the south.

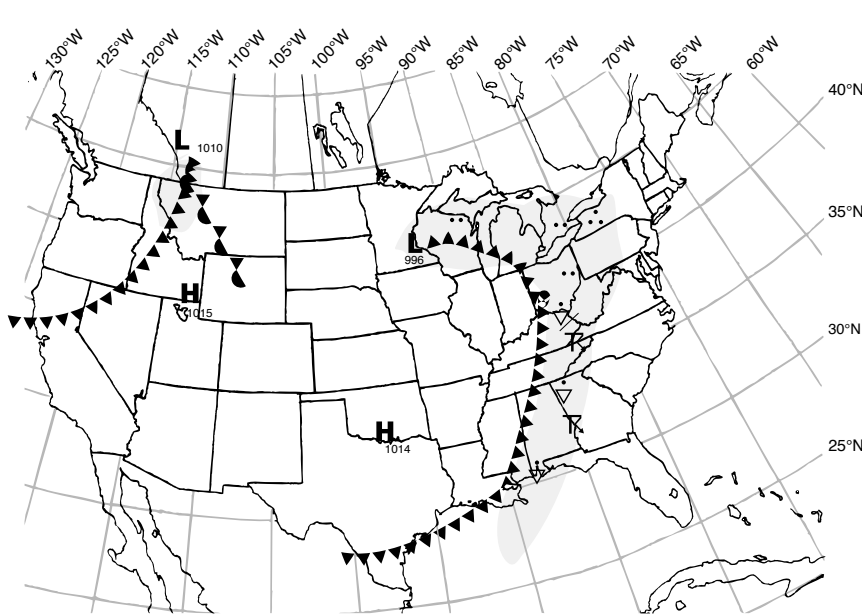
Tomorrow: Mostly cloudy with rain showers likely. Possible thunderstorms, mainly after 2 p.m. High of 69°F (21°C). Winds from the south at 10–15 mph gusting to 25 mph. Low of 57°F (14°C).

Sunday: Mostly cloudy with rain showers likely, tapering off in the afternoon. High of 72°F (22°C). Low of 53°F (12°C).

Monday: Partly cloudy. High of 69°F (21°C).

Tuesday: Partly cloudy. High of 65°F (18°C).

Situation for Noon Eastern Daylight Time, Friday, October 2, 2009



| Weather Systems | Weather Fronts | Precipitation Symbols | Other Symbols |
|------------------------|------------------|-----------------------|---------------|
| H High Pressure | Trough | Snow | Fog |
| L Low Pressure | Warm Front | Rain | Thunderstorm |
| Hurricane | Cold Front | Light | Haze |
| | Stationary Front | Moderate | |
| | | Heavy | |

Compiled by MIT Meteorology Staff and The Tech

Quake Toll Reaches 1,100 in a Chaotic Indonesia

By Norimitsu Onishi and Peter Gelling
THE NEW YORK TIMES

PADANG, INDONESIA

No tractors were available to move the rubble that was their office building before Wednesday’s mighty earthquake felled this modest port city, so workers started digging feverishly with their bare hands.

“My friend is still trapped inside,” said a 20-year-old named Yudi. He had been making photocopies in the building when he felt the first tremors of the 7.6-magnitude quake shortly after 5 p.m. here on Wednesday.

“I ran outside as fast I could,” said Yudi, who, like many Indonesians, uses only one name. “Everyone was panicking, trying to save themselves. But some of us didn’t make it out.”

Throughout a chaotic Thursday in Padang, rescue workers, soldiers and frantic residents worked together into the night with precious little earth-moving equipment or electricity, searching crushed offices, hotels, hospitals and schools for survivors.

The death toll rose to 1,100 people on Thursday, with many hundreds

more injured, according to John Holmes, the U.N. humanitarian coordinator, speaking at a news conference at the United Nations.

“I fear these numbers will rise as more information becomes available,” Holmes said.

On Thursday morning, just as the city’s airport was reopening and rescue teams were setting to work, Padang was rattled by another earthquake, this one registering 6.6. This second quake, which hit about 150 miles south of Padang, damaged hundreds of buildings in the nearby town of Jambi, officials said. There were no reports of casualties so far from the second temblor, Holmes said.

More than a day after the first quake, residents here became increasingly desperate for information about their missing relatives, crowding to view lists of the dead and injured that were posted at hospitals.

At what remained of the city’s largest hospital, the Dr. M. Djamil Hospital, a dozen bodies in yellow bags lay on the side of a parking lot. Nearby, a list of casualties was printed on sheets of white paper posted on

a board, which people read by holding lighters and matches.

Arif Safrizal, 43, who was searching for his wife’s younger sister and brother, read down the list using three full matches. Both missing siblings were studying to become teachers, one majoring in English literature, the other in sports, he said.

“We haven’t heard from them, and we can’t reach them on the phone,” Safrizal, a shop owner, said. “My wife is worried.”

Beds for the injured were pulled from the hospital’s wreckage and placed inside makeshift tents in the parking lot.

Soon, however, all the mattresses were soaked in blood. Gloves, medicine bottles and bandages were strewn on the ground. Dozens of bodies were piled nearby, some clothed, some not, and weeping survivors searched the faces for missing relatives.

Late in the afternoon, a rumor based on local earthquake folklore raced through Padang, a city of 900,000, that another large quake was coming. Meanwhile, people lined up by the thousands for food.

Iran Agrees to Key Concessions On Nuclear Fuel

By Steven Erlanger and Mark Landler
THE NEW YORK TIMES

GENEVA

Iran agreed on Thursday in talks with the United States and other major powers to open its newly revealed uranium enrichment plant near Qum to international inspection in the next two weeks and to send most of its openly declared enriched uranium to Russia to be turned into fuel for a small reactor that produces medical isotopes, senior U.S. and other Western officials said.

Iran’s agreement in principle to export most of its enriched uranium for processing — if it happens — would represent a major accomplishment for the West, reducing Iran’s ability to make a nuclear weapon quickly and buying more time for negotiations to bear fruit.

If Iran has secret stockpiles of enriched uranium, however, the accomplishment would be hollow, a senior U.S. official conceded.

The officials described the long day of talks here with Iran, the first such discussions in which the United States has participated fully, as a

modest success on a long and complicated road. Iran had at least finally engaged with the big powers on its nuclear program after more than a year, and had agreed to some tangible, confidence-building steps before another meeting with the same participants before the end of October.

But despite the relatively promising outcome, the Obama administration was at pains to strike a cautious tone, given Iran’s history of duplicity, its crackdown on its own people after the tainted June presidential elections and President Barack Obama’s concern about being perceived as naive or susceptible to a policy of Iranian delays.

Obama, speaking in Washington, called the talks “constructive,” but warned Tehran that he was prepared to move quickly to more stringent sanctions if negotiations over Iran’s nuclear ambitions dragged on.

“We’re not interested in talking for the sake of talking,” Obama told reporters in the White House Diplomatic Reception Room.

France and Britain have spoken of December as an informal deadline for Iran to negotiate seriously about

stopping enrichment and cooperate fully with the International Atomic Energy Agency. U.S. officials say that timeline is “about right,” but Iran continues to insist it has the right to enrich uranium for what it calls a purely civilian program.

Obama said Tehran must allow international inspectors into the site near Qum within the next two weeks, a timeline Iran’s chief nuclear negotiator, Saeed Jalili, agreed to in Geneva.

The atomic energy agency’s director-general, Mohamed ElBaradei, will travel to Tehran this weekend to discuss the details and timing of the inspections, officials said. But the Americans also want Iran to cooperate with the inspectors and make personnel and documents about the site near Qum available.

Besides the scheduling of another meeting, the main practical accomplishment on Thursday was Iran’s agreement in principle — to be worked out by experts later this month in Vienna — to ship what U.S. officials called “most” of its declared stockpile of lightly enriched uranium to Russia and France to be turned into nuclear fuel.

Sen. Ensign Helped Husband of Ex-Mistress Find Work

By Eric Lichtblau and Eric Lipton
THE NEW YORK TIMES

WASHINGTON

Early last year, Sen. John Ensign contacted a small circle of political and corporate supporters back home in Nevada — a casino designer, an airline executive, the head of a utility and several political consultants — seeking work for a close friend and top Washington aide, Douglas Hampton.

“He’s a competent guy, and he’s looking to come back to Nevada. Do you know of anything?” one patron recalled Ensign asking.

The job pitch left out one salient fact: the senator was having an affair with Hampton’s wife, Cynthia, a member of his campaign staff. The tumult that the liaison was causing both families prompted Ensign, a two-term Republican, to try to contain the damage and find a landing spot for Hampton.

In the coming months, the senator arranged for Hampton to join a political consulting firm and lined up several donors as his lobbying clients, according to interviews, e-

mail messages and other records. Ensign and his staff then repeatedly intervened on the companies’ behalf with federal agencies in Washington, often after urging from Hampton.

While the affair made national news in June, the role that Ensign played in assisting Hampton and helping the clients he represented has not been previously disclosed. Several legal experts say those activities may have violated an ethics law that bans senior aides from lobbying the Senate for a year after leaving their posts. In acknowledging the affair, Ensign cast it as personal transgression, not a professional one. But an examination of his conduct shows that in trying to clean up the mess from the illicit relationship and distance himself from the Hamptons, he entangled political supporters, staff members and Senate colleagues, some of whom say they now feel betrayed by Ensign.

For example, a longtime fundraiser and Republican Party campaign official who came through with help says Ensign misled him about why Hampton needed a new

job. The senator also put his chief of staff at the time, who had raised concerns that Hampton’s activities could violate the one-year ban on lobbying, in charge of dealing with him.

And Ensign allowed Sen. Tom Coburn, a friend and fellow conservative Christian, to serve as an intermediary with the Hamptons four months ago in discussing a multimillion-dollar financial settlement, to help them rebuild their lives.

“John got trapped doing something really stupid and then made a lot of other mistakes afterward,” Coburn, R-Okla., said in an interview. “Judgment gets impaired by arrogance, and that’s what’s going on here.”

In a statement, Ensign said: “I am confident we fully complied with the relevant laws and rules governing current and past employees. I have worked on these Nevada issues with these Nevada companies for years, long before Doug Hampton left my office.”

The senator declined to be interviewed. But his office said that the inquiries he had made about work for Hampton were “only recommendation calls.”

Obama Bans Texting While Driving For Federal Workers

By Matt Richtel
THE NEW YORK TIMES

Federal employees will not be allowed to text while driving, according to an executive order signed Wednesday night by President Barack Obama.

The order covers federal employees when they are using government-provided cars or cell phones and when they are using their own phones and cars to conduct government business.

Separately, the federal government plans to ban text messaging by bus drivers and truckers who travel across state lines, and may also preclude them from using cell phones while driving, except in emergencies.

Ray H. LaHood, the Transportation secretary, announced those and several other measures on Thursday, aimed at curbing what he called a deadly epidemic of distracted driving.

He made his announcement at a conference in Washington that included 300 academics, law enforcement officials, legislators, telecommunications and automobile industry representatives, as well as families of people killed by motorists who were talking on cell phones or text messaging.

Senate Panel Easing Penalties for Those Without Insurance

By Robert Pear and Jackie Calmes
THE NEW YORK TIMES

WASHINGTON

The Senate Finance Committee moved Thursday to soften the impact of financial penalties that would be imposed on people who did not obtain insurance under sweeping health care legislation.

Members of the committee said they would change the bill to exempt an estimated 2 million people who would face financial burdens in buying even the cheapest insurance available. Lawmakers said they would delay and reduce the penalties for others.

The action came after lawmakers heard an impassioned plea from Sen. Olympia J. Snowe, R-Maine, who denounced the idea of punishing people who could not afford the insurance they would be required to buy under the legislation. It was the latest indication of the influence that Snowe holds over Democrats as the only member of her party in Congress who has shown any inclination to support President Barack Obama’s drive to overhaul the health care system.

“The obligation should be first and foremost on the United States government to ensure that these plans will be affordable in the marketplace,” Snowe said. “It surprises me that we would have these high-level penalties on the average American when we have no certainty about whether or not these plans will be affordable. I just don’t understand why there’s this impetus to punish people.”

Another Shoe Flies, This Time in Istanbul at Imf Director

By Sebnem Arsu
THE NEW YORK TIMES

ISTANBUL

A protester threw a shoe at the director of the International Monetary Fund at the end of his speech at a university on Thursday in the prelude to IMF and World Bank meetings in Istanbul.

The protester, Selcuk Ozbek, a student at Anadolu University, shouted, “Get out of the university, IMF thief!” threw a white sneaker and ran toward the podium where the managing director, Dominique Strauss-Kahn, stood. But televised images showed Ozbek being quickly tackled by security guards.

A female student then tried to unfurl a banner but was surrounded by security officials, allowing Strauss-Kahn to calmly answer a last question before leaving the hall.

Strauss-Kahn played down the episode. “I was glad to meet students and hear their views,” he said in a written statement released afterward. “This is what the IMF needs to do, even if not everyone agrees with us. One thing I learned: Turkish students are polite. They waited until the end to complain.”

He filed no official complaint, and Ozbek was freed by the police later in the evening.

“I think this is how global capital should be welcomed wherever it goes,” Ozbek told NTV on a live broadcast. “The anti-imperialist youth of any country responsible for their future should act this way.”

Ozbek said his shoe was returned to him after his protest.

Top Commander Rejects Scaling Down Afghan Military Aims

By John F. Burns
THE NEW YORK TIMES

LONDON

The top U.S. commander in Afghanistan, Gen. Stanley A. McChrystal, used a speech here on Thursday to reject calls for the war effort to be scaled down from defeating the Taliban insurgency to a narrower focus on hunting down al-Qaida, an option suggested by Vice President Joe Biden as part of the current White House strategy review.

After his first 100 days in command in Kabul, McChrystal chose an audience of military specialists at London’s Institute for Strategic Studies as a platform for a public airing of the confidential assessment of the war he delivered to the Pentagon last month, parts of which were leaked to news organizations.

McChrystal, 55, did not mention Biden or his advocacy of a scaled-down war effort during his London speech, and referred only obliquely to the debate within the Obama administration on whether to escalate the U.S. commitment in Afghanistan by accepting his request for up to 40,000 more U.S. troops on top of the 68,000 already deployed there or en route.

But he used the London session for a frank rebuttal of the idea of a more narrowly focused war. When a questioner asked him whether he would support scaling back the U.S. military presence over the next 18 months by relinquishing the battle with the Taliban and focusing on tracking down al-Qaida, sparing ground troops by hunting Qaida extremists and their leaders with missiles from unmanned drones, he replied: “The short answer is: no.”

“You have to navigate from where you are, not from where you wish to be,” he said. “A strategy that does not leave Afghanistan in a stable position is probably a short-sighted strategy.”

OPINION



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Corrections

An article printed on Friday, September 25 incorrectly reported the number of pistol team members: The team has 34 members, including 12 new recruits and 22 returning members, not 22 members total.

A Tuesday, September 29 article on library renovations failed to disclose that Peter H. Rigano '10 is a staff member of *The Tech's* photography department.

Letters To The Editor

Energy Studies Minor Addresses Sustainability

The article “Proposed Minor Asks: How Does Technology Alter the Environment?” (September 29, 2009 of *The Tech*) leaves readers with the impression that the new undergraduate Energy Studies Minor emphasizes traditional forms of energy supply and treats renewable energy, energy efficiency, and environmental impact as marginal concerns. This portrayal is not accurate.

In fact, the groundbreaking Energy Studies Minor, launched this month after two years of collaboration across the Institute, is designed to address environmental and sustainability concerns as they relate to energy. Required core classes and the wide array of approved electives for the minor directly address, for example, energy-related climate change, pollution, and associated poverty issues. They also include subjects on energy efficiency and sustainable sources of energy. In a recent review of energy education at universities across the United States, MIT's Energy Studies Minor stands out as the most robust program for integrating the domains of science, social science, and engineering in the service of multidisciplinary energy education. Required subjects in these domains are designed to provide students with the capacity to assess energy supply, distribution, storage and demand in the context of societal, environmental, economic, and infrastructure complexity.

All energy issues raise environmental concerns, but not all environmental issues are energy-related. The Energy Studies Minor, in its structure, breadth and scope, clearly recognizes this distinction.

Vladimir Bulovic, EECS
Donald Lessard, Management
Co-chairs, MIT Energy Education Task Force

MIT Should Engage Union

A crisis can pull people together or it can pull them apart. MIT's current financial crisis is no exception.

Whether this crisis will unite or divide us depends on whether we view ourselves — and choose to act — primarily as a corporation or as a community. MIT's need to invest gainfully does not determine this question: we can all agree that MIT's overriding mission is to produce world-class scholars and research, that it has done this well over many decades, and that to continue to do so it must have sufficient funds.

A corporation, however, subordinates everything to profit maximization. Faced with shrinking income, a corporation will cut costs without consensus and often at the expense of those who make the corporation function.

An educational community safeguards not only its mission but its members, recognizing their diverse and crucial contributions to that mission. It brings together all its members' ideas, deciding together how best to apportion resources and equalize sacrifices.

Local 615 members — i.e. MIT's 550 property service workers, including custodians, electricians, carpenters, plumbers, housekeepers, groundskeepers, power plant operating engineers, and many more — believe that MIT is a community. For years, we have worked alongside you — students, faculty, and staff. And, like all of you, we are proud of this institution and believe in its goals.

Yet while the task force has been formed to determine “joint sacrifice,” we have not been asked to join — but we have been asked to sacrifice. When meetings are held on the future of the “community,” we are not invited. When we try to raise our concerns — as other

have — we are caricatured as a self-seeking “special interest group” and our views belittled as somehow illegitimate. Still, our labor maintains this university so that all of us together can accomplish its mission. As we can honestly say, MIT works because we do. But is MIT saying that everyone is part of this community — except us?

Yes, we are an interest group. Unions are just one of many interest groups on campus. Just as we take pride in this university's success, we are proud of the success of our members, who work hard with little recognition or status. We are proud that unions won the eight-hour day, helped end child labor, and helped create the U.S. middle class — thus allowing children to attend school and families the financial stability to send them to college.

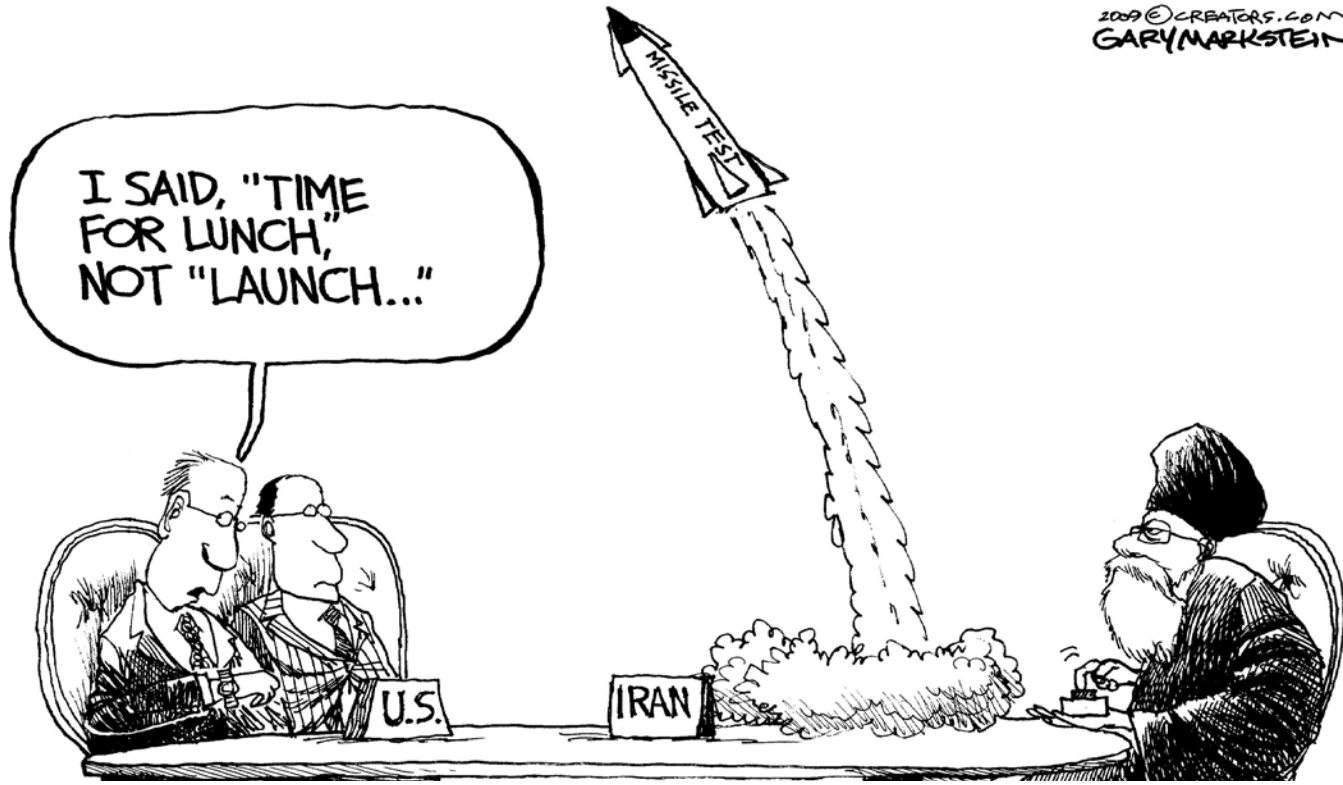
Like many, we believe that risky financial investments are not best for MIT in the long run. The boom-and-bust reality of the market fits badly with our educational mission, which requires steady and reliable growth.

Thus we come back to the key question: Will we face this crisis as an open, educational community or as a corporation? If the former, then we all have a right to sit at the table. No educational or other cuts should be made until we all have received an equal hearing. If sacrifices will be needed to preserve MIT's mission, they must be made in a way that will minimize human suffering and must be equitably shared.

We urge MIT to act as the educational community we know it is. As a unified community with a common purpose, we will emerge far stronger than any corporation can in facing our common challenges — now and throughout the twenty-first century.

Submitted on behalf on the members of
Service Employees International Union
(SEIU) Local 615 at MIT.

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GARY MARKSTEIN



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The Tech (ISSN 0148-9607) is published on Tuesdays and Fridays during the academic year (except during MIT vacations), Wednesdays during January, and monthly during the summer by The Tech, Room W20-483, 84 Massachusetts Avenue, Cambridge, Mass. 02139. Subscriptions are \$50.00 per year (third class). **POSTMASTER:** Please send all address changes to our mailing address: The Tech, P.O. Box 397029, Cambridge, Mass. 02139-7029. **TELEPHONE:** Editorial: (617) 253-1541. Business: (617) 258-8324. Facsimile: (617) 258-8226. *Advertising, subscription, and typesetting rates available.* Entire contents © 2009 *The Tech*. Printed on recycled paper by Mass Web Printing Company.

UA Update

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| <p>The last chance to vote in Senate and Class Council elections is today! Paper ballots are available today in Lobby 10 from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. The results of the elections will be posted tomorrow. If you have any questions, please contact ua-elect@mit.edu.</p> <p>The introductory Senate meeting this year will be on Monday, October 5 at 7:30 p.m. in W20-400. All Senate meetings are open to the public. The meeting will begin with a discussion with Dean for Student Life Chris Colombo, Dean for Undergraduate Education Daniel E. Hastings '78, and Vice Chancellor and Dean for Graduate Education Steven R. Lerman '72 about the Institute-wide Planning Task Force recommendations. After the discussion, the Senate will hold its special budgetary session to discuss the UA's budget for the fall term. Students are especially encouraged to attend the discussion with the Deans, even if they cannot stay for the remainder of the meeting.</p> <p>Undergraduates are encouraged to provide feedback about Institute-wide Planning Task Force recommendations through http://ua.mit.edu/taskforce/. These pages highlight and detail the twenty-two recommendations which could have particularly large effects on undergraduates.</p> <p>Every ten years, the New England Association of Schools and Colleges comes to MIT to perform an accreditation evaluation. One component of this process is a student-only session, and interested students should provide their perspectives to the evaluation team on Monday, October 5 from 5:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. in 32-141. No MIT faculty or staff will be present at this session, and students may come and go as they please. More information about MIT's accreditation can be found at http://web.mit.edu/accreditation/.</p> <p>UA Exec meetings will be held every Wednesday this term from 7:00 to 8:00 pm in W20-401.</p> <p>At this time, the UA's goals for the upcoming year are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Publish a formal response to recommendations proposed by the Institute-wide Planning Task Force based on undergraduate students' feedbackGather student opinion and provide feedback to the Student Life Visiting CommitteePresent motion to the faculty to make the September student holiday coincide with the Career FairObtain and provide clear information regarding the allocation of the Student Life FeeImprove communication with students, alumni, faculty, and the CorporationWork with the New England Association of Schools and Colleges throughout the accreditation processPublish a report on the current state of athletics at MITHold a series of "Community Conversation" meetings between students and administrators in a casual settingHold office hours to encourage communication between the UA and undergraduates at largePromote MIT athletic spirit through "Superfan" eventsWork with the Department of Student Life on the future of the dining system implementation based on the Blue Ribbon Dining Committee and UA Dining Proposal Committee reportsImprove the process to report academic violations by creating an automated systemGather student input about HASS curriculum changes and assist in their implementationWork on improving the freshman academic packet by helping to set up and guide focus groupsPublish a report on the state of academic advising with recommendationsPublish a report analyzing the effects of increased enrollment on aspects of undergraduate life at MITCreating historical summaries to streamline minutes and legislation for easier browsingArchiving UA documents electronicallyMake sure new television service over the network reflects student interestsWork with new leadership at IS&T so they understand student technology needs, including telephone and email servicesImprove network infrastructure in dorms and FSILGsMake information about Institute Committees more readily availableFormalize a recruiting process for Nominations CommitteeAssess mid-year Institute and Presidential Committee needs and assist chairs with filling vacancies in student representationPublicize the work of Institute and Presidential CommitteesCoordinate student-faculty dinnersReview the Financial Policy Review Committee's report on UA's finances and implement a set of best practices and guidelines for spendingConstitutional Revisions: review the Constitutional Committee's report on UA governing documents and implement necessary changesWork with facilities to improve bike facilities on campusWork with CAC to improve use of W20 student space such as the Coffeehouse and the old game roomEvaluate the need for power cords on the 5th floor of the Student Center and, if necessary, implement a solutionGet a TV outside of the Student Center displaying Saferide statusesImprove public awareness of recycling facilities on campusExpand plastic bag recycling on campusExpand the availability of reusable grocery bags in dorms <p>—Elizabeth A. Denys, UA Secretary General</p> | |
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Missing from the Institute-Wide Planning Task Force Report: Cuts to the Administration

Alvar Saenz-Otero

On Sept. 21, I attended the second forum for the Planning Task Force. While I am not against everything in the Task Force Report, it is appalling that the report has sections on cutting down the very nature and purpose of the Institute — academics and research — without any clear and specific attempt at cutting down the costs of having a workforce larger than the student body. At the forum, I mentioned that the Task Force report did not include a section specifically reducing the administration and its overhead. However, it does have a section on reducing academic costs and another section on reducing research costs. In the research section, it even goes so far as to suggest cutting the graduate student population (in other words, the main researchers) by up to 1,000 students. I received no answer to my comments from any Task Force member or any other administrator at the Forum; only repeated information or attempts to “correct” my statement.

First, I'd like to remind everyone of MIT's mission:

The mission of MIT is to advance knowledge and educate students in science, technology, and other areas of scholarship that will best serve the nation and the world in the 21st century.

I have no doubt that the Task Force Report concentrates on how to deal with revenue issues mostly by changing things that directly affect MIT's mission, instead of trying to cut costs on things that do not directly affect our goals.

According to numbers from the Provost's Office of Institutional Research (IR), in 2009 MIT has 1009 faculty, 4051 “other academic” staff, 1722 research staff, 113 medical personnel, 2096 administrative personnel, 1657 support staff, and 864 service staff. Of those, 3095 are Lincoln Laboratory staff (LL 2008 Annual Report), but it's not clear how they're distributed. For “other academic staff” I learned from the IR Office that the number “includes adjunct faculty, professors of the practice, senior researchers, instructors, lecturers, visitors, faculty and research affiliates, coaches, post-doctoral appointments, etc. A large number of these folks are not paid by MIT.”

Therefore, I can say, based on IR numbers, that MIT has over 2000 administrators, over 2400 “support & service,” a lot of people not paid by MIT, and less than 1750 researchers! These numbers simply do not seem efficient: there are about 4400 support, service and administrative staff for 10,000 students and 2750 faculty and researchers. The inefficiency is especially high considering MIT is primarily a research and teaching institution.

The second comment to my remarks came from a member of the faculty, who mentioned

that the graduate student population has grown from about 4,000 to 6,000 in the past 20 years. No question there. However, questions remain. How much has the administration grown in the past 20 years? (According to the IR Office, total staff grew from 8,398 to 11,512 between 2000 and 2009 and administrative staff from 1,427 to 2,096: That's 25 percent administrative growth.) How much has the increased graduate population added in terms of new research funds? How much has the added research contributed to MIT, to Cambridge, to the United States, and to the world? This last one is very hard to calculate, but the fact that MIT has added multiple research centers, without losing the majority of the research groups that formed the basis of the Institute 20 years ago, show that MIT had to increase its research workforce to achieve its objectives.

I have a very hard time looking at any one at MIT and telling them that their work is less important than mine or anyone else's. I think everyone does — nobody wants to “rank” whose job is more important. But, in that case, can the administration then rank which research is more important, so that we can stop doing the less important research? Is that fair? Why can't the administration tell staff their job is less important, but it can tell students and faculty their research is less important? That is completely against of the spirit and purpose of MIT.

I do “rank” who is most important at MIT:

students. The last thing you want to do is reduce the student population in any way. MIT should be trying to grow, because its growth is a benefit to the United States and the world. I strongly believe that any person at MIT who thinks their job is more important than academics and research should not be at MIT. If you took a job at MIT, be you faculty, research staff, support staff, or as part of a union, you must have a strong desire to contribute to the academic and research aspects of the Institute. Every single staff member must be willing to sacrifice something for that. I know I do, and therefore I expect others to. I am willing to let go of benefits, in the name of teaching and research (I already pay plenty of expenses out of my own pocket). Others should too — especially the administration and its management team.

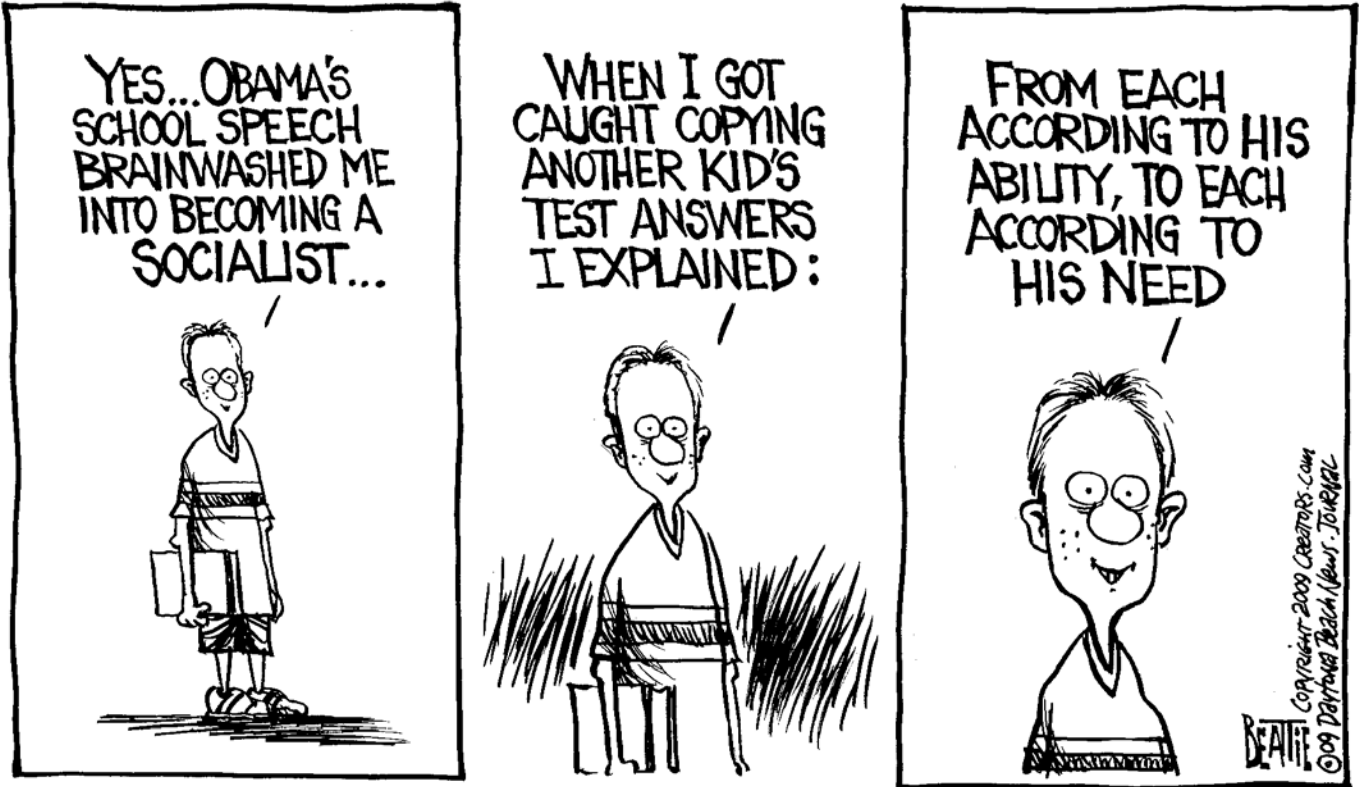
Based on the Task Force report, MIT students will let go of many things. I see a future with no more than a handful of Athena “clusters.” I see a future where there will be fewer choices in dining and the need to pay for summer classes if students want to do more during the regular term. But the administration has to also see itself paying something, which the current plan does not demonstrate. The administration has to be willing to have fewer offices, fewer committees, and less of a need to refurbish administrative buildings. They should have major plans to consolidate different offices, hardly any of which made it

to the report. They should stop spreading and constantly moving offices throughout the Institute. If the administration expects students and research staff to let go of academics and researchers, the administration has to let go of administrators first.

I have had a long history with MIT. I am an alum, class of '98, MEng '00, PhD '05. I was manager of Pritchett Grill, working closely with dining staff for three years. I was in East Campus dorm government. I was in LSC Execomm and a Tech Model Railroad Club officer. More importantly, I have worked closely with the administration as ASA President and GSC Treasurer. I was in the Presidential Search Committee that recommended President Hockfield. I was awarded Stuart and Compton prizes (as a student), as well as an Infinite Mile Award (as a staff member). When I heard about the Task Force, I e-mailed the Chancellor asking to be part of the group, since I had previously worked with him. I never heard back.

I love MIT and I know all of its sides, be it student, alum, staff or administration. I have the background to feel confident in saying that the Task Force made a very big omission in its report, and that it must be fixed. We're all waiting for a real answer from the Task Force and the opportunity to help.

Alvar Saenz-Otero is a member of the Class of 1998 and a research scientist in the MIT Space Systems Laboratory.



Public Education Reforms: What America Needs to Do

Ryan Normandin

Summer vacation. Lectures. Math, Science, English, and History as discrete subjects. All things of the past. Today, more and more schools are shifting into the realm of project-based learning, interdisciplinary instruction, and, to the sound of millions of children wailing, longer school days and years. Let's look at the facts: According to the OECD's (Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development) Program for International Student Assessment in 2003, American "15 year olds ranked 24th of 38 in mathematics, 19th of 38 in science, 12th of 38 in reading, and 26th of 38 in problem solving. In the 2006 assessment, the U.S. ranked 35th out of 57 in mathematics and 29th out of 57 in science."

These are not impressive statistics, as the U.S. falls into the bottom 50th percentile in all but one category. In addition, the U.S. has a lower high school graduation rate than most developed countries.

How do we change this? Notice that I said "we." As members of society, it is our obligation to ensure that each child is given the best possible education that the government is capable of providing. Equality of opportunity is imperative to the success of a capitalist society like the United States. Certain reforms are necessary if America is once again to become a leader in education. And becoming a leader in education should be a top priority to America's leaders. A poorly educated society leads to a poorly elected government which produces poorly thought-out laws. A lack of education means a lack of research in science, which inhibits improvements in everything from national security to medicine.

Without teaching students innovative ways of thinking or encouraging creativity, how is our generation to overcome the great obstacles of our time? Global warming, energy production, and a growing population are all issues that will even-

tually demand creative and moral solutions.

To cover all of public education would take far more than my allotted words; therefore, I will focus on high school, a critical time for success in a student's life. Many adults recall that in high school, they sat in a class and took notes while the teacher talked at them. They then read the textbook, took the tests, and called it a day. Research has shown that this is a highly inefficient method of teaching.

Over the summer, I attended a three-day workshop on 21st century teaching practices. One of the participants commented that some of the material was the same as that covered in a PhD course on education. The workshop presented studies showing that lectures give a 5 percent retention rate of information, while reading gives 10 percent on average. On the other hand, group discussions offer 50 percent, practice by doing 75 percent, and teaching others 90 percent. Thus, I argue that movement away from the lecture model is the best path for America.

We have already traveled some of this distance. Obviously, instruction styles from teacher to teacher vary, but on average, at least in my experience, there is far less lecture and much more participatory learning than a generation ago. Yet there are those that remain stubborn, stuck in the old ineffective ways of yesterday. This is why it is so important that teachers are held accountable for their students' performance.

This brings up one of the most important points I have: teachers cannot be permitted to lower standards and cutoffs to inflate the number of passing students in a class. Debasement of standards is one of the greatest threats to American students. Far too often, when test scores are low, teachers drop the test. If someone is failing, they are allowed "extra credit" to boost their grades.

The only thing students learn from this technique is that anytime an obstacle arises, society will kindly remove it for them. This is wrong! The only way for people to grow is to learn from

their mistakes. Teachers who don't allow students to fail are not allowing those students to grow. The importance of holding students accountable for their own performance is only rivaled by the importance of holding teachers accountable for theirs.

In a similar manner, state standardized tests must be abolished in favor of national standardized tests. When students scoring in the top 5 percent of one state's test fall in the bottom 50 percent of another, something is clearly wrong.

Curriculums in high schools today are the source of a perpetual battle. Why is math given more emphasis than history? If reading is required, then why isn't an arts class? Or a foreign language? The issue here is that different subjects are important to different people. While I would bemoan a class on Shakespeare that others would love, I would rejoice in a theoretical mathematics course that others would despise. Currently, there is no perfect curriculum that fits every student, but I believe there can be. The solution is the magnet school.

Today, most students move from a middle or junior high school to a high school or vocational school, where they struggle through classes they don't want to take and will never use. At the same time, they may find a class they are interested in, but are unable to explore the topic further due to restrictions in scheduling, graduation requirements, or the school's inability to offer more advanced courses. It is my belief that magnet schools would correct this problem.

Instead of each town funding its own high school, towns and cities in regions created by the state to minimize costs would together fund regional magnet schools. When a student reaches the end of 8th grade, they would be able to choose, with the help of teachers, parents, and guidance counselors, which school would be best for furthering their education. For example, a student would be able to choose between a school of math and science, a school of arts, a school of vocations, or even a general school

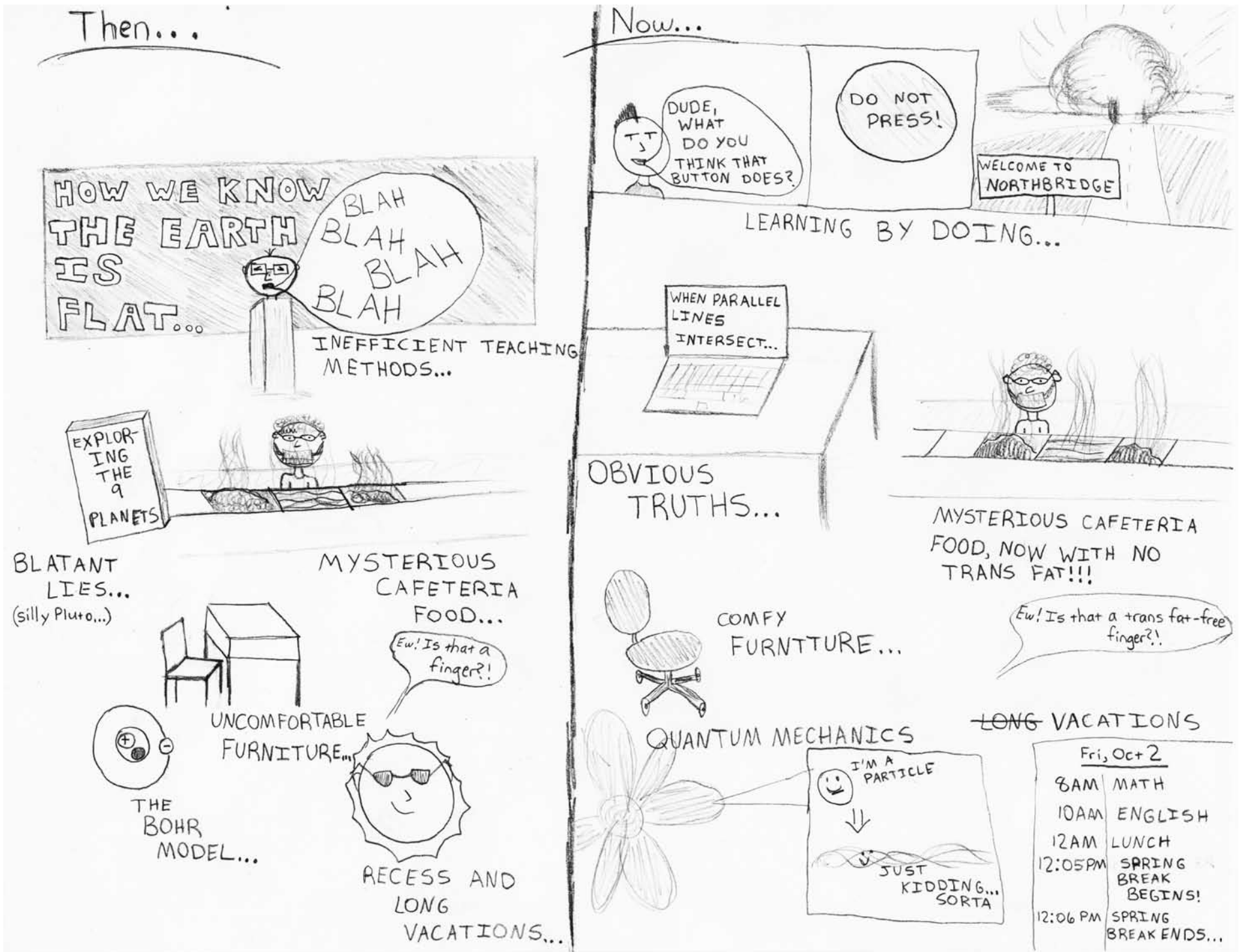
similar to today's high school if they remain uncertain about where their strengths lie. Each magnet school would still educate its pupils in all of the major subjects, but an emphasis would be given to the "theme," with an effort being made to relate any required subjects to that theme.

The magnet school system resolves many of the problems facing our current education system. It clarifies the important sections of different curriculums, gives students more choice in the classes they take, and would likely result in lower dropout rates because every class could be tailored to the students who wanted to be in it.

The changes our schools require will be politically difficult, financially costly, and often tumultuous. Yet in the long-run, it will return America to the right track. President Obama has recently suggested moving to a year-round school year and increasing the length of the school day, which is a step in the right direction. Such a change must be done carefully, as businesses that prosper during the summer months would suffer, but if the government can pull it off, so many would benefit. Even ignoring the educational gains, year-round school would provide a source of constancy to all students, which is especially important for those without a stable home environment.

Already though, there are signs of positive changes. Because of the emphasis on involvement and service, students today are much more involved in their high schools and communities than they used to be, enabling them to learn about responsible citizenship and time management.

Free public education is the foundation of all the other American rights. Without an educated populace, life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness become just distant, fantastic concepts, never attainable by the average American. This is why the American government must do everything in its power to repair our education system. And since in a democracy we are the government, I suggest you stop reading this article and write to your representative. Now.



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NATIONAL CRIME
PREVENTION COUNCIL

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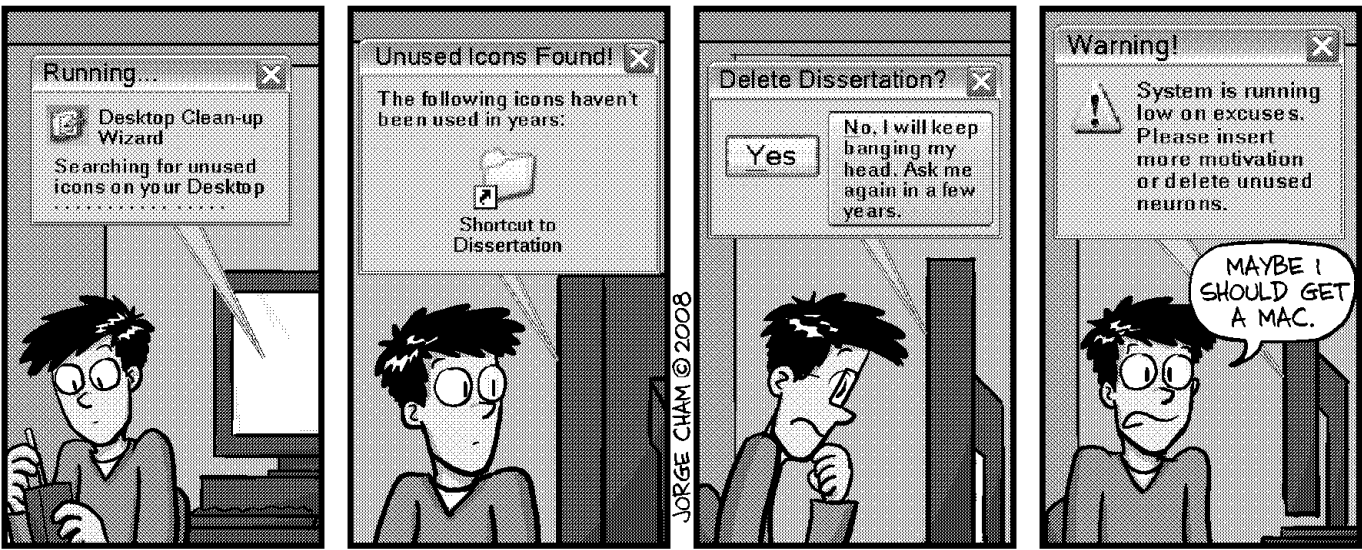
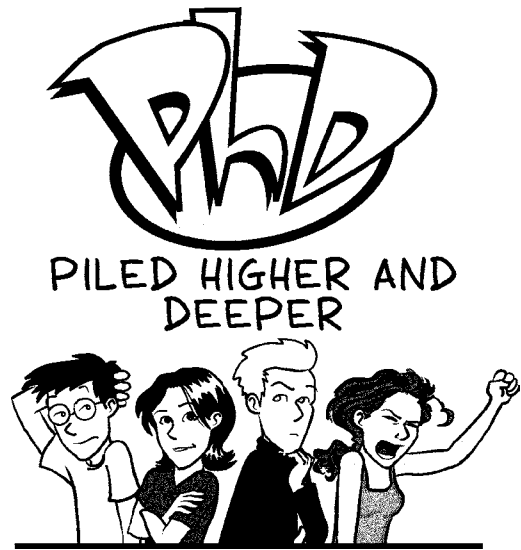
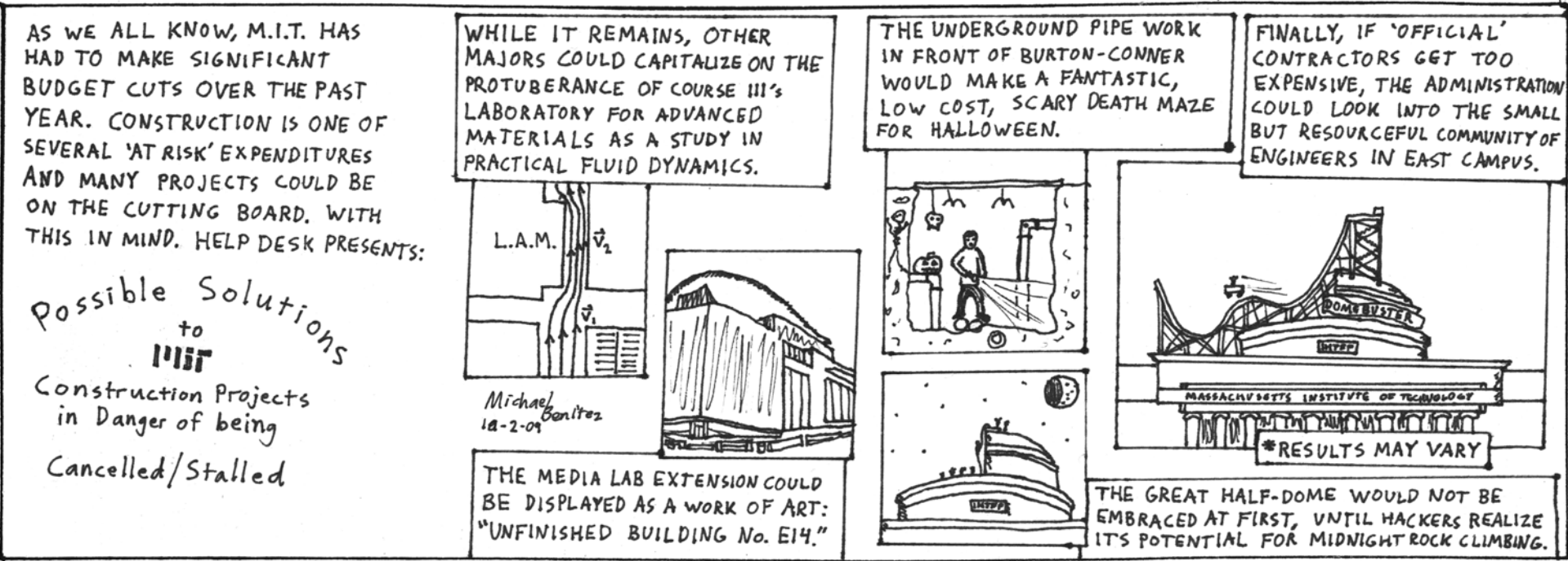
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by Michael Ciuffo



Help Desk

by Michael Benitez

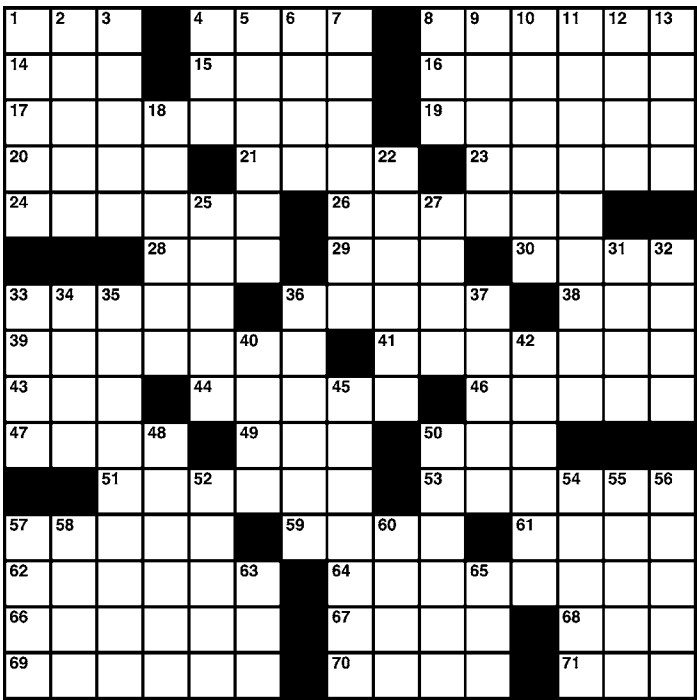


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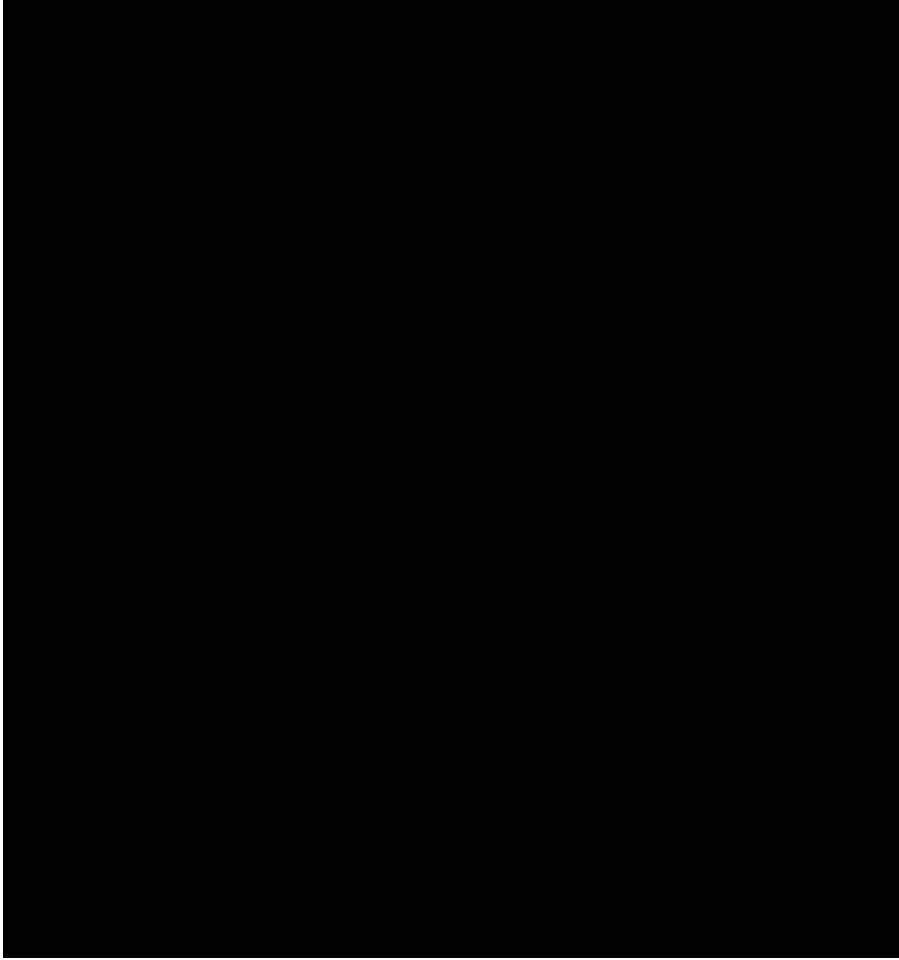
Solution, page 15

- Across**
- 1 Used a spade
 - 4 "Look what I did!"
 - 8 Accident
 - 14 Fertility lab eggs
 - 15 Baghdad's country
 - 16 Francia neighbor
 - 17 *Evil Asian doctor in Sax Rohmer novels
 - 19 Contaminates
 - 20 Blow, as one's lines
 - 21 "There oughta be _"
 - 23 South American mountain chain
 - 24 Second largest planet
 - 26 Scalawag
 - 28 Seek damages
 - 29 Category
 - 30 Polish Nobel
 - 33 Workout aftereffects
 - 36 "We'll always have _": Rick, to Ilsa,
- Down**
- 1 Tips in a gentlemanly manner
 - 2 Soft palate dangler
 - 3 Full range
 - 4 Main element in pewter
 - 5 Mysterious
 - 6 Wonka's creator
 - 7 Sea-life displays
 - 8 Queens ballplayer
 - 9 Violinist Stern
 - 10 _ cord: chiropractor's concern
 - 11 *Scooter feature
 - 12 Pot starter
 - 13 Student's permission slip
 - 18 Maligning sort
 - 22 *Tusked mammal
 - 25 Deteriorates, as iron
 - 27 Hop along happily
 - 31 Programmer's output
 - 32 Emcee
 - 33 Served perfectly
 - 34 Indian spiced tea
 - 35 *Trotter's footwear item
 - 36 *Eyebrow cosmetic applicator
 - 37 Hard rain?
 - 40 Caf  lightener
 - 42 Dakota Native American
 - 45 Point in math class?
 - 48 Froggy chorus
 - 50 Foiled villain's shout
 - 52 First stage
 - 54 Pawns
 - 55 Cold sufferer's outburst
 - 56 Incessantly
 - 57 Setup punches
 - 58 Prefix with culture
 - 60 Bavaria-based automaker
 - 63 Musical syllable
 - 65 "The Closer" TV station



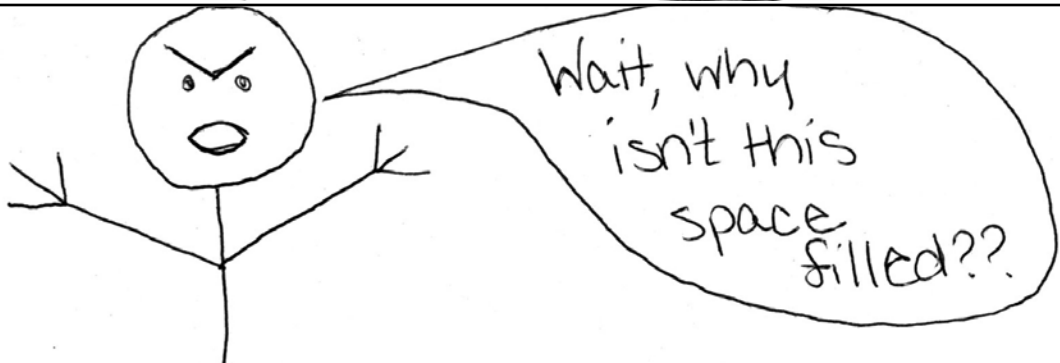
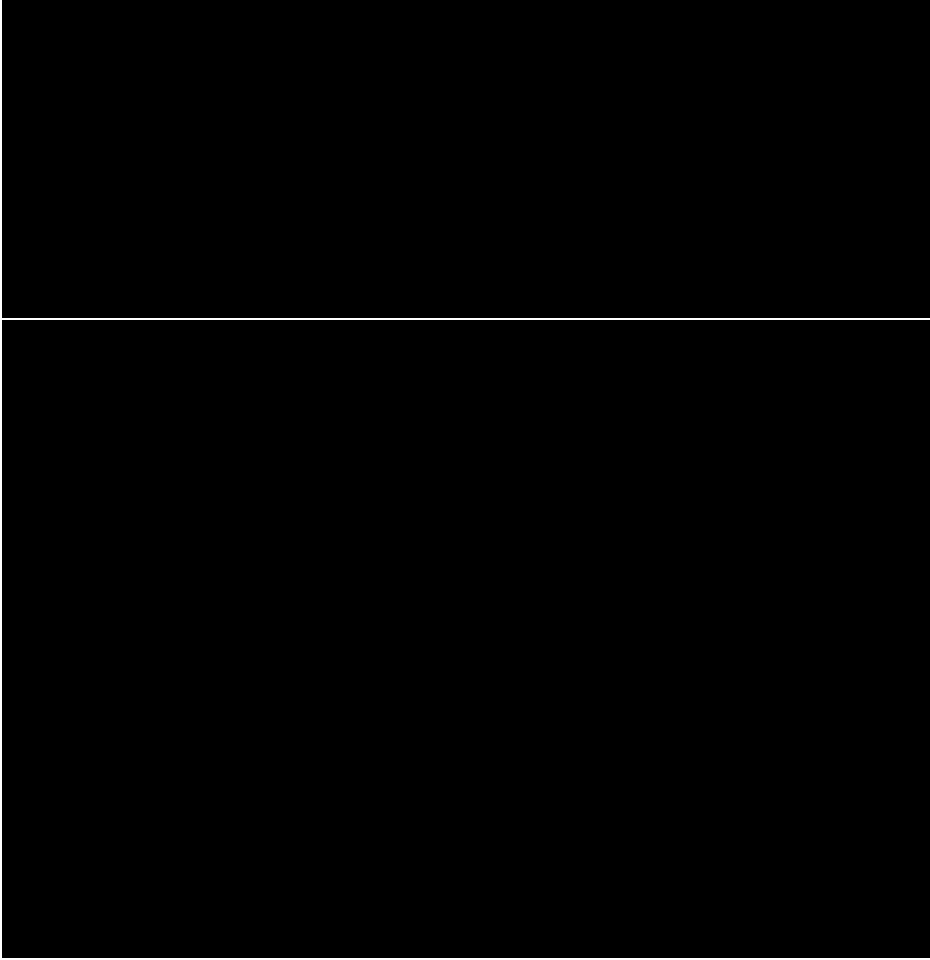
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BY GARRY TRUDEAU



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ARTS

CONCERT REVIEW

The Inevitable String Tribute...

...And How Trey Avoided It

By S. Balaji Mani
ARTS EDITOR

Trey Anastasio with the New York Philharmonic
Carnegie Hall, New York, NY
September 12, 2009

There are a lot of ways to change a song. Obsessive fans tend to covet rare gems like acoustic strip-downs, jazz renditions, or the occasional remix. For the real collector, though, there’s always another avenue: the string tribute. Often unadorned, and painfully obvious in its recapitulation of a melody, the string tribute does no more for a song than a fancy carrying case does for an iPod — you may think you’re stepping up in class, but you’re right where you began.

When Phish guitarist Trey Anastasio appeared at Carnegie Hall earlier in September, he could have churned out direct translations from the Phish song book. Instead, the orchestra, conducted by Ascher Fisch (no pun intended), took the opportunity to showcase the finer points of some of Anastasio’s more diverse compositions. The venue and the players gave insight into characteristics and emotions in the song that didn’t translate in the context of a live Phish show. As the opening bass line for “First Tube,” echoed through the hall, a smiling Anastasio walked out, wielding a guitar, to loud applause. The song, a typical jam vehicle on the Phish stage, was given a fanfare treatment with trumpets leaping through their own emphasized melodies. In between Anastasio’s solos, the orchestra created swells of tension, rising and falling to move through adjacent sections.

Anastasio’s unmistakable tone molded nicely into the grander sound of the full orchestra, and he knowingly pulled back to reveal the intricacies of the new arrangements. He switched to acoustic guitar for the contemplative number, “The Inlaw Josie Wales,” whose woodwind lines dominated and gave essential backing to the bouncy guitar rhythms. Never really acclaimed for his singing ability, though, Anastasio was much more naked in the later pieces “Brian and Robert” and “Water in the Sky.” The room captured his voice intimately, but also proved that he had to reach for particular notes at the edge of his range. “Pebbles and Marbles”

was given a surprisingly driving and fast-paced treatment, while “Guyute (Orchestral)” was carefully measured in each of its many sections.

The greatest achievement of the night came at the beginning of the second set with the New York Premiere of Anastasio’s latest piece with collaborator Don Hart, “Time Turns Elastic.” Anastasio had visited Nashville and Baltimore earlier to perform the near-thirty-minute epic. The song, which includes numerous lines of poetry that fit snugly into the rich orchestrations, are a sort of a document of a refreshed, sober Anastasio reflecting upon his past but looking to the future. As the song slowly sneaks to a introduction, Anastasio repeats, “In and out of focus/Time turns elastic.” The song went through so many movements, yet each was calculated to convey a different emotional peak. At times dark and brooding, the strings figuratively lift Anastasio’s guitar from low points to high points, as the vocal line seals the gaps left behind. The piece’s cathartic climax threw the crowd into a standing ovation, and Anastasio modestly accepted the praise.

As a treat for Phish fans, the orchestra helped deliver a new version of the classic tune “You Enjoy Myself.” While audience members roared and hollered throughout the opening measures (a first at Carnegie?) they were in for a surprise at the middle of the song. The fans geared up, ready to jump up and dance, as the orchestra headed for the well-known jam section. However, at the peak the orchestra degenerated into a jumbled mess of bent notes and horns. hilariously, the audience figured out that this was the orchestra’s new take on the song’s anthemic section, and the horns took over with intentionally sour notes as a replacement for the lyrics “Boy, man, god, shit.”

A beautiful encore of “If I Could” capped a wonderful night and a milestone for Anastasio as a composer and performer. These songs underwent a transformation and took on a new life, as the orchestra succeeded in re-interpreting the personality of each piece. As fans walked out, they were, of course, greeted by gangs of nitrous peddlers — probably also a first for Carnegie-goers. As some fans sucked on balloons and others just laughed at the relentlessness of the guys with tanks, the party outside confirmed to all bystanders that it was a great night at Carnegie Hall.



S. BALAJI MANI—THE TECH

EPIC PROPORTIONS—Trey Anastasio performs “Time Turns Elastic” with the New York Philharmonic. The multi-part work was co-written by Don Hart.

MOVIE REVIEW

Unplugged in ‘Surrogates’

Humanity Is Saved by the Real Bruce Willis

By Sun Kim
STAFF WRITER

Surrogates
Directed by Jonathan Mostow
Written by John Brancato, Michael Ferris,
Robert Venditti, and Brett Weldele
Starring Bruce Willis and James Cromwell
PG-13
Now Playing

Imagine a sci-fi thriller that is original, witty, and well directed. Imagine watching a sci-fi thriller without fear of cheesy dialogue, pointless chases, and imminent apocalyptic doom. Now imagine the opposite, and that sums up *Surrogates*, a whodunit graphic novel adaptation starring Bruce Willis and directed by Jonathan Mostow (*U-571*, *Terminator 3: Rise of the Machines*).

In the movie people use surrogate robots, actual avatars that interact with the world around them, from the comfort of their own homes. Nothing bad can ever happen to the human operator; crime falls drastically, and the world is a safer place.

There is, however, an anti-surrogate movement with pockets of resistance throughout the world, led by a prophet in dreadlocks who preaches unplugging from machines and living as humans. Dreads, as his followers are called, live in anarchic communes where everyone is happy, healthy, and most importantly, organic.

Willis plays FBI Agent Greer, who is investigating a bizarre murder — the destruction of the surrogate led to the death of its operator, a seemingly impossible consequence. Along the way, we find out that Greer lost a child in an accident, the inventor of surrogate robots was fired from his company by the Board of

Directors, and the Army developed a magical superweapon that can kill the surrogate robot as well as whoever is controlling it, leaving the operator in a pool of liquefied brain.

The movie is tied together disjointedly with cliché plot devices and forced humor. Eventually, the viewers find out that the good guys are actually the bad guys, and vice-versa. Willis takes the moral high ground as he saves the world yet again...Yippee-ki-yay.

Surrogates is the same old sci-fi, futuristic movie that delves into the question of letting technology take over our lives and how to correct that addiction. Of course there are obligatory action sequences involving CGI and attractive faces and hot bodies to make the men in the audience happy.

I do have to give the movie some credit where it’s due. It was filmed in various towns around Boston, and a shot of the Memorial Bridge overlooking TD Banknorth Garden (maybe this is stock footage) filled the theater with cheers. The idea of unplugging ourselves from machines is surprisingly relevant, with so many ways for people to connect with technology. The movie is basically a real version Second Life with models strutting up and down Boston streets. There are even ways to do drugs as a robot (a process involving a flask of electricity and shocking yourself).

It’s important to step away from a machine that allows individuals to interact with someone without actually being physically present. Perhaps I’ll take advantage of the last warm days to ride my bike instead of watching YouTube videos, play football instead of watching it on ESPN360, and listen to street performers in the Commons instead of playing Rock Band as my hip John Lennon-esque avatar.



S. BALAJI MANI—THE TECH

FISCH ON PHISH—Conductor Ascher Fisch checks in with Anastasio during “Water In The Sky.”

CONCERT REVIEW

Jamal: Master of Musical

Space

Legendary Pianist Makes Appearance at Regattabar

By Samuel Markson
ASSOCIATE ARTS EDITOR

Ahmad Jamal
Regattabar, Cambridge, MA
September 17, 2009

It’s hard to put a finger on Ahmad Jamal’s music. It speaks slowly, suggestively, and delicately. He’s seen his fair share of music, and his style fits into the spectrum between breezy carelessness and angsty desperation. Perhaps its greatest quality is its use of space. Few other artists out there can tap out of melody with as much natural, composed structure as Jamal can without it sounding inevitable and rigid. Jamal’s playing is unfettered but rational, well-balanced, and smooth. Above all, it feels good.

I got to see him at the Regattabar Jazz Club on a Thursday night, performing with regular trio-mates James Cammack on bass and Idris Muhammad on drums, with semi-regular guest percussionist Manolo Badrena (of Weather Report fame).

Jamal was in top form, commanding the group decisively, often vocally. Unlike a lot of

groups out on the scene today, Jamal demands a little order in the playing. The members don’t play as equals; Ahmad Jamal controls the emotional core of the music most of the time.

That’s not to say the rest of the group is just there for his sake. Rather, each musician stays a little closer to their “zone” — bass sticks to its walking, percussion to its time-keeping — and tries to work within that frame. The result has a little more moderation, and a little less cacophony. Still, the communication is there. It was particularly palpable between Badrena and Jamal, who afforded themselves the most rhythmic flexibility and the most playfulness: calling and responding within the space of an articulation.

The music is a hybrid of Caribbean and Middle Eastern, a fusion of Monkian playfulness and Zawinul-style groove. For some people in the audience, it’s music to move to. For others, it’s music for slowing down. It doesn’t project itself outward — it draws you inward. It feels good, reminds you of what art is, and lends perspective.

After seventy-some years of playing, that, above all else, is what Ahmad Jamal has.



COURTESY DISNEY FILMS

MOVIE REVIEW

Coco, Coco, Where Is Chanel?

Audrey Tautou Portrays the Fashion Queen

By Maggie Liu

ASSOCIATE ARTS EDITOR

Coco Before Chanel

Written and Directed by Anne Fontaine

Starring Audrey Tautou and Benoit Poelvoorde

PG-13

Now playing in selected theaters

The mere title of *Coco Before Chanel* may intimidate moviegoers with no interest in fashion. But even the least fashion-aware recognize the name as the face of haute couture. Perhaps these moviegoers will be happier to know that *Coco Before Chanel* is an almost biographical portrayal of Gabriel Chanel ('Coco' was her pet name), played by the adorable French actress Audrey Tautou, before Chanel became the legendary fashion icon and businesswoman.

Tautou embodies the qualities all I envisioned in Chanel while also bringing a further dimension to the designer. Tatou is effective at not only portraying Chanel's effortless (and quite revolutionary) casual chicness but also Chanel's transformation from a poor orphaned singer at a seedy saloon to the mistress of French playboy extraordinaire Étienne Balsan to the lover of English businessman Arthur Capel. While Balsan is Chanel's ticket into high-society, Capel is the one who rouses her out of her jaded disbelief in love.

The film makes no attempt to make young Chanel a likable and soft person. How could

they? A young woman with no status and no money could only propel herself forward by relying on her own abilities and occasionally, pride. Tautou's depiction of Chanel is a prickly ambitious young woman who confidently sets her mind upon what she finds right. Outspoken, unwilling to back down, and with a firm set of opinions unhindered by anyone and their beliefs, Chanel plows through life with the mental strength of a Ford.

The contrast between a character with such a steely personality and such a fragile countenance is a bit unsettling. However, Tautou is able to break her trademark elfish cuteness. With her glittering dark eyes, she's able to combine both sensuality and innocence in her attitude. In the scene of Chanel and Capel's first meeting, Tautou floats into the room in oversized men's pajamas, her beast of hair streaming about her like a raven halo. Although far from her later neat structured jacket and pencil skirt combination, Capel voiced it best: "You are so elegant."

Moving on to the cinematography of the film, much of it was akin to that in Sophia Coppola's *Marie Antoinette*. The finery and frills of the dresses the aristocratic women wore to the horse races, the antique-filled library rooms of

Balsan's estate, and even the elaborate décor of the tea table provided a cohesive imagery of opulence and the slacker lifestyle of the French in the late nineteenth century. This lifestyle was the foil to Chanel's own simplicity and disdain for the decadence favored at the time. She found the limitations of both fashion and society restricting. The women of her days, both aristocratic and commonfolk, were discouraged from working and having ambitions of their own. The aristocratic women partook in affairs such as horse races just so they could display all their family heirlooms. Otherwise, they just lounged about, squandering time in senseless debauchery.

While Chanel's stay with Balsan as his live-in mistress unveiled the true life of French socialites, she ultimately found herself bored and stifled by the triviality and vapidness of Balsan's lifestyle. It was in Capel that she found both her freedom and herself. Although their love story is something difficult to convey properly in words, the thoughts and decisions Capel pushed Chanel to were crucial to who she became. After Capel agrees to sponsor Chanel's hat store, he finds her business a success and exclaims, "I gave you freedom." Indeed, it was not only escape from her previous ennui but also the social dependence

women had to their family and their lovers.

Although Chanel's seamstress skills are noted in certain parts of the film (for instance, she had a fondness for making fashion-forward hats which led to her later boutique business in hats), the film glosses over her journey to establishing a fashion empire. The last ten minutes of the film flash forward her next twenty years, a montage of snapshots with Chanel snipping and cutting away, but our understanding of that passage of time is merely cursory.

While I enjoyed the film as a whole, without the name Chanel and, of course, Audrey Tautou as part of the main cast, *Coco Before Chanel* could have easily been a well-shot wry French film about the lives of the nineteenth century's socialites and a messy love triangle in the midst of everything. Granted, both the actors Benoit Poelvoorde (Balsan) and Alessandro Nivola (Capel) held their own against Tautou's exquisite performance, without Tautou and her portrayal of Chanel, the film would be a completely different affair.

I was still mildly frustrated that the film only gave the briefest nod to Chanel's climb and triumph in the fashion world, but I suppose that would be told in another story. As for *Coco Before Chanel*, it really is about Gabrielle Chanel's maturation and how the people and circumstances around her helped her become the great icon she was.

Tatou is able to break her trademark elfish cuteness.



COURTESY SONY PICTURES CLASSICS

"'BRIGHT STAR' IS A THING OF BEAUTY AND A JOY FOR A MOVIE SEASON THAT NEEDS IT."

TY BURR, *The Boston Globe*

★★★★★

San Francisco Chronicle

"EXHILARATING, AND DEEPLY PLEASURABLE."

JOE MORGENSTERN, *THE WALL STREET JOURNAL*

"ROMANTIC IN EVERY POSSIBLE SENSE OF THE WORD."

A.O. SCOTT, *The New York Times*

"'BRIGHT STAR' IS A THING OF BEAUTY."

CLAUDIA PUIG, *USA TODAY*

"A GORGEOUS, SENSUAL FILM."

CHRISTY LEMIRE, *AP Associated Press*

CONCERT REVIEW

Levine Tackles the Greats

Stravinsky, Mozart Expertly Performed by the BSO

By Joyce Kwan

STAFF WRITER

Boston Symphony Orchestra
Conducted by James Levine
Symphony Hall, Boston, MA
September 26, 2009

James Levine led the Boston Symphony Orchestra in a sold-out show of spiritual awakening last Saturday at Symphony Hall, presenting Stravinsky's *Symphony of Psalms* and Mozart's *Requiem in D minor*.

Stravinsky's *Symphony of Psalms* opened the concert, striking a brilliant E minor chord whose foreboding quality immediately gripped the audience's attention. The Tanglewood Festival Chorus sang strongly, with fortes on the verge of shrieking that brought out the piece's stark orchestration, which conspicuously lacks violins and violas.

I had one qualm, though. In the last movement, when the chorus fixates on a motif suggesting enlightened trance ("Laude eum in cymbalis..."), the mood could have been calmer, more fleeting had the performers dropped in dynamic range, relishing the fragility of the state.

Interestingly, the *Symphony of Psalms*, considered by some to be Stravinsky's greatest achievement, is rooted in the Boston area since it was commissioned by the BSO in 1930 to celebrate the orchestra's fiftieth anniversary. Its strange tonality hinted at what was yet to come: that

two centuries earlier, Mozart broke ground with the unique sounds of his *Requiem*.

The *Requiem* is steeped in lore regarding the circumstances in which it came into existence. Fact, however, has it that the piece was commissioned by a mysterious "gray messenger," whose odd visit, along with Mozart's declining health and depression, influenced Mozart to consider him an agent of Death. In reality, the "gray messenger" worked for Count Walsegg-Stuppach, who insisted on secrecy because he intended to pass off the *Requiem* as his own.

Several projects, which included completing *La clemenza di Tito* in a mere eighteen days, and his ill health obstructed Mozart's ability to focus on the *Requiem* during the last months of his life. He began to believe he was writing music for his own funeral, fearing he had somehow poisoned himself. In the end, Mozart died prematurely shortly before his thirty-sixth birthday, leaving the work unfinished. The job was left to Joseph Eybler and Franz Xaver Süssmayer, a pupil of Mozart, to finish, and it is apparent the two worked relentlessly to realize the master's conception.

The opening lines prompted quiet outbursts of acknowledgment from the audience in deference to Mozart's genius, to the masterpiece's ineffable beauty. Levine's *tempi* were decidedly brisk, underscor-

ing the piece's urgency. Though the strings struggled to keep up in "Dies Irae," by far the fastest rendition I've heard, it was as effective as any in arousing the fear of God's wrath.

Also, Levine favored richness and sonority, emphasized by his choice of soloists. The soloists; Grazia Doronzio (soprano), Anke Vondung (alto), Michael Schade (tenor), and Eric Owens (bass); collectively formed a hearty quartet that conveyed genuine human devotion: earnest, yet flawed. Schade and Owens, in particular, resonated such that their voices seemed to have endless depth. Doronzio phrased beautifully, but her velvet timbre was often overwhelmed by exaggerated vibrato. Vondung, who opted for subtlety, sensitively weaved between the other voices with her lush, patrician voice.

Again, though only once or twice during the performance, I yearned for more dynamic contrast in the chorus. Because of Levine's faster tempo, it would have been more effective had the female counterpart in "Confutatis," when it aspired to angelic heights, sang more delicately.

This epic concert, featuring two of the greatest works written for chorus and orchestra, is only the beginning of this year's BSO concert season. Soon, starting in late October, Levine will take on some of the most influential works in Western music history: all nine of Beethoven's symphonies.

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CHECK THEATRE DIRECTORIES OR CALL FOR SHOWTIMES

CONCERT REVIEW

Ryanhood Heats Up, Melts Chocolate Bar

Guitar-Driven Rock from Two Classy Musicians

By Michael Lin
STAFF WRITER
Ryanhood
The Chocolate Bar, Boston, MA
September 25, 2009

Ryanhood, formed by Arizona natives Ryan Green and Cameron Hood, gave a free concert last week in their second home of Boston to a small but excited crowd of fans and newcomers. Defined primarily by smooth vocals and slick guitar work, the duo performed a mixed repertoire of flashy jams and deep ballads that demonstrated why, in spite of not having a Wikipedia page about them, they continue to gain new fans with every show.

The Chocolate Bar is a chocolate-themed (*quelle surprise*) cafe on the southern limit of the Boston College campus, and Ryanhood was right at home in more ways than one. Boston and Cambridge venues have a special meaning for Green and Hood, who were hopping over from a tour in the Midwest in order to perform in town. Green studied music at our harmonious neighbor school, the Berklee College of Music, and Hood has personal family ties to MIT. The pair first began performing together full-time as street performers on the streets and subway platforms of Boston. In fact, their unreleased song “(You Have To) Start Somewhere” details their transformation from street performers into a real gigging band in three verses and makes mention of

an MIT dormitory, a reference that reflects their personal, real life inspired songwriting.

The show opened with a few of the songs from Ryanhood’s newest album, *The World Awaits*, before opening the floor to requests from the audience. After a request for “Free Bird” was made (and indulged for about 30 seconds), the crowd called for songs throughout the evening. They started with one of Ryanhood’s older and arguably better-known, “Welcome You Into My Head,” a relentlessly fast number that showcases Green’s guitar talents. That Green has come to be known as “Maestro” (and is cheered on as such) serves to indicate his level of virtuosity.

During breaks in the music, Green and Hood bantered and improvised with one another and with the crowd, a skill they honed as street performers. They touched on topics like whether or not Green’s winning free video game rentals from Blockbuster was cool. The audience was asked to sing along when possible, with Hood taking charge when shyness was dominant, revealing a participatory aspect of Ryanhood’s live performances that isn’t always evident on their recordings.

After the end of the show, with an upbeat blowout finish called “Nothing But the Real Thing” and the aforementioned autobiographical “(You Have To) Start Somewhere” as an encore, the last request of the night was “Back Into Blue.” This is a rich love song on the op-

posite end of the spectrum from the rock-style jams that got the show started. Its emphasis is on sweet vocal harmony. Ryanhood performed it half an hour after the encore, with their guitars unplugged, the AV equipment put away behind them, and a dozen devotees gathered around a 10 foot radius around them — all they were missing was the guitar case waiting for dollar bills from passersby.

The show at the Chocolate Bar repeated my

experiences from previous Ryanhood shows — an entertaining band dynamic coupled with guitar-centric songs from a playlist that offers more and more gems as it grows. If you’re interested in acoustic guitar, independent music, or bands that don’t mind manning their own merchandise table and connecting with fans, Ryanhood is performing in Cambridge again this Sunday at 3 p.m. at Cambridge Vineyard, as well as at Berklee’s student-run Cafe 939 in Boston on November 14.



COURTESY RYANHOOD

CONCERT REVIEW

Traffic Jams and Mechanical Claws

It Is a U2 Concert, After All

By Biyeun Buczyk
STAFF WRITER
U2
Gillette Stadium, Foxborough, MA
September 20, 2009

U2 is about as big as it gets when it comes to rock bands. Since the Zoo TV tour of the early ‘90s, they’ve insisted on including the most prodigious, high-tech, and sometimes outrageous — think

mirror ball lemon from PopMart — gadgets on their stage sets.

Though U2’s previous tours, Elevation and Vertigo, abandoned the gigantic television and lighting displays of Zoo TV and PopMart, they still took advantage of new technologies in lighting and sound projection. These were the streamlined, intimate sets scaled down to fit the venue of arenas instead of stadiums, mirroring the progression of technology toward the thinner, simpler, faster paradigm. However, by

the end of the Vertigo Tour U2 already felt the itch to return to their colossal ambitions of the past and added stadium dates to their final European leg.

Therefore, it is no surprise that U2’s current 360° tour is stadium only. After kicking off in Barcelona at the end of June and completing their first European leg, U2 is now touring North America. On Sunday, September 20th and Monday the 21st they played at Gillette Stadium in Foxborough, MA.

I attended the first show — although “attended” might be too much; let’s just say I showed up. This was not the first U2 show I’ve been to. However, it was definitely the most mismanaged, chaotic venue I’ve ever set foot in.

As an illustration, imagine Gillette Stadium packed with more people than a Patriots game — every seat is filled in addition to a few thousand people on the field. Now, think about all of those people heading to Gillette Stadium in cars because the T station ending at the stadium is only open for Patriots games. If you’re thinking big-ass traffic jam, add a few expletives to that and you might come close. I left Boston at 5 p.m. that evening, expecting the drive to be at most one hour for a 7 p.m.

concert, and entered the stadium at 9:30pm, after U2 had already played five songs.

Though it wasn’t the best start of any concert I’ve been to, my rage promptly subsided when I saw the enormous multicolored claw in the middle of the stadium. The 360° stage is just this: four epic phalanges supporting the largest cylindrical, accordion LCD display I’ve ever seen. From my perspective at three rows behind the stage, it appeared as though the band was about to get sucked into the brightly colored tubular mouth of an alien robot spider. It wasn’t entirely the ridiculous spectacle of Zoo TV or PopMart, but somewhere in between U2’s arena and stadium sets. The stage was still cozily wrapped around the crowd in a slightly enlarged version of Vertigo’s circular ramp. However, the massive claw was, simply put, U2 showing off a ridiculous piece of tech.

The music I did hear was on par with what I’d expect from U2. I was delightfully surprised to hear “The Unforgettable Fire” live — a privilege which, previously, I’d been too young to enjoy. The intensity of feeling Adam Clayton’s bass shake the ground beneath my feet, accompanied by a mesmerizing display of light and color from the stage, is now forever etched into my memory. If I hadn’t missed the new songs I’d been dying to hear — “Breathe”, “Magnificent”, and “No Line on the Horizon” — I might have deemed the concert perfect.

Ultimately, the concert felt rushed — a mere 1.5 hours of U2 — and a pain in the ass to get to. The next time they come to Foxborough, I’ll stay home. Though that does not mean I won’t see them again (please, oh, please announce the second North American leg dates) in a venue with better public transportation.



BIYEUN BUCZYK—THE TECH

U2 guitarist The Edge stomps his foot to the beat of “Sunday Bloody Sunday” during Sunday’s concert at Gillette Stadium in Foxboro, MA. U2 played two nights there to sold-out crowds. The North American leg of their 360° Tour kicked off on Sept. 12 in Chicago.

RESTAURANT REVIEW

Highway-Side Food at Highway-Side Prices

Take in the Aromas, the Flavors, the Bhangra

By Greg Hutko
Punjabi Dhaba
225 Hampshire, Cambridge, MA 02139
Inman Square
(617) 547 8272
Open Everyday 12:00–11:30 p.m.

Inman Square in Cambridge is packed with pricey bars and Portuguese/Brazilian cuisine that will give you a classy dining experience provided you give them most of your money. Instead, wander into the small, unassuming Indian restaurant at the center of the Square: Punjabi Dhaba, a little restaurant that Harvard students swear by but MIT students seem to have largely left unexplored.

The first thing that hits you when you enter Punjabi Dhaba is the smell from the open kitchen. All items are made to order without the use of heating lamps or warmers. The result is the smell of curry, herbs, and

spices that will entice those with a passion for strong flavors and fresh foods.

Making your way to the counter (or the long line if you chose to come on a Friday or Saturday night) you will immediately be drawn to the sound of loud Indian music videos playing on the small, analog TV in the corner. While it’s hard to say if this music is for an authentic customer experience or for the entertainment of the cooks, it is certainly different if not somewhat distracting.

Ordering at Punjabi Dhaba is perhaps the most frustrating part of a visit to the restaurant. Although menus are posted in plastic placard lettering behind the counter, customers who have been to the restaurant before know to skip those hard to navigate billboards and instead grab a printed menu from the register. Be prepared to yell your order over the blaring bhangra and be prepared to pay in cash since neither credit nor debit cards are accepted.

A good start for a first time visitor are the Dhaba Specials or House Combos. Each includes naan and basmati rice. My personal favorite is the special curry platter (\$8.95 + tax). Almost big enough to share, the special curry platter will give you a taste of almost everything. The chicken curry is particularly moist and is a great compliment to the rich, sweet flavors of the basmati rice. Don’t expect the same taste twice; each time, the basmati rice will come out a different flavor and appearance depending on the cook and the ingredients.

If you want to try something that can’t be purchased in the second floor of the Student Center, go with the half order tandoori chicken with naan (\$7.95). The specialty of Punjabi Dhaba is their moist, dark meats. This grilled specialty is flavored with yogurt, ginger, and spices and provides what some might consider an Indian flavor to an “American classic.” Don’t be fooled: This meat

can pack a punch but is generally a milder choice for those who prefer less spicy foods. All food is served on metal trays, similar to those used in India. For a quieter, more spacious dining experience, carry your tray to one of the two rooms on the second floor. Not only will you avoid the loud music videos, but you may also have the room to yourself as Punjabi Dhaba tends to serve a lot of take-out. When you are finished, return your tray to the front counter and consider buying a mango-flavored yogurt smoothie (\$2.50 + tax) for the road.

Overall, don’t expect any frills, waiting, or romantic ambiance. Ultimately, Punjabi Dhaba holds true to its tagline: “The Indian Highway-Side Café.” The restaurant captures the atmosphere and flavors that you might find at an affordable restaurant in India. Less than a mile away from MIT and less than \$10 per person, Punjabi Dhaba is the place to go if you are looking to dine on a budget.

Ig Nobels Feature Nobel Laureates Wearing Gas Masks Made of Bras

Ig Nobels, from Page 1

Ketterle, Paul Krugman, and Frank Wilczek as her volunteers, Bodnar drew two brassieres and converted them into one pair of hot pink gas masks and another pair of more subdued, black gas masks.

To those skeptics who believe alcohol to be a useless substance, Javier Morales, Miguel Apatiga, and Victor M. Castano of Mexico proved that diamond films could be grown from Tequila, for which they received this year's Ig Nobel Prize for Chemistry. In their acceptance speech, the team explained one exciting aspect of their research: "Do

you need a scanning electron microscope to see nanoparticles of diamonds? Of course not! Does Tequila have special properties that lend themselves to the creation of diamonds? Definitely no. Why? When you drink tequila you start seeing all sorts of things anyways."

While the Ig Nobel Ceremony drew a full house and most of the awardees attended, some winners of the honor were conspicuously absent. Of them, the winners of the Economics, Literature, and Mathematics Prizes were "unavailable for the occasion," and perhaps understandably so: The winners of the Ig Nobel prize for Economics were authority

figures of four Icelandic banks who demonstrated that "tiny banks can be rapidly transformed into huge banks, and vice versa" and "similar things can be done to an entire national economy."

The winner of the mathematics prize, Gideon Gono of Zimbabwe's Reserve Bank, was recognized for giving people an efficient way to cope with a wide gamut of numbers, by printing notes with denominations that ranged from one cent to one hundred trillion dollars. He too, was unable to make the ceremony.

The Ig Nobel ceremony's organizers tried their best to keep attendees from getting bored: Its opening and

closing speeches consisted of two words each, "welcome, welcome," and "goodbye, goodbye," leaving plenty of time for acts more thrilling than speeches.

In keeping with this year's theme of "risk," Dan Meyer, a 2007 Ig Nobel Laureate for his study entitled "Sword Swallowing and Its Side Effects," asked ten Nobel Laureates to extricate swords from his throat using a whip without injuring him. Meyer finished the demonstration unhurt to uproarious applause from the audience.

There were breaks throughout the night, during which the audience could practice recycling by

throwing hundreds of paper airplanes at a person on stage for a minute. On four occasions, the Big Bank Opera, a duet who musically parodied the timeline of the recent economic downturn, regaled the audience.

And in keeping with the "academic" tone of the ceremony, Nobel and Ig Nobel laureates alike educated the audience about their projects with 24-second explanations of their work and seven word generalized summaries of their topic. Paul Krugman, the 2008 Nobel Prize winner in economics, concisely described his research as, "greedy people competing make the world go round."



join@the-tech.mit.edu

Layoffs Will Be Determined By Individual Units

Institute Q&A, from Page 1

open forums last month on budget cuts.
A webcast of the forum is available at <http://web.mit.edu/events/stateoftheinstitute>.

No central layoff planning
Asked publicly how many layoffs were planned for fiscal year 2011, which begins next summer, Executive Vice President Theresa M. Stone SM '76 said she could not cite a specific number because there is no central plan for layoffs at MIT, and that those decisions were going to be left up to individual units. "The answer is we don't know," she said.
Another audience member asked whether those parts of MIT that reduced their budget by 15 percent in one year rather than three would see some sort of benefit for doing so, since the timeline for cuts has been accelerated from three years to two. Provost L. Rafael Reif took the question, but again indicated that it was up to individual units, and declined to articulate a policy for MIT centrally.

Support staff on task force?
Another questioner asked why there were no support staff on the planning task force. The administrators did not have a ready answer, however the Institute Planning Task Force website lists 90 staff members on the task force, as well as 87 faculty and 23 students.
— John A. Hawkinson

Five Candidates Run for 2013 Class President; All Want to Unite the Class

Elections, from Page 1

sure everyone gets heard, not just one certain group," and try to organize events so that the class could learn about all the resources available on campus.
Lee said, "I want the whole class to have an awesome year, have fun, and get accustomed to MIT," and that "we are lucky to have a campus like ours, with differences in outlook."
Chen said, "MIT is composed of such a big group of such unique people ... [it's] hard to find a common ground," but wants to connect "people who wouldn't normally be with each other."
All candidates' platforms are publicly viewable on the UA election web site.
No freshman class council candidates live on the east side of campus, a fact Bralower found unsurprising. "East campus doesn't really care about class council," said Bralower, who, himself an East Campus resident, said he thought residents of the east side were more active in the UA.
Due to a council member resigning, the Class of 2011 is also having an election for their treasurer. Only one candidate, Sojung C. Lee '11, is running.

Most senate races are uncontested, even though some residences have more than one seat to fill. The only dormitory without a candidate running is Bexley, which traditionally ignores such elections.
Write-in candidates are also accepted and often win positions in races where there are fewer official candidates than senate positions available, said Bralower. If seats still remain vacant at the end of an election, the presidents of the residences with empty seats will appoint representatives.
The UA elections — which in the past have been plagued by confusion, technical glitches, and even thefts of ballot boxes — have run fairly smoothly this year. Fewer than 20 students have reported problems, Bralower said, since some "didn't have correct registrar data ... [T]he registrar data said people lived off campus when they didn't." Paper ballots are used every year to diminish the impact of possible computer malfunction, he said.
Elections are run by the UA Election Commission, headed by Sun K. Kim '11.
In the spring, the UA will hold elections for the UA Executive Board, as well as the 2011, 2012, and 2012 class councils.



master-chief@the-tech.mit.edu



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December 7, 2009
March 1, 2010



JENNIFER L. WONG—THE TECH


Jared Walz works on a model of a “chambered nautilus shell” with his “ancient dragon” in the foreground during a meeting of OrigamiMIT, a campus origami group.



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Instructor Kyoko Wada teaches students how to conduct a Japanese tea ceremony at McCormick Hall on Tuesday. Lessons take place each Tuesday during the semester.



José Ramos-Horta, president of East Timor and 1996 Nobel Peace Prize Winner, gave a lecture on the reestablishment of government in East Timor in 10-250 on Tuesday. His talk was part of the Legatum Lecture Series.

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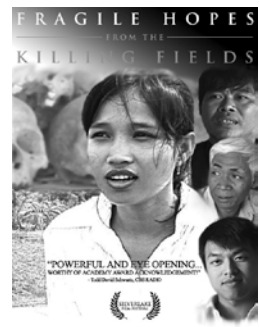
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College Blogs Used To Unite & Promote

By **Tamar Lewin**
THE NEW YORK TIMES

CAMBRIDGE, MASS.
Cristen Chinae, a senior at MIT, made a confession in her blog on the college Web site.

“There’ve been several times when I felt like I didn’t really fit in at MIT,” she wrote. “I nearly fell asleep during a Star Wars marathon. It wasn’t a result of sleep deprivation. I was bored out of my mind.”

Still, in other ways, Chinae feels right at home at the institute — she loves the anime club, and that her hall has its own wiki Web site and an Internet Relay for real-time messaging. As she wrote on her blog, a hall-mate once told her that “MIT is the closest you can get to living in the Internet,” and Chinae reported, “IT IS SO TRUE. Love. It. So. Much.”

Dozens of colleges — including Amherst, Bates, Carleton, Colby, Vassar, Wellesley and Yale — are embracing student blogs on their Web sites, seeing them as a powerful marketing tool for high school students, who these days are less interested in official messages and statistics than in first-hand narratives and direct interaction with current students.

But so far, none of the blogs match the interactivity and creativity of those of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, where they are posted prominently on the admissions homepage, along with hundreds of responses from prospective applicants — all unedited.

Not every admissions office has been so ready to welcome uncensored student writing.

“A lot of people in admissions have not been eager for bloggers, mostly based on fears that we can’t control what people are saying,” said Jess Lord, dean of admissions at Haverford College, which posted student bloggers’ accounts of their summer activities this year, and plans to add bloggers this spring to help admitted students hear about campus life. “We’re learning, slowly, that this is how the world works, especially for high school students.”

MIT’s bloggers, who are paid \$10 an hour for up to four hours a week, offer thoughts on anything that might interest a prospective student. Some offer advice on the application process and the institute’s intense workload; others write about quirkier topics, like warm apple pie topped with bacon and hot caramel sauce, falling down the stairs or trying to set a world record in the game of Mattress Dominos.

Posting untouched student writing — and comments reacting to that writing — does carry some risks. Boring, sloppily written posts do nothing to burnish an institutional image, college admissions officials say, and there is always the possi-

bility of an inflammatory or wildly negative posting.

But Lord of Haverford said prospective students’ interest in the summer bloggers calmed his worries.

“High school students read the blogs, and they come in and say ‘I can’t believe Haverford student get to do such interesting things with their summers,’” he said. “There’s no better way for students to learn about a college than from other students.”

Ben Jones, the former director of communications at MIT’s admissions office, began with a single blog by a student five years ago, at the dawn of the Facebook era, and noticed high school students responding right away. “We saw very quickly that prospective students were engaging with each other and building their own community,” said Jones, who now works at Oberlin College, where he has added blogs to the Web site.

The MIT student bloggers have different majors, ethnicities, residence halls and, particularly, writing styles. Some post weekly or more; others disappear for months. The bloggers are sought out as celebrities during the annual “Meet the Bloggers” session at Campus Preview Weekend.

MIT chooses its bloggers through a contest, in which applicants submit samples of their writing. “The annual blogger selection is like the admissions office’s own running of the bulls,” said Dave McOwen, Jones’ successor in the admissions office, in his message inviting applications.

This year, 25 freshmen applied for four new spots, and, McOwen said, it was hard to choose.

“You want people who can communicate and who are going to be involved in different parts of campus life,” he said. “You want them to be positive, but it’s not mandatory.”

And not all posts are positive. Kim once wrote about how the resident advising system was making it impossible for her to move out of her housing — expressing enough irritation that the housing office requested that the admissions office take her post down. Officials refused, instead having the housing office post a rebuttal of her accusations; eventually, the system was changed.

But most of the blogs are exuberant, lyrical expressions of the joys of MIT life, like last month’s post on returning as a sophomore:

“Something’s changed,” wrote Chris Mills. “Now you know what you’re in for, you know the sleepless nights and frustrations are never far away, but this knowledge can’t seem to remove the exhilarating smile on your face. And it’s in that masochistic moment that you realize who you are. That this is what you’re made for.”

Solution to Crossword
from page 7

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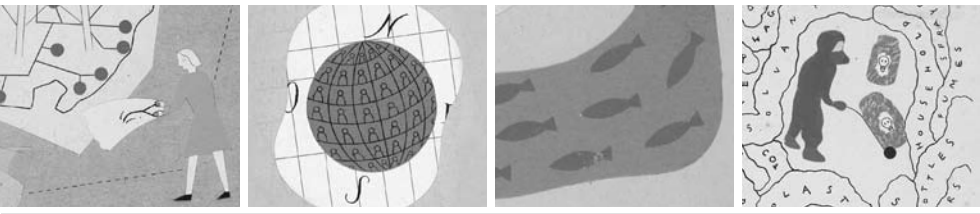
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SPORTS

MIT to Showcase Fall Sports at Athletics Weekend on Saturday

By Russell Spivak

This Saturday, MIT will hold its annual Fall Athletics Weekend to highlight fall varsity sports. They will be showcasing three of the most prominent fall sports — men’s football, women’s field hockey, and men’s soccer — throughout the day, with fun activities and events for fans. The festivities will begin at 12:30 p.m. outside the Zesiger Sports and Fitness Center with a basketball shooting contest and pull-up contest. Participants and MIT sports fans will be given free lunch as well as markers and poster board to make signs for their favorite MIT players and teams.

The first main sporting event of the day on campus will begin at 1 p.m., as the MIT Football team (0-3) takes on the University of Massachusetts-Dartmouth Corsairs on Roberts Field at Steinbrenner Stadium. The Engineers are still looking for their first win of the season, in their conference, and under their new head coach Chad Martinovich. At halftime, volunteers can participate in a hot dog eating contest, in which contestants will compete to devour 6 hotdogs in the shortest amount of time as the crowd cheers them on.

Next on the schedule, Springfield College will take on the MIT field

hockey team (7-2) at 2:00 p.m. on Jack Barry Field. The Engineers started 7-0, but lost the last two games by a combined three goals. They will be looking to right the course and get back on track to win their conference. During halftime, Tim the Beaver will take a break from his duties of supporting all sports to focus on the field hockey game, where he will take a spot in goal as fans try to score on him for a prize.

The Sports Yard Sale will go from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. outside the Z-Center. Fans and students will have the opportunity to buy old sports equipment for \$5.00 a piece. In preparation for the game at 5:00 p.m., there will once again be pizza outside the Z-Center at 4:30 p.m.

The final match of the day will be the men’s soccer team (6-3) taking on Worcester Polytechnic Institute on Roberts Field at 5:00 p.m. The team has looked impressive out of the gates and is looking to take another NEWMAC Championship after winning their first conference match against Clark University this past Saturday. A fan volunteer will once again have the opportunity to score for a prize by shooting on goal at halftime.

Additionally, free t-shirts will be given out at the football, field hockey, and soccer games.

Arumugam Earns Second Straight NEWMAC Weekly Honor

After leading the MIT men’s cross country team to a fourth-place finish at the Codfish Bowl last weekend, Hemagiri Arumugam ’10 was named the

New England Women’s and Men’s Athletic Conference (NEWMAC) Runner of the Week. It was the second consecutive week that the MIT senior has received this honor and fifth time overall.

Arumugam completed the eight-kilometer course in 25:27.5, good for an impressive fourth-place showing, the best among all Collegiate harriers in the meet. The Cardinal and Grey was the top Division III squad in the meet as well.

—Greg McKeever, DAPER Staff

Volleyball Beats Coast Guard in Thrilling Five Set Match

Barden E. Cleeland ’10 had 15 kills and eight blocks while teammate Alexandra T. May ’10 had 12 kills and 13 digs as MIT ended Coast Guard’s home winning streak at 25 and handed the Bears their first loss of the season in a five game thriller, 3-2 (14-25,



25-21, 25-22, 19-25, 15-13) in the battle of New England Women’s and Men’s Athletic Conference (NEWMAC) unbeatens. Jennifer Li ’11 added 12 kills for the Engineers (12-4, 4-0), Katie K. Spielbauer ’13 had 12 digs while Ka-

trina M. Ellison ’10 and Alyssa L. Rothman ’13, who had 50 assists, each added eight digs for MIT.

The Bears jumped out to an 8-2 lead in the first game and MIT would get as close as three, at 9-6, before Coast Guard scored seven of the next nine points for a 15-8 advantage and won 25-14.

Coast Guard (11-1, 3-1) led game two, 13-12 before MIT took the lead for good scoring four straight for a 16-13 edge and went on to win 25-21.

The Engineers start quickly in game three with a 10-2 lead before Coast Guard chipped away and eventually tied the score 19-19. With the score tied 20-20, MIT scored three straight to take charge and won 25-22.

The fourth game was a back-and-forth affair which saw the team alternate points 19 straight times making the score 18-18. Coast Guard scored five straight to take control before forcing the fifth game with a 25-19 win.

MIT lead game five 7-5 before four straight Coast Guard points gave the home team a 9-7 advantage. The game was tied at 11, 12 and 13 before MIT scored back-to-back points to wrap up the win.

MIT was also the last team to beat Coast Guard at home when they did so on Oct. 9, 2007 with a 3-0 win.

—Mindy Brauer, DAPER Staff

UPCOMING HOME EVENTS

Friday, October 2, 2009

Women’s Tennis vs. Tufts University
4 p.m., duPont Courts
Women’s Volleyball vs. Bridgewater State College
5 p.m., Rockwell Cage
Women’s Volleyball vs. S.U.N.Y. Potsdam
7 p.m., Rockwell Cage

Saturday, October 3, 2009

Men’s Crew — Alumni Race
8 a.m., Charles River
Sailing — Smith Trophy
9:30 a.m., Charles River
Football vs. UMass-Dartmouth
1 p.m., Steinbrenner Stadium
Field Hockey vs. Springfield College
2 p.m., Jack Barry Field

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The Ig Informal Lectures

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All Ig Nobel Prize activities are organized by the Annals of Improbable Research. This free event is organized in cooperation with the MIT Press Bookstore.

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|-------------------------|---|
| Tuesday, Sept. 29, 2009 | |
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| MIT (8-2) | 2 |

| Women’s Volleyball | |
|--------------------------|---|
| Tuesday, Sept. 29, 2009 | |
| U.S. Coast Guard Academy | 2 |
| MIT (12-4) | 3 |

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