Volume 130, Number 4



tech.mit.edu

WEATHER, p. 2
FRI: 34° F | 19° F
Sunny
SAT: 33° F | 21° F
Mostly Sunny

SUN: 37°F | 23°F Partly Cloudy

Friday, February 10, 2010

New 'GWAMIT' Women's Group

Will help grad women connect

By Ana Lyons
NEWS EDITOR

Though about half of undergraduates are women, among graduate students, women are outnumbered by men two-to-one. For these women, the campus can be an isolating place.

Sensing a lack of community among graduate women, Furman recently founded Graduate Women

at MIT (GWAMIT), INSIDE

which hopes to pro-

INSIDE which hopes to provide career-building and networking opportunities.

"There's definitely a gap here at MIT," said Kay D. Furman '07, who is a graduate student in the Division of Health, Science & Technology. "Women [between different departments] don't even get to meet each other." Though a few departments have women's groups, Furman thinks GWAMIT can be an umbrella group that will organize activities and provide support to graduate women across all departments.

When women are minority of the population it is important to bring them together, Furman explained.

"Women need to feel a sense of community, they need a safe place to talk about things where they can drop down their guard of their pro-

Many graduate women are not aware of resources

Percent of women who said they were "not aware" of a certain service

Personal counseling from faculty or staff, 44%

Help starting departmental women group, 54%

Help plannning events, 59%

Help building interdepartmental connections, 60%

Help formulating initatives, 62%

Help programming workshops, 63%

2009 GRADUATE WOMEN SURVEY

fessional image — a place where they can relax a little and not have to put up that defense," she said.

GWAMIT will offer unique services

The group hopes to run a mentoring program that matches graduate students with either professional women within or outside of their department. Though many departments run sessions on career-building, Furman also sees a need for seminars on the work-life balance, and more general skills for promoting success, such as networking and communication skills for women in

GWAMIT, Page 14

Serenade me, Valentine!Behind the scenes of an MIT tradition



IESSICA LIU—THE TECH

The MIT Logarhythms practice for their Valentine's Day serenades in 4-152 on Tuesday. Both the Logs and the Muses will be singing a mix of classic and modern love songs all around campus today.

By Danielle Gorman

STAFF REPORTER

So you're sitting in 18.02 lecture in your classy "I Heart Bio" t-shirt, nodding off as you peruse the latest edition of The Tech. Suddenly, a horde of teenage males wearing a riot of colorful shirts and ties burst into your classroom.

They point to you and say to Professor Mattuck, "We have a message of love for that sleeping biologist! May we have your permission to deliver this message?"

As you slump down in your seat in a vain attempt

to make yourself invisible, a group of Logs — short for "Logarhythms," the all-male a cappella group, not a nile of lumber — sprint toward you.

pile of lumber — sprint toward you.

Gustaf "Gus" P. Downs '13, who is the "Knee" of February 2010, kneels in the aisle, and instructs you to sit on his thigh. You awkwardly straddle his leg, realizing just a second too late that you have chosen to face him in an incredibly awkward pose.

Despite your discomfort, you should know that you're one of the lucky ones. At least they didn't sing Taylor Swift's "You Belong With Me" to you. Your se-

Serenades, Page 12

New class offerings on Haiti

Project-based courses focus on providing aid

By Ziwei Hao

STAFF REPORTER

In response to the Jan. 12 earthquake, MIT has offered classes focusing on Haiti and how students can help. The Martin Luther King Jr. Design Seminar (17.920) over IAP created a Lobby 10 display and this spring, Special Topic: New Media Projects For Haiti (MAS.963) will study some of the issues Haiti is now facing.

New Media Projects For Haiti is a 9-unit, project-based class in which students develop new technologies and educational tools to benefit Haiti. This new course, led by Media Arts and Sciences professor Barry L. Vercoe and visiting scientist Dale Joachim, will guide students as they explore Haiti's problems, which include low literacy and low civic engagement. In the first half of the course, students will perform background research and

learn from discussions and guest lectures. In the second half, participants work together on a solution to a specific problem.

"The idea is that, towards the end of the class, the class will go to Haiti at the end of April and test out their project," said Dale Joachim, who ran the Haiti IAP Workshop on earthquake relief. "We've gotten quite a number of students wanting to add this class."

Like the MIT International Development Initiative's D-Lab course, the New Media Projects course will have students implement their project in a foreign country. However, unlike D-Lab's individualized and small group projects, the final project is specific to Haiti and the whole class will contribute to a single project.

MLK Seminar looked at Haiti over IAP

The MLK Seminar, led by Tobie Weiner

Haiti, Page 13

IN SHORT

The 2012 Ring Premiere will be in Kresge Auditorium today at 8 p.m. Doors open at 7:30 p.m. Raffle for prizes and meet the special guest!

 $\textbf{No school on Monday, for } Presidents'\ Day.$

A new MIT iPhone App with shuttle schedules

and other features is available for free at the App Store.

2010 Winter Olympic Games begin today. Watch on NBC (MIT Cable channel 26).

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

N.E.R.D to play Spring Weekend concert

By Matt Fisher

Hip-hop prevailed over nineties softrock in this year's annual MIT Spring Weekend concert. The American funkrock/hip-hop group N.E.R.D — known for edgy tracks like "Sooner or Later" and "Everyone Nose" — will headline the concert. Electronic mash-up group Super Mash Bros. playing the opening act. The concert will occur on April 23 at 8 p.m. Tickets will be available starting March 1.

The Student Activities Office is taking a chance on N.E.R.D The previous two Spring Weekend concerts featured Ben Folds and Third Eye Blind, both of whom ranked high in the annual poll disseminated in November, according to Paul Spangle, who is in charge of the selection process. In contrast, neither of the two bands performing this year were among the top five acts chosen by MIT students in the November poll. (Jimmy Eat World, One Republic, Dashboard Confessional, Switchfoot, and the Dropkick Murphys ranked highest.)

The event's undergraduate coordinators, Joseph P. Diaz '10 and Christine Chen '12, said that the event budget, the availability of certain bands, and other subjective considerations all factor into



Pharrell Williams (of The Neptunes) is the frontman for N.E.R.D., the funkrock/hip-hop trio that will be headlining MIT's Spring Weekend Concert on April 23.

the selection process in addition to the results of the poll.

Spangle said he hopes that bringing younger, less well-known bands to MIT

Spring Weekend, Page 11

RESULTS FROM THE GIVEAWAY

The Tech gave away sex toys to deserving souls. These are their stories. **CL**, **p**. **10**

FOR PEACE, BOMB IRAN

To prevent a nuclear Iran, the U.S. needs to consider military strikes. **OPN**, **p. 4**

EDUCATION NEEDS STANDARDS

And only the federal government can provide them. **OPN**, **p. 5**



VAMPIRE WEEKEND

If you thought you knew what these overeducated East Coast kids were all about, *Contra* will prove you wrong. **ARTS, p. 8**

CUTE COFFEE SPOT. LOVE IT!

Tracy Kambara found the perfect little place on Newbury to chill and act hipster. **ARTS**, **p. 8**

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Wi-fi turns bus ride into a rolling study hall

VAIL, ARIZ. -Students endure hundreds of hours on yellow buses each year getting to and from school in this desert exurb of Tucson, and stir-crazy teenagers break the monotony by teasing, texting, flirting, shouting, climbing (over seats) and sometimes punching (seats or seatmates). But on this chilly morning, as bus No. 92 rolls down a mountain highway just before dawn, high school students are quiet, typing on laptops.

Morning routines have been like this since the fall, when school officials mounted a mobile Internet router to bus No. 92's sheet-metal frame, enabling students to surf the Web. The students call it the Internet Bus, and what began as a hightechnology experiment has had an old-fashioned - and unexpected - result. Wi-Fi access has transformed what was often a boisterous bus ride into a rolling study hall, and behavioral problems have virtually disappeared.

'It's made a big difference," said J.J. Johnson, the bus' driver. "Boys aren't hitting each other, girls are busy, and there's not so much jumping around."

The company marketing the router, Autonet Mobile, says it has sold them to schools or districts in Florida, Missouri and Washington, D.C.

- Sam Dillon, The New York Times

Traffic isn't better, but Broadway mall will remain open

NEW YORK - New York's ambitious experiment that closed parts of Broadway to vehicular traffic last spring will become permanent, city officials said on Thursday, even though it fell short of achieving its chief objective: improving traffic flow.

Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg said that a reduction in injuries to pedestrians and motorists, along with a warm response from local merchants and tourists, had persuaded him to retain the 8-month-old pedestrian plazas in Times Square and Herald Square, a marquee initiative for his administration that re-engineered the Midtown street grid.

But traffic speeds slowed on many crosstown streets, as well as on Eighth and Ninth Avenues, according to data from more than 5,700 test runs conducted by the Department of Transportation.

There were some improvements, but they mostly missed the city's targets. Traffic along Seventh Avenue, for instance, moved 4 percent faster, but the city had hoped for a gain of up to 17 percent.

- Michael M. Grynbaum, The New York Times

Degeneres a rising star in daytime

Executives at Warner Brothers have long believed that Ellen DeGeneres is the heir apparent to Oprah Winfrey in daytime TV. Still, they were startled by the news that a media research firm delivered to them last spring.

The researchers from SmithGeiger, who had been hired to assess the talk show landscape, convened to tell a group of six executives that "The Ellen DeGeneres Show" was, for the first time, on par with "The Oprah Winfrey Show" in the minds of viewers. They had ample reason to conclude that this was De-

Viewer awareness of "Oprah" and "Ellen" is roughly even, said Henry Schafer, an executive vice president at Q Scores. "The big difference is, these days, Ellen is a much more likable personality than Oprah," he said.

Winfrey's program, however, creates a much stronger emotional bond with viewers, perhaps explaining why "Oprah" is still far and away the No.1 syndicated talk show, albeit one that is waning.

- Brian Stelter, The New York Times

Obama has edge over GOP in NYT/CBS poll

BY Adam Nagourney and Megan Thee-Brenan

THE NEW YORK TIMES

WASHINGTON -At a time of deepening political disaffection and intensified distress about the economy, President Barack Obama enjoys an edge over Republicans in the battle for public support, according to the latest New York Times/CBS News poll.

While the president is showing signs of vulnerability on his handling of the economy — a majority of respondents say he has yet to offer a clear plan for creating jobs Americans blame former President George W. Bush, Wall Street and Congress much more than they do Obama for the nation's economic problems and the budget deficit, the poll found.

They credit Obama more than Republicans with making an effort at bipartisanship, and they back the White House's policies on a variety of disputed issues, from allowing gay men and lesbians to serve openly in the military to repealing the Bush tax cuts for the

The poll suggests that both parties face a toxic environment as they prepare for the elections in November. Public disapproval of Congress is at a historically high level, and huge numbers of Americans think Congress is beholden to special interests. Fewer than 1 in 10 Americans say members of Congress deserve re-election.

As the party in power, Democrats face a particular risk from any wave of voter discontent; unfavorable views of the Democratic Party are as high as they have been since the Republican takeover of Congress in 1994, though Republicans continue to register an even worse showing. The percentage of Americans who approve of Obama's job performance, 46 percent, is as low as it has been since he took office.

Still, the poll suggests that Obama and his party have an opportunity to deflect the anger and anxiety if they can frame the election not as a referendum on the president and his party, but as a choice between them and a Republican approach that is far less

popular with Americans and yielded results under Bush that much of the nation still blames for the country's woes. That is what the White House has been trying to do since the beginning of the year.

For all the erosion in support for Obama, Americans say he better understands their needs and problems and has made more of an effort to be bipartisan than congressional Republicans, the poll found.

"It feels like an attempt to sabotage the majority and to regain control of power rather than working on a compromise that says, 'Let's see what we have to do to get things straightened out,"' John Smith, a Republican from Greenville, S.C., said of his party in an interview after participating in the

Americans say that Obama is far less likely to favor special interests over the American people than Congress. Obama and his party continue to have an edge over Republicans on which party would do better in dealing with health care and job creation.

Cyberspying fears help fuel China's drive to curb internet

By Sharon Lafraniere and Jonathan Ansfield

THE NEW YORK TIMES

BEIJING -Deep inside a Chinese military engineering institute in September 2008, a researcher took a break from his duties and decided — against official policy to check his private e-mail messages. Among the new arrivals was an electronic holiday greeting card that purported to be from a state defense office.

The researcher clicked on the card to open it. Within minutes, secretly implanted computer code enabled an unnamed foreign intelligence agency to tap into the databases of the institute in the city of Luoyang in central China and spirit away top-secret information on Chinese submarines.

So reported The Global Times, a Communist Party-backed newspaper with a nationalist bent, in

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a little-noticed December article. The paper described the episode as "a major security breach" and quoted one government official who complained that such attacks were "ubiquitous" in China.

The information could not be independently confirmed, and such leaks in the Chinese news media often serve the propaganda or lobbying goals of government officials.

Nonetheless, the story is one sign that while much of the rest of the world frets about Chinese cyberspying abroad, China is increasingly alarmed about the threat that the Internet poses to its security and political stability.

In the view of both political analysts and technology experts in China and in the United States, China's attempts to tighten its grip on Internet use are driven in part by the conviction that the West and particularly the United States

- is wielding communications innovations from malware to Twitter to weaken it militarily and to stir dissent internally.

"The United States has already done it, many times," said Song Xiaojun, one of the authors of "Unhappy China," a 2009 book advocating a muscular Chinese foreign policy which the government's propaganda department is said to promote. He cited the so-called color revolutions in Ukraine and Georgia as examples. "It is not really regime change, directly," he said. "It is more like they use the Internet to sow chaos.'

State media have vented those concerns more vociferously since U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton last month criticized China for censorship and called for an investigation of Google's claim that its databases had been the target of a sophisticated attack from

Other Symbols

Thund

Rain

 $\dot{\bigtriangledown}$

40°N

35°N

30°N

WEATHER

Sunny weekend ahead

By Allison A. Wing

Wednesday's storm was a major disappointment for those hoping for significant snow accumulations here in Cambridge. While the storm dumped around a foot of snow along the I-95 corridor from Washington D.C. to New York City, it remained stalled off the Long Island coast for most of the day on Wednesday. We therefore only experienced light snow and some drizzly rain; Logan Airport recorded 1.2" of snow. It appears that warm air advection wrapping around the

storm allowed the temperatures significant snow accumulation in Eastern Massachusetts.

The remnants of Wednesday's low pressure system are currently over the Canadian maritime region, and will circulate dry, cold air into the Boston area throughout the weekend. Temperatures should be in the low to mid 30°F's with mostly clear skies and west winds. Our next chance for snow is another coastal storm on Monday night/ Tuesday, but the models are currently predicting the track to be too far south to bring Boston much in terms of precipitation.

Extended Forecast

Today: Mostly sunny, 34°F (2°C). Northwest winds 10-15 mph. Tonight: Mostly clear, 19°F (-7°C). West winds 5-10 mph.

Tomorrow: Mostly sunny, 33°F (0.6°C). West winds 10-15 mph. Low

Sunday: Partly cloudy and breezy, 37°F (3°C). West winds 20-25 mph. Low 23°F (-5°C).

Monday: Partly cloudy, 40°F (4°C). West winds 15-20 mph. Low 26°F

Situation for Noon Eastern Standard Time, Friday, February 10, 2010 Weather Systems Weather Fronts * * ** **

H₁₀₂₄

Bill Clinton undergoes surgery to clear a blocked artery

By Peter Baker and Denise Grady THE NEW YORK TIMES

WASHINGTON —Former President Bill Clinton was taken to a New York hospital on Thursday after experiencing chest pains and underwent a procedure to clear a blocked artery that, if untreated, might have led to a heart attack within days,

aides said.

Clinton, 63, who has a history of heart trouble, had two stents inserted into a native coronary artery after a bypass graft from an operation nearly six years ago became obstructed. Within hours, aides said, his blood pressure returned to a normal level and he was resting comfortably at New York-Presbyterian/Columbia Hospital, where he was to remain overnight.

"President Clinton is in good spirits and will continue to focus on the work of his foundation and Haiti's relief and long-term recovery efforts," his counselor, Douglas J. Band, said in a statement.

The episode came just days after Clinton returned from Haiti, where

he serves as the U.N. special envoy and is helping coordinate recovery from last month's earthquake. He was talking about Haiti on a mobile telephone with his wife's chief of staff, Cheryl D. Mills, even as he was being wheeled into the operating room, and only reluctantly gave up the phone, said an associate, who like others insisted on anonymity to describe the day's events.

Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton learned of her husband's procedure shortly before her regular weekly meeting with President Barack Obama in the Oval Office, said a senior State Department official. She went ahead with the meeting and then left for New York.

She decided to delay her departure for the Persian Gulf to Saturday from Friday to be with her husband. She is to travel to Qatar and then to Saudi Arabia, where she is scheduled to meet King Abdullah. The State Department official said Hillary Clinton was confident that her husband would be fine. "The trip is on, which should speak volumes," the official said.

Obama called the former presi-

dent at the hospital about 7 p.m. "He said that the efforts in Haiti were too important for him to be laid up for too long and hopes he'll be ready to get back to work as soon as possible," a White House official said, adding that Clinton told the president that he felt "absolutely great."

Former President George W. Bush, who has teamed with Clinton on Haiti earthquake relief, called the hospital as well and reached the Clintons' daughter, Chelsea, who was there with her fiance, Marc Mezvinsky. "President Bush looks forward to continuing to work with his friend on Haiti relief and rebuilding," said David Sherzer, Bush's spokesman.

Clinton had quadruple coronary artery bypass surgery in 2004. He never had a heart attack, but that surgery was similarly prompted by complaints about chest pain and shortness of breath. He later developed a rare complication, with scar tissue and fluid building up in his lung, making it hard for him to breathe, requiring another operation in March 2005.

North Korea apologizes for currency change blunder

By Choe Sang-Hun

SEOUL, SOUTH KOREA —The

SEOUL, SOUTH KOREA —The North Korean government has made a rare apology for a policy blunder and lifted a ban on using foreign currency, South Korean news organizations said Thursday.

Recent changes to the North Korean monetary system had set off an unusually public outcry against the North Korean government. If confirmed, the apology and the policy reversal are further signals that the North is retreating from its campaign against the free markets that have proliferated in the impoverished country.

After years of struggling to contain the markets, which are technically forbidden, North Korea took its boldest step yet by abolishing its old bank notes in late November. The government allowed people to exchange only a limited amount of old money for the new currency, at a rate of 100 to 1, a measure that effectively wiped out much of the private wealth that had been accumulated by entrepreneurs who profited from the markets.

The government also banned the holding or use of foreign currency, which is widely used to smuggle in basic goods from China.

The policy backfired. Prices skyrocketed as market activities ground to a near halt, while state-run stores failed to meet the demand for goods.

In recent weeks, Web sites based in Seoul that collect news from sources inside North Korea have reported instances of starvation in some towns in the North, a protest rally by elderly military veterans and arguments between women and the soldiers trying to shut down markets.

The reported apology, from the North Korean prime minis-

ter, Kim Yong-il, came just days after South Korean news outlets reported that the North Korean leader, Kim Jong-il, fired the senior official who had spearheaded the currency changes.

The apology came at a meeting in the North's capital, Pyongyang, on Feb. 5, according to the Chosun Ilbo, a newspaper in Seoul. Its report, published Thursday, quoted Prime Minister Kim as saying, "I offer a sincere apology about the currency reform, as we pushed ahead with it without sufficient preparation and it caused a great pain to the people." The paper's account, published Thursday, quoted an unidentified source inside the North.

"We will do our best to stabilize people's lives," the prime minister said, according to the newspaper.

The South Korean national news agency Yonhap carried the same report on Thursday.

European leaders vow to aid Greece during euro plight

By Stephen Castle
THE NEW YORK TIMES

BRUSSLES —European leaders promised Thursday to safeguard their common currency, the euro, by aiding Greece during its debt crisis. But they offered no immediate assistance to the Greek government and remained silent on how they would respond if investors remain jittery about Greece and other nations with weak economies that use the euro.

Germany blocked discussion of specific bailout mechanisms, forcing the leaders of the 27 countries in the European Union to turn their attention instead to prodding Greece to get its finances under control, promising stringent monitoring of Greece's tough austerity program.

With the euro facing its worst crisis since it was created in 1999, the leaders who gathered in Brussels offered little more than a statement pledging "determined and coordinated action" if needed to protect the financial stability of the 16 nations within the bloc that use the euro.

"It's a political message that we wanted to send out today," said Herman Van Rompuy, president of the European Council, the umbrella body under which the leaders met. "The Greek government will take the responsibility for cleaning up its public finances." The leaders said that finance ministers would meet Monday to discuss additional actions.

With days of diplomacy having led up to the meeting, many people had expected that the leaders would produce a more specific plan to reassure markets that have been anxious about who would organize a Greek bailout if necessary.

Van Rompuy and Jean-Claude Juncker, chairman of the finance ministers whose nations use the euro, which is known as the euro zone, were clearly disappointed by the result of last-ditch private talks on Thursday aimed at persuading Germany to commit to a broader accord, said a diplomat, speaking on condition of anonymity.

Discussions on the eve of the talks had centered on a bailout that might use financing from nations that use the euro and that would call on the expertise of the International Monetary Fund to ensure that aid extended to a country at risk would be conditional on it overhauling its finances. The plan endorsed by the leaders includes a role for the monetary fund to help prod Greece into action, but without incentives to encourage the Greek government to meet its goals. Chancellor Angela Merkel of Germany argued that since the Greek government had not yet asked for financial assistance, any discussions about aid were premature, an official said.

Ahmadinejad shifts spotlight to nuclear progress

CAIRO —Iran's president boasted Thursday that his nation had the capacity to make weapons grade nuclear fuel if it chose to, in a speech designed to rally the nation as it marked the 31st anniversary of the Islamic Revolution.

The president's remarks, combined with the government's apparently successful effort to prevent the opposition from once again hijacking a national holiday, seemed designed to send a message to the regime's domestic and international critics that it remained in control, and defiantly so.

There were demonstrations and clashes between security forces and protesters across Iran, and state broadcasters seemingly cut away from President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad's speech early, apparently as chants of "death to the dictator" arose in the crowd. But the opposition failed to reach a critical mass on the street, and the sentiment among the protesters was that the government had won the battle this day.

— Michael Slackman, The New York Times

E-book prices will rise, but some readers beg to differ

In the battle over the pricing of electronic books, publishers appear to have won the first round. The price of many new releases and best sellers is about to go up, to as much as \$14.99 from \$9.99.

But there may be an insurgency waiting to pounce: e-book buvers.

Over the last year, the most voracious readers of e-books have shown a reflexive hostility to prices higher than the \$9.99 set by Amazon.com and other online retailers for popular titles

When digital editions have cost more, or have been delayed until after the release of hardcover versions, these raucous readers have organized impromptu boycotts and gone to the Web sites of Amazon and Barnes & Noble to leave one-star ratings and negative comments for those books and their authors.

The angry commenters on Amazon and online message boards could just be a vocal minority. But now, with e-books scheduled to cost \$12.99 to \$14.99 under new deals that publishers negotiated with Apple and Amazon, a broader swath of customers may resist the new pricing. The higher prices will go into effect within the next few months.

— Motoko Rich and Brad Stone, The New York Times

Climate fight is heating up in deep freeze

WASHINGTON —As millions of people along the East Coast hole up in their snowbound homes, the two sides in the climate-change debate are seizing on the mounting drifts to bolster their arguments.

Skeptics of global warming are using the record-setting snows to mock those who warn of dangerous human-driven climate change — this looks more like global cooling, they taunt.

Most climate scientists respond that the ferocious storms are consistent with forecasts that a heating planet will produce more frequent and more intense weather events.

But some independent climate experts say the blizzards in the Northeast no more prove that the planet is cooling than the lack of snow in Vancouver or the downpours in Southern California prove that it is warming.

It is perhaps not coincidental that the snowstorm scuffle is playing out against a background of recent climate controversies: In recent months, global-warming critics have assailed a 2007 report by the U.N. Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and have claimed that e-mail messages and documents plucked from a server at a climate research center in Britain raise doubts about the integrity of some climate scientists. This week, Rush Limbaugh and other conservative commentators made light of the fact that the announcement of the creation of a new federal climate service on Monday had to be conducted by conference call, rather than news conference, because the federal government was shuttered by the snowstorm.

But climate scientists say that no single episode of severe weather can be blamed for global climate trends while noting evidence that such events will probably become more frequent as global temperatures rise.

— John M. Broder, The New York Times

Georgia schools inquiry finds signs of cheating

ATLANTA —Georgia education officials ordered investigations Thursday at 191 schools across the state where they found evidence of tampering on answer sheets for the state's standardized achievement test.

The order came after an inquiry on cheating by the Governor's Office of Student Achievement raised red flags regarding one in five of Georgia's 1,857 public elementary and middle schools. A large proportion of the schools were in Atlanta.

The inquiry flagged any school that had an abnormal number of erasures on answer sheets where the answers were changed from wrong to right, suggesting deliberate interference by teachers, principals or other administrators.

Experts said it could become one of the largest cheating scandals in the era of widespread standardized testing.

"This is the biggest erasure problem I've ever seen," said Gregory J. Cizek, a testing expert at the University of North Carolina who has studied cheating. "This doesn't suggest that it was just kids randomly changing their answers, it suggests a pattern of unethical behavior on the part of either kids or educators."

Cizek praised Georgia for conducting the analysis.

— Shaila Dewan, The New York Times



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CORRECTIONS

The headline for the sports column "Saints beat Colts 37-17 for their first Super Bowl title" in Tuesday's issue misstated the final score of the Superbowl game. The correct

The article in Tuesday's issue about the possible leak of Brass Rat designs incorrectly stated that Michaela S. LaVan '12 is a current publicity co-chair for the Class of 2012. She is a former publicity co-chair. The current publicity co-chairs are Eliana Schleifer '12 and Aniali Muralidhar '12.

Bomb 'em when they're down

The US has a rare window of opportunity to make productive air strikes against Iran's nuclear facilities

By Keith Yost

STAFF COLUMNIST

It shouldn't be necessary at this point, but given the pockets of feigned disbelief that remain abroad, it deserves repeating: The Iranians are developing nuclear weapons. Rhetorically, they continue to maintain the pretense of pursuing peaceful nuclear power, but the structure of their program belies its true nature as a weapons development effort. Their near-exclusive focus on isotopic enrichment, their construction of clandestine facilities, and their recent decision to enrich uranium to levels higher than what is necessary for commercial power plants are all signals that should remove whatever doubt remains of Iranian intentions. What Iran has achieved to date amounts to a small but growing breakout capacity. If they continue on their current pace, by mid-2010 they will have enough low-to-medium enriched uranium to produce several atomic bombs and the centrifuge capacity to bring that material to weapons readiness within a few months.

For years, the Iranians have rebuffed extensive diplomatic efforts to reach out to them. They have ignored our carrots, they have ignored our sticks, they continue to flout the U.N. and its censures. We lack the ability to levy additional sanctions against the regime. States such as China remain on the sidelines and offer no assistance to our international efforts - they may not be enthusiastic about the prospect of a nuclear Iran, but they seem to have concluded that the negatives are outweighed by the headache it would create for the West.

For all the well-deserved pessimism over diplomatic options, it still remains that the military option, air strikes, is not a pretty solution. Strikes are only a temporary fix, as the other side can always rebuild. They lend legitimacy to Iran's attempts to hide its facilities. They make it easier for the regime to rally public support, both at home and across the region. They costs American lives and materiel. They kill civilians. For these reasons, most have relegated the option of air strikes to a last resort, a desperate endgame answer to the Morton's fork of taking action or ac-

This position was well justified in the past, but circumstances have changed. The primary downside risk of air strikes has been the possibility that they would bolster Iranian public opinion behind the weapons program and against the United States. But as Iran's hard-line government intensifies its crackdown on reformers, it is becoming apparent that air strikes aren't going to revitalize the regime. After the repression it has handed down, the Iranian government is unlikely to garner much sympathy from its citizenry. It is hard to get

Bomb any military target you feel confident you can hit without risk to civilians. And when someone asks you why you did it, tell them you are committed to a nuclear weapons free world.

into the "my country, right or wrong" spirit when election-stealing thugs just snatched and tortured a friend, or shot a relative in the streets. The best time to strike is now, while the regime still has ownership of the weapons program but is poorly positioned to benefit from the blowback.

Some would cite the internal unrest in Iran as a sign that we should be patient, cross our fingers, and wait until reformers gain power. With fresh leadership, the thinking goes, Iran may prove more amenable at the negotiating table.

This may be true, but consider the enormous risk this entails. Firstly, a reformist ascension to power is a long-shot. Opposition to the government may be strong, but in the scorebooks of history, old men with guns win more often than young kids with ideas. Those who put their faith in Iran 2010 would do well to remember Hungary 1956 or Czechoslovakia 1968.

Secondly, who is to say that reformers, if they do somehow take control, would give up the weapons program? The reform movement is not inherently anti-nuclear and is unlikely to risk its newly gained office by capitulating to western demands. Furthermore, conducting strikes against the weapons program of a reformist government will have even worse political fallout than strikes against thuggish autocrats.

Lastly doing nothing does little to turn the odds in our favor, while bombing Iran's nuclear facilities is an excellent way to provide material aid to the reformist cause without putting the pro-western albatross around its neck. It takes resources to beat down protesters and maintain the power structure. The government needs men, equipment, communications systems, a command structure, and so on, all of which are eligible targets in an airstrike. Under the guise of non-proliferation, we can cripple the regime's ability to suppress the reform movement. This would either allow reformers to seize power wholesale, or pressure the regime to make concessions and liberalize.

And so, the advice is simple: bomb the nuclear facilities. If you aren't sure you can penetrate far enough to destroy the facilities, bomb the entrances to the facilities, collapse them, bury the whole complex. Bomb the anti-aircraft installations and air fields; prevent them from shooting back. Bomb the communications facilities; disrupt their ability to organize a response. Bomb the conventional forces; neuter their ability to retaliate against U.S. forces in the area. Bomb any military target you feel confident you can hit without risk to civilians. And when someone asks you why you did it, tell them you are committed to a nuclear weapons free world.

Air strikes are not an option to be exercised hastily, and we need not conduct them immediately. It is certainly worth waiting until the March 7th elections in Iraq have concluded, and more broadly it may be best to wait until the regime's popularity reaches a nadir before striking. But if we sit on our hands and let this opportunity pass, we will have wasted the single best chance we'll have ever had of preventing a nuclear Iran.

Give a Damn about MIT? the US? the World? Then do something about it!

letters@the-tech.mit.edu

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Biodiversity: the invisible crisis

It's not a number, it's a measure of the health of an ecosystem

By Erasmus K. zu Ermgassen

STAFF COLUMNIST

One hundred species will go extinct today. Another hundred tomorrow, and a further hundred the day after that. We lose roughly one hundred species of plants and animals every single day, and it's all your fault.

The figures may only be estimates, just as we are not sure exactly how many species we share the planet with, but it is certain that we lose tens of thousands of species every year, which means you are currently living through the greatest extinction event since the dinosaurs died out sixty-five million years ago. We face the startling truth that the impact we have on life on Earth is equivalent to a 10km^2 asteroid crashing into the Gulf of Mexico. The real problem, however, is that, unlike an asteroid collision, we can't feel it when those species disappear forever. Biodiversity loss is an invisible crisis.

Holly Moeller, in an article on the 9th of February for *The Tech* ("Biodiversity misses the point"), argues that conservation practices are undermined by their focus of protecting biodiversity. Unfortunately, conservation *is* biodiversity conservation — what else is there to conserve? She also argued that conservationists had to take into account the "bigger picture." This is a false perception of conservation efforts. Conservationists do not simply "tally the genes" or count the number of species; instead they are constantly making complex decisions in order to best apply the limited resources that conservation projects control.

Factors considered include the evolutionary "uniqueness" of species, the age of their lineages, the level of threat, ecosystem function, and the cost-effectiveness of the project. This is why a deep-sea microbe is not necessarily as valuable as a "smiling dolphin." For example, the relative conser-

vation priority of species depends partly on their redundancy, or how easily their role in the ecosystem can be filled by alternative species. Bacteria typically have great redundancy, whereas dolphins may be more difficult to replace. This argument, of course, ignores the question whether these microbes are likely to be in need of our help anyway.

In any case, for many people conservation itself is the "bigger picture." Conservationists realize what Big Business seems to have forgotten: that all humans are fundamentally tied to their environment, that human welfare is dependent on the functioning of our surrounding ecosystems.

The value of biodiversity has long been debated but many now believe that should we protect it not only for aesthetic or moral reasons, but also for economic ones. Ecosystem services are the plethora of functions benefiting humanity that nature carries out for free, including providing clean water, stor-

ing and recycling our wastes, and removing carbon dioxide from the atmosphere. Global ecosystem services have been calculated at around \$33 trillion, equal to more than half of total global economic output. Research has now shown that the efficiency of an ecosystem's services is related to how much biodiversity is preserved, or how intact the ecosystem is. All of which makes biodiversity of critical importance. If you care about economics, then you care about biodiversity, because ecosystems without biological diversity stop acting like ecosystems.

So, 2010 is the official Year of Biodiversity. Yes, it's essentially a worthless title, and as 30 percent of all mammals, birds and amphibians threatened with extinction this century, it seems 2010 will probably matter as little to biodiversity as The Year of Einstein (2005) mattered to Einstein. On the other hand, if it raises awareness of a crucial, invisible crisis, we should applaud that — not question it.

One country, one set of standards

The federal government must demand more from students, because the states don't

By Ryan Normandin

STAFF COLUMNIST

This is the second in a three-part series on education reform in America.

The United States of America is odd. Rather than having one central government that runs the country, we have several sets of governments which all exert influence on us. Each state, while united under the Constitution and ruled by the federal government, has its own government that passes laws, its own courts to hold trials, and its own department of education to issue standards. However, in matters of national importance, the federal government holds the power. No state can declare war or sign a treaty, for example. Why, then, does the federal government not hold the power to set standards for public education, one of the most important aspects of success for America and its citizens?

Winning the political battle to put national standards into place is without a doubt a great challenge. National standards are often opposed by both Democrats and Republicans, as Democrats dislike enforcing a national standard and Republicans dislike giving more power to the federal government. Yet there should be no question in anyone's mind that we need education reform.

A vivid example of this need can be found in Mississippi. Going by the standards that Mississippi set for itself, an astounding 89 percent of fourth graders were "proficient" in reading, making the best educated fourth graders in the entire country. However, they did not do so well on the National Assessment of Educational Progress, a nationwide test administered to random students in every state. In fact, saying the Mississippi fourth graders did not fare well is an understatement. In 1997, only 19 percent of Mississippi's fourth graders were

proficient or better — the state was last in the country.

Therefore, there exist two major problems with state-determined standards. The first is their very nature — all American citizens should be learning the same thing and be held to the same standards. The disconnects that exist between states' own standards are astonishing and are harming students nationwide. The second issue is the quality of the standards created by individual states. In order to meet federal mandates, obtain certain funds, and look good, states are lowering the bar in public

No state can declare war or sign a treaty, for example. Why, then, does the federal government not hold the power to set standards for public education?

education. And that is unacceptable.

This is also a societal problem. Today's society celebrates mediocrity over excellence. This is in no way intentional, but the examples are numerous. For example, sometimes schools distribute awards and scholarships so that "everyone is included" and "no one's feelings are hurt." Countless taxpayer dollars go towards programs to boost performance in low-achieving schools, as should happen, but gifted students are nearly completely neglected. Gifted students and those with learning disabilities both have special needs. It has been shown that many gifted students, if their needs are not met, will flunk out of school or get into trouble

There are still more examples. Teachers issue itemized "study guides," essentially outlining the entire test for students. They allow retake after retake, with 10 point bonuses at the end.

Even with the standards so embarrassingly low, even when high school students in Massachusetts are being asked on the Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System to read a graph and subtract numbers while Chinese students are asked to prove perpendicularity or find the angle between planes, students in America are still failing state exams. And what happens when students fail? The states, rather than fixing the problem, lower the standards yet again. This way, the state looks good to the federal government, high school students go happily on their way, and the United States, unable to keep up with the rest of the world, falls behind as China surges ahead.

We not only need national standards, we need high national standards. In fact, we need to expect more out of our students than any other country does. We need to switch to a full year school schedule, extend the number of hours in the day, fire incompetent teachers, reward excellent students and teachers, spend more time on math and science, and impose national standards that raise the bar. Every high school student in the country should leave high school with an understanding of advanced math, an understanding of physics, biology, and chemistry, and the ability to think critically and solve problems. They should have an understanding of American history and government, and the ability to read and write well.

Yes, it is a lofty goal, but what's the goal now? Each high school establishes its own "mission statement," usually saying something about producing "responsible citizens" and providing a "safe-learning environment" where the needs of all students are met. But these all go without saying. Of course a high school is going to be safe and meet the needs of its students. Where in the mission statement is the part about producing students who are globally competitive, who have a deep understanding of subject material and who are smart? Who are ready to go out and not just live in the world, but contribute to it, to change it to make it a better place? High schools can produce all the responsible students they want, but if they are unable to do anything, when are they even going to get a chance to be responsible?

Without a doubt, national standards are the only way in which the United States can continue to remain a leader in the international community. It is time for both parties to face the facts. The 50 states are all teaching 50 different things in 50 different ways with 50 different varieties of standards that are far too low. Our government needs to convene a panel consisting of educational scholars and developmental and educational psychologists and experiment with different curricula, different school models, and different methods of teaching. There will be mistakes, but out of these will come a solid system of public education that this country can be proud of.

In fact, out of this will come what will be the greatest public education system in the world. The panel needs to make a decision and the politicians need to follow through. It's time to expect our students to succeed at more than the bare minimum. American students are capable of incredible things. But with standards as they are, splintered among 50 states and lower than those of some other nations, America is doing its citizens a disservice.

We are one country, and we need one set of high standards. Yes, students will be challenged, but they will rise to meet to that challenge.

UA UPDATE

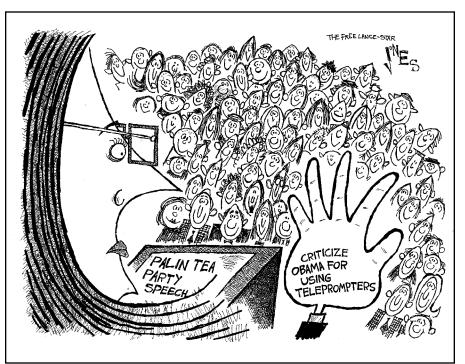
Interim elections and upcoming campaigns

The first Senate meeting of the Spring semester was held on Monday, February 8. Interim Senate Speaker and Vice-Speaker elections were held during the meeting: Tim J. Stumbaugh '12 was elected Speaker of the Senate, and Tim R. Jenks '13 was elected Vice-Speaker. Senate members discussed ways to unify the voices of undergraduate student leaders to clarify the undergraduate viewpoint in the eyes of administrators. Other discussion topics included the proposal for allowing second semester freshman to live off-campus, suggestions to improve the FSILG recycling

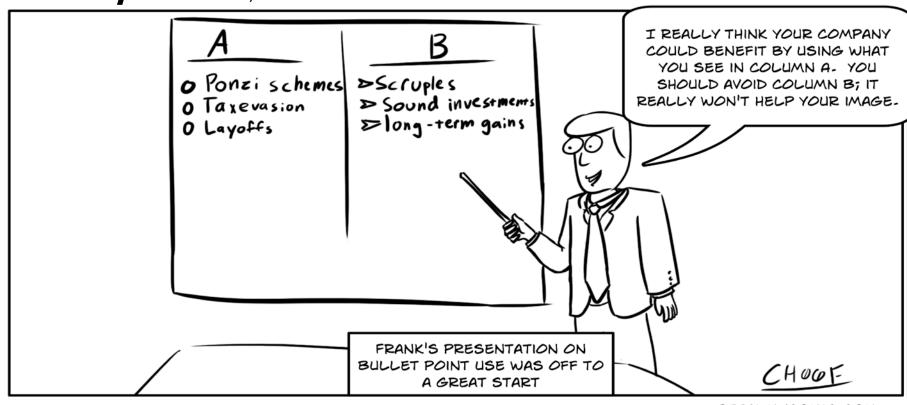
program, the release of the final version of the Institute-wide Planning Task Force report, and reformatting the procedure for nominating undergraduates to Institute Committees.

The Elections Commission held a candidates information meeting last Tuesday. Candidates need to collect signatures and turn in paperwork, platform statements, and photographs by Friday, February 26 by 5 p.m. in the UA office (W20-401). Questions should be directed to *ua-elect@mit.edu*.

— Elizabeth A. Denys, UA Secretary

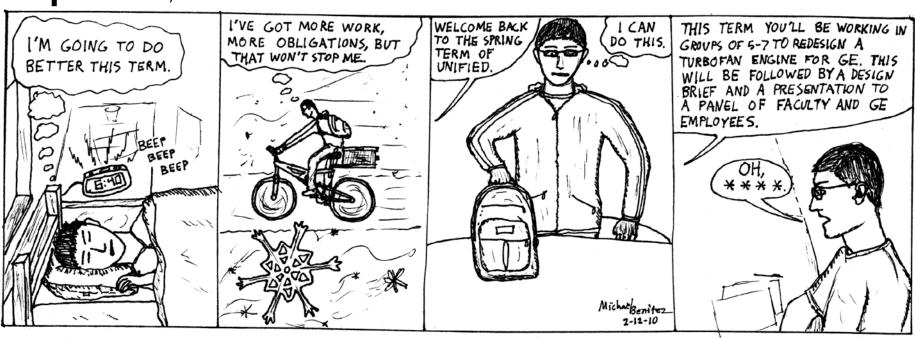


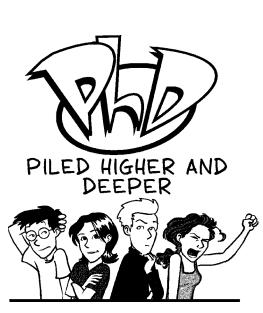
Steal My Comic by Michael Ciuffo



STEALMYCOMIC-COM

Help Desk by Michael Benitez













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Clever Acronyms: the Holy Grail of Academia

Use the loose definition of the word "acronym"

Missing a letter? Pull out an obscure buzzword that fits!

Desperate? Just pick letters from the middle. I'm Step (4)

ACtually Random Onomastic iNitials You Make (up)

Is it coherent? Does it makes sense? What matters is that it sounds cool.

Step s Ignore words that don't contribute. Kind of like your part in the project.

Types of Acronyms:

- Folksy Names: a cheery name will distract people from the fact your project cost millions
- Aggressive verb/predatory animal: a requirement for getting military funding
- **Greek names:** nothing says "Sci-Fi" like a good greek name

A.L.I.C.E., B.O.B D.A.V.E.

A.D.O.L.F., Z.I.P.P.O., S.I.G.M.U.N.D. O.B.L.I.T.E.R.A.T.E. (too many wordsi), B.U.N.N.Y. S.H.A.R.K.,

W.O.L.F. O.M.E.G.A A.L.P.H.A., S.I.R.I.U.S.

T.O.G.A., P.I.T.A., T.Z.A.T.Z.I.K.I.

Remember:

Acronyms cleverly reveal one's nimble youthful mastery abbreviating construed rigidly opted nomenclature, yielding monetary awards contracting research overtures not yet manifested!

Bonus points: make your acronym recursive!

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Crossword Puzzle

Solution, page 11

ACROSS

- 1 Tax grp.
- 4 Hale-Bopp, e.g.
- 9 Capital of Ghana
- 14 Bottom line
- 15 Humiliate
- 16 Pierced by horns
- 17 Housekeeping chore for a yegg?
- 20 Chemical compound
- 21 Of an ancient alphabet 22 Cheri of "SNL"
- 23 Venomous snake of Asia
- 25 Krazy ___
- 28 Old video-game letters
- 29 Anticipate with alarm
- 31 Peppy
- 32 Contaminate
- 33 Dolts
- 35 Housekeeping chore for a detective?
- 38 Clinging mollusk
- 39 Got up
- 40 Spheres

- 41 Perfume
- 42 P. Hearst's kidnappers
- 45 __ Lingus (Irish airline)
- 46 Old daggers
- 48 __ Park, CO
- 50 Gladden
- 52 Brains
- 53 Housekeeping chore for an editor?
- 57 City in Provence
- 58 Be wild about
- 59 DIY buy 60 All set
- 61 Irrigate
- 62 Two in nine?

DOWN

- 1 Yellow Sea port
- 2 Narrate
- 3 Inscribed stone pillars
- 4 Political runner
- 5 Hautboy
- 6 Half a Kenyan rebel?
- 7 \$ quote

- 8 Set of four
- 9 Talent broker 10 "__ fan tutte"
 - 11 Nut
 - 12 Gridiron zebra
 - 13 Juice drink
 - 18 Broadcast 19 Chinese Muslim
 - 23 Reno game
 - 24 Daily grind
 - 26 Garfunkel and Carney
 - 27 Cobb and Hardin
 - 30 Fissure
 - 31 Trig function 32 Dosage amts.
 - 33 Press
 - 34 Puppy malady
 - 35 Calamitous
 - 36 Prop for Mary Poppins
 - 37 Corp. VIP
 - 38 Mauna __ volcano
 - 41 Teeter-totter
 - 42 Pitch or putt
 - 43 Admits

- 44 Selling points
- 46 Flippant
- 47 Maximum degree
- 49 Patriotic men's org.
- 51 Prevaricated
- 52 Withered
- 53 _ for the course
- 54 Galena or mispickel

- 55 Harem room
- 56 Bon __ (witticism)

Easy Sudoku

Solution, page 12

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

Hard Sudoku

Solution, page 12

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

A distinctly american tradition

This year's Super Bowl ads bring on the laughs

By Emily Nardoni

STAFF WRITER

I think we can all agree that the Super Bowl is much more than a football game. Over the years, Super Bowl Sunday has morphed into an extravagant American holiday deeply rooted in the modern media culture. Aside from the loud parties, copious amounts of beer and hot wings, star-studded half-time time shows, and (of course) football, this national day of celebration has also become an advertising gold mine.

The Super Bowl is almost always the most watched television program of the year, and its commercial airtime is by far the most valuable; in three short hours, we probably see the most expensive and well thought out ads of the entire year.

For decades, these commercials have provided us with nearly as much entertainment as the game itself. From the 1973 Farrah Fawcett Noxzema shaving cream ad, to Apple's 1984 play off of George Orwell's "1984," to the current era of hyperbolic humor (think back to any Budweiser Super Bowl commercial you've seen in the past few years), we have come to look fondly on the ads that won us over on this most American of holidays.

Given this, it seems appropriate to briefly highlight some of the most memorable commercials of Super Bowl XLIV.

Google's Parisian Love:

By far my favorite commercial in a long time; it's simple, heart-warming, and memorable. YouTube it.

The Simpsons Coke Commercial:

Everybody loves the Simpsons, and the "open happiness" slogan resonated with the feel-good vibe that Coke is so famous for.

The slew of Budweiser and Bud Light ads:

Budweiser really went all out this year. One ad had a group of scientists partying with Budlight as an asteroid came rocketing towards Earth; another spoofed Lost; and yet another portrayed a town so desperate for their Budweiser that they made a human bridge so the delivery truck could cross a ravine. While none of these are particularly special, they certainly garnered enough collective laughs to be worth mentioning.

Homeaway.com and the Griswolds:

Chevy Chase reprises his classic role of Clark Griswold, with Beverly D'Angelo as his wife, playing frustrated travelers whose solution is to rent a home.

The Doritos dying wish:

A man fakes his own death so his final wish will be carried out: He wants to be buried in a casket full of Doritos. I have to say, this one definitely brought out some laughs.

Audi Green Police:

Playing on their award for Green Car of the Year, Audi pulls off a downright funny commercial making fun of modern environmental conscientiousness.

ALBUM REVIEW

An impressive step backwards

Spoon's self-produced album is more subdued but still Spoon

By Stephanie Bian

STAFF WRITE

I was a little apprehensive when I first listened to Spoon's new album, *Transference* — there was just something unexpected about it. I'd identified the indie rock band's sound to be defined by the cadenced drum beats, crisp piano/guitar pulses, and overall pathological catchiness à la "You Got Yr. Cherry Bomb" and "Don't You Evah" from Ga Ga Ga Ga (2007). Where was the hook that first drew me into the band?

The discrepancy lies in the fact that Transference is Spoon's first self-produced album. Without a producer, the band held the creative license to craft whatever they pleased—a victory for all you hardcore indie enthusiasts. In an interview with NPR, Britt Daniels — the band's frontman - emphasized that creating Transference without a producer gave the album a "more amateurish" sound. "I wanted to live with those bits of humanity," Daniels profoundly reflects. It's clear that this album was Spoon's chance to create something its own. As a result, the band managed to churn out a sometimes darker, sometimes more subdued, and altogether less polished sound.

The first track makes this attitude quite clear with the title "Before Destruction." It opens with a standard drum beat, and the vocals of Britt Daniels enter the scene

sounding muted and distant. The composition of the song is relatively simple; there are no complex instrumentals or melodies and the indistinct lyrics are sparse. Rather, Daniels wordless voice is layered to create a ghostly effect through much of the track. It's exactly this sort of stripped-down style which characterizes this album and showcases Spoon's talents—the grainy vocals of Daniels, the clean instrumental progressions, and the flawless way things are put together.

At the same time, though, there are tracks like "Trouble Comes Running," which sounds like it might have been recorded in somebody's garage. From the beginning, the guitar progressions have a lo-fi quality about them, and they are joined by an uncharacteristic crashing of drums. Don't get me wrong; the song is catchy, and I personally love the amateurish sound (after couple of listens). If you give this album a chance, be prepared for the step-down in production quality.

Similarly, if you heard "Goodnight Laura" outside the context of this album, you might not recognize the band behind it. In this peaceful lullaby, Daniels's voice is honest and bare, accompanied by nothing but blurred piano chords. It's a rare treat to hear Daniels so soothing and unadorned — such an obvious departure from the band's typical *oeuvre* of peppy indie rock.

Despite the more subdued sound of *Transference*, it's still a Spoon album not



NASTY LITTLE MAN

Indie rock band Spoon presents a rawer, edgier sound on their first self-produced album, *Transference*.

without the catchy instrumentals, beats, and Britt Daniels' enchanting voice they're simply not thrown at you with the same ferocity as in previous albums. It may have taken me a few listens to appreciate the difference, but it was definitely worth it.

CONCERT REVIEW

Mehldau tells the story of pop

Jazz piano virtuoso redefines Nirvana, Beach Boys

By S. Balaji Mani

SENIOR EDITOR

Acclaimed jazz pianist Brad Mehldau, on his penultimate U.S. tour date before heading to Europe, treated Sanders Theater to a solo performance last Friday. The venue's Steinway filled the space, highlighting notes in the upper registers and allowing lower notes to reverberate appropriately. Mehldau entered minutes after 8 p.m. wearing a brown suit, and promptly began after switching the piano bench onstage with one he'd found backstage. "There was another gig before me," he informed the audience, eliciting laughs and foreshadowing what would be an intimate night.

The show opened with a percussive interpretation of The Verve's "Bittersweet Symphony," a classic anthem from 1997 that stirred up controversy over its liberal use of an Andrew Oldham Orchestra sample. The portion of "borrowed" music happens to be the most memorable part of the song, specifically the string melody. Mehldau played the piece beautifully, playing the vocal lines lower on the keyboard, mixing them in with the

supporting chords. Wisely saving the main theme for the momentous ending, Mehldau brought the song to a familiar close and immediately began the next piece.

While mixing in jazz standards ("My Favorite Things" deserved much applause, in its bouncy and mature retelling) and a couple of his own pieces, Mehldau focused on more popular selections. Mehldau, who also performs in the trio format, is no stranger to covering pop songs. He's recorded numerous versions of Radiohead songs (and avoided these in particular during the concert), as well as a stunning version of "She's Leaving Home" by The Beatles, found on his 2006 album Day Is Done. In the solo setting, Mehldau took care of all the responsibilities, which at times led to a more formulaic approach to the pieces. The cover songs all began with a minimal setting of the chords progression, followed by the main melodies, an exploratory solo (often modulated up), winding back down with the melody. While the formula provided for moments of tension and release, it didn't allow for a variety in structure.

Two notable performances of the evening included Mehldau's take on Massive

Attack's "Teardrop" and his honest version of the *Pet Sounds* staple "God Only Knows." The former began lightly, quietly asserting its beat. The vocal melody danced on top, and echoed brightly through the theater. Mehldau closed his eyes (as he did during almost the whole show) and took the solo into a completely different region. The solo showcased his ability to reinforce the subtleties of the melody, and expand upon them using thoughtful ornamentations. "God Only Knows" was more contemplative than the original, and provided a solid ending to the evening's first and only official set.

While Mehldau announced that "God Only Knows" would close the evening, he returned for five encore performances. This decision created a disjointed and somewhat uncomfortable second half of the evening. Audience members, unsure of how many more encores would occur exited the theater early, perhaps not realizing that there was still some music to be heard. As the encores went on, fewer and fewer audience members stood up, indicating an anxiety with this particular performance tradition. The first of the five encores was definitely the most success-

ful. Mehldau came from backstage to deliver a louder, darker reading of "Interstate Love Song," by alternative rock band Stone Temple Pilots. The familiar bass lines had heads bobbing back and forth in the first few rows.

bing back and forth in the first few rows.

What was most revealing of the evening was the predictable nature of pop music. The melodies were clearly derivative and memorable for a reason; Mehldau's left hand, no matter how much it traveled in and out of the harmonic limitations of each cover song, was condemned to the standard progressions of pop. Maybe it was for this reason that the show left just a little more to be desired of this critically acclaimed pianist. The evening might have transpired much differently had Mehldau included more of his compositions or a few more jazz standards.

Despite Mehldau's departure from his own catalog, he still conveyed a dynamic range of personal emotions with the evening's selections. It's this quality that will allow him to successfully include the cover songs into his repertoire while keeping his performances fresh. Mehldau will take a break until March, when he will resume his tour with a concert in Marseille, France.

SCH ZII C

The Columbia crew goes to Cali

Vampire Weekend's *Contra* brings you an eclectic, experimental mix of Afro beats and rambling synths

By Maggie Liu

ARTS EDITOR

Vampire Weekend's debut album in 2008 surfed the crest of the collegiate retro-pop wave (with the likes of Chester French, This is Ivy League). As everyone in the industry knows, a band's image is as important as music. Although there have been many great musicians, those lacking a visual concept often find themselves eclipsed in popularity by bands with less talent but better taste in sneakers.

Vampire Weekend succeeds where others may fail. They are not your stereotypical indie rockstars. Bright-eyed, freshly-scrubbed and sporting Sperry Topsiders, they came together at Columbia University. Vampire Weekend is to indie pop-rock as Kid Cudi is to traditional rap. However, the conventions are always being defied and Vampire Weekend's open defiance of the conventional rockstar image seems to have become something of a novelty: intellectual pop stars. Well, it does appeal to the crowds of Buddy-Hollybespectacled youths studying liberal arts and shuffling about in skinnies and flannel. Although Vampire Weekend is associated with trust-fund babies who cavort about in faux-hip glory, their music actually satirizes that crowd.

Ezra Koenig, the band's vocalist, recently admitted in a *Rolling Stone* interview his frustration with the misperception of his band: "Sometimes I feel a little bummed. To me, it's very obvious that we're using satire and irony." However, I was not surprised when I saw the album cover of *Contra* pasted all over the

Urban Outfitters stores and website. A quaint Polaraoid featuring wide-eyed blonde who could pass for a Ralph Lauren model stares blankly ahead, the signature polo player on her shirt branding her. I couldn't help chuckle at the irony.

Ironic or not, Vampire Weekend's first album was associated with the East Coast liberal arts scene. In the sophomore album, Contra, the East Coast band has teleported to California. Ezra proclaims: "It's pretty obvious it's not a xerox of the first one. We made it our goal with this one to do new things, to progress, not to have a clean break from the first album but keep moving forward [sic]." While the Afro-centric roots still remain, there's more auto-tune, guitar plucks, crooning, Ezra's falsetto, and words stringed together — more sound than singing really. The music has come farther in Contra, oftentimes monopolizing the pieces. The vocals and the instruments often swap roles, the vocals setting up the piece and the instruments declaring the melodies.

There are definitely certain songs that seem to blur into a long trail of instrumental drums and synthesizers. While Ezra has insisted that the second track is not a complete break from the first one, I think only a couple tracks hearken back to their debut album. "Taxi Cab" is particularly reminiscent of Vampire Weekend's earlier tracks, both in style and lyrics. There's an insecurity and deep melancholy associated with the tenderness of growing up: "unsentimental, driving around / sure of myself, sure of it now / you stand this close to me / like the future was supposed to be."



BEGGARS GROUP USA

Although Vampire Weekend is associated with trust-fund babies who cavort about in faux-hip glory, their music actually satirizes that crowd.

Vampire Weekend's distinct style may be its downfall: Ezra's soothing croons can lend a homogenous feel to many tracks. But the band is a trendsetter. In *Contra*, the band takes all the expectations of another pop-rock album about girls and college and throws them out the window. It is definitely an album that takes multiple listens before it grows on you — unless you're the type that quickly takes to colorful amalgamations of musical riffs. The

variety of music that *Vampire Weekend* draws from has grown wider. The band has become more inclined to take risks and create sounds that are unabashedly weird and quirky. The title of the newest album, *Contra* sums up their goal. "Contra is anybody you try to frame as your opposite, as not a party of your world," Koenig explained to *Rolling Stone*. Like it or not, music elites will have to make space for this band's particular brand of contra.

DOUBLE SOY LATTE, PLEASE!

I'd rather be studying on Newbury Street

Espresso Royale has a fantastic atmosphere, and the lattes aren't half bad either

By Tracy Kambara

STAFF WRITE

If the Student Center has become your allin-one dining hall, study room, and bedroom, allow me to suggest a simple lifestyle change. Coffee shops and cafés are no longer havens for artsy Mac users with thick-rimmed glasses who work from home. Toting my clunky Dell, visually aided by my contact lenses and armed with full-time student status, I'll be writing about Boston-area cafés near MIT so that you'll finally be able to get that Reading Room stench out of your clothes.

"I don't really like John Cusack movies."
"Well, I thought *Must Love Dogs* was like, a cinematic masterpiece."

Walking into Espresso Royale Caffe, I think, *Damn, these baristas are awesome.* Located on a lower level brownstone on Newbury Street, Espresso Royale is just two blocks east of Mass Ave. It's a Friday afternoon, and the small tables are only about half full. I find a spot near an outlet and settle down for a few hours.

In addition to a small display of baked goods, Expresso Royale offers a substantial selection of made-to-order breakfast and lunch sandwiches. They are served on their kettle-boiled bagels, which come in a variety of flavors

I opt for the Santa Monica, which is essentially a glorified lox sandwich (via a generous helping of avocado spread) that doubles as a tribute to my birthplace. They

also have an impressive selection of vegetarian options, like the Veggie Blast and the Joy of Soy sandwich.

Espresso Royale's no-frills drink selection keeps it basic, with regional coffee beans, espresso-based drinks, and teas. My soy latte is topped with leafy foam art, putting a little smile on my face (easily amused: guilty as charged).

Several key factors converge at Espresso Royale to make it one of my favorite study spots. For starters, the wi-fi is free, the music is not distracting, and the people are friendly. Grab a seat in the back to avoid cold drafts as customers walk in and out. The tables are close together, but most other customers are either studying or sharing funny work stories — nothing your iPod

can't block out.

I would not recommend Espresso Royale for attempting that twenty-hour p-set requiring five classmates, unfettered e-mail access to a TA, and a sleeping bag, but it is conducive to reading HASS papers or doing online research.

Of course, not everything is perfect. I wish my bagel had come toasted, and I prefer my latte a little hotter and a bit stronger. But Espresso Royale more than makes up for its shortcomings in environment, proximity to campus, and entertainment — where else would I overhear references to Sideshow Bob, The Hobbit, and Scarlett Johansson in the span of fifteen minutes?

Damn. These baristas *are* awesome.



MELISSA RENÉE SCHUMACHER—THE TECI

South African a cappella group Ladysmith Black Mambazo blends gospel and dance during their concert at Sanders Theater on Saturday night.

Coitus interruptus

It was a hot, steamy summer night. I returned to my room only to find that the brick enclosure had been transformed into an oven by the August heat. Having no air conditioner to turn to, I stripped down and lay on the bed motionless, wishing the humidity would abate.

Enter my boyfriend. As I was already naked, the activity of the night seemed inevitable. We commenced. Enjoying myself, I expressed myself accordingly. I was getting pretty into it until a sound pierced through the thin wall that separated my bedroom sex dungeon from my neighbor's pit of plastic silverware and old *New Yorkers*, playing at full volume...

The mood was permanently fractured by the rush of images that flooded my brain: rats and bunnies getting their fill of nutritious vegetables. I sat with my mouth wide open in shock as my boyfriend huddled in a shame ball at the end of the bed. My neighbor had won that battle, avenging his interrupted slumber and ruining my sex.

But I can prevail! [A sex toy] will elevate the quality of my sex, causing me to scream in ecstasy and drown out whatever ammo my neighbor may direct my way. Only you can prevent my sex life from being ravaged by Internet memes.

Salve my conscience with a sex toy

As a young girl i would collect worms in a plastic ziploc bag unaware of the slow, suffocating death that awaited them. I feel it is only fair for me to share my pleasure with the poor worms that I so unfortunately killed years ago. Please, please let me make it up to them with your "Big Teaze, I rub my wormie," It would make me happy and my conscience happy.

My lover (and orgasms) are so far away

Having a love of your life who is on the other side of the coast most of the time does tends to make a girl feel lonely emotionally and sexually, especially on a Valentine's Day when it is not possible to go on jet-hopping in this economy and the sad fact that a typical college student is usually cash-poor. Every single night, he would call and tell me that he misses and loves me, while trying to use nerdy, romantic physics pick-up lines on me: "I want my capacitor to discharge in your circuit" or "Baby, I'm the eigenvalue to your Schrodinger wave function... I make your love multiply!"

When we are together for those rare moments, he ignites such exploding emotions inside of me, in the hollows of my upper cavity, as well down there. He was my first. He brought me to my first orgasm. He is my first love and boyfriend. He can work magic with his fingers and mouth. He was perfect in every way.

Many times, every night, my body remembers and misses him so badly, that I can't but help feel the longings for him. So I'm hoping for a vibrator, either Tantus Echo Vibrator or OhMiBod, to get me to that Big O and wait for the time to pass in order to reunite with the love of my life in the coming months.

Why I can't find a good man in 18

I'm course 18. Really, that should say enough without reading further, but I'll explain anyway... You may be getting other submissions that ask you to pity them, but I'll tell you why course 18s have it the worst. We need sex toys because we have no hope of finding competent men in the field of math.

All the other science and engineering majors have hands-on lab experience by the time they graduate. Even in 6-3, by the time a guy taken 6.01, he has the meticulous hand skills required to build a breadboard circuit. A man with these skills can surely find the clitoris. Meanwhile, the only implements math men are used to are pencils, clearly phallic,

and LaTeX; everything encourages them to think about nothing but their dicks. Without a real lab, Course 18s can't even hope to be able to please a woman.

No matter what branch of math these men are studying, they make incompetent and selfish lovers.

Those studying algorithms try to reach peaks in the fastest time possible; obviously, these peaks won't be mine. Calculus-oriented men have limited talents and can only get me asymptotically close to coming. Plus, they're lazy, always insisting on being the area *under* my curves.

The probabilists claim their bad performance is "almost surely" only temporary. And the topologists see my pussy as a damn doughnut! (Unfortunately, it's a doughnut they definitely don't know how to eat.)

AND THE VIBRATOR GOES TO...

Results from *The Tech*'s sex toy giveaway!

alentine's Day is this Sunday, and regardless of your relationship status, you should learn to "love" yourself properly.

Sex toys and lubricants are the two products that helped me discover the hype about sex. Learning how to get off properly isn't as intuitive as other physical necessities, but once learned, it gives the life-lasting benefit of being able to help your future partners.

There's no shame in purchasing sex toys: They makes getting off faster and easier, and it's perfectly natural for people to still masturbate even when they're satisfied with their sex life.

While the cost of a solid sex toy is more than most college students have lying around, with a little bit of scrimping, it's a well well worth the investment.

I would even advocate trying cheaper sex toys out that have fewer features for introductions. A good bullet can always be purchased for under \$20, and it's just as effective as anything else out there for clitoral stimulation. The replacement batteries at Good Vibes are only \$1 a pack, and they power the toy for around four hours.

Some of the stories we received were funny and heartfelt; some were creepy; some were just sad. We've printed some of our favories here, edited for content.

We tried hard to satisfy everyone's requests. If you didn't get anything, I still hope that you'll use Valentine's Day as an excuse to improve your sex life.

— Christine Yu

In need of a little assistance

Some girls are built for orgasms - I'm not one of them. After listening to my friends talk about coming two, three, four times during sex, I was pretty convinced that I would never get to experience even one orgasm. I didn't have my first one until I bought a toy last year. Turns out the problem wasn't incompetent partners — I just need a little extra power to get over the edge. Now I have a boyfriend who is wonderful in every way — including in bed. Despite his sincere and repeated efforts, I still can't finish without a little electronic help. Other vibrators are awkward to use during sex they kind of break the mood. The We-Vibe would be perfect for both of us. This Valentine's Day, I want to share everything with him — including an orgasm.

Learning to do it for myself

I've opened up a lot sexually since I got to MIT, and before I got here I literally shuddered at the mention of anything like masturbation. Needless to say, I have had a pretty drastic change of opinion on that front, and it really is true that having fun with yourself teaches you a lot about what you do and don't like, and what does and doesn't work for you. As there don't seem to be any guys in my immediate future, I'd like to spend Valentine's Day with a date I know won't disappoint me.

Help my boyfriend give me what I want

I have never been able to orgasm during sex. Actually, not during any interaction with another person. I've had enjoyable experiences, but I've been struggling with all the mental blocks and the rest of that bullshit that gets in the way of being able to let go and get off. Don't get me wrong, I've masturbated, and I orgasm perfectly fine. But I even struggle doing that in front of another person — leading to not getting off, taking a huge amount of time, or a crappy orgasm. I don't even know what a vaginal orgasm feels like or where my G-spot is. Maybe because of bad situations with past relationships (or lack thereof), I have trust issues and illogical apprehensions and a dozen of other things holding me back. But now, I'm in my longest, and first real relationship with a great and loving guy. We have plenty of sex and he's been so patient and understanding. I know he just wants me to feel good too (as do I), but I don't even know where to start. I just want to try something out and see if it will help.

A poetic interlude

'Twas a cold February 14th night, My situation was not one of delight: With me, there was no one whom I could treasure, no one from whom I could derive physical pleasure. For me, there was no wonderful guy, and so I sat alone with my wine, and sighed.

I thought, "There must be something I can do," and searched my mind for any a clue.
I looked high and low, and pondered real hard, but there's no motivation without even a Valentine's Day card.

Finally, "Aha! I need no boy!

The only thing that's necessary is a sex toy!

"But where can I get one? I don't want to be kinky... I certainly don't want to buy something dinky. "
I began once more to pace the room, feeling a kind of impending doom.
I sighed again, and then picked up the Tech, "Might as well read it, I mean, what the heck."

As soon as I opened the paper I saw something that made me drop my jaw: "Sex Toy Giveaway!" ...something I could win! Oh, what a wonderful state I'd be in...

And so I ask, for this day of love, please give me a sex toy from heaven above.

What's Going On?

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From page 7 I R S C O M E T A C C R A N E T A B A S E G O R E D C L E A N O U T T H E S A F E H A L I D E R U N I C O T E R I K R A I T K A T N E S D R E A D S P R Y T A I N T I D I O T S L I M P E T A R O S E O R B S S C E N T S L A A E R S N E E S E S T E S E L A T E S M A R O S E A R L E S M A D O R E K I T

Fresh beats from N.E.R.D and Super Mash Bros. to liven up MIT Spring Weekend

Spring Weekend, from Page 1

this year will introduce students to acts that they might not have heard before, and add variety to an event that has hosted ninetiesrock bands for the past two years. But he said that publicity for this concert will be a larger concern because N.E.R.D is less popular than older bands like Third Eye Blind

Changes to how bands are selected

Years ago, the SAO and the Undergraduate Association Events committee, a mostly unelected body serving under the UA, ran the selection process together. Each year, the SAO would contact a third-party representative, Pretty Polly Productions, for a list of acts that were available within MIT's time-slot and budget. After receiving this list, it was passed on to the students in the form of the November poll.

After reviewing the results from the poll, the committee, including representatives of SaveTFP and a few other student groups, would meet to make a final selection and plan the logistics of the concert. Spangle said that, in many situa-

tions, the conversations were "long and arduous," and frequently devolved into back-and-forth arguments over the merits of a hip-hop or rap act versus a rock one. "It was a committee that didn't function," Spangle said.

Two years ago, with the committee gridlocked, the SAO ended up spearheading the planning process. It booked Third Eye Blind, a band that had done well in the polls. That year, Third Eye Blind sold almost 3,200 tickets, more than any MIT Spring Weekend show of the last decade.

Last year, the process changed. Hoping for greater student involvement in the planning process, Spangle took event out of the UA committee and created three teams, each led by an MIT staff member and a student co-leader. Each team focused on a different aspect of Spring Weekend: booking the concert, the events preceding the concert, and publicity. After receiving the available bands from Pretty Polly Productions and the data from the November poll, the three groups executed their responsibilities through their own subcommittees and student volunteers, bringing Ben Folds to camThe same three-committee system was used to select the N.E.R.D. and Super Mash Bros.

What to look for in a Spring Weekend band

Typically, the event coordinators judge success by the attendance, and hope each year to increase the number of tickets sold. Though the Ben Folds show didn't sell as well as the Third Eye Blind concert, it still sold several hundred more tickets than almost any other band brought to campus in previous years.

The event coordinators use personal discretion to right what they see as selection bias from the approximately 1,000 poll respondents. Spangle said that choosing a band for Spring Weekend is much harder than choosing a comedian for the Fall Festival, an event that always sells out quickly.

Other concerns include timing: Only so many bands have the space in their schedule or happen to be in the Northeast during MIT's spring weekend. Frequently, bands will play several college campuses in a row, or visit MIT as part of a general college tour.

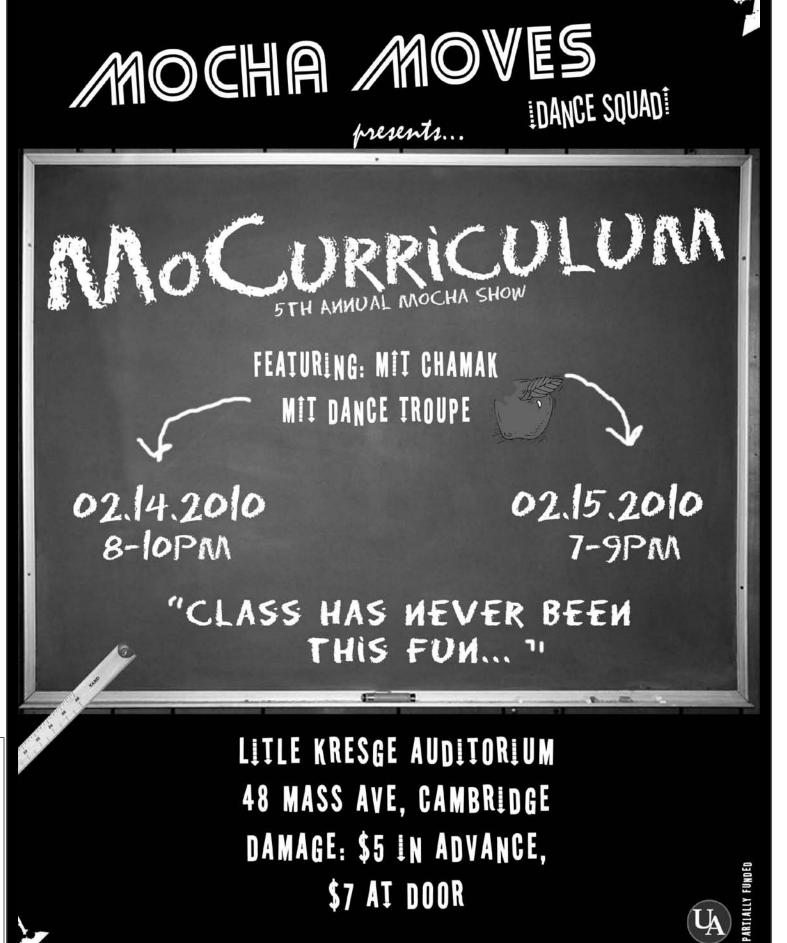
The coordinators also hope to bring a diverse mix to the music brought to campus. The poll-

ing results are primarily driven by name recognition, Diaz explained, so some deviation from the poll is necessary in order to include "under-represented portions" of MIT's student body. Diaz hopes that hosting N.E.R.D in the year following Ben Folds and Third Eye Blind will include students who may have not have been interested in previous events.

Diaz, Chen and Spangle all said that the process could be more transparent but that its opaqueness was in no way intentional, merely a function of the complicated give-and-take that occurs between the Spring Weekend coordinators and Pretty Polly Productions. Diaz added the UA events committee is open to all interested students.

The budget for the whole event is \$100,000. After accounting for the venue, staging, staff, and other technical considerations, \$50,000 to \$70,000 is left for the bands themselves.

Pre-sale tickets will be available for students for \$10 starting March 1. From March 20 onward, students tickets will cost \$15, while staff and affiliates will pay \$20. Tickets will be available for purchase through the SAO ticketing website: http://sao.mit.edu/tickets/.



12 THE TECH FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2010

A capella groups help students woo their Valentines

Serenades, from Page 1

cret admirer carefully selected a song with a soloist about whom Logs President Thomas Gerrity '11 waxed poetic with an admiring sigh, "I cannot wait for Jason Ashe to be unleashed on MIT this Friday... I think he really kills the solo in 'Love' by Musiq Soulchild. Oftentimes, we in the background have trouble trying to capture that song, but Jason just makes it seem so easy."

Although you might feel alone in that room of over two-hundred happily anonymous classmates, you are not actually alone in your discomfort. The sale of Valentine's Day serenades has become an annual tradition for MIT's two singlesex a cappella groups. Today there will be over eighty romantic and not-necessarily-consensual serenades as the Muses, an all female group, and the Logs sprint back and forth across campus to deliver musical declarations of love.

For you, these serenades will consist of a few minutes of pleasing harmony and corny (or comical) lyrics. For the Logs and the Muses, however, each serenade is the product of hours of practice and preparation. Today the songsters will put their practice and hard-earned stamina to the test in the biggest challenge they have faced to date — together, they sold more songs than ever this year. The Muses alone sold almost 3 times as many serenades as in previous years, for a grand total of over 40 serenades.

Want to serenade? Run!

More goes into these serenades than just one week of preparation. In essence, the groups begin preparing for the serenades with their first rehearsals of the year. Each group rehearses for six hours each week. Both groups have shows off-campus and on-campus. The Logs perform nearly every weekend, and at times have up to six gigs in just one weekend.

Given their easy-going attitudes during performance, the Logs conduct themselves in a surprisingly professional manner during practice. Having attended their spring concert, I knew of their strong personalities and vocal talents. What I didn't realize was how artfully they must balance fun and work in order to maintain their tradition of singing for the fun of it. The boys bump into each other and roughhouse a bit during the short breaks, but when called to attention by director Edan Krolewicz '12, they immediately assemble into an orderly formation.

In addition to their six hours of practice each week, all members of both groups take on additional re $sponsibilities\,to\,make\,the\,serenades$ possible. They staff a sales booth from Monday through Thursday, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. They miss their Friday classes. They run more 500m dashes than track sprinters. Then, after all that, they face the awkward task of asking award-winning professors for permission to interrupt lectures. They deliver their message — often to beet-red, reluctant individuals — and sprint off to their next appointment. It's "a logistical nightmare," Gerrity said.

This year, had to deal with a huge influx of new members. "We have two-thirds new members right now," said Devorah Kengmana '11, the serenades manager. "They are all very lively, and there's a lot of silliness that goes on."

All performances in 32-123

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ELIZABETH D'ARIENZO—THE TECH

The MIT Muses serenade *Tech* writer Danielle L. Gorman (seated) during their rehearsal in the McCormick Hall penthouse on Tuesday.

Because they gained so many new members during IAP, The Muses have faced a time crunch. In order to deliver on their offered selection options for Valentine's Day Serenades, they had to learn six entirely new songs. Despite this challenge, President Amber R Lin '11 was able to create a calm and relaxed atmosphere for the Muses' Tuesday night practice

"We try to be serious," Kengmana explains, "but that doesn't always work. It's partially doing serious singing and it's partially just hanging out, being silly, and enjoying singing because we all love it so much."

Despite being known by his friends as a bit of a goofball, Edan Krolewicz '12 effortlessly switched into his role as the Logs' director at this past Tuesday's rehearsal. "Everyone is very supportive. The older guys lead by example... They show me respect and allow me to [take control of] my role," he said.

Krolewicz showed no mercy to the Logs while training them. He had them all sing, run sprints through the halls of the Infinite, and then sing more in order to prepare them for the ardors of singing love songs immediately after sprinting from a previous serenade. Already familiar with the songs they'll be singing this Friday, the Logs focused on fine-tuning the audio and visual aspects of their performance.

are separate organizations and operate their serenades independently, they do communicate and bond together through the experience of serenading. They share a booth. They watch each other's things, alternate who selects the music, and talk with one another. Kengmana revealed that the Muses support the Logs by baking them cookies before each of their on-campus performances, and that the Logs return the favor by bringing flowers to the Muses at their performances.

Although they have several serious love songs, The Muses are best known for their rendition of Natasha Bedingfield's "I Wanna Have Your Babies." This year, the group added another laugh-garnering love song, The Backstreet Boys' "As Long as You Love Me," which was arranged for the Muses by a Lorg alum





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Friday, February 10, 2010 The Tech 13

New Haiti courses explore ways to aid a country in need

Haiti, from Page 1

from the Department of Political Science and selected student facilitators, is an IAP design seminar following the ideals of equality voiced by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Over the past decade, the MLK seminar class has grown from a small group of 10 to a class of 150 students that carries out various projects every January.

This year, several students decided to construct an installation on Haiti after an earthquake had devastated the country. Their display shows pictures of victims after the catastrophe, a model of the Presidential Palace in Port-au-Prince that had been destroyed in the earthquake, and informative pamphlets on the history and current crises in the country.

"I'm really big on community service," said Jacob K. Wamala '12, one of the students who worked on the Haiti installation. "Our visual installation raises awareness for the tragedy and provides background information on Haiti."

In addition, the group planned a Haiti Relief Diversity Dinner this past Tuesday, February 10 in Walker Memorial to raise funds for the Partners in Health Relief Efforts.

"We want to focus on MIT's unique capacity to help those in need," said Joseph Diaz '09. "We had a high turnout for this event and had raised about \$1,000 in just one night."

The MLK seminar was originally started to create a small art project honoring Dr. King, Wiener said, but it became a whole 12-unit class, and a way for student from diverse backgrounds to meet each other.

Ever since, MIT and Wellesley students have worked together each IAP to create artistic and political installations in Lobby 7 and Lobby 10 to express their thoughts on civil rights, justice, race, and the principles of Dr. King.

join@the-tech.mit.edu

Addir Fellows — MIT Interfaith Dialogue Community Lecture Series

ONE VOICE

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TUESDAY February 16, 2010 7:00 pm

W11—Religious Activities Center Main Dining Room (corner Amherst St. and Mass. Ave.)

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Questions: ora@mit.edu Website: studentlife.mit.edu/rl/addir_fellows

What is OneVoice?

The OneVoice Movement is an international mainstream grassroots movement with over 650,000 signatories in roughly equal numbers both in Israel and in Palestine, and 1,800 highly-trained youth leaders. It aims to amplify the voice of the overwhelming but heretofore silent majority of moderates who wish for peace and prosperity, empowering them to demand accountability from elected representatives and work toward a two-state solution guaranteeing an end to occupation and violence, and a viable, independent Palestinian state at peace with Israel. Find out more at: www.OneVoiceMovement.org





The above banners are asking: "What are YOU willing to do to end the Israeli-Palestinian conflict?

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Free tickets for MIT students!

Boston Chamber Music Society

Sunday, February 21 at 7:30pm

 ${\bf Sanders\ Theater,\ Harvard\ Square,\ Cambridge}$

Mozart Fantasia in F minor, K. 608, arr. for Piano Four Hands

Beethoven Piano Trio in E-flat major, Op. 70, No. 2 Beethoven Grosse Fuge, for Piano Four Hands, Op. 134

Brahms Piano Trio in C minor, Op. 101

Boston Modern Orchestra Project: Strings Attached

Saturday, March 6, 2010 at 8pm

Jordan Hall at New England Conservatory, Boston

Nathan Ball Stained Glass (2009)
Scott Wheeler Crazy Weather (2004)
Stephen Hartke Alvorada (1983)

Milton Babbitt Correspondences for string orchestra and synthesized tape (1967)

Betty Olivero Neharót Neharót (2006) Béla Bartók Divertimento (1940)

Tickets available at the MIT Office of the Arts (E15-205) Monday - Friday, 2:30 - 5:30pm in person, first-come, first-served only

2 tickets per valid MIT student ID

http://web.mit.edu/arts/see/freetickets/index.html

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Students must show a valid MIT student ID upon redemption of pass.

'Graduate Women at MIT' group to help women grad students feel like less of a minority at MIT

GWAMIT, from Page 1

male-dominated fields.

"I think their emphasis on professional development is key," said Blanch E. Staton, Senior Associate Dean for Graduate Students, regarding the new group. "I think the careers office does a good job in terms of increasing awareness of diverse opportunities, but there is always more work we can do."

GWAMIT celebrated their internal kickoff earlier last January 28, but the plans to host its external kickoff event to the wider MIT community sometime this April with a keynote speaker and several spring seminar series to follow.

Another defining characteristic of the group, will be their tendency to approach common topics from more fresh viewpoints, says cofounder Jean Yang G. "When choosing panels of speakers, we always chose women with perfect work life balance. I want to hear from someone who doesn't have kids; I'd like to hear from a single mother. I'd like to try to ask some more provocative questions."

GWAMIT also plans to collaborate with events for departmental groups, such MIT Sloan Women in Management (SWIM). President of the SWIM, Veena Jayadeva G, was enthusiastic about the idea of opening up some of the group's more general events to a wider audience, soon with the help of GWAMIT.

"There's so much stuff happening at MIT, and it's really hard to find what going on beyond departments," Jayadeva said. "This group [GWAMIT] is a much more formalized way to go to one place and say 'ya this is what's going on."

For reasons like these, "the group has done a really nice job of reaching out to multiple offices throughout the campus and being pretty innate with trying not to overlap with what's already going on in campus, focusing really complimentary efforts" said Alicia Erwin, Assistant Director of Student Activities.

"We're pretty excited about the formation of GWAMIT," the two agreed.

 $\begin{array}{c} \text{agreed.} \\ \textbf{Inspiration} \quad \textbf{from} \quad \textbf{Harvard} \end{array}$

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group

Furman, who is a full-time graduate student at both MIT and Harvard, got the idea for GWAMIT from a similar group at Harvard. The Harvard Graduate Women in Science and Engineering, or HGWISE, was founded following Larry Summers's controversial comment that "innate" differences between men and women may explain why fewer women pursue successful careers in math and science.

Furman said that she was impressed with the organization of the group, which runs a mentoring program, numerous workshops, informational panels, and social events.

The mentoring program was especially memorable. "You don't really know what mentoring is, but when you find a mentor and see the insight they have, you realize the importance," she said. "[The] experience gave me new perspectives on what grad student women services could be."

At Harvard, Furman noticed that the women were much more tight-knit. "Grad women at MIT tend to feel more isolated," she said. "At Harvard science and engineering is encompassed in a much smaller subunit of the schools; I would guess the engineering school houses some seven or eight subjects that at MIT would be divided into different departments and fields."

"Here a woman in chemistry would never see a woman in Sloan or a woman in architecture," which is why GWAMIT could help, she said.

Recognizing grad women's needs

In December, an e-mail survey asking current graduate women how they take advantage of support services at the Institute was sent out. Roughly 1,900 of the 1,916 female graduate students responded to the survey, co-organized by the Graduate Student Council, Student Activity Office, and the Office of the Dean for Graduate Education.

Preliminary results of the survey show that many graduate women are unaware of several major resources available to them such as "help formulating initiatives,"

Importance of Graduate Women Support Functions (among residents w/ option)

Percent responding 'Very Important' or 'Essential'

Career planning guidance, 81%

Information regarding existing MIT resources for graduate women, 72%

Encouragement for women students to take on leadership roles, 71%

Personal counseling or confidential support, 67%

Opportunties for MIT offices to share information and to publicize resources for graduate women, 67%

Mental health support from a health professional, 62%

Connections with alumnae (female alumni), 61%

Opportunities to learn how to communicate more effectively with male colleagues/advisors, 60%

Programs that build community amongst women at MIT, 58%

Workshops on topics related to graduate women students, 56%

Events and Programs that address feelings of isolation for graduate women, 52%

Events that welcome new graduate student women, 47%

Conflict resolution training, 47%

2009 GRADUATE WOMEN SUPPORT SURVEY

An electronic survey asking women graduate students to evaluate their use of certain resources at MIT was circulated last December and January. Out of 1,916 graduate women, about 1,900 responded. Data collected showed that "career planning guidance" and "information regarding existing MIT resources for graduate women" were among the more important resources as perceived by those surveyed. GWAMIT provides links to many MIT resources on its website.

"building interdepartmental connections," and "receiving personal counseling from faculty and staff."

Graduate women responded that they viewed "career planning guidance" and "information regarding existing MIT resources for graduate women" to be among the most relevant resources of interest—a

point that especially resonated with Furman and the other GWAMIT cofounders.

"As an undergraduate, I knew every resource at MIT because it was hit over my head through GRTs and through orientation events," said Furman. "But as a graduate student, you don't really find out about

things. Your advisor doesn't necessarily know the resources available, departments don't necessarily tell you like dorms would, orientations are great, but some people don't attend or go to the content related activities."

According to Furman, grad students are much more independent and want something they can find on their own time. "We really think that looks like a website that compiles all sorts of resources available all at one place," she said.

For example "S^3....no one would ever [think to] Google search for that. Instead, we need people or a website to funnel for that."

Building Fellowship

Aside from focusing on careerbuilding events and resource sharing media alone, GWAMIT founders also stressed the benefit of social activities with other women as part of their central philosophy.

"There's an importance in sharing stories," Furman said. "Men get out, have beers and talk about some professor, and they don't include women all the time. Women also need time to co-miserate, share success, and really feel validated in some sense," Furman said.

Realizing that many graduate women work in a male dominated field, GWAMIT co-founders also hope that the social interaction with other women in provide a brief change of scenery for the female MIT grad student.

"Being around men all the time can be exhausting," Furman said. "One woman [I talked to] said she hadn't had another conversation with another woman in five weeks, outside of her CVS pharmacist."

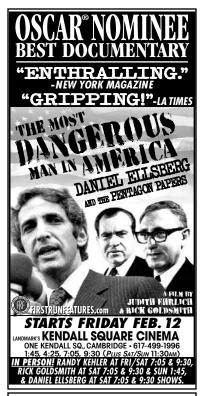
GWAMIT recently launched their new website, which compiles a list of resources and groups available for graduate women at MIT and announces the group's upcoming events. It can be found at: http://gsc.mit.edu/gwamit.



Friday, February 10, 2010



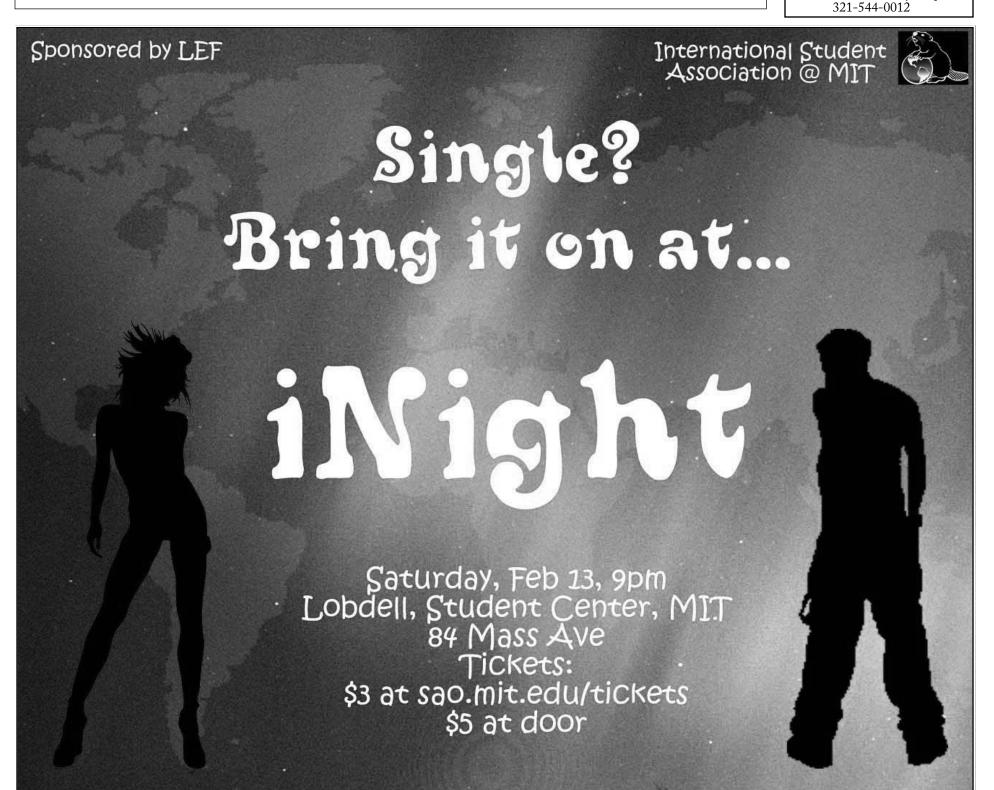
Jason Gurwin of Harvard Business school pitches his team's idea to the audience and a panel of three judges at the finale of the MIT 100K Executive summary contest on Thursday in 10-250. He described his team's business idea, which won the competition, as "the first social and competitive platform for savings."



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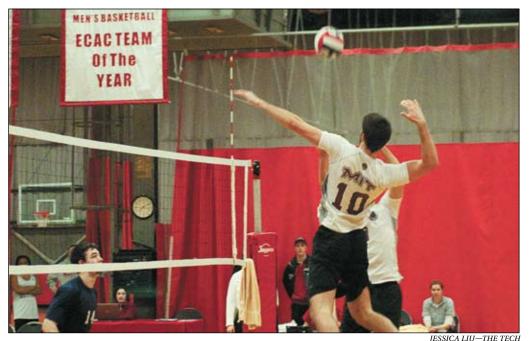
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Got a lot on your mind?

Share some thoughts with us! Write for Campus Life. join@tech.mit.edu



Patrick J. Vatterott '13 spikes the ball in the men's volleyball match against Endicott College in Rockwell Cage on Tuesday. The Engineers fell to Endicott in the last set.

ATHLETES' CORNER

The MIT Alpine Ski Team had its last two regular-season races at Wildcat Mountain last weekend, wrapping up its inaugural season as a club sport.

The team of six had just three finishers in Saturday's slalom and four finishers in Sunday's GS, but the final results brought a lot of encouragement to the team. MIT's front two men both finished in the top 25 — Jason D. Pier '13 was 21st and Michael J. Yurkerwich '11 was 24th on Saturday; Pier finished 24th on Sunday. Compared to the top two men on all nine competing teams, the MIT pair would have been 6th.

While only the best five men's and women's teams qualify for the regional championships, Saturday's top finish by Yurkerwich kept him in the running for the Individual qualification (he finished the season as the second best individual not on one of the five qualifying teams).

Kevin A. Rustagi '11 had a spectacular race on Sunday, improving by nine seconds between his first and second runs, while most of the field averaged about three seconds slower. He finished 66th for the day.

To recap the rest of the weekend's results: The men's and women's teams finished the season in 9th and 10th respectively in the McConnell Division. Women's Captain Jillian R. Reddy '11 was 55th on Sunday, and Sarah J. Laderman '12 finished 59th and 60th in the two races.

— Alexis Dale, team representative

UPCOMING HOME EVENTS

Saturday, February 6

Men's Volleyball vs. Regis College Men's Volleyball vs. Daniel Webster Col-

Men's and Women's Track & Field Coed 12 p.m., Johnson Track

Invitational Men's Basketball vs. Coast Guard

2 p.m., Rockwell Cage

11 a.m., Rockwell Cage

3 p.m, Rockwell Cage

Monday, February 15

Men's Volleyball vs. Lesley University

7 p.m., Rockwell Cage

SCOREBOARD

Men's Basketball	
Thursday, 2/11	
vs. Clark University	W 59-52
Women's Basketball	
Thursday, 2/11	
vs. Wheaton College	W 75-65
Men's Volleyball	
Tuesday, 2/9	
vs. Endicott College	L 3-2
Thursday, 2/11	
at Wentworth College	W 3-0



STEVE HOWLAND-THE TECH

Robert A. Habib '11 waits for a ball to rebound off the glass during Tuesday's game against Brown University. The Engineers lost 9-0.

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