



FENG WU—THE TECH

**Astronaut Timothy J. Creamer MS '92 tells the audience at Ring Premiere** that the Class of 2012 Brass Rat has traveled to the International Space Station. The Brass Rat was launched into space on Feb. 8, aboard Space Shuttle Endeavor.

## Space is Rat's next frontier

### RingComm sends ring to International Space Station

By Jiyeon Baek

In honor of the 40th anniversary of Apollo 11, the Brass Rat has gone to space. Last Friday's space-themed Ring Premiere featured a special message from astronaut Timothy J. Creamer MS '92, who brought the 2012 class ring up with him to the International Space Station. Despite concerns that the leak of the Brass Rat designs on Sunday would dampen excitement over Ring Premiere, over 800 sophomores attended the event in Kresge Auditorium.

The 2012 ring features the Apollo Lu-

nar Lander hack on top of the dome on the bezel, and the goddess Athena surrounded by Olympic torches on the class shank. On the seal shank, the owl resembles eagle from the Apollo 11 mission badge. As usual, there are numerous references to the class year, including the sailboats on the Cambridge skyline design which are shaped like a "1" and "2."

The unveiled designs are identical to pictures sent to three dormitory mailing lists on Sunday, Feb. 7. After Premiere, the 2012 Ring Committee said that the designs had been stolen from a committee

member's computer. "It's a very regrettable thing that someone would steal the design from a RingComm member's computer," said RingComm Chair Graham V. Schaik '12. Last Tuesday, *The Tech* speculated incorrectly that those pictures might be drafts of the final design.

The ring was flown to space as part of the payload of the space shuttle Endeavor on STS-130. According to Schaik, the ring is currently on the International Space Station. The committee's plan is to

Ring Premiere, Page 8

## Scientists in Washington

### Bonvillian connects MIT to policy makers

By Natasha Plotkin

EXECUTIVE EDITOR

In Washington, D.C., "Bill knows everyone, and everyone knows Bill," said Albert J. Swiston G, president of the MIT Science Policy Initiative student group.

As well, perhaps, Bill should. As the director of the MIT Washington Office, it's William B. Bonvillian's job to make sure MIT's voice is heard by the nation's policy makers. And, though the two institutions can differ in culture and opinion, the staff at the Washington Office has found that in plenty of situations their goals are in sync.

The staff tries to make the most of these situations. They set up meetings where MIT professors brief congressional staffers on their research, keep MIT labs informed about federal legislation that impacts their missions, and holds seminars to teach legislators about science and scientists about policy, among other activities.

The office's three main employees, Bonvillian, Assistant Director Alison Fox, and Senior Legislative Assistant Abby Benson, are all registered lobbyists, but they don't pursue earmarks. "We are not advocates to get the federal government to give particular grants," said Bonvillian. "What we do is support what's healthy for science and technology."

"We look to represent MIT in moving the national agenda forward," said Fox.

The office likes to connect MIT affiliates who have deep backgrounds in policy-relevant research topics with Washington officials who might benefit

Washington, Page 11

### IN SHORT

**MIT Police will holding lap-top tagging** events this week from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. in Stata on Wednesday and in Lobby 10 on Thursday. The fee is \$10 to help protect your computer.

**The waiver and enrollment deadline for the MIT Student Extended Insurance Plan is this Sunday, February 28.** Wavers and registration can be completed online at <http://medweb.mit.edu/waive>.

**The men's volleyball team is on a four-game winning streak** after beating Lesley University 3-0 on Monday.

**Campus Preview Weekend is approaching!** Go to <http://web.mit.edu/admissions/mitcpw> to host a prefrush, publish an event, or reserve a festival booth.

**Like arts? Follow the new arts section blog** at <http://rtz.tumblr.com>. Be warned: These are the unfiltered, disgustingly trendy thoughts of our arts writers.

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

### INTERVIEW

## St. Kitts PM Douglas talks with *The Tech*

By Natasha Plotkin

EXECUTIVE EDITOR

*Prime Minister of the Federation of Saint Kitts and Nevis Denzil L. Douglas visited MIT to speak about Caribbean countries' efforts to invigorate their region's science and technology agenda at the MIT Caribbean Students' Conference on Saturday. After the interview, he sat down with The Tech to speak about his background in politics and medicine and his economic development achievements in his country.*

*The Tech:* You've lived and studied in the Caribbean your whole life. Did you ever think about going elsewhere, or did you always feel the Caribbean was your home?

*Prime Minister Denzil L. Douglas:* I think opportunities presented themselves in the Caribbean...At one time I did think of going off to London to do some postgrad work. I was interested in dermatology, and there's a school in London where I had acceptance to do postgraduate work but I didn't pursue it because that path of

my career was interrupted by politics.

*TT:* How did you decide to start out in medicine and become a doctor?

There are two things really here. I think I always wanted to do medicine...[Before] I went off to university...I had both a science and an arts background, but I wanted to do science if I could not do law. I thought about law at that stage but the opportunities but the opportunity didn't present itself. But

Douglas, Page 9



LAWRENCE JACKSON—THE WHITE HOUSE

**Dr. Denzil L. Douglas, Prime Minister of St. Kitts and Nevis,** gave the keynote address at the second annual Caribbean Students' Conference on Saturday. He is pictured with the Obamas at a reception in New York during his 2009 visit to the U.S.

## Pike fraternity hopes to restart MIT chapter

By Maggie Lloyd

ASSOCIATE NEWS EDITOR

Yet another fraternity may be returning to MIT. Representatives of the Pi Kappa Alpha (Pike) fraternity, which has not had a chapter at MIT since 1980, are on campus this week to talk to unaffiliated men in the MIT community as the fraternity attempts to reestablish an MIT chapter.

Expansion consultants Patrick J. Coleman and Joseph C. Warstler said they have already met with coaches, administrators, DormCon, and other student organizations. They are looking to find ways to differentiate Pike from other MIT fraternities.

They said they are looking for male students who will represent the MIT and Greek community as "SLAG" — students, leaders, ath-

letes and gentlemen. These are students who "value academics" and will "develop as leaders" while treating people "with respect and dignity," they said. They believe that varsity, club, and IM athletes will be able to contribute to Pike's "competitive drive."

Interfraternity Council president T. Ryan Schoen '11 said that Pike representatives talked to the IFC at the end of last semester.

"We welcome anyone interested in colonizing here," Schoen said. Pike will be the second fraternity in recent years to return to MIT, joining Sigma Alpha Epsilon, which started rushing men in this fall. SAE last had a chapter on campus in 2005.

It does not seem that Pike will immediately have a house. Pike will "allow students to stay in their dorm

Pike, Page 8

### VARIOUS STATES OF UNDRESS

It's an acquired taste, to be sure, but...

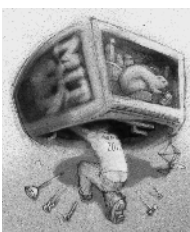
CL, p. 6

### OBAMA IS NOT THE GOVERNMENT

Don't blame him for all its failures, or give him too much credit. OPN, p. 5

### MIT: PAY YOUR WORKERS FAIRLY

Freezing wages is essentially forcing pay cuts on hard-working staff. OPN, p. 5



### LESSONS FROM THE RING LEAK

RingComm should make sure the ring design is good before worrying about flashy distractions during premiere. OPN, p. 4

### ICE THEATRE TEAM PLACES SECOND

On Saturday, MIT skaters won second place at the Skating Club of New York Showcase. SPO, p. 12

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# In California, Exhibit A in health insurance debate

By Kevin Sack  
*THE NEW YORK TIMES*

LOS ANGELES — When Bernhard Punzet opened the dreaded envelope from Anthem Blue Cross one recent Saturday, it ruined his weekend.

Although he had no known medical problems, the company was raising the premium on his individual health insurance policy by 34 percent, to \$254 a month. The policy for his partner, who is 12 years older, would rise 36 percent, to \$369.

“Ten percent I could have rationalized,” said Punzet, 34, a financial controller for a Los Angeles recruiting firm. “But a 34 percent increase? I don’t even have any data points for that, nothing to compare it to. I’ve never seen anything go up 34 percent.”

With health care negotiations stalled in Washington, the Obama administration is seizing on the seething fury felt by Punzet and nearly 700,000 other Anthem customers in California who have received notices of increases that av-

erage 25 percent. About a quarter of them are seeing leaps of 35 percent to 39 percent, the company said, at least four times the rate of medical inflation.

At a moment when the health care debate seemed drained of urgency, the rate increases have permitted President Barack Obama to remind Americans of what is at stake, not just for the uninsured but for those whose coverage is threatened by unregulated hyperinflation.

The spike in Anthem’s premiums, Obama warned last week, were “just a preview of coming attractions” if the country failed to overhaul its health insurance system.

But if Anthem was the whipping boy the White House needed, the confrontation has also reinforced an emerging shift of focus in Washington from the need for universal coverage to the need for serious cost control. And it brought into clear relief the deep rift between the administration and the insurance industry concerning a central question: whether such unsustainable pricing is driven by the blood-

less economics of risk or corporate greed.

Recognizing a no-lose proposition when they see one, politicians in Sacramento and Washington chastised Anthem relentlessly last week, and hearings are scheduled in both capitals. On Saturday, Anthem’s parent company, WellPoint Inc. of Indianapolis, agreed to a request from California’s insurance commissioner to delay the increases by two months, to May 1, so he could determine whether they comply with loss-ratio regulations.

Most of WellPoint’s fourth-quarter surge came from the one-time sale of a business unit or that Anthem lost money on the individual market in California last year, as company officials assert. California’s insurance commissioner, Steve Poizner, said Saturday that he had a “healthy skepticism” about the claim.

Although Anthem, the state’s largest for-profit insurer, has seemed outmaneuvered by the White House so far, it has tried to transform its defensive position into a teachable moment.

# Greek bailout increasingly unpopular in Germany

By Nicholas Kulishi  
*THE NEW YORK TIMES*

BERLIN — As European finance ministers refused Monday to name specific measures to rescue Greece and the Continent’s common currency, opposition grew among Germans to bailing out what they call spendthrifts to the south after years of belt-tightening by workers at home.

The fiscal crisis, shaking the Greek government while driving down the value of the euro, is forcing taxpayers and voters across Europe to confront the fact that their fortunes are tied together more closely than their politicians confessed in the late 1990s, in the rush to create the common currency over public objections.

In the process it has revealed how deeply national identity, rather than a common European identity, remains the reality on the Continent. Solidarity, at least in the eyes of most voters, still stops at the border.

Despite popular opposition to helping Greece, analysts expect big countries like France and Germany to reach some kind of deal, since the prospect of economic chaos without an agreement is more frightening than even the wrath of voters.

“Just like Obama is not going to let a systemic bank fail, Europe is not going to kick the wayward out of the system,” said Josef Joffe, the publisher of the weekly newspaper Die Zeit. But he added that the reason for that cannot be kept from the voters.

“Europe has become a huge welfare state for everybody, for states as well as individuals,” he said.

Greece’s finance minister, George Papaconstantinou, told his counterparts on Monday that a firmer commitment to helping his country was needed to fend off speculators. Other ministers in the euro zone lectured Greece about using complex financial instruments prepared by Wall Street to hide debt and called for a tighter clampdown on spending, rather than outlining the specifics of an aid pack-

age that would calm markets.

European leaders want to extract guarantees from the Greeks to put their finances in order before offering any kind of rescue, but their reticence also stems from the fact that any price tag will have to be defended at home.

Here in Germany, opinion surveys show that two-thirds of the people oppose financial assistance for Greece. More ominously, a survey released Sunday by the newspaper Bild showed that a slight majority of Germans, 53 percent, said they favored expelling Greece from the euro group entirely if its mountain of debt threatened the stability of the currency union.

“Every country has its own debts,” said Kristin Lautenschlaeger, 70, a retiree in Berlin who said she opposed spending German money to save Greece. “Germany is no longer such a rich country anymore, and has its own problems to deal with before it can take care of Greece’s.”

# As China develops ports in south Asia, India frets

By Vikas Bajaj  
*THE NEW YORK TIMES*

HAMBANTOTA, SRI LANKA — For years, foreign ships laden with oil, machinery, clothes and other cargo sped past this small town near India as part of the world’s brisk trade with China.

Now, China is investing millions to turn this fishing hamlet into a booming new port, furthering an ambitious trading strategy in South Asia that is reshaping the region and forcing India to rethink relations with its neighbors.

As trade in the region grows more lucrative, China has been developing port facilities in Pakistan, Bangladesh and Myanmar, and it is planning to build railroad lines in Nepal. These projects, analysts say, are part of a concerted effort by Chinese leaders and companies to open and expand markets for their goods and services in a part of Asia that has lagged behind the rest of

the continent in trade and economic development.

But these initiatives are irking India, whose government worries that China is expanding its sphere of regional influence by surrounding India with a “string of pearls” that could eventually undermine India’s pre-eminence and potentially rise to an economic and security threat.

As recently as the 1990s, China’s and India’s trade with four South Asian nations — Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Nepal and Pakistan — was roughly equal. But over the last decade, China has outpaced India in deepening ties.

For China, these countries provide both new markets and alternative routes to the Indian Ocean, which its ships now reach through a narrow channel between Indonesia and Malaysia known as the Strait of Malacca. India, for its part, needs to improve economic ties with its neighbors to broaden its growth and

to help foster peace in the region. Some of the shift in trade toward China comes from heightened tensions between India and Pakistan, which has hampered trade between the two countries. But China has also made inroads in nations that have been more friendly with India, including Sri Lanka, Bangladesh and Nepal.

Moreover, protectionist sentiments have marred India’s relationships with its neighbors.

India has had some success in establishing closer ties with Sri Lanka, with which it has a strong bilateral trade agreement. But China has become a partner of choice for big projects here like the Hambantota port.

India is starting to respond to China’s growing influence by becoming more aggressive in court-ing trade partners. India recently signed a free-trade deal with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations and South Korea.

# Joint raid captures Taliban’s top commander

WASHINGTON —The Taliban’s top military commander was captured several days ago in Karachi, Pakistan, in a secret joint operation by Pakistani and U.S. intelligence forces, according to U.S. government officials.

The commander, Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar, is an Afghan described by U.S. officials as the most significant Taliban figure to be detained since the American-led war in Afghanistan started more than eight years ago. He ranks second in influence only to Mullah Muhammad Omar, the Taliban’s founder and a close associate of Osama bin Laden before the Sept. 11 attacks.

Baradar has been in Pakistani custody for several days, with U.S. and Pakistani intelligence officials interrogating him, according to officials.

It was unclear whether he was talking, but the officials said his capture could lead to other senior officials. Most immediately, they hope he will provide the whereabouts of Omar, the one-eyed cleric who is the group’s spiritual leader.

Disclosure of Baradar’s capture came while U.S. and Afghan forces were in the midst of a major offensive in southern Afghanistan.

His capture could cripple the Taliban’s military operations, at least in the short term, said Bruce O. Riedel, a CIA veteran who last spring led the Obama administration’s Afghanistan and Pakistan policy review.

—Mark Mazzetti and Dexter Filkins, *The New York Times*

# Drug firms apply brand to generics

Some prestigious brand-name pharmaceutical companies that once looked askance at the high-volume, low-cost business of generic drugs are now becoming major purveyors of generic medicines.

Just don’t call them no-name drugs.

Giants like Sanofi-Aventis and GlaxoSmithKline are not looking to enter the commodity generics market in the United States, where chain pharmacies often determine which generics they offer based on the lowest available price — and where consumers often view generic makers as interchangeable.

Instead, the big drugmakers are pursuing a growing consumer base in emerging markets like Eastern Europe, Asia and Latin America where many people pay out of pocket for their medicines but often cannot afford expensive brand-name drugs.

And, in some emerging markets, where the fear of counterfeit drugs or low-quality medicines runs high, consumers who can afford it are willing to pay a premium for generics from well-known makers, industry analysts said. These products are known as company-branded generics, or branded generics. They carry the name of a trusted local or foreign drugmaker stamped on the package, seen as a sign of authenticity and quality control.

—Natasha Singe, *The New York Times*

# Excise tax loses support amid White House push

WASHINGTON —An agreement to tax high-cost, employer-sponsored health insurance plans, announced with fanfare by the White House and labor unions last month, is losing support from labor leaders, who say the proposal is too high a price to pay for the limited health care package they expect to emerge from Congress.

But the White House is still urging Congress to adopt the excise tax as a way to help pay for President Barack Obama’s ambitious health care proposals.

With support for the tax eroding, congressional leaders are searching for alternative sources of revenue.

The search has some urgency because Obama has said he hopes House and Senate Democrats can resolve their differences and come up with a final version of the legislation before he convenes a bipartisan meeting on the issue on Feb. 25.

—Robert Pear, *The New York Times*

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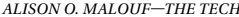
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Last Friday's issue of The Tech carried the wrong date. Friday was February 12, not February 10.

### *Focus on the Brass Rat, not its presentation*

Even the beaver, the stalwart of the be-  
zel, faces the opposite direction this year,



And of course, anyone who has seen the ring shirts has noticed the prominently featured NASA logo. While the Apollo hack makes perfect sense on the ring, the broader connection to NASA confuses me. Space is an area that can certainly inspire our class and give us goals to shoot for. Some of the most innovative private companies are actively pursuing space exploration. NASA is an organization that has no clear future, no funding to get back to the moon,

One doesn't need a video from space or a fake design mocking the Mayans' 2012 ramblings to unveil a ring and effectively symbolize the class. Six un-annotated PDFs did that task just fine. RingComm's purpose is to unite the class they represent and give MIT sophomores a chance to come together and celebrate a milestone in their education. Future Premieres and designs should get back to the basics and focus on the ideas, not get super excited about sending a hunk of metal to an irrelevant space station on an aging shuttle. The goal of the Rat, after all, is to symbolize the Class of 2012: what we have experienced, what we have done, and how we will influence the world upon graduation.

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VARIOUS STATES OF UNDRRESS

# When it's said and done, will she spit it out or swallow?

By M.

I was recently talking to a male friend about sex and what-not — you know, the usual — when he told me that he would never kiss a girl who had just gone down on him.

Really? *Really?* I thought that kind of mentality was a thing of the past, along with shoulder pads and MC Hammer pants, but the distaste for cock is quite common. Apparently, some guys will request the dick-sucker brushes his or her teeth, or at the very least drinks a glass of water to flush the peen-ness out. Girls will let guys come in their mouth, only to spit it out right away. Since when is dick so gross?

I mean, let's be quite objective for just a second: Dick certainly doesn't taste good and jizz doesn't taste like honey, contrary to what guys would love for us to think. But, as with many things in life, you have to just suck it up and do it, which is why I'm here to make a case for swallowing spooge.

Some girls will let the guy come in their mouth and then spit it out, but, as anybody

who has tried that approach can tell you, it is not very practical. Taking it in your mouth only to spit it out right after is quite counterproductive: Trying to find a place to dispose of the evidence is harder than it seems,

**Coming in your mouth is like a guy's way of high-fiving you, except with his dick instead of his hand**

and you just end up running around with a mouthful of the cream while trying to locate the nearest bathroom. The fastest — not to mention politest — way to get rid of the taste is to swallow. As another friend puts it, "It's not only good if a girl swallows, it's also good manners."

I can think of things grosser than jizz, like nacho cheese and ranch dressing (which

make me wish I could douse my salad with spunk and dip my chips in a bowl of baby gravy). Anyway, semen is not some fine wine that's meant to be swished around to be fully savored, so the taste, good or bad, is gone as fast as you can swallow. The one thing spooge and wine do have in common is that they are more of an acquired taste than anything. Neither tastes pleasant the first time around, of course, but in time you learn to tolerate the taste and even appreciate the nuances and variations in flavor. And for those of you with dietary concerns, do not fret: A teaspoon of the good stuff has about five to seven calories and is loaded with protein.

But if you're still convinced that swallowing isn't your thing, let me pose this question: Is there really anything better than the satisfaction of a job well done? The same way a semester's worth of hard work is validated by getting an A, a mouthful of cum lets you know that all your hard work has paid off. (After all, they don't call it a job for nothing, do they?) Coming in your mouth is like a guy's way of high-fiving you, except with his dick instead

of his hand, which is better anyway because everybody gets to slap his hand, but not everybody gets to suck his dick. I hope.

Now that I've got the fellas' attention, I will turn my preaching to them for a hot second. A quick survey confirmed that my male friend was not alone and that more guys than I thought won't touch lips with a girl after getting fellated, especially if they came. I can't stress this enough: You need to kiss your partner after getting head. I don't give a shit if you're grossed out by it; I just made a fucking case for girls swallowing your load! It shows her you are comfortable with your body, and it's also a nice way of thanking her for spending some time in your crotch. (A girl even told me she feels downright insulted when a guy refuses to kiss her after oral.) Think of it as a Pavlovian experiment: The more often you kiss her after oral, the more she will feel like it's okay to go down on you. I think everybody wins there.

*M. is a junior in Course 10 and, in case it wasn't clear, she swallows. She can be reached at undress@tech.mit.edu.*

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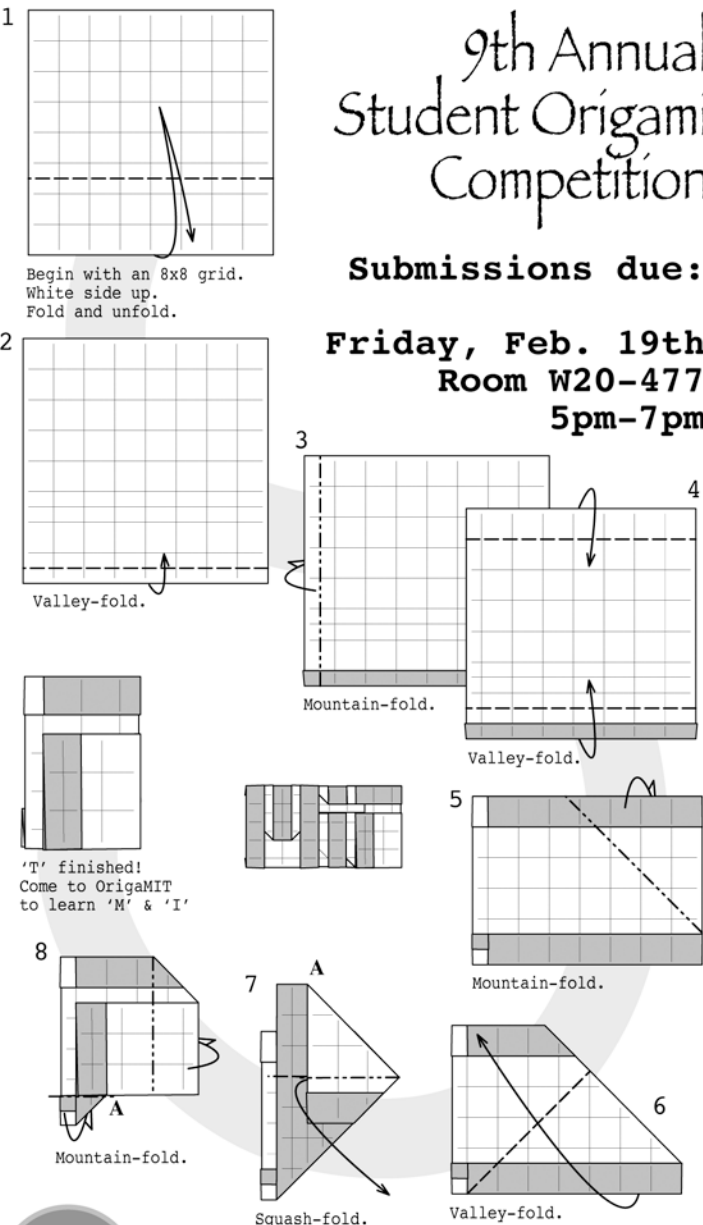


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## 9th Annual Student Origami Competition

**Submissions due:**  
**Friday, Feb. 19th**  
**Room W20-477**  
**5pm-7pm**



1. Begin with an 8x8 grid. White side up. Fold and unfold.

2. Valley-fold.

3. Mountain-fold.

4. Valley-fold.


5. Mountain-fold.

6. Valley-fold.

7. Squash-fold.

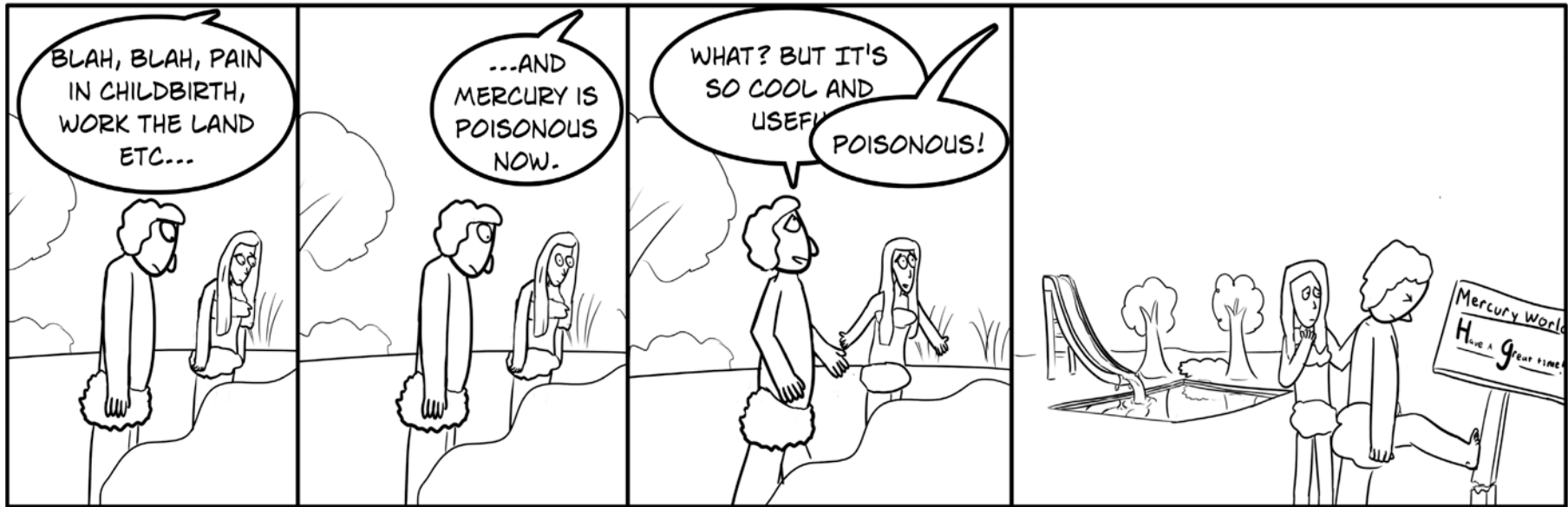
8. Mountain-fold.

'T' finished! Come to OrigamiMIT to learn 'M' & 'I'

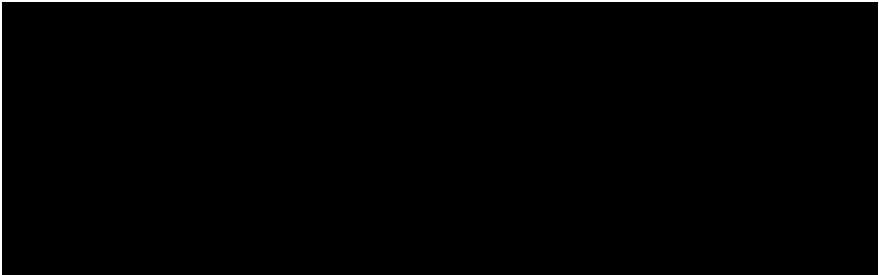
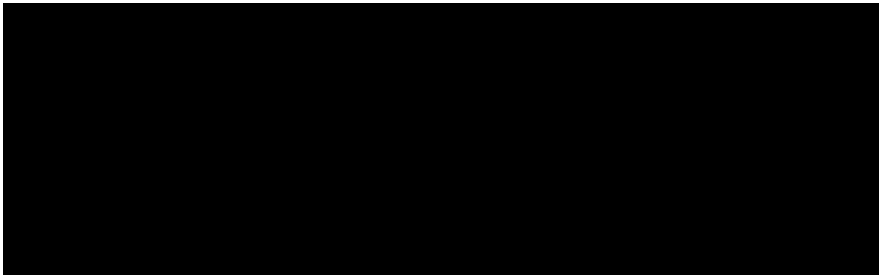


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Steal My Comic by Michael Ciuffo



Dilbert® by Scott Adams



Hard Sudoku

Solution, page 9

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

Instructions: Fill in the grid so that each column, row, and 3 by 3 grid contains exactly one of each of the digits 1 through 9.

Crossword Puzzle

Solution, page 9

- ACROSS**

  - 1 Start of Jamie Lee Curtis quip
  - 5 Flotilla units
  - 10 Indian nanny
  - 14 Confess
  - 15 Bicycle part
  - 16 Bathe
  - 17 Info
  - 18 Sermonize
  - 19 Bread buy
  - 20 "Car Talk" broadcaster
  - 22 Make haste
  - 23 Formerly, formerly
  - 24 Part 2 of quip
  - 29 Serialized segment
  - 30 \_\_ Paulo, Brazil
  - 31 PC key
  - 32 Frasier Crane's brother
  - 35 Rich kid in "Nancy"
  - 39 Caresses
  - 41 Part 3 of quip
  - 43 Part of a hammerhead
  - 44 Assert
  - 46 Used a hand signal
  - 48 Bern's river
  - 49 Want \_\_
- 51 Diplomatic office
  - 53 Part 4 of quip
  - 58 NYC theatrical award
  - 59 Fastener
  - 60 Ed's work pile
  - 61 Grass stalk
  - 62 In a vertical line
  - 64 Follow orders
  - 68 Palm type
  - 69 Unworldly
  - 70 Latvian capital
  - 71 Portent
  - 72 Dismal
  - 73 End of quip

**DOWN**

  - 1 June celebrant
  - 2 Reproductive cells
  - 3 "\_\_ as a Stranger"
  - 4 Banjo sounds
  - 5 Infrequent
  - 6 That girl
  - 7 Pocatello's place
  - 8 Barbecue's place
  - 9 Makes smooth
  - 10 Lifter's shout
  - 11 New Zealand native
  - 12 Nautical command
  - 13 Judgesweight by
- 21 Menial worker
  - 24 Army vehicles
  - 25 Surprise win
  - 26 Judgments
  - 27 Subordinate to
  - 28 Prohibit
  - 33 Gabor sister
  - 34 Cut off
  - 36 Smallest amount
  - 37 Canine tether
  - 38 Way to have corned beef
  - 40 Remained
  - 42 Call to mind
  - 45 Old name for Tokyo
  - 47 Corporate A.K.A.s
  - 50 Had dinner
  - 52 Accumulate, as gas on liquid surface
  - 53 Body's trunk
  - 54 Construction piece
  - 55 Feudal lord
  - 56 More despicable
  - 57 Harden
  - 63 Hamm or Farrow
  - 65 Brief life story
  - 66 Psyche division
  - 67 Tibetan beast

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71					72						73			

Problems with card access system

Last week on Monday, many doors, such as those in the Stata center, did not automatically unlock at their scheduled times. The problem was a database failure in the system that controls doors across campus, according to Thomas W. Komola, a project manager in the Security and Emergency Management Office.

The root cause of the problem remains unclear.

Komola said the problem began around 5 a.m. Monday, Feb. 8, and was resolved about 21 hours later, or 6 a.m. Tuesday. In addition to keeping doors from unlocking as scheduled, the database failure prevented anyone from adding new data to the system.

Komola said that the system failure did not unlock any previously-locked doors. The system is called CCURE (pronounced "secure").

The security office plans to deploy a second instance of the database to increase reliability, Komola said.

—John A. Hawkinson

Pike members may be living in dorms

Pike, from Page 1

community and enjoy a fraternity experience," the consultants wrote in an e-mail sent to Next House on Monday.

The national website says the fraternity has "maintained the largest average chapter and pledge class size for most of the past 20 years," and that the group focuses on developing "integrity, intellect,

and high moral character" in its members.

In 1970, the Eta Delta chapter of Pi Kappa Alpha, then known as PiKa, entered the Inter-Fraternity Council as an all-male fraternity, but became co-ed in 1975 at the request of its members. Five years later, MIT's PiKa left the national organization and became an independent living group, known today as pika.

Astronaut talks to 2012 class

Ring Premiere, from Page 1

retrieve the ring, melt it down and incorporate it into the gold Brass Rats, which the class will receive in late April. "We're currently trying to get the ring back from space as we would very much like to include it in the gold rings," said Schaik.

Rutuparna Das '12 was one of many students at the Ring Premiere who was excited to learn that the first ring was in space. "We're gonna have the universe in our hands because the universe was embedded into the ring!" Das said.

Following tradition, RingComm first presented a ring spoof based on the Mayan 2012 apocalypse. The design included the sacrifice of TEAL clickers, Beaverville vs. Athena Titans, and an event over the dome which "suggested a thermonuclear weapon" accord-

ing to the Vice Chair of the Ring Committee, Kimberly M. Sparling '12. Sparling said that the fake design was lead mainly by Tess E. Schmidt '12 and Ruaridh "Rory" R. Macdonald '12.

Near the end of the presentation, the committee presented a video clip from Creamer, who was recorded aboard the International Space Station. Creamer congratulated the class of 2012 on their new Brass Rat, and said: "As I look out the Space Station's windows, and see our Moon, I realize that MIT helped me get into orbit and get onto the International Space Station. And I also know that MIT will help us return to the moon as well. Come and join me in our future and lead our world to greater tomorrows."

The committee was inspired by last year's celebration of the 40th anniversary of the Apollo 11 mission, which happened around the time that the ring committee was first asked to think about the ring design. "Being able to see all these things between MIT and NASA gave us the idea of putting this [aspect of MIT] on the ring," Sparling said.

The committee, with aid from some members of the Aeronautics and Astronautics department, whose names the Ring Committee has decided not to reveal for privacy, coordinated with NASA to send the ring to space. Schaik said, "NASA was excited to help [us]... We are thankful to NASA for getting our ring into the payload of the shuttle,"

The Brass Rat delivery will occur on April 30, at the Boston Public Library. More information on the 2012 Brass Rat can be found on <http://twentytwelve.mit.edu/ring/>.



ELIZABETH K. D'ARIZZO

7.013 student Valerie J. Chia '13 gets Serenaded by the Logs on Friday outside of 26-100. Serenades are one of MIT's Valentine's Day traditions.



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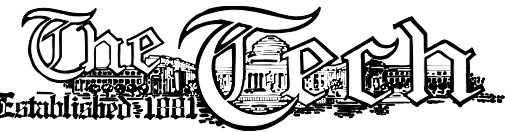
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# Leading St. Kitts

Douglas, from Page 1

I got a scholarship eventually to do science and that’s how I ended up in science.

DD: I had a Canadian scholarship to go off to university to do science, natural sciences, and return to teach, which I did. I taught for two years in St. Kitts and then realized I needed something more substantial as a profession especially when I knew then I was going to become involved in politics, I needed something substantial and so I chose medicine.

TT: You mentioned an arts background. I’m wondering what that is in particular?

DD: [Before university] I studied English and European history with a concentration in Caribbean history, because of the relationship between the Caribbean and Europe at that time...At the same time I did biology. I had a choice and then as I said the opportunity came from the science end so I did that.

TT: You’ve mentioned an intention to go into politics even while being a doctor. So when did that interest develop and how long have you had it?

DD: My community in St. Kitts, where I was born, was the community that produced our first national hero, who was a cousin of mine and so, in a way, I was politically inclined early on. When I came back to St. Kitts after doing my first degree, naturally I became involved in politics...I became involved in the youth arm of the Labor Party as its leader in 1979. And then I went off to university because at that time actually the labor party had been in office for quite awhile and there were signs that it needed to be supported by the young people.

TT: Would you care to elaborate on that?

DD: [The labor party developed out of the movement] against colonialism and the struggles to provide the mass of the people with proper social support systems [that] were being really denied the mass of the people...The party really had been in office...from the 50s until when my own turn came to be part of the movement back in 1979...[T]he party needed to have the younger people take over the reigns of leadership and so the party had begun to lose its attraction for the younger generation...[In 1979] I had been asked to run for political office and I felt it wasn’t a good time [because] I was able to see that the party was going to be in trouble. And so I went off to university in ‘79, got a career and profession that I love that I can live off of and then in came back in 1984 to St. Kitts.

TT: Do you think your background in medicine has contributed in any way to your politics?

DD: Politics is a people profession. I call it a profession; people call it a game. It’s a people profession because you need to understand people. You need to be able understand both those you are working with and those you are seeking to represent. And I think I had a good opportunity being a medical doctor, running a private practice, to learn to listen to people and to learn to know people’s issues...so I have found my profession in medicine exceptionally helpful in managing the state.

TT: The Prime Minister of Trinidad came to speak here and he has a background in science. Is that common in the Caribbean?

DD: There was a time when Caribbean politics was dominated by lawyers and trade unionists. But in recent times we’ve had some leaders who have had background in science and medicine.

TT: It sounds like one of the more significant things that happened in St. Kitts under your leadership is the closing of the sugar industry in 1995. I was wondering if you could talk a bit about that and the economic development that’s happened since then.

DD: The transformation of the economy in St. Kitts and Nevis has been largely manifested through the closure of the sugar industry, and although I’d say...new global trading arrangements forced that decision on the part of the government and the people, I think it was really the very best thing that could have happened to St. Kitts and Nevis at this time because it created opportunities for new ventures in economic development...We thought that we would go into to services, led by hospitality and tourism, financial services, information and communication technology services, and, recently, we have discovered the importance of higher education services.

More than anything else, it’s the distribution of the land between ordinary people that matters, because in the days when sugar was king the entire mass of the country was owned by about four or five families and the people did not own land. People can now have their own residential homes built...This activity to a large extent is what has kept the economy afloat over the last few months whereas you’ve seen serious downturn in economic activity in several countries, construction industry has kept very active in St. Kitts and Nevis.

TT: What do you think are the particular challenges and advantages of being the smallest country in the western hemisphere?

DD: I think there’s a very peculiar attraction that it brings. It allows the leadership of the country and the people of the country to intimately interact with each other and thus the issues...can be identified and solutions can be found through a consultative type of democratic system which I think is remarkable that can be emulated by the rest of the world... Democracy should flourish when the leaders can hear firsthand what the people are saying, when they can feel the pain of the people...It’s a peculiar situation that we cherish.

TT: There are a lot of students at MIT in all sorts of majors, from biology to economics to computer science, who are interested in development. Do you have any advice for them?

DD: Irrespective of what aspect of development that one’s engaged in, it has to be sustainable development. I think it is not just a buzz word; it has meaning for countries like ours in the Caribbean region. [We must at] all times remember the sensitivity there is between the environment and man; we have to ensure that we are always aware that the way we live today can prevent the good living of those in the future, and so I believe that sustainable development should always be foremost in your mind.

Solution to Crossword

from page 7

D	O	N	T		S	H	I	P	S		A	M	A	H
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Solution to Sudoku

from page 7

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

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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)*

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Harvard atheist psychologist **Steven Pinker**  
and Stanford Christian neuroscientist **William Hurlbut**  
discuss science, freedom and morality.

Moderated by **Ian Hutchinson**,  
Professor of Nuclear Science and Engineering  
Co-sponsored by the Department of Linguistics and Philosophy

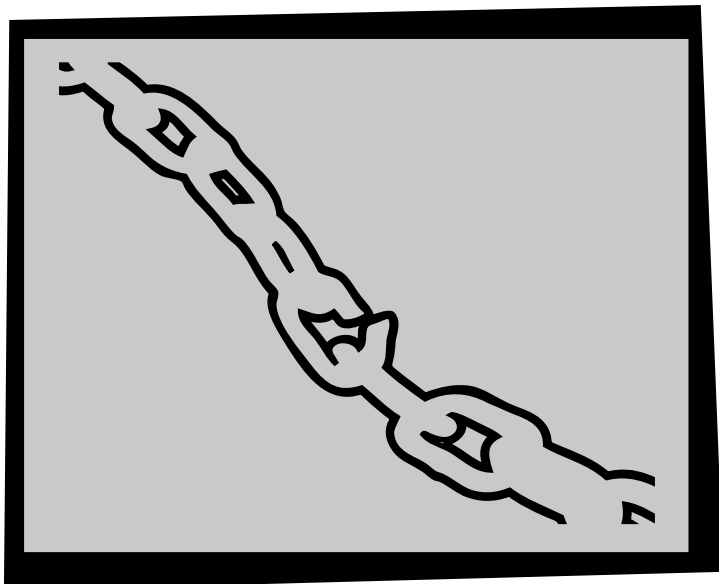


SAT 2/20  
7pm 32-123

## Freedom: In Body or In Spirit?

Former slave, now activist **Beatrice Fernando**  
shares her experience and explores slavery and freedom,  
both physical and spiritual.

Moderated by **Annette Kim**, Associate Professor of  
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# Students lobby in Washington

Washington, from Page 1

from hearing expert opinions. The details of these students' and professors' experiences vary widely, but they share a common theme of working to bolster support for and understand science in the federal government.

Swiston, a graduate student in the Department of Materials Science and Engineering, first connected with the office in 2006 through SPI's Science Policy Bootcamp, an annual IAP seminar taught by Bonvillian about the basics of science policy creation. Since then, Swiston has been involved in each annual Congressional Visits Day, during which scientists and engineers, including graduate students from universities throughout the country, descend upon Washington to lobby for federal support for science and engineering research and education. The Washington Office supports the MIT students who attend by helping them arrange meeting with officials and teaching the students "how to lobby and advocate, make impactful messages, and consider political realities," said Swiston.

The students speak mostly with staff that support members of Congress, but some meetings take place with the senators and representatives themselves. Last year, Swiston said the students had an exciting moment when they met with Massachusetts Representative Edward J. Markey on the United States Capitol rotunda during one of his breaks between votes.

During their 20 minute conversation, Swiston said that Markey asked members of the group to tell him about their research and asked for their opinion on the America Clean Energy and Security Act of 2009, which Markey cosponsored. "He was very receptive to criticism," Swiston said.

### Getting MIT voices heard

Lara M. Pierpoint, a PhD student in the Engineering Systems Division, said she "fell in love with the policy world," as an undergraduate while interning at the National Academy of Sciences. Enrolling in the Technology and Policy Program and Department of Nuclear Engineering at MIT for her Master's felt natural. She has interacted with policy makers in D.C. in a variety of contexts, including trips with the Technology and Policy program and the MIT Energy Club, which she led as president in the 2008-2009 academic year, and on her own, as an intern at the Department of Energy in the summer of 2006. Pierpoint called the Washington Office an "invaluable resource" during many of her trips to D.C. in part because the staff are "very steeped in whatever is going on [in Washington] at the time."

While Swiston and Pierpoint delved into the policy world as graduate students, Scott A. Uebelhart '98 earned his Bachelor's, Master's, and Ph.D. in the Department of Aeronautics and Astronautics at MIT before getting involved in policy. Now, as a postdoctoral researcher in the Science, Technology, and Society Program's Space, Policy, and Society Research Group, Uebelhart is collaborating on a policy-oriented white paper entitled "The Future of Human Spaceflight."

The idea for the paper arose, Uebelhart said, in conversations between Bonvillian and the directors of the Science, Technology, and Society program. Once the paper was finished in December 2008, he said, the Washington Office staff, organized a trip to Washington for the paper's authors to discuss their work with those policy makers who were looking at it.

"The most impressive meeting was with the Obama transition team for NASA," whose leader went on to become the second-in-command at NASA, Uebelhart said. He said he felt that the paper may have sparked some conversations

among the policy makers about human space flight.

Like Uebelhart, physics professor and Vice President for Research Claude R. Canizares, got started in policy after developing a full-fledged research career. Today he spends a lot of his time on policy, often in collaboration with the Washington Office. He plays a key role in MIT's efforts to deal with, as he puts it, "issues important to all research universities." This sometimes means "trying to advocate for why it's good to have basic research," he said, but at other times means advocating for specific policies or programs.

Canizares's research at NASA's Chandra X-ray observatory was what originally drew him into policy work, but now he works on a range of issues that bring him down to D.C. a few days each month, by his own estimates.

Recently, he said, he has devoted effort to reforming export control regulations which, he described which sound "a little obscure, but affect us [at MIT] in complicated ways." The regulations control not only the export of physical objects but also the sharing of information and ideas with foreign nationals, Canizares explained. The regulations are outdated and unnecessarily restrictive, he said, and can cause problems for graduate students who are not US citizens who need to use their own labs' data and equipment for their research. He said that a report by a National Academy of Sciences committee he sits on has prompted President Obama to request a review of the regulations.

### Thinking like a Washingtonian

Uebelhart, Swiston, Pierpoint, Canizares, and the staff of the MIT Washington Office agree that they have found Washington officials to be a receptive audience. "People [in Washington], by and large, despite the fact that they get a bad rap, are really trying hard to do the right thing and are dealing with a huge number of complex issues," Canizares said. "They are grateful for a clear statement of an issue and why you are arguing for it...I've never had anyone be dismissive." And, "frankly," he said, "the MIT name carries a fair amount of weight."

Still, they know that things work differently in MIT and D.C.

Pierpoint's MIT affiliation placed her in an awkward position at the beginning of her internship of the Department of Energy. Professors in the Department of Nuclear Science and Engineering had recently expressed strong disapproval of a nuclear agenda that her office was working to implement. The professors thought many parts of the agenda were premature, while the Department of Energy saw itself taking advantage of a brief political window of opportunity, Pierpoint said.

Uebelhart said that as a lifelong engineer, he learned the importance of looking at issues from a policy perspective when writing his white paper and visiting Washington. He initially felt surprised, he said, to find that some technical and research aspects of space flight programs mattered less to congresspeople than "these ideas of pride, prestige, and global leadership" which he learned "are the bread and butter on Capitol hill."

He learned that "strong connections" matter in D.C.: "From an engineering or science perspective, you say the policy world sounds fuzzy...but it's where all our funding comes from, and I think that at least having an appreciation for that is important," he said.

MIT president Susan J. Hockfield visits Washington almost every month to meet with senior agency and administrative officials and members of Congress Bonvillian said, who said she has made "a commitment to MIT's national role that's unusual for university presi-

dents," Bonvillian said. Her efforts to promote the MIT Energy Initiative have been particularly impactful, said Bonvillian, and in the past year, MIT provided about 20 witnesses to energy policy hearings in Congress.

Fox said she thinks that, at the same time, congressional staff have become better educated in the sciences and more receptive to technical perspectives. "In a lot of ways congressional staff has jumped up a notch and really understand and appreciate [scientific] issues," she said.

Since over 70 percent of MIT's research funding comes from the federal government, the entire MIT community can hope to benefit from these developments, especially if they believe, as Bonvillian does that, "if US innovation and science and technology are healthy, then it will be fine."

## Word.



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penguins, oh my.



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wednesday, february 17

5:15 pm mit chapel

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## Challenges Facing the United Nations

Wed, Feb 17, 2010 | 4:30p - 6:00p  
E40-496 | Lucian Pye Conf Rm, CIS  
1 Amherst St, Cambridge

Swiss Ambassador to the UN, Peter Maurer, will present a "state of the union" address concerning the challenges facing the United Nations.

A Q&A and Swiss-style reception  
will conclude the talk.

A STARR FORUM EVENT | MIT Center for International Studies  
& Boston Swiss Consulate | <http://web.mit.edu/cis/>



# Bball beats Coast Guard

## MIT leads by two games in NEWMAC

By Greg McKeever  
DAPER STAFF

The No. 11 ranked MIT men’s basketball team raced out to a 23-3 lead and did not look back en route to a 64-53 win over Coast Guard in NEWMAC play on Saturday afternoon. The win clinches at least a share of the NEWMAC regular season title for the Cardinal and Gray, who improve to 21-2 and 9-1 in conference play, and now lead second-place Springfield by two full games in the standings. The 21 wins is a program high for a season, equaling the mark set in 2005-06 and 2008-09. Coast Guard falls to 7-14 (4-7 NEWMAC) with the loss.

After an Eric Hudson free throw to open the scoring for Coast Guard, the Engineers reeled off the game’s next 15 points over a 5:46 stretch. Willard J. “Billy” Johnson ’09, William Tashman ’13 and Noel Hollingsworth ’12 each tallied five points during the

spurt. Hudson ended the Coast Guard drought with a layup at the 13:24 mark, but Tech would respond with eight more points, including a pair of threes, to go up, 23-3, just over nine minutes in. MIT connected on five three-point shots during its opening outburst.

Coast Guard would narrow the gap toward the end of the half with an 11-4 run, including back-to-back threes from Greg Marshall and Brett Hundley, getting within 11 with just under two minutes to go. However, MIT would score on its next three possessions to increase the lead back to 18.

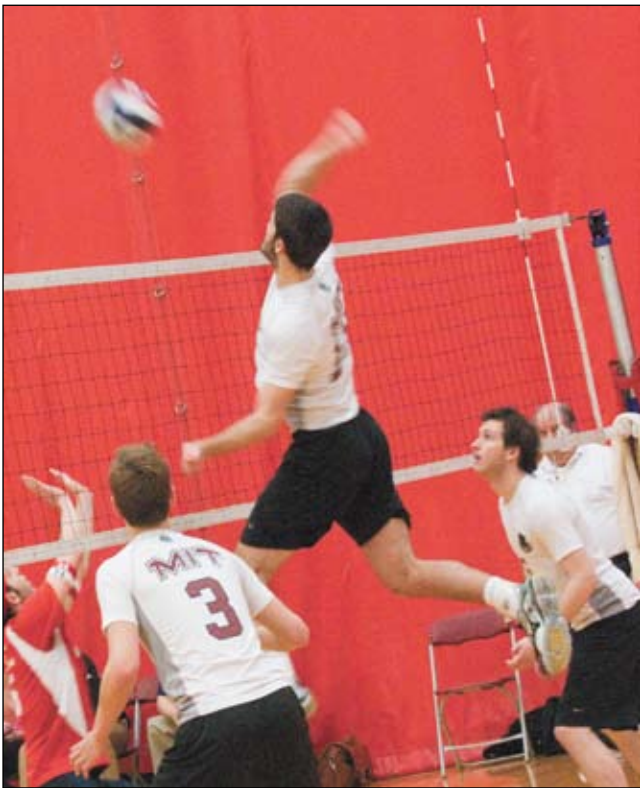
The Engineers hit on 13-of-25 (52 percent) shots in the first half, including six from beyond the arc. Coast Guard struggled to find the mark over the first 20 minutes, shooting just 23.1 percent from the field and two-of-seven from three.

Coast Guard made a late run in the second, outscoring Tech,

7-2, over a three and a half minute stretch, closing to within 12 with 2:29 remaining. However, Billy Bender found Mitchell Kates under the basket for an open layup on the next possession to end the spurt and send the Cardinal and Gray to the win.

Hollingsworth was one of three MIT players to finish in double figures, with 17 points, including four-of-six from three-point range, to go along with eight rebounds. Tashman recorded a double-double of 13 points and 11 boards, also adding four assists. Johnson added 13 points in his final regular season home game for Tech.

MIT returns to action on Wednesday, February 17 for its first of two games on the road to finish up the regular season. The Engineers travel to Wheaton College to take on the Lyons, the only Division III opponents to defeat them on the season. The game begins at 5:30 p.m.



SEAN TANG—THE TECH  
**Patrick J. Vatterott ’13 leaps into the air** to make a kill shot during the men’s volleyball match against Daniel Webster College in the duPont Gymnasium on Saturday. The match was one of a pair of wins the team achieved against other North East Collegiate Volleyball Association teams over the weekend.

### ATHLETES’ CORNER

On Saturday, February 13, the MIT Theatre on Ice team competed at the Skating Club of New York Showcase, a United States Figure Skating-sanctioned competition in theatrical skating held in New York City. The team placed second in the Production Ensemble event.

Choreographed and coached by Rebecca Nagle, the team put on the tale of a wedding party that develops a catastrophic but hilarious twist. The team skated to a medley of wedding-themed music, including “Going to the Chapel,” “Here Comes the Bride,” “Where Were You on our Wedding Day,” and “You Can’t Hurry Love.” Bridesmaids Katherine J. Fang ’12, Victoria W. Lee ’10, Ann Ouyang ’11, Carla Rivas G, Aubrey L. Samost ’10, Aviva R. Siegel ’13, and Allie Stiny escort the bride, Diana S. Cheng ’04, while groomsmen Mickey Barry and Jessica A. Eisenstein ’06 escort the groom, Shawn Pan ’12, to the chapel to get married. At the last minute, however, Cheng has second thoughts and sprints off, leaving Pan and his groomsmen in a frantic search for the bride. The wedding party then breaks off to showcase individual elements such as spirals and lunges, a

splice through toe-loop sequence, and also individual jumps. In the end, the wedding party realizes that “You Can’t Hurry Love,” and the groom and groomsmen forgive Cheng enough to lift her in the program’s grand finale.

“It’s a really fun program — just in time for Valentine’s Day!” Ouyang said. “The program has really grown in participation since the team was founded. It’s a great experience because people think of skating as a very individual sport, but we’ve showed that team programs are also exciting and fun.”

MIT’s Theatre on Ice team was founded in 2007. In 2008, the team competed at the 13th Annual International Theater on Ice competition, held at the Gordon H. Paquette Arena in Burlington, placing fifth. Last year, the team placed first in the Production Ensemble event at the Skating Club of New York Showcase.

Upcoming team events include an intercollegiate skating competition co-hosted by the MIT Figure Skating Club and Boston University Figure Skating Club on February 27–28 at the Johnson Ice Rink and MIT Figure Skating Club’s annual exhibition on Friday, March 12 at 7 p.m.

— Victoria Lee, team member

### UPCOMING HOME EVENTS

**Wednesday, February 10**  
Men’s Volleyball vs. Harvard University 7 p.m., Rockwell Cage

### SCOREBOARD

Men’s Basketball	
Saturday, 2/13	
vs. U.S. Coast Guard Academy	W 64-53
Women’s Basketball	
Saturday, 2/13	
at Mount Holyoke College	L 60-50
Men’s Volleyball	
Saturday, 2/13	
vs. Regis College	W 3-0
vs. Daniel Webster College	W 3-0
Monday, 2/15	
vs. Lesley University	W 3-0

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## Free tickets for MIT Students!

### Alloy Orchestra

performing live to *Man with a Movie Camera*  
Saturday, February 27, 2010 at 8pm  
Somerville Theatre, Davis Square

Dziga Vertov’s groundbreaking film, *Man with a Movie Camera*, has influenced the generations of films that came out since the silent era. The film’s rapid editing and nonstop energy provide the perfect subject for what many believe is Alloy’s best score ever. And now a gorgeous new print from the Moscow Film Archive makes this show a “must see” event.

Alloy Orchestra is a 3-man musical ensemble, writing and performing live to classic silent films. An unusual combination of found percussion and state-of-the-art electronics gives the Orchestra the ability to create any sound imaginable. Utilizing their famous “rack of junk” and electronic synthesizers, the group generates beautiful music in a spectacular variety of styles. They can conjure up a French symphony or a simple German bar band of the 20’s. The group can make the audience think it is being attacked by tigers, contacted by radio signals from Mars or swept up in the Russian Revolution.

**1 ticket per valid MIT student ID**

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