

Miliband's Afghanistan plan

British foreign secretary delivers Compton lecture

By Jingyun Fan
STAFF REPORTER

A line of motorcycles, black SUVs, and police cars arrived at Kresge Auditorium on Wednesday to escort British foreign secretary David W. Miliband SM '90, who became the youngest speaker to ever deliver the Compton lecture at MIT. In his lecture, "The War in Afghanistan: How to End it," Miliband stressed that military operations were not enough to end the war; the Afghans must build their own political system.

"Afghanistan will never achieve a sustainable peace unless many more Afghans are inside the political system, and neighbors are onside with the political settlement," Miliband said.

Miliband believes that former Afghan insurgents must also be involved with the political process and that there needs to be a program of reintegration for them. Miliband said that the new Afghan government needs to first address the grievances that fueled insurgency in the first place. In order to have a sustainable government, it will be important to ensure that all tribal, ethnic, and other excluded groups be given a real stake in the political process of Afghanistan. The new government needs to have accountability and transparency, he said.

In an interview, Miliband said that he believes increased Afghan capacity in security and governance at the provincial and district levels will be key in making sure the newly secured Afghan district of Marjah remains safe from Taliban attacks. The empowerment of provincial and district governors is crucial in encouraging people to settle their grievances from within the political



ARFA AIJAZI—THE TECH

David W. Miliband SM '90, British Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, delivered the 2010 Compton Lecture in Kresge Auditorium on Wednesday.

system rather than outside it.

While the people of Afghanistan play a crucial role inside of the political settlement process, its neighboring countries will need to support it in order for Afghanistan to be successful. Miliband noted the importance of Pakistan, which holds great influence inside Afghanistan. Afghanistan cannot be the site of

neighboring power struggles; and other countries need be aware that instability as a result of the Taliban will spill outside Afghan borders.

At the end of the lecture, Miliband was presented with a brass rat by Graduate Student Council president, Alex H. Chan G.

Miliband, Page 14

Confession linked

TEP to Na injuries

Brother threw sodium in Charles

By Divya Srinivasan
STAFF REPORTER

The sodium that exploded in 2007 and injured volunteers from a Charles River clean up crew was thrown into the river by Bhaskar Mookerji G, a Tau Epsilon Phi brother, according to public court documents.

Mookerji confessed that he threw the sodium into the Charles on or around Sept. 4, 2007. On Sept. 6, river clean-up volunteers were injured when they found the metal. Mookerji is a current Course VI graduate student and is a member of the Class of 2009.

Mookerji's confession, dated April 30, 2008, is part of the file for *Commonwealth of Massachusetts v. Bhaskar Mookerji*, a now-closed criminal case. The case file also includes a Suffolk County (Boston) Police Detective's report on the incident.

The Tech recently became aware of the criminal case from a reference in an ongoing civil case, *Thomas Soisson and Katherine Nardin v. Bhaskar Mookerji, AMRCO LLC, Brian Neltner, Tau Epsilon Phi National Fraternity, Tau Epsilon Phi XI Chapter, and Matthew Peddie*.

On September 6, 2007, while volunteering for the Charles River Clean-Up Boat, Katherine (Kate) Narden, Thomas Soisson, Patrick Hodgins, and Matt McCord were injured by an exploding piece of sodium metal they had picked up. Soisson and Narden suffered severe chemi-

cal burns to legs, forearms, and facial areas as a result of the explosion, according to a doctor's account referenced in the detective's report.

As detectives began to investigate the incident, they shifted their attention from MIT's annual sodium drop to a smaller event conducted by Tau Epsilon Phi, an MIT fraternity.

Through conversations with Matthew Gordon '08 and Timothy M. Rades '09, who are TEP brothers, police discovered that the sodium that caused injury had come from TEP's sodium drop, that the sodium had come from the house, and that Mookerji, along with then-TEP Chancellor Matthew T. Peddie '09, Michael T. Snella G, and Thomas C. Guerra '10 had visited then-Dean for Student Life Larry G. Benedict to inform him of the incident, the detective's report said.

Police visited various MIT labs that handle sodium on Sept. 10. The TEP brothers' visit to Dean Benedict occurred at 8 a.m. on Sept. 14, the report said. Detectives and MIT police jointly visited TEP and interviewed Rades on Sept. 14.

Boston police found out that Brian Neltner, a Course II graduate student, had ordered a shipment of various chemical substances from the chemical supplier Alfa Aesar under the name of "Evil Corp," the report said.

Sodium, Page 14

IN SHORT

Undergraduate tuition will increase by 3.8 percent next year up to \$39,212. Financial aid will increase by 6.7 percent up to \$87 million. The changes were announced at the MIT Corporation meeting on March 5.

Still want to host a pre-frosh this CPW? The deadline is today. Sign up at web.mit.edu/admissions/mitcpw/.

It's almost Spring Break! The MIT Parking and Transportation Office will be running a shuttle service for students to Logan Airport for a \$10 fee on Friday, March 19 and Saturday, March 20. Reservations are required and can be made at web.mit.edu/facilities/transportation/shuttles/airport.html.

Spring forward. Daylight savings happens this Sunday. Set your clocks one hour ahead.

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

Media Lab extension is glass, steel, open air

\$90 million Maki building gives research groups a clean, transparent space

By Sam Range
STAFF REPORTER

Three months after researchers started moving in, academia, industry, architects, and the press gathered to celebrate the official opening of the Media Lab extension (building E14). The Fumihiko Maki-designed extension to the Wiesner Building on Ames Street houses the Media Lab, the Program in Art, Culture, and Technology, and individual offices from the School of Architecture and Planning.

On March 5, speakers at the opening ceremony took care to acknowledge the smaller departments that have offices in the new 6-story building — but the \$90 million structure can truly only be described as a triumph for the 25-year-old Media Lab.

The building was conceived and designed as the ideal home for the unique collaborative and interdisciplinary culture of the Media Lab. Pritzker Prize-winning



SAM RANGE—THE TECH

Professor Hiroshi Ishii, Associate Director of the Media Lab and head of the Tangible Media Group, returns a volley in a game of table tennis during opening-day tours of the Media Lab extension. **The table is equipped with object tracking and a projector, which projects fish onto the table that swarm to where the ball lands.**

architect Fumihiko Maki sought to capture the idea of transparency in tangible form, creating a building with stunning displays of glass, white, and open air. The double-height labs of E14 are staggered by one story, making movement

and communication between lab spaces fluid and effortless.

The new Media Lab is much larger than the Wiesner Building, and according to director Frank Moss, the number of faculty will be growing along with the build-

ing. Over the last weeks, the Media Lab has been hosting research presentations from faculty candidates. The Media Lab is "looking to expand the scope and diversity"

Media Lab, Page 13

ON CAMPUS

Want to solve the energy crisis? Invent something. Until then, don't waste energy, even if you're not paying for it. **OPN, p. 5**



THE SECRET OF INTERNET DATING

The social experiment unfolding on OkCupid.com is changing everything you thought you knew about online dating. **CL, p. 11**

PATTINSON THE NOT-VAMPIRE?

The *Twilight* actor is brooding but doesn't drink blood in his new film. **ARTS, p. 8**

SURFER BLOOD, INDIE PRODIGIES

These Pixies-influenced, Weezer-loving teenagers are *good*. **ARTS, p. 8**

CENTRAL BOTTLE IS SMALL, CHIC

New, just up Mass. Ave, it's got a delicately curated selection of wines, cheeses and beers. **ARTS, p. 9**

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CORRECTIONS

An article on Tuesday misspelled the name of an Undergraduate Association vice-presidential candidate. His name is Pall M. Kornmayer '11, not Cornmayer. The same article incorrectly implied in one instance that Kornmayer is the running mate Ariel A. Torres '12 running mate. Torres's running mate is actually Jarrett R. Remsberg '11. Kornmayer is the running mate of Ian P. Tracy '11.

An article last Tuesday about how the human genome folds in 3-D made several conceptual errors regarding Lieberman-Aiden's research on the fractal globule model. The article incorrectly stated that the evidence suggesting a fractal globule implies that "the genome separates into two clear compartments: one where stretches of DNA are known to be active, and another where DNA is inactive and stowed away for future use." Instead, this compartmentalization of the genome is an observation that

was made by the Hi-C team at a larger scale, and is unrelated to the presence of a fractal globule at the smaller scale.

The article stated that "when unstretched onto its two-dimensional, double-helix form, the human genome spans nearly two meters in length," which should read "when unstretched completely in one dimension."

The paragraph stating that the fractal globule can be reduced further to a Peano curve is also inaccurate. The fractal globule is itself a polymer analogue of the Peano curve: The fractal globule signature is seen both in active and inactive regions of the genome, not only "in order to store less often-used genes and pack them more densely" as the article suggests.

The image credits for the fractal and equilibrium globule models were incorrect. These images should be credited to "Leonid Mirny and Maxim Imakaev" and not "Lenoid Mirny and Erez Lieberman-Aiden." Mirny's name was misspelled in these credits, appearing incorrectly as "Lenoid" instead of "Leonid." The credit for the Peano curve graphic is correct.

Paying for Mrs. Fuller

It's time to wind down the Social Security Program

By Keith Yost

STAFF COLUMNIST

In 1935, Franklin Delano Roosevelt signed into law the Social Security Act, an insurance program designed to cover against what were then considered the greatest financial risks in American society: disability, unemployment, loss of spouse or parents, and, most notably, old age. At the time, the poverty rate among the elderly was over 50 percent — the Great Depression had wiped out the savings of many, and older citizens, whose best wage-earn-

In this regard, Social Security is not acting as insurance. It constitutes little more than a forced savings program.

ing years were behind them, were particularly hard hit. By funding the benefits of current retirees with income taxes on current workers, Social Security constituted a major windfall for its first generation of recipients; Ida May Fuller, the very first citizen to receive a Social Security check, paid \$24.75 into the system and received back \$22,888.92 over the course of her lifetime. In this manner, the program theoretically provided a way to spread out the pain of the Great Depression — each generation would pay some ever-declining amount to the previous generation until the entirety of that one monumental loss had been spread out across decades.

However, rather than slowly and widely distribute Great Depression losses, Social Security continues to this day forever kicking the can down the road for future generations to deal with. On some level, Social Security is a sensible insurance program. Unemployment and disability insurance are reasonable risks to insure against, and though some may argue that private markets are capable of providing such coverage, there can be agreement that this is, regardless of who provides it, a valuable service. But the bulk of Social Security — its old-age benefits — are of dubious value as a permanent feature. Old age is not a random calamity to be insured against — absent the prospect of death, one can be quite

certain that a year from now they will be one year older. In this regard, Social Security is not acting as insurance. It constitutes little more than a forced savings program of the worst kind — not only is the rate of return on Social Security savings low because the money is invested in federal securities, but because the government can (and given it's financial situation, must) change the program's benefits over time, retirees can never be certain of what they will be paid. Rather than insure against a financial risk, Social Security manages to *create* risk in financial planning. As a means of helping the elderly, Social Security is horribly counterproductive.

Besides having a negative effect on our economic security, Social Security is destructive to our political processes.

It is in constant need of tinkering due to demographic shifts and changing life expectancies: Social Security has been amended roughly once every five years since its inception, wasting the effort of our legislators.

It allows politicians to hide deficits in discretionary spending: When Social Security is in temporary surplus, it is possible to produce a "balanced" budget simply by ignoring long-term commitments.

It is a source of tension for society, which must periodically play zero-sum welfare games to keep the program afloat.



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ON CAMPUS

Turn off your lights

Big improvements in energy can start in the dorms

By Ethan Solomon
OPINION EDITOR

Here at MIT, we're all about coming up with creative solutions to big problems. It's just what we do best. But sometimes, it pays to remember that small, simple solutions can add up to solve big problems.

Take energy. Last year, President Obama delivered an address in Kresge that urged the nation's scientists to follow MIT's example in pursuing clean energy solutions like wind and solar power; efforts the MIT Energy Initiative has been admirably leading since 2006. But short of developing a revolutionary technology that will power the whole world, students have to do their part to help the planet by cutting back on energy waste. And that means lifestyle changes.

When I lived in MacGregor House, I didn't really give much thought to how much electricity or heat I used. I was paying a flat semester fee to live in the dorm, and that wouldn't change regardless of how long I left my lights on or how high I cranked the heat up. Sure, I made sure to turn off my lights when I went to class, but I'm ashamed to admit that was the practical limit of my conservation efforts.

Moving to my own apartment off campus changed my perspective on watching my energy use. And it wasn't because I was inspired from a re-watching of "An Inconvenient Truth." It was the money. I'm no longer on the MIT grid, and I no longer have access to basically unlimited supplies of free electricity and steam. Instead, I pay by the kilowatt-hour for every joule I use. Making sure to turn off my lights or unplug my laptop is no longer an intangible contribution to saving the global ecosystem: It's real dollars that come out of my pocket at the end of every month. And as unfortunate as it may be, in this world, money talks.

The upside is that I've cut back drastically on my heat and energy use. I make sure to turn down the thermostat when I leave for class and before I go to bed. I bought energy-saving fluorescent lights and I'm always vigilant about keeping them off when I don't need them. I even weatherproofed the windows.

This doesn't make me a saint, but it should say something about wasteful energy use in the dorms. There's no reason to keep your window open and your heater at maximum in the middle of January. The TV doesn't need to be on when you're not even watching it. The world could do without your server and the funny cat pictures it hosts.

Think about how you'd change your habits if dorm fees only covered a finite number of kilowatt-hours of electricity (or therms of gas) per month, and if any usage above that came out of your own pocket. That's how the real world works, and you should start getting used to it now. You may need to get used to it now as well, as the Institute-wide

Think about how you'd change your habits if dorm fees only covered a finite number of kilowatt-hours.

budget Task Force Report has suggested metering energy use in the dorms. In the future, it's entirely possible that you actually will need to change your dorm energy habits. But you can feel good about the change, because you'll be doing your part to save the world. Isn't that what we're here to do?

On Campus runs every Friday and features opinions about campus issues.

UA UPDATE

Voting begins next week

Senate met on Monday, March 8. Before the regular proceedings, Chancellor Phillip L. Clay PhD '75, Dean for Student Life Chris Colombo, and Dean for Undergraduate Education Daniel E. Hastings PhD '80 came to Senate for a town hall meeting. Discussion with the chancellor and deans centered on the implementation of the Institute-wide Planning Task Force recommendations and possible changes to dining.

The Senate adopted the Financial Policy Review Committee's final report, which sets forth best practices for UA finances, and an updated Class Council Constitution. Kashif Rayani was approved as an undergraduate student representative to the Resources Map Committee. Ashwini A. Gokhale '13 was confirmed as the chair of the Communications Committee, and Elizabeth A. Denys '11 was confirmed as the chair of the Enrollment Committee. Senate allocated money to the Stand-Up Comedy Club from the Fresh Fund.

Electronic voting in the UA elections begins on Tuesday, March 16 at 12:01 am and will go through Thursday, March 18

at 11:59 pm. Paper ballots will be available from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Friday, March 19 in Lobby 10.

Dean Colombo responded to 41 UAS 7.4: Resolution to Ensure Transparency in Dining, which passed last December. His statement, which outlines his commitment to keeping and maintaining kitchens and establishing a new House Dining Advisory Group, is available on the Dining Committee website: <http://ua.mit.edu/committees/dining>. The final plan for the new dining system is scheduled to be released in May.

Some UA committees are looking for members! Undergraduates interested in joining the UA Nominations Committee, which nominates student representatives to Institute Committees, should e-mail ua-nomcomm-chairs@mit.edu, and those interested in joining the UA Enrollment Committee, which will write a report on how increasing enrollment will affect undergraduates, should e-mail ua-enrollment-chairs@mit.edu.

— Elizabeth A. Denys,
UA Secretary General



Chancellor Phillip L. Clay PhD '75, Dean for Student Life Chris Colombo, and Dean for Undergraduate Education Daniel E. Hastings PhD '80 answer questions about dining, housing, and the budget during a UA Senate meeting on Monday.

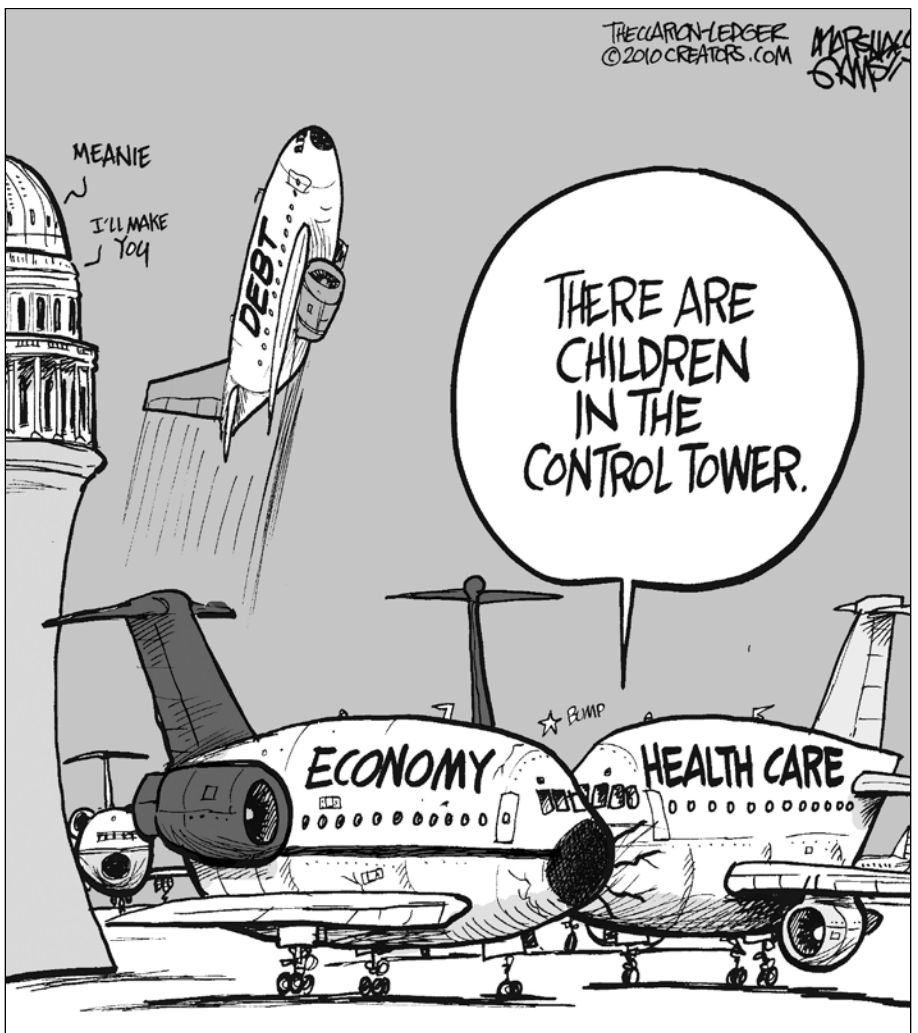
Check one:

☐

Stick it to the Man

Apply gingerly to the non-gender-specific Authority Figure

Write Opinion for *The Tech*
opinion@tt.mit.edu



Surfer Blood packs Great Scott to the rafters

By Matt Fisher
STAFF WRITER

When was the last time you witnessed a teenaged Floridian play a guitar with his mouth? Those attending Surfer Blood's most recent show saw that and other wonders: two drum kits and five musicians squeezing onto a stage designed for flea circuses, and the re-emergence of the cowbell as a rock instrument. Simply constructed, tightly orchestrated, and featuring two prominent, over-amplified guitars that reject the "lead/rhythm" stereotype, Surfer Blood songs — specifically "Swim" and "Fast Jabroni" — evoke the Pix-

STAFF WRITER

ies at their very best on *Doolittle* (1989). Whether this influence is direct or inherited through their unabashed Weezer-worship is hard to say. Driving their similarities with Weezer home, Surfer Blood strummed the first 4 bars of “Sweater Song” during the encore, only to stop abruptly and mock the crowd for its gullibility.

Surfer Blood
March 1, 2010
Great Scott, Boston

cal predecessors in several ways. A five-man lineup, Surfer Blood sports a three man front and two drummers: the first a standard drum-kit pounder, the second a talented percussionist responsible for extra drums, cowbells, keyboard, maracas, and a series of other noisemakers that augment Surfer Blood songs. It eradicated white noise and provided an all-together, fuller sound than most other pop-fi bands muster.

Playing all ten songs off their album *Astro Coast* (2010) and two ill-rehearsed new tracks, Surfer Blood displayed tremendous musical talent, stretching the studio versions of their songs into longer, louder, showier variations of themselves. Of particular note was the six-minute rendition of “Take It Easy,” featuring a wonderful guitar solo and adorable camaraderie between the bands lead singer and the guitarist as they pushed their foreheads together for several moments, reveling in large crowd’s enthusiasm and applause. Lapping up the applause of the young hip-looking audience, the lead guitarist felt confident enough to display a little technical mastery like playing his guitar backwards, upside down, and one time, with his mouth.

Florida. Although clearly talented, one can still see their relative inexperience on stage in the tangled chords and inability to establish a rapport with the audience. Surfer Blood also still struggles slightly with their slower songs, a trait frequent among young bands: Their ballads fall short of the high bar set by their up-tempo tracks. Sometimes bands like Surfer Blood, having not yet developed a slow-tempo style of their own, try too hard to imitate the very best of the genre, and end up biting off more than they can chew — brazening their way through a song that should have been played by Stephen Malkmus or Thurston Moore. Comparing their slow and fast tracks seems unfair as their fast songs are so effing good, but mastering the art of the slow song might save them a sophomore slump. (No pun intended.) That being said, no band develops without trying new things, and if any one band could recreate a Pavement song, my money would be on Surfer Blood.

PETER H. RIGANO

Tom Petty and the Heartbreakers, preceded by the Allman brothers. We're talking a good band every couple of decades.

a new EP in the fall. I hope that's true, because I'm wearing out the MP3s on my computer listening to *Astro Coast* over and over. I've got to have more cowbell, and Surfer Blood is my number one source.

The raw side of love

By Danielle Gorman

By the end of the *Remember Me*, Robert Pattinson proves, through a nuanced portrayal of the enigmatic protagonist Tyler Hawkins, that his acting career will outlive *Twilight*.

Tyler is a brooding college-aged nihilist with intense emotional issues and a complex family life. After being arrested and roughed up by the gruff and middle-aged Sergeant Neil Craig (Chris Cooper), Tyler seeks to exact revenge with the encouragement of his alcoholic best friend Aidan Hall (Tate Ellington). Hall urges him to capture and crush the heart of Ally, the mysterious daughter of Sergeant Craig. However, Tyler's scheme is less *Cruel Intentions* as he finds himself enraptured with Ally after one date. During the months that follow, the two deal with the immense struggle of life's difficulties and their own unique challenges in defining themselves both within and outside of their intense relationship.

I went into the movie with both the expectation and desire of seeing perfect love triumphing, untainted by complications or pain. Although the film initially appeared as though it would deliver exactly what I had anticipated, it ultimately offered a much deeper message. The thorny relationship between Ally Craig (Emilie de Ravin) and Tyler gives a painful and genuine peek into the roller-coaster nature of love. *Remember Me* presents a refreshingly realistic portrayal of a couple falling in — and then struggling with — love. Robert Pattinson still plays the brooding, saw-toothed protagonist but the angst is less over-the-top and more directed. With Tyler's help, Ally cautiously uncovers her sensuality and reveals her emotional fragility. Ally proves to be more than the overprotected girl-next-door. Armed with eyes like glaciers, de Ravin delivers an amazing performance as a girl who finally realizes she wants to truly live life instead of constantly seeking approval and playing it safe.

COURTESY OF SUMMIT PICTURES ENTERTAINMENT

Remember Me is a surprisingly thought-provoking look at family tensions. Robert Pattinson shows he is more than a vampire.

taposes delicateness and strength. Ultimately, the movie's success lies within its heart wrenching depiction of life's complications.

Remember Me

Directed by Allen Coulter

**Starring Robert Pattinson,
Pierce Brosnan, Emilie de
Ravin**

Rated PG-13, opens Mar. 12

leave the theater, you will walk away pondering the intricate links that bind together hope, destruction, and growth.

STORE REVIEW

Central Bottle excites the palate

A small but exquisite selection of wines and cheeses makes Central Bottle a must-visit

By Praveen Subramani, David M. Templeton, Martha Angela Wilcox, and Dmitry Ter-Ovanesyan

Just up Massachusetts Avenue, past Albany Street and across from IS&T Headquarters sits the recently opened Central Bottle Wine & Provisions. Central Bottle is a delightful shop opened by a team of four — including three veterans from the Cambridge restaurant scene — seeking to recreate the atmosphere of an Italian enoteca, an intimate wine storehouse where people can gather to taste wines and small plates of food. The shop's wine selection is focused on small production, handcrafted, organic and biodynamic wines from around the world, so their offerings differ significantly from that of other Cambridge stores such as Trader Joe's or the Harvard Wine Company. With its hefty wine racks that double as tables and its beautifully designed glass front, Central Bottle offers an exciting escape from the otherwise dreary and unremarkable walk up Mass Ave.

Along with the emphasis on small producers comes slightly higher prices for many of the bottles, though there is a student-friendly “\$15 and under” wine rack with an ample range of wines spanning the classic French appellations, Argentinean Malbecs, and even a red blend from Lebanon’s Bekaa Valley. The wine racks are categorized both by region and by varietal and present a vast variety. For those looking to explore new regions, labels, and even blends of wine, Central Bottle’s modest but original selection hits the spot.

Since so many of the wines may be unfamiliar, Central Bottle's friendly and helpful staff are generally quite eager to assist customers navigate the store's diverse collection. However, during the stores' tasting classes, wine bars, and rush hour times, it can sometimes be difficult to catch the attention of the staff. We tasted one of the staff recommendations, the 2006 Fitou "Chasse Gardee" from the Mont Tauch Cooperative in southern France, made from a pleasant, full-bodied blend of varietals. Our favorite, though, was a 2008 Pinot Blanc from the Lucien Albrecht winery in the Alsace region of France. This lovely Pinot Blanc was refreshingly crisp with strong fruit flavors and aromas of honey and lemon, all for the reasonable price of \$14.

In addition to the broad variety of wines, Central Bottle also possesses two shelves devoted to beers. Though the beer stock is very small, this is the place to go if you're looking for a vendor that reliably markets good beer without offering an overwhelming selection. The limited selection of American breweries partially includes Stone, Wachusett, Allagash, and Cisco. Notably absent is one of America's most creative and fastest growing craft breweries: Dogfish Head. The limited selection of foreign breweries partially include Samuel Smith, Duvel, Chimay, and Weihenstephaner. Weihenstephaner in particular is notable for offering excellent quality brews at a bargain price point. Central Bottle's beers undoubtedly provide a refreshing alternative to the typical Cambridge liquor store, finally giving MIT students no excuse to not forgo mass-market beers and sample some truly tasty craft brews instead. Further encouraging are the reasonable prices that do not feature the markup of most Massachusetts Avenue retailers. The limited selection of high quality and well-priced beers encourage customers to experiment and purchase something novel.

Central Bottle also showcases a variety of cicchetti (small snacks served in Italian wine bars, akin to Spanish tapas or Basque pintxos), cured meats, and local cheeses. While the shop's cheese counter is no replacement for a dedicated cheese purveyor and the selection here does not rival that of Formaggio or even Whole Foods, the staff were friendly, knowledgeable, and most importantly, patient. They will happily provide samples of any of the larger wheels, a very welcome offering given that many of their cheeses are in the \$20-\$25 a pound range. The cheese selection is focused on cow and goat milk cheeses and though some characteristic cheeses such as Morbier and Mimolette were not available, the cheese counter is great to pick up some cheese for a dinner party or satisfy a craving while you pick up a bottle of wine. Some of the highlights from the cheeses we sampled included the Von Trapp Farmstead's Oma, a washed-rind raw cow's milk from Vermont with earthy and

DAVID M. TEMPLETON—THE TECH

Central Bottle's storefront display of wine bottles courts pedestrians along Massachusetts Avenue.



DAVID M. TEMPLETON—THE TECH

The helpful and knowledgeable staff can help you make a food or drink selection, and in the case of cheeses, provide you with near-infinite free samples.

buttery flavors and a smooth texture, and the Humble Pie, a creamy and rich cow's milk cheese from Weston, VT. Though many of the cheeses are on the pricier side, most of

Given its proximity to MIT and its unique selection of products, Central Bottle is great pick for a tasty bottle of wine

the cheese selection is domestic so customers save money on import fees and know that their cash is supporting smaller, local cheesemakers.

Central Bottle also stocks \$2-\$4 loaves

from Iggy's Bread, known for its scrumptious hearth-baked bread with perfect crust and airy interior. And a small selection of chocolate and sweets (including some truly outstanding macaroons) graces the check-out counter to entice your sweet tooth.

Central Bottle's most unique feature is their tasting events, which typically occur two to three times a week and showcase a particular varietal, vineyard, or region. Every Thursday evening from 5 to 9 p.m., the shop hosts its signature Thursday Wine Bar and provides a warm, friendly environment for customers to taste wines while sampling cicchetti. Some of the tasting events, particularly the classes, even boast live Skype video-calls to vineyard owners or managers so that customers can sample the best of a region's offerings while learning about the production process and flavors of the wine directly from the winemakers. Central Bottle's well-designed website has a full list-

**Central Bottle
Wine & Provisions**
196 Massachusetts Avenue
www.centralbottle.com

ing of upcoming events including wine bars with featured wines, guest chefs, tasting classes, and “Meet the Winemaker” events.

Given its proximity to MIT and its unique selection of products, Central Bottle is a great pick for a special bottle of wine and some tasty accoutrements. With Boston's renowned Flour Bakery + Café opening its third location next door to Central Bottle in early summer, this block of Massachusetts Ave. is sure to be a gourmand hotspot for food and wine, reinvigorated by the presence of small, conscientiously-managed stores that focus on high quality products.

FEATURE

2010 Oscars recap and reflections

The top moments from this year's ceremony

By Emily Nardoni
STAFF WRITER

It's that time of year again: Academy Awards season. Every year, Hollywood's most popular and talented actors, actresses, and filmmakers come together to honor each other in a night full of fashion, comedy, and extravagance. This year's Oscars were as surprising as they were fun to watch. Whether you missed the big show for the sake of your GPA, or are in denial that an entire year separates us from the next Academy Awards (like me), I've compiled below just some of the evening's many memorable moments.

The fashion

Although it has nothing to do with the awards themselves, “who wore what” is almost as popular a topic as the Oscar recipients themselves. This year, metallic tones reigned over the red carpet, as best showcased by Cameron Diaz and Sandra Bullock. Other fashion highlights include Penelope Cruz’s deep red twisted-origami bodiced gown and Rachel McAdams’s wispy floral dress. Controversial outfits included Sarah Jessica Parker’s yellow dress seemingly inspired by Cleopatra, and Charlize Theron’s Christian Dior number with silk rosettes positioned “artfully” over her bosom.

Neil Patrick Harris

The show's introduction gets more and more outrageous by the year, and this time around was no exception. So what did this opening number have that previous years didn't? Neil Patrick Harris. Harris got the Oscars off to a lively start with a surprise song and dance routine, topped with raunchy lyrics and a black sequined tuxedo. This over-the-top opener got everybody laughing and served as the perfect introduction for hosts Steve Martin and Alec Baldwin.

Making fun of *Avatar*

Though *Avatar* failed to take home any of the bigger awards (it won for visual effects, art direction, and cinematography), it was definitely the most poked fun of, throughout the night. At the beginning of the show, hosts Alec Baldwin and Steve Martin earned laughs by swatting away CGI jelly-

fish-type creatures from the film. But the most memorable *Avatar* moment by far was Ben Stiller's highly realistic impression of the Na'vi. Stiller presented the award for best makeup with a painted blue face and long braid characteristic of the Na'vi in *Avatar*, spoofing such now-infamous lines as "I see you."

***Precious* best adapted screenplay acceptance**

When *Precious* — the much-talked about tale of poverty and abuse — won the award for best adapted screenplay, the applause was long and well-deserved. Geoffrey Fletcher's acceptance speech was one of the more emotional moments of the evening, as he expressed his sincere appreciation for all those who helped the film make it to where it has.

Stiller presented the best makeup award with a painted blue face and braid characteristic of the Na'vi in *Avatar*

***Paranormal Activity* parody**

The most popular horror film of the year was by far the low-budget *Paranormal Activity*, and although it had no representation at the Academy Awards, Steve Martin and Alec Baldwin surprised us all with their recorded spoof of the film. In the real movie, a couple decides to film themselves while they sleep in hopes of obtaining a glimpse of the ghost that has been haunting them, and the footage captures the girl getting out of bed and standing creepily still for hours on end. In the Oscar version, Martin and Baldwin get into bed together and the camera fast forwards as they taking various hilarious positions through the course of the night, until Steve Martin, mimicking the original, stands up and over Baldwin for an extended period of time. It was definitely one of the funniest moments of the night (next to Stiller's

Avatar impression of course).

Presenting the award for best actor

One of the most intense sequences of the evening was the presentation of the nominees for best actor. A close friend or colleague of each of the nominees stood on the stage and gave a speech praising the merits of their respective actor. These personal introductions — done for the best actress nominees as well — ranged from highly emotional to funny, and brought out the true spirit of the award. In the end, Jeff Bridges won for *Crazy Heart*.

Bullock wins best actress

Sandra Bullock is far better known for her fluffy romantic comedies, but this year her highly acclaimed performance in *The Blind Side* earned her her first Oscar. In her emotional acceptance speech, she praised the talents of each of her fellow nominees (Gabourey Sidibe, Meryl Streep, Helen Mirren, and Carey Mulligan), and joked about a kiss she had shared with Streep at the Critics' Choice Awards. As she left the stage in tears, it was more than evident that this was the biggest night of her life. It didn't hurt that her dress, a stunning classic number, practically screamed "I'm ready for my Oscar."

Bigelow wins best director

Kathryn Bigelow's emotional win marked the first time in the history of the Academy Awards that a woman has won best director. Her underdog film, *The Hurt Locker*, was wildly successful throughout the evening, taking home a total of six awards including best picture. *Locker*, an independent film that follows a team of United States Army bomb detonators during the Iraq war, faced stiff competition in the category of best picture; for the first time since 1943, when *Casablanca* took home the Oscar, ten films were nominated in the Best Picture category. *Locker*'s triumph over such fan favorites as *Avatar*, *The Blind Side*, and *Inglourious Bastards* in itself makes this year's Awards notable, and Bigelow's heartfelt acceptance speech — including a shout-out to soldiers overseas — was the climax of the night.



THE ACADEMY OF MOTION PICTURE ARTS AND SCIENCES

Sandra Bullock won best actress for her turn in football drama *The Blind Side*. She looked like a winner too, in her golden Marchesa gown.



THE ACADEMY OF MOTION PICTURE ARTS AND SCIENCES

Kathryn Bigelow was the triumph of the night, becoming the first woman to win best director while beating out ex-husband James Cameron. *The Hurt Locker* won six Oscars, including best picture.



THE ACADEMY OF MOTION PICTURE ARTS AND SCIENCES

In dazzling fashion, Neil Patrick Harris opened the night with dance moves and a shiny sequined tuxedo.

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Agency weighs the need for a ‘black box’ recorder in cars

By **Micheline Maynard**
THE NEW YORK TIMES

DETROIT — Federal safety regulators, who allowed auto companies to voluntarily install event data recorders on their vehicles a few years ago, are now looking into whether the systems should be required, the head of the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration said on Thursday.

David Strickland, administrator of the agency, said it was considering the step in the wake of recalls of millions of Toyota vehicles. He made the disclosure to a subcommittee hearing by the House Committee on Energy and Commerce.

The recorders, sometimes referred to as “black boxes,” like those on airplanes, record events from five to 30 seconds before a crash, and soon afterward.

The devices, which are generally linked to air bags, note information like the speed of the car, whether the driver was applying the brakes and other facts that can be downloaded and analyzed.

In 2006, the safety administration encouraged but did not require automobile manufacturers to install the systems and also did not set a single standard for the way data would be recorded.

That has been an issue in the case of Toyota, whose event recorders are different from those installed on cars from Detroit automakers. Unlike their systems, which can be read through the same diagnostic equipment, the Toyota system requires a special analytic device, and Strickland said a Toyota representative must help interpret the information.

Safety advocates have called for

the same system to be required on all automobiles and say the information should be available to the public.

Strickland, in his testimony, said the agency would “evaluate the benefits of mandatory event data recorders in vehicles.”

Since last fall, Toyota has recalled 6 million vehicles in the United States in two major campaigns for potential problems that could cause sudden unintended acceleration, an issue that has affected several automakers.

Toyota recalled one series of vehicles because it said the accelerator pedals could become entangled in floor mats. In a second recall, Toyota said pedals could become stuck because of a faulty pedal design. It is in the midst of making repairs in each recall.

The company also said it would install brake override systems on many vehicles, meant to prevent the car’s electronic throttle from sticking open.

At the hearing, Rep. John Dingell, D-Mich., said the agency’s response to safety defects on automobiles had been “sluggish.” He said he was concerned that the agency lacked appropriate resources, in terms of financing and staff, to fulfill its safety mandate. But Dingell also said that Toyota shared responsibility for failing to act more quickly when reports of problems surfaced.

Strickland, a former Senate staff member who took office on Jan. 4, said he did not think the agency under his leadership had made mistakes in dealing with Toyota, and he said the company had been “very responsive” to the safety agency’s requests for information.

In earlier hearings, some mem-

bers of Congress accused the agency of being a “lapdog” for the automobile industry. But Strickland objected to that characterization, saying the agency had opened eight investigations into the issue of sudden unintended acceleration.

“A lapdog doesn’t open eight separate investigations,” he said.

But he said Toyota was unique among automobile companies in leaving decisions on recalls to its headquarters in Japan. He said the company could move more quickly on requests from the agency if a Toyota executive in the United States had the authority to act.

In December, the Transportation Department sent officials to Japan at the safety administration’s request to urge Toyota to speed up its actions on the sticking pedal situation. Soon after, Toyota recalled a series of vehicles to repair accelerator pedals and also temporarily stopped selling and producing models involved in the recall.


Strickland said his agency would look at many of the features that have come into question because of the recalls. They include electronic throttle technology, brake override systems and accelerator pedals.

In the last week, the police have reported at least two incidents in which the owners of Prius cars complained of sudden unintended acceleration.


Toyota has recalled 2004 to 2009 models of the Prius because of the floor mat issue, but the cars were not part of the sticking pedal recall because they have a different accelerator pedal. The owners of the cars, however, said their floor mats were not entangled in the pedals. In one case, the floor mats had been securely fastened by a dealer.

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Maki cites Mondrian, transparency as inspiration

Media Lab, from Page 1

of its faculty, Moss said.

On opening day, the Media Lab's open house showed off its groups' current projects. Labs gave demonstrations of everything from electric cars to prosthetic limbs to Wiimote-enabled electric guitars. Professor Mitchel J. Resnick PhD '88 and his group, Lifelong Kindergarten, showed off Scratch, a visual programming language composed of blocks arranged on a screen, allowing users to tell stories with animated characters. Scratch has an online community of hundreds of thousands of users replete with animations, remixes and memes. According to Karen A. Brennan G, who works on the project, "we originally intended it [Scratch] for 8-16 year olds, but now it's being used as an introduction to computer programming at Rutgers, University of WI-Madison, and Harvard."

In the week before the grand opening, construction crews and Media Lab workers scrambled to finish last-minute construction, repairs, and exhibits.

The visually striking glass elevators rising through the main lobby proved to be troublesome, requiring frequent downtime for repairs. According to Arne Abramson MS '92, project manager for the Media Lab extension, some glass near the top of the elevator shafts cracked during installation, some of the panes twisting out of the vertical shaft. Construction crews fixed these problems just in time for the grand opening.



SAM RANGE—THE TECH

William Lark G from the Media Lab's Smart Cities Group shows visitors a scale model of the foldable CityCar. The Media Lab extension (E14) can display larger models than the old Media Lab (E15) could accommodate.

According to Gary Kamemoto, head of international projects for Maki, the architects made sure to avoid some of the pitfalls encountered by the Frank Gehry-designed Stata Center. For example, the roof is carefully sloped to avoid the buildup of snow and ice, and the back edge is lined with snow guards to prevent melting ice from falling on bypassers. Maki and Associates contracted Canadian firm RWDI to ensure the building is suited for

Boston winters.

In designing for MIT, Maki also encountered other difficulties, such as Massachusetts energy codes. Conflicting with the vision of a transparent building of glass, the codes forbid a building from being over 50 percent glass. This is put in place in order to make heating and air conditioning more efficient. Maki found a way around this: he drew inspiration from Japanese bamboo blinds, the influence

of which can be seen clearly in the fine metal grating over the exterior of the building. The blinds, along with a subtle dot matrix printed on the windows, allow floor-to-ceiling glass with copious amounts of sunlight.

Mr. Maki cited his choice of color palette: pervasive white with occasional primary color accents. The colors are derived from the work of neoplastic artists, especially Piet Mondrian and his "Composition

with Yellow, Blue, and Red." Walking through the light-saturated halls overlooking the glass atrium, one cannot deny that Maki has created a work of art.

Simultaneously, though, The Media Arts and Sciences building is the image of pragmatism, tangibly fulfilling the operation of the Media Lab, with every stairway and glass plane serving to open up communication and collaboration between researchers.

Police Log

The following incidents were reported to the Campus Police between Feb 16. and Mar. 9. The dates below reflect the dates the incidents occurred. This information is compiled from the Campus Police's crime log. The report does not include alarms, general service calls, or incidents not reported to the dispatcher.

Jan. 13	Bldg. 13 (105 Massachusetts Ave.), 11:18a.m., larceny of package
Feb. 3	Bldg. W89 (291 Vassar St.), 12:00p.m., man reported credit card was used without his authority
Feb. 6	Bldg. 39 (60 Vassar St.), 12:00p.m., larceny of laptop and hard drive.
Feb. 16	Bldg. 42 (59 Vassar St.), 8:25a.m., larceny of tools.
Feb. 16	Bldg. W20 (84 Massachusetts Ave.), 1:30p.m., indecent exposure.
Feb. 16	Bldg. E15 (20 Ames St.), 6:00p.m., suspicious activity.
Feb. 19	Bldg. W89 (291 Vassar St.), 1:00p.m., domestic situation.
Feb. 19	Bldg. W35 (100 Vassar St.), 7:00p.m., id stolen.
Feb. 21	Bldg. 14 (160 Memorial Dr.), 6:55p.m., person in library causing a problem. Person given trespass warning.
Feb. 21	Kappa Sigma (407 Memorial Dr.), 12:30a.m., wallet stolen during a party.
Feb. 21	Kappa Sigma (407 Memorial Dr.), 12:30a.m., jacket, cell phone, and id was stolen during a party.
Feb. 21	Bldg. 68 (31 Ames St.), 3:45p.m., woman reports her laptop and 80 dollars cash stolen from her lab area.
Feb. 21	Bldg. 9 (105 Massachusetts Ave.), 2:00a.m., damage to door.
Feb. 22	Bldg. 1 (Massachusetts Ave.) 3:00p.m., bike was stolen from bike rack.
Feb. 22	Bldg. 32 (32 Vassar St.), 3:55a.m., several doors appeared to be damaged.
Feb. 22	Bldg. NW61 (282 Massachusetts Ave.), 11p.m., annoying/harassing mail.
Feb. 26	Bldg. NW14 (150 Albany St.), 3:00p.m., copper piping stolen.
Feb. 22	Beta Tau Pi (119 Bay State Rd.), 4:57p.m., person climbing through a window and into the residence. Person was located and is a resident of the house.
Feb. 26	Bldg. 37, (70 Vassar St.), 8:30a.m., larceny of laptop and passport from backpack.
Feb. 26	Bldg. 5 (55 Massachusetts Ave.), 5:00p.m., graffiti on door.
Feb. 26	Bldg. 54 (21 Ames St.), 6p.m., breaking and entering of a room and larceny of a computer cable.
Feb. 28	Bldg. NW12 (138 Albany St.), 7:30p.m., graffiti on exterior door.
Mar. 1	Bldg. 54 (21 Ames St.), 1:16a.m., breaking and entering.
Mar. 1	Bldg. 68 (31 Ames St.), 1:51a.m., two individuals issued trespass warning.
Mar. 1	Kendall Square, 8:38a.m., disgruntled person kicked door and shattered glass.
Mar. 1	Bldg. 2 (182 Memorial Dr.), 11a.m., larceny of bicycle from eastman court.
Mar. 2	Bldg. 37 (70 Vassar St.), 12:48p.m, damaged door.
Mar. 2	Bldg. E25 (Carlton St.), 4:20p.m., woman reported her wallet was stolen.
Mar. 3	Bldg. 4 (77 Massachusetts Ave.), 12:20p.m., woman reported her laptop stolen. Computer was left behind and returned to owner.
Mar. 3	Bldg. 46 (46 Vassar St.), 4:00p.m., missing older person. Person located in another building.
Mar. 3	Bldg. 35 (127 Massachusetts Ave.), 2:43p.m., homeless person setting up residence in mens room. Person given trespass notice.
Mar. 3	Bldg. W32 (Vassar St.), 7:30a.m., larceny of wallet from Z center.
Mar. 3	Bldg. 12 (60 Vassar St.), 10:30a.m., harassing voice mail.
Mar. 6	Bldg. E55 (60 Wadsworth St.), 11:45p.m., possible domestic situation.
Mar. 6	Lambda Chi Alpha (99 Bay State Rd.), 10:30p.m., man reported his bike stolen.
Mar. 7	Bldg. 9 (105 Massachusetts Ave.), 12:41p.m., suspicious person Fabio Armelio, 106 Warren St.m Cambridge MA; arrested for trespassing after notice.
Mar. 9	Bldg. W11 (40 Massachusetts Ave.), 8:00a.m., larceny of check.
Mar. 9	Bldg. 7 (77 Massachusetts Ave.), 12:38p.m., larceny of equipment.

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Miliband misses ‘time’ the most

Has fond memories of MIT

Miliband, from Page 1

Coming Back to MIT

Miliband was educated at Corpus Christi College, Oxford and received an SM in Political Science from MIT as a Kennedy Scholar in 1990. The invitation to speak at MIT came at an opportune time, he said — he had been looking for a chance to speak in the United States and to tell Americans that they have an ally in the war.

In an interview with *The Tech*, Miliband said the thing he missed most about MIT, was time. However busy MIT students believe themselves to be, they can be certain that the foreign secretary is busier. “When you are a student you’ve got lots to do, but the time to read, to think, to go to lectures: That may not seem like joy to you, but it is the most precious commodity of all,” he said.

Miliband has other fond memo-

ries of MIT. “MIT taught me to ask hard questions, it taught me to read source material, and not just read reports of what people think. It taught me the virtues of respect for scholarship, which I think is important,” he said. “I mean I was only here for 12 months, I was stupid; I should have stayed longer.”

He praised MIT for its global perspective and dedication to public service. “It is important that [MIT] is an institution not only of science, but of society as well. It is the fusion of science and society that holds the potential for progress.”

As Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, Miliband is the UK’s equivalent to Secretary of State Hillary Clinton. The last British cabinet minister to speak at MIT was Winston Churchill, who spoke in 1949 about the importance of rebuilding a society with science after war.

Sodium delivered to Neltner’s ‘Evil Corp’

Mookerji not criminally charged, but brothers sued in civil court

Sodium, from Page 1

A search warrant was served on Neltner’s Somerville residence on Sept. 21, according to the report.

There were two other shipments billed to Neltner from Alfa Aesar, company representatives told detectives. These shipments were shipped to “AMRCO LLC” and contained two pounds of sodium ingot, 250 grams of sodium, one liter of ethanol, one liter of acetone, and other chemically reactive substances.

AMRCO LLC is registered with the Commonwealth of Massachusetts at Neltner and Snella’s address. According to its certificate of organization filed in May 2006, “the company is an invention workshop and think tank, the primary business of which will be the invention and production of novel devices and licensing intellectual property.”

Neltner and Mookerji, both the subject of pending civil litigation, declined to comment to *The Tech*.

Neltner stored some of the so-

dium in a container with a note that read approximately “don’t be stupid with this,” according to statements from Jeffrey J. Kuna G in the detective’s report.

The detective’s report identifies Mookerji as having been responsible for throwing the block of sodium into the water. The sodium that caused the Sept. 7 explosion had broken off from the initial block of sodium thrown by Mookerji, detectives concluded.

Because Mookerji threw the metal, prosecutors were prepared to charge him with discharging a pollutant into the waters of the Commonwealth as well as with disorderly conduct. But Mookerji was able to negotiate pretrial probation of six months, during which he performed community service and, according to the case docket, was required to pay “restitution of \$4,000 and not to exceed \$5,000.”

Mookerji’s community service included “over 40 hours of ... database management assistance” to the New England Shelter for Homeless Veterans.

Because his pretrial probation was successfully completed, Mookerji was not formally charged.

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Website: mit.edu/dsl/addir/

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Addir is a word in Ancient Sumerian which means “bridge”. In the Addir Fellows Program we aspire to build bridges of dialogue and understanding. The Addir Fellows MIT Interfaith Dialogue Program is sponsored by Office of Dean for Student Life and MIT Hillel in cooperation with the Board of Chaplains.

MIT Interfaith Dialogue

Solution to Easy Sudoku
from page 7

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

Solution to Crossword
from page 7

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

Solution to Hard Sudoku
from page 7

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

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No-ammonia hair dye is changing minds

By Catherine Saint Louis
THE NEW YORK TIMES

Permanently dyeing hair goes hand in hand with damaging it. The process dries out hair and leaves it jagged. Ammonia used to open the hair fiber so that dye molecules can nestle in — is as delicate as a can opener. It also smells horrid and sets delicate scalps afire.

So it’s not surprising that makers of lasting hair color have long sought an ammonia-free alternative that offers thorough gray coverage and a less unpleasant experience. Now, L’Oreal Professionnel is touting INOA, which stands for Innovation No Ammonia, as that game-changer, one on par, they say, with the advent of DVD’s or GPS.

With INOA, “hair is as smooth as it was before hair color,” said Paul Schiraldi, the vice president for marketing of L’Oreal Professionnel in the United States. If INOA catches on to the extent the company’s executives hope, Schiraldi said, “damage with coloring will be a thing of the past.”

Some salon colorists, who used to be skeptical that an ammonia-free dye could offer enviable results, adore INOA (pronounced in-oh-uh). A few celebrity hairstylists like the pink-shirted Ted Gibson switched to L’Oreal Professionnel partly to get first dibs on bringing INOA to their clientele. Even Eva Scrivo, a colorist and spokeswoman for Wella, a dye maker, is testing INOA in her Manhattan salon as part of the initial rollout to 200 hand-picked salons. Come May, INOA, which can cost about 15 percent more than other last-ing dyes, will be more widely available.

But is it truly an innovation for the roughly 38 million women nationwide who have their hair dyed professionally? Only time will tell if ammonia fumes in salons will go the way of smoking in Manhattan bars. INOA bills itself as a “revolution,” but it is not the first ammonia-free permanent color to grace these shores. So why hasn’t the idea gathered steam before?

It could be that L’Oreal Professionnel is the first to “remove ammonia and deliver amazing results” as Schiraldi put it. Or the company may just be the first with enough marketing muscle and broad distribution to get the graying masses (and colorists) to embrace a sea change.

“To say we don’t need ammonia in permanent hair color is a big deal,” said Lotus Abrams, the executive editor at American Salon magazine, a trade publication. For 50 years — if not longer — it’s been a given that lasting hair dye requires ammonia, so its ghastly odor must be endured. “When you go to the salon and it doesn’t smell, it’s just better for the customer, it’s better for salon staff.”

Some demi-permanent hair dyes “claim to be ammonia-free,” said Abrams, who tried INOA at no charge on Feb. 11 and reports that her golden brown hue has stayed true. “But they aren’t permanent.” That is, they gradually fade and don’t uniformly cover gray.

Demi-permanent dyes often use an ammonia alternative called MEA, or monoethanolamine, to more gently open the hair shaft. With MEA, it’s as if the cuticle is a door that’s slightly ajar, not swung wide open as it is with ammonia. That translates to less damage, depending on quantity.

Two colorists of note, Scrivo and Beth Minardi, urged women not to discount a demi-permanent ability to banish gray. For clients with dark brown hair with interspersed gray, Minardi, the color director at her namesake salon in Manhattan, has used a demi-permanent dye to turn the gray to a light brown. “It makes you look like you have \$500 worth of highlights,” said Minardi, who is a spokeswoman for Joico, a maker of hair dyes. Scrivo said of demi-permanents, “There are many things a trained colorist can do to make a formulation a bit more lasting.”

As for permanent color, INOA, which uses some MEA and is applied to dry hair, looks like an oily yogurt once mixed. Its color dye molecules “don’t like oil” and are attracted to the water inside the hair, said Jo Blackwell-Preston, a color educator for L’Oreal Professionnel and owner of Dop Dop sa-

lon in SoHo, so they “force themselves inside your hair.”

At least two other ammonia-free permanent hair colors are already used in salons. One called Organic Color Systems, made by Herb UK, a company based in Lymington, England, has been available stateside since 2002, now in 65 colors (compared with INOA’s 49). Roughly 1,200 salons carry it, up from 400 in 2008, said Hilton Bell, the president of International Hair and Beauty Systems, the United States distributor for Organic Color Systems.

Its magic bullet is heat coupled with an oil base. “What we do is actually suspend color molecules in an oil base, which softens the cuticle, and then we use heat to open the cuticle,” Bell said, rather than “blowing it open with ammonia.”

In an e-mail message, he wrote: “We have been stating for years that ammonia-free and the oil-based method is a better way to color hair, for the hairdresser and the client. The fact that L’Oreal is saying the same thing now, just legitimizes the fact.”

In a phone interview, Schiraldi conceded that INOA is “not the first.” But he argued that its performance distinguishes it. No other permanent hair color can deliver “vibrant color, great coverage and maintain the condition of the hair prior,” he said. “There’s a reason none of these other brands have become successful, and you can’t chalk that up to marketing buzz.”

In Bell’s view, that reason has a lot to do with entrenched thinking. Eight years ago, convincing hairdressers that an ammonia-free hair dye could offer superior coverage was akin to suggesting the world wasn’t flat when everyone believed it was, he said.

Distribution plays a role, too. For three years, Mastey De Paris, a family business in Valencia, Calif., has offered a zero-ammonia permanent hair dye called Teinture. It “gently opens” the hair shaft with a proprietary amino-acid based alkaline agent, so there’s no MEA, either, said Erick Calderon, the vice president for business development. Teinture has made inroads in Florida and southern California, he said, but only recently found a New York distributor. (L’Oreal Professionnel has national distribution.)

Anne Warnock is an owner of the Sam Wong Salon in Frederick, Md., which uses Organic Color Systems. During the last three years, she has used it every four weeks to maintain her red locks and has noted a difference. Her hair no longer has that dry, over-processed feeling, she said.

To her mind, INOA, which she has no interest in using since it’s not organic enough for her, is noteworthy. “Now that L’Oreal has jumped on the bandwagon, it’s the beginning of women being educated who also want results,” she said, referring to the market for no-ammonia permanent color. “In time, women will go into a salon and ask, ‘What color do you use? Does it have ammonia?’”

Talks to address trade in tuna and ivory

By Neil Macfarquhar
THE NEW YORK TIMES

Marathon negotiations on protecting the planet’s endangered species open on Saturday in Qatar with tensions bubbling over efforts to ban trade in bluefin tuna and to re-open exports of elephant ivory from Africa.

About 40 proposals are on the agenda for the 12-day meeting of the U.N. Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, which could help determine the fate of species from rhinoceroses to polar bears, from hammerhead sharks to red coral.

A pronounced focus on marine creatures is evident in this year’s proposals, reflecting a growing awareness of the decimation of the seas, negotiators and conservation experts say.

“As you are seeing the impact of industrial fishing for the past 50 or 60 years, marine species have finally started to get some attention,” said Matthew Rand, the director of global shark conservation for the Pew Charitable Trusts.

Some of the fiercest debate in the prelude to the meeting in Doha, the Qatari capital, has centered on the bluefin tuna, whose ranks have plummeted by about 90 percent in the western Atlantic and 80 percent or more in the eastern Atlantic since 1970.

Conservationists want to ban international trade in bluefin tuna to allow stocks to regenerate. But Japan, which consumes well over half of the worldwide catch and where a single fish can fetch prices above \$100,000, said Thursday that it would opt out of the ban if it was approved.

Such a move is allowed under the 1973 convention, which has been signed by 175 countries and is often referred to by its acronym, Cites (pronounced SIGHT-ees).

In the United States, conservationists have faulted the Obama administration as being slow to support the ban. But Thomas L. Strickland, the assistant secretary of the interior for fish, wildlife and parks, said that Washington would work hard to win passage.

“The bluefin tuna is in a catastrophic decline,” said Strickland, who is leading the American delegation to the talks. “It is imperative that we take strong steps to protect that iconic fish.”

He suggested that European Union countries, swayed by Spain, Italy and France with their large tuna fleets, have been dragging their feet on enforcing quotas. “There are questions about some of the Mediterranean countries, whether they have been as attentive as others,” he said.

The European Union said Wednesday that it would support a ban but with certain reservations. That includes a one-year delay in enforcing the ban if approved, and an exemption for “artisanal” fishermen who supply their local markets using small boats.

Yet perhaps the most bitter fight has arisen over a proposal by Tanzania and Zambia to resume trade in their stocks of elephant ivory. Led by Kenya, several other African nations are seeking to block the request, arguing that it could lead to a surge in illegal poaching across the continent.

Tanzania and Zambia counter that they would funnel all the estimated \$18.5 million in tusk sales toward conservation.

In a study published Thursday in the journal Science, an international team of conservationists details a sharp increase in poaching in recent years — even before 2007, when Cites approved a less protected status for elephants in Botswana, Namibia, South Africa and Zimbabwe.

Affluent buyers of ivory carvings in China, Japan and Thailand have driven the market in poaching, the conservationists said, abetted by Asian gangs operating in Africa.

From 8 percent to 10 percent of the elephant population is being poached annually, said Samuel K. Wasser, a University of Washington biologist and the lead author of the Science article. DNA studies indicate that most of the trafficking runs through Tanzania and Zambia.

A complete ban in 1989 helped slow a precipitous decline, but a population estimated at 1.3 million in 1980 is down to less than 500,000 today. Sierra Leone reported the death of its last elephant in 2009, said Pat Awori, the founder of the Kenya Elephant Forum, an umbrella group of organizations seeking to extend the ban.

Kenya, Congo, Ghana, Liberia, Mali, Rwanda and Sierra Leone have proposed extending the ban until 2027.

Their acrimony extends toward the Cites leadership itself, which they have accused of promoting the ivory trade. The leadership issued a statement denying any favoritism.

In bargaining for support, Kenya and its allies have signaled to the European Union that they will support the ban on bluefin tuna fishing in exchange for support on extending the moratorium on trading ivory, Ms. Awori said.

“If we don’t extend the ban to be able to study the impact of these limited sales, there may be no elephants left to protect,” she said.

Such horse trading is controversial: conservationists argue that every proposal should rise or fall on the basis of scientific evidence detailing the possible extinction of individual species, not as part of a political deal.

But it is not unusual at a meeting of around 2,000 delegates representing parties from tiny states like Monaco, which proposed the bluefin tuna ban, to the Asian association of shark fin traders.

The United States is proposing that six species of sharks be added to the list of endangered animals whose trade is monitored but not banned. They include the hammerhead shark, whose fins are highly prized in China for soup, with a bowlful selling for as much as \$100.

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March 19



Awards Convocation 2010

Engineers honored with track and field awards

Women's tennis falls to NYU in spring opener

The match started out with doubles playing first. The number one doubles team of Leslie A. Hansen '10 and Bianca M. Dumitrascu '13 - making her MIT

—Jennifer Rees, Team Representative

Sailing begins season with Sharpe Cup on Sunday

—Mike Stoller, DAPER Staff

SCOREBOARD

Men's Lacrosse	
Wednesday, 3/10	
at Curry College	W 10-6
Men's Volleyball	
Wednesday, 3/10	
at Endicott College	W 3-0

Swimming and diving teams wrap up season, prepare for Nationals

TEAM REPRESENTATIVES

Not to be outdone, the men's team stepped up to win their second con-

Through hard work both in the pool and out, five women and a record high of 10 men have earned the chance to compete at NCAA Division III Championships at the end of March. Stay tuned — the Engineers are ready to rock.

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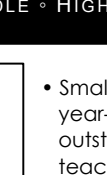
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