### MIT's Oldest and Largest Newspaper



WEATHER, p. 2 TUE: 54°F | 41°F WED: 62°F | 42°F

> THU: 62°F | 42°F Sunny, late clouds

Volume 130, Number 19 tech.mit.edu Tuesday, April 13, 2010

### **Unions and students** hold 'solidarity' event

### Upcoming negotiations discussed

By Liz Tsai

Last Friday, members and representatives from three MITaffiliated unions came together in a student-worker solidarity gathering to discuss the current conditions facing MIT workers. Present at the meeting were representatives from the MIT Police Association, Service Employees International Union (SEIU) Local 615, and the Research, Development, and Technical Employees Union as well as Cambridge City Councilor E. Denise Simmons.

The discussion focused on layoffs, reduced hours and benefits, and upcoming contract negotiations between the MIT and the

"MIT wants deep concessions ... and wants to maintain the endowment at the expense of workers through layoffs ... and benefit cuts..." said SEIU representative Matt Gulish during the event. "They [MIT] have the money to keep people working and keep the quality of life high."

The situation for MIT police officers has never been easy but is getting worse, according to Alan McDonald of McDonald and Associates, who represents the MIT Campus Police Association. MIT is attempting to use the economic situation in the short term to make long term changes unfavorable to the police officers, he said.

"We're okay with people making money and we like that people are making money; we just want to get some too," said James Herms '87 of the MIT Crime Club. Herms said that club membership is confidential, but claims that the club has "at least five active members."

SEIU Local 615 is slated to start contract negotiations with MIT in about a week and a half. The union has yet to present its demands and they "don't want MIT to have already made up their mind before negotiations," said Gulish.

Simmons, who voted to pass last week's resolution asking MIT and Harvard to stop laying off workers, said in a phone interview after the event that "as a council, it is necessary to be proactive." Simmons is surprised that "MIT would take this backhall approach to dealing with their employees instead of being up-front," she said. Unions help workers "bargain for what they deserve." "At this time in the economy, we don't want people choosing between health care and [paying off their] mortgage," she said.

MIT Professor of Economics David Autor offered an alternative

Unions, Page 13



Union members from MIT Facilities, Police, and the Lincoln Laboratory, as well as members of the Student Union, gather in 1-190 on Friday to discuss the ongoing budget crisis at the Institute.



Students, mostly from East Campus and Random Hall, demanded more input into the dining reform process during a protest in Lobby 7 on Friday, the second day of Campus Preview Weekend. The event was organized by the Campaign for Students.

### **CPW** protest targets dining

### Students fear administrators aren't listening

By Jingyun Fan

Last Friday, in the middle of Campus Preview Weekend, students from the Campaign for Students (CFS) gathered in Lobby 7 to protest the Division of Student Life's handling of dining reform. Students joined and left the protest intermittently, but the number of attendees at any point in time was around two dozen.

'You say you want student input, so why don't you listen?" read a large banner that hung from the east balcony of the lobby.

Protestors were concerned that administrators were purposely excluding students from the decision-making process for changing dining at MIT. The protest seemed mostly composed of residents of East Campus and Random Hall, two dormitories without dining

The CFS chose to protest during Campus Preview Weekend because that is when MIT is in the spotlight for prefrosh, said Jesse M. Ashcraft-Johnson '11, a resident of Random Hall, who attended the protest.

Colombo sent an e-mail to MIT undergraduates on April 6 urging students to make their voice heard on dining. However, some students were disturbed by portions of the

Colombo wrote that the final dining plan would be announced in mid-May, which coincides with finals period. Some protestors believe that the announcement time was deliberately chosen to prevent students from organizing a strong response to the plan while they are busy with studying for exams.

In the same e-mail, Colombo wrote: "As important, members of the Class of 2012 and 2013 — the two classes currently at MIT that will be directly affected by changes to House Dining — will have a year to consider whether to move to another residence based upon their dining preference." Some students were disturbed by his comment, interpreting that Colombo is encouraging students to pick housing because of amenities such as dining plan and financial incentives instead of dorm culture."

"Some people might see this \$800-a-year as a disincentive to live in McCormick or some other nondining dorm and they might be incentivized to live in dorms like East Campus just because it is cheaper," said Fangfei Shen '11, the current vice-president and former dining chair of East Campus (also a Tech

Shen said that she did not want the administration to make dining at MIT similar to dining at peer institutions such as Harvard or Yale. "It just doesn't work for MIT because we are not like other universities" she said.

In an e-mail to The Tech, Dean Colombo wrote that he thought "the protest on Friday was a very reasonable and respectful display of the participants concerns about dining and other issues." He wrote that MIT has had to make hard choices regarding dining and other issues in order to balance its budget. "It doesn't get much more personal for students than where they live and what they eat," wrote Colombo.

Colombo wrote in his e-mail, "If students who use the dining halls

Protests, Page 15

### **NEWS BRIEFS**

### **Prefrosh found unconscious** near McCormick during CPW

A female prefrosh was found unconscious near McCormick late on Thursday last week, according to an e-mail sent by Bexley housemaster Robert M. Randolph to dorm residents.

The e-mail stated that the prefrosh had been intoxicated and spent the night at Massachusetts General Hospital. "[It]appears she may have gotten the alcohol ... in Bexley," Randolph wrote. He added, "Foolish behavior puts a dent in the notion that we can

Campus Police captain Jay A. Perault, CPW organizer and assistant director of admissions Lauren E. Avalos, and admissions director Stuart Schmill '86 could not be reached yesterday for comment. Neither Randolph nor MIT News Office director Nathaniel W. Nickerson could provide more information about the incident as of late afternoon yesterday.

—Natasha Plotkin

### John Reed nominated to be next **MIT Corporation chair**

MIT announced yesterday that John S. Reed '61, former chairman and CEO of Citigroup and former chairman of the New York Stock Exchange, was nominated to be the MIT Corporation's next chairman, replacing Dana G. Mead PhD '67 who retires in June.At MIT, Reed earned a bachelor's degree in Management Science in 1961 and a master's degree in the same course in 1965

—Nick Bushak

News Briefs, Page 13

### IN SHORT

The lottery for tickets to see Bill Gates at Kresge on April 21 closes at 5 p.m. on Tuesday. Gates's talk is entitled "Giving Back: Finding the Best Way to Make a Difference.

Academic regalia will be rented for \$36 at the Student Center this week 10 p.m. to 4 p.m. Students must return the robe but may keep the cap and tassel.

**The National Day of Silence** is this Friday. To protest LBGTQ discrimination, wear a solid-colored shirt. NO H8 tape will be given out in Lobby 7.

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

### **YOST: DUBAI AND BACK AGAIN**

Dubai was doomed. On some level, it is hard not to sympathize with the Emiratis.

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### **SEEING GREEN**

Why you shouldn't let eco-branding do your thinking for you. OPN, p. 6

### **LEADERSHIP AT THE GSC**

Engineers are the future, but only if they are smart enough to lead. OPN, p. 4



### **CPW DEBRIEF!**

It was a weekend of hacks, concerts, plays, performances, and of course, prefrosh. p. 10-11

### **VARIOUS STATES OF UNDRESS**

The sexual revolution happened already, guys. Stop calling women sluts. CL, p. 7

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### Dow finishes above 11,000

A few little points was all it took.

The Dow Jones industrial average inched above 11,000 on Monday — and, for the first time since the dark days of 2008, actually managed to stay there.

It was hardly a heady rally. The Dow Jones industrial average rose 8.62 points Monday, a mere 0.08 percent, to close at 11,005.97. But that modest gain, driven largely by news Sunday of a long-awaited financial rescue for the debt-strapped Greek government, was enough to help the market tick off yet another milestone in its long recovery.

"Nobody ever thought we'd ever get near this level this fast," said William J. Schultz, chief investment officer for McQueen, Ball & Associates. "We've come a long way."

A long way indeed. Since March 2009, the Dow has soared 68 percent. Even so, it remains some 3,100 points below the highs reached in 2007, before the economy sank into reces-

Other Wall Street indexes followed the Dow's lead. The Standard & Poor's 500-stock index climbed 2.11 points, or 0.18 percent, to 1,196.48. The Nasdaq composite index was up 3.82points, or 0.16 percent, to 2,457.87.

-Javier C. Hernandez, The New York Times

### Vatican publishes its protocols for handling sex abuse cases

ROME — Fending off accusations that it covered up abuse and obstructed justice, the Vatican on Monday spelled out for the first time that it now strongly urges bishops to report abuse cases to civil authorities if required by local law.

Victims of abuse by priests have long argued that the Vatican's rules requiring confidentiality and the avoidance of scandal were often tantamount to obstructing civil justice, an argument that has contributed to the Catholic Church paying more than \$2 billion in abuse settlements in the United States alone in the past decade.

On Monday, the Vatican posted online for the first time a guide to the procedures it requires bishops to follow in abuse cases. It says that in the preliminary stages of any investigation into alleged abuse, "civil law concerning reporting of crimes to the appropriate authorities should always be followed."

-Rachel Donadio, The New York Times

### Conan O'Brien will move to late night TBS this November

EUGENE, Ore. — In a move that has shocked much of the television world, Conan O'Brien will make his comeback on a cable — not a network — channel.

The former "Tonight Show" host has agreed to start a late-night show on TBS, the comedy-oriented channel in the Turner network lineup. The four-night-a-week show — no title yet — will begin in November and fill the 11 p.m. slot, teamed with that network's other late-night show, with the comedian George Lopez as its host. That show, now at 11, will slide to

The news, announced Monday, was a stunning development because O'Brien had been in talks with Fox, and most predictions had him moving to that network in September or

TBS was not previously mentioned as bidder for his services. But Steve Koonin, the president of Turner Entertainment Networks, put together a pitch and approached O'Brien's representatives only earlier this month.

TBS has also promised O'Brien what Koonin called "the biggest marketing campaign the history of cable." He said that promotional announcements would start appearing on TBS on Monday night.

-Bill Carter, The New York Times

### Crash inquiry is focusing on decision to land Polish jet

By Clifford J. Levy

THE NEW YORK TIMES

MOSCOW - Investigators examining the crash of the Polish president's plane appeared Sunday to be focusing on why the pilot did not heed instructions from air traffic controllers to give up tryintg to land in bad weather in western Rus-

Their inquiry may lead to an even more delicate question: whether the pilot felt under pressure to land to make sure that the Polish delegation would not be late for a ceremony on Saturday it the Katyn forest, where more than 20,000 Polish officers and others were massacred by the Soviets during World War II.

Officials recovered the flight voice recorder, but on Sunday they did not release transcripts of conversations in the cockpit or the control tower. Still, attention has been drawn to the pilot's state of mind because of a previous incident involving the Polish president, Lech Kaczynski, who died along with numerous other senior Polish government and military officials in the crash.

In August 2008, during Russia's brief war with Georgia, Kaczynski got into a dispute with the pilot flying his plane to the Georgian capital, Tbilisi, according to reports at the time. Kaczynski demanded that the pilot land despite dangerous conditions, but the pilot disagreed and diverted to neighboring Azerbaijan.

Kaczynski threatened that there would be consequences for the pilot, the Polish newspaper Dziennik reported. "If someone decides to become a pilot, he cannot be fearful," Kaczynski said. "After returning to the country, we shall deal with this matter."

The pilot was not disciplined and received a medal for his service. But the defense minister later said that the pilot had suffered depression in the wake of the incident.

Lech Walesa, the former Polish president, told the newspaper Gazeta Wyborcza over the weekend that in these situations, the captain often sought the views of the government leaders on the plane.

"If there were any doubts, the leaders were always approached

and asked for their decision, and only on this basis were further steps taken," he said. "Sometimes the plane captain would make the decision himself, even against the recommendations. We do not yet know what happened, so let's leave the explaining to the experts."

Officials from both Russia and Poland were taking part in the inquiry into the crash, which killed 96 people, and they said preliminary evidence seemed to indicate that there were no technical malfunctions on the plane, though it was a 20-year-old, Soviet-designed Tupolev.

Prosecutors, forensic pathologists and crash investigators were working in Moscow and at the crash site in the city of Smolensk.

Throughout the weekend, the Russian government seemed to go out of its way to demonstrate its despair over the crash and its determination to conduct a wideranging inquiry, efforts that were well-received in Poland. The two countries have long had an uneasy relationship, though it has improved recently.

### Protesters appear to gain in Thailand's growing political crisis

By Thomas Fuller

BANGKOK — The battle of wills between the Thai government and tens of thousands of protesters barricaded in the streets of Bangkok appeared to turn in favor of the protesters on Monday, when the country's army chief shunned a military solution to the crisis and the prime minister's party suddenly and unexpectedly faced the prospect of dis-

Two days after repulsing a blood-soaked military crackdown, the protesters cheered jubilantly at the announcement that Thailand's Election Commission had recommended that the party of the prime minister, Abhisit Vejjajiva, be disbanded on charges of receiving an illegal donation.

"This government's time in power is nearly over," Veera Musikapong, a protest leader, said to throngs of protesters. Veera and other opposition figures said they would maintain their demonstrations to press Abhisit to resign.

The announcement by the Election Commission came hours after the head of the army, Gen. Anupong Paochinda, appeared to rule out further military action to remove protesters, saying, "The situation requires that the problem be solved by politics."

Anupong also described the dissolution of parliament, the main goal of the protesters, as "a reasonable step." The general's comments were a stinging blow to Abhisit, who is portrayed by protesters as a puppet of Thailand's elite and who came to power 16 months ago as part of a coalition brokered in part by the military.

For the past month, Abhisit's government has operated from a military base on the outskirts of Bangkok, the capital, as protesters, many of them farmers from the provinces, expanded their street protests.

Abhisit has appeared increasingly isolated following the failure of the military to dislodge protesters on Saturday after running battles that killed 21 people.

Protesters have put important portions of Thailand's capital beyond the government's control. Although not quite anarchy, the protests have created a vacuum of law and order.

The Election Commission's announcement on Monday may tip the scales toward the opposition movement, but it is unlikely to resolve the country's underlying political crisis.

Abhisit's Democrat Party would be the third political party in three years to be dissolved. The two parties disbanded earlier were affiliated with Thaksin Shinawatra, the former prime minister removed in the 2006 military coup.

### **WEATHER**

### **Active hurricane season**

By Brian H. Tang

Two groups of independent forecasters have issued their preliminary forecasts for the upcoming hurricane season, which runs from June through November. Both groups are predicting above average activity of 15-17 storms, of which 8-9 will become hurricanes.

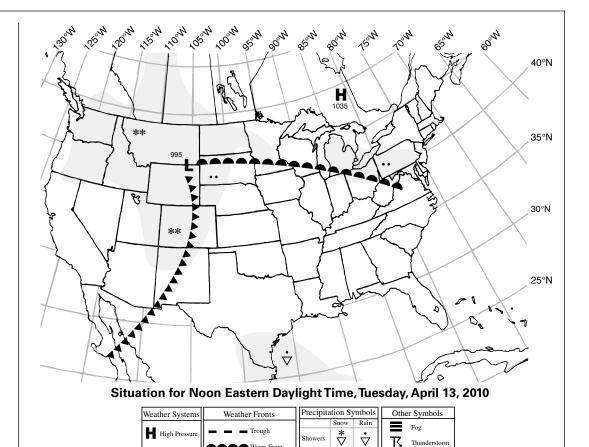
They attribute this to record warm sea surface temperatures that are expected to remain warmer than normal through the hurricane season. In a normal year, there are about 10 storms and 6 hurricanes. Last year was a below normal vear with 9 storms and 3 hurricanes,

none of which made landfall

However, these forecasts have very low skill, meaning that you shouldn't put much faith in their exact numbers. The skill typically increases as we near hurricane season much like the confidence in a weather forecast is much higher one day out versus seven days out, so the updated numbers in June will carry more weight. Moreover, high storm numbers don't translate to assurances of a major hurricane strike. For example, in 1995, we had 19 storms but only 1 major hurricane landfall (Opal). In 2004, we had 15 storms and 3 major hurricane landfalls (Charley, Ivan, and Jeanne).

### **Extended Forecast**

Today: Partly cloudy. E winds 10-15 mph. High 54°F (12°C). Tonight: Clear. SW winds 5-10 mph. Low 41°F (5°C). Tomorrow: Sunny. NW winds 5-10 mph. High 62°F (17°C). Thursday: Sunny then increasing clouds overnight. N winds 5-15 mph. High 62°F (17°C). Low 42°F (6°C).



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# American soldiers fire at Afghan bus, killing civilians

By Richard A. Oppel Jr. and Taimoor Shah

THE NEW YORK TIMES

KABUL — American troops raked a large passenger bus with gunfire near Kandahar on Monday morning, killing and wounding civilians, and igniting angry anti-American demonstrations in a city where winning over Afghan support is pivotal to the war effort. The shooting, which killed as many as five civilians and wounded 18, occurred on the eve of the most important offensive of the war. In coming weeks, thousands of American, NATO and Afghan troops are expected to try to take control of the Kandahar region, the spiritual

home of the Taliban.

It was the latest case in which NATO or American forces fired on and killed civilians near a checkpoint or military convoy because they were perceived to have come too close or to be approaching too fast.

Gen. Stanley A. McChrystal, the American and NATO commander in Afghanistan, has made reducing civilian casualties a priority, and they have gone down over the last year. But checkpoint and convoy shootings have not declined, worrying commanders who believe that such killings are turning Afghans against foreign forces.

Monday's shooting demonstrated those concerns. Afterward, hun-

dreds of demonstrators poured into the area around a bus station where the damaged bus was taken on the western outskirts of Kandahar. They blocked the road with burning tires for an hour and shouted, "Death to America" and "Death to infidels," while condemning the Afghan president, Hamid Karzai, according to people there.

The American-led military command in Kabul called the killings a "tragic loss of life" and said that troops fired in the early morning light not knowing that the vehicle was a passenger bus and believing that it posed a threat to a military convoy clearing bombs from a high-

## China supports sanctions against Iran's nuclear activity at summit

By David E. Sanger and Mark Landler

THE NEW YORK TIMES

WASHINGTON — President Barack Obama secured a promise from President Hu Jintao of China on Monday to join negotiations on a new package of sanctions against Iran, administration officials said, but Hu made no specific commitment to backing measures that the United States considers severe enough to force a change in direction in Iran's nuclear program.

In a 90-minute conversation here before the opening of a summit meeting on nuclear security, Obama sought to win more cooperation from China by directly addressing one of the main issues behind Beijing's reluctance to confront Iran: its concern that Iran could retaliate by cutting off oil shipments to China. The Chinese import nearly 12 percent of their oil from Iran.

Obama assured Hu that he was "sensitive to China's energy needs" and would work to make sure that Beijing had a steady supply of oil if Iran cut China off in retaliation for joining in severe sanctions.

American officials portrayed the Chinese response as the most encouraging sign yet that Beijing would support an international effort to ratchet up the pressure on Iran and as a sign of "international unity" on stopping Iran's nuclear program before the country can develop a working nuclear weapon.

Obama also used his meeting with Hu, the fourth face-to-face meeting between the leaders of the world's largest economy and its biggest lender, to keep up the pressure on Beijing to let market forces push up the value of China's currency. That is a critical political task for Obama, because the fixed exchange rate has kept Chinese goods artificially cheap and, in the eyes of many experts, handicapped American exports and cost tens of thousands of American jobs.

### After release of the Apple iPad, rivals offer hybrid hand-helds

Just as Apple's iPhone shook up a complacent cell phone industry, the company's iPad is provoking PC makers and non-PC makers — to fight back with new devices.

Google — a search and advertising company — is soon expected to begin selling its version of a slate computer, like Apple's iPad, while Nokia — the world's biggest cell phone maker — is planning to enter the digital book market through a slate-cum-e-reader as well.

Microsoft, the maker of computer software, is flirting with the idea of selling its own version of a slate, joining traditional computer companies like Hewlett-Packard that have already committed to such products.

In part, these companies are feeling the pressure to respond to the iPad, which went on sale April 3. But their decisions to develop the hybrid products also demonstrate their desire to expand their core businesses, and to experiment with varying kinds of business models and technologies.

For consumers, it could all be good, as more companies offer their version of the slate, a new breed of consumer electronics, in a design free-for-all. The products, which will generally cost less than \$600, provide different, and in some cases unusual, features that reflect the companies' visions of what matters most to people.

-Ashlee Vance and Nick Bilton, The New York Times

### Microsoft introduces 2 phones aimed at social-networking set

SAN FRANCISCO — Microsoft is trying to home in on a younger, chattier demographic with two new cell phones centered on social networking.

The Kin One and Kin Two allow users to keep closely synched with sites like Facebook, Twitter and MySpace. The start menu displays a montage of photographs from friends with notes about what they are doing rather than a more traditional menu that caters to phone functions. The Kins also have touch screens, links to the Zune music service and high-powered cameras for capturing photographs and video.

Phone makers like Nokia and Samsung have long built a variety of models, including those aimed at younger buyers, many of which also link to social-networking sites. But in its focus on social networking, Microsoft has taken one of the more aggressive stances in going after this market, which the company believes is receptive to a fresh pitch.

Microsoft could use a runaway cell phone product since it has been steadily losing market share despite selling mobile software for far longer than Apple.

John Harrobin, a senior vice president at Verizon, said he expected the video-capable Kins to cost less than the popular Flip video cameras sold by Cisco Systems, which start at about \$150.

—Ashlee Vance, The New York Times





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### **CORRECTIONS**

An April 6 opinion column entitled "HDAG is culmination of years of work" improperly referred to Steven R. Lerman '72 as the Associate Dean for Graduate Education. Lerman is currently the Dean for Graduate Education.

Because of an editing error, an article on dining last Friday referred incorrectly in one place to the gender of Cameron S. McAlpine '13. He is male.

### **LETTERS**

### True love prevails

In the April 9 issue of The Tech, M. suggests that long distance relationships are impossibly difficult and cause lots of problems with no benefits. I disagree with these claims, and I would like to elaborate on some of the many benefits of a long distance relationship during

First of all, I will make the assumption that this relationship based on "true love" is something which both members believe in long term - not just someone convenient to have fun with, but someone you want to spend a substantial portion of your life with. Regarding long-distance difficulties, go pick up a pset for a class in a course completely unrelated to yours — it probably looks impossibly difficult as well, but everyone in that class was in the same place you were just a couple of years ago. I guess two or three years of work turns something which seems

impossibly difficult into something challenging, but manageable.

Let's think about how much time MIT students have to spare in a typical week: not much. Many people run on a sleep deficit, which would imply that we don't really have time to spare. A short distance relationship is time consuming. You will naturally want to spend time together, and there will inevitably be times when you should probably be studying or sleeping instead. A long distance relationship, on the other hand, limits the amount of time you can possibly spend with each other and forces you to instead focus on school. At the same time, a long distance relationship provides the love, companionship and support necessary for success. It can also be a helpful reminder that there is a real world outside of MIT. Technology is on our side as well with free in-network calling on some cell phone plans and unlimited Skype for something like \$3/ month. Communicating across hundreds of miles has never been cheaper

As for the idea that a long distance relationship causes trust issues or insecurity, any relationship can have those issues. The distance causes one to worry more about unknowns: what's he doing now? Why isn't he answering his phone? But a short distance relationship probably causes more well defined worries: why is he talking to that flirty girl again? All relationships require some trust, and more serious relationships call for more serious trust.

I will admit, a long distance relationship is not always easy and fun. But then, is anything which is easy and fun all the time actually worthwhile? MIT is certainly not easy, and not always fun, but I would guess most people agree it's worthwhile. Maybe a long distance relationship is not for everyone, but I believe it is possible if you really love each other. We're only at MIT for a few years (that's not so long, after all) maybe things will work out and a short distance relationship will be possible in the near future.

— Elise McCall '10

### LEADERSHIP AT THE GSC

### Paradigm shift

### Effective engineers need emotional intelligence to be the leaders society demands

### By Megan Brewster

Our prestigious MIT graduate degrees signals of our technical prowess and nimble rationality that are so valued in this high-tech world — are misleading. There is a mismatch between the leadership skills that the world expects of us and the scientific expertise that our degrees require. To be sure, we will be able to rise to the technical demands of any complicated challenge, incise to its core variables, and deliver a well-defined solution. But we will need to learn the leadership skills, those that determine the impact and thoughtfulness of our solution and the stability of our teams, on the fly. Graduate students in science and engineering need to expand their cadre of research skills to include leadership by shifting the traditional PhD paradigm to one that includes leadership development.

Any engineering graduate, especially those from MIT, must be capable of leadership. The National Academy of Engineering stated in their report "The Engineer of 2020" that "engineers will continue to be leaders in the movement toward the use of wise, informed, and economical sustainable development." Like it or not, we are sought out as problem solvers, and it is our civic duty to take on these shining opporunities to improve the world's statu

These opportunities will not be solely technical in nature, but instead woven with elements of communication, teamwork, and accountability; in other words, elements of leadership. But leadership is simultaneously all and none of these things: leadership is not a linear combination of these individual traits; yet, it is also not an innate quality — leadership can be learned and cultivated.

Opportunities to acquire leadership skills while at MIT abound. Research projects and collaborations, managing a UROP; student groups, student government, institute committees, and more. Note that leadership is not simply enrolling in a leadership position, but executing the duties with a certain finesse that is developed only through dogged practice. As graduate students, we need to think more broadly about how our degrees can prepare us to be the leaders the world expects. Here are some suggestions to develop emotional intelligence, a foundation for leadership, through your research.

First, learn to motivate your peers. What motivates your advisor, your office mates, your thesis committee? What words do you use, and with what tone? How can you help them get excited about your goals? Be sensitive to how your peers respond to you. Try to listen to their words and body language. What are they actually

Moreover, adapt to your environment. you don't like the spond to you, try a different motivational approach. Approach every challenge — a research setback, a difficult conversation with your advisor, a combative thesis committee - as an opportunity to practice patience, empathy, and appropriate compromise. Revisit past failures to understand why and how the situation went awry. Forgive yourself for your mistakes, and think about what you can do to avoid a similar conflict in the future.

There is the belief that engineers will best aid the world by focusing solely on their research. However, our modern problems cannot be solved by singlediscipline solutions invented by isolated scientists. The National Academy of Engineering notes that, "with the growing interdependence between technology and the economic and social foundations of modern society, there will be an increasing number of opportunities for engineers to exercise their potential as leaders." We must be knowledgeable beyond our field, integrate the disparate facts, and lead the way to an appropriate solution.

We know how to think big about our research — now we need to expand this to include our future careers and the emotional intelligence they will require. The concrete definition of success in graduate school - publications, conference presentations, recommendation letters — does not yet directly support the development of effective leadership. But it can, with conscientious and consistent practice

Megan Brewster is a PhD candidate in the Department of Materials Science and Engineering.

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### Dispatches from the collapse

### For the city whose solution to every problem was money, there would eventually come a day when money became the problem

By Keith Yost

STAFF COLUMNIST

It is tempting to blame consultants and their ilk for the troubles that Dubai faces today. Surely, if my experience was at all typical, Western consulting firms are derelict in their duty as advisers to the United Arab Emirates. But I would argue that consultants are a product of their surroundings, not the other way around. Prior to the recent meltdown, which had commentators everywhere wondering if Dubai would destroy the fragile recovery that the banking sector has eked out, Boston Consulting Group's top brass was extolling the virtues of the Middle East and the stability it would provide to the world's financial markets. And why not? Every recommendation that encourages more expenditures by clients offers up greater opportunity for future cases. If Dubai's companies lack the internal resources or motivation to poke the conclusions made by their rented consultants, if they reward optimism and penalize pessimism, they should not be surprised when they receive cheery, but

On some level, it is hard not to sympathize with the Emiratis. The executives I met all showed pictures of their youth, reminding me that just a few decades ago, their country was nothing more than sand, tents, and simple stone. Maybe they held on to the pictures to impress upon me the great progress Dubai has made, maybe they held on to them to reassure themselves that life would go on even if they had to return someday to their tents. Personally, I took the pictures as a reminder that the men running Dubai's gargantuan companies had been given an upbringing that could not prepare them corporate management. I could criticize, but I had the benefit of rigorous secondary and college education. Had I shared their circumstances, could I have done any better than them, and if not, how much blame could I really place on their shoulders?

Nonetheless, whatever disadvantages Dubai's natives may suffer from, my judgment is that their failures were entirely avoidable. I am not convinced that they were well-intentioned or trying their best. My impression of the average Emirati businessman varies between apathetic and selfimportant. They are running businesses much in the same way a teenager would buy clothes with a swoosh on them — they aren't trying to generate profits so much as they are adopting a lifestyle brand. Their empires are not built for power, they are built for image. When you are born with everything, the one thing that you cannot buy is the sense that you earned your status. But it is counter-productive to try and scrub off the image that you lucked your way into wealth - trying to overstep one's limitations only highlights

Perhaps it is too late for Dubai. Their oil reserves are gone, and depending on the seriousness of their financial troubles, so too might be much of the money they made from the past sale of oil. But for Dubai's neighbors, such as Abu Dhabi, who still have seas of petroleum at their command, the collapse may prove to be a teachable moment.

Abu Dhabi needs to review the business case for locating industry in the UAE. Labor is not cheap — there is little of it natural to the area, and that which is imported (both of the skilled and non-skilled variety) typically costs three times more than what it would cost in its native country. Energy is not cheap - lacking coal or dammable rivers, the UAE is powered by natural gas, itself often imported from neighbors like Qatar or Saudi Arabia at high cost. Equipment, buildings, and other capital are no cheaper in the UAE than elsewhere — indeed, if anything the relatively harsh environment is more costly to build and operate in. Water and food supplies are more expensive. Even the things that the UAE has in spades, sun and sand, are no great benefit — solar insolation is impeded by the frequent presence of dust clouds, and the sand is unsuitable as a feedstock for silicon or glass production. The one natural resource available is oil, and the ease of transporting that liquid makes it easier to locate industry elsewhere and export the

The basis for Dubai's "ambition" seems little more than an optimistic interpretation of New Trade Theory. Much as Silicon Valley has established itself as high technology cluster, and New York has become a finance hub, Dubai hoped that through the might of its wealth it would become a world center for something and maintain its position through inertia and network effects rather than natural advantages. Even if this strategy were feasible (and there is much to suggest that it is not), it was executed poorly – Dubai made little attempt to understand the clustering phenomenon it hoped to take advantage of, invested in a scattershot manner, and left its holdings to be managed in-

I laugh whenever I read one of Thomas Friedman's "Gosh Golly, Globalism!" theses, but his turn of phrase, "The World is Flat" sounds to me like a particularly apt summary of Dubai's downfall. Some clustering effects aside, most sourcing of production is governed by underlying cost factors. If your labor, capital, and feedstock materials all cost more than your competitors, and all locales compete at rough parity, what hope does one have of forcing industrial growth? More to the point, why would you even want industry to be located in Dubai? Why not simply take the money made from selling oil, and invest it? If the rate of return on industry elsewhere is higher than the rate of return on industry in Dubai, the returns to equity will be greater as well.

There is a natural resistance to simply investing oil wealth in a sovereign wealth fund that I don't entirely understand. Many of the consultants and Emiratis I met derided such an option as risky. Yes, maybe investing their petrodollars in financial assets would yield a greater rate of return than building steel mills at home. But what if they invested all their wealth, only to have it stolen by a Swiss bank? Better to take the steel mill — it might be inefficient, but it could not be stolen with the swish of a pen.

The risk argument sounds solid, but after a little digging doesn't make any sense. For one, a steel mill, run poorly, is a terrible investment. One might as well hold on to the oil in the first place. More to the point, physical assets are just as vulnerable to theft or destruction as financial assets. The UAE is a small country. Realistically, if some bigger power decided to bomb its factories or invade and carry off its wealth, what recourse would the UAE have against such an attack that it would not have against having its financial assets stolen?

If one really boils down the problem of asset security, one comes to a conclusion that I find altogether reasonable. There is one asset that is nearly impossible to take away, and that is human capital. For all the resources that the Emiratis have sunk into developing tourism and industrial goods, they would have done just as well to spend that money on education. Even if one were convinced that industrialization was necessary, why rush to build factories before the next generation is ready to manage them? Education is empowerment, and I put more faith in the ability of individual Emiratis to decide their future than I do in their govern-

### **Epilogue**

As a student, I remember being fascinated with pictures of Detroit, overgrown by vegetation. In some areas of the city, so many people have moved off that nature has reclaimed entire neighborhoods, encasing their buildings in weeds and ivy. When thinking about Dubai, I am reminded that it took years for vegetation to reclaim the abandoned parts of America's rust-belt, while it takes a single windy week to submerge the emirate's sidewalks beneath dunes of sand. Just as quickly as it has been built, Dubai could fade away.

I'm not optimistic about the prospects of Dubai. But I do hope for the best. All its faults aside, Dubai represents something unique. In drawing together so many disparate cultures, Dubai is a sort of grand social experiment. Even if I don't believe it will happen, it would say something positive about human nature if Dubai overcame its troubles and

As for myself, I am more optimistic. I may not retire at 35, but who cares? Working does not preclude one from finding love, raising a family, or enjoying the simple pleasures of life. I lost my job and survived — I consider it just one more piece of evidence that happiness is a state of mind, not a state of being.

And I am happy.

This is the last in a four-part series on the author's experiences as a consultant in Dubai.

IN MEMORY OF

### Poland's tragedy

### By Piotr Małysz

Saturday morning greeted the Polish communities at Harvard and MIT with devastating news. As many of us sat down, cup of coffee in hand, to skim through online editions of Polish papers, we found ourselves utterly speechless at the news of the tragic deaths of Poland's president, Lech Kaczyński, his wife, and some eighty members of the country's political and in-

The president and the public officials who accompanied him had been on their way to Russia to take part in the commemoration of the 70th anniversary of the Katyń forest massacre. As the Presidential aircraft began its descent into Smolensk airport, it crashed in thick fog, killing all the passengers and crew.

The frightfulness of this tragedy is beyond anything one could have imagined. It has, of course, a deeply personal dimension: the sudden vacuum thrust upon the families of each of the 96 casualties. Then, there is the barely conceivable communal loss, as so many vital voices in Poland's public life have now been silenced forever. On board the plane were leading politicians and lawmakers, army commanders, the civil rights commissioner, the governor of the national bank, several religious (not only Catholic) leaders, and a few historians. Most of them had critically shaped Poland's democracy. Some had been active in public service since well before the fall of communism twenty years ago. Among the passengers were also figures of historic significance, such as Ryszard Kaczorowski, the last president of Poland's anti-communist, London-based government-in-exile, and Anna Walentynowicz, not as well known as Lech Walesa but an equally important icon of the 1980s Solidarity movement. An isolated death of any of these figures would have been tragic

But what happened on the morning of April 10 is fraught with even more terrible symbolic significance. To understand it one must go back as far as World War II, keeping in mind it was not only Germany that invaded Poland in September 1939 but also the Soviet Union. Prior to the outbreak of the war, the Nazi and Soviet governments had signed a secret agreement partitioning Polish territory. That agreement had been included in what was ostensibly only a treaty of non-aggression signed by the foreign ministers Molotov and Ribbentrop.

The Katyń forest massacre is a name that collectively refers to several acts of mass murder which took the lives of 22,000 Polish prisoners of war, intellectuals, police officers and public servants. Those acts, perpetrated in the early months of 1940 by the Soviet secret police acting on Stalin's orders, were a part of Stalin's plan of wiping out the Polish intellectual, political and military elite in the territories Stalin had claimed as his.

It is the loss of some of the most distinguished leaders of this generation, en route to commemorate that unspeakable disaster of seventy years ago, that makes Saturday's tragedy seem like one of history's cruel ironies. That our present loss should have occurred in very much the same spot makes this irony even more terrible.

However, the conflation of these two traumas is not an irony entirely without hope. From 1943, when the mass graves were first discovered in the Katyń forest, until 1990, the Soviets continued to blame the crime on the Germans. To this day the Russian government, while acknowledging Soviet responsibility for the massacre, has resisted classifying it as a crime against humanity and has never offered a formal apology. However, Prime Minister Putin's participation last Wednesday, alongside Polish Prime Minister Donald Tusk, in the commemoration of the massacre is a hopeful sign of the changing attitude on the part of the Russian leadership. It signals the possibility of a long overdue reconciliation. Even more commendable is the Russian government's reaction in the wake of Saturday's tragedy. Prime Minister Putin immediately visited the site of the crash and stated that he would himself head the investigation commission. Both Putin and President Medvedev made televised addresses to the people of Poland. The Russian president also declared Monday, April 12, a national day of mourning. Finally, state-owned Russian television has screened, in prime time, Andrzej Wajda's film Katyń, which graphically depicts the 1940 massacre. The latter step is all the more significant, given that the Russians have for several years tried to divert publicity from Wajda's movie.

As far as the situation in Poland is concerned, the loss does not leave the country's public institutions without continuity. Over the past twenty years Poland has established stable democratic institutions, guaranteeing continuity even in the face of a tragedy like this one. The Speaker of the Sejm (lower house of the Polish parliament) is now acting president, and the Constitution mandates that new presidential elections be held by June 20.

Still, one can perhaps also express cautious hope that this second Katyń tragedy — as the Saturday crash is now being called — will exert a lasting positive influence on public life in Poland. Largely because of is conservatism. President Kaczyński was seen as a deeply divisive figure. The recent commemorations of the Katyń forest massacre, however, managed to bring together at least some on the political scene who ordinarily did nothing but denounce each other's policies. The parliamentarians on board the Presidential aircraft were not only members of the pro-presidential Law and Justice party. The group also included left-wing lawmakers, such as the former deputy Prime Minister Izabela Jaruga-Nowacka, who, unlike the President, was a tireless and outspoken advocate of women's and LGBT rights.

The second Katyń tragedy has brought not just the politicians but the entire nation together in an outpouring of grief. Our hope is that, in addition to the potentially positive implications the disaster has for Polish-Russian relations, it may also foster, in Poland itself, mutual good will and willingness to understand across political and cultural divisions.

May they rest in peace.

Submitted by Piotr Małysz on behalf of the Harvard Polish Society and the MIT Polish Club. Małysz is a doctoral student at Harvard Divinity School.

**SEEING GREEN** 

### Branding environmentalism

### EnergyStar, LEED, and shifting social mores

By Holly Moeller

It's 6 a.m. when your gasoline-powered alarm clock chatters to life, rousing you in time to make a few last changes to your term paper before rushing off to class. You slap it before glancing across your room as your "air purifier," which is actually a feather-duster taped to a space heater, hums to life.

What do these two unlikely dorm appliances have in common? If they actually existed, they'd be emblazoned with EnergyStar decals proclaiming the approval of the United States Department of Energy and the Environmental Protection Agency.

In reality, both are figments of the Government Accountability Office's imagination which, along with a dozen other made-up products, actually earned the energy-saving label after apparently minimal review by the two federal agencies. Although the "air purifier" (literally, a duster taped to a heater - check the GAO's 27page report on the EnergyStar program released at the end of last month for a picture) might be the most ludicrous of the products, it's hardly the most troubling. The list of fakes includes a refrigerator, a washing machine, and a furnace that, with the EnergyStar label, would qualify for tax credits and rebates designed to encourage "greener" consumption.

When the EnergyStar program started in 1992, it hoped to — and indeed managed to — motivate Americans to shell out extra dollars for energy-efficient products that would reduce electric bills and environmental footprints. (Come to think of it, that gas-fired alarm clock would be off the grid.) Today, many household products carry the EnergyStar logo, and the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act earmarks \$300 million for state rebate programs rewarding energy-efficient purchases.

The problem is that in 18 years, 40,000

products have garnered the EnergyStar label — far more than any federally funded agency could actually hope to fully evaluate. And if the GAO report is anything to go by, it's easy to sneak a product in without anyone challenging completely bogus energy use statistics. Meanwhile, plenty of products without EnergyStar labels are just as efficient as their marked counterparts: Their manufacturers simply didn't want to bother with the paperwork.

Still, the EnergyStar logo moves products
— and lets manufacturers sell at a premium
— because consumers trust the Federal imprimatur. Indeed, EnergyStar isn't the only form of green branding that's taken off.

The United States Green Building Council introduced the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) program ten years ago, and if you search "LEED Certification" today, you'll come up with hundreds of news hits describing new green buildings all over the country. The system certifies construction projects according to its own green color code (LEED certified all the way up to LEED platinum), and is widely credited with popularizing environmentally-friendly building practices.

It's a well-deserved claim. Two federal agencies and twenty-two states have policies that explicitly require or encourage LEED certification. Thousands of design professionals spend hundreds of dollars each earning LEED accreditations. Project managers swallow thousands of dollars in certification costs (unlike EnergyStar stickers, LEED ratings are actually hard to come by) to obtain the brand's marketable cachet

But in the course of maneuvering through all the Green Building Council's red tape, are we really, well, LEEDing ourselves astray?

More and more, analysts, environmental watchdog groups, and even construction gurus are saying, "Yes."

A construction project gains its LEED ranking after earning a preordained number of points from the 110 possible listed by the USGBC. The point system has long been criticized for its inflexibility: water conservation in Phoenix is no better rewarded than in rainy Mobile, Alabama (actually wetter than Seattle, everyone's favorite dreary-day whipping boy). And rescuing the embodied energy by renovating an existing building (it costs CO2 to tear down an old structure and build a new one from freshly manufactured materials) earns a paltry four points, only twice what you'd earn by, say, plopping a bike rack outside your door and putting a snazzy LEED-accredited architect on your design team.

After much criticism, the USGBC revised its point system last year (though all of the above factlets are still true). In the spirit of the GAO's report on EnergyStar, I started wondering just what would meet the LEED guidelines as I glanced through them last week.

I came up with this satirical shack: stack ten pieces of 10' by 10' plywood (to meet the minimum floor-space requirement) manufactured within 500 miles (1 point). To save on costs, don't pave any new parking spaces (2 points) or do any landscaping (no potable water use outdoors, 4 points). By skipping walls, you can ensure natural light and plenty of fresh air (3 points). Slap a solar panel on top and write some computer code modeling energy efficiency, and the shack accrues another dozen or so points. If the energy use was actually measured and held true to model results, the USGBC would throw another couple points in, like some weird double-bonus for actually doing what was promised. If the shack was built somewhere on MIT's campus, we'd get another six points for proximity to public transportation and be well on our way to the 40-point LEED certification minimum.

All right, it's a completely ridiculous hypothetical that would never get past the LEED police even if we had the thousands of dollars needed to pay them to have a look. But some recently certified projects (glass-walled buildings that must be simultaneously cooled and heated; solar panels obscured by upper-story balconies; and so on) seem just as troubling. It's easy to cherry-pick from the LEED list and earn your rating while missing the overall point altogether.

So why do we cling to branding systems like EnergyStar and LEED?

Simply put: Because we are human. Trusting someone else's review process is easier than conducting our own research, and it's easier to write a quick press release when buzzwords like "Platinum" and "EPA-recommended" are at your fingertips.

Our society is transitioning into a new era of environmental responsibility. It's now socially acceptable — even, in some places, *de rigueur* — to show your "green" side by driving a Prius, putting solar panels on your home, and maintaining a compost pile. But we must guard against falling into a new rut: jumping on a brand bandwagon without demanding proof of actual environmental benefits.

The days of popularizing the green movement are ending. Now we must challenge ourselves to take subtler and more holistic approaches to living sustainably.

Maybe that means building our LEED statement shack after all. I wouldn't mind occupying it on May 18 and 19, when the Council's annual meeting convenes in Washington, D.C. Just don't let me forget my feather dusters and alarm clock.

Holly Moeller is a graduate student in the MIT/WHOI Joint Program in Biological Oceanography. She welcomes reader feedback, and offers to help with shack construction, at hollyvm@mit.edu. "Seeing Green" runs on alternate Tuesdays.



### Frolicking on the first date

Stop it with the s-word already

By M.

"If a girl will sleep with me on the first date, she's a slut."

An acquaintance recently let that slip during beers at the pub on Thursday night. I had to take a big gulp of my UFO while I regained my composure.

### I just can't believe that, in this day and age, having sex on the first date still carries such a stigma.

I'm not even going into how fucked up it is that guys call girls "sluts" — that deserves its own 750 words — but I just can't believe that, in this day and age, having sex on the first date still carries such a stigma. Society has conditioned girls to hold off on sex if they want to be respected and taken seriously by guys, and that's just a crock of shit. I believe that if a girl is out with a guy and she wants to sleep with him and he wants to sleep with her, she should

do it without any concern for what others (guy included) might think, so long as she is comfortable with her decision.

Some of the guys I talked to told me that if a girl is really interested in a guy, she should hold off on sleeping with him too soon because she risks him losing interest if she does. So, um, are you saying that the most interesting thing I have to offer is sex, and once I put that on the table, I lose my appeal? Are you nodding right now? If so, you're not really a guy I want to fuck, let alone date.

And let's get this straight while we're at it: Girls can have sex on the first date and be relationship material; the two are not mutually exclusive. The willingness of a girl to put out is not exactly the best indication of how good of a girlfriend she could be. Frankly, some of us are just unable to resist your charm, so take it as the ultimate compliment and don't judge us for it.

I have my own reasons for sleeping with a guy sooner rather than later. Knowing what guys think has allowed me to use first-date sex as a filter: Guys who will lose interest, think any less of me, or even stop calling me after the deed just prove they were only interested in sleeping with me.

The sooner I find out whether they are after my vag or after my heart, the better.

Also, I consider sex to be a pretty important component of my relationships. (As if that wasn't apparent...) If I like someone and I'm considering something serious with him, it is in my best interest to find out if we have good sexual chemistry as soon as possible. Putting off putting out only to realize further down the road that we are the square hole and the round peg is, well, anti-climactic.

### Putting off putting out only to realize further down the road that we are the square hole and the round peg is, well, anti-climactic.

At some point, you might go on a date with someone you consider hot and realize it's not going anywhere. Well, if you still want to sleep with them and they're up for it, why not go for it? Might as well get a good fuck out of a bad date. Allow yourself to be completely shallow. Sometimes the satisfaction of sleeping with someone incredibly attractive can greatly boost your confidence, and dammit, you deserve to feel like nobody is out of your league.

While sex on the first date has allowed me to dismiss a lot of guys, it has also made me appreciate those who are mature and open-minded enough to like me all the same after I put out. When talking to guys for this piece, I found that there are plenty of guys who wouldn't consider girls sluts for putting out, or lose interest in them or stop calling them because they got her in bed easily. These are the guys girls want, should, and need to date: The guys who will dismiss the double standard, saying, "If she's a slut for fucking me, then I'm a slut for fucking her, too."

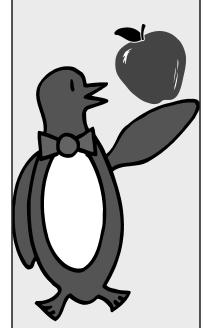
Truthfully, there is nothing wrong with being horny and slightly tipsy on a first date with a guy and just going for it. If that's the only good reason you have for fucking him, it's not a bad one at all. A couple of beers and conversation with a cute boy makes it impossible for me to keep my thighs shut. And why should I?

M. is a junior in Course 10. She can be contacted at undress@tech.mit.edu.

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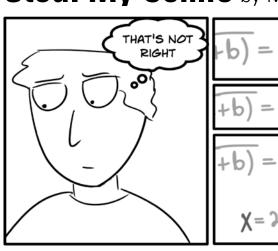
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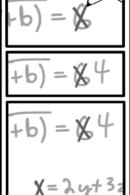
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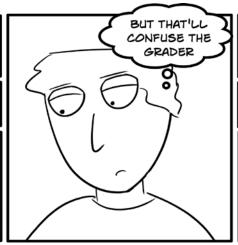
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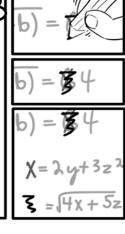
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Steal My Comic by Michael Ciuffo





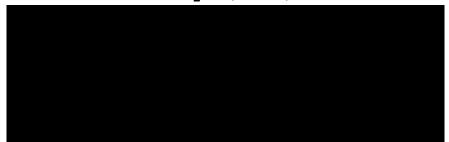


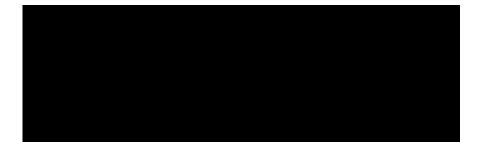




STEALMYCOMIC-COM

### **Doonesbury** by Garry Trudeau





### Sudoku

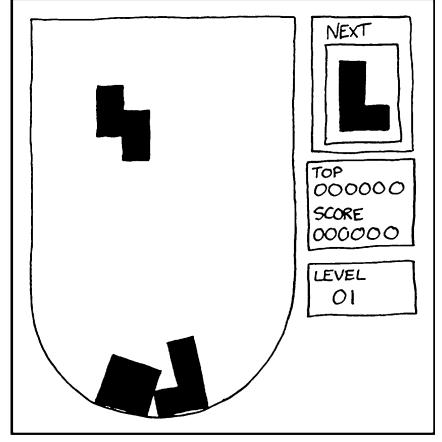
Solution, page 16

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

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.

**xkcd** by Randall Munroe

Hell



a Mario level with a star just out of reach. There's also a Katamari level where everything is just slightly bigger than you, and

### **Crossword Puzzle**

Solution, page 16

### **ACROSS**

- 1 Get on the phone
- 5 Run after
- 10 Swing to and fro 14 Follow orders
- 15 Half-pints
- 16 Increase staff
- 17 Dietary fiber source
- 18 Moffo and Pavlova
- 19 Doctrines 20 In need of a boost
- 23 Suited for 24 Word with whiz
- 25 Genetic stuff
- 26 Flock member
- 28 Seat at the bar 30 Pi follower
- 32 Atomic number 5
- 34 Took the cake 36 Frequently, to a bard
- 38 Encircle 39 Energy depleted
- 43 Utter joy
- 44 Draw
- 45 "Annabel Lee" poet
- 46 Small salamanders
- 48 Grain in a Salinger
- 50 Meat stock jelly

- 54 Advanced deg.
- 55 Keats composition
- 57 Scale notes
- 59 Lennon's love 60 Exhausted
- 64 Regretful soul
- 65 Poultry housing 66 Account entry
- 67 Latin I verb
- 68 Be entertaining
- 69 Soybean paste
- 70 Slob's creation
- 71 Elaborate parties 72 Plays a part

### **DOWN**

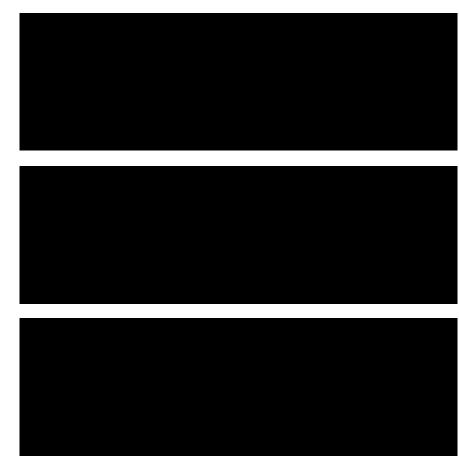
- 1 Hooded vipers
- 2 Exceedingly sudden
- 3 Primative shelter
- 4 Loretta of country
- music
- 5 Stretch out one's
- neck 6 Kind of strike
- 7 A.D. word
- 8 Stalemate
- 9 City on the Ruhr
- 10 Ark or bark
- 11 Showy ornamental

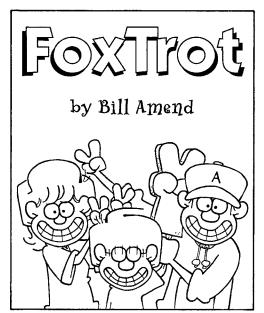
- 12 Destructive moth
- 13 Willing word
- 21 Arctic shelter
- 22 Queen of the fairies
- 27 Wind up
- 29 Little screecher 31 Hogwash!
- 33 Curvy moldings
- 35 Crackpot
- 37 Recipe meas.
- 39 Tavern
- 40 Indecency 41 Humdrum
- 42 Drinker's salute
- 43 Economic stat.
- 47 Dad's little man
- 49 Slip away
- 51 Lyrical
- 52 Consume
- 53 Universe
- 56 Coffeehouse order
- 58 Nincompoops
- 61 Fodder for the
- smelter 62 Churlish individual
- 63 Succotash morsel 64 Sleep state, for short
- 16 17 18 20 23 25 26 24 28 30 31 33 29 32 40 41 45 46 47 48 52 58 65 68 69 70 72

Tuesday, April 13, 2010

### **Dilbert**® by Scott Adams













### **The Progenerator**



by Jerry Holkins and Mike Krahulik



YES, THESIS ALLERGIES ARE VERY

COMMON AMONG

GRAD STUDENTS.









ESPECIALLY IN THE SPRING.



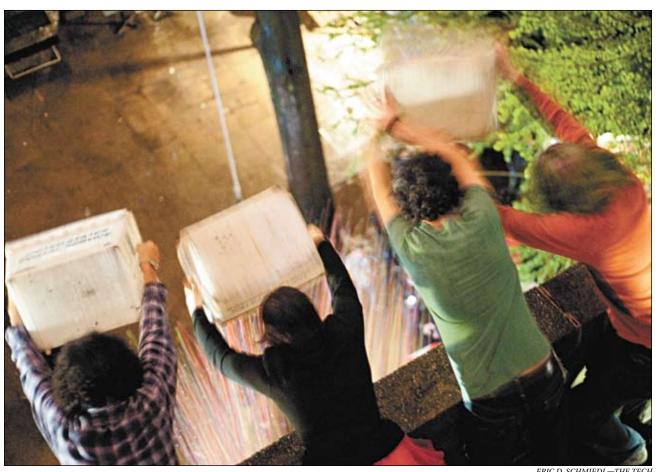




WWW.PHDCOMICS.COM

by Jorge Cham

**10** THE TECH TUESDAY, APRIL 13, 2010 **ТНЕ ТЕСН 11** 



Residents of Senior House drop bouncy balls on prefrosh during the dorm's 2010 Bouncy Ball Drop for Campus Preview Weekend, on Friday.

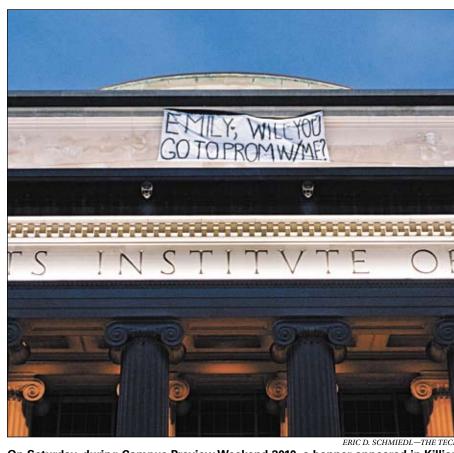


Admissions officer Matthew L. McGann '00 and Tim the Beaver entertain prefrosh and parents during CPW's closing remarks and variety show in Kresge auditorium on Saturday night.

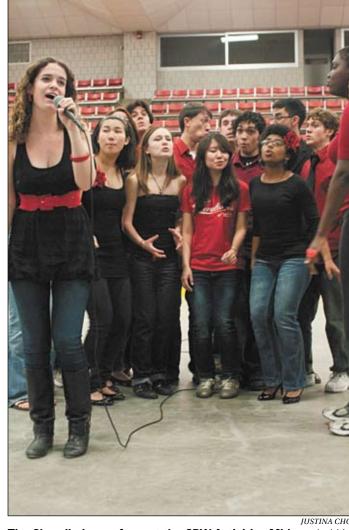
### Prefrosh converge for CPW 2010



Castle Bravo, Supa Dupa, and Technicolor perform at the MIT Live Music Connection's Battle of the Bands on April 10, during Campus



On Saturday, during Campus Preview Weekend 2010, a banner appeared in Killian Court asking "Emily, Will You Go to Prom w/ Me?" Judging by the behavior of a couple that walked through Killian shortly after the banner appeared, the prospective student



The Chorallaries perform at the CPW Activities Midway held in Johnson this past Saturday. Many organizations welcomed the prospective freshmen to their booths.



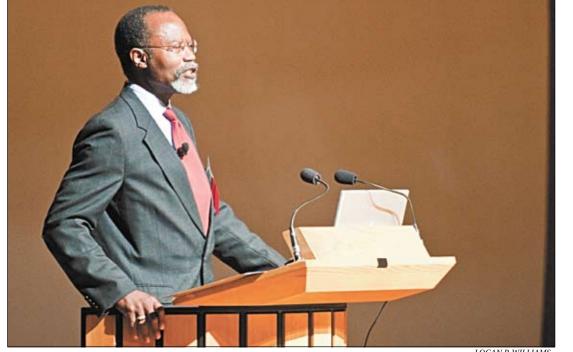
For Campus Preview Weekend 2010, hackers installed a high-class lounge (complete with pool table, sleeping cat, whiskey, and hack plans) upside down on the Media Lab Arch the morning of April 8.



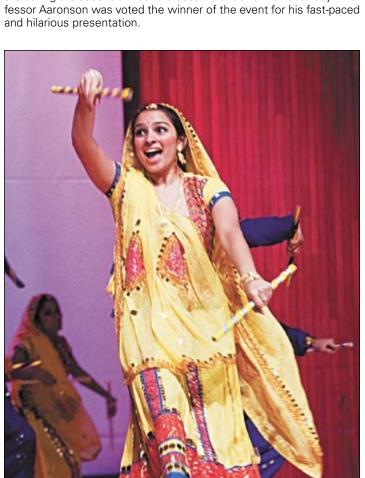
Under the leadership of Hope, played by Jennifer Shi '13, the Rebels capture Caldwell B. Cladwell, played by Joseph Tennet '10, in Next House's production of *Urinetown*, performed by Next Act. The musical took place Thursday, Friday, and Saturday night in Next House's Tastefully Furnished Lounge.



Prefrosh learn to fold modular cubical structures during Firehose, sponsored by the Educational Studies Program. Classes were taught from 11 p.m. to 3 p.m. on Thursday and covered topics such as Lagrangian mechanics and literary theory.



Chancellor Phillip Clay welcomes prospective freshmen of the Class of 2014 to MIT on Friday morning at Kresge Auditorium. Professors Nancy Kanwisher of the Department of Brain and Cognitive Sciences and Jonathan Gruber of the Department of Economics also spoke at the event.



Course 6 professor Scott Aaronson persuades prefrosh to join the electrical engineering and computer science department at the during the second annual Professor Talent Show on Saturday. Pro-

Members of the MIT Raas team dons traditional Rajasthani attire and regale the crowd with their energetic performance at Rishtey, the South Asian American Students Club's culture show on Friday.

(What most kids know about preparing for college.)

Without the help of an adult, it may be confusing for students to find their way to college. If you know a student with dreams of a higher education, do your part and help lead the way. Learn how at...

KnowHow2G0.org 800-433-3243



Tuesday, April 13, 2010

The Tech 13

### Research reactors seen as security risk

By William J. Broad

THE NEW YORK TIMES

In Cambridge, Mass., at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, a nuclear reactor emits an eerie blue glow 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Its fuel is 93 percent uranium 235 — the high-purity uranium it takes to energize an atom bomb and exactly what the West fears that Tehran wants to produce

The facility at MIT is just one of some 130 civilian research reactors around the globe that use highly enriched uranium. Nuclear experts say that running them takes tons of bomb-grade fuel, enough to build many hundreds of nuclear warheads. And most are lightly guarded.

That is only one of the challenges that President Barack Obama and dozens of world leaders have been struggling with during a nuclear security summit meeting held in Washington on Monday and Tuesday. The agenda aims at bolstering safeguards on the world's nuclear arms, as well as a range of sensitive materials and sites, like the MIT reactor.

"We must ensure that terrorists never acquire a nuclear weapon," Obama told cheering crowds in Prague a year ago. "So today I am announcing a new international effort to secure all vulnerable nuclear material around the world within four years. We will set new standards, expand our cooperation with Russia, pursue new partnerships to lock down these sensitive materials."

The research reactors are seen by Obama and his aides as particularly vulnerable to terrorist attack, and therefore particularly difficult to secure in four years.

Typically, the civilian sites

employ few of the standard military protections, like barbed wire, checkpoints, camouflage, heavily armed guards and antiaircraft guns. Instead, they tend to encourage easy use by university, industry and other researchers. The MIT Nuclear Reactor Laboratory, for instance, welcomes college and high school students and gives public tours. It is currently working with General Electric and Hitachi to see if the small reactor can produce medical isotopes for Boston-area hospitals.

"We're quite optimistic we can supply a niche market," David Moncton, director of the MIT reactor, said in an interview.

Research reactors that run on highly enriched uranium are, in part, a legacy of the Cold-War ambitions of Washington and Moscow to promote atoms for peace. They were offered by the two superpowers as prizes to woo client states. Today, nations are trying to control and diminish the threat of terrorist theft by enhancing site security, shutting down obsolete reactors and replacing the bombgrade fuel with low-enriched varieties.

Earlier this year, for example, experts from the National Nuclear Security Administration in Washington conducted a sensitive operation in Chile to remove highly enriched fuel from two research reactors. But an 8.8 magnitude earthquake struck amid the delicate endeavor, throwing Chile into chaos and forcing the nuclear teams to improvise on how to remove the crated fuel.

The summit meeting intends to accelerate such efforts by creating a surge of financial and technical support that will push Obama's four-year plan over the finish line.

News Briefs, from Page 1

### MIT employee who allegedly shook baby still in custody

Geoffrey V. Wilson '02, the Media Lab employee arrested on March 7, remains in custody without bail.

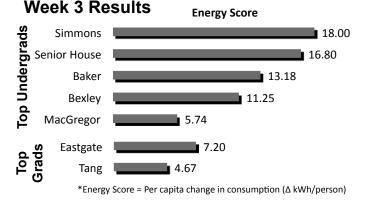
Wilson was charged with the murder of his 6-month-old son Nathan. He was in court for a pre-trial hearing last week Monday. His

next court appearance is May 24.
Wilson, who has pleaded not guilty, admitted to gently shaking his son. The son, Nathan Wilson, had brain injuries and bruises that were consistent with shaken baby syndrome, the prosecutor said.

—Iohn Hawkinson

# Dorm Electricity Competition





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### Stopping layoffs may backfire

### MIT would cut costs one way or another, professor says

Unions, from Page 1

view when interviewed yesterday.

Universities are in a crunch for money and "in almost all areas where universities can reduce spending, they're doing so," Autor said.

He said that making it more difficult for employers to lay off their employees is not necessarily the solution: "Worse than letting people go is not allowing the employer to decide who it needs to let go ... The problem with that is, they will stop employing unless they are sure that they are getting their money's worth. It makes universities, or any employer, reluctant to hire."

It can make them lean towards

hiring temporary workers instead.
Autor also points out that universities do not tend to lay off workers arbitrarily.

"By and large, universities are much more reluctant to let workers go than regular sector employers. Many of these staff members are loyal long-term employees. We invest in them, and if we let them go, we lose people who have a valuable set of skills to us... We realize that this is very costly."

As for whether the City would be benefit from restricting layoffs, "Even from the City's perspective ... if the university doesn't lay off workers, it's going to cut expenditures somewhere else ... It is the case that if they don't cut on one margin then they will cut on another and those cuts will have some effect on the city as well ... I'm not saying that [it's] necessarily one for one but it's probably not zero."

"It's true that universities are non-profits and don't pay taxes on much of what they do. However ... they are huge employers and generate a lot of wealth and property value for the City."

In the end though, "I can't blame them [the City Council] ... for feeling the harms of people getting laid off ... Most alternative ways the Institute could cut expenditure might not have as direct a cost on Cambridge," Autor said.

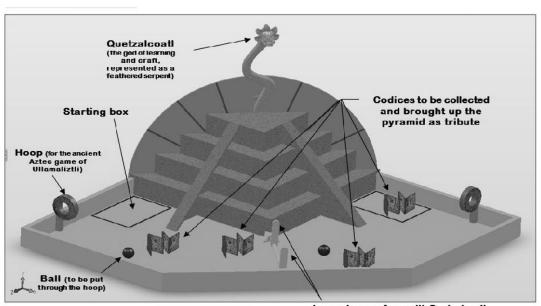
The event was sponsored and hosted by the MIT Crime Club and organized by MIT Student-Worker Alliance.



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**Spring 2010 Wulff Lecture** 

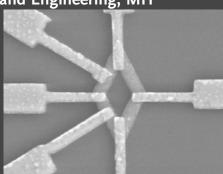
Tuesday, April 13, 2010 4:30–5:30 pm Room 1-190 Reception immediately following

# Magnetic Materials Science

How magnets help us explore and record the world

**Professor Caroline A. Ross** 

Toyota Professor of Materials Science and Engineering Department of Materials Science and Engineering, MIT



Materials science is all about understanding the properties of materials, and how we can control them. This talk will show how magnetic materials have evolved, from natural magnets (lodestone and meteorites) to synthetic magnets with amazing properties, such as super-strong magnets, transparent magnets, nanosized magnets, or magnets that can be controlled with electric fields or mechanical deformation. The materials that have enabled modern life—the compass in your cell phone, hard disk drives, electric motors, power transformers, and medical diagnostics and treatments—all rely on magnetic materials.

The Wulff Lecture is an introductory, general-audience, entertaining lecture which serves to educate, inspire, and encourage MIT undergraduates to take up study in the field of materials science and engineering and related fields. The entire MIT community, particularly freshmen, is invited to attend. The Wulff Lecture honors the late Professor John Wulff, a skilled, provocative, and entertaining teacher who inaugurated a new approach to teaching the popular freshman subject: 3.091 Introduction to Solid State Chemistry.





2.00b MIT Toy Product Design PLAYSENTATIONS!



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### Colleges targeted by cashstrapped cities

By Tracy Jan
THE BOSTON GLOBE

Pittsburgh threatened to tax college tuition. Providence sought to tax out-of-state students. And Philadelphia is pressing its colleges and universities to resume voluntary payments in lieu of taxes.

As Boston seeks new revenue, cities around the country are grappling with how to squeeze more money from the colleges and other tax-exempt institutions, as recession and lower property tax revenues prompt municipalities to seek alternate ways to pay their bills.

Efforts to impose greater obligations on nonprofits have increased tension and strained town-gown relations in some college-rich cities.

City officials argue that colleges rely on municipal services and should pay their fair share, especially in difficult financial times.

Colleges defend their tax-exempt status by citing the social and economic benefits they bring to their communities.

"Economic constraints have required cities and towns to look more aggressively for additional funds," said Daniel Egan, president of the Association of Independent Colleges and Universities of Rhode Island.

"But quite frankly, when you put a figure on something, then the tax exemption is gone. If it looks like a tax and sounds like a tax, it's a tax."

With its large number of taxexempt universities and hospitals, Boston appears to be ahead of most cities in seeking to toughen its voluntary payment program for nonprofits. A city panel is finalizing a plan to ask nonprofits to gradually increase their voluntary annual payments to 25 percent of what they would owe in taxes.

The proposal, which many colleges and universities oppose, would raise the total amount of payments to Boston to \$20.9 million a year.

Currently, 13 Boston colleges and universities pay the city \$8.4 million a year, ranging from \$4.9 million from Boston University to \$13,125 from the New England School of Law.

In addition, several of the schools pay \$5.7 million in taxes on property that would otherwise be considered tax-exempt. At least nine colleges pay nothing in lieu of taxes.

In Philadelphia, meanwhile, hardly any colleges make payments in lieu of taxes, although that could change.

University presidents there met with city officials last week to begin discussing how to quantify their current contributions to the city. Philadelphia is assembling a task force similar to the one in Boston to assess how a new system might work, whether through in-kind services or voluntary payments.

In 1995, the city received \$6.78 million in voluntary payments from nonprofits, with the University of Pennsylvania contributing nearly \$2 million.

But the payments slowed to a trickle after a 1997 state law calmed fears that the city might try to strip them of their tax-exempt status if they did not pay up.

Now, the city receives less than \$1 million a year from nonprofits, mostly from outside higher education, said Lori Shorr, Philadelphia's chief education officer. Tuesday, April 13, 2010

The Tech 15

### Falling on deaf ears CFS claims DSL is not listening

Protests, from Page 1

want their opinions to be heard during this month-long process, I encourage them to attend a forum, to submit an idea or comment to the Idea Bank, and to talk to their Housemasters and House leadership. We need their input if we're going to make House Dining better."

Protestors say that, thought they believe that Colombo encourages feedback, it seems that the administration is not listening to students.

"The same issue popped up last year," said Tiffany K. Cheng '12, a resident of East Campus who was present at the protest. "We had sit ins with the posters on the wall about how we felt about dining. In the time period between then and now there really hasn't been much improvement even though our student representatives have been really vocal in what our communities want."

"I know at least four people who

nominated Colombo for the Big Screw [competition]" said Ashcraft-Johnson. Colombo did not accept his nominations.

The CFS is an organization whose mission is to revive student participation and to emphasize the importance of student life at MIT. It was founded in 2008. According to Vinayak V. Ranade G, a former resident of East Campus (also a *Tech* reporter), the CFS is designed to be a completely flat and leaderless organization because it's supposed to give every student equal weight.

An analysis of CFS mailing list membership showed that, of the members who had dormitory information listed, the top three most represented dorms are East Campus (39 percent), Random Hall (8 percent) and Burton Conner (6 percent). Students from the four dorms with dining halls compose a combined 3 percent of CFS membership.



Sticky notes protesting proposed changes to Campus Dining were posted on pillars in Lobby 7. Protesters are concerned that student input is not being considered in designing the new dining plan.

# Coop Student Board of Directors Election Update

The following student Coop members are candidates for theBoard of Directors for the 2010-2011 academic year.

MIT Graduate and Undergraduate Students:

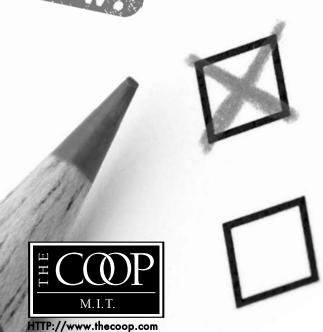
Tanguy Chau PhD/MBA 2011 Lorenna Lee-Houghton PhD 2011 Christina Johnson 2011 Jim Morrison TPP 2011 Paul Romano PhD 012 Chris Yoon 2012

### Harvard Undergraduate Students:

Lauren Dai 2013 Melissa Oppenheim 2012 Caroline Quazzo 2012 Edmund Vincent G. Soriano 2011 Lianne C. Yang 2012 Danni Xie 2012

### Harvard Graduate Students:

Aaron Chadbourne JD/MBA 2011 Kyle Ensley MPP 2011 Justin Kliger JD 2011 Jessica Rabl MBA 2011



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TUESDAY, APRIL 13, 2010 16 THE TECH

### UA will provide free deodorant samples during finals week to reduce Reading Room stench

The Undergraduate Association Senate passed a bill yesterday to provide free samples of soap, toothpaste, mouthwash, and deodorant in the Reading Room on the fifth floor of the Student Center during finals week this term. The bill, submitted by Baker senator Janet Li '12, was motivated by concerns about poor hygiene among students studying in the Reading Room. This issue, the bill states, "is most apparent just before and during final week

The Campus Activities Complex, which manages the Student Center, has already been coordinating with the UA's Committee on Space Planning to address hygiene and odor problems in the Reading Room, according to an e-mail sent by Li to the *ua-senate* mailing list, which is open to the public. "The ventilation system and everything are working fine," Li wrote, "so the main problem is probably just the students themselves, many of whom get locked up in the Reading Room without taking care of their hygiene."

With this bill, the Senate hopes to "maintain an atmosphere that is conducive to studying during finals week," but also, more generally, remind students of the importance of hygiene maintenance, said UA vice speaker Timothy R. Jenks '13.

Senate will spend \$441 from its discretionary fund to provide 50 samples a day of deodorant and mouthwash for six days; the Campus Activities Complex has already obtained free samples of toothpaste and soap.

An informal survey of several students studying in the Reading Room last night found that students do, in fact, find odor to be a problem there: Four out of the five students surveyed who said they study in the Reading Room more than three nights a week said they were bothered by the smell. One of these students, Breanna D. Berry '12, said she has avoided the Reading Room during finals week because of the smell, so she thought the bill was a good idea. Mojisola O. Jimoh '11 also said she noticed and disliked the unpleasant odors, but was lukewarm about the bill since she thought it might encourage students to try to rely on free hygiene samples to stay clean rather than go home to shower.

The Committee on Space Planning and the Campus Activities Complex are also working together to put up posters in the Reading Room promoting stress awareness and good hygiene.

Last school year, Senate passed a bill to keep hand sanitizer dispensers inside the Student Center filled, primarily in response to concerns about cleanliness in the fifth floor Athena cluster. –Natasha Plotkin



The Campaign for Sanitizer: On Monday, the Senate passed a bill requiring that personal hygiene supplies be placed in reading rooms from the last day of classes to the last day of finals. Senators also discussed campus dining reform and the hours cutbacks at MIT Medical.



Smell you later: Personal hygiene supplies will be placed in the reading rooms from the last day of classes to the last day of finals, as mandated by a new bill passed by the Undergraduate Association Senate on Monday.

### LEGAL COUNSEL

MIT students, family, employers and start-ups seeking U.S. legal counsel, campus or office consultation. Call: James Dennis Leary, Esq. 321-544-0012

**Solution to Crossword** 

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### Solution to Sudoku



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18 The Tech
Tuesday, April 13, 2010

# Mind the Gap:

Communicate and Collaborate for a Sustainable World.



The 2010 MIT Sustainability Summit will host speakers, panelists, and facilitators with a wealth of knowledge and experience in collaborating and communicating with individuals and organizations across sectors, industries, and other boundaries in order to address the most pressing sustainability issues. Throughout the day on Friday, April 23, 2010, attendees will have opportunities to learn from experts, to network, and to explore a wide variety of practical tools useful for solving today's environmental and social problems. This year's Summit will feature

- » More than 250 conference attendees—including professionals, students, alumni, and faculty
- » Approximately 25 speakers, panelists, and facilitators
- » Interactive breakout sessions that emphasize learning and applying tools relevant to working in the field of sustainability
- $\ \ \, \text{\it white informal networking opportunities during breakfast, lunch, coffee break, and closing reception}$

Last year's inaugural Summit was comprised of a diverse set of attendees from industries and fields such as architecture, engineering, energy, law, financial services, waste management, chemicals, biotech, etc. We welcome all attendees interested in sustainability, including but not limited to students, engineers, business leaders, nonprofit leaders, academics, environmental activists, and public servants.



MIT SUSTAINABILITY SUMMIT | 2010

April 23, 2010

Microsoft New England Research and Development Center
1 Memorial Drive, Cambridge, MA 02142

http://sustainabilitysummit.mit.edu/

Tuesday, April 13, 2010

The Tech 19

Keri A. Dixon '11 connects with the ball during the softball game against Worcester Polytechnic Institute on Sunday. The Engineers won in the eighth inning of the game. (See story, page 20)



The MIT men's rugby squad takes on the club team from Suffolk Law on April



ANDREW SWAYZE—THE TECH

Corey Garvey '10 works to evade Springfield College defenders during the men's lacrosse match on April 10. Despite Garvey's efforts, the Engineers lost 16-4.



ANDREW SWAYZE—THE TECH Kathleen M. Kauffman '12 looks for holes in the Smith College defense during the women's lacrosse game on Sunday. The Engineers won a 20-4 victory over Smith College.



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# SPORTS

# Softball falls 15-1, 15-2 in sweep by Wheaton

### Season record for Engineers now 7-17

By Greg McKeever

DAPER STAFF

Wheaton College jumped out to a pair of early leads during a doubleheader sweep of MIT softball on Sunday afternoon. The Ly-

ons outscored the Engineers 30-3 in the two games, which were the final home contests of the 2010 campaign for the Engineers, who fell to 7-17 (3-11 NEWMAC).

Wheaton broke open game one with an eight-run third inning en route to the 15-1, five-inning win. Nine different Lyons scored in the game, led by leadoff hitter Amanda Poplaski, who crossed the plate three times. Lesley Warn kept the Tech bats in check, allowing just three hits and one run over five innings.

Wheaton scored six of its eight runs in the third with two outs, and 12 batters came to the plate in the inning. Megan Roy had a key two-run double and came around to score on a pair of wild pitches. The Lyons added two more runs when Poplaski's single up the middle got past MIT centerfielder, Keri A. Dixon '11.

The Engineers started the scoring in their half of the first, as Jessica M. Oleinik '11 singled with two outs, moved up to second on Dixon's walk and came home thanks to a defensive miscue by the Wheaton shortstop. Wheaton took the lead with three runs in the second, led by a ground-rule double from Roy that scored a pair of baserunners.

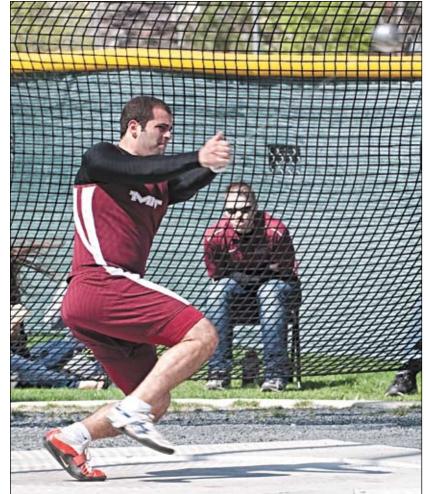
The visitors would also add four more runs in the fifth to close out the game one

The Wheaton offense wasted little time getting going in game two, striking for four unearned runs in the first as the MIT defense committed four errors in the frame. The Lyons would add four more runs in the second inning and capped the game with a six-run fifth.

Wheaton's Nicole DeRosa was three-forfour in game two with four runs and three RBI to finish the day with four hits, six runs five RBI. Roy finished the afternoon with a team-high six RBI. Warn again earned the win in the nightcap, allowing five hits and two unearned runs in five innings.

For the Engineers, Maia R. Bageant '11 had a career-high two hits in the second game, including her first ever extra-base hit, a double in the fourth inning. MIT seniors Lily L. Keung '10 and Chelsea L. Ostrander '10 were recognized, as the two played the final home games of their careers.

MIT will close out its regular season with a doubleheader on Friday, April 16 at Coast Guard. Friday's games begin at 3 p.m.



ANDREW SWAYZE—THE TECH

Adam Mustafa '11 competes in the men's hammer throw during the track and field meet on Saturday. MIT defeated Bates College and Colby College to place first in the meet.



ANDREW SWAYZE—THE TECH

The men's varsity lightweight crew competes in the Joy Cup versus Yale and Georgetown on Saturday. The winning teams received T-shirts from the losing teams.

### **SCOREBOARD**

Baseball	
Saturday, April 10	
at U.S. Coast Guard Academy	W 5-1
at U.S. Coast Guard Academy	L 5-4
Men's Lacrosse	
Saturday, April 10	
vs. Springfield College	L 16-4
Women's Lacrosse	
Saturday, April 10	
vs. Smith College	W 20-4
Softball	
Saturday, April 10	
vs. Worcester Polytechnic Institute	W 1-0
vs. Worcester Polytechnic Institute	L 16-0
Sunday, April 11	
vs. Wheaton College	L 15-1
vs. Wheaton College	L 15-2
Men's Tennis	
Saturday, April 10	
at U.S. Coast Guard Academy	W 7-2
Men's Track and Field	
Saturday, April 10	
vs. Bates & Colby	1st of 3
Women's Track and Field	
Saturday, April 10	
vs. Bates & Colby	1st of 3
Men's Volleyball	
Saturday, April 10	
vs. Nazarene College	L 3-0
vs. D'Youville College	W 3-0

### **SPORTS SHORTS**

### Flynn sets records as women's lacrosse blows out Smith

The MIT women's lacrosse team defeated Smith College 20-4 on Saturday, led by Casey M. Flynn '10. She scored



three goals to become the leading scorer in program history and had seven assists, setting an MIT single-game record. Both records were previously held by Deanna M. Lentz

'06.

MIT scored 11 straight goals to start the contest, and eight Engineers recorded at least one point. Katie Kauffman '12 tallied four goals and one assist, and Erica W. Little '11 and Molly E. McShane '13 both had hat tricks. In net, Allison E. Hamilos '12 collected seven saves and two groundballs.

MIT returns to action on Tuesday, vis-

— Greg McKeever, DAPER Staff

### Members of rifle team earn conference All-Academic honors

Four members of the MIT rifle squad were named to the Mid-Atlantic Conference All-Academic Team. Emily F. Hous-



ton '10, Jennifer K. Paek '10, Justine Li '10, and Nigel C. Kojimoto '12 all earned the honor for their outstanding efforts on the range and in the classroom. The four

were the driving force in a stellar season for the Cardinal and Gray, which finished 14-3 in smallbore and 14-3 in air rifle.

The MAC All-Academic Team consists of the top 20 members of the conference, with rankings based on their scores in matches and overall GPA.

id overall GPA. — Mike Stoller, DAPER Staff

### **UPCOMING HOME EVENTS**

### Tuesday, April 13

Men's Lacrosse vs. Salem State College

Wednesday, April 14

Baseball vs. Salem Stste Colege

Thursday, April 8

Men's Tennis vs. Babson College Women's Lacrosse vs. Williams College 4 p.m., Steinbrenner Stadium

3:30 p.m., Briggs Field

4 p. m., duPont Courts

7 p.m., Steinbrenner Stadium