

UA proposal seeks flexible dining options

UA meets with Colombo to discuss changes to plan

By Robert McQueen
NEWS EDITOR

Dean for Student Life Chris Colombo met with Undergraduate Association leaders last Friday to discuss possible changes to the new dining plan this fall. UA President Vrajesh Y. Modi '11 and Vice President Samantha G. Wyman '11 presented a proposal in which dorms would decide their own dining plan and current upperclassman could opt out of the new dining plan.

Other representatives from the Division For Student Life, the Undergraduate Association, and the House Dining Committee were also present.

According to detailed meeting minutes released by the UA, all parties expressed interest in discussing a transitional plan that would give current upperclassmen the option to opt out of the mandatory dining plan, since these upperclassmen did not know when they chose their dorm that the dining system would change. Dean for Student Life Chris Colombo did not mention whether current freshmen would also be given the option to opt out.

Sara R. Comis '13, dining chair at McCormick, said at the meeting that McCormick residents would be interested in a plan that required less commitment from upperclassmen. "Sophomores and Juniors [at McCormick] want to opt out," Comis said. Colombo said that he heard of similar opinions being addressed at Next House.

Dorm culture

A concern addressed at Friday's meeting was what impact the new dining plan will have on dorm culture. Next year, dining will be another factor that will affect where students will want to live. This includes current students who are opting to move out or into dining dorms. According to the minutes, Colombo said that "we need to take into consideration people moving around, as well as desires for the most flexible plans."

According to Colombo, more than half of the juniors, sophomores, and freshman living at Next House signed a petition last week against the new dining plan.

"I don't think students support this plan, and I don't think incoming students will support it either," Wyman, the UA vice president, said. According to Wyman, the major issues students have with the dining plan is the cost. She speculated that there would not be enough people who wanted the new plan to fill the dining dorms.

Colombo acknowledged that the dining dorms might have a popularity problem.

Comis said that she believes McCormick should be

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Eco-friendly, and lighting up MIT



LOGAN P. WILLIAMS—THE TECH

Logan M. Trimble '13 exchanges an incandescent light bulb for a new compact fluorescent from Jennifer K. Liu '14 in Burton Conner on Monday evening. The UA Committee on Sustainability is going door-to-door in every dorm this week to offer free replacement bulbs to residents.

Early action applications on the rise

Expected 6500 applicants will be another record for MIT admissions

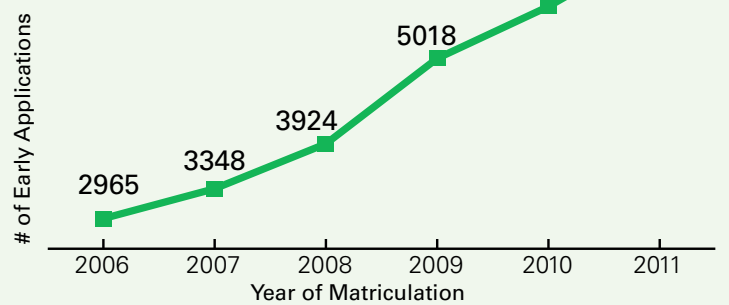
By Joanna Kao
STAFF REPORTER

The number of undergraduate early action applicants has again increased, by about 14 percent over last year. Though the admissions office does not have an exact tally yet, they predict that there will be nearly 6,500 early applications, which would be 800 more than last year's 5,684.

The increase in applications comes even as the number of graduating high school seniors held steady this past year. "As I traveled around the country this fall, I found more and more young people who are aware of MIT, and who sincerely want to be a part of our community. They are attracted to the innovative spirit and the excitement of engaging with the world's most pressing problems," said Stuart Schmill, Dean of Admissions. "And so we have seen an increase in applications despite the fact that the number of high school graduates in this country has leveled off."

In the past five years, the number of students applying early action to MIT has increased at a steady clip, in part because of more students graduating high school, and in part because MIT has in recent years stepped up its minority recruiting efforts. In 2008, it partnered with non-profit QuestBridge to increase the number

More students are applying early action



JOANNA KAO

of minority students who apply early.

As a result of the increase in applications, Schmill said the early action admissions rate would likely decrease. However, he said the opening of new undergraduate dormitory Maseeh Hall "should mitigate the decrease somewhat."

According to the Office of the Dean for Undergraduate Education, the target undergraduate enrollment will increase by 250, from 4,250 to 4,500, over the next four years, thanks to Maseeh Hall.

Schmill said that it is too early to tell what will happen to the admissions rate for regular decision applicants. "I know that more and more students are applying

early action or early decision somewhere, and so I presume some of our increase is simply a shifting from the regular decision round to early action," Schmill said.

While the new dining plan has become this semester's hot-button issue for undergraduates, Schmill said the plan might become a plus for MIT when accepted students start weighing their choices. "I know that this is controversial right now in the student body, but I think with prospective students the new dining plan will be seen as a positive," Schmill said. "I absolutely know that will be true for the parents of prospective students, but I think it true for the new students as well."

Inquiry into Kappa Sigma dorm disturbance dismissed

A complaint against Kappa Sigma for holding noisy pledge events at Burton Conner on Oct. 10 has been investigated by the Interfraternity Council (IFC) and dismissed after following the pre-hearing procedures outlined in the IFC Judicial Bylaws, according to Ryan Schoen '11, president of the IFC.

On Sunday, Oct. 10, Burton Conner Housemaster Merritt Roe Smith broke up an event involving loud chanting, and a complaint was lodged with the IFC.

Kappa Sigma has been issued a formal letter warning them to be respectful of dorms and their housemasters. The IFC is not releasing the text of the letter.

—Joanna Kao

APO's Ugliest Man on Campus contest includes dining, stairs

Do what's uglier: the Random Hall Staircase, a rotting Jack-o-Lantern or the House Dining Advisory Group dining plan?

So far, these are the three contestants in service fraternity Alpha Phi Omega's Ugliest Man on Campus contest, a week-long charity event that began yesterday.

Allan E. Miramonti '13 nominated the new HDAG dining proposal, which he said "offers horrifying prices, spine-snapping inflexibility, and a terrifying disregard for student input."

"For the large subset of students forced to buy into this new plan, this should undoubtedly haunt their dreams and

Briefs, Page 14

IN SHORT

Peter Thiel, co-founder of PayPal and early investor in Facebook, will be giving a talk today called "Catalyzing the Next Generation of Innovation," in Kirsch Auditorium in Stata at 6 p.m. as part of the MIT Enterprise Forum. Admission is free for MIT students.

Laptop registration is today from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. in Lobby 10. The cost to register is \$10.

Drop date is tomorrow, Wednesday, November 17. Remember to get your advisor's signature and turn in your form!

The Senior Gift Kickoff will be held on Wednesday, November 17 in Lobby 10. Find out what the class project will be, and eat some dessert.

Today is our birthday! On this day, 129 years ago, the first issue of *The Tech* was published.

HOUSEMASTERS SUPPORT DINING

MIT needs a great dining system. The new plan helps correct a regrettable mistake from the past. **OPN, p. 4**

WHERE ARE THE WOMEN?

Year after year, women are abysmally underrepresented in Congress. **OPN, p. 5**

AN ASIAN VISIT SQUANDERED

Obama could have made real geopolitical progress. But he just yawped. **OPN, p. 5**



MINECRAFT IS SO ADDICTIVE

All you do is build stuff, and sometimes monsters come to get you at night. So why is this game so hard to put down? **CL, p. 8**

AMAZING WIN BY MEN'S X-COUNTRY

Ranked 9th going in, the men snatched the New England regional title, their first in Institute history. **SPO, p. 16**

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Beatles songs expected to go on sale online in iTunes store

For the next generation of Beatles fans, the wait could soon be over.

Apple is expected Tuesday to announce that it has finally struck a deal with the Beatles, the best-selling music group of all time, and the band’s record company, EMI, to sell the band’s music on iTunes, according to a person with knowledge of the private deal who requested anonymity because the agreement was still confidential.

Depending on the terms of the deal, customers for the first time will be able to buy “Please Please Me,” “Hey Jude” or “A Day in the Life” online rather than on a CD and perhaps even as individual tracks. While the move to digital does not quite rival the band’s first trip across the Atlantic to appear on “The Ed Sullivan Show” in 1964, it is an acknowledgment that online purchases dominate the music industry’s sales strategy.

Apple and EMI declined to comment, and representatives of the Beatles and Apple Corps, the band’s company (not to be confused with the technology company), could not be reached.

One of the last major holdouts against selling its music digitally, the Beatles are the ultimate prize for any music company, a group that has held on to blockbuster sales four decades after breaking up — it has sold more than 177 million albums in the United States alone, according to the Recording Industry Association of America — and held on to untouchable cultural prestige.

Since opening its iTunes music store seven years ago, Apple has reshaped the music industry and become the largest U.S. music retailer. But the Beatles catalog had always eluded the company and Steve Jobs, its tenacious chief executive.

Still, while getting access to the Beatles catalog has plenty of symbolic significance, it is unlikely to bolster the company’s bottom line.

“The music itself is a vehicle to allow them to sell more iPods and iPhones, which is where they make real money,” Bajarin said.

—Ben Sisario and Miguel Helft, *The New York Times*

Even reusable grocery bags can carry environmental risk

They dangle from the arms of many New Yorkers, a nearly ubiquitous emblem of empathy with the environment: synthetic, reusable grocery bags, another must-have accessory for the socially conscious.

But the bags, hot items at upscale markets may be on the verge of a glacier-size public relations problem: similar bags outside the city have been found to contain lead.

“They say plastic bags are bad; now they say these are bad. What’s worse?” asked Jen Bluestein, who was walking out of Trader Joe’s on the Upper West Side with a reusable bag under her arm Sunday.

“Green is a trend and people go with trends,” Bluestein said. “People get them as fashion statements and they have, like, 50 of them. I don’t think people know the real facts.”

There is no evidence that these bags pose an immediate threat to the public, and none of the bags sold by New York City’s best-known grocery stores have been implicated. But reports from around the country have trickled in recently about reusable bags, mostly made in China, that contained potentially unsafe levels of lead. The offending bags were identified at several stores, including some CVS pharmacies; the Rochester-based Wegman’s grocery chain recalled thousands of its bags, made of recycled plastic, in September.

Concerns have proliferated so much that Sen. Charles E. Schumer, D-N.Y., sent a letter on Sunday to the Food and Drug Administration, urging the agency to investigate the issue.

But many shoppers said they would continue relying on the bags until more information came out.

—Michael M. Grynbaum, *The New York Times*

Fire destroys apartment tower in Shanghai, over 53 dead

By David Barboza
THE NEW YORK TIMES

SHANGHAI — Fire engulfed a high-rise apartment building undergoing renovations in the center of this city Monday afternoon, killing at least 53 people and injuring at least 90 others in one of the deadliest fires here in years, according to Xinhua, the official news agency.

Video posted on the Internet and some online accounts suggested that some residents were trapped on the roof of the building and that a few may have jumped to their deaths. Three helicopters tried to rescue residents from above, but flames and thick black smoke hampered the efforts, Xinhua said.

Some people clung to scaffolding; some were able to climb down.

Local officials said that 180 families lived in the building and that many residents were retired teachers, state-run media reported. Many people remained unaccounted for.

The fire raged for more than four hours and more than 60 fire engines responded, the news agency reported, but fire hoses could not

reach the upper half of the 28-story building. Only when hoses were set up on top of a nearby building, it said, could the fire be contained.

The Minister of Public Security, Meng Jianzhu, said Tuesday that an investigative team working under the State Council, which serves as China’s cabinet, would examine what caused the fire, according to state-run media.

The cause of the fire had not yet been determined. But the state-run news website Eastday.com cited a construction worker as saying crews were installing energy-saving insulation when the fire occurred, The Associated Press reported, and a witness told Xinhua that he saw construction materials burning before the fire.

The building, constructed in the 1990s, was nearly covered by scaffolding.

Many residential buildings in Shanghai lack sprinkler systems, but it was not yet known whether there were sprinklers in the building that burned.

“I saw at least four or five people hanging onto the scaffolding which

covers the building, screaming for help,” said Li Qubo, who works nearby, according to China Daily, an English-language newspaper. “Firefighters were trying to get closer and use their hoses to cool a path on the scaffolding so that they could climb down and escape.”

The reports deepened the unease in this city of 20 million, most of whom live in high rises. Against the backdrop of a nationwide construction boom, buildings all over the city are under construction or renovation.

Scores of survivors were being treated at hospitals for smoke inhalation and other injuries.

At one hospital, the AP reported, the father of a 30-year-old woman who lived on the 22nd floor had tears in his eyes after failing to find her name on a list of survivors. The father, Wang Zhiliang, was quoted as saying: “She called her husband and said: ‘It’s on fire! I have escaped from the 22nd floor to the 24th floor,’ but then the phone got cut off.

That was the last we heard from her.”

Facebook offers new unified messaging system for all users

By Miguel Helft
THE NEW YORK TIMES

SAN FRANCISCO — Since the heyday of AOL’s cheery “You’ve got mail” greeting, e-mail has been central to the online experience for millions of people.

But Mark Zuckerberg, the chief executive of Facebook, says e-mail is showing its age.

In his view, e-mail is too slow, too formal and too cumbersome, especially for young people who have grown up using text messages and online chats.

On Monday, Zuckerberg introduced a new unified messaging system for Facebook that allows people to communicate with one another on the Web and on mobile phones regardless of whether they are using e-mail, text messages or online chat services.

The new service, Facebook Messages, is a bold move by Facebook

to expand from a social network into a full-fledged communications system. It could help the company chip away even more at Internet portals like Google, Yahoo, MSN and AOL, which have used e-mail as one of their main draws with consumers.

Analysts say that if Facebook Messages proves successful, it could greatly increase the time users spend on the site, making Facebook even more dominant. But some note that the company will face a number of challenges, like managing spam, getting users to change ingrained habits and persuading some to entrust their confidential e-mail to a company whose privacy practices have often drawn scrutiny.

The new service, which will encourage users to sign up for an e-mail address ending in (AT)facebook.com, has the immediacy of instant messaging and chat built

in. Zuckerberg sought to downplay the threat that Facebook Messages would pose to existing e-mail services.

In addition to channeling all e-mails, text messages and chats through a single point, Facebook Messages will offer users what Zuckerberg called a “social in-box” that will prioritize messages from friends and close acquaintances, potentially saving time. And it will make it easy for people to retrieve all the communications they’ve had with a person through various channels. The service is invitation-only for now, and will be rolled out to all users over the next few months.

Some analysts said that over time users were likely to spend more time using Facebook Messages and less with their traditional e-mail services, especially as they communicate with their closest friends and associates.

WEATHER

Ready your rain gear!

By Allison A. Wing
STAFF METEOROLOGIST

The gorgeous weather this past weekend was displaced by a weak cold front that crossed the area Sunday and Monday. Low level easterly flow yesterday brought moisture off of the Atlantic, causing there to be low clouds throughout the day.

Today’s conditions will be similar before the next major system affects the region tonight and tomorrow. A low pressure system developing this morning in the Tennessee

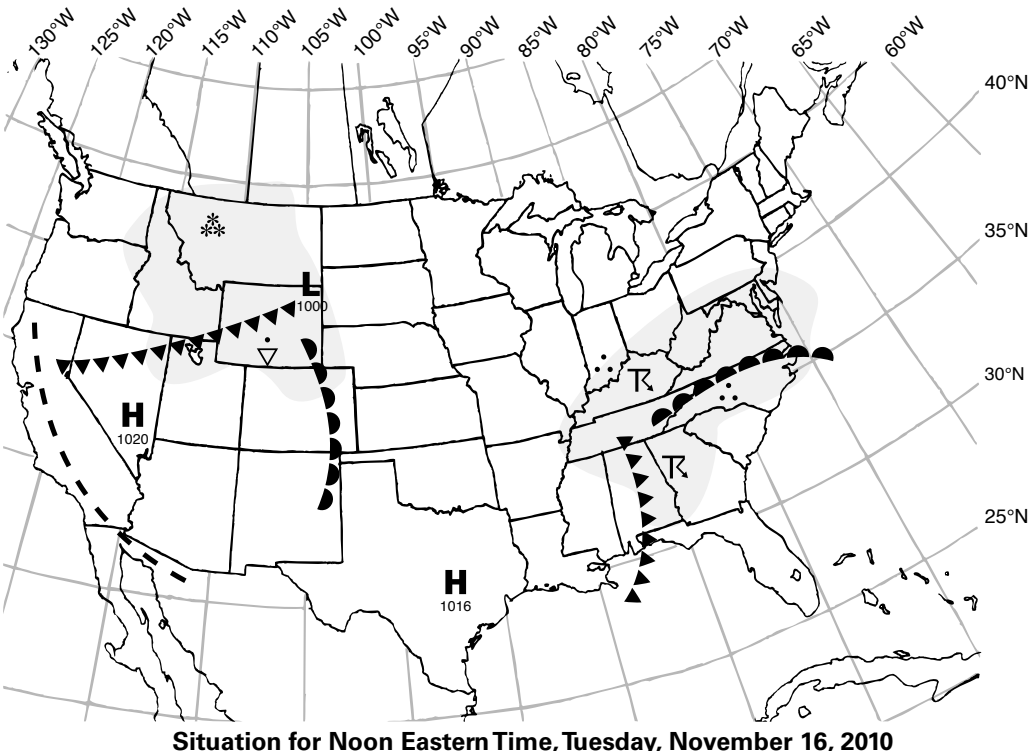
River valley region will move up the Ohio valley today and intensify before passing to our northwest tomorrow.

The rain will begin tonight as a southerly low level jet moves eastward into our region, bringing a plume of moisture from the Gulf of Mexico and Atlantic Ocean.

The rain will continue until early afternoon tomorrow, and may be heavy at times tomorrow morning, along with a blustery wind. Cooler and drier conditions are expected by Thursday.

Extended Forecast

Today: Mostly cloudy. High 56°F (13°C).
Tonight: Cloudy with rain. Low 49°F (9°C). High 60°F (11°C).
Tomorrow: Rain, mostly in the morning. High 52°F (11°C).
Thursday: Mostly sunny. High 52°F (11°C).
Friday: Sunny. High 45°F (7°C).



Situation for Noon Eastern Time, Tuesday, November 16, 2010

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

Compiled by MIT Meteorology Staff and The Tech

Republicans have a change of heart about earmarks

By Carl Hulse
THE NEW YORK TIMES

WASHINGTON — Senate Republicans opened the lame-duck session of Congress on Monday by signaling their commitment to the antispending posture that fueled their big gains Election Day, underscoring the Tea Party movement’s influence on the Republican leadership.

Sen. Mitch McConnell of Kentucky, the Republican leader, drove the point home as soon as the Senate convened by announcing that he would support a proposed ban on congressional earmarks, reversing his longtime practice of avidly pursuing money for his state.

“Old habits aren’t easy to break, but sometimes they must be,” said McConnell, who in the past had boasted about the tens of millions of dollars he steered home.

The move by McConnell was a clear sign that Republicans believe they need to be responsive to the Tea Party activists and the conservatives who helped them gain six seats in the Senate and win control of the House come January. It was also a victory for Sen. Jim DeMint, R-S.C., the Tea

Party hero who has championed a nonbinding change in party rules that would bar Republicans from seeking what is officially known as congressionally directed spending.

Republicans in the House and Senate are to vote this week on prohibiting earmarks, which have become a symbol of government excess and backroom dealing, although they account for a very small part of the overall budget. McConnell’s endorsement of the ban effectively settled the question in the Senate. Some of his colleagues remain interested in winning earmarks, however, arguing that they should have some say in how federal dollars are spent in their states.

McConnell’s move also put pressure on Democrats to head in the same direction. It also highlighted a potential clash between President Barack Obama, who has criticized earmark spending, and top Senate Democrats, who have shown no willingness to ban the practice.

Obama said he welcomed McConnell’s remarks.

“But,” he said in a statement, “we can’t stop with earmarks, as they represent only part of the problem.

In the days and weeks to come, I look forward to working with Democrats and Republicans to not only end earmark spending but to find other ways to bring down our deficits for our children.”

Sen. Tom Harkin, D-Iowa, a veteran member of the Appropriations Committee, said “the president is dead wrong on this issue.”

“I think there’s a valid and good reason why senators and congressmen should be able to direct certain monies,” Harkin said.

A spokesman for Sen. Harry Reid, D-Nev., the majority leader, said individual senators should decide if they favor earmarks. Because Democrats will retain control of the Senate in the next Congress, a decision by them to continue allowing earmarks could keep the practice alive, at least in spending bills passed by the upper chamber.

The focus on earmarks to some degree obscured bigger questions about spending and the commitment of both parties to rein in budget deficits. It also did nothing to resolve a range of thorny tax and spending issues dividing the two parties in the lame-duck session.

FDA expected to take a stand on alcoholic energy drinks

A year after it began reviewing whether energy drinks that combine alcohol and caffeine are safe or legal, the Food and Drug Administration is expected to take a stand on the drinks as soon as Wednesday, according to law enforcement officials in several states.

The agency declined to say what it would do, but several food safety lawyers who once worked for it said a likely option was to use warning letters to inform manufacturers that the drinks were adulterated and, therefore, not safe.

With new reports of young people falling ill or dying after drinking the potent blends of alcohol and caffeine, state and federal regulators have been pressured to address the matter. Several states have moved to ban the drinks on their own, and this weekend New York’s largest beer distributors agreed to stop delivering caffeinated alcoholic beverages to retailers by Dec. 10. Some state officials, meanwhile, have criticized the FDA for not completing its review sooner.

“To be very blunt, there’s just no excuse for the delay in applying standards that clearly should bar this kind of witch’s brew,” said Sen.-elect Richard Blumenthal, D-Conn., who as the state’s attorney general has led a campaign against the drinks.

At issue for the FDA is whether adding caffeine to alcoholic beverages is “generally regarded as safe,” an agency designation that requires accepted scientific evidence.

Asked about the status of the FDA’s review, Beth Martino, a spokeswoman for the agency, said only that it was continuing.

The state law enforcement officials, who spoke on the condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to discuss the FDA’s investigation publicly, said they did not know what conclusions had been reached.

Four Loko, the top-selling caffeinated alcoholic drink, has been blamed for several deaths over the Past several months, a period during which the brand’s availability spread to all but three states. In August, an 18-year-old in Palm Coast, Fla., died after drinking Four Loko in combination with diet pills. The next month, a 20-year-old in Tallahassee, Fla., started playing with a gun and fatally shot himself after drinking several cans of Four Loko over a number of hours.

—Abby Goodnough and Dan Frosch, The New York Times

Inquiry finds evidence against Rangel

By David Kocieniewski
THE NEW YORK TIMES

The House ethics committee ruled Monday that there was evidence to support 13 counts of misconduct by Rep. Charles B. Rangel, D-N.Y., and began considering whether to formally convict and recommend punishment against him.

The ruling came after a dramatic and puzzling appearance by Rangel, 80, in which he protested that he could no longer afford to pay his lawyers and indignantly walked out of the proceedings, calling them unfair.

Committee members were unmoved. Chairwoman Zoe Lofgren, D-Calif., noted dryly that Rangel was responsible for paying his own lawyers and that he had been advised by the committee beginning in 2008 to form a legal defense fund to do so.


With Rangel absent, the panel listened to its chief counsel as he methodically presented the evidence against Rangel, which was based on 549 exhibits, dozens of witness interviews and thousands of pages of financial documents. Members then met in executive session and later announced they had found the facts in the charges against Rangel to be “uncontested.”

Those charges included accusations that Rangel had accepted rent stabilized apartments from a Manhattan developer, failed to pay income taxes on rent from a Dominican villa and solicited charitable donations from individuals with business before Congress.

Rangel’s decision not to mount a public defense startled some members of the committee; the congressman has been publicly expressing his eagerness to tell his side of the story for more than a year, and promising his constituents that he could disprove the allegations.

But the walkout spared Rangel, a proud and sensitive man, of the embarrassment of being publicly confronted with the unsavory details of the case.

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Rail's value can't be measured by its cost

Mr. Yost is correct in stating that for much of the U.S., high speed rail is not cost effective (*The Tech*, Issue 52). However, Yost's main complaint, that high speed rail is not cost efficient, fails to note that few, if any rail projects, from the New York Subway to the Spanish AVE, are cost effective. Yost also complains that high speed rail in the Northeast Corridor failed to reduce auto ridership. Yet, he failed to note that the Acela project failed due to lack of funds,

Moving MIT forward

Improved house dining will make MIT better, housemasters say

**By John Essigmann, Suzanne Flynn,
Steven R. Hall, Dava Newman, and
Charles H. Stewart III**

In September 2011, a new dining plan will be implemented in the residence halls where we are faculty housemasters. This new plan will be one of the most positive developments in the residential system in years. It will elevate the quality of dining significantly by providing nutritious, high quality, affordable meals to our residents. Just as important, the plan will provide a platform for the re-integration of house dining with the educational mission of the Institute.

This development is twenty years in the making. It corrects a regrettable decision made in 1993 to close all the residential dining halls, and then to re-open some on a very limited basis. Since then, numerous faculty-student committees have come to the same conclusion — the dining system we have is inadequate, unimaginative, and financially unsustainable. The time to remedy the past mistakes has come, and we have a duty to help fix them and to move forward enthusiastically.

As educators, we support robust dining programs in our houses. It has been well established that such programs provide unique opportunities for the education of the complete person. This is not just the experience of our peers, but MIT's experience as well, accumulated in years past when the Institute previously supported residential dining to its fullest. While we would be the first to argue that MIT's greatness rests on the education provided in the classroom and laboratory, this is not where an undergraduate education that seeks to educate leaders ends. The social experience fostered by a well-designed dining program is a valuable complement to the other efforts at MIT aimed at preparing undergraduates for their lives after they graduate.

The House Dining Advisory Group

essentially making the Acela trains only slightly faster alternatives to the regular Amtrak Northeast Regional trains. In fact, rail makes up 15 percent of the modal split between New York City and Washington DC (air makes up another 15 percent, and other motorized transit, like cars and buses, makes up 70 percent).

Yost also fails to reference the business growth opportunities rail can bring, but merely mentions the obvious conclusion that high speed rail cannot solve structural unemployment. However, he fails to recognize rail's ability to revitalize the regions it passes through (see, for example

(HDAG) plan that will be implemented was developed with robust input from faculty and students, both those currently at MIT and those who have graduated. The letter recently published in *The Tech* by Chancellor Clay and Deans Colombo, Hastings, and Ortiz delineated the many ways this feedback was collected. It is simply untrue that the plan was developed in a vacuum without understanding student desires and concerns, or that the plan was pre-ordained by the administration.

Many of the features of the new dining plan are great ideas from our students. Everyone wants nutritious meals. Many want breakfast. In addition, students want opportunities to talk at the end of the day with their friends. They also want, sometimes, to share a meal with a faculty member. (Not too often, but sometimes.) We also know that a large segment of prospective MIT students want a traditional dining program, which is currently unavailable on campus. And, we know that one of the biggest anxieties expressed by prospective students and their parents about MIT is about dining.

The hard question is how to achieve what we want. Like everyone at MIT, we would like a first-rate dining program that is offered below cost and available 24 hours a day, which is, of course, impossible. In the past, MIT kicked the hard decisions down the road by maintaining a bare bones dining program that offered the illusion of choice while covering the deficits by robbing critical student life needs. The mediocre quality of the current dining program is clear to everyone who has studied it in detail. While we understand that some students may prefer a subsidized system to a system that is self-sustaining, continuing to run a deficit in the dining program is unconscionable, especially in light of the painful cuts (including layoffs) made across all of MIT after the financial meltdown of 2008. The decisions HDAG wrestled with were hard, but they had to be made.

the dramatic growth in Davis Square since the expansion of the Red Line in the 1980s). Rail also provides travel options to those who cannot afford to keep a car, or ride a plane. Rail is also just more comfortable, making it a great choice for families with young children, or busy business men and women who want to work while they travel.

High speed rail in the United States has some undeniable flaws. But most rail projects are not cost effective, yet are still popular all over the world. Measuring rail only on its financial merits ignores its other merits.

—Michelle Bentivegna '11

We understand that a change of this magnitude, especially one that affects the residential life system, will be disruptive for a period of time. We agree that effort needs to be spent to mitigate the impact on those students, currently sophomores and juniors, who came to MIT before the HDAG plan was announced. However, it is critical to make a distinction between ameliorating the disruptions to the current residents, which is defensible, and delaying the implementation of an improved plan, which is not.

We also understand that the decision to implement the new dining program will have some effect on the cook-for-yourself dormitories and FSILGs. However, the argument that this change amounts to a frontal assault on the culture of the non-dining dormitories or the FSILGs is an exaggeration that underestimates the resilience and vitality of our residential communities. We were all at MIT in the late 1990s when the decision was implemented to require first-year students to live on campus. We can testify to the fact that that decision, which was much more consequential than the plan to strengthen the dining halls, had little effect on the cultures of the dormitories.

Change in residential life is always hard at a university, where the time horizon of students can be short and the experience intense. The HDAG plan has the benefit of stepping back from the myopia of the current crisis to think about how to make MIT great, by improving a critical program that is far from great. Much work remains to implement the HDAG plan. For that reason, it is time for the campus to stop looking backwards, so that we can fix our gaze on the tasks ahead.

John Essigmann is the housemaster of Simmons Hall; Suzanne Flynn is the housemaster of the Phoenix Group; Steven R. Hall is the associate housemaster of Simmons Hall; David Newman is the housemaster of Baker House; and Charles H. Stewart III is the housemaster of McCormick Hall.



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Too few cracks in the glass ceiling

The U.S. continues to have abysmal representation of women in Congress

By Michael Veldman
STAFF COLUMNIST

Everyone knew going in that this primary election would entail huge gains for Republicans. What was predicted by few, and perhaps cared about by even fewer, was the consequence this election would have for the representation of women in Congress: that is, complete stagnation.

This election cycle is, according to CNN, the first in three decades during which women have not increased their numbers in Congress. Although a record 262 women competed in House primaries (40 more than in the so-called “Year of the Woman” in 1992) they had relatively low success rates against incumbents. Thirty-two of 113 Republican women won their primaries and 37 of 80 Democratic women won theirs, success rates of 28.3 percent and 46.3 percent respectively.

In fact, we're coming dangerously close to actually decreasing women's numbers in Congress. Disputed elections in Alaska (for Senate) and Washington (House) do appear to be going in favor of the female candidates, however. Republicans' Lisa Murkowski and Ann Marie Buerkle are likely to win their respective races, although Buerkle's is much less certain. In order for women to retain their numbers, Democratic candidate Melissa Bean must win her race in Illinois' 8th District in addition to the two aforementioned women winning theirs.

Obviously this is deeply problematic; why

do women have such poor representation?
And why was this election cycle particularly
disappointing?

Part of the reason is that men have dominated government for so long, and make it difficult for women to penetrate their ranks. Congressmen who have long been comfortable with a testosterone-heavy status quo often do not even consider women as viable candidates. Make no mistake: the U.S. Congress is a boys club. This is a huge hurdle for women because the support of incumbents is often crucial to launch a campaign with any chance of succeeding. With all of the barriers to entry, not least among them the enormous sums of money needed, it's no surprise that a powerful buddy's fundraising can mean the difference between a winning campaign and one that never gets off the ground.

Republicans have started to wake up and realize the importance (at least for their image) of fielding strong female candidates and as such some GOP leaders went out of their way to recruit and support women. Still, only five of 17 women in the Senate will be Republican, even if Murkowski wins in Alaska. And despite Republican additions of up to nine, and at least eight, women in the House (compared to a possible six, and at least five, for Democrats) their victories come hand-in-hand with the ousting of many incumbent women.

The 2010 midterms have been particularly disappointing because of the dominance of Republicans. Since a greater proportion of Democratic candidates and Congressper-

sons are women compared to Republicans, it follows that if Republicans in general do very well, then women's numbers overall will fall. The GOP's stepped-up recruiting efforts do not seem to have prevented this from happening.

But how does the representation of women in government compare to the rest of the world? Consider the following: according to the Inter-Parliamentary Union, the U.S. ranks 90th, tied with Turkmenistan, with around 17 percent of its legislature composed of women. For comparison, the international average is 19.1 percent. That's

The U.S. ranks 90th, tied with Turkmenistan, with around 17 percent of its legislature composed of women.

right — we are below average. Other countries ahead of us include such progressive bastions as Sudan (24.2 percent), Iraq (25.2 percent), Indonesia (18.0 percent) and Pakistan (21.0 percent). But don't fret, at least we can take pride in the fact that we are ahead of Iran (2.8 percent). Rwanda comes in first with 50.9 percent.

One reason that America has such poor representation of women compared to other countries is that some nations have quo-

tas mandating that a reasonable number of women are elected to public office. Although I am not sure such a mandate would be defensible on Constitutional grounds, our abysmal numbers suggest we need a major attitude adjustment.

Concerns over women's representation have been dismissed because of recent high-profile gains by women, namely Hillary Clinton's extremely close presidential bid, Sarah Palin's proximity to the vice-presidency, and Nancy Pelosi's reign as the first female Speaker of the House. However, very little was actually gained. Pelosi is now being replaced by Rep. John Boehner (R-Ohio), Clinton ultimately had to settle for becoming Secretary of State (not that this is an unimportant position), and Palin is now the host of a Discovery Channel reality show.

The fact remains that we live in a representative democracy in which 50.7 percent of the population is represented by 17 percent of the legislature. Young girls are still not socialized to believe that they have the same right to want to become politicians as young boys. Our society still strictly polices the choices and options of women in politics, everything from commenting on their looks and style to judging them for wanting to pursue a career and not devoting their lives to their children. Not to mention that the general attitude remains that an assertive man is a leader and an assertive woman is a bitch. Until we get over these decidedly unjust norms, we will continue to fall short of our promise to provide equal representation for all.

Strikeout in Seoul

Barack Obama has only his own mercantilist rhetoric to blame for the failure of his trip to Asia

By Keith Yost
STAFF COLUMNIST

The moment was ripe with promise. China, after years of careful diplomacy and a burnishing of its image as a gentle giant, had spent the past year bullying its neighbors in territorial disputes and rattling its saber over territorial waters. Pakistan had proved itself an incapable ally in the war on terror, and a re-alignment in Central Asia was needed. North Korea had grown erratic, and a conference with regional allies was needed to determine what should be done. This was a moment of great potential, an opportunity for the U.S. to position itself as a power broker and balancer in the Pacific, to court India as a hedge against Chinese power and promoter of stability in the region, to draw contingency plans with South Korea, and to create the institutions and ties that would solidify a lasting American influence.

Unfortunately, it was a moment wasted. Instead of placing geopolitical concerns at the top of his agenda, Obama repeatedly told the world that his purpose for touring Asia was to create American jobs by foisting exports

on the countries he visited. In New Delhi, Obama was greeted courteously, but he was hardly embraced the way George Bush was. And who could blame the Indians? Instead of emphasizing the natural bond that India and America share as democracies and delving into discussions on the U.S. and India's

Obama made it clear that he was in India to shill military equipment for Lockheed Martin and Boeing.

complex relationships with China, Pakistan, and Afghanistan, Obama made it clear that he was there to shill military equipment for Lockheed Martin and Boeing.

In South Korea, things were even worse: Instead of quickly completing the slam dunk free trade agreement with South Korea that Bush had already negotiated, and moving on to more important matters, (like North Korea

and China), Obama demanded fresh trade concessions, spent his entire time haggling and came away with nothing, not even the original agreement.

But the worst of all came at the Group of Twenty summit of the top economies. After incessantly priming his audience to think that American policy was directed at stealing their jobs, Obama was shocked to find that his audience believed him. As the federal reserve initiated a \$600 billion round of quantitative easing, the G-20 was in a frame of mind not to see it for what it was — an attempt at monetary stimulus in light of the decreased chances for fiscal stimulus following GOP gains in the midterm elections — but instead a sort of currency war aimed at doing exactly what Obama claimed was his purpose all along: to push unemployment out of his country and into Asia. By pronouncing his ludicrous intentions, Obama invited the world to ask the questions that George Bush had artfully managed to avoid, such as, “Should we replace the dollar as the international reserve currency?”

The grim irony of the failed trip isn't that Obama's mercantilist rhetoric was utterly self-defeating, it's that the world view underlying

it is bunk. Countries with trade surpluses are not “winning,” and countries with trade deficits are not “losing.” The benefits of free trade are not measured just in the sales of exports abroad, but in lower prices at home. In the long run, trade has virtually no impact on the unemployment rate in the United States, and in the short run its effect is vanishingly small. Imports account for about 10 percent of the U.S. economy, and roughly a third of that is merely companies moving goods through their logistics networks, not sales to end users. The U.S. is a large country — it does not need to worry about spillovers from its injections into aggregate demand, nor should it expect much return from aggressively pushing exports.

On the eve of the trip, many left wing pundits, with an eye on the next election, hoped that President Obama could score victories in the international arena and give himself something to hang his hat on should the next two years turn into domestic deadlock. But if future forays into foreign policy go like last week's did, it will be the Republicans, not Obama, with new foreign policy lines in their speeches come 2012.



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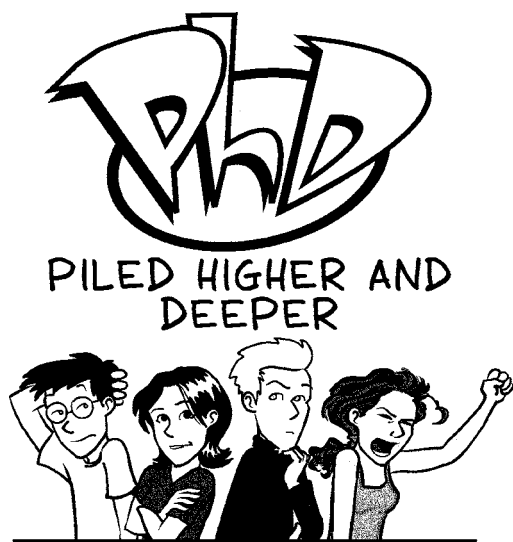
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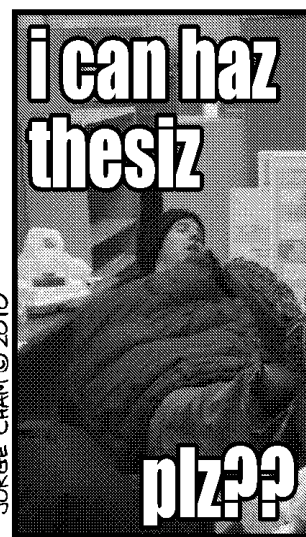
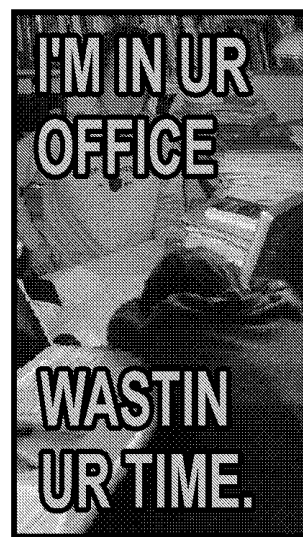
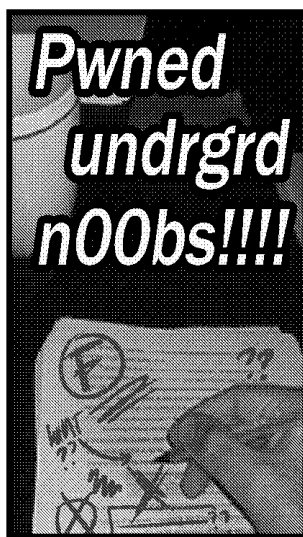
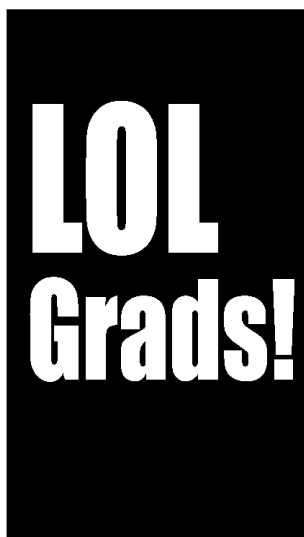
Steal My Comic by Michael Ciuffo



Somewhere on the Search for Meaning by Letitia Li



by Jorge Cham



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Crossword Puzzle

Solution, page 11

ACROSS

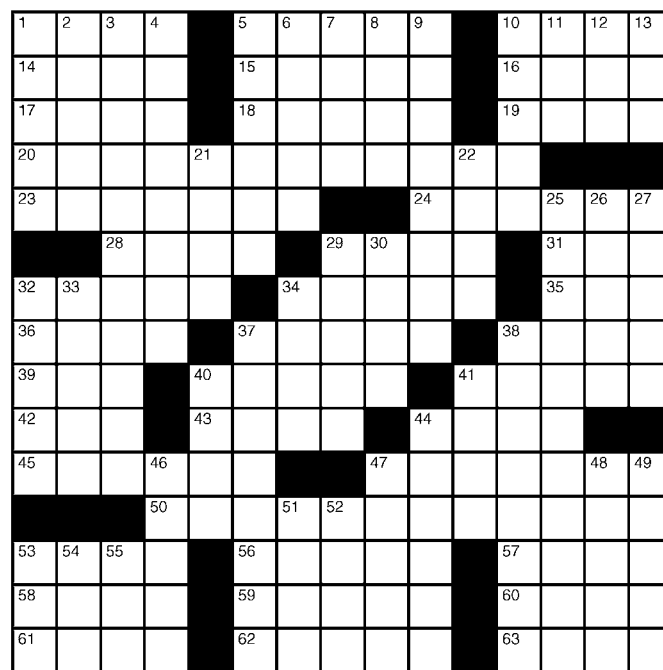
- 1 Brewski
- 5 Shoot from cover
- 10 Principal Skinner's nemesis
- 14 Grizzly weapon
- 15 Stop by
- 16 Tall tale teller
- 17 Dancer Pavlova
- 18 Surrounded by
- 19 Pretentiously creative
- 20 1977 PGA Championship winner
- 23 Opposite of the seven seas?
- 24 Within reach
- 28 Openings
- 29 "Pursuit of the Graf ___"
- 31 "Exodus" hero
- 32 Bases on balls
- 34 Girder material
- 35 FDR's Blue Eagle
- 36 Soothing additive
- 37 Sling mud
- 38 Nabokov novel
- 39 RPM part

- 40 Gushes forth
- 41 Lovers' meeting
- 42 Bard's before
- 43 Bullring shouts
- 44 Opp. of suffix
- 45 Fire from a low-flying
aircraft
- 47 Sharp facial contortion
- 50 Slugger with second-most
grand slams
- 53 River of Pisa
- 56 Bible version
- 57 Kuwaiti leader
- 58 Stead
- 59 Angry
- 60 Ms. McEntire
- 61 Impoverished
- 62 Supped
- 63 Historic periods

DOWN

- 1 Burn with hot water
- 2 Of an arm bone
- 3 "Lethal Weapon" star
- 4 Tchaikovsky ballet
- 5 Gives rise to

- 6 Wanderer
- 7 Apple product
- 8 Way to be tickled
- 9 Applied scientist
- 10 Wild time
- 11 Broadcast
- 12 Double-crosser
- 13 Attempt
- 21 Kissers
- 22 Holiday song
- 25 Candy brand
- 26 Gallico novel, "Mrs. ___
Goes to Paris"
- 27 Laughing
- 29 Medley meals
- 30 Potpie veggies
- 32 Merchandise
- 33 Watchful
- 34 Hook's mate
- 37 Magnificent
- 38 First public performance
- 40 Seat for several
- 41 Cut back
- 44 Offered a devout
petition
- 46 Love in Limousin



- 47 Fireplace element
48 Silk-cotton tree
49 Pound and Stone
51 Sushi wrapping

- 52 Dynasty before Ming
53 Yodeler's perch
54 ___ de Janeiro
55 Keanu in "The Matrix"

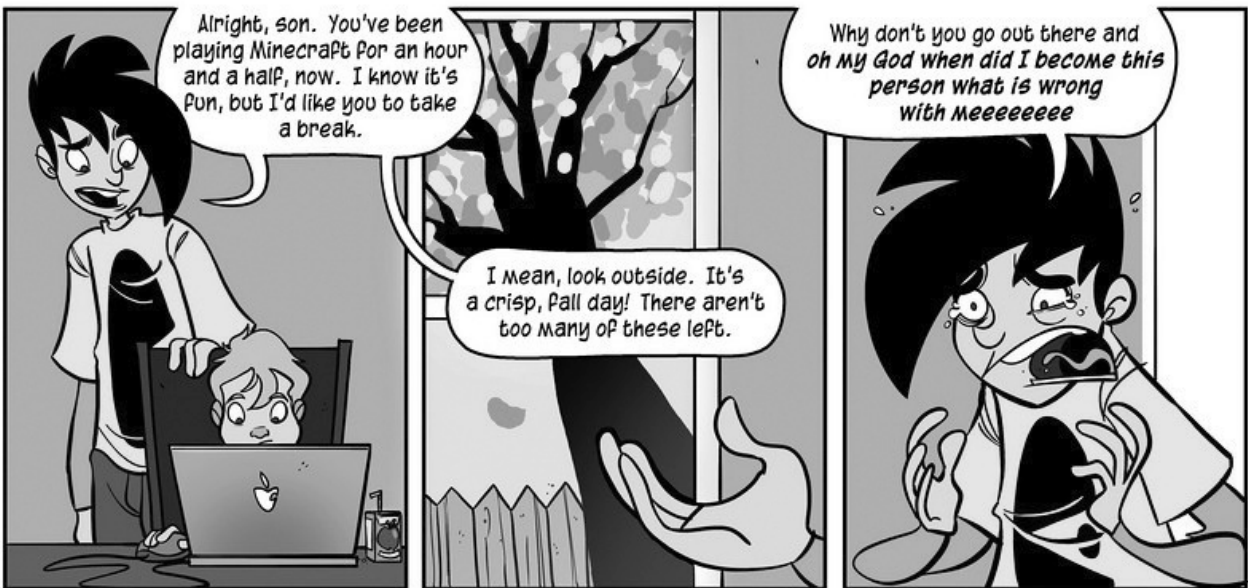
Mine All Mine, Part One



Mine All Mine, Part Two



Full Circle



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

Sudoku

Solution, page 11

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.

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

VIDEO GAME REPORT

A diamond in the rough, miles underground

Indie game *Minecraft* gets major buzz for miner innovationBy Michael T. Lin
CAMPUS LIFE EDITOR

Seemingly in defiance of all logical conventions of game development, a computer game called *Minecraft* is quickly gaining popularity. Ordinarily, this wouldn't be a big deal — statistically speaking, some games have to do well. What makes *Minecraft* unusual is that it's still in development, with a dev team of approximately one. With some exaggeration — the core gameplay idea comes from *Infiniminer* by Zachtronic Industries, and the audio and art assets have their own designers — *Minecraft* is designed and programmed by Markus Persson and his company Mojang Specifications.

Games with development teams as small as *Minecraft's* typically don't do this well for the same reason that one-man bands don't typically play the Metropolitan Opera House: there's not much that one person can do that a full orchestra can't do better, and people won't pay for a full-price ticket when they can see similar performances in the street performing venue of Internet browser games. In *Minecraft's* case, however, the one-man band has sold hundreds of thousands of copies through a combination of incredible scale, deceptively complex gameplay, and if the response on the Internet is any indication, probably subliminal messaging.

Not to be confused with office procrast-

ination tool *Minesweeper* or sci-fi Korean career path *Starcraft*, the primary gameplay mode of *Minecraft* consists of mining and crafting resources alone in an enormous world made entirely of meter-cube blocks, the usual objective being to build shelter for protection from the mobs of skeletons, zombies, and other baddies that roam the world at night. I say "usual" because *Minecraft* is open-ended, with no built-in story. Most

Saying that *Minecraft* is mildly addictive would be like calling a spoonful of microwave popcorn butter mildly unhealthy.

players will opt to build a shelter, but one could theoretically be a *Minecraft* nomad with no home base. I tried that approach once, myself, which turned out to be ill-advised and terrifying. The variety of building materials available is substantial, making shelter construction equal parts architecture and interior design — like *The Sims*, but less suburban.

Saying that *Minecraft* is mildly addictive would be like calling a spoonful of microwave popcorn butter mildly unhealthy, and if my doctor knew how much I partook of either, my neck stiffness and iffy cholesterol would have come as much less surprise at my last physical. Survival gameplay centering on acquisition of supplies and constant improvement of the player's situation, describable as "Robinsonian" (after adventure survival novels *Robinson Crusoe* and *Swiss Family Robinson*) by the literary and pretentious, seems to appeal to the inner last person on earth in all of us.

The openness of *Minecraft* provides gameplay options for most players and player moods. Explorers and their monkey sidekicks can spelunk for natural cave systems deep underground or journey to new areas of the procedurally generated game world. Roleplayers can customize their lifestyles and homes to their alter ego's heart's desire. Combat-oriented players can suit up in literally homemade armor and weapons and patrol the landscape at night to hunt down the deadly enemies that spawn in the dark. Social players can play an equally open-ended multiplayer mode, with all the hazards and rewards of talking with other people online. And of course, enterprising geeks with disposable time can and have replicated in excruciating detail the game worlds of their favorite media. Highlights include an explor-

able map of the original Pokémon world, the underground city of Rapture from *Bioshock*, and a 1:1 scale model in progress of, appropriately, the Starship Enterprise.

As with many open-world games, however, *Minecraft* is subject to what I call Avatar Existential Crisis — the gradual realization that the hours spent burrowing underground questing for the most rare and valuable resources like a kleptomaniacal Bugs Bunny are devoid of meaning. Once you've dug to the bottom of the world and built a castle in the sky, and blown it all up with TNT made from painstakingly harvested gunpowder, digging yet another hole elsewhere seems bland and unimportant. As it happens, the game is still in the alpha phase of development with persistent updates, including a major one this past Halloween. As fun as the game is, some of the design decisions can occasionally feel arbitrary or opaque in their reasoning, such as having zombies drop feathers upon death, and because it's still in development, the quality of the game could conceivably go up or down. The prognosis ultimately depends on the amount of faith one has in the developer. Considering the jumping-off point, though, it's hard to imagine things going too terribly far downhill, but I suppose that's part of the collective adventure. The alpha version of *Minecraft* is available for online download for about \$15.



2010-2011

Dertouzos Lecture Series



Rodney Brooks
Professor Emeritus, MIT
Chairman & CTO, Heartland Robotics

Date: Thursday, November 18, 2010
Venue: MIT Stata Center, Building 32-123/Kirsch Auditorium
Time: 4:30-5:30pm

Robots Working With People

Abstract: Moore's law exponentials continue to help low cost robots achieve new capabilities. Over the next two decades the majority of robot deployments will be in situations where people and robots work as a team. Sometimes the teamwork will be spread over time and space, and sometimes it will be close physical interaction. Application areas range from driving, to domestic chores, to healthcare, to services, to agriculture, and to manufacturing. Sometimes the robots will be tools, and sometimes they will be partners.

Biography: Rodney Brooks is the Panasonic Professor of Robotics, emeritus, at MIT. Until 2007 he was director of CSAIL, the MIT Computer Science and Artificial Intelligence Laboratory. He is currently the founder, chairman, and CTO of Heartland Robotics. He is a current board member, co-founder, and former chairman and CTO of iRobot (NASDAQ: IRBT).

His research interests span humanoid robotics, mobile robots, computer vision, artificial life, and the nature of sentience, both wet and dry.

Host: CSAIL

For more information: www.csail.mit.edu or 617.253.0145



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HDAG will consider dining plan tweaks

Upperclassmen may get to purchase scaled-back plans during transition

Dining, from Page 1

treated differently than other dorms because it is a single-sex dorm. Vrajesh agreed and said that each dorm would be able to decide its own dining plan.

Colombo said that he will put the proposal on the table for HDAG to consider.

A limit on flexibility

In order to make the dining plan more attractive to students, the UA is asking for the dining plan to be as flexible as possible. Wyman proposed that students should be given the option to buy 7 or 5 dinners and 7,2, or 0 breakfasts each week. Baker dining chair Cameron McAlpine ’13 said that he thinks that 80 percent of students will prefer the plan proposed by the UA.

Senior Associate Dean of Residential Life and Dining Henry J. Humphreys said at the meeting that the plan can only be so flexible: “As it becomes smaller, it becomes more expensive as a unit cost.”

Director of Campus Dining Richard D. Berlin agreed. In the minutes, he is cited for saying, “Having unique plans across your campus is a very difficult thing to do — one of the challenges in the current system is that companies work from stability.” He also said that the more variability you add to the plan, the more it will cost in the end.

Colombo said, “...we cannot create a meal plan that will basically serve individual wants and desires.”

As it stands, Colombo said that he believes the plan is flexible enough for us to recognize what students want in a meal plan. According to the minutes, Colombo said, “Three years down the road — we don’t know what people will want. We won’t know until we have this period of time. What if no one wants breakfast? We’re going to have to look at [it].”

McAlpine said that new students coming into MIT will come to accept the dining plan because they will not understand how it was implemented in the past. In the minutes, Bindman agreed and said “[dining is a] big deal right now, but in five years, it will seem like normal.”

The full minutes of the meeting are available online at <http://ua.mit.edu>.

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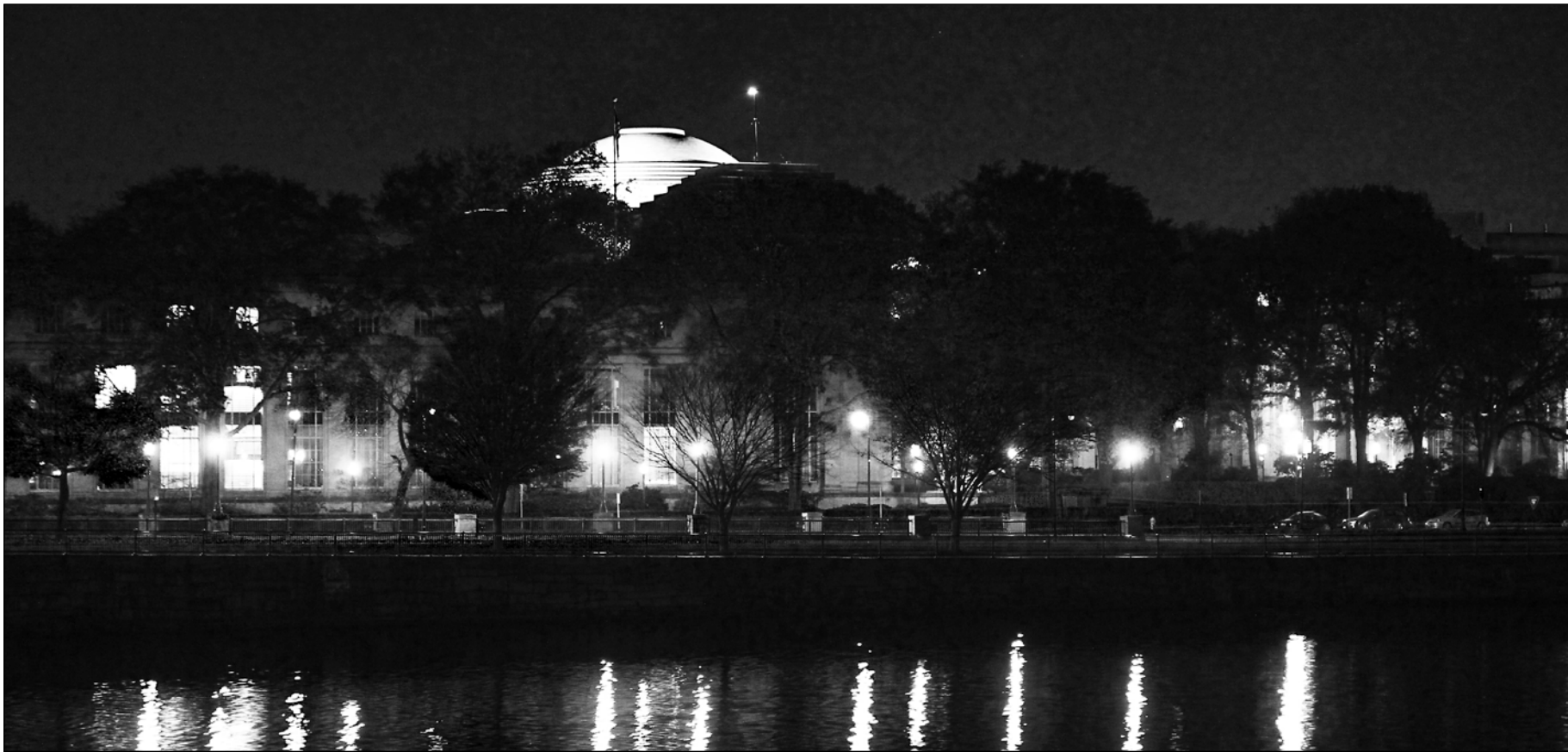
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Hackers installed a fully functional street lamp atop the Building 1 pyramid on Saturday night.

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Solution to Sudoku

from page 7

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

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Solution to Sudoku

from page 7

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

Solution to Crossword

from page 6

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

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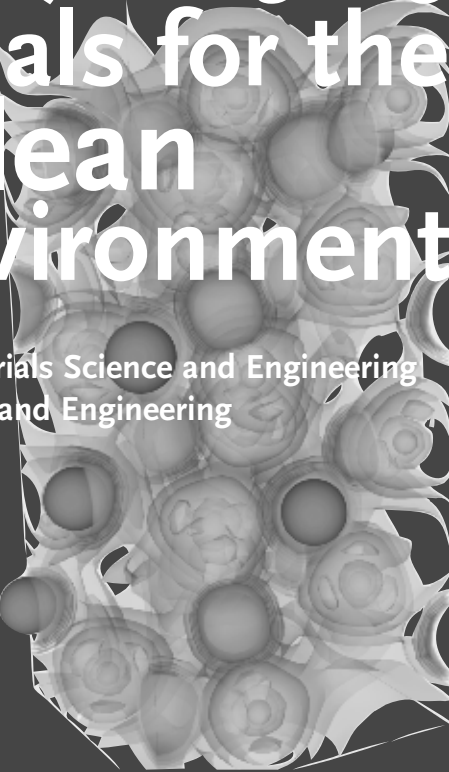
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Fall 2010 Wulff Lecture

Wednesday, November 17, 2010
5:00–6:00 pm
Room 32-123
Reception immediately following

Computationally Designing Materials for the Clean Energy Environment

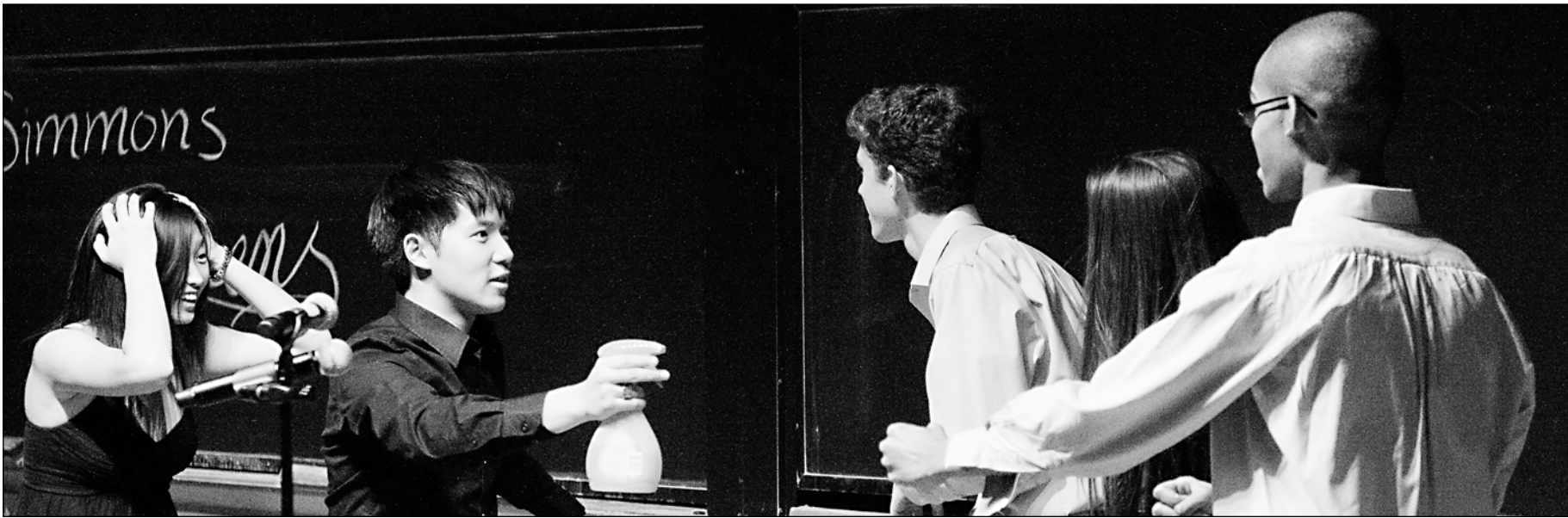
Professor Gerbrand Ceder
R. P. Simmons Professor of Materials Science and Engineering
Department of Materials Science and Engineering



The need for novel materials is the technological Achilles Heel of our strategy to address the energy and climate problem facing the world. The large-scale deployment of photovoltaics, photosynthesis, storage of electricity, thermoelectrics, or reversible fuel catalysis cannot be realized with current materials technologies. The “Materials Genome” project, started at MIT, has as its objective to use high-throughput first principles computations on an unparalleled scale to discover new materials for energy technologies. This talk will address successful examples of high-throughput calculations in the field of lithium batteries and discuss other materials challenges in the energy field.

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.





DAVID CHEN—THE TECH

Mason Tang G sprays fellow Resonance members at Resoception on Friday night. (From left: Christine J. Park '14, Mason Tang G, Daniel A. Heins '14, Veronica C. Newlin '14, Alexander C. Jordan '13). Resoception took place in a nearly-full 10-250. The show featured performances by the Simmons Sirens and Northeastern Nor'easters before launching into an *Inception*-themed performance by the MIT Resonance. The concert included a collection of dream-related songs punctuated by short skits revolving around a plot to beat the 8.01 exam.





MIT Energy Initiative

ENERGY



The MIT Energy Initiative is designed to transform the global energy system to meet the needs of the future and to help build a bridge to that future by improving today's energy systems.

MITEI supports summer UROPs that help meet this mission. Energy UROPs can be conducted in any academic department or interdisciplinary laboratory.

Applications for Energy UROPs for summer 2011 are due **March 11, 2011**.

web.mit.edu/mitei/education/urop.html

Top & bottom photos: Justin Knight, middle photo: Irene Berry

ARFA AIJAZI—THE TECH

Aron Kader, from Comedy Central's Axis of Evil Tour entertains a full house at Comic Relief: A Fundraiser for Pakistan's Flood Victims on Friday. The event was jointly hosted by MIT's Pakistani Student Association (PakisMIT) and the Association for the Development of Pakistan (ADP).



YUANYU CHEN—THE TECH
Mimi Yen '11 sings a moving version of Maria Mena's "Just Hold Me" at the Chorallaries' "CSI: MIT" concert this past Saturday evening in 10-250. Through online donations and a raffle, the Chorallaries managed to raise over \$1,000 for Children's Hospital.



Marking the 151st Anniversary of the Publication of Darwin's "On the Origin of Species"

Darwin and the Debate over Human Origins

Friday, Nov. 19, 2010, 7:30 p.m.
The Broad Institute Auditorium
Main St. at Ames St., Kendall Square

Apes in Our Family Tree
Prof. Janet Browne
Department of the History of Science
Harvard University

Evidence for Gene Flow from Neanderthals into Modern Humans
Prof. David Reich
Department of Genetics
Harvard Medical School

Inherited Disease and Human Evolution
Prof. David Housman
MIT Center for Cancer Research

The Continuing Controversy over Teaching Evolution
Prof. John Durant,
Director, MIT Museum

For more information please visit:
<http://www.darwinbicentennial.org>

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www.kaust.edu.sa



ARFA AIJAZI—THE TECH

U.S. Representative Michael Capuano (Massachusetts 8th district) addressed members of the **National Association of Graduate-Professional Students** on issues including education and the economy during the organization's 24th Annual Conference, which took place at MIT this year. NAGPS is the largest umbrella organization for graduate and professional students studying in the United States.



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Briefs, from Page 1

bank accounts," he said.

Every cent collected for a candidate equals 1 vote. The grand total will go to the charity of the winner's choice. Miramonti is running to benefit Child's Play.

Students can vote in Lobby 10 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. from Monday through Friday this week.

Jordan A Goldstein '14, campaign manager for the Random Hall staircase, said the staircase was ugly because "it was just painted red."

"UMOC" has stood for many things over the decades. It originally stood for "Ugliest Man on Campus," but it has also been known as "Uncleanliest Manifestation on Campus," "Unholiest Manifestation on Campus," and "Ultimate Manifestation of k0re." Last year, APO returned to the original name.

—Joanna Kao and Robert McQueen

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SIGMA PHI EPSILON

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Friday
19 November

MIT Student Center Lobdell
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8-10 PM

exhibiting
PROject Nailz
Unyted Stylz
MIT Mocha Moves

\$ 5 in advance
\$ 7 at door

competing
MIT Ridonkulous
MIT Bhangra
BU Edge
BU Unofficial Project
BU Fusion
Wellesley Freestyle
Wellesley College Dancers
Suffolk Wicked
Harvard Expressions
MIT Fixation



special guest

Hosted by Gustavo from
ABDC's Static Noyze 6!

workshops

Saturday, November 20th
T-Club Lounge, Dupont Athletic

2:00 - 3:30PM: Mocha Moves workshop
3:30 - 5:00PM: ABDC's Static Noyze 6
\$7 for one/\$10 for both

Tickets on Sale now in Lobby 10+Student Center

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who gets the crown?

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LEF/ARCADE



Cross country wins Regionals

Men's and women's teams advance to Nationals

By Eric Khatchadourian
TEAM REPRESENTATIVE

The MIT men's and women's cross-country teams traveled to Mt. Greylock High School in Williamstown, Massachusetts on Saturday with their sights set on qualifying for the NCAA Division III Championship.

On an unusually warm and sunny November day, the men toed the starting line first. Ranked ninth in the region going into the meet, the seven-man team was determined to earn some respect. From the start, the men positioned themselves very well and were all among the top 30 by the mile mark. They maintained their strength through a hilly second mile. Paul D. Welle '11 kept pace with the lead pack, while Daniel E. Harper '12 and Roy A. Wedge '14 held their places in the top 12. Stephen R. Se-

rene '12 and Richard J. Prevost '11 lost a few spots but continued providing support. Gihan S. Amarasiriwardena '11 was running very well in the top 25 and Joseph Alexander Christopher '12 was fighting to hang on in the third mile.

Coming into the finish, Welle kicked hard to cross the line in 25:57 for an impressive sixth place. Harper and Wedge worked well together and came in 11th and 12th place, respectively. Serene held onto 29th place and Amarasiriwardena, the Tech's final scoring runner, finished 35th. MIT scored 93 points to defeat host and defending champion Williams College by eight points. This is the men's first New England Regional Championship in Institute history.

The women's team, competing against six other nationally ranked squads, raced next. Katherine J. Eve '12, Claire E. O'Connell '14 and Anna M. Holt-Gosselin '11 took off fast at the gun. By the mile mark, Alina E. Gatowski '11 and Tania

K. Morimoto '12 were up with the leaders. Holt-Gosselin maintained pace in the top 20, while Martina A. de Geus '14 and O'Connell followed less than ten seconds behind. Margaret M. Lloyd '12 was running well in the top 40. Through the hills, Morimoto and Gatowski fought to stay with the leaders but faded off pace slightly. The pair held their top 10 spots and crossed the finish line in eighth and ninth place clocking 22:41 and 22:42, respectively. Eve closed with her classic kick and finished in 21st place. Rounding out MIT's scoring places, de Geus and Holt-Gosselin finished 31st and 36th. The Engineer's scored 105 points to finish 4th place as a team, just two points behind rival Amherst College. Middlebury College, ranked first in the nation, won the contest with 58 points.

Next week, MIT travels to Waverly, Iowa, where Wartburg College will host the National Division III Championships.

UPCOMING HOME EVENTS

Tuesday, November 16

Men's basketball vs. Emmanuel College 7 p.m., Rockwell Cage

Men's hoops ready for the new season

Four of five starters return, seek to improve on last year

By Bill Johnson
ASSISTANT COACH

The MIT men's basketball team, which rose as high as No. 8 in the national rankings last season, will be looking to continue to build on last year's success and have another championship caliber season. After

winning the NEWMAC regular-season and Tournament championships, earning consecutive bids to the NCAA Division III Tournament, and securing its third All-American in six years, MIT is rapidly establishing a reputation. The Engineers, who debuted at No. 15 in the D3Hoops Pre-Season Top 25, return four starters from last season's 22-5 team, who accounted for 89 percent of their scoring and 81 percent of their rebounding.

Front court

MIT's top returner is middleman Noel Hollingsworth '12, who was selected as a preseason First Team All-American and will enter the new campaign as the league's reigning Player of the Year after leading the league in scoring with 20.4 points per game and 9.0 rebounds per game. Hollingsworth is joined up front by William Tashman '13, who proved to be one of the most dominant big men in the NEWMAC last year as a freshman, finishing the season as the league-leader in field-goal percentage (57 percent) and pulling down 7.2 rebounds a game.

Joining Hollingsworth and Tashman up front are newcomers Timothy P. Donegan '14 and William F. Dickson '14.

Back court

Leading the Engineer back-

court again is last season's conference and region Rookie of the Year, co-captain Mitchell H. Kates '13, who has already emerged as one of the top point guards in the country. Last year, Kates averaged 13.5 points per game while leading the league in assists (112) and steals (57).

The Engineers benefit from the return of James D. Karraker '12, who was second to James M. Bartolotta '09 as the NEWMAC's best three-point shooter during his rookie campaign but was lost to injury last year. Karraker and James R. Burke '13, who led the league with 2.3 three-point field goals per game last year, will lead MIT's attack from beyond the arc.

Adding to the deep backcourt is William E. Bender '12, who earned the reputation as one of the top on-the-ball defenders in the NEWMAC last year.

The squad's lone senior is co-captain Eric S. Zuk '11, a utility-player and team leader who averaged just over 13 minutes per game last year. Arni A. Lehto '12, another defensive specialist, will be another key component to the Engineers' success this season.

After a two-year hiatus recovering from hip surgeries, former team Rookie of the Year Daniel K. McCue '12, returns to the team ready to make up for the time off. Also recovering from injury is Nicholas A. Sather '13,

Arguably the deepest and most prepared incoming class in MIT history includes three wings in Nicholas A. Davis '14, William G. Watkins '14, and Jonathan A. Thompson '14. Rounding out the class is sharp-shooter Joshus N. Dunaway '14, William G. Baysinger '14, and point-guard Michael W. Attanasio '14.

The Engineers open their season Thursday evening at home against Emmanuel College.

Taekwondo opens season with win

Engineers dominate at home tournament, take conference lead

By Tara Sarathi
TEAM REPRESENTATIVE

After months of intense training and preparation, including members competing on the U.S. national collegiate team



over the summer, the MIT Sport Taekwondo Club took first place at the first Eastern Collegiate Taekwondo Conference (ECTC) tournament of the season, held at MIT on Saturday, October 23rd. The team, coached by Master Dan Chuang and led by team captains Jason J. Uh '10 and Erika Lee '12, fought their way through an event with approximately 450 competitors from over 20 schools in order to clinch the victory. The tournament, run by members of the MIT Sport Taekwondo Club, was the largest ever all-collegiate taekwondo tournament ever held in the United States.

Even with the Johnson Indoor Track filled with so many competitors, the energy and performance of the MIT team remained high throughout the day. During the forms competition, Uh and Daniel

J. Sauza '11 dominated the men's black belt division by taking first and second place, respectively. On the women's side, Lee and Rebecca Hung '11 took second and third place, respectively.

In the colored belt forms division, Rafael A. Raya '11 and Seth M. Weinberg G captured the silver and bronze for the men, and Hsinjung "Sophia" Li '11 took fourth place for the women. For the blue belt division, Alvin S. Chen '11 grabbed fourth place for the men, while Angela N. Chang '11 seized the gold in the women's division. As for the green belts, Karine T. Yuki '13 and Hillary T. Monaco '12 took the gold and the bronze medals, respectively. Finally, in the large and competitive yellow belt division, Maria Z. Tou '14 performed her form past the prelims and reached the final round.

As the forms competition began to wind down and the sparring competition began, the MIT team continued to exhibit their skills. In the A team division, after several grueling matches, the men's A2 team (Benjamin M. Huan '11, Sauza, Ijeoma "EJ" Emeagwali '12) muscled their way through a

deep field over 30 teams to capture bronze. For B team, men's B1 (David Y. Wen G, Raya, Christopher M. Williams G), fought their way to third, while women's B3 (Jenny Xie '13, Jennifer Tran '11, Kristina L. Lozoya '13) battled their way through several tough matches to claim the bronze. In the C team division, the women's C1 team (Laura H. Deming '13, Yuki, Xuan Yang '13) sparred their way through multiple matches in order to capture MIT's beset sparring result, earning gold and to take the title of "C team champions" in a field of over 20 teams.

As the day ended and the tournament came to a close, MIT came out on top of the field of 20 schools with 373 points, for a narrow victory over second place Brown, with 320 points. Although the team is pleased to have started out the season in the lead, every member knows that maintaining that lead will not be easy.

The team is training with determination and purpose for the next tournament at Cornell, as it seeks to win its fourth straight National Collegiate Taekwondo Association championship.

Important Student MATLAB Changes

- Did you download MIT Student MATLAB before August 16, 2010?
- Are you still using a version of MIT Student MATLAB that requires the VPN?

If you answered "Yes" to either of these questions, you'll need to switch over to MIT's new MATLAB license before December 20, 2010. More information and activation instructions can be found online at:

<http://kb.mit.edu/confluence/x/A4B2>

Activation only takes a few minutes, so please do it soon. **The existing license server will be permanently shut down on December 20, 2010.**



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