tech.mit.edu



WEATHER, p. 2

TUE: 68° F | 46° F

Mostly cloudy

WED: 63° F | 39° F

Mostly sunny

FRI: 50°F | 40°F

Tuesday, March 13, 2012

REPORTER'S NOTEBOOK

Volume 132, Number 11

Veritas Forum inspires discourse

Participants ponder the roles of technology and religion today



ELIZABETH D'ARIENZO—THE TECH

Professor Rosalind W. Picard (right), founder and director of the Affective Computing Research Group and co-director of the Things That Think Consortium, responds to a statement by Professor Susan S. Silbey (left), a Leon and Anne Goldberg Professor of Humanities and Professor of Sociology and Anthropology at the Veritas forum this past Friday in Kresge. The forum was designed around the question "Will technology save the world?" and also featured Professor George Barbastathis and Professor José Gómez-Márquez.

By Joy Lee

Over 500 attendees congregated in Kresge Auditorium last Friday at 6 p.m. to ponder a single question: "Will Technology Save the World?"

The question was the feature of the fifth annual Veritas Forum, whose mission, according to its website, is to "engage students and faculty in discussions about life's hardest questions and the relevance of Jesus Christ to all of life." As Kunle Adeyemo G said in his introduction, the basis for this year's question was that, "Technology is shaping our world. But are we and technology heading where we want to be going?"

As advertised, four faculty members participated in the forum; two atheists — Professor of Sociology and Anthropology Susan S. Silbey and Professor of Mechanical Engineering George Barbastathis, and two Christians — Instructor for D-Lab (Health) José F. Gómez-Márquez and Professor

of Media Arts and Sciences Rosalind W.

Ian H. Hutchinson, Professor of Nuclear Science and Engineering, moderated the discussion. The evening began with the four speakers each introducing their positions on the topic. Although the official question asked whether technology would save the world, the focus quickly shifted to whether it was possible for technology to do so.

Silbey started off by saying, "Technology cannot save the world because it is part of the problem." Citing two types of change that technology affects in human society, Silbey questioned the ability of technology to effectively solve society's problems. The first type of problem that technology poses to society is the immediate issues that arise with its necessary resources and waste, along with associated negative health effects. The other issue, Silbey said, deals with the ability of technology to change the way humans think and interact. She pointed out that technology affects the way we ap-

proach the world, including how we view the problems we face as a society, but itself lacks the proper methods to identify the problems that must be fixed. According to Silbey, the fundamental issue with technology is that "Technology cannot tell us what goals to pursue, what values we should promote through social action or technology."

Gómez-Márquez took a different approach to the topic. Technology is a tool that people can use to better others' lives, he believes, though he made it clear that technology can't do the job by itself. Citing instances of where technology is used to help people in the developing world, Gómez-Márquez said, "I'm actually a technology optimist. What I find when we go down to the developing world where there is poverty is that it's often not about the gadget. It's actually a lot of other things that matter." One of those "other things" he said, is insight. He noted that people need insight

Veritas Forum, Page 11

Additional search advisory group members named

With the Presidential Search Committee announced last Thursday, the Graduate Student Council (GSC) and the Undergraduate Association (UA) have formed a joint task force of under-

INSIDE

Advisory group public forums, p. 10 graduate and graduate students (see below), six of which are part of the task force's Executive Team. The group is responsible for gathering student input and advising the Presidential Search Committee as the MIT Corpora-

The GSC and the UA are holding six student-led forums over the next two weeks to "solicit feedback on the needs of MIT as well as the desirable qualities that a president should possess," according to the GSC website. Students interested in attending the forums should RSVP at https://signup.mit.edu/mitpresidentsearch.

tion selects the next MIT President.

Over the upcoming weeks, online opportunities will also be provided for students to express opinions. MIT Corporation Chairman John S. Reed '61 has said he hopes for the search to be completed by the summer.

Joint Presidential Search Task Force

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Alex J. Evans G, GSC Appointee, Course 12 Bryan Owens Bryson G, GSC Appointee, Course 20 Ellan F. Spero G, GSC Appointee, STS Amanda C. David '13, UA Appointee, Course 15 Patrick A. Hulin '14, UA Appointee, Course 18 Kimberly M. Sparling '12, UA Appointee, Course 1

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Lorenna D. Buck G, Course 20
David Chang '12, Course 6
Ravi M. Charan '14, Course 18
Alexandra L. Ghaben '13, Course 10
Nada Hashmi G
Ellen McIsaac '12, Course 3
John K. Nowocin G, Course 6
Lindsey C. Osimiri '14, Course 20
Arun K. Saigal '13, Course 6
Jeffrey M. Sperling '15
Addison K. Stark G, Course 2

IN SHORT

Pi day is this Wednesday! MIT Regular Action admissions decisions will be available on Wednesday, beginning at 6:28 PM ET.

The Margaret Bidwell Lecture: Drug Discovery for Neuropsychiatric Disorders has Stalled is this Thursday from 4 to 5 p.m., in 46-3002.

A memorial service for Brian Anderson will take place this Saturday at 4 p.m. in the MIT chapel, with a reception to follow in W11.

A memorial for Bob Silbey, former dean of the School of Engineering, will take place on Saturday at 2 p.m. in the Brain and Cognitive Sciences atrium.

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

RecycleMania starts Dorms have recycling competition

By Bruno B. F. Faviero

STAFF REPORTER

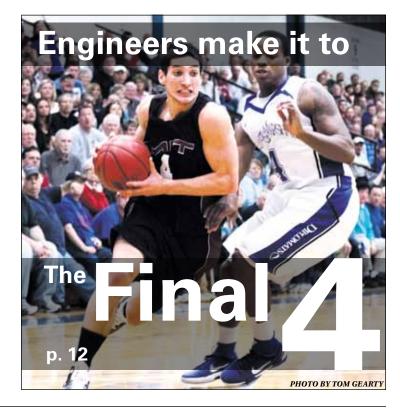
become RecycleManiacs! For the next two weeks, the UA Committee on Sustainability will be promoting a competition between dorms to see which can recycle the most. The competition will run March 12-23, and progress will be measured from information provided by Facilities on how material is recycled in the dorms.

Last year, Burton-Conner won the competition and was awarded a \$500 prize in the form of reusable shopping bags for each of its residents. This year, the prize will be similarly "sustainabilityrelated," said Jen Liu '14, co-chair of the UA Committee on Sustainability, though the exact prize has yet to be determined. "Since it doesn't involve that much extra work, there's no reason not to earn extra money for your dorm," noted fellow co-chair Anvisha Pai '14.

Some students seemed ready for the competition. "Our president told us all to recycle, so we could win again," said Miren Bamforth '15, a Burton-Conner resident.

Other students, however, seemed more critical of the program. "Conceptually it's good, but there's no incentive if you're not attached to your dorm," said Maseeh resident Thomas A. Villalon' 14.

Recycle, Page 7



THE HYPOCRISY OF THE PRO-LIFE MOVEMENT

Anti-abortion efforts infringe on freedoms. **OPINION**, p. 4

WHY MATH AND PHYSICS?

Equations of description. FUN, p. 8

BASEBALL WINS FIRST GAME

Team beats Gordon College 10-0. **SPORTS, p. 12**



WHY I RELAY

Stories from the MIT community on why they support cancer research. **CAMPUS LIFE, p. 8**

TENNIS AND THERMO

Curtis Wu does both. **SPORTS, p. 12**

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In Iraq, killings strike fear in gay and emo youth

BAGHDAD — A recent spate of killings and intimidation aimed at gay Iraqis and teenagers who dress in brash Western fashions is sending waves of fear through Iraq's secular circles while casting doubt on the government's will to protect some of its most vulnerable citizens

Many details of what Iraqi newspapers have called the "emo killings" are murky, but the uproar comes at an awkward moment for Iraq. The country has been preparing to showcase itself to the world as host of a high-profile meeting of Arab leaders in late March, the first major diplomatic event here since U.S. forces withdrew in December.

But the news that young men in tight T-shirts and skinny jeans are being beaten to death with cement blocks and dumped in the streets has threatened to overshadow the new palm trees and fresh paint. The violence offers a reminder that the government has been unable to stop threats and attacks against small religious sects, ethnic groups and social pariahs like gay men.

—Jack Healy, The New York Times

Britain to join Obama in discouraging a strike on Iran

WASHINGTON — Britain will add its voice to President Barack Obama's in discouraging an Israeli military strike on Iran when Prime Minister David Cameron begins a three-day visit here this week, a senior British diplomat said Monday.

"The prime minister is pretty clear that he does not think military action against Iran would be helpful," the diplomat, Peter Westmacott, Britain's recently appointed ambassador to the United States, told reporters. "We do not regard that as the right way forward in the months to come."

Cameron, he said, supports Obama's vow that Iran will not be allowed to acquire nuclear weapons. And, like the president, the prime minister believes military force must be preserved as an option

-Mark Landler and John F. Burns, The New York Times

Google to collaborate with Belgian museum

PARIS — Google, which organizes the world's information digitally, is linking up with a precursor that aimed to do something similar, on paper.

It plans to announce Tuesday that it is forming a partnership with a museum in Mons, Belgium, dedicated to a long-ago venture to compile and index knowledge in a giant, library-style card catalog with millions of entries — an analog-era equivalent of a search engine or Wikipedia.

"The partnership with Google gives us a great opportunity to spread knowledge of this remarkable Belgian project throughout the world," Jean-Paul Deplus, director of the museum, the Mundaneum, said in remarks prepared for a news conference Tuesday.

—Eric Pfanner, The New York Times

Yahoo sues Facebook over patents on web technologies

Yahoo stepped up its feud with Facebook on Monday, suing the social-networking giant on accusations it infringed on 10 patents tied to an array of web technologies.

According to the lawsuit, which was filed in U.S. District Court in San Jose, Calif., Yahoo contended that Facebook had knowingly and improperly violated some of the company's core intellectual properties

The patents, which were issued from 1999 to 2010, cover advertising, privacy, customization, social networking and messaging. Last month, Yahoo warned Facebook that it may file suit over the patents.

—Michael J. De La Merced, The New York Times

Britain taking steps toward legalization of euthanasia

By Alan Cowell
THE NEW YORK TIMES

LONDON — A British stroke victim paralyzed from the neck down and suffering from so-called locked-in syndrome won the right Monday to seek changes in a law that would enable a doctor to end what he has called an "intolerable life" without risking murder charges.

Playing into an emotional debate on assisted suicide for those with severe disabilities, the case brought by the stroke victim, Tony Nicklinson, went one step further since he is physically unable to participate in his own suicide and is thus seeking to make it legal for a physician to take his life.

Nicklinson, 57, "does accept that he is now inviting the court to cross the Rubicon," Justice William Charles said as he allowed the case to proceed on two of three arguments presented to him. The Ministry of Justice had sought to quash all three challenges by arguing that it was for Parliament, not the courts, to decide the issue.

While euthanasia and assisted suicide are illegal in Britain, campaigners have pursued long-running efforts to liberalize and clarify the ambiguous laws surrounding these issues. Some Britons suffering from incurable ailments have traveled as far afield as Switzerland for access to assisted suicide.

The ruling Monday seemed a modest victory for advocates of euthanasia and assisted suicide, and by no means a decisive resolution of what Charles called "questions that have great social, ethical and religious significance."

Nicklinson, who is married and has two adult daughters, suffered a stroke in 2005. He is able to communicate only by blinking and nodding to choose letters from a special electronic screen.

"Nothing is going to get better," his wife, Jane Nicklinson, told the BBC on Monday. "The only way to relieve Tony's suffering will be to kill him. There is absolutely nothing else that can be done for him."

Nicklinson's lawyers had argued for permission to seek judicial rulings on three arguments — two under human rights legislation and one under common law — to enable a physician to "terminate or assist the termination" of his life without facing murder charges.

The lawyers argued that such action could be covered by "the defense of necessity" in common law. Charles said Nicklinson had sought "a lawful route to ending his suffering by ending his life at a time of his choosing with the assistance by positive action of a doctor in controlled circumstances that have been sanctioned by a court."

Necessity has been cited in the past in cases, for instance, where physicians separated conjoined twins, saving one of them while the other died. But some physicians argued after Monday's ruling that Nicklinson's arguments, if accepted, could set a perilous precedent by providing legal justification for doctors to murder patients.

Charles also accepted that Nicklinson could argue, under human rights legislation, that the current laws on murder and assisted suicide were "incompatible with Nicklinson's right to respect for private life."

China hints at easing monetary policy, adjusting reserve ratio

By Ian Johnson

THE NEW YORK TIMES

BEIJING — As China seeks a soft landing for its bubble-prone economy, senior economic officials said Monday that they might encourage bank lending, while also hinting that the country's currency might not appreciate as fast as it has in recent years — a hot-button issue in the U.S. presidential election this year

Speaking at a news conference, Zhou Xiaochuan, the governor of the Chinese central bank, said bank reserve requirements — the percentage of deposits that banks must hold back — could be loosened further, after having been eased already last month.

"We have a lot of room to adjust the reserve ratio," Zhou said. "On the other hand, it is necessary to see whether there is a necessity to adjust." The reserve ratio was tightened throughout 2010 and 2011 after a huge government stimulus program of bank lending set off a bubble in real estate prices.

In the first two months of this year, these measures began to bite, and bank lending fell — possibly faster than officials had expected. Normally, as many as a quarter of all bank loans in a year are made in this two-month period. This year, however, only 18 percent of the expected bank loans for 2012 were made, implying either sharply slowing demand for loans or bank liquidity problems.

Andrew Batson, head of research for GK Dragonomics, an economic analysis firm in Beijing, said the Chinese political leadership had decided to increase bank lending but sought to strike a balance.

Recent data showing that car sales have slowed and value-added industrial production has been slower than expected have created the expectation in some circles that the leadership will once again respond with a large stimulus, he said. Government policy, however, is to let growth fall from the double-digit pace of the past decade to about 7.5 percent, in hopes of fostering higher-quality growth.

"The way they responded to the 2008 downturn gave the perception that they'll ride to the rescue," Batson said. Speaking of the Chinese prime minister, he said, "Wen Jiabao and others have been saying that ,Äòyes, we know that growth is slowing, but the cavalry is not coming."

One tool the government has said it would use is currency. Speaking at the same news conference, Zhou's deputy in charge of foreign currency, Yi Gang, implied that recent fast rises in the value of the Chinese currency were unlikely to be duplicated in the near future.

WEATHER

Unseasonably warm weather will continue

By Shaena Berlin
STAFF METEOROLOGIST

STAFF METEORO

NOAA's National Climatic Data Center just confirmed that the past winter was the fourth warmest on record in the mainland United States; it certainly felt like it in Cambridge! A variety of factors combined to set the stage for this warmth, including La Niña conditions in the Pacific, positive phases in the North Atlantic Oscillation, and po-

tentially Earth's upward trend in global average temperatures (although one must be careful not to confuse climate — which is defined as the longrun average of weather — with weather, which consists of short-scale variations).

Unseasonably warm weather will continue this week, with high temperatures reaching over 20 degrees above their 110-year average to feel more typical of late May than mid-March.

Extended Forecast

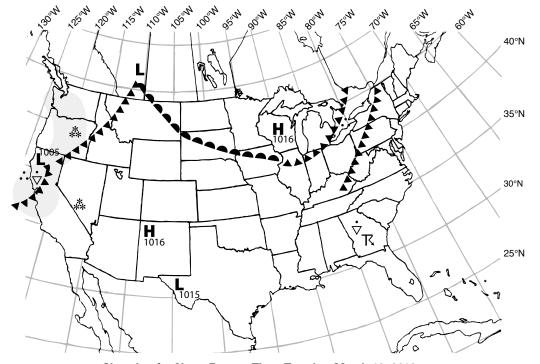
Today: Mostly cloudy with a chance of rain in the morning. High 68°F (20°C). S winds at 10 mph.

Tonight: Mostly cloudy with a chance of thunderstorms. Low 46°F (8°C).

Tomorrow: Mostly sunny with a high near 63°F (17°C). Low around 39°F (4°C). N wind near 10 mph.

Thursday: Sunny with a high near 50°F (10°C). Low near

Friday: Mostly sunny with highs in the mid-60s°F (10°C). Low in the mid-40s°F (4°C).



Situation for Noon Eastern Time, Tuesday, March 13, 2012

Weather Systems	Weather Fronts	Precipitation Symbols			Other Symbols		
			Snow	Rain		Fog	
High Pressure	Trough	Showers	*	<u>•</u>	=	.05	
	Warm Front	Snowers	∇	$ \nabla $	\perp K	Thunderstorm	
Low Pressure	warm From	Light	*	•		Haze	
1-	▲▲▲▲ Cold Front	Moderate	**			31. 41 MTT	
8 Hurricane	 					iled by MIT prology Staff	
"	Stationary Front	Heavy	**			The Tech	

House Republicans split over a bid to revise the budget deal

By Jonathan Weisman

THE NEW YORK TIMES

WASHINGTON — The House is bracing for a rancorous showdown over a 2013 budget plan that has already divided Republicans because of a push by conservatives to cut spending below the level both parties agreed to in last year's deal to raise the federal deficit.

Trying to demonstrate anew their push to reduce the size of the government, conservative House Republicans want to cap spending on programs under Congress' discretion well below the \$1.047 trillion cap set by the budget deal last summer. But House Appropriations Committee leaders and Republican moderates, facing tough re-election

campaigns, want to stick to the agreement struck with President Barack Obama seven months ago.

"We voted for it. That's the number we should use," said Rep. Charles Bass, R-N.H.

The budget blueprint for the coming fiscal year — slated to be unveiled next week — will also reignite the fight over Medicare, an election-year prospect that has both parties digging in.

Whatever the House produces, Sen. Harry Reid of Nevada, the majority leader, has said he has no intention of bringing a budget to a vote in the Senate — meaning the House debate will be essentially symbolic.

But the symbolism could define the battle for control of the House in 2013 between Republicans — who say they are willing to make the difficult choices to overhaul Medicare, limit the size of government and control the deficit — and Democrats running as a party that will preserve Medicare and make the rich shoulder more of the economic burden.

"An argument for a sounder, more sensible future for Medicare is one that we can very comfortably make," said Rep. Nan Hayworth of New York, a freshman Republican on the Democrats' target list.

Before they can get to that debate, Republicans must decide among themselves whether and how far to break the agreement on spending levels reached in July during the last budget fight, the one over raising the statutory limit for federal borrowing.

Santorum's delegate math looks different from Romney's

By Michael D. Shear

WASHINGTON — Rick Santorum's campaign has begun to argue forcefully that Mitt Romney will fail to win the 1,144 delegates needed to clinch the Republican nomination for president, leaving the decision to a wide-open national convention in Tampa, Fla., this summer.

The argument suggests that Santorum's strategists have all but given up on the idea that their own candidate can reach that magic number himself. A count by The Associated Press found that Romney has already collected 454 delegates, more than twice the 217 that have pledged to support Santorum.

But Santorum and his advisers believe that he — along with Newt Gingrich and Rep. Ron Paul — can effectively block Romney's march to the nomination over the next three months. If that happens, they argue, Republicans will gather for their convention with no certain winner — and with Romney at a disadvantage.

Aides to Santorum predicted that convention delegates — including a majority of the so-called "superdelegates" — would throw their weight

behind Santorum once Romney failed to lock up the nomination.

"When we go to this convention, if that's where we end up, it's a conservative party," Santorum said Monday on NBC's "Today" show. "If an opportunity provides itself at an open convention, they are not going to nominate a moderate Massachusetts governor."

Romney's advisers dismiss the idea of a contested convention and say he is on track to accumulate a majority of the 2,286 total delegates. They argue that Romney has won more than 50 percent of the delegates in the contests to date

Japanese companies continue to expand reach abroad

The Asahi Kasei Corp. of Japan agreed Monday to buy Zoll Medical, a health care equipment maker in the United States, for \$2.2 billion, becoming the latest Japanese company to expand abroad.

Under the terms of the deal, Asahi will pay \$93 a share, a 24 percent premium to Zoll's Friday closing price.

While merger activity overall has slowed down in the past year, dealmakers point to a few pockets of sustained interest. One of them is Japanese companies pursuing markets overseas even as their home markets stagnate.

About \$82.8 billion worth of cross-border deals involving Japanese buyers have been announced in the past 12 months, nearly quadrupling the previous year's volume, according to data from Capital IQ, a research firm.

-Mark Scott and Michael J. De La Merced, The New York Times

Chancellor defends Germany's nuclear power deadline

BERLIN — Chancellor Angela Merkel of Germany defended over the weekend her government's decision to phase out nuclear power by 2022 and replace it with renewable energy sources, dismissing critics who said the government would never make the deadline.

Merkel made the decision nearly a year ago after a devastating earthquake and tsunami on March 11, 2011, caused a meltdown at a nuclear plant in Fukushima, Japan. The accident heightened anxieties about nuclear safety and set off new soul-searching about the wisdom of relying on nuclear power.

Merkel conceded in her weekly podcast that, "of course, we need a lot of new investment" for the plan to be carried out. But she insisted that her decision was the right choice.

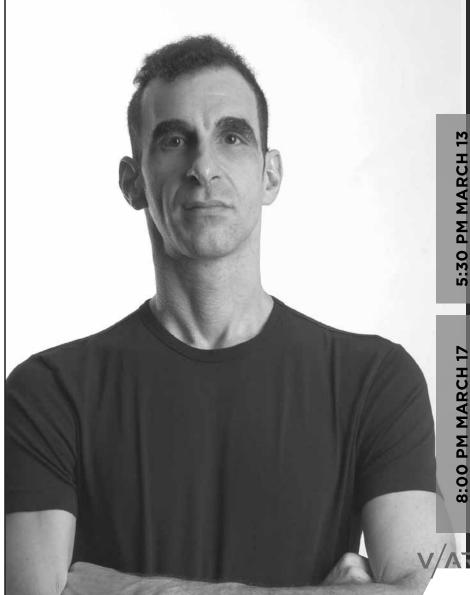
—Melissa Eddy, The New York Times

Sarkozy, in rousing talk, takes conservative stand

PARIS — President Nicolas Sarkozy, trailing in opinion polls six weeks before the election, gave a rousing address to some 50,000 supporters on Sunday, striking strongly conservative notes on immigration, Islam and protectionism.

Trying to recreate the excitement of his victorious 2007 campaign, Sarkozy gathered his Cabinet; his wife, Carla Bruni-Sarkozy; the former prime minister Edouard Balladur; Bernadette Chirac, a politician and the wife of former President Jacques Chirac; and even the actor Gerard Depardieu to hear him threaten to pull France out of the European Union's visa-free Schengen agreement unless Europe provides better protection from illegal immigration.

—Steven Erlanger, The New York Times



MIT Visiting Artist Program and Music and Theater Arts Present

JAMSHIED SHARIFI

MIT Visiting Artist and Composer-in-Residence

AWAKENING THE ARAB SPRING

A panel discussion and musical excerpts from Awakening

5:30 pm Tuesday, March 13, 2012 MIT Killian Hall

Reservation required: awakening-arab-spring.eventbrite.com Free and open to the public

AWAKENING: A WORLD PREMIERE

Performance by the MIT Wind Ensemble of a new composition by Jamshied Sharifi about the Arab Spring

8:00 pm Saturday, March 17, 2012 MIT Kresge Auditorium

Tickets: mitwe-jamshied-sharifi.eventbrite.com Free in advance for MIT community \$5 general admission or \$5 at the door

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The role of the US between Israel and Iran

After reading Friday's edition of *The Tech*, I feel compelled to respond Rachel Bandler's opinion piece, "'Never again' means never again." I believe that the column fails to take into account both the historical, geopolitical landscape and the current international environment in which the problem of a "nuclear Iran" is now set.

Although no one in the West would suggest Iran should enter the ranks of the nuclear powers, the prevailing viewpoint coming from creditable sources across journalism, security, and commentary is that Iran, while it might posture and entice, will act rationally. Additionally, the consensus stands that the Iranian government has not even decided to enter the ranks of the nuclear powers, and seeing how there exists an internal struggle between Ahmadinejad and Khamenei, it seems unlikely that a decision will not come to light in the near future. As to the idea of setting a precedent, the past military actions in Iraq and Syria to prevent their nuclear development have already shown the West's expectations of Middle Eastern regimes, and the effectiveness of this tactic is questionable in these cases.

Although the paranoia about a nuclear Iran limits the productivity of diplomacy and reason, the most troubling aspect of Bandler's "argument" lies in her

suggestion that the United Stated should help Israel in a preemptive attack. Israel does not need to worry about losing the United States' protection; the national and legislative zeitgeist here is heavily influenced by the pro-Israel lobby and a deep valuation of diplomatic ties. If Israel finds herself in true, imminent danger, the United States will be there. Unfortunately, recently, the Israeli government has chosen to exploit this good will by, for all intents and purposes, threatening to drag the United States into war. Not only does this turn the natural power dynamic on its head by subjecting the large U.S. to the whims of small Israel, but in doing so it holds American sovereignty hostage; the United States must maintain her ability to chart her own course.

Henry Skupniewicz '13

Anti-abortion legislation continues to proliferate at the state level

Hypocrisy and paternalism surround the pro-life movement

By Michael Veldman

STAFF COLUMNIST

Last spring, I wrote about the worrisome nature of the state-level, Republican-led fusillade of attacks on abortion rights. I am sad to report that the barrage has not relented. If you thought that last year's legislation was shocking, then fetch the smelling salts because this new batch might just knock you out.

In Arizona, the Senate has passed a bill

(20-9) that will protect doctors and other health care providers from "wrongful birth" lawsuits. In effect, this means that doctors can withhold information from - essentially lie to — their pregnant patients about prenatal problems such as a positive test for Tay-Sachs or Down Syndrome. Several other states have similar laws on the books. The intention, according to sponsor State Senator Nancy Barto, is to prevent lawsuits from parents who sue doctors after they find out they gave birth to a disabled child and allege that the child should not have been born. Whether or not you agree with this sentiment, note that the bill could, depending on how the language is interpreted, have much more dire consequences for people experiencing complications like ectopic pregnancy, a condition in which the pregnancy occurs outside the womb and is thus inviable, according to the NIH. Moreover, "the developing cells must be removed to save the mother's life" in such cases, which occur in 1-2.5 percent of pregnancies. These stark facts do not prevent many pro-lifers, including pro-life physicians, from condemning abortion even in the case of ectopic pregnancy - hence the

The University of Kansas is in danger of losing its obstetrics and gynecology accreditation due to a proposed bill to prevent state employees, including medical residents and professors at UK's Medical Center, from participating in abortions. Currently, abortion training is offered and can be opted out of for religious or moral reasons. Legislators are also considering levying a sales tax for

those seeking abortions, with no exception for sexual assault victims, as the Huffington Post notes. They also will not be able to deduct the cost of the abortion as a health care expense. Other portions of the bill offer similar "wrongful birth" protections as Arizona's bill and a requirement that doctors inform abortion-seekers that abortion can cause breast cancer. Never mind that the World Health Organization, the US National Cancer Institute, the American Cancer Society, and other organizations have concluded that the abortion-breast cancer hypothesis is decidedly false. Kansas is going beyond even Arizona and is considering actually mandating that doctors lie to their patients.

that frequently congregate outside.

Oklahoma senators have approved a bill that requires doctors to inform patients that they have a right to hear the fetal heartbeat before an abortion. According to author Republican Senator Dan Newberry, "[the fetus] can't say please don't kill me, it can't say I want to live," and thus this is the only way for it to communicate this desire. I was under the illusion that it went without saying that consciousness is a necessary condition for desire, but I suppose I was wrong. According to *Reuters*, organizers in Oklahoma are also gathering signatures to put a version of Mississippi's personhood amendment to ballot in November.

Anti-abortion activist Terri Herring has even called for the sole abortion-accommodating hospital to be closed because of its unfortunate aesthetic value — its windows are blacked out to protect the privacy of its patients from the protesters that frequently congregate outside.

In Mississippi, around 20 bills and constitutional amendments are being debated about this topic. Mississippi, whose citizens rejected 58 percent to 42 percent an amendment to define anything as developed as a human zygote a person, has one of the lowest abortion rates in the country and only one facility where abortions are performed. Currently, doctors must be flown in from out of state to the hospital in Jackson where they take place. Proposed legislation requires pre-abortion ultrasounds, that parental consent for minors be notarized, and that doctors performing abortions in Mississippi be licensed in the state. According to a report from Kaiser Health News and NPR, prominent Mississippi anti-abortion activist Terri Herring has even called for the sole abortion-accommodating hospital to be closed because of its unfortunate aesthetic value - its windows are blacked out to protect the privacy of its patients from the protesters

Virginia has been the subject of perhaps the greatest controversy with its proposed law that would mandate that some people seeking abortion undergo a transvaginal ultrasound, which is, as many have pointed out, nothing short of rape. A revised bill, which allows patients to opt out of this violation in favor of a less severe one, has been passed and signed by Republican Governor Bob McDonell. Virginia will thus join seven other states which require submitting pregnant women to abdominal ultrasounds before an abortion.

Family Research Council President Tony Perkins had this to say in a statement regarding the legislation: "This law is a victory for women and their unborn children. We thank Governor McDonnell and Virginia's pro-life legislators for their work to ensure that women have all the facts and will no

Abortion legislation, Page 5

CORRECTIONS

A letter from the MIT Armenian Society published on March 2 incorrectly spelled one of the author's names. He is Arsen Mamikonyan '12.

OPINION POLICY

Editorials are the official opinion of *The Tech*. They are written by the Editorial Board, which consists of Chairman Aislyn Schalck, Editor in ChiefJessica J. Pourian, Managing Editor Connor Kirschbaum, Executive Editor Ethan A. Solomon, and Opinion Editor Andy Liang.

Dissents are the signed opinions of editorial board members choosing to publish their disagreement with the editorial

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Letters, columns, and cartoons must bear the authors' signatures, addresses, and phone numbers. Unsigned letters

will not be accepted. *The Tech* reserves the right to edit or condense letters; shorter letters will be given higher priority. Once submitted, all letters become property of *The Tech*, and will not be returned. Letters, columns, and cartoons may also be posted on *The Tech*'s Web site and/or printed or published in any other format or medium now known or later that becomes known. *The Tech* makes no commitment to publish all the letters received.

Guest columns are opinion articles submitted by members of the MIT or local community.

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Abortion legislation restricts personal freedoms

Abortion legislation, from Page 4

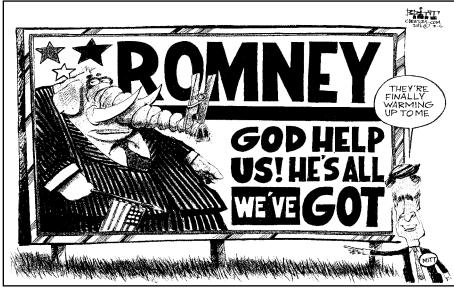
longer be kept in the dark about their pregnancies." This statement epitomizes the blatant hypocrisy, paternalism, and stupidity of the pro-life movement. This is the movement whose members place the life of an unloving, unthinking, memory-less mass of human cells above the life of a person. This is the movement that consistently denigrates women by proclaiming that a cadre of men are in a better position to make decisions about women's reproductive health than women themselves. This is the movement whose leaders and mouthpieces have demonstrated their utter ignorance of how even birth con-

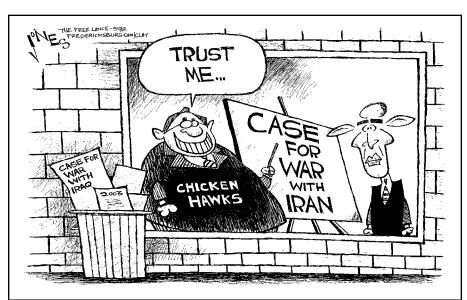
trol medication works, much less pregnancy and abortion.

Reading the statements of anti-abortion activists, legislators, and commentators, one gets the idea that they think science is some nebulous, unknowable demigod that intermittently spits out nuggets of irrefutable knowledge — knowledge that conveniently always supports their pre-existing beliefs, I might add. "Science has demonstrated" this and "science has proved" that, but never "researchers at Johns Hopkins have produced evidence" of something. One of my favorites reads: "Science has shown that a baby in the mother's womb is a human being, not a blob of tissue." That's right, you may now rest as-

sured, my dear reader, for apparently scientists have conclusively demonstrated that a fetus is most definitely not a "blob." Epitomizing the cluelessness of its members, the pro-life movement has pushed ultrasound requirements in eight states and less stringent forms in as many as 15 others; meanwhile, it has been demonstrated that viewing an ultrasound does not change the abortion decision of the pregnant person. In some cases, seeing that the fetus is indeed just a "blob" at the stage of development when most abortions take place reinforces the abortion-seekers resolve.

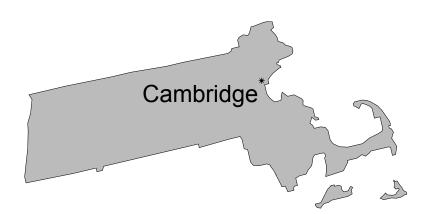
Luckily state-level abortion legislation is not uniformly awful. According to the *Sacramento Bee*, the California legislature will likely pass a law allowing non-physicians such as midwives, nurse practitioners, and physician assistants to perform a certain method of abortion dubbed "aspiration" abortion. This will make California the fifth state to make such allowances, which greatly improve access to safe abortions, especially to rural and low-income areas. But there is still little reason to celebrate. According to the Guttmacher Institute, a record 92 abortion restrictions were passed in 2011. Lacking a major revival of pro-choice activism — not just pro-choice ideals - and a recommitment of the Democratic Party to what was once, I have heard, a major plank of its platform, we could see an even more devastating 2012.











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IN YOUR COMMUNITY

Surviving, remembering, and fighting back

Members of the MIT community share stories of their participation in Relay For Life

By Kali Xu STAFF WRITER

What better reason is there to pull an allnighter than to support the worldwide fight against cancer? This weekend, over 1,000 people sacrificed a night of sleep to participate in the Relay For Life event organized by the MIT chapter of Colleges Against Cancer (CAC)

From 6 p.m. Saturday to 6 a.m. Sunday, hundreds of walkers, joggers, and a unicyclist circled around the Johnson track. In addition to the core of every Relay event — the cel-

ebratory Survivor Lap kicking off the event, the Luminaria Ceremony with hundreds of lighted glowsticks shining with hope in the darkness of the night, and the Fight Back Ceremony when participants pledge to spread awareness and take action — the night was packed with fun activities. Participants listened to guest speeches, watched performances by student a capella and dance groups, participated in group exercise activities like Zumba, and competed in ice cream eating and Red Bull paper plane contests. Teams also operated a variety of fundraising booths around the track, such as a photo

booth, massage booth, and jail-your-friends booth. During the Fight Back Ceremony at 1 a.m., a Skype session was held with Christian L. Welch '13, the student battling Hodgkin's lymphoma who is the inspiration behind the Chris Welch Support Team.

Relay For Life is the largest nationwide fundraiser for the American Cancer Society, with over \$4 billion raised since its inception. For every dollar raised by the American Cancer Society, 79 cents goes towards funding programs and services. MIT's Colleges Against Cancer group organized Relay at MIT for the first time last year and had about

600 participants, raising over \$40,000. This year, 1,030 participants on 83 teams raised over \$70,000, and donations are still being accepted online.

Out of all the charitable events held around the world, why do millions of people choose to participate in Relay? Because cancer can affect anyone. According to the American Cancer Society, in Massachusetts alone there will be 38, 470 new cancer cases in 2012. In the MIT community, there are countless students, faculty, staff, and families who have been touched by cancer in some way. Some of their stories are below.

The MIT Community Shares "Why I Relay"

Written by Joan C. Weaver '14

"I did Relay For Life in my high school sophomore, junior, and senior year. Mainly I did it because one of my best friends was one of the organizers of the event and was super into it. I would sell puppy chow to raise money and collect donations. My grandma had cancer when I was pretty young and survived, but I was very young, so I didn't realize how serious cancer is and how there are many who don't survive. One of my friends from high school had cancer his freshman year, but I only really knew him starting sophomore year. So I knew people who had cancer and survived, but I was either not at an age where it really took effect or just didn't know them until later. Nevertheless, I knew that Relay was for a very good cause.

Last year, I did Relay for similar reasons as in high school: it was a good cause, a fun event, etc. This year, I Relay for something even greater. Earlier this year I found out that one of my good friends at MIT, Chris Welch, the person who would let me complain about my week even when he had way too much work, the person who sent me a zip called DoNot-Stress, the person who would give me a hug if I was sad, the person who would come into my suite and ask for a sandwich, had Hodgkin's lymphoma. Now that I'm older, I realize that cancer is a big and serious deal. And this year, I still Relay for my grandma and my friend Rob, but I also Relay for Chris in hopes that his ending will be just like theirs: beating cancer."

Joanie C. Weaver '14 is a member of the Chris Welch Support Team.



Students from Wellesley College play a game during the Relay for Life on Saturday night. The relay was held from 6 p.m. on Saturday to 6 a.m. on Sunday in Johnson Athletic Center, and raised over \$76,000 for the American Cancer Society.

Interview with Iris E. Sheu '14

"Last year was my first Relay, and besides being a lot of fun, the event was really meaningful because I had sisters on the team who were directly affected by cancer. My uncle had leukemia, but he was really lucky in that he survived because my dad was a bone marrow match. That was so lucky; that was a really difficult time for my family. I've heard countless stories and know of people who have lost parents and other family members. I think that growing up, you shouldn't have to grow without a parent, and parents shouldn't have to see their kids go before them. So that's why I Relay.'

Iris joined Colleges Against Cancer after Relay last year, which she participated in as a member of the Pi Beta Phi team.

Sheu is the Vice President of Team Fundraising on the MIT Relay For Life Planning Committee.



The Green Building displays a bright purple ribbon hack on its tall facade Sat-

urday night in support of Relay for Life.

Interview with Jesse M. Engreitz G

"My grandmother got cancer when I was very young. I didn't really understand what was happening at the time — I just knew that this was a menace that affects a lot of people, and it had a huge effect on my family. When I was in junior high and high school, when I would talk about this, my teachers would tell me, 'oh, you should go cure cancer, you should look into that,' but I never thought that was something that I was really interested in because I didn't really understand it at the time and it seemed like such an intractable problem. But I came to realize that this was actually a huge burden and something that was really worth my time. So I Relay for my grandmother, and I Relay to help support this effort to give people hope that one day, this will not be the problem it is, that one day we'll have the cure."

A Stanford MS/BS graduate now working towards a PhD in the Harvard-MIT Division of Health Sciences and Technology, much of Engreitz's research has involved studying the molecular processes that make tumors tick. In his words, however, "that's not going to help people for many, many years. Any insights that I glean in graduate school, should they become lucky enough to actually go into practice, are still a decade away from implementation. That's why I thought Relay was a great way to get involved and help this community immediately."

Jesse Engreitz is the Vice President of Public Relations on the MIT Relay For Life Planning Committee.

Essay by Peter K. Augusciak '15

"My dad was always someone I looked up to in life, and he was a fantastic role model for me. He wouldn't let me settle for anything less than the best that I could achieve.

When I first told him I got into MIT, on December 17th, he was absolutely overjoyed. He was the happiest I'd seen in years. Little did I know that one of the most distressing days of his life had happened only about two months prior, which I wouldn't know about for another four months. Through those six months, he fought cancer with everything he had, going through pain week in and week out, all while keeping it a secret from me.

Needless to say, when I finally found out about everything my dad went through to see me graduate and row at nationals, I was both touched and distraught. I couldn't quite believe that I had been able to live in such happy ignorance for so many months, and that my dad had gone through unimaginable pain, all with the goal of seeing my accomplishments. Coming from someone whose sport (crew) is essentially who can go the longest before passing out from pain, that is a lot of pain.

As I packed up my life into three bags, I saw the day fast approaching when I would get on a plane and leave my home in Seattle for the new and strange world of MIT. It was clear that my dad was getting worse by the day, even by the hour, and I was heartbroken knowing that when I left my house to go to the airport, even under the best of circumstances, there would be little chance that I

would ever see him again. So as my mom, aunt, uncle and I all sat around the house the day before I was to leave, when things suddenly went from bad to worse, we were hardly surprised.

My dad fought a 10-month battle against advanced stomach cancer, not knowing how long he could keep it at bay. Yet, despit erything against him, he made it to the day before I left for college. He saw me all the way through to the next stage of my life. And that is what makes it impossible to overstate his importance in my life. Now, hardly a day goes by where I don't think about him, or this past summer, but I can rest easier knowing that he lived up to his goal. This is who I take my inspiration from now. If he could stay strong in the face of overwhelming odds, and achieve everything he wanted, I can only hope that I am half as strong, to be able to overcome every obstacle in my life. While it was one of the hardest summers of my life, it was also one of the most important, and looking back at the time I was able to spend with him before he died, one of my favorite.

This is why I jumped at the opportunity to sign up for Relay For Life, and why I share this story with you now, despite knowing full well that I have homework and a thousand other tasks that I need to take care of. Although early death will most likely never be eliminated from this world, it seems to me that we should look at every glimmer of hope we can find, hold on tight, and never let it go."

Augusciak is a member of the MIT Crew Relay team.

Relay For Life is about celebrating survivors, remembering lost loved ones, and fighting back against cancer.

Interview with Allegra G. Hawkins '14

"Just from my observations in the hospital, I feel like there are so many people who are affected by cancer. Not just people who have cancer, but people who aren't even directly involved are still affected by it. After going through treatment, I went to speak at an event, and when I asked everyone in the room who had had cancer or been affected by cancer to raise their hand, every single person raised their hand.

My favorite part of Relay is definitely the Luminaria Ceremony. I spoke at it last year, and the whole scene was really moving. Everyone gathers around and you listen to someone speak about the reasons to be there, why the whole night is happening. Everyone has a glowstick, and they ask you to step on the track and stack your glowstick. The first are the survivors, and then like, your mom or dad had

cancer, your brother or sister, and it keeps going until everyone is on the track. It's a walk of silence. It really helps you understand how many people are affected by cancer and how many people are doing something about it. It reminds you of why you're there, spending those 12 hours in Johnson Track."

At 15, Allegra "Ally" Hawkins was diagnosed with and treated for the aggressive cancer Burkitt's lymphoma, which is much more rare than Hodgkin's lymphoma. Only around 300 new cases are reported in the U.S. every year. After participating in Relay last year as a member of Alpha Phi's team, Hawkins joined the MIT Colleges Against Cancer group. For her, Relay is a way of giving back to all those who are still in the hospital fighting, those who didn't make it, parents, caregivers, and everyone else involved.

Hawkins is the Vice President of Activities on the MIT Relay For Life Planning Committee.

Start recycling! Dorms participate in recycling

competition, prize to be awarded

Recycle, from Page 1

Romi S. Kadri '14, also a Maseeh resident, didn't foresee students going out of their way to recycle. With MIT students leading such busy lifestyles, recycling is inevitably a lower priority," said Kadri, suggesting that "individual rewards or a credit for recycling" would give more incentive. Though the current Greenbean machine in the Student Center pays money for certain recyclables, its data is currently not used for the competition. Pai attributes this to the difficulty of dealing with students' personal Greenbean accounts and the fact that the machine is mostly used by fraternities and sororities while the competition is between dorms.

Villalon also said that most students' recycling habits are probably related to whether they recycled before coming to MIT, "If you give it a personal connection, then that's another incentive - peer pressure."

MIT's version of RecycleMania is part of a larger, 10-week intercollegiate competition sponsored by the nonprofit RecycleMania Inc. "MIT has always participated in RecycleMania, but has never placed highly," said Pai. Pai added that the UA is focusing on the inter-dorm competition as opposed to the intercollegiate competition in which MIT placed 68th last year out of 288 schools — though campuswide recycling rates will still count toward the competition. Pai also said that one of the goals of the competition is to maintain high recycling rates during and after RecycleMania.

Participation in the recycling competition involves simply placing recyclable materials in the recycling containers provided at each dorm. The UA will be posting updates on dorm rankings and recycling rates on the MIT RecycleMania website (http://web.mit. edu/recyclemania) so participants can track their dorm's progress.



The UA Committee on Sustainability publicized RecycleMania at Tuesday's UA midnight study break. They handed out cardboard recycling bins for students to use in their rooms.

Joan M. Blake

will conduct a book reading on

Standing on His Promises: Finding Comfort, Hope, and Purpose in the Midst of Your Storm

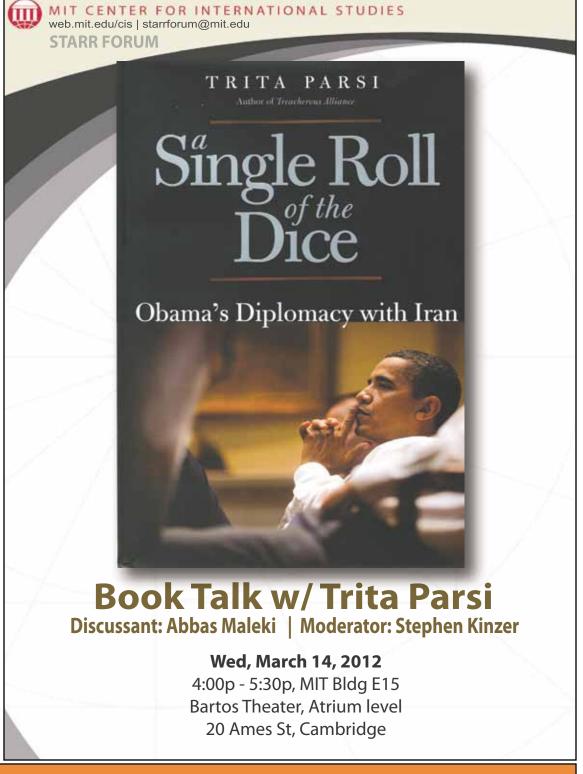
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NFUNFUNFUNFUN FUNFUNFUNFUNFU

Least Action Principle by Amanda Aparicio

MYSELF IN MATH & PHYSICS IMMERSE WHY

Equations of Description

Math & Physics

E=mc2

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If this doesn't make sense, Google it. If you don't agree, go disprove it.

Relationships*

PROB(mutual desire for a relationship) =

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where $p={1 \atop 0}$ physical attraction

n -> physical proximity

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p- politics ability to communicate $\xi \rightarrow \text{distance from current position to}$ ability to communicate $\xi \rightarrow \text{distance from current position to}$ equator

understand each other $g \rightarrow g_0$ als in life

If this doesn't make sense, it's not suppose to. If you don't agree, you're not required to.

*Can only be calculated on the 2nd Tuesday of the 3rd month every 42 years.

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*The Army Lab provides the intern's salary, which typically ranges from \$2280/month to \$2864/month depending on class year. Under certain circumstances the ISN can provide the intern with a supplement of up to \$1500 to defray costs of local accommodations and travel.

The ISN: The mission of the MIT Institute for Soldier Nanotechnologies is to dramatically enhance Soldier protection and survivability through basic research on nanotechnology and collaboration with Army and industry partners to transition promising research into practical capabilities.

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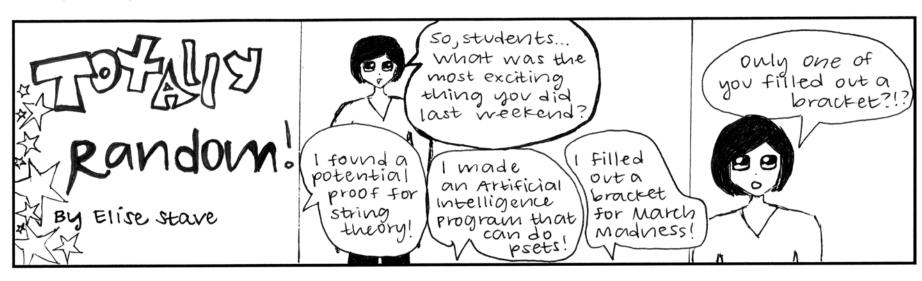
Techdoku 🖘 🗠 Sudoku

Solution, page 11

Solution, page 11

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28×		6				

TUESDAY, MARCH 13, 2012 THE TECH 9



Saturday Stumper by Brad Wilber

Solution, page 10

ACROSS

- 1 Label on many Miami Vice fashions
- 9 Declined to comment?
- 14 Mideast digestive aid
- 15 Grenada neighbor
- 16 Players will walk on it
- 17 Place with no self-service gas stations
- 18 Wine-rack selection
- 19 Big Ten team
- 21 Luna de miel participants
- 23 Barely beat, with "by"
- 24 Minor eruption
- 25 Factions
- 26 Beset by butterflies
- 28 Object
- 30 Dancer's prompter
- 31 Bjorn Borg trademark
- 35 Set out
- 37 Gardening column subject
- 38 Run up
- 40 Cobs, for example
- 42 Bag
- 44 Distinct
- 48 Opposite of 32 Down 49 Something folded in
- a closet
- 50 Less presentable, perhaps
- 52 Holding a lot
- 55 Onetime National Cartoonists Society president
- 56 Isn't a fad
- 57 Component of some clogs
- 59 Martin's boss in The Pink Panther 2
- 60 Sci-fi staple
- 61 What the mosttraveled migrants
- 62 Climbing hurdle

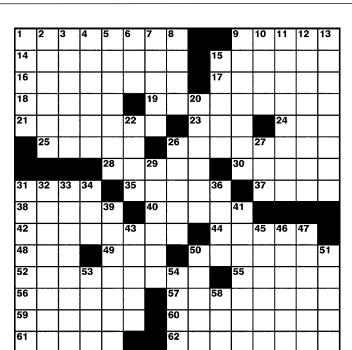
DOWN

- 1 Diary features 2 Frees
- 3 Russian : Vanya :: Italian:_ 4 CBS' "Poet in

Residence"

- 5 Visibly discomfited
- 6 Some March Madness finishes
- 7 Escapes gradually
- 8 Surfeit
- 9 Nibbles
- 10 "Ha!"
- 11 Round holder
- 12 Sources of annoying wind
- 13 Suggestion dismissal
- 15 Hasbro subsidiary
- 20 Signal-carrying, in a way
- 22 Making a crossing
- 26 Dietary guideline source 27 Plan, with "out"
- 29 Interpol agent of filmdom
- 31 Dove-releasing event
- 32 Comradely
- 33 Major Chicago tourist attraction

- 34 Stuttgart-to-Munich direction
- 36 History test answer, maybe
- 39 "A lousy teacher," per Bill Gates
- 41 Channel name shortened in 2006
- 43 Assurance
- 45 Blu-ray with the featurette "The Plane Behind the Legend"
- 46 They're thrown from horses
- 47 Contractor's projections
- 50 The Sun, for one
- 51 "Made in Chocolate Town" sloganeer
- 53 Royal Jordanian Airlines destination
- 54 DoD branch
- 58 "Maid of Athens, __ we part . . .": Byron







MacVicar Day 2012

Innovations in Undergraduate Education at MIT: Past, Present, and Future

In the Tradition of Margaret MacVicar and Robert Silbey

Friday, March 16, 2012, Bartos Theater, E15-070

Refreshments: 2:30 PM Symposium: 3:00 – 5:00 PM

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TUESDAY, MARCH 13, 2012 10 THE TECH

US officials debate speeding up Afghan withdrawal

Obama administration discusses reduced forces due to recent incidents in Afghanistan

By Helene Cooper and Eric Schmitt THE NEW YORK TIMES

WASHINGTON - The Obama administration is discussing whether to reduce U.S. forces in Afghanistan by at least an additional 20,000 troops, possibly more, by 2013, reflecting a growing belief within the White House that the mission there has reached the point of diminishing

Accelerating the withdrawal of

United States forces has been under consideration for weeks by senior White House officials but those discussions are now taking place in the context of two significant setbacks to U.S. efforts in Afghanistan — the killings on Sunday of Afghan civilians by a U.S. Army staff sergeant and the violence touched off by last month's burning of Qurans by U.S. troops.

Administration officials cautioned on Monday that no decisions on additional troop cuts have been made, and in an interview President Barack Obama reaffirmed his commitment to the Afghan mission, warning against "a rush for the exits" amid questions about the U.S. war strategy. "It's important for us to make sure that we get out in a responsible way, so that we don't end up having to go back in," Obama said in an interview with KDKA in Pittsburgh.

The United States now has just under 90,000 troops in Afghanistan, with 22,000 of them due home by September. There has been no schedule set for the withdrawal of the remaining 68,000 U.S. troops, although Obama said last year that the drawdown would continue "at a steady pace" until the United States handed over security to the Afghan forces in 2014.

At least three options are under consideration, according to officials at the White House, the Pentagon and the State Department. One plan, backed by Thomas E. Donilon, the national security adviser, would be to announce that at least 10,000 more troops would come home by the end of December, and then 10,000 to 20,000 more by June 2013.

Vice President Joe Biden has been pushing for a bigger withdrawal that would reduce the bulk of the troops around the same time the mission shifts to a support role, leaving behind Special Operations teams to conduct targeted raids.

Any accelerated withdrawal would face stiff opposition from military commanders, who want to keep the bulk of the remaining U.S. troops in Afghanistan until the end of 2014, when the NATO mission in Afghanistan is supposed to end.

Their resistance puts Obama in a quandary, as he balances how to hasten what is increasingly becoming a messy withdrawal while still painting a portrait of success for NATO allies and the American people.

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Solution to Crossword

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Advisory **Group public** forums

Tuesday March 13 -Ashdown House, Hulsizer Room, 9 p.m.

Thursday March 15 -Walker Memorial, Pritchett Dining Hall, 50-258, 6 p.m.

Monday March 19 — 5-134, 12 p.m.

Tuesday March 20 — 3-442, 12 p.m.

Tuesday March 20 — E51-376, 5:30 p.m.

Thursday March 22 — Student Center, Lobdell, 7:30 p.m.

Source: http://gsc.mit.edu/ mit-president-search/

THE TECHNOLOGY AND CULTURE FORUM AT MIT PRESENTS

TUESDAY, MARCH 13 7:00PM-9:00PM IN 6-120

MINDING THE GA

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Join David Autor and his colleagues Frank Levy, Arjun Jayadev, and Peter Diamond for a candid exploration of the complexities of the increasing wealth gap in the U.S. In the light of what they all agree is a serious problem, David will invite these distinguished scholars to think together about where we go from here, and why.

For more information, visit: http://web.mit.edu/tac









David Autor

Peter Diamond

Arjun Jayadev

Frank Levy

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Tech and religion at Veritas Forum

Veritas Forum, from Page 1

to develop new technologies, and said, "It's less about the hardware and more about the intangible." The intangible includes hope, which Gómez-Márquez said is especially important in poorer countries with fewer resources.

"It's about the confidence of knowing that at a certain point, you don't have all the answers," he said, "and you have to rely upon something bigger yourself." For Gómez-Márquez, that something is found in his Christian faith. He admits, "It's really not about what I can do. It's about what the God that I believe in can do through me."

Barbastathis agreed that technology could help people, but that its benefits to society were decided by the choices that members of society made. He observed that many technologies can be both used for good and for evil, and posed the question, "How do you judge how you use technology?"

Barbastathis believes that the answer lies in the "decency [of humans] to decide what is good for each other provided we have some sort of basic covenant." He explored the implications of sharing technology and scientific knowledge in light of this potential for either good or evil, and noted that hopefully through the sharing of information, those who are in it for good will always stay a step ahead of those who use it for harm. He concluded by stating, "I don't know to what degree the world needs saving, but I think that technology can make it a better

Picard opened her talk by asking, "What are the world's hardest problems and what is the promise

of technology to solve them?" Describing the benefits of autism research and the technology that has been developed to help autistic individuals, Picard noted that while the technology is good, it cannot cure people of autism. Picard then posed the question of whether curing people of autism was the best thing for them, noting that many patients that she speaks with ask not for a cure that will change who they are, but for a way to cope with their autism.

"We have to be very careful and humble when we think we know what is best," Picard said, "especially when it involves other people." Like the other speakers, Picard also discussed the potential benefits and harms that are possible through the use of technology. Even everyday technology such as cell phones can be used for both good and for great harm depending on who is using it.

So what do we look to in life? "I want to build great technology to help our world," Picard said, "and I want to give of whatever I have to help people in need. I delight in this work." But, she said, the meaning of life is in knowing a God whom she believes does have the answers and can save the world.

During the question and answer session that followed the talks, the panelists were asked, "We've all admitted to the limits of technology, and in that sense, perhaps technology will not save the world, where does our hope lie?" Barbastathis answered, "In ourselves," while Gómez-Márquez said, "Beyond ourselves — in the Christian God." Silbey commented, "In our youth," and Picard concluded, "In our youth, in ourselves, but all of us informed by a God who knows more than we do and loves all the people in the world"

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Hugh Joseph is a Research Associate at the Turks Friedman School of Nutrition Science and Policy. He has over 30 years of experience developing community-based food, agriculture and nutrition programs, and in 1998 Joseph founded the New Entry Sustainable Farming Froject, a farming initiative for immigrant or refugee beginning farmers.



Samuel Loewenberg is a journalist who covers foreign affairs, politics, culture, business, health, and poverty. Currently the Nieman Foundation Global Health Reporting Fellow at Harvard University, Loewenberg has reported from across the globe, and his articles have appeared in numerous publications, including The Economist and The New York Times.



Susan Murcott is a Senior Lecturer at MIT who specializes in water and sanitation in developing countries. In 1999, Murcott founded the "Clean Water for 1 Billion People" initiative to improve water and sanitation conditions in partner communities. In recent years she has focused on wastewater treatment in large cities.



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Solution to Techdoku

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ATHLETE OF THE WEEK: CURTIS WU '14

Tennis, teammates, and thermodynamics

An interview with the NEWMAC Men's Tennis Rookie of the Year on life at MIT

By Nidharshan Anandasivam

Curtis Wu '14 is a Course 10 (Chemical Engineering) sophomore on the MIT Varsity Tennis Team. He has won numerous awards for his tennis prowess over the years; excelling as one of the premiere players on both his high school and college varsity teams. During high school, Curtis won the Empire League individual championship all four years and led his team to four straight league titles and the California Interscholastic Federation Finals. As a freshman on the MIT varsity tennis team, Curtis became NEWMAC Rookie of the Year and first team All-NEWMAC. His win total is the second highest on the

Even with such dedication to the sport, Curtis has many loves besides tennis. He loves to snowboard, bowl, cook, draw, find new restaurants in Boston to satisfy his perpetual hunger, and do random and spontaneous things. After mentioning his love for rain, Curtis said that he hoped to move to Seattle or Sweden later on in life.

The Tech sat down with Curtis to discuss life as a student-athlete on the MIT Varsity Tennis Team.

The Tech: What initially got you into tennis? Did you do this competitively at an

Curtis Wu: My dad was the one who got me into tennis. He wanted me to play at a competitive level and I started training at the age of 10 (which is actually pretty late). By the time I was fourteen, I was playing in national tournaments and was highly ranked in the Southern California region and the nation. When I turned 16, I started traveling all across the country playing high-level national tournaments. I played in Hawaii, Utah, Michigan, Florida, Texas, New York, and many other states.

TT: What do you like most about the MIT Tennis team?

CW: I love being able to travel to other universities to play away matches and getting to know my teammates better. But I think the best part of traveling is all the cool places that we get to stop at to eat. It's always interesting finding new hole-in-thewall restaurants in some obscure place.

TT: Describe some of the interesting aspects of life as a member of the tennis

CW: The team is composed of 18 dedicated players. It's awesome getting to know each and every one of them, whether that be at practice or a match. But the best part is traveling. Every fall, a handful of us (~4) register for an ITA tournament at Williams College. The drive over there is a ton of fun because we just joke, and sleep, and laugh, and even sometimes work on p-sets, but all the while, we anxiously await arrive at our destination because we know exactly where we'll be staying for the weekend. We always reserve this tiny house behind a motel. It's owned and rented out by the motel, but it's literally a house that has smaller proportions than a normal house. There's a pool out back (god forbid anyone goes in there) that's about the size of a hot tub. We always joke about this house because it's so strange but it's become a



CANDACE WU

Curtis Wu '14 prepares to swing a forehand.

tradition for us when we travel to Williams and it provides us with a sense of comfort for our upcoming matches.

TT: What's your favorite tennis shot? CW: I would have to say that my favorite shot is my two-handed forehand. I generally use a one-handed forehand (most players use this) but I started working on hitting a two-handed forehand when I saw someone use it two years ago. It's a lot of fun to use because it is really effective and usually catches my opponent off guard. Plus, it looks really cool.

TT: How do you find a balance between classes and sports at MIT?

CW: Admittedly, it's difficult. My time management skills could probably use a bit of work but the tennis coach is always flexible and the great thing about tennis is that it doesn't take a whole lot of people to go out and practice. I can always schedule a practice session on the weekend or whenever I'm free during the week.

TT: What is the most enjoyable or most intense class that you're taking right now?

CW: 10.213 — Chemical and Biological Engineering Thermodynamics. It is my favorite because the people in that class are awesome. It is intense because we just had a devastatingly hard midterm.

Basketball earns first-ever trip to national semifinals

By Shri Ganeshram

SPORTS STAFF

After two wins last weekend, MIT's Men's Basketball team



earned itself a trip to Salem, Va. to play in the Final Four round of the NCAA Division III Tournament for the first time in program history.

MIT beat Staten Island 83-67 and Franklin & Marshall 69-54 to secure its spot in the Final Four.

MIT dominated the first half in its Sweet Sixteen game against

Staten Island. The game started close, with neither team able to earn an early lead. With Staten Island up 10-9 with 14:38, MIT turned on its defense, managing a 10-0 run in less than four minutes. Mitchell H. Kates '13 and James D. Karraker '12 exchanged threes to help MIT maintain its lead. The Engineers ended the first half ahead, 44-30.

MIT coasted through the second half of the game, keeping Staten Island from catching up. The Engineers ended the game 83-67. Their shooting performance was incredible, shooting 53.3 percent from the field and a high 54.5 percent from beyond the arc. Karraker scored 25 points, on seven of 10 3-point shooting. Kates led the team in scoring, with 29 points, five of eight from 3-point range, four steals, and five assists. William Tashman '13 managed a double-double, with 11 points and 13 rebounds. Noel Hollingsworth '12 also had a good game, with 13 points and eight rebounds.

MIT played well in its Elite Eight game at Franklin & Marshall (F&M), who defeated No. 2 ranked Amherst in the Sweet Sixteen. The Engineers started slowly, down 5-9 at 14:11. After three consecutive 3-pointers, MIT turned the game around, taking a 14-9 lead against F&M. The Engineers ended the half with a strong 30-23 lead. F&M was able to reduce MIT's lead to eight with 1:14 left in the second half. The last minute was a free-throw shooting contest; MIT starting with an eight-point advantage had no trouble holding on to the lead, winning 69-54.

The Engineers once again had a strong performance from the outside range, shooting nine of 16. Karraker led the 3-point performance, scoring 17 points on five of 10 3-point shooting. Kates led the offense with 21 points and eight assists; Kates also managed to steal the ball from the opposition three times. Hollingsworth almost had a double-double with nine rebounds and 17 points. MIT managed to hold a strong F&M to only 38.3 percent shooting. The Engineers truly performed at a championship level, playing well on both ends of the court.

The Engineers will next be playing Friday, March 16 against Wisconsin-Whitewater in Salem, Va. in the NCAA Division III Final Four semifinals. The winner of that game will then play the winner of the Cabrini-Illinois Wesleyan game in the finals.

Men's and Women's Track and Field compete in DIII Nationals

By Greg McKeever

the women are 22nd after the first day of of seniors Jamie L. Simmons and Martha



the NCAA Division III Indoor Track & Field championship at Grinnell College. Bolstered by three All-America performances, the men totaled 11 points while the women scored in

one event Friday and currently have four

Senior Nathan E. Peterson had the top individual showing of the day, placing fifth in the pole vault. Peterson was one of four athletes to vault 16-3.25 feet and earned fourth on total attempts.

Senior Chinedum K. Umachi landed on the All-America podium thanks to his sixth-place showing in the weight throw with a 61-11.75-foot effort.

Both of MIT's distance medley relay squads earned points for the Engineers, as the men's and women's groups each collected fifth-place finishes. The men's

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group of sophomores Justin L. Bullock and Tyler S. Singer-Clark, and juniors Kyle J. Hannon and Patrick K. Marx, ran a time of The MIT men sit in fourth place while 10:02.41. The women's squad — consisting M Gross conhomore Louise E van den Heuvel, and freshman Cindy Y. Huang also took fifth in 11:53.85.

In preliminary heats, Portia M. Jones '12 earned a spot in the final of the 60-meter hurdles, beating out the ninth-place finisher by 0.001 seconds. Four athletes were separated by less than one one-hundredth of a second for the final spot in the championship heat, including Jacqueline A. Brew '14.

Also competing on Friday were Samuel G. Parker '15, who placed 13th in the 800-meter, and Lauren B. Kuntz '13, who took 13th in the pole vault.

Simmons and Jones failed to qualify for the finals during the 400-meter prelims.

Set to compete on Saturday for Tech will be Elaine D. McVay '15 in the 5000 meter, as well as the men's and women's 4x400-meter relays and Jones' final of the 60-meter hurdles.

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UPCOMING HOME EVENTS

Tuesday, March 13

Women's Lacrosse vs. Williams College

Softball vs. Simmons College Wednesday, March 14

Baseball vs. Wentworth Institute of Technology

7:00 p.m., Steinbrenner Stadium 4:00 p.m., Briggs Field

3:30 p.m., Briggs Field

Baseball shuts out Gordon College, 10-0, for first victory of 2012 season

By Phil Hess

DAPER STAFF

MIT used a 16-hit, 10-run offensive attack this afternoon that lifted the En-



gineers to a 10-0 win over Gordon College. MIT picked up home runs from Bryan A. Macomber '12 and Parker A. Tew '15 and six strong innings from Kyle J. Parent '15 as the Engineers claimed

their first win of the season.

Tew, who had three hits on the day, drove in the first run of the game for MIT (1-2) with a second-inning single that brought home Mangrum, who had singled and stole second. Tew then made it 2-0 with a solo shot in the fourth, his first of

That was all the offense that Parent would need as he scattered a pair of hits and a walk over his six innings, striking out

six. After he departed the game, MIT broke the contest open with seven runs in the seventh. The Engineers used a single and a hit batter to put a pair on with one down. Macomber then followed with a three-run home run to make it 6-0. The Engineers added an unearned run on a Gordon error before junior Ricardo J. Perez singled home to more to make it 9-0. MIT finished the scoring in the frame when Swanson hit into a fielders choice with the bases loaded.

Perez drove in his third run of the day with a sac fly in the eighth to close out the scoring. MIT got a scoreless inning each from Brandon Lowe '14, Timothy M. Wilson '14, and Philip M. Reiser '15 out of the bullpen to preserve the shutout.

MIT will be back in action on Saturday when the Engineers will play a doubleheader against Trinity College in a pair of games that will be played at Central Connecticut State University starting at 11 a.m.