MIT's Oldest and Largest Newspaper

tech.mit.edu



WEATHER, p. 2

SAT: 70°F | 57°F Chance of showers

SUN: 57°F | 51°F Showers likely

Volume 132, Number 19 Friday, April 20, 2012

# **Postdoc** found dead in jail cell

Arrested in Colo. for arranging sex with minors

> By Anne Cai NEWS EDITOR

Yaron Segal, arrested on March 28 for allegedly arranging a sexual encounter with minors, died on Friday, April 13. An Israeli national, Segal was a postdoc in MIT's Photovoltaic Research Lab (PVLab) and had received his PhD in physics from Yale last year.

Segal was found unresponsive in his cell, hanging from a homemade noose, at the Federal Correctional Institution in Englewood, Colorado, at 12:49 p.m. last Friday, according to John Sell, the facility's spokesperson. There is an ongoing investigation regarding the circumstances of his death.

In light of his death, all three counts of indictment against Segal were dismissed on Tuesday, and the criminal case was closed.

"He was well-respected among his peers as a brilliant, creative, and

Segal, Page 21

# LN2 ice cream returns for CPW



JOSEPH MAURER—THE TECH

The residents of East Campus Second West make liquid nitrogen ice cream Thursday evening outside of the Z-Center during their annual CryoFAC event. They served several exotic ice cream flavors, including green tea, sea salt, and lemon.

# Craighead/Walsh win by a hair UA insider ticket wins closest race in recent memory

By Ethan A. Solomon

EXECUTIVE EDITOR

In what was the closest election in recent memory, Jonté D. Craighead '13 and Michael P. Walsh '13 were elected Undergraduate Association (UA) president and vice president last Friday.

Craighead and Walsh fended off a strong UA-outsider campaign waged by Naren P. Tallapragada '13 and Andrew C. Yang '13, taking 683 first-place votes compared to

Tallapragada/Yang's 667. The UA uses a preferential voting system in which students rank tickets; weaker tickets are successively eliminated and those votes go to

**UA Election, Page 20** 

# **IN SHORT**

Drop date is next Thursday. Make sure you get your forms signed by your advisor before then!

Summer housing applications are due next Wednesday.

April housing lottery results are available today.

Attention Freshmen! You've got one more week to declare your major! You must declare a departmental major or declare Undesignated Sophomore by next Friday.

MIT's American Red Cross Team and Network will be sponsoring a blood drive on Monday from 1–6 p.m., Tuesday from 8 a.m.-6 p.m., and Wednesday from 1–6 p.m. in La Sala at the Student Center. For more information, visit http://web.mit.edu/blood-drive/www/.

The MIT Bookstore will hold a loading dock sale tomorrow and Sunday.

Check out MIT's student groups at the Activities Midway on Saturday from 1–3 p.m. in the Johnson Athletic Center.

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

# **OBITUARY** Phyo Kyaw '10 Remembered for his smile

Friends share memories of Phyo N. Kyaw '10 on April 7 at a memorial service and release balloons over the Charles River to symbolize their loss.

By Jingyun Fan

CONTRIBUTING EDITOR

Phyo N. Kyaw '10, 23, died on Dec. 27 in a traffic accident while riding his bicycle at the intersection of Vassar Street and Massachusetts Avenue. At the time of his death, he was working as a research scientist

at Cambridge-based Soane Labs. Kyaw received an SB in chemical-biological engineering, Course 10B, in 2010.

"Clearly you don't want this to happen to anyone," said his friend Ye Yao '11. "But ... why did it have to be him?'

Phyo came to MIT in 2006, from Yangon, in the Southeast Asian nation of Myanmar. In his freshman year, Phyo joined the Experimental Study Group and became a brother at the Sigma Nu fraternity. He gradually got involved with other communities, like Camp Kesem - a summer program for children

Phyo, Page 17

# Hope for Alcator C-Mod

The U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Appropriations met Wednesday to discuss the energy and water appropriations bill - the same one that proposed to cut funding to MIT's Alcator C-Mod for fiscal year 2013.

Alcator C-Mod is MIT's tokamak reactor, a toroidal plasma confinement fusion device that is a critical part of fusion research at MIT. It is one of only three such machines in the United States.

A recommendation from the Department of Energy suggested cuts for the domestic fusion program for FY 2013 including Alcator. A statement to the committee from Chairman Rodney Frelinghuysen suggests that Alcator may not be cut for next year.

"Funding for American innovation and competitiveness lso receives priority treat ment," Frelinghuysen said, "Within science research, funding for the domestic fusion program is restored to last year's level, and the international fusion program is increased to come closer to our commitments."

The budget for nuclear energy will remain at last year's level of about \$90 million, he

While this statement does not guarantee that C-Mod will be around next year, there seems to be a chance.

-Jessica J. Pourian

# DAY OF SILENCE

Students around campus speak about being silent.

OPINION, p. 4

# **Share your CPW** experiences with The Tech!

Tweet us with hashtag #mittechCPW or comment on our Facebook page.





# THE 116TH ANNUAL **BOSTON MARATHON**

Over 22,600 runners participated in the famous race. PHOTO, p. 14

# **CPW IS UPON US!**

Meet 16 '16s. NEWS, p. 12

# **SECTIONS**

World & Nation	2
Opinion	4
Arts	7
Fun Pages	8
Sports	23

# Romney campaign set to expand for fall election

 $\operatorname{BOSTON}-\operatorname{Mitt}$  Romney's nondescript base camp on the outskirts of the North End of Boston has until now seemed too large for his presidential campaign — roughly 15,000 square feet of space on the first floor has sat largely empty and unused, even during Romney's first presidential bid in 2008.

But that cavernous area, which once housed a Roche-Bobois furniture store, will soon fill with the speed of a hot high-tech startup as Romney, now the presumptive Republican nominee, prepares for the general election. His staff of 87 full-time employees will balloon to more than 400 people in the coming weeks, aides said, and his convention team of 55 will nearly triple to 150 full-timers by the actual event in Tampa, Fla., in late August.

In short order, the campaign will need to raise money aggressively, build up offices in swing states, reach out to conservatives and moderates and hone its anti-Obama message while introducing Romney to large swaths of the country.

Romney has sold himself to voters as a problem-solver and an experienced executive, and some of those skills will be put to the test in a matter of weeks as he transforms his insular, tightknit political team into a full-scale national campaign prepared to compete with President Barack Obama's vaunted political operation. Romney's headquarters, for instance, looks spendthrift compared with Obama's campaign office, at the prestigious address of One Prudential Plaza in downtown Chicago.

-Ashley Parker, The New York Times

# Ford plans an extensive factory expansion in China

BEIJING - Ford Motor has chosen China for its largest factory expansion program in a half-century, announcing Thursday that it would build a \$760 million assembly plant in Hangzhou, two weeks after announcing a \$600 million plan to expand in Chongqing and less than six weeks after completing an assembly plant in Chongqing.

Ford is late to China's party, and its new factories will open in a slowing, increasingly competitive Chinese market. Rapid factory construction in China is a throwback to the company's last big factory building campaign in the 1950s, when models like the Thunderbird captured the hearts and wallets of young Americans and when Ford was racing to increase capacity in postwar Europe, Australia and South Africa.

Auto sales in China rose just 2.5 percent last year to 18.5 million after a decade of double-digit annual growth. Sales were down 1.3 percent in the first quarter of this year from a year earlier, the first quarter to show a decline in seven years, according to official figures.

-Keith Bradsher, The New York Times

# Microsoft beats estimates as Windows makes a stand

SEATTLE — Microsoft is facing some of its biggest challenges with the rise of smartphones and the iPad, but one of its stalwarts of the personal computer era showed there is still life left in its main business.

Microsoft said Thursday that sales of its flagship software product for PCs, the Windows operating system, rose 4 percent in the quarter. Analysts were expecting a drop in the business because of broader industry data showing weakness in the personal computer business. Gartner, a technology research firm, recently estimated that worldwide PC shipments had grown only 1.9 percent in the quarter.

There is speculation within the technology industry that the supremacy of the PC is over and that Microsoft's influence is waning along with it. Executives at Apple have boasted that the explosive growth in sales of the iPad and the iPhone are evidence of the arrival of a post-PC era.

—Nick Wingfield, The New York Times

# Dozens killed in wave of attacks across Iraq

By Tim Arango THE NEW YORK TIMES

BAGHDAD — A string of deadly explosions and other attacks shook Iraq on Thursday, with bombings in Baghdad and the northern city of Kirkuk resulting in the most fatalities.

Overall, nearly three dozen people were killed and more than 100 wounded, according to security officials.

By the standards of Iraq — where attacks occur daily, although at a much diminished rate compared with the height of the war - the wave of violence Thursday was not extraordinary. But it was a reminder, after weeks of relative calm, that an organized insurgency remained active. A series of explosions in the village of Al-Malhaa, on the outskirts of Kirkuk, left nine people dead and 24 wounded, according to an official in Kirkuk, a city divided among three ethnic groups often at odds with one another: Arabs, Kurds and Turkmen.

In Baghdad, nearly 15 people were killed in a handful of explosions, including one on Palestine Street aimed at the convoy of the minister of health, Majeed Hamad Amin. He was unharmed, but two bystanders were killed, an official said.

Some bombs were directed at Shiite Muslims, who make up the majority of Iraq's population and are frequently the victims of what is left of the country's Sunni insurgency and its main group, al-Qaida in Iraq. A hotel in Kadhimiya, a Baghdad neighborhood that is home to an important Shiite shrine, was struck by a car bomb. The attack killed two people at the hotel, where Shiite pilgrims from Iran often stay.

In Samarra, north of Baghdad, two car bombs hit a checkpoint guarded by members of a local Awakening group, part of the movement that is made up of former insurgents who were paid to switch sides under a program that was begun by the U.S. military. In that attack, three people were killed and six were wounded.

Several attacks also occurred in Diyala province, which is east of Baghdad and was the site of some of the worst carnage during Iraq's sectarian war in 2006 and 2007. A suicide bomber struck the home of a military official, killing one person and wounding five others.

Nearly four months have passed since the withdrawal of the U.S. military, and despite the attacks Thursday, security has not deteriorated, as many analysts contended it would. By some Iraqi government measures, which have been widely reported by the news media, March was one of the least violent months since 2003, when the U.S.-led war began.

But according to statistics cited by the United Nations, violence has actually remained steady, and similar to the levels over the past three years. In March, according to those statistics, 294 people were killed in attacks, slightly higher than in February and comparable to many months

While the security situation has been somewhat stable, the political situation has deteriorated in recent months. On Thursday, a dispute that pits the Shiite-led government against the country's Kurdish minority appeared to be quickly escalating. Last year Kurdish authorities in the north entered their own exploration deal with Exxon Mobil, a pact that Baghdad has said is illegal.

# With elections days away, Sarkozy's outlook grows dim

By Steven Erlanger

PARIS — The candidate — energetic, bold, indefatigable — is sure he will win, aides say, as he pulls energy from his big crowds.

'Take your destiny in your hands!" Nicolas Sarkozy shouted to the 100,000 or so who came to the Place de la Concorde to see him Sunday. "People of France! Don't have fear! They will not win if you decide that you will win!'

But the team around him has quietly started to have doubts about victory and is debating the best strategy to try to overcome serious

Sarkozy is in deep trouble and is looking, for now, as if he could be the first one-term French president since 1981. He appears to be running neck and neck with his main challenger, the Socialist candidate Francois Hollande, in the first round of voting Sunday, when 10 candidates are competing. But all the opinion polls show Sarkozy losing to Hollande in a face-off two weeks later.

His possible defeat carries implications that would radiate far beyond Paris. Sarkozy has had contentious but valuable relationships with Chancellor Angela Merkel of Germany, a fellow conservative, on European and eurozone issues; with the British on defense issues, including the Libyan war; and with President Barack Obama on issues involving Iran and Israel, NATO and

A victory by even a centrist Socialist like Hollande, who has advocated higher taxes on the rich and a greater emphasis on growth over austerity, would create immediate strains with Germany and rattle financial markets that are already nervous about the size of France's debt. Hollande has also said that he wants to pull French troops out of Afghanistan sooner than NATO has agreed to do. Still, he says that his first visit abroad would be to Berlin. no matter how chilly the reception.

Sarkozy faces an electoral dilemma that is inherently tactical. Presuming he gets through to the runoff May 6, does he continue to run to the right, or move to the center? And will it make enough of a difference anyway in a nation that admires what he promised at the beginning of his term five years ago - a "rupture" with the past — but not what he has delivered, which is a stagnant economy and unemployment at its highest level in 12 years?

Even more troubling for Sarkozy, the polls indicate that many French simply do not like him - his negative ratings are high — and that many of them will vote in the second round for the bland Hollande or simply stay home rather than see Sarkozy back in the Elysee Palace for another five years.

# Unusual warmth easing toward cool, rainy weather

By Roman S. Kowch STAFF METEOROLOGIST

Dry, warm weather will continue for New England through today. Temperatures, however, will not be as abnormally high as they were earlier this week. While many probably thought last Monday's weather was pleasant, runners in the Boston Marathon were probably less satisfied. According to USA Today, roughly 2,500 of the over 20,000 participants sought medical attention for heat-related illness. Although humidity levels were moderate that day, high temperatures reaching the upper 80°F (30-32°C) were the main concern for the athletes.

New England's weather will turn cool and rainy through the weekend. Two areas of low pressure should swing past the region, pushing out a high-pressure ridge that provided this week's recordbreaking warmth. The thermometer will plunge by late weekend with highs reaching only the mid-50s°F (12-14°C) on Sunday as Canadian air spills into New England.

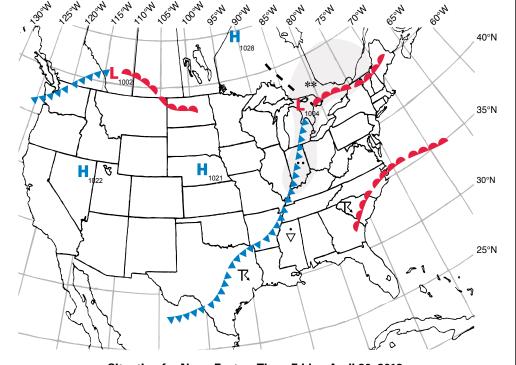
# **Extended Forecast**

Today: Sunny. High 74°F (23°C). S wind at 10-15 mph.

Tonight: Increasing clouds. Low 57°F (14°C). S wind at 5-10 mph. Saturday: Chance of showers, more likely by evening. High 70°F (21°C). S wind at 10-15 mph.

Sunday: Showers likely. High near 57°F (14°C). Low near 51°F

Monday: Windy with showers. High near 55°F (13°C). Low near 46°F (8°C).



### Situation for Noon Eastern Time, Friday, April 20, 2012 Precipitation Symbols Other Symbols

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# UN chief says Syria is failing to adhere to peace plan

By Neil MacFarquhar and Rick Gladstone

THE NEW YORK TIMES

BEIRUT — The secretary-general of the United Nations gave a dark appraisal of the Syria conflict Thursday, accusing its government of failing to carry out nearly every element of the peace plan that took effect a week ago, obstructing work by an advance team of cease-fire monitors and doing nothing to alleviate an intensifying humanitarian crisis on the ground.

The appraisal, made at the United Nations by Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, came as new pressure on the Syria government was looming from Paris, where U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton, attending a meeting of the Friends of Syria coalition of countries seeking to aid the Syrian opposition, called for a new Security Council resolution to enforce sanctions on President Bashar Assad's government.

In her remarks, Clinton acknowledged such a resolution was likely to be vetoed by Russia, a staunch supporter of Assad, but that even Russia

had recognized "that we are not in a static situation but a deteriorating

She also hinted at a possible NATO role in the conflict because of Syrian shelling last week across the border into Turkey, a NATO member, where thousands of Syrian refugees and armed anti-Assad groups have sought sanctuary. She said Turkey had discussed such an option at a NATO ministerial meeting in Brussels this week. Under an article in the NATO treaty, an attack on one member can be construed to be an attack on all.

In a statement from the Paris meeting, the Friends of Syria group, which includes the United States, France, Britain, Saudi Arabia and Turkey, said if the peace plan failed, "the U.N. Security Council and international community would have to look at other options."

The developments amounted to a ramping up of rhetoric aimed at pressuring Assad, but it was unclear if it would force him to change his behavior in seeking to crush his opponents in the conflict, in which more than 9,000 people have been

killed.

Ban said an initial lull in violence between Syrian forces and anti-government fighters had all but disappeared. Nonetheless, Ban told reporters at the United Nations that he had recommended that the Security Council authorize sending up to 300 military observers to Syria to act as cease-fire monitors.

He also said the Syrian authorities had assured him that these observers would have freedom of movement throughout all areas of the country affected by the 13-month-old uprising against Assad.

"For the mission to succeed, we require the Syrian government's full cooperation, particularly in ensuring the full freedom of movement and unfettered access and safety and security of personnel, as well as the use of key enabling assets such as helicopters and other transportation," Ban said.

But he also said the issue of transportation, as well as the nationalities of the cease-fire observers themselves, had not yet been resolved with the Syrian government.

# British police arrest three in phone hacking inquiry

By J. David Goodman

THE NEW YORK TIMES

British police arrested three people Thursday as part of an inquiry into accusations of bribery stemming from the news gathering and corruption scandal that has engulfed Rupert Murdoch's media empire, police said, bringing to 46 the number of arrests during more than a year of investigations.

The arrests came as a separate judicial investigation into the behavior of journalists at Murdoch's British newspapers said that he and his son James would testify in separate appearances before the panel next week.

Police did not identify the suspects but described them in a statement as a 36-year-old man living in Kent, arrested on suspicion of conspiracy to corrupt a public official; a 42-year-old former member of the armed forces in Lancashire, arrested on suspicion of misconduct in a public office; and a 38-year-old

woman living at the same address in Lancashire, suspected of aiding in that misconduct. The police said they were searching both residences.

Murdoch's company, the News Corp., said one of its journalists at The Sun tabloid had been among those arrested Thursday, though no name was given, news agencies reported. British news media identified the journalist as Duncan Larcombe, 36, the paper's royal editor.

Nine others at the newspaper were arrested earlier this year, dragging The Sun, the country's best-selling daily, onto the main stage from the fringes of the newsgathering scandal that led to the closing last year of its sister tabloid, The News of the World.

Information provided by a special team created by News Corp. to investigate accusations of wrongdoing led to the arrests Thursday, police said. The previous arrests at the paper were also aided by information given to the police

by the company's team, known as the Management and Standards Committee.

So far, police said, 26 people have been arrested and questioned in the investigation into corruption and bribery. Another 20 have been arrested in separate inquiries into phone and computer hacking by journalists at News Corp.'s British news operation, News International.

One of those inquiries, headed by Lord Justice Brian Leveson, said it would hear evidence from Rupert Murdoch on Wednesday and possibly on Thursday, as well. His son James was set to testify on Tuesday.

Both men testified during a Parliamentary hearing last July on phone hacking at News International. The proceedings, which were televised and closely followed on the Internet, were briefly interrupted when a protester threw a plate of shaving cream into Rupert Murdoch's face.

# Big investor to oppose re-election of a Goldman Sachs director

By Ben Protess

THE NEW YORK TIMES

In the latest rebuke of eye-popping pay packages on Wall Street, a major institutional investor is taking the rare step to oppose the reelection of a Goldman Sachs board member who approves compensation for many of the bank's top executives.

The managers of Sequoia Fund announced plans this week to vote against James A. Johnson, a long-time Goldman director and a former chief executive of Fannie Mae, and urged other shareholders to follow suit. The push comes days after Citigroup shareholders rejected the bank's \$15 million payout to its chief executive, Vikram S. Pandit.

The critique of the Goldman director also coincided with an unusual announcement by Barclays, the big British bank, which said Thursday that its executives would forfeit portions of their bonuses if the firm failed to meet certain profitability goals.

The moves echo the concerns among regulators, lawmakers and others that bank executives continue to emphasize their own compensation over the well-being of the institutions more than three years after the financial crisis.

That displeasure now appears to be broadening to include even mainstream investors like the Sequoia Fund. The \$5.7 billion fund, which is an investor in companies like Warren E. Buffett's Berkshire Hathaway, has long been one of Wall Street's best performers. And in the case of Citigroup, the non-binding "no" vote on pay came at the hands of major institutional investors.

"A garden-variety investment manager doesn't typically step out like this," said Charles M. Elson, a corporate governance expert at the University of Delaware. He said that shareholder uprisings more often come from outspoken corners of the financial industry — groups like public pension funds and activist investors with social agendas. But, he said, "When you see mediocre results and large pay, you're going to see some complaints."

As one of the most powerful names on Wall Street, Goldman has come under fire before over pay, even as it seeks to rein in compensation. The firm recently announced that its chief executive, Lloyd C. Blankfein, earned \$12 million for his work in 2011 — roughly a 35 percent decline from 2010 — though the bank's stock declined more than 45 percent last year. Over all, the firm's compensation was 39 percent of net revenue, which is not outsized compared with competitors.

Still, 27 percent of shareholders voted to reject the bank's compensation plan at the firm's annual meeting last year. While well short of the votes needed to issue a nonbinding rebuke, it was a strong showing.

# Battle looms on low-rate student loans

President Barack Obama begins an all-out push Friday to get Congress to extend the low interest rate on federal student loans, White House officials said, an effort that is likely to become a heated battle along party lines. If Congress fails to act, the interest rate on the loans, which are taken out by nearly 8 million students each year, will double on July 1, to 6.8 percent.

White House officials said the president was planning a sustained effort through the spring: On Friday, Education Secretary Arne Duncan will discuss the issue at a White House briefing, and on Saturday in his weekly address, the president will call on Congress to pass legislation preventing the rate hike.

Next week, Obama will again hammer the issue — during visits Tuesday to the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and the University of Colorado at Boulder, and Wednesday at the University of Iowa. The White House also has plans for a social media campaign through Facebook, Google Plus and Twitter.

At a time when Americans owe more on student loans than on credit cards — student debt is topping \$1 trillion for the first time — and the Occupy movement has highlighted the rising furor over spiraling student debt, the issue has moved higher on the political agenda. But the question of what to do about the looming interest rate increase has landed deep in the chasm separating Democrats from Republicans, who accuse the president of using the issue in a fiscally irresponsible way in an attempt to buy the youth vote.

-Tamar Lewin, The New York Times

# Human Genome Sciences rejects a bid from Glaxo

The biotechnology company Human Genome Sciences rejected an unsolicited \$2.59 billion takeover bid Thursday from the British drugmaker GlaxoSmithKline.

Human Genome Sciences, based in Rockville, Md., said the offer did not reflect the value of the company, but added that it had started to explore its strategic options, including the potential sale of the business.

Glaxo has been asked to participate in this process, according to a statement from Human Genome Sciences. There are no assurances that a deal will eventually take place, the company added.

Under the terms of its deal, GlaxoSmithKline, based in London, offered \$13 a share in cash to shareholders of Human Genome Sciences, an 81 percent premium on the company's closing share price on Wednesday.

The proposed deal would be the fifth-largest foreign takeover of a U.S. biotech company, according to the data provider S&P Capital IQ.

"We are disappointed that Human Genome Sciences has rejected our offer without discussion," Glaxo's chief executive, Andrew Witty, said in a statement. "Having worked together with Human Genome Sciences for nearly 20 years, we believe there is clear strategic and financial logic to this combination for both companies and our respective shareholders."

—Andrew Pollack and Mark Scott, The New York Times

# Sudanese clashes raise fears of a new war

LAMU, Kenya — Less than a year South Sudan was born out of a delicate peace agreement with Sudan, the two countries have plunged into war, a Sudanese government spokesman said Thursday.

Recent fighting between Sudan and South Sudan has grown from a struggle over the contested, oil-rich region of Heglig to inflame a number of areas along the border and beyond.

Earlier this week, Sudanese planes struck "deep into South Sudan," hitting an important town, according to Susan E. Rice, the U.S. ambassador to the United Nations. A U.N. compound inside South Sudan was also hit by bombs.

For its part, South Sudan has claimed to have shot down Sudanese jets and killed hundreds of Sudanese soldiers in battles over Heglig, which it said it captured from Sudan last week.

The African Union has condemned South Sudan's seizure of Heglig as illegal, and the U.N. Security Council has demanded an immediate end to the fighting, a withdrawal of the South's troops from Heglig, an end to Sudanese aerial bombardments and a halt to repeated cross-border violence

—Josh Kron, The New York Times

# Mobile data service fees help bolster profit at Verizon

Verizon Wireless, the nation's largest cellphone service, on Thursday reported that in the first three months of the year fewer customers joined its service compared with the same period last year.

Adding subscribers is essential to carriers, as they can rake in hefty amounts from charges to phone bills. But the predicament for carriers is that because most people who want a cellphone already have one, their subscriber growth has been anemic. That was the case for Verizon, which said it added 734,000 subscribers in the first quarter, 16 percent fewer than a year ago.

Verizon still managed to post a profit of \$1.7 billion for the quarter, largely because of the fees that customers pay to watch videos, browse the Web or play music over Verizon's network on their smartphones and tablets. Revenues generated from mobile data services were \$6.6 billion, up 21.1 percent.

"We built momentum coming out of 2011, and our results show that we continue to execute in the key growth areas of our business," Lowell McAdam, Verizon chief executive, said in a statement issued with its financial report.

Mobile data use is growing fast. Cisco, the networking company, recently published a study showing that mobile data more than doubled in 2011, and it predicts that by 2016 it will have grown by a factor of 18.

In light of the slowdown in subscription growth, Verizon will most likely be introducing new methods to continue to expand its revenue from mobile data, said Chetan Sharma, an independent telecom

—Brian X. Chen, The New York Times



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# **LETTERS TO THE EDITOR**

# Short letter of thanks

There has not been an election in recent history where individual votes have figured so greatly in the choice of the next UA president and vice president. We wanted to thank everyone for casting your ballot in this election, and in effect shaping the future of your student government.

The energy and interest surrounding this election, demonstrated by near-record voter turnout, is a clear sign of renewed desire for a functional, responsive UA that can work to improve student life on campus. As your next UA president and vice president, we will be looking to assemble a team of talented students to achieve the vision you have elected us to deliver.

That said, we also want to take this opportunity to recognize the substantial contributions made by the other two tickets in promoting campus dialogue about the future of the UA. The Tallapragada/Yang team developed a high-visibility campaign that communicated bold hopes for the organization and the campus as a whole. Their message reached students who were thirsty for change and frustrated with the inability of the UA to address many of students' most pressing needs. Brendan and

Mary, likewise, focused on specific areas of student concern and on ways the UA could better communicate with and support the undergraduate community. The determination and hard work demonstrated by all tickets and their supporters should be applauded, especially in the heat of the semester. We look forward to opportunities to work with Naren, Andrew, Brendan, and Mary in the future as we seek to incorporate their goals into those of the UA.

Thanks again for your participation this election season — this letter of thanks is all we have for now as the campus gears up for Campus Preview Weekend. Expect to hear more from us about opportunities for involvement in the days following CPW. We'd love to have you join us in making this campus a better place for students in the year to come.

Jonté Craighead & Michael Walsh are the new president and vice-president of the UA

# In defense of the Center of International Studies

I write in response to Ali Talebinejad's

intemperate attack on the Center for International Studies (CIS) and our visiting fellow Abbas Maleki. Talebinejad, in an April 10 guest column, wrote that because Maleki was in the Iranian government at the time of thousands of executions of political opponents of the regime, he shares moral culpability. He lambasts CIS for hosting Maleki, and for good measure decries the work of Jim Walsh, a stalwart of the Security Studies Program at CIS and one of the world's leading authorities on Iran's nuclear program.

Apart from issuing paeans to academic freedom, I can only offer a rudimentary lesson: One is not guilty by association, either in law or morals. If Talebinejad's septic thinking held sway, MIT could never host a member of the U.S. government nor anyone from many other governments and institutions that have committed large-scale crimes.

We choose fellows who offer fresh perspectives on global issues based on experience and thoughtfulness, which Maleki does. We are proud to have him at the Center, just as we are proud of Jim Walsh's extraordinary work to bring common sense to the nuclear imbroglio.

John Tirman is the executive director of MIT's Center of International Studies

# **GUEST COLUMN**

# Day of Silence

Why I'm staying silent

By Cory Hernandez

"Faggot!" I braced myself for the barrage of gum, paper, and pencils that they would throw at me. I quickened my pace to get to class before they could torment me further. I looked around for help but no one stood up for me — no students, no teachers, no staff. Almost immediately after I had come out as gay a few weeks earlier, the bullying had started.

# My parents only brought up homosexuality to tell me that it was bad and that I better not be 'a queer.'

Homosexuality was rarely talked about in my hometown of Mesa, Ariz., and when it was, it was always with disgust and condemnation. Sex education in school always focused on heterosexual relationships and never mentioned homosexuality at all. My parents only brought up homosexuality to tell me that it was bad and that I better not be "a queer." And my "friends," being products of their upbringing, were just as homophobic as the rest.

Being a bold child, I came out the summer between seventh and eighth grade, when I was 12 years old. As exemplified above, my middle school did not treat me well as the only out gay kid.

**Hernandez,** Page 6

# **GUEST COLUMN**

# Athletes and allies

All athletes deserve respect

By Maggie Lloyd

We are athletes. We are teammates. We are allies. April 20, also known as the Day of Silence, is the national day to take a stand against homophobic bullying, and the Student-Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC) would like to take a moment to say why it's important to have allies in athletics.

At MIT, one can see "You are Welcome Here" cards hanging in office windows. Efforts like this are simple, but they put the issue of homophobia and transphobia into a very public spotlight. MIT's "You are Welcome Here" campaign includes education and awareness programming for the MIT community, too.

# For too long, athletics have tolerated derogatory comments towards the LBGT community as typical 'locker room chat.'

To some, the link between athletics and LBGTQ rights may not be obvious. This is where programs like Athlete Ally come in. Hudson Taylor, who founded Athlete Ally in January 2011, was a three-time All-American wrestling student at the University of Maryland. When Taylor, a heterosexual athlete, wore a Human Rights Campaign sticker on his wrestling helmet, he was taking a stand. For too long, athletics have tolerated derogatory com-

**Lloyd,** Page 6

# **CORRECTIONS**

The first paragraph of an article published last Friday on orientation changes ambiguously described the nature of the change to the housing adjustment lottery. While the official "adjustment lottery" will not exist in its current form, there still will be an option for students to move to different dormitories after orientation. The difference is that this year, by default, students will remain in their assigned dorm but may opt-in for a change — as the article originally stated in paragraph four.

This change reflects the orientation committee's conclusion

that, since most students are satisfied with their original summer dorm assignments, REX should refocus on "celebrating dorm culture" rather than explicitly deciding where to live. REX events will still happen — including this year on Tuesday night, when they could not previously.

# **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 Chief Jessica 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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# Nuclear Iran needs to step down

# A nuclear Iran will cost America dearly in blood and treasure

By Rachel Bandler

Last week, an international delegation met in Istanbul with the hope of securing a serious commitment from Iran to negotiate an end to its nuclear enrichment program. The talks, which resumed after more than a year without any negotiations, illustrated the broad global consensus against a nuclear Iran. It is critical that we too, as American citizens, fully comprehend the threat of a nuclear Iran to our national security and work in a bipartisan manner to prevent that end.

Although Iran continues to argue that its nuclear program is entirely civilian in nature, the international community has widely concluded that Iran's nuclear program has far more insidious motives. For example, in its most recent report on Iran's nuclear program, the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) compiled over 1,000 pages of documents from more than 10 countries that demonstrated Iran has "at least 14 progres-

sive design iterations" for an atomic warhead designed to hit a distant target. Knowing that its findings would be compared with the flawed Iraq intelligence that preceded the 2003 invasion, an entire section of the IAEA report was dedicated to "credibility of information."

Unfortunately, if Iran were to develop a nuclear weapon, it would inspire a Middle East nuclear arms race in a region that is already highly destabilized from the Arab Spring. It would be foolish to think that the nuclear weapons would remain sequestered in the grasp of Iran because countries like Egypt and Saudi Arabia, among others, have already indicated their desire to develop nuclear capabilities if Iran were to do so

Furthermore, Iran is known for its use of terror proxies across the globe, particularly its support of Hezbollah in Lebanon. If Iran were to build a nuclear weapon, nothing could stop them from sharing nuclear weapons with these terror proxies or other rogue states for use against American troops, civil-

ians, and allies. And even if Iran does not share actual nuclear technology with their terror proxies, just being a nuclear power would vitalize Iran to increase its terrorist efforts against America, or as Iran's leaders frequently say "the Great Satan," without fear of retaliation. This would then put Americans in a much more compromised situation.

It would be foolish to think that the nuclear weapons would remain sequestered in the grasp of Iran.

A nuclear Iran would also lead to stark economic ramifications for America because Iran would be able to leverage its new nuclear power to bully oil-producing nations into limiting exports, which would cause the cost of oil to drastically increase. This would then create a shock in our feebly recovering economy and would undermine any gains, however slight, from the Obama stimulus package and bank bailout. High oil prices would also limit domestic manufacturing and would significantly raise the gas price per gallon at the pump.

Therefore, a nuclear Iran would severely shuffle the hierarchy of world power and alter the current scheme of international relations in such a way that would undermine American influence abroad, particularly in the Middle East. After all, what rational actor would adopt an American-sponsored policy with the possibility of an Iranian nuclear retaliation?

For this reason, every American, whether Republican, Democrat, or Independent, should perceive the threat of a nuclear Iran as a threat to each individual's family and pocket book — no one is excluded. The issue of Iran is not a partisan or polarizing issue; rather, it is an American issue, and an urgent one.

**PUTIN PART III** 

# Putin's high IQ

# Doomed resignation and passivity are embedded in Russia's national "soul"

y Florence Galle:

STAFF COLUMNIST

One thing is sure about Putin: he is smart, very smart. You have to be, to maintain order over nine time zones, and stay at the top of the inner fightings of competing factions among the siloviki, desperate to protect the millions they have at stake from Russia's economic boom. Putin has proved himself uniquely able to adroitly balance the various strategic interests of the competing parties. He has so far been a master at managing divisions within the government — and Russians know this.

For all the West's predictions of Putin's impending demise and Russia's economic collapse should he chose to stick to his ways for his third term, there is plenty of evidence that he has stayed on top of his game and has managed the economy quite adroitly, given the global conditions. Despite being hit hard, Russia, after all, has weathered rather well both the 1998 and more recent financial crises, and growth can be seen on every corner (literally, if to take a walk along Moscow and other cities' mega-construction projects-

rewn streets).

This is not to say that it is all rosy, nor to defend the system. All agree that Russia is overly reliant on its vast supplies of natural gas, oil, and precious metals, and statistics on the disparity between rich and poor show a widening gulf, to cite but two of the chronic ills.

Truth is, if Russia decides to pull the plug on its gas and oil supplies, it is Europe that will be sitting in the dark.

Truth is, if Russia decides to pull the plug on its gas and oil supplies, it is Europe that will be sitting in the dark. The country still commands immense power, and it knows it. With this in mind, Western and Russian experts' dire warnings of Russia's imminent "death" if it does not diversify its economy—that have dominated their forecasts for virtu-

ally the past two decades — have clearly not come to pass. The country is sitting on some of the world's largest natural resources, and even though it is heavily reliant on Western technology and know-how to exploit them (the growing number of U.S. technology firms setting up shop in Russia is in fact evidence that U.S.-Russian business relations are doing great), its economy seems to be doing more than fine — including under Putin's rule.

In the same breath as its cries for the Russian economy to diversify, the West has been ardently calling for Russia to democratize, and similarly predicting doomsday scenarios if it doesn't. While both endeavors are not only laudable but also needed, they are often accompanied by a naïve, nearly-childish belief that every little sign of change in society spells the beginning of the end for Russia's authoritarian system and Russians' full, definitive embrace of democracy. This has been most notably on display within the context of the anti-government protests that shook the streets of major Russian cities and the Russian Internet in the wake of the controversial legislative and presidential elections of December 2011 and March of this year, respectively, with the U.S. and other Western media providing enthusiastic, in-depth coverage of the demonstrations across the country.

Perhaps still inebriated by the democratic successes of the popular uprisings in many repressed regimes of the world over the past year, some Western observers have been quick to draw comparisons with the Arab Spring protests, despite the vast differences in the context, motives, and goals of these nations.

If to single out one key difference that is particular to the Russian context, I would cite the sense of doomed resignation and resulting passivity that seem to be embedded in the Russian national "soul," especially when it comes to politics. Barely a week after Putin's victory, the admittedly substantial gatherings of demonstrators that had choked some of Moscow's streets and squares in the three weeks following the parliamentary election in late 2011 had dwindled to a mere 10,000 or so people, according to *The Los Angeles Times* and other media reports.

This article is the second in a series on Russia's presidential election, popular street protests, and Putin's new presidency.

**GUEST COLUMN** 

# The importance of CityDays

# Different thoughts from different student leaders on the impact of CityDays

**Compiled by Noam Angrist** 

# Statistics

CityDays has been part of orientation for 20 years. Having CityDays as an official activity of orientation conveys to incoming freshmen an ethic of service at MIT. Every year, 40–45 community organizations are served by 600–900 MIT student CityDays participants. The number of upperclassmen volunteer group leaders has doubled in the past two years to almost 200. This large-scale event is one of the highest-profile opportunities for MIT to publicize its commitment to volunteerism in the local community.

Our survey data of CityDays participants shows that 51 percent think CityDays is more important than other orientation activities, and 21 percent say it is the most important activity. Eighty-five percent of participants express a desire in volunteering with their CityDays agency again.

CityDays works well because it's offered to the whole freshman class, it's an enjoyable program in a week of serious topics, and it affords a hands-on learning experience with exposure to issues of diversity and chances to gain a stronger understanding of community. One of MIT orientation's goals is to introduce students to Boston and Cambridge. What other orientation programs get students into the local community and learning about its issues, offerings, and people at this lavel?

If CityDays were cut and offered at another time, it would not be nearly as well-attend-

ed because time would likely not be set aside by the Institute and other commitments will have begun, and thus student participation numbers would be lower. Costs would be substantially more, less upperclassmen leaders would be available to serve as group leaders, and it would be viewed as a Public Service Center (PSC) event, not an MIT event.

Kristi Gundrum Kebinger, community volunteer administrator, Public Service Center

# Personal story

CityDays has affected me on a very personal level. I was given the opportunity to coordinate CityDays during the summer after my freshman year and, retrospectively, taking this positions was one of the best decisions I have made. What began as solely a summer job truly became so much more; this experience illuminated the vast needs and possibilities existing in our community, and in doing so has definitively influenced my time at MIT and plans for the future. This position not only deepened my penchant for public service and helped me to develop invaluable leadership skills, but was also the beginning of some of the most important and treasured relationships that I have formed at the Institute and beyond. Over the past four years, many of these relationships have been essential in the numerous opportunities that I have had within our community and throughout the world to learn, work, and attempt to implement some sort of positive change. Through coordinating CityDays and subsequent work at the Public Service

Center, I have been consistently reminded of our responsibility as MIT students to use the knowledge, skills, and motivation that we possess to make a positive difference in the world. Though this responsibility that we, as MIT students, possess is difficult to achieve and easy to forget amidst our hectic schedules and stressful lifestyles, I have personally found that my experience with CityDays and the Public Service Center has helped to keep this rooted as an essential component of my goals and ambitions. The impact that this program has had on my time at MIT and its implications for the future have been truly invaluable, and I hope that future MIT students will have the opportunity to have similarly eye-opening and influential experiences.

Ali Sheppard '12, CityDays coordinator, FUP counselor

# MIT was founded on is service to humanity, and that mission statement is encompassed in CityDays.

# Specific benefits

To say that CityDays does not meet the criteria for orientation means that the goals of CityDays were not truly and accurately evaluated. CityDays welcomes students to the city they will be living in for the next four

years. To many, it's the first time they step into Boston, or take the T, or familiarize themselves with some of the larger streets. It's the first time they get to experience something that's physically external to MIT, but fundamentally a part of the culture. It introduces freshmen to a main component of their life at MIT, and that's service back to a community in need. One of the guiding principles MIT was founded on is service to humanity, and that mission statement is encompassed in CityDays. Not only that, but it's a great way to introduce the PSC to freshmen as an MIT hub for innovation, service, and leadership.

Jessica Chen '14, CityDays participant

# National/peer perspective

Community service and volunteering are national priorities.

According to the Corporation for National & Community Service's September 2010 report entitled "Civic Life in America: Key Findings on the Civic Health of the Nation," 26.5 percent of Americans (62 million) volunteer with an organization. Here at MIT, 11.5 percent of undergraduate and graduate students (1,219) have worked with the PSC in a formal way (e.g., CityDays, fellowships, internships, grants). Anecdotally, anywhere from 18.9 percent - 28.4 percent of undergraduate and graduate students (2,000–3,000) come in to the PSC for formal opportunities (listed above) and/or for community service and volunteer opportunities.

CityDays, Page 6

# CityDays shows MIT's commitment to helping out

CityDays, from Page 5

Formally, MIT has a lot of catching up to do just to get in line with the national average of Americans who volunteer. As quoted by Michael Scherer in a *Time* magazine article published on Jan. 15, 2009, Barack Obama has made it a national priority to volunteer by saying, "I will ask all Americans to make a renewed commitment to serving their community and their country." Even anecdotally, MIT is still below average, and only slightly above with the more generous end - and even then by a small margin. I believe that MIT ought to commit itself to reaching the great standards set by this nation, its government, and its people. One fantastic way to do that is through CityDays.

MIT ought to recognize its differences from other institutions, and embrace them in such a way so that it can enhance MIT's service culture.

MIT has had a long history of being different from other institutions, and this has proven to be a verily beneficial thing because those different ways of doing things have worked well for our campus. For instance, we do dining, housing, student life, student activities, public service, academics, and many more things differently than do our partner institutions. We have a Housing Lottery and Residence Exploration (REX) that allow flexible choices to all students, including freshmen; we do not require summer reading, and have pass/no record for the first semester; and we have a dining program that is only mandatory for students living in certain dorms. That does not mean we should change ourselves to adapt to a cultural "norm", but rather that we should continue to work to assist students in the ways they need, and promote our values, like volunteerism, to them in the best ways possible - like CityDays.

Cory Hernandez '13, CityDays coordinator, FUP counselor

### The symbolic power of CityDays

CityDays changed the course of my MIT career - in a very subtle way. It wasn't my interaction with some 700 other prefrosh and upperclassmen around me. It wasn't the tree-branch cutting itself. It wasn't the opportunity to travel on the T for the first time. It wasn't the interesting departure from the very academic culture I expected at MIT. It wasn't even the healthy brown bag snack.

Instead, it is my lasting memory of City-Days. What I mean by that is that three years into MIT, there are only 5-6 instances that really jump out in my mind as memorable and telling experiences. One of them is City-Days. That's because when I talk to prefrosh, when I talk to friends at other schools, and when I talk to family, I can explain the culture of MIT with one word and one short description:

Any alternative to CityDays would fail to be endorsed at a pivotal time, and would fail to engage the undergraduate student

"MIT endorses one full day, which they dedicate their orientation to, for peer bonding and public service. And this event is highly attended — almost by all incoming

What does that tell people? It tells them that MIT prioritizes its students' well-being, leadership abilities, and communication development. It tells them that MIT is keen on enabling its students to not only be bookworms, but to make a tangible impact on the world around them — isn't our motto mens et manus? And my statement has credibility exactly because CityDays is endorsed at a pivotal time of the year and is highly attended by the student body: We are all on the same page on that one day.

Any alternative to CityDays would fail to be endorsed at a pivotal time, and would fail to engage the undergraduate student body: It would fail to tell the story of why I love MIT.

Also, on a quick logistical note, the PSC fully funds CityDays, utilizing funds/donations from PSC discretionary funding, the CSF, the COOP, and other in-kind donations. Therefore I don't see the Institute's rationale for its cancellation. I'd like to see a more even hand from an Institute that prides itself on listening to its students and faculty.

Noam Angrist, FUP co-coordinator, Amphibious Achievement co-founder and co-president

# My reasons for staying silent today

To whom could I turn? Whenever I brought this bullying up to anyone, they blamed me for being "so out," and encouraged me to step back into the closet. They wanted me to remain silent. And I did. But I have stopped being silent, and refuse to be anymore.

Today marks the 15th annual National Day of Silence. This national day of protest is meant to raise awareness about the struggles that people in the LGBTQ (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer) community face - struggles like mine. People choose to remain silent today in order to show others how much of an impact have. Being silenced is awful. When I am silenced, I feel like a second-class citizen. I feel unwanted, rejected. I feel like I have nowhere to turn.

# When I am silenced, I feel like a second-class citizen.

I sometimes feel silenced by people at MIT. Professors have created a hypothetical situation by addressing the class: "Okay, guys, think about your future. Your wives ..." Why can't they just say "partner"? When

the forced silence of LGBTQ people can I correct them on their heterosexist comment, I have been told by my peers to stop that because it is "inappropriate." Students with whom I'm p-setting have said, "This problem/class is so gay!" When I spoke up, they got angry and stopped p-setting with me. How can I bring up that I'm offended without making things awkward?

"But MIT is totally gay-friendly! Everyone is so open-minded and liberal!" False. Comparatively, MIT is a great place for the LG-BTQ community. But still, every year there are instances of bigotry and hatred. People are forced to leave their living groups and are tormented because they are LGBTQ. Most students may not realize it, but sometimes students are beaten because they identify as LGBTQ (see results from last year's Living Pink guide for an example). People are silenced. Today, you should think about whose voices you might be silencing.

Experiences of LBGTQ people at MIT run the gamut of super-accepting and pleasant to completely unbearable and terrible. This is deplorable. Everyone has the right to feel accepted and embraced. No one should be silenced. Although I am at a better school than I was at back in Mesa, Ariz, I still choose to remain silent today for those who are forced to remain silent because people cannot accept them for who they are. I hope you do, too.

# Being an ally in athletics

Lloyd, from Page 4

ments towards the LBGT community as typical "locker room chat."

On Feb. 16, Taylor visited MIT in an event co-sponsored by LGBT@MIT, SAAC, DAPER, SAO, Residential Life, and the FSILG office. Over 100 students were in attendance, most of them varsity athletes. But Athlete Ally is not just for varsity athletes. Coaches, parents, fans, club sports teams, intramural sports teams, and the spontaneous group that forms on Killian Court to play Frisbee can all take something away from Taylor's message.

A pledge on the Athlete Ally website (http://www.athleteally.com/) has over 5,000 signatures already. It reads:

I pledge to lead my athletic community to respect and welcome all persons, regardless of their perceived or actual sexual orienta $tion, gender\ identity,\ or\ gender\ expression.$ Beginning right now, I will do my part to promote the best of athletics by making all players feel respected on and off the field.

# In 51 words, the pledge says what needs to be

In 51 words, the pledge says what needs to be said. No matter what, your team depends on your teamwork, leadership, and discipline. Not your nationality. Not your age. Not your sexual orientation. The SAAC will be in Lobby 7 today distributing Athlete Ally stickers and collecting signatures for the pledge. We encourage you to take a stand and become an ally.

Maggie Lloyd is a contributing editor for The Tech writing on behalf of the Student-Athlete Advisory Committee. We get you the tickets. You get us the review.

RTS at Established 1881 events • movies • theater • concerts music • books • restaurants • interviews

join@the-tech.mit.edu

# Give Life ...

# **Give Blood.**

Your blood donation will help save the life of a patient with cancer, heart disease, gastrointestinal disease, anemia, fractures and trauma, liver, kidney and lung disease, or bone and joint disease.

Monday, April 23, 1 p.m. – 6 p.m. Tuesday, April 24, 8 a.m. - 6 p.m. Wednesday, April 25, 1 p.m. – 6 p.m. Student Center, 2nd Floor, La Sala

It is MIT policy to allow employees time off with pay to donate blood at the drives that are sponsored on campus. For more information or to make an appointment, visit: http://web.mit.edu/blood-drive/www/.

> Blood Drives are sponsored by ARCTAN, MIT's American Red Cross Team and Network.

**BOOK REVIEW** 

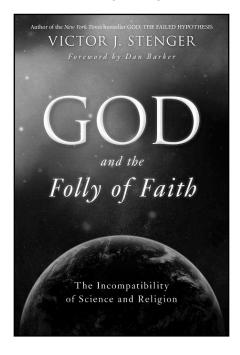
### THE TECH 7

# "Just don't be so silly"

# A secular call to stand against faith's intrusions into reason's turf

**By Roberto Perez-Franco** STAFF WRITER

Victor Stenger has written a wickedly powerful book, so sharp and heretical that had it been published four centuries ago, the author would have been extra-crispy by the time the nearest bishop was done reading the preface. God and the Folly of Faith, with its straightforward argumentation and encyclopedic scope, is a veritable handbook on the fundamental incompatibility of modern science and religion. In the context of the new atheism movement, Stenger's book serves as the prosecutor's closing argument in their collective case against religion. The book's ambitious agenda, with the simultaneous grinding of many axes (from near death experiences and quantum consciousness to intelligent design and cosmic



fine-tuning), takes a toll on the reader. The dissection of the multiple arguments and counterarguments that are currently used to support and refute faith makes this no light reading for a lazy spring afternoon. Albeit peppered with zingers, the work as a whole comes across as what it is: a thick and serious discourse on one of the most important intellectual conflicts in history, very much alive to this day.

At least four threads can be identified in the book's narrative:

Firstly, there is a historical summary of the increasingly uneasy relationship of science and religion. Stenger argues that, albeit with a common origin in prehistoric thought, science, and religion developed over millennia into two unblendable worldviews, with irreconcilable epistemologies.

Secondly, Stenger offers a primer on the current scientific understanding of reality, including evolution, quantum mechanics, cosmology, and the nature of consciousness, as well as a brief description of the methods science uses to differentiate the ice cream from the bologna.

Thirdly, Stenger rejects the idea of a benevolent, omniscient, and omnipotent God as an utterly failed hypothesis with no predictive power, of religion as a bankrupt worldview with no basis on evidence, and of faith as detrimental folly with increasingly deleterious effects as its influence widens in scope from the individual to society and mankind at large.

Finally, Stenger makes a call to secular thinkers everywhere to stand up against religious nonsense and to fight back the encroachment of faith in high-stake policy issues - such as global warming - that should be addressed largely through science and reason. The book delivers nicely in these four fronts, but I do fear it may be preaching

Stengers conclusion is searing: "Religious faith would not be such a negative

force in society if it were just about religion," which it is not. In the last chapter of his book, Stenger illustrates this point in the context of the global warming debate by presenting evidence of a correlation between religion and the denial of climate change. Stenger argues that "many who deny the dangers of global warming do so out of religious conviction," adding that this "denialism is a part of a growing distrust of science in America," prominent in, but not limited to, evangelicals or conservatives.

He also sees a sinister element - corporate greed — behind this phenomenon: "Antiscience, fueled by religion, is being exploited to prevent the U.S. government from taking actions that might be essential for everyone's welfare." Stenger argues this is nothing new: "From its very beginning, religion has been a tool used by those in power to retain that power and keep the masses in line." It may be an old trick, but it remains a perilous one.

In the context of the new atheism movement, Stenger's book serves as the prosecutor's closing argument in their collective case against religion.

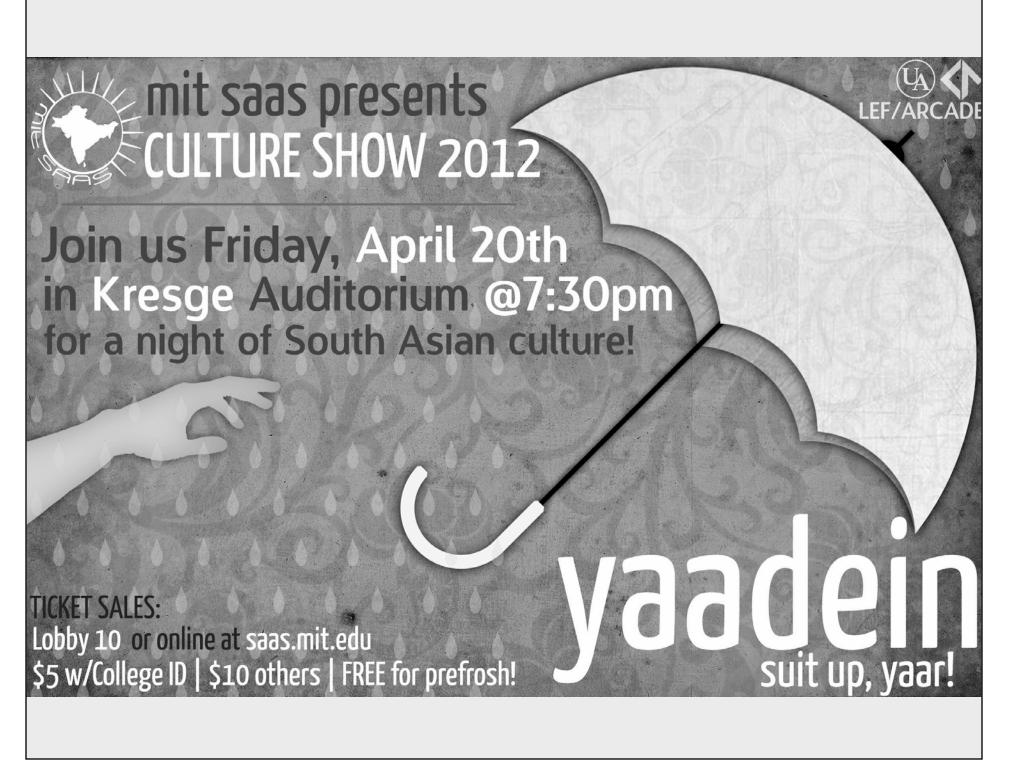
A magnificent example (cited by Stenger) of how religion has come to shape the debate, and possibly also the policies, regarding global warming in the U.S. is found in a March 2009 hearing of the Subcommittee on Energy and Environment. Congressman John Shimkus, speaking about the role car-

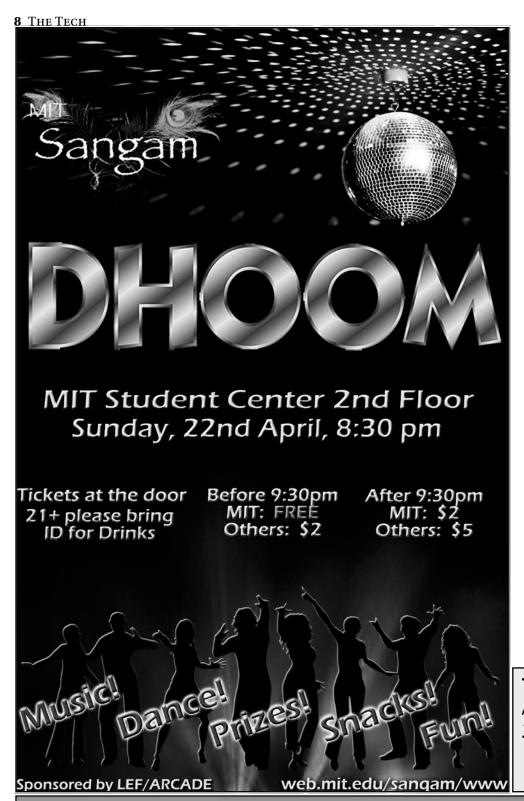
# God and the Folly of Faith

By Victor J. Stenger **Prometheus Books April 2012** 

bon emissions play in global warming, described CO<sub>2</sub> as "plant food," and then quoted from the Bible God's promise to Noah not to destroy the Earth by a flood. He meant it as evidence that mankind need not worry about rising sea levels as a result of climate change: "I believe that is the infallible word of God, and that's the way it is going to be for his creation." Shimkus even went as far as to state that "there is a theological debate that this is a carbon-starved planet." Astoundingly, Shimkus went on to become the Chairman of the Subcommittee on Environment and Economy, with a central role in shaping the climate change policy of the world's second largest energy-related CO<sub>2</sub> emitter.

In light of such an Alice in Wonderland scenario, there are two calls I hope Americans would heed. The first is Stenger's request to keep religious faith out of the debate on global warming and other high-stake policy issues. Given the Bible-thumping Shimkuses and Santorums of the world, Stenger's Catilinarian against the "folly of faith" is timely, welcome and fully justified. The second is the plea that Mohamed Nasheed, former president of the Maldives, delivered during his visit to *The Daily Show*: "I'm afraid politicians only do the things that their people tell them to do, and I'm afraid the people of the United States are not telling their politicians to be concerned about climate change." When it comes to global change, Nasheed advised, "be concerned." And above all, "just don't be so silly."





[259] Clichéd Exchanges
by Randall Munroe

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DERAILING CLICHÉD EXCHANGES
BY USING THE WRONG REPLIES

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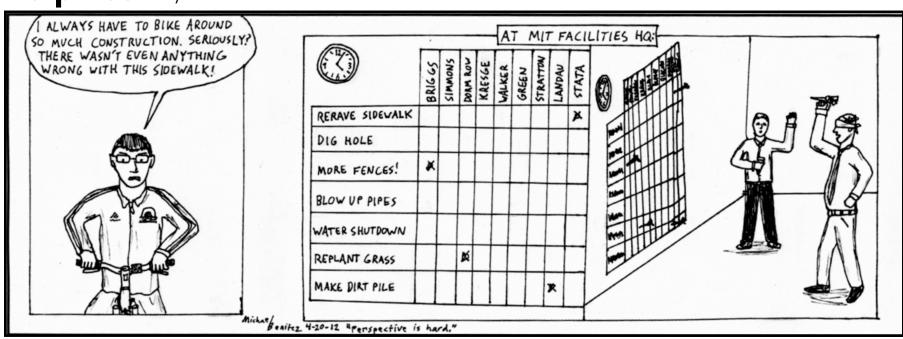
# **UPPERCUT** by Steve Sullivan







# Help Desk by Michael Benitez







# FUNFUNFUNFUNFUNFUNFUNFUN

# Sudoku

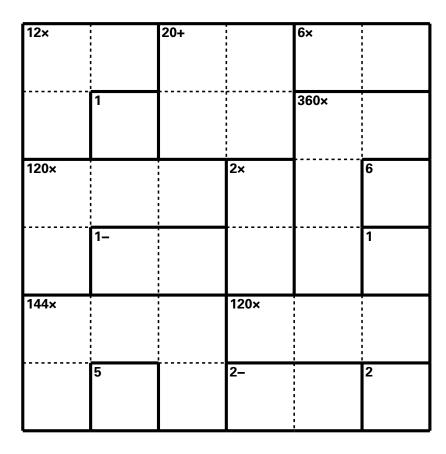
Solution, page 17

			7				5	3
	9		3					
	6	7		1	5			8
7	2			9				<b>8 5</b>
			2	4	1			
9				<b>3 5</b>			4	2
9			1	5		6	7	
					9		3	
5	3				9			

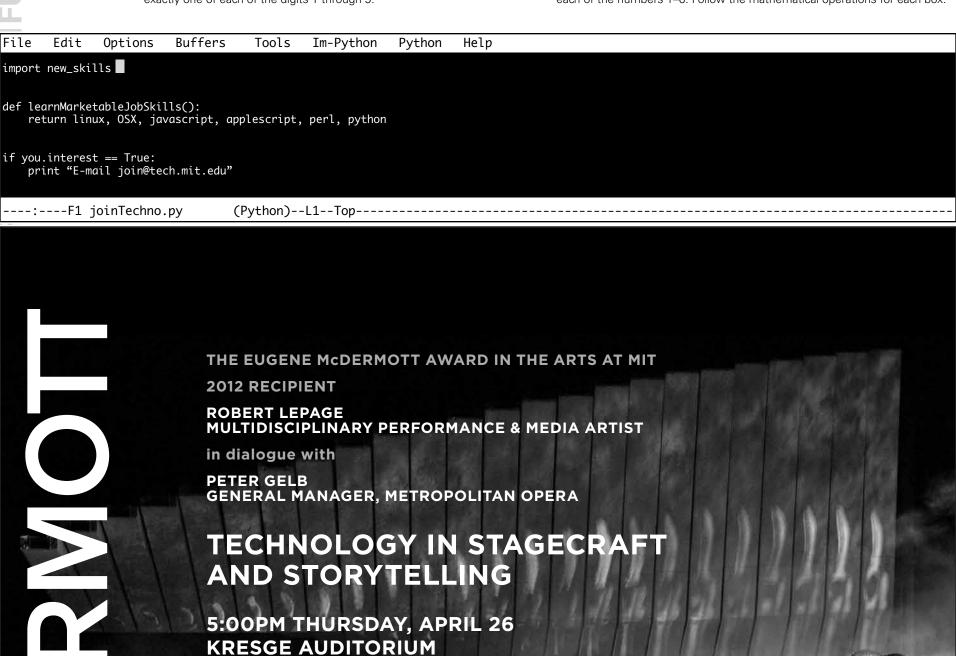
Instructions: Fill in the grid so that each column, row, and 3 by 3 grid contains exactly one of each of the digits 1 through 9.

# **Techdoku**

Solution, page 17

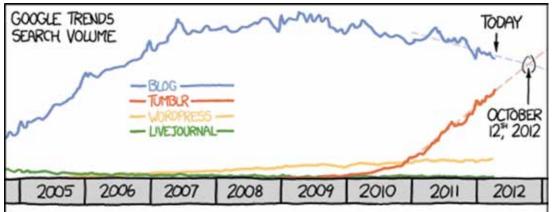


Instructions: Fill in the grid so that each column and row contains exactly one of each of the numbers 1–6. Follow the mathematical operations for each box.



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# XKCd [1043] Ablogalypse by Randall Munroe



IN ABOUT SIX MONTHS, THE WORD "TUMBUR" WILL ECLIPSE "BLOG" IN GOOGLE POPULARITY. I DOUBT TV ANCHORS WILL START TALKING ABOUT "REACTIONS IN THE TUMBLERSE," BUT THEN AGAIN, I STILL CAN'T BELIEVE WE GOT THEM TO SAY "BLOGOSPHERE".

Plus the reaction in the Tumblverse is always 'repeatedly get hit by a dog and fall down the stairs'.

# **Nounsense** by S.N.

Solution, page17

### **ACROSS**

- 1 Greek coins before euros
- 9 American marsupial
- 15 Postponement of punishment
- 16 Go up against
- 17 Hotshot 19 Self-confidence
- 20 Farm-machine giant
- 21 After-school orgs.
- 22 Domineering 24 Flows away
- 28 Hankering
- 29 Ordered for lunch
- 30 Coffee alternative
- 32 Baba of Arabian Nights
- 33 Lake craft
- 35 Army officer
- 37 Seemingly everywhere
- 42 Concerto instrument
- 43 Distributed 44 CPR expert
- 45 Includes on an e-mail
- 48 Have the job of
- 49 Dustcloth
- 52 Blueprint detail 54 Whitish gems
- 56 Blood fluids
- 57 Back-to-health plan
- 59 Alma \_\_
- 60 Argument extender
- 65 Places for pitchers
- 66 Innovative 67 If all goes well
- 68 Mag's guarantee to advertisers

# **DOWN**

- 1 Apt to leak
- 2 TV accessory
- 3 \_\_ Way (ancient Roman
- road)
- 4 In a bad mood 5 Give a job to

- 15 19 28 42 52
- 6 Ran into
- 7 Popular baby girl's name
- 8 Transports
- 9 Spinach-loving sailor
- 10 Letters on a phone
- 11 Indulgent outing
- 12 Sea plea
- 13 GI hangout
- 14 Fathers and sons
- 18 Try out
- 22 Ruination
- 23 Limburger emanation
- 25 Region south of San Diego
- 26 Voting group
- 27 Foal's father 29 Ruination
- 31 More than enough
- 33 Debate side
- 34 Approx. leaving hour
- 36 Space-bar neighbor

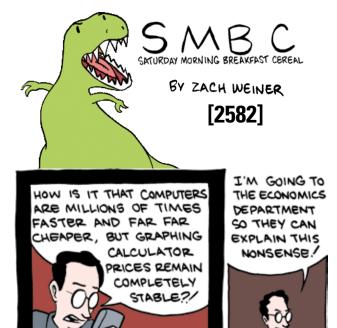
- 37 Safari-park dwellers
- 38 Like a wet noodle
- 39 Past the deadline
- 40 Get well
- 41 Teacup handles
- 46 Share the emceeing
- 47 Minor quarrel 49 Part of the eye
- 50 Battlegrounds 51 Use mouthwash
- 53 Long-legged wader
- 55 Detest
- 56 "Sir" in India
- 58 Extremities
- 59 Type of S&L loan
- 60 Doc lobby
- 61 "I should say \_\_!"
- 62 Grant knighthood to 63 Significant period
- 64 Slow down, in mus.

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**12** THE TECH FRIDAY, APRIL 20, 2012

# How is CPW so far? Prefrosh s

### Kath Xu

Bethesda, Maryland Bioengineering

What CPW events have you attended or plan to attend?

I played mafia in Random Hall and got to try liquid nitrogen ice cream. I'm definitely planning to go to the Meet the Bloggers event. And of course, I've had a lot of food!

Has there been anything interesting on campus that caught your eye? I'm a big fan of puns, and I've seen a lot of funny ones in the hallway. I love how there are flyers posted everywhere, it makes it seem like there is so much going on.

### **Shannon Julian**

Edison, New Jersey Linguistics

What do you like about MIT so far? People have been really nice and down-to-earth. They've been collaborative and always willing to help me and talk about their MIT experiences.

What have you done on campus so far? I attended a reunion for the Women's Technology Program, a summer program at MIT, and I've tried liquid nitrogen ice cream. I really want to go to the "Physics Until We Die"







Interviews compiled by Derek Chang. Photography by Jaswanth Madhavan.

Hundreds and hundreds of prefrosh have descen upon campus this weekend for CPW. The Tech h chance to chat with sixteen '16s about their experi at MIT so far — from architecture to ice cream.

Julia Chen

Undecided

ties organized.

West Covina, California

What have you done at CPW some cooking. I also got to visit Ra What has been your impressi culture. I'm staying in Burton-Cor

### **Alice Wang**

Columbus, Ohio

Biology, Premed

If you decide to attend MIT, are there activities you'd want to **join?** I'm not too sure, but I'm interested in playing for the orchestra.

Where are you staying right now, and how do you like it? I'm staying at iHouse, and I'm really enjoying it. But I really need to plan my time because there's a million activities happening at the same time.



What has been your impression of MIT so far? I haven't seen anything on campus I don't like yet. I've really enjoyed everything so far!

If you decide to attend MIT, are there activities you'd like to join?



### Irvine, California

Architecture

I'm interested in joining sailing or the MIT Outing Club.



# **David Lopes**

Harrisburg, Pennsylvania

Aeronautics and Astronautics

How have you enjoyed your time at MIT? I just got here, so I can't say much yet. But I've been here before and really liked the

What activities are you hoping to be involved in if you attend? I might want to do research on campus in UROPs.





Tappan, New York

**Andre Aboulian** La Crescenta, California

Bioengineering

Where are you staying, and how do you enjoy it? I'm staying at Ph ally like it. The people are hospitable and friendly, and make me want more. It's the first day and I'm lost getting to events on time, but with sure I will get the hang of things.

**Electrical Engineering & Computer Science** 

want to try the liquid nitrogen ice cream.

What are you looking forward to doing during CPW? Going classes! I'm hoping to get an idea of how classes are at MIT. I a

Are there activities you are hoping to do if you attend? I really wa and field while in college.



# Lawrence Chen

Bioengineering

Where are you staying, and how do you enjoy it? Baker — I reall been answering all of our questions and helping me with everythin favorite part of MIT is the people.

What activities do you hope to do while in college? I'm hoping







FRIDAY, APRIL 20, 2012 **Т**не **Т**есн **13** 

# share their thoughts

**Madeline Cooper** 

Ashland, Massachusetts

Bioengineering

Where are you staying, and how do you like it so far? Baker. I've only been there for five minutes, so I still need to explore it, but I'm looking forward to going back!

What do you like about MIT so far? I like how friendly everybody is, and I really enjoy the MIT energy and vibe.



**Rachel Wang** 

Wellesley, Massachusetts

Engineering

What CPW events have you attended so far? I recently finished a Next House dinner, and I got to try liquid nitrogen ice cream. I've done a lot of walking, including around the river. It's beautiful there!

Is there anything bizarre on campus that caught your eye? The rubber duck pond and ball pit in Simmons. The Simmons architecture really got my



**Eric Johnson** 

Green Bay, Wisconsin Mechanical Engineering Where are you staying, and how do you like it so far? Simmons. I'm really liking the interesting halls, furniture, and rooms.

What is the most bizarre thing you have noticed on campus? The acrobatics hack in Lobby 7 really got my attention.



Mathematics or Computer Science

Are there any activities you plan to be involved in if you come to school here? I really want to join crew and get involved with Christian organizations on campus.

What have you done at CPW so far? I've gotten to explore Random Hall, and got to have breakfast at Zeta Beta Tau.



so far? I got to try liquid nitrogen ice cream and did

on of MIT dorm culture so far? I really like the dorm nner right now, and I love how there are always activi-



Nikhita Poole

La Canada, California

**Brain & Cognitive Sciences** 

What are your plans for CPW? I really want to visit classes and get a chance to talk to the students. I've just gotten on campus so I haven't seen much yet.



Samantha Harper

La Canada, California

**Environmental Engineering** What are you hoping to do while at CPW? I want to attend classes because they allow me to see if MIT is a good fit. I want to be comfortable committing



i Sig, and I reto come even every day I'm

nded

ant to do track



Eric Metodiev

Long Island, New York **Mathematics or Physics** 

What has been your impression of MIT so far? I'm living in East Campus, and it's been an interesting experience. The campus is architecturally varied, there are lots of cool concrete structures and sophisticated architecture, and it's awesome to see the dome in person.

What activities have you done on campus so far? I've been getting food continually thrusted into my hands, it's quite the experience. I've met many people this way and it's a great ice-breaker. So far, I've taken a tour of East Campus and played mafia at Random.



Thomas J. Moriarty '14 performs a solo for the Logarithms during the CPW Kickoff Event Thursday evening. Dean of Admissions Stuart Schmill '86, TyShaun Wynter, and Ridonkulous also presented.

y like it so far. The people have g I've asked about. So far, my

to be on the football and wres-











2: Brad A. Golden runs in a patriotic suit. Other runners also had humorous outfits, such as tutu dresses.

**3: Sharon Cherop (right) won the women's race** with a time of 2:31:50 while Jemima Jelagat Sumgong (left) came in second with a time of 2:31:52.

4: Spectators peer out of a window to watch the runners go by.

5: David M. Rosen G participates in the marathon.

**6: In addition to runners,** there were 39 wheelchair racers and 21 handcycle racers who entered the marathon.

7: Mayumi Fujita finished seventh in the women's race with a time of 2:39:11.

**8:Tommy Greenless of Walnut Creek,** CA finished 36th in the men's race with a time of 2:34:08.

**9: Runners are encouraged** by supportive signs from the crowd.

PHOTOGRAPHY BY MANOHAR SRIKANTH AND CHRISTOPHER A. MAYNOR - THE TECH











# WM 3R

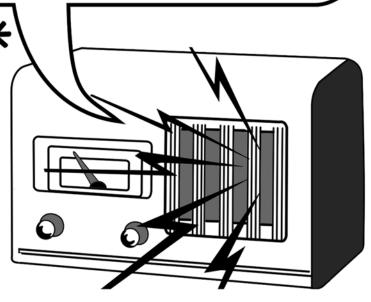
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# Remembering Phyo

# Friends recall unwavering optimism

Phyo, from Page 1

with a parent who has died of cancer
— where he served as a counselor.

He was known for his persistence. Despite being born with a congenital health condition that prevented him from doing physical exercises for most of his life, he joined the crew team. He started off struggling with every breath on runs, but by graduation, he had transformed himself into an athlete on the MIT crew team and a regular member of the Z-Center.

"Phyo's spirit never gives up" said Di Yi '10. "His smiles and his passion forever linger in our minds."

Phyo connected friends from all of his disparate social circles. "He was always meeting new people and getting other people to meet new people," recalled Yao, "I think from Phyo's perspective it was 'this person is my friend, that person is my friend, therefore we all are friends!"

Phyo's open personality contrasted with his modesty. In his ESG freshman evaluation, he wrote "I'm not a very outgoing person, but I like to meet people." Friends, however, characterize him as outgoing, very friendly, and something of a joker.

Vidya Eswaran '12, who was a counselor at Camp Kesem with Phyo, remembers him introducing himself loudly as "Yo-Yo." Phyo was someone who wasn't afraid to be silly and had a smile that was infectious, Eswaran said.

The Camp Kesem MIT Coordinator, Christina A. Bognet, wrote on the group website that "at camp, his enthusiasm was unprecedented; he was never too tired to make a camper or counselor laugh and ensure everyone was having as much fun as possible."

Albert Chang '10 organized a fundraising effort early this year, partially hosted on a "Friends of Phyo" Facebook page, for funeral arrangements and to return Phyo and his belongings to Myanmar. In a January interview with *the Tech*, Chang said that within a couple days of beginning the effort, over \$15,000 had been raised for the cause.

A memorial service was held on April 7 by Phyo's friends at MIT, where they shared memories and tried to say goodbye. At the memorial, friends discussed a nonprofit foundation — led by Yao — being established under Phyo's name to carry out his dreams. The as-yet unnamed foundation would stand separate from MIT to provide financial assistance for both MIT and non-MIT related student projects and educational purposes in Myanmar.

Some of the stories shared at the memorial service still managed to bring laughs. Professor Patricia D. Christie, who taught Phyo in ESG, recalls that Phyo was the only male in the morning section of her class. "I will always remember his journal presentation when he explained to a room full of females what physiologically happens when you are menstruating!" she wrote in his course evaluation.

Perhaps Phyo's lasting legacy is the way he inspired others to treat life as an adventure. "When things get rough," said Andrea Schneider, who worked with Phyo in Soane Labs, "I remember him, and it always helps me focus on what's good in life and what I have to be thankful for."

Phyo's favorite quote was from Tolkien: "Faithless is he that says farewell when the road darkens." This quote motivated Phyo never to give up during his own life, and Phyo inspired those he knew never to give up — even today.

# Friends remember Phyo

I often joked with Phyo that he looked like the Buddha on earth, always kind-looking, always smiling. His happiness is contagious, and his words are always comforting! Phyo is someone I'd cry in front of because he emphasizes and his words empower my spirit, and so he does for others as well! But through his always bright smiles, I see also his strong and relentless spirit — no difficulties can ever rob his happiness and optimism - because Phyo is also determined! Freshman year, Phyo struggled with his every breath as we ran by the Charles River because his severe congenital health conditions had prevented him from doing any physical exercises since birth. Before graduation, Phyo had transformed himself to be an avid workout member of Z-Center and MIT crew team. It is his unyielding spirit that bears the fruits of his physical transformation, his unfailing smiles, and his passion for life. And because Phyo's spirit never gives up, his smiles and his passion forever linger in our minds, brightening our spirit in the dark nights. Phyo never left us, he is always here.

—Di Yi '10

I met Phyo in the Spring of 2009 during my freshman year. I was at the first training session for Camp Kesem MIT, and I was feeling incredibly nervous and alone, surrounded by many upperclassmen I didn't know. Throughout the day, the nervousness began to ease, but the moment that I knew Camp Kesem was going to be great was when I heard Phyo introduce himself by his camp name to the group. I don't know what I was expecting from the quiet looking junior, but it definitely wasn't a loud, "What Up? My name is Yo-Yooooo!" Here was a kid who wasn't afraid to be silly, who had one of the most distinctive laughs I'd ever heard, and a smile that was infectious. I was lucky to

have the opportunity to work closely with Phyo that summer at camp, and we became good friends. He was a natural at working with kids, and every one of them adored him. He had the ability to be serious when necessary, but could effortlessly shift back to joking and playing around. He wasn't afraid to make fun of himself either, and I was always struck by the strong sense of self he portrayed. I distinctly remember thinking at the end of that camp session that I wanted to strive to be a bit more like "Phyoyo".

Everyone that met Phyo remembers him for his smile — seemingly ever present. He had an uncanny ability of finding you when you were having a bad day and cheering you up. He genuinely cared about all of his friends and always took the time to check in on them and say hello. Even after he graduated, he would routinely chat, call or email to see how I was doing.

This, I believe is an important part of Phyo's legacy — his depth of caring and compassion for others. I aim to be like Phyo in this regard. I make an effort to keep a smile on my face and to be there for others when they need a hand. I miss Phyo very much, and I believe I always will. He's a person, that once you have met, that you can never really forget.

—Vidya Eswaran '12

Phyo was a great friend and an outstanding person. I think about him every day, but to keep myself from being sad, I instead try to apply his mantra to my own life. He always knew how to make anything enjoyable, no matter how bad the situation. So when things get rough, I remember him, and it always helps me focus on what's good in life and what I have to be thankful for. I never would have had this outlook without having him in my life.

-Andrea Schneider

Wang YMCA Dance Troupe, and Wellesley Wushu Team



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# Solution to Sudoku from page 10

# Solution to Techdoku from page 10

1 6 5 4 2 3 2 1 6 5 3 4 4 3 2 1 5 6 5 4 3 2 6 1 3 2 1 6 4 5

# **Solution to Crossword**

| DRACHMASS POSSUM| REPRIEVE OPPOSE | IMPORTANT PERSON| POISE | DEERE | PTASS BOSSY EBBS | YEN HAD TEAMALI | CANOE | DEAL TO | EMT CCS ARE RAG | SPEC OPALS SERA | CS PEC OPALS SERA | CS

18 THE TECH FRIDAY, APRIL 20, 2012



On Tuesday, a large Dalek appeared perched on the Stata Center. Daleks are genetically engineered organisms which appear in the British science fiction series *Doctor Who*.



On Wednesday, fake circus performers were scattered throughout Lobby 7, including a ringmaster who stood next to a plinth.



**Last Friday, a large fake bomb was hung from Lobby 7** to advertise the Dance Til You Drop party held by the Burton Third Bombers (BTB).

# WEEK IN HACKS



On Wednesday, a variety of fake acrobats and circus performers appeared in Lobby 7.

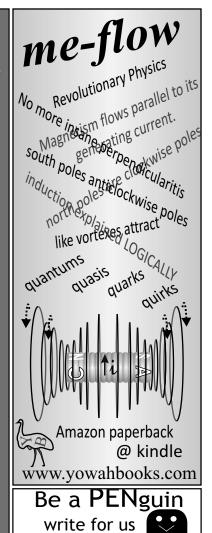


One fake acrobat hangs from an aerial silk.





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# Binghamton halts pledging amid hazing concerns

By Peter Applebome

THE NEW YORK TIMES

BINGHAMTON, N.Y. — Binghamton University, one of the Northeast's top public colleges, has halted all fraternity and sorority pledging this spring after what it called an "alarmingly high number of serious hazing complaints."

Administrators and students said there was no indication their hazing problem was worse than those at other colleges. But the move at Binghamton is emblematic of an increasingly tough stance on hazing and on other forms of student misbehavior on campuses nationwide.

The University of Connecticut is advising students this weekend to go home and avoid an often-out-of-control party called Spring Weekend, during which a student was killed off campus in 2010. The University of Colorado at Boulder has announced it will close the entire campus to all visitors Friday to try to stop a long-time marijuana smoke-out held annually that day. The moves follow well-publicized hazing scandals at Boston University and Dartmouth College and student deaths at Cornell and Florida A&M Universities last year.

"The climate on campuses is such that there's just much less tolerance for aberrant behavior, particularly anything that can result in violence or injuries to others," said Kevin Kruger, president of the National Association of Student Personnel Administrators. "Stopping pledging altogether is not so common, but there's a huge focus on managing liability and sending a very clear message to students and alumni that this kind of behavior will result in removal of the chapter."

The concerns are not new, and educators cite three main reasons for the actions — concern for student safety, legal exposure and efforts to avoid embarrassment; Binghamton was widely faulted for its slow response to irregularities and criminal behavior surrounding its basketball team a few years ago.

But Binghamton officials said that their overriding concern was the health and safety of students and that the situation was clear: For the second year in a row, they received an increasing number of reports, mostly anonymous phone calls or emails from pledges, friends of pledges or parents, about hazing during the eight-week pledge period.

Lloyd Howe, the dean of students, said the university took action before it faced a serious episode.

"For us, any hazing is of concern, even if it seems to be at the low end of the range, because that can often escalate into a situation that becomes more dangerous," he said.

About 12 percent of Binghamton's 14,700 students are members of the 52 sanctioned professional and social fraternities. After it halted all pledging, the university said the organizations could petition to admit new members based on a review of their pledging activities.

At least 10 fraternities and sororities are under investigation, officials said. No criminal charges have been filed or disciplinary action taken against individual students.

Many fraternity and sorority members say there is no indication that any activity occurred that came close to putting students in danger, like forced drinking, which killed a Cornell student, or beatings, which caused the death of a drum major in the Florida A&M band. Instead, they said, the university had overreacted based on an open-ended definition of hazing.

"This has all been blown out of proportion based on anonymous reports," said Samantha Vulpis, a junior from Commack, N.Y., and president of Binghamton's Panhellenic Council. "It's like hazing now is considered anything that isn't optional. The way it's being enforced is that anything you could ever think of is now considered hazing."

New York is among 44 states with anti-hazing laws. Under New York's laws, a person can be found guilty of a misdemeanor by conducting initiation and affiliation activities that cause physical injury or create a substantial risk of injury.

Officials at Binghamton, which is part of the State University of New York system, have not disclosed specific complaints under investigation. But indications are that alleged episodes range from relatively minor cases of enforced physical activity or time-consuming rituals to physical violence resulting in cuts or welts.



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# UA campaigns featured high social network interest

# Tallapragada/Yang campaign mounted most successful outsider effort in recent UA history

**UA Election**, from Page 1

whoever was picked second, and then third, and so on.

Brendan T. Deveney '13 and Mary A. Breton '14 also ran an outsider campaign, taking 323 firstplace votes. Including write-ins, 1,712 ballots (39 percent of undergrads) were cast for UA President/ Vice President, up about 23 percent from last year (but then, there was only one ticket to vote for).

After the Deveney/Breton ticket was eliminated from the preferential voting system, Craighead/ Walsh led Tallapragada/Yang 804 to 766. Voters who originally picked Deveney/Breton tended to slightly favor Craighead/Walsh in their rank-two preference.

UA presidential elections are usually decided by much larger first-place margins, especially when they pitch "insiders" versus "outsiders." Vrajesh Y. Modi '11 and Samantha G. Wyman '11 won the 2010 elections by a 1,135 vote margin.

And in 2009, Michael A. Bennie '10 and Margaret K. Delano '10 nearly tripled the first-place vote count of the runners-up.

The close race may be at least partly attributable to a huge get-outthe-vote effort by the Tallapragada/ Yang campaign, which took advantage of traditional campus advertising methods but also pushed their message via social networks.

"We had a lot of very passionate supporters on campus who happen to be all years from freshman to seniors, pretty much all majors," said Tallapragada in an interview with The Tech yesterday. He also noted that their support tended to come from fraternities, West Campus dormitories, and athletic groups.

But Tallapragada also said that the campaign's efforts were somewhat grassroots in nature. "We didn't give anybody a formula," he explained. "[Our supporters] came out and said whatever came out of the bottom of their heart."

"Every ticket ran a really great

campaign," said Craighead, specifically noting Tallapragada/Yang's Facebook effort. "The amount of visibility that each had was very,

> 'Our supporters came out and said whatever came out of the bottom of their heart.

> > Naren Tallapragada UA PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE

### Forging ahead

Craighead and Walsh will be the first elected pair to run a newly-restructured UA. They will also have to manage a relationship with a new Institute president and likely handle issues regarding orientation, dormitory security, dining, and MITx.

And though specific plans are not yet formulated, during the campaign Craighead and Walsh said they would pursue a "Cookies and Conversation"-style series of meetings with undergraduates, work to improve the UA's internal identity as a "team," and pursue "collaborative" relationships with Institute administrators.

Craighead said the his administration would also emphasize solidarity with the Graduate Student Council in representing the interests of the student body as a whole. Craighead and GSC President-elect Brian L. Spatocco G first met as members of the search committee to find now-Dean for Residential Life Henry J. Humphreys, and Craighead said the two governments will be releasing a joint vision statement soon.

"The UA and GSC can really get some amazing things done on campus when we work together," said Craighead, adding that faculty were "impressed" with how well the two groups have been working together on the presidential search process.

A revamped Spring Weekend is also on the agenda for Craighead and Walsh. This year, they say, Spring Weekend should have more UA-sponsored events as a "first stab at making the event a lot larger and involving more people," including a movie-on-the-lawn and a barbecue.

Craighead and Walsh say they will meet with the two losing tickets to determine in what ways Tallapragada, Yang, Deveney, and Breton can contribute to student governance. Tallapragada noted that his campaign's strength in communication as evidenced by the close race — is something the UA could incorporate, and he would want to help.

Yang said that, for the time being, he will "refocus" his energy on the student groups he is already a part of, but that he would consider serving in the next UA administration if asked. First, though, he would want to hear more about Craighead and Walsh's plans for reforming the organization.

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# Segal found dead following arrest

# Was facing underage sex charges

Segal, from Page 1

dedicated scientist," said Assistant Professor Tonio Buonassisi, the principal investigator (PI) of the PVLab of the Department of Mechanical Engineering, to the MIT News Office.

After having corresponded online for just under two months with what he thought was a mother of two children under the ages of 16 and 12, Segal flew from Cambridge to Grand Junction, Colo. on March 28, allegedly to meet them for a sexual encounter. However, the mother was in fact undercover Special Agent Vanessa Hipps of the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) Homeland Security Investigation, who met

Segal at the Grand Junction airport where he was immediately arrested by federal authorities.

On March 29. Buonassisi submitted to the U.S. District Court a letter from his perspective as the PI of the PVLab, describing Segal as a "productive" postdoc who was "a leader within [his] research group, closely mentoring five graduate students' and participated in projects for "communal benefit." Segal, deemed a flight risk and denied bail on April 4 despite this account, had been remanded to the custody of the U.S. Marshal. He could have faced a maximum of 30 years of imprisonment and/or a maximum fine of \$250,000 if convicted.

### LEGATUM LECTURE



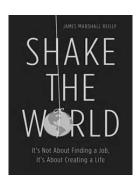
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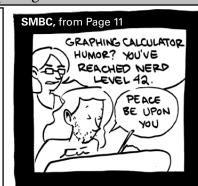
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\*The Army Lab provides the intern's salary, which typically ranges from \$2280/month to \$2864/month depending on class year. Under certain circumstances the ISN can provide the intern with a supplement of up to \$1500 to defray costs of local accommodations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

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# Coop Student Board of Directors

# Election Update

The following student Coop members are candidates for the Board of Directors for the 2012-2013 academic year.



# MIT Undergraduate Students:

Joshua Dunaway, 2014 Paige Finklestein, 2014 Emma Kane, 2015

# **MIT Graduate Students:**

Ellie Bertani, MBA, Sloan/MPA, HKS, 2013 Samuel Shaner, PhD, 2015

# Harvard Undergraduate Students:

Cody Dean, 2014 Hilary Higgins, 2015 Joshua Zhang, 2014

# Harvard Graduate Students:

Christina Adams, MBA, 2013 Oliver Hauser, PhD, 2015 Mathew Morgan, MPP, 2013 May Lam, MBA, 2013 Allison Trzop, JD, 2013

# Voting Deadline is April 26



22 THE TECH FRIDAY, APRIL 20, 2012



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# ATHLETE OF THE WEEK: ROBIN S. SHIN '12

# Shin named NE Conference Fencer of the Year

**By Carlos Greaves** 

Meet Robin S. Shin '12. When she isn't busy tooling away in her architecture studio, she fences for the MIT Women's varsity team. She was recently named the Northeast Conference Fencer of the Year, and placed 20th at the NCAA competition, where she was the only representative from Division III.

Robin started fencing in her native Brookline, Mass. when she was 12 years old. Growing up, she remembers traveling to fencing tournaments by herself. Now, her favorite part about being on the MIT team is that the entire team travels together and has a great time doing it. In particular, she enjoys traveling with the team to "the Big One," which is held at Smith College and is the first tournament of the year. Because the tournament does not count for NCAA standings, there is less pressure and everyone on the team goes, making for a fun bus ride.

For those who are unfamiliar, fencing is like other "individual" sports like golf or tennis in the sense that, although there are individual tournaments and headto-head bouts are individual by nature, there is also a team competition structure; collegiate teams square off against each other and the teams are ranked according to the number of team matches they win and the quality of the teams they beat

Individual bouts are won by scoring five "touches." How a touch is scored depends on the type of weapon used. These weapons include the foil, which is light and flexible, the sabre which is a "cutting" weapon (Robin's sword of choice), and the épée, which is designed to more closely resemble an old-fashioned dueling sword. The weapons are hooked up to electrical equipment and have a push-button switch at the tip so that a touch is registered when the weapon strikes the opponent. Depending on the weapon, only certain parts of the body can be hit in order to receive touches, and touches may be awarded depending on which person was on the offensive when touches were made.

When Robin isn't slicing and jabbing away at her fencing foes, she enjoys baking, painting, and attending music festivals. She's also a fan of Arrested Development, The Good Wife, and the Lord of the Rings trilogy. Be sure to congratulate her on her stellar season!

# Baseball beats Clark, improves conference chances

By Zach Hynes

SPORTS STAFF

After tossing a complete game shutout against Springfield College in his last outing, there was very little that Torre M.



Swanson '12 could have done against the Clark University Cougars on Saturday to improve upon his prior performance. Yet he did just that, allowing only a bunt single in seven innings to help the En-

gineers capture the first game of Saturday's doubleheader en route to a sweep of the three-game weekend series.

After an offensive outburst of four home runs helped MIT take Friday night's game

against Clark, the Engineers returned to Cambridge for a doubleheader on Saturday afternoon. In the first game, MIT seized a 1-0 lead in the third inning when Sean P. Karson '14 came across the plate. Swanson held the Cougars hitless through four innings, stranding three baserunners who reached on errors. With two outs and the bases empty in the fifth inning, the Cougars' Daniel Lima laid a hard bunt down along the first base line, eluding an attempted tag from first baseman Ricardo J. Perez '13 to earn the Cougars' only hit of the game. After Swanson got out of the fifth, the Engineers extended their lead to 3-0 in the bottom half of the inning. Swanson cruised through the final two innings, and the Engineers tacked on an insurance run in the

sixth, earning a 4-0 win in the seven-inning

In the second game of the doubleheader, Christopher M. Hendrix '12 turned in another spectacular performance, allowing two hits and one earned run over seven innings. The Engineers' offense had no trouble providing the necessary run support for Hendrix. Led by three-hit games from Karson and A.J. Hansborough '12, the Engineers took advantage of nine walks issued and five errors from the Cougars as they

While MIT was busy taking care of Clark at home on Saturday, everything was falling into place for the Engineers in their efforts to make the NEWMAC conference tournament. MIT began the weekend five games behind WPI in the conference standings, but WPI was swept by the conference-leading Wheaton Lyons. Consequently, MIT trails WPI by two games headed into their head-to-head matchup in the final weekend of the NEWMAC regular season. MIT will head to Worcester on Friday night before hosting WPI for a doubleheader on Saturday afternoon, needing to take all three games of the series in order to earn a spot in the tournament. While the teams have been on opposite trajectories over the past week, WPI has had a strong season after missing out on the conference tournament last year. Still, with the offensive spark and strong pitching that they showed against Clark, the Engineers might complete a comeback that seemed improbable just two weeks ago.

# sMITe takes third place in conference, clinches spot in Regionals

# Engineers beat Harvard, BU, and BC en route to New England Regionals at Dartmouth

Carolyn P. Coyle '13 and handler

Claire F. Kearns-McCoy '14. Coyle

is one of the tallest members of the

team and used her height to her

advantage and "skyed" (jumped

higher than the person guarding

her and made a play while in mid-

air) many others, both on offense

and defense. She finished the tour-

nament with 12 points and forced 9

turnovers on defense.

By Alexandra Hsu

TEAM REPRESENTATIVE

In the Boston Metro Conference championships last week-



end, sMITe, MIT Women's Ultimate team, placed third and clinched a spot at New England DI Regionals. By playing hard through some long

points and overcom-

ing injuries, the team won crucial games, beating Harvard, Boston College (BC) and Boston Univer-

sMITe opened pool play on Saturday, splitting the day with wins against BU and BC and losses to Tufts and Northeastern. On Sunday morning, the team suffered a tough loss to Harvard, closing out pool play at 2-3.

The first round of bracket play determined if MIT advanced to the semifinals or dropped into the elimination bracket. Facing BC in this must win game, sMITe quickly found themselves down However, sMITe fought back using a zone defense to score eight unanswered points in a row. With key blocks by Emma C. Benjaminson '14 and Evie Adams '13, MIT entered half time up 8-5 and never looked back. In the second half, strong offensive performances from Patricia Z. Li '13 and Kathleen M. Hoza '14 led MIT to a 15-7

However, injuries prior to the tournament left sMITe short a key player, Monica Isava '13, and the level of competition reduced the roster size even further. Both Beckv A. Vasquez '12, and Annie E. Holladay '13 suffered sprains to their ankle and knee, respectively, during the BC game. Regardless, their

continuing support from the sideline was tremendous and instrumental to the team's success.

Entering the semifinals down two more players, sMITe lost again to nationally-ranked Tufts, setting up a rematch with Harvard in the third place game. Learning from the morning's game, coach Neva Cherniavsky taught a new defensive strategy, which the team absorbed quickly, to completely shut down Harvard's offense. Alisha R. Schor G, Lisa Liu '14, and Anna K. de Regt G continued their strong performances of the weekend and sMITe defeated Harvard 15-5.

The fact that sMITe could focus and learn a new form of defense in a matter of minutes attests to their growing passion and potential. Michelle A. Rybak '13, one of the team's three captains, explained: "This is an extremely exciting time to be a captain. Looking at our performance in previous years we, are growing and improving at such a high rate that my dream of one day going to nationals is becoming more and more of a reality."

Rybak herself is an outsta player and an integral part of this improved performance. Playing almost every point and ending with 29 assists and 30 blocks, Rybak was directly involved in scoring almost half of the points this weekend, and was a vital part of the offense for the other points scored.

For those unfamiliar with Ultimate, the team is divided into two main positions, "handlers" and "cutters." Handlers are responsible for being strong throwers and cutters work together as receivers. As a handler. Rybak frequently holds the disc and the team scores many points on her throws spanning almost the entire length of the field.

Other key players were cutter

Kearns-McCoy, coming off of a foot injury, showed that she is back in form with the highest retention rate on the team. Spending significantly more time with the disc than others, her pass completion rate was nearly 90 percent. Kearns-McCoy also scored a "Callahan" point to win a game against BC. Extremely rare events, Callahans occur when a defensive player in-

tercepts the disc in the opposite team's endzone for a score.

These are just a few examples of why Rybak continued, "Not to mention, literally every person on the team is an awesome person."

As the team becomes a more cohesive unit both on and off the field, sMITe will enter regionals, May 5-6 at Dartmouth College, with high expectations.



Alisha R. Schor 'G winds up to throw a pass in a game at the Boston Metro Conference last weekend. The Women's Ultimate Frisbee team placed third, securing their spot at New England Regionals.

# UPCOMING HOME EVENTS

Saturday, April 21

Men's and Women's Crew Women's Lacrosse vs. Wheaton College Baseball vs. WPI

6:50 a.m., Charles River 11 a.m., Roberts Field 12 p.m., Briggs Field



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