



OMARI STEPHENS — THE TECH

This past Tuesday evening, ground was broken for the Vassar Street West Streetscape project with the goal of extending the raised bike lanes, new crosswalks, and other improvements, past Simmons Hall. City of Cambridge mayor Kenneth E. Reeves, MIT president Susan Hockfield, and Simmons Hall philanthropist Richard P. Simmons SB 1953 were among those who turned the first few shovels of dirt.

Smoking Preference Required in Writing

Policy Updated For Existing City Ordinance

By Valery K. Brobbey
STAFF REPORTER

The Housing Office has introduced an online "Housing Smoking Agreement Form" for use by residents of six undergraduate dormitories who wish to request permission to be allowed to smoke in their rooms.

The form was created in compliance with a Cambridge ordinance that includes a line which states that students have to agree in writing to smoke in their rooms, according to an e-mail sent by the Housing Office to the residents of the six dormitories. Although the ordinance was put into place in October 2003, MIT did not previously require students to submit requests in writing. A completed Web form is considered to be a written request.

According to Robin Smedick, the assistant director of Housing, one of the student concerns is what the information will be used for. "The forms and information gathered will be housed in the Undergraduate Housing's Central Office's secure database to protect the privacy of our students," the e-mail said.

City of Cambridge Ordinance No. 1265 bans smoking in workplaces and in buildings to which the public is permitted access, including student residence halls. One exception to this rule is "university Dormitory rooms occupied by one or more students, all of whom are smokers, who have requested in writing to be placed in rooms where smoking is permitted by the University." If all residents of

Smoking, Page 11

Team Tim Personifies Cheerful MIT Mascot

By Mei-Hsin Cheng
STAFF REPORTER

Imagine that it is orientation week. There is free food everywhere and many parents of freshmen who are almost more excited than the students themselves.

Some of these students and parents probably met Matthew A. Ciborowski '08 during orientation, though they may not have known it. Ciborowski, you see, was dressed as MIT's friendly mascot, Tim the Beaver. The perpetually cheerful Tim can be sighted at many campus events, with his buck teeth eternally displayed in a chubby-cheeked grin.

According to Ciborowski, parents were very excited about Tim. They "oohed and ahhed" and told their kids to "go take a picture with him," he said. The freshmen, however, were not

as receptive, Ciborowski recalled, and gave their parents "looks of death."

Ciborowski, however, is not the only Tim out there. He is a member of "Team Tim," a group of eight students hired by the Campus Activities Complex who take turns being MIT's mascot. The team was put together last year, according to Phillip J. Walsh, director of the CAC, in part to give Tim a personality. Each student is paid \$10 per hour, according to the current Student Employment Office listing advertising for a position on Team Tim.

Also, according to Jennifer B. Smith, manager of event planning for the CAC, "student groups had trouble finding people to put on the costume."

Currently, student groups can either rent out the Tim the Beaver cos-

Beaver, Page 15

'Design Squad' Follows Clever Teens

Reality Show Promotes Design Competition For Innovative, Creative Students

By Joanna Weiss
THE BOSTON GLOBE

It won't quite be "Project Runway," but on PBS this winter, a group of teenagers will labor under unforgiving deadlines to design outfits with hidden functions — in one case, a wedding dress that doubles as a tent.

Handheld cameras will record their moves. Conflicts will ensue. Deep thoughts will be revealed.

If this won't get tweens excited about engineering, who knows what will?

That's the idea — and the hope — behind "Design Squad," a new PBS show for 9- to 12-year-olds,

filmed in Boston last summer and scheduled to premiere in February. It's the latest live-action kids' offering from WGBH, Boston's prolific producer of public television shows.

And it's a proposed solution to

Design Squad, Page 14

Faculty to Vote on Task Force Motions Next Month

The final report of the Task Force on the Undergraduate Educational Commons, released last week, was presented at Wednesday's faculty meeting to discussion and some criticism. Two motions were proposed at the meeting to be voted on next month.

News Brief

The first motion, proposed by Professor Steven R. Lerman '72 of civil and environmental engineering, asked the faculty to recognize the report and commit it to the Committee on the Undergraduate Program. CUP would make more specific policy recommendations to be brought back to the faculty for another vote.

According to Undergraduate Association President Andrew T. Lukmann '07, CUP would take at least 18 months to formulate the policy recommendations. "There would still be quite a long time for students and faculty to give input," Lukmann said.

Professor Steven B. Leeb of electrical engineering motioned to postpone the vote on the first motion to February to give the faculty more time to consider the recommendations of the task force's report. The motion to postpone will be voted on during next month's faculty meeting. If it fails, the faculty will vote on the first motion.

— Valery K. Brobbey and Angeline Wang



OMARI STEPHENS — THE TECH

Francois Proulx G rotates the screen on a non-functioning model of the tablet-style One Laptop per Child laptop. Yesterday evening, Nicholas P. Negroponete, chairman emeritus of the MIT Media Laboratory and chairman of the One Laptop per Child nonprofit association, discussed the laptop in a two hour lecture presented by the architecture department.

In Short

¶ A town hall meeting will be held on Sunday at 2 p.m. in the Bush Room. The report of the Task Force on the Undergraduate Educational Commons will be discussed. The Student Advisory Committee on the Recommendations on the Task Force will be compiling student feedback. E-mail edcomm-sac@mit.edu.

¶ Student group ownership will be discussed in an open meeting of the Undergraduate Association Senate Monday at 8 p.m. on the fourth floor of the Student Center. The report of the Task Force on Undergraduate Education Commons and Orientation is also on the agenda.

¶ The Amgen Scholars Program selected MIT as one of 10 program sites and also as the national program office. MIT will receive two \$1 million grants, according to an MIT News Office press release. Both grants will last four years. One will fund summer research positions for 30 students, half of whom will be from MIT, while the other grant will fund the activities of the program's national office.

¶ The Institute of Medicine elected three MIT faculty as members last week, according to an MIT News Office press release. HST professor Elazer R. Edelman and biology professors Rudolf Jaenisch and Susan L. Lindquist were elected.

¶ The Academy of Arts and Sciences inducted three MIT professors — Timothy M. Swager of chemistry, K. Daron Acemoglu of economics, and Joshua Angrist of economics — according to an MIT News Office press release. Institute Professor Emilio Bizzi was also installed as the 44th president of the Academy.

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



A capella groups sing out at last week's Boston Songfest

Page 5

NEWS

Escaping the real world with Second Life, an online video game

Page 12

World & Nation	2
Opinion	4
Arts	5
Comics / Fun Pages	8
Sports	16

WORLD & NATION

Firm Reports Stem Cell Advance For Diabetes

By Andrew Pollack
THE NEW YORK TIMES

Scientists at a small California biotechnology company reported Thursday that they had developed a process to turn human embryonic stem cells into pancreatic cells that can produce insulin and other hormones.

The work by the company, Novocell, based in San Diego, is a step toward using embryonic stem cells to replace the insulin-producing cells that are destroyed by the body's immune system in people with Type 1, or juvenile, diabetes. Years of research remain, however, before a therapy developed from this approach can be put to use.

Embryonic stem cells can potentially be turned into any type of tissue in the body, and scientists are trying to figure out how to form various types.

Other researchers have previously reported turning various types of human or animal stem cells into cells that produce insulin. But the new work, published online Thursday by the journal Nature Biotechnology, represents a significant advance, some experts said.

"It provides some very strong evidence that it will be possible to make insulin producing pancreatic beta cells from human E.S. cells in a culture dish," said Dr. Mark A. Magnuson, a professor at Vanderbilt University, in an e-mail message. He said the scientists at Novocell had achieved an efficiency of cell conversion and insulin production in "orders of magnitude higher than anything previously accomplished."

Two Big Deals Make Hong Kong No. 1 in 2006 IPOs

By Keith Bradsher
THE NEW YORK TIMES

HONG KONG

In a reflection of China's growing prominence in international finance, Hong Kong is set for a banner year in global markets: More money will be raised by companies selling shares to the public here than on the biggest exchanges in New York and London.

And on Friday, pricing will be set for the world's largest offering ever, that of China's biggest bank, Industrial and Commercial Bank of China.

This week, long lines of individual investors showed up at downtown stalls to grab prospectuses for the bank's initial public offering, while institutional investors have swamped the underwriters with orders.

The offering, scheduled Oct. 27, is expected to raise \$16 billion in Hong Kong. And in a twist from conventional offerings, the company will also raise about \$6 billion in Shanghai that day.

Fearing Losses, GOP Leaders Spread Blame

By David Kirkpatrick
THE NEW YORK TIMES

Tax-cutters are calling evangelicals bullies. Christian conservatives say Republicans in Congress have let them down. Hawks fault President Bush for bungling the war in Iraq. And many conservatives blame Rep. Mark Foley's sexual messages to teenage pages.

With polls showing Republican control of Congress in jeopardy, conservative leaders are pointing fingers at one other in an increasingly testy circle of blame for potential Republican losses this fall.

"It is one of those rare defeats that will have many fathers," said David Keene, chairman of the American Conservative Union, expressing the gloomy view of many conservatives about the outcome on Election Day. "And they will all be somebody else."

Whether the election will bear out their pessimism remains to be seen, and the factors that contribute to an electoral defeat are often complex and even contradictory.

Confident Democrats Draft Broad Health Care Agenda

By Robert Pear
THE NEW YORK TIMES

WASHINGTON

Expecting to gain seats in Congress, Democrats are drafting an ambitious health care agenda to carry out their campaign promises with legislation to lower drug costs for older Americans, provide more money for children's health insurance and expand research using embryonic stem cells.

Many Democrats in the House and the Senate say they want federal officials to negotiate directly with pharmaceutical companies to obtain lower prices for Medicare beneficiaries. The 2003 Medicare law explicitly prohibits such negotiations.

Rep. Nancy Pelosi of California, the House Democratic leader, said that if Democrats were in control, they would try to repeal that ban in the first 100 hours after the House convenes.

Private insurers already negotiate drug discounts for Medicare beneficiaries, but Democrats say the government could get a better deal.

"I don't know that we could undo all the private plans," said Rep. Pete

Stark of California, who would be chairman of an important health subcommittee if Democrats were in the majority. "But at least we could offer a government-administered drug benefit. Under the existing program, we virtually guarantee the insurance companies against loss, which is a ludicrous position for us to be in."

For 12 years, House Democrats have felt powerless to shape the health care agenda. Now they sense a major opportunity. Not only are they using health care as an issue in the midterm elections, but they also plan to use it to set the stage for the 2008 presidential campaign.

Chris Murphy, the Democrat challenging Rep. Nancy L. Johnson in Connecticut, has attacked her role in writing the 2003 Medicare law, while Johnson takes credit for helping "millions of seniors."

In Ohio, the Democratic candidate for the Senate, Rep. Sherrod Brown, repeatedly points out that the number of uninsured has increased by more than five million since President Bush took office.

Embryonic stem cell research has been a defining issue in Sen-

ate races in Arizona, Maryland and Minnesota. Republicans are not ceding those issues to Democrats.

In a recent television commercial, Rep. John E. Sweeney, a four-term Republican from upstate New York, boasts that he has "come through for every hospital in this part of New York — every one." Sen. Lincoln Chafee, Republican of Rhode Island, and Rep. Deborah Pryce, Republican of Ohio, boast that they split with Bush and voted for research using embryonic stem cells.

On Capitol Hill, the Democratic agenda faces three significant constraints: Bush, fiscal reality and industry resistance.

Any move to allow direct federal negotiation of drug prices would be opposed by the White House, most congressional Republicans and drug companies, which stand to lose more than any other industry if Democrats take control of Congress.

Drug companies worked closely with Republicans to pass the 2003 Medicare law, and drug makers have overwhelmingly favored Republicans over Democrats in their campaign contributions.

Students Embrace Virtual Labs; College Educators Have Doubts

By Sam Dillon
THE NEW YORK TIMES

When the Internet was just beginning to shake up American education, a chemistry professor photographed thousands of test tubes holding molecular solutions and, working with video game designers, created a simulated laboratory that allows students to mix chemicals in virtual beakers and watch the reactions.

In the years since, that virtual chemistry laboratory — as well as other simulations allowing students to dissect virtual critters or to peer into tidal pools in search of virtual anemone — has become a widely used science teaching tool. The virtual chemistry laboratory alone has some 150,000 students seated at computer terminals around the country to try experiments that would be too costly or dangerous to do at their local high schools.

"Some kids figure out how to blow things up in half an hour," said the professor, Brian F. Woodfield of Brigham Young University.

Now, however, a dispute with potentially far-reaching consequences has flared over how far the Internet can go in displacing the brick-and-mortar laboratory.

Prompted by skeptical university professors, the College Board, one of the most powerful organizations in American education, is questioning whether Internet-based laboratories are an acceptable substitute for the hands-on culturing of gels and peering through microscopes that have long been essential ingredients of American laboratory science.

As part of a broader audit of the thousands of high school courses that display its Advanced Placement trademark, the board has recruited panels of university professors and experts in

Internet-based learning to scrutinize the quality of online laboratories used in Web-based AP science courses.

"Professors are saying that simulations can be really good, that they use them to supplement their own lab work, but that they'd be concerned about giving credit to students who have never had any experience in a hands-on lab," said Trevor Packer, the board's executive director for Advanced Placement. "You could have students going straight into second-year college science courses without ever having used a Bunsen burner."

Internet-based educators are seeking to persuade the board, and the public, that their virtual laboratories are educationally sound, pointing out that their students earn high scores on the AP exams. They also say online laboratories are often the only way advanced science can be taught in isolated rural schools or impoverished urban ones.

WEATHER

WWW: Wicked Windy Weekend

By Cegeon Chan
STAFF METEOROLOGIST

Feel a chill in the air? The intensifying low pressure system making its way through Boston will usher in an abnormally cool air mass and, unfortunately, it is here to stay. Yesterday's high temperatures in the mid 60s°F will likely not be reached again in the next couple of weeks. In fact, for most of the eastern half of the United States, below-average temperatures are forecasted for the next two weeks.

What can explain this pattern and how can we be so certain? There is a robust pattern called the Arctic Oscillation (AO) that describes a seesaw of mass between the mid-latitudes and the polar regions. When there is a ring of anomalously low pressure in the mid-latitudes, an accompanying ring of anomalously high pressure occurs in the polar regions. This consequently displaces the jet stream southward, allowing cooler air masses to persist in Boston.

On top of the cooler temperatures, expect windy conditions for the next couple of days. Any late night partiers tonight will be contending with wind gusts up to 50 mph. Although sunny skies are expected when the storm exits tomorrow, windy conditions will continue through tomorrow night. Therefore, Sunday will be the better of the two days, as winds finally subside.

Extended Forecast

Today: Light rain showers, heavier in the afternoon. Increasing winds. High 64°F (18°C).

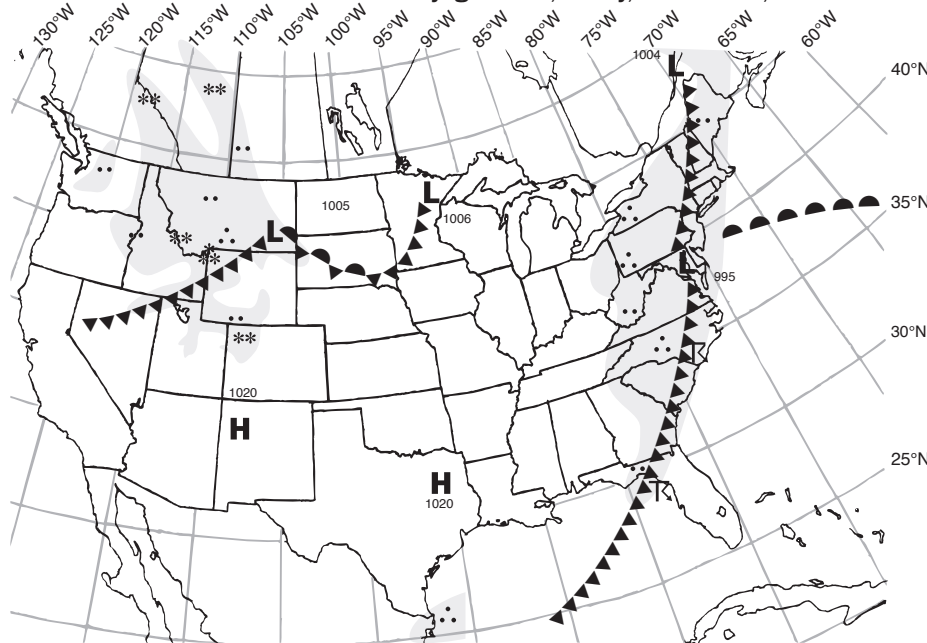
Tonight: Much cooler, windy with gusts up to 50 mph. Low 39°F (4°C).

Tomorrow: Mostly sunny with winds 15 to 20 mph. High 59°F (15°C).

Tomorrow night: Mostly clear, winds 10 to 15 mph. Low 39°F (4°C).

Sunday: Mostly sunny. High 59°F (15°C).

Situation for Noon Eastern Daylight Time, Friday, October 20, 2006



Weather Systems	Weather Fronts	Precipitation Symbols	Other Symbols
H High Pressure	- - - Trough	Snow *	Fog
L Low Pressure	—••• Warm Front	Rain ∇	Thunderstorm
§ Hurricane	▲▲▲ Cold Front	Light *	Haze
	▲▲▲ Stationary Front	Moderate **	
		Heavy ***	

Compiled by MIT Meteorology Staff and The Tech

Dow Closes Above 12,000 Mark Amid Troubled Housing Market

By Vikas Bajaj
THE NEW YORK TIMES

The Dow Jones industrial average closed above the 12,000 mark for the first time on Thursday, but looking ahead, the stock market's performance in the coming year will largely hinge on how gracefully the economy handles the troubled housing market.

The Dow, a well-known though not comprehensive market barometer, squeaked by 12,000 after two weeks of strong gains, indicating that investors are increasingly confident that the economy is poised to perform the relatively rare feat of slowing without stalling. The Standard & Poor's 500 stock index, a broader measure of the market, has also done well and is up 9.5 percent for the year.

The Dow industrials closed up 19.05 points on Thursday, to 12,011.73; the S&P 500 advanced 1 point, to 1,366.96; the technology-focused Nasdaq composite index gained 3.79 points, closing at 2,340.94; and the Russell 2000 index of smaller-capitalization companies rose 3.98 points, to 767.39.

The yield on the 10-year Treasury note, which moves in the opposite di-

rection of its price, rose to 4.79 percent from 4.76 percent.

"It is the best of both worlds here," said Steven M. Roge, a portfolio manager at the Roge Partners Fund. "We have interest rates that are still below the long-term average, capital is still flowing freely and growth is strong but not excessive."

But doubters say that may be too sanguine a view. Atop the list of concerns is the softening housing market and its direct and indirect effects on the economy. In addition to job losses in construction, finance and related fields, falling home sales and prices threaten to dampen consumer spending, which has been energized by low-cost mortgages and home equity loans.

"I am a little nervous that there is too much complacency," said Liz Ann Sonders, chief investment strategist for Charles Schwab & Co. "An overall economic soft landing is what is priced into the market. Believe me, I would love to get one, but soft landings are pretty hard to come by."

Other concerns include tensions in the Middle East and on the Korean peninsula. Those and other geopo-

litical matters could easily reverse the slide in oil and gasoline prices that started in August and helped lift consumers' spirits and their spending in the last month.

The recent run-up in the market has favored large stocks, fattening the Dow, a dollar-weighted index of 30 blue-chip companies. Among Dow components, the technology giants Intel and Microsoft, which lagged early in the year, have had a good run.

But some stock pickers see that strength as a worrying signal that large-company stocks may have become too expensive, at least for the time being. They note that when measured against earnings, the price of larger stocks is now higher than that of the S&P 500 as a whole.

More bullish investors say that many such concerns are hypothetical. In their view, stocks are fairly priced based on still-strong earnings reports and forecasts. The price-to-earnings ratios of stocks — 17.8 for the S&P 500 and 22.5 for the Dow, according to Bloomberg News — are close to historical averages and far below the lofty levels of early 2000 in the technology boom.

China May Reduce Oil Shipments To North Korea, Step Up Pressure

By Joseph Kahn
THE NEW YORK TIMES

BEIJING

China is prepared to step up pressure on North Korea in coming weeks by reducing oil shipments, among other measures, if the country refuses to return to negotiations or conducts more nuclear tests, Chinese government advisers and scholars who have discussed the matter with the leadership say.

If Beijing does take a tougher line on its neighbor and longtime ally, the action is likely to bolster its relationship with the United States. Washington has urged Chinese leaders to use all the tools at their disposal to put additional pressure on Kim Jong Il, the North Korean leader.

Among the most potent of those tools is oil. China provides an estimated 80 percent to 90 percent of North Korea's oil imports, shipped by pipeline at undisclosed prices that Chinese officials say represent a steep discount from the world market price. Any reduction in that aid could severely hamper North Korea's already faltering economy.

Several leading Chinese experts said senior officials had indicated in the

past week that they planned to slap new penalties on North Korea going beyond the ban on sales of military equipment imposed by the United Nations. But they would be likely to hold off if Kim agreed to return to multilateral talks soon.

Discussions about how to respond to the nuclear test, which was described by one expert as a "political earthquake" for Chinese leaders, come amid a flurry of diplomacy aimed at ironing out enforcement of U.N. sanctions and luring Kim back to negotiations.

Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice is to arrive in Beijing on Friday to meet with Chinese officials. On Thursday in Pyongyang, Kim met a delegation sent by President Hu Jintao of China, the first diplomatic contact with the North Korean leader since the nuclear test on Oct. 9.

There was no immediate word on what Kim told the Chinese, but Beijing experts said he would most likely have declined to meet with the delegation, headed by a Cabinet-level official, State Councilor Tang Jiaxuan, unless he hoped to head off additional penalties by promising to resume negotiations.

"China is going to have to make some crucial choices in the coming days," said one senior international relations specialist who has participated in top-level discussions of the matter but asked to remain anonymous. "I think Chinese leaders are prepared to take a hard line, but Kim may be smart enough to try to divide China and the U.S."

China and United States already have some differences over how to enforce the U.N. sanctions that they and the rest of the Security Council voted for last Saturday. Beijing says it will not interdict North Korean cargo ships at sea, as the United States and Japan have recommended, and has warned against seeking to use the sanctions to provoke a confrontation.

"All sides need to consider how to implement Resolution 1718 in a balanced way and not devise ways to willfully expand the sanctions," Liu Jianchao, the Foreign Ministry spokesman, said Thursday, referring to the Security Council resolution banning the sale or transfer of missile- or nuclear-weapons-related goods to North Korea. "Sanctions are the signal, not the goal."

New Russian Law Temporarily Halts Some Foreign Organization Operations

By C.J. Chivers
THE NEW YORK TIMES

MOSCOW

Scores of foreign private organizations were forced to cease their operations in Russia on Thursday while the government considered whether to register them under a new law that has received sharp international criticism.

Among the suspended organizations are some of those most critical of the Kremlin, including Human Rights Watch and Amnesty International, and others, like the National Democratic Institute and the International Republican Institute, that have been accused by Russian officials of instigating or assisting revolutions in other former Soviet republics.

The Justice Ministry, which is responsible for registering foreign private organizations, insisted that the suspensions were neither retaliatory nor permanent.

It issued a statement saying the suspended organizations had not properly filed new registration materials or had submitted the required

materials on the last day before the registration deadline, which was midnight Wednesday. It said it was rushing to review the applications it had received.

"It is important to note that lack of reregistration does not entail the liquidation of the organization," the statement said. "The talk here is only that these organizations cannot carry out the activity envisaged by their charters before they are brought into the register."

The number of suspended organizations is not entirely clear. The statement said the ministry had received applications from 185 organizations, approved 108 of them and continued to review the 77 others.

But the suspensions were the latest chapter in Russia's pressure on foreign organizations that have offices on its soil. They occurred in a climate of deepening worry about the Kremlin's crackdown on civil society and just days before a planned visit by Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice.

Rice has expressed concern about the law regulating foreign

private organizations, known as nongovernmental organizations, or NGOs, which was passed earlier this year.

Some Russian officials, including Nikolai P. Patrushev, the chief of the domestic intelligence service, have accused the groups of interfering with state affairs or even harboring spies.

The new law, strongly backed by President Vladimir V. Putin, created extensive new filing requirements, which in some cases the organizations said had been so tedious and lengthy as to be almost impossible to fulfill. The groups have also expressed apprehension over the rules' vagueness, which could allow any group to be audited, and perhaps closed, on a pretext.

They and their supporters have said that the way the law is carried out will be a test of whether Russia will allow foreign organizations that it dislikes to continue to work in the country. The first deadline, and its effects on Thursday, were accompanied by a strong sense of concern, even fear.

NBC Says Viewers Won't Notice Cuts in News Staff

By Jacques Steinberg

THE NEW YORK TIMES

NBC executives predicted that budget cuts announced Thursday across the breadth of its newsgathering operation would barely ripple with viewers, though their effect off camera is expected to be substantial.

To adapt to the migration of news viewers to the Internet and eliminate overlaps in news coverage, all while trying to offset advertising losses from its prime-time schedule, NBC Universal intends to reduce the staff of its newsgathering operation — about 6,000 people — by an estimated 5 percent, or 300 individuals, and perhaps much more.

Though the company expects the bulk of the reductions to come from eliminating jobs that are already vacant, as well as from early retirements and voluntary buyouts, Steve Capus, the president of NBC News, said that some layoffs were inevitable.

The precise number of reductions overall — as well as among the individual ranks of producers, editors and reporters — will not be known for some time, though "those conversations have begun today," Capus said.

As is the case companywide, virtually every corner of the news division will be affected in some way, including the "Today" show and "NBC Nightly News With Brian Williams"; the cable channel MSNBC; the news desks of the 10 NBC-owned stations, which include WTVJ in Miami and WNBC in New York; and its Spanish-language network, Telemundo, Capus said.

Iraq Propaganda Did Not Violate Law, Pentagon Report Says

By Mark Mazzetti

THE NEW YORK TIMES

WASHINGTON

An American military propaganda campaign that planted favorable news articles in the Iraqi news media did not violate laws or Pentagon regulations, but it was not properly supervised by military officials in Baghdad, an audit by the Pentagon Inspector General has concluded.

The report said that the secret program, run by the military in conjunction with the Lincoln Group, a Washington contractor, was lawful and that it did not constitute a "covert action" designed to influence the internal political conditions of another country.

By law, only intelligence operatives, not the military, are authorized to carry out covert actions, and the government is authorized to deny publicly any knowledge of these activities.

But the audit concluded that military officials in Baghdad violated federal contracting guidelines by failing to keep adequate records about the Lincoln Group's first propaganda contract — for \$10.4 million, signed in September 2004.

A copy of the report's executive summary was released by the inspector general's office on Thursday, and other unclassified materials elaborating on its findings were provided to *The New York Times* by other government officials in response to a request.

The report found that contract officers "did not retain adequate documentation to verify expenditures," nor did they keep records about whether the contract went through the normal procedures for competitive bidding.

Cloaking Copper, Science Steps Toward Invisibility

By John Schwartz

THE NEW YORK TIMES

Invisibility has long been the stuff of fantasy, from Plato's story of the ring of Gyges to Harry Potter's mischief-enabling cloak. But scientists led by a team at Duke University have demonstrated a technology that could be a small step in the right misdirection.

The system, a set of concentric copper circles on fiberglass board, deflects electromagnetic waves of a specific frequency that strike it, without much of the scattering and absorption that make reflections and shadows.

The result is that the microwaves slide around the structure like water flowing around a smooth rock in a stream, said David R. Smith, a professor of electrical and computer engineering at Duke and an author of the paper published Friday in the journal *Science*.

The exact structure of the circles was described in an earlier paper by Sir John Pendry of Imperial College in London, who worked with the Duke group to see his theory etched into a working model by means of the process used to print circuit boards. In the recent paper, researchers said they had successfully cloaked a copper cylinder.

The findings were first revealed in *The Sun*, a British tabloid. "Bofin Invents Invisibility Cloak," the headline stated, using the British slang for a research scientist.

Former House Clerk Testifies For Four Hours

By Jeff Zeleny

THE NEW YORK TIMES

WASHINGTON

Jeff Trandahl, the former House clerk who supervised the congressional page program, testified before the House ethics committee on Thursday that he had periodically advised senior Republican leadership aides of complaints about Rep. Mark Foley's behavior on Capitol Hill.

Trandahl, whose account is seen by investigators as key to determining whether Speaker Dennis Hastert knew about Foley's conduct, took questions for four hours in a closed session. He declined to comment as he left the Capitol, but people familiar with his testimony said Trandahl recounted how he informed the speaker's office about concerns Foley was spending too much time with young pages.

Foley, a Florida Republican, resigned last month after news reports about his exchange of sexually suggestive e-mails and instant messages with pages. "Jeff Trandahl has cooperated fully with the investigation being conducted by the FBI and the investigative group of the Committee on Standards," his lawyer, Cono Namorato, said in a statement. "He answered every question asked of him, and stands ready to render additional assistance if needed."

OPINION

Letters To The Editor



Chairman

Zachary Ozer '07

Editor in Chief

Marie Y. Thibault '08

Business Manager

Jeffrey Chang '08

Managing Editor

Michael McGraw-Herdeg '08

Executive Editor

Rosa Cao G

NEWS STAFF

Editors: Benjamin P. Gleitzman '09, Angeline Wang '09; **Staff:** Curt Fischer G, John A. Hawkinson '98, Waseem S. Daher '07, Ray C. He '07, Tongyan Lin '07, Hanhan Wang '07, Michael Snella '08, Jiao Wang '08, Daniela Cako '09, Mei-Hsin Cheng '09, Gabriel Fouasson '09, Hannah Hsieh '09, Diana Jue '09, Laura Nicholson '09, Ji Qi '09, Yinyao Qian '09, Kirtana Raja '09, Yi Zhou '09, JiHye Kim '10, Manisha Padi '10, Joanne Y. Shih '10; **Meteorologists:** Cegeon Chan G, Robert Korty G, Jon Moskaitis G, Michael J. Ring G, Roberto Rondanelli G, Brian H. Tang G, Tim Whitcomb G, Angela Zalucha G.

PRODUCTION STAFF

Editors: Tiffany Dohzen G, Austin Chu '08; **Associate Editor:** Rong Hu '08; **Staff:** Sie Hendrata Dharmawan G, Valery K. Brobbey '08, Emily Ko '08, Jessica Witchley '10.

OPINION STAFF

Editor: Aditya Kohli '09; **Staff:** Hector H. Hernandez G, Barun Singh G, Josh Levinger '07, Justin Wong '07, Ali S. Wyne '08, Krishna Gupta '09.

SPORTS STAFF

Editor: Travis Johnson '08; **Staff:** Chris Bettinger G, Ryan Lanphere '06, Albert Ni '09.

ARTS STAFF

Editors: Jillian Berry '08, Nivair H. Gabriel '08; **Staff:** Bogdan Fedeles G, Kapil Amarnath '07, Tony Hwang '07, Andrew Lee '07, Nikhil S. Nadkarni '07, Mirat Shah '08.

PHOTOGRAPHY STAFF

Editors: Christina Kang '08, Omari Stephens '08, Ricardo Ramirez '09; **Staff:** Melanie Miller G, Stanley Hu '00, Scott Johnston '03, Gheorghe Chistol '07, Fred Gay '07, Dmitry Kashlev '07, Stephanie Dudzic '08, Scot Frank '08, Tiffany Iaconis '08, Nicole Koulisis '08, Mary-Irene Lang '08, David Reshef '08, David M. Templeton '08, Kenneth Yan '08, Connie Yee '08, Sally E. Peach '09, Eric D. Schmiedl '09, Jerzy Szablowski '09, Yalu Wu '09, Bea Jarrett '10, Samuel E. Kronick '10, Aaron Sampson '10, Jongu Shin '10, William Yee '10.

CAMPUS LIFE STAFF

Editor: Bill Andrews '05; **Staff:** Bruce Wu G, Kailas Narendran '01, Elizabeth Zakszewski '06, Victor Cabral '07, Ruth Miller '07; **Cartoonists:** Scott Burdick G, John David Payne G, Emezie Okorafor '03, Jia Lou '07, Ash Turza '08.

BUSINESS STAFF

Advertising Managers: Cokie Hu '08, Tai Ho Kang '08; **Operations Manager:** Jennifer Wong '07; **Staff:** Julia Ye '09.

TECHNOLOGY STAFF

Director: Shreyes Seshasai '08.

EDITORS AT LARGE

Contributing Editor: Brian Hemond G; **Senior Editor:** Keith J. Winstein G.

ADVISORY BOARD

Paul E. Schindler, Jr. '74, V. Michael Bove '83, Barry Surman '84, Robert E. Malchman '85, Deborah A. Levinson '91, Jonathan Richmond PhD '91, Saul Blumenthal '98, Frank Dabek '00, Ryan Ochylski '01, Satwiksai Seshasai '01, Rima Arnaout '02, Daniel Ryan Bersak '02, Eric J. Cholankeril '02, Jordan Rubin '02, Nathan Collins SM '03, Akshay R. Patil '04, Jyoti Tibrewala '04, B. D. Colen.

PRODUCTION STAFF FOR THIS ISSUE

Editors: Tiffany Dohzen G, Austin Chu '08; **Staff:** Valery K. Brobbey '08, Ricardo Ramirez '09.

The Tech (ISSN 0148-9607) is published on Tuesdays and Fridays during the academic year (except during MIT vacations), Wednesdays during January, and monthly during the summer by The Tech, Room W20-483, 84 Massachusetts Avenue, Cambridge, Mass. 02139. Subscriptions are \$45.00 per year (third class) and \$105.00 (first class). **POSTMASTER:** Please send all address changes to our mailing address: The Tech, P.O. Box 397029, Cambridge, Mass. 02139-7029. **TELEPHONE:** Editorial: (617) 253-1541. Business: (617) 258-8324. Facsimile: (617) 258-8226. *Advertising, subscription, and typesetting rates available.* Entire contents © 2006 The Tech. Printed on recycled paper by Charles River Publishing.

The Tech: Underachieving

Where did this paper go wrong? While some articles excel at taking advantage of MIT's amazing ability to attract notable persons from all over the world and hear their thoughts in an informal setting, like the recent interview with the Prime Minister of Trinidad and Tobago, others fail, like the interview with Jeff Bezos, the CEO of Amazon.com, "Bezos: Pimp My Segway" (Oct. 17, 2006).

What is most disheartening about this interview is that right now, very exciting and interesting events have been taking place at Amazon.com. While I reveled at the mention of the Badonkadonk tank, I was incredibly disappointed with the interview as a whole. In the last few months Amazon.com has started a new service where they rent out their computing power, a move that (unfortunately) smacks horribly of the "bandwidth trading" market that Enron was trying to create before their fall. These services are wildly different, but the mere comparison would have gotten Jeff Bezos talking. Wouldn't it have been cool to find out how this enterprise is going? Ask him how Amazon might supply

discounts for universities or groups working on large-scale projects like Folding At Home or Einstein At Home? Furthermore, Amazon's new Unbox service (for downloading movies) along with iTunes movies have incited an amazing amount of controversy when Walmart, the largest retail chain in America, threatened to stop selling a distributor's movies if it sold them on these services. There were so many serious questions that could have been asked whose response would not have been filtered through multiple memos and a dry press release released by the public relations department of Amazon.

It's hard to be both lighthearted and serious in one single publication. *The Tech* should not try to be. We have an amazing opportunity here at MIT to ask questions of real substance to those people that visit. I know that *The Tech* won't be able to ferret out ground-breaking answers to questions of earthshattering importance. But with a little work you can get answers to questions the average Joe isn't likely to ask. The reputation of *The Tech* will only increase if *The Tech's* staff treat it with the respect that a newspaper deserves.

Benjamin J. Bloom '08

[Editor's note: The Bezos interview was featured in the Campus Life section, not the News

section, and thus strove to give a glimpse of his personal character instead of focusing on changes at Amazon.com.]

One Muslim's Laudable Message to His People

I heartily laud Mr. Wyne's imploring message to fellow Muslims in his Oct. 13 opinion column, "One Muslim's Message to His People." As another proud Muslim, I also believe that we Muslims should first become responsible for our own actions and be able to respect ourselves before we can expect this same respect from other communities. I also concur that as young Muslims we should honor the legacy of our faith, and for the sake of our ummah and the world at large, we should think now, of what we can do to re-build bridges and assume a place in civil society. As MIT students living in the Western world, as the intellectuals of today and tomorrow, we no doubt have a large burden on our shoulders, but we are also in an optimal place to re-start Mr. Wyne's revolution of the pen and heart.

Rumi Chunara G

Corrections

The diver on the back cover of the Oct. 17 issue is Kristin L. Uhmeyer '09, not Lauren P. Cipicchio '10.



The second nuclear age



Opinion Policy

Editorials are the official opinion of *The Tech*. They are written by the editorial board, which consists of Chairman Zachary Ozer, Editor in Chief Marie Y. Thibault, Managing Editor Michael McGraw-Herdeg, Executive Editor Rosa Cao, and Opinion Editor Aditya Kohli.

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

Letters to the editor, columns, and editorial cartoons are written by individuals and represent the opinion of the author, not necessarily that of the newspaper. Electronic submissions are encouraged and should be sent to letters@the-tech.mit.edu. Hard copy submissions should be addressed to *The Tech*, P.O. Box 397029, Cambridge, Mass. 02139-7029, or sent by interdepartmental mail to Room W20-483. All submissions are due by 4:30 p.m. two days before the date of publication.

Letters, columns, and cartoons must bear the authors' signatures, addresses, and phone numbers. Unsigned letters will not be accepted. *The Tech* reserves the right to edit or condense letters; shorter let-

ters will be given higher priority. Once submitted, all letters become property of *The Tech*, and will not be returned. *The Tech* makes no commitment to publish all the letters received.

Guest columns are opinion articles submitted by members of the MIT or local community and have the author's name in italics. Columns without italics are written by *Tech* staff.

To Reach Us

The Tech's telephone number is (617) 253-1541. E-mail is the easiest way to reach any member of our staff. If you are unsure whom to contact, send mail to general@the-tech.mit.edu, and it will be directed to the appropriate person. You can reach the editor in chief by e-mailing eic@the-tech.mit.edu. Please send press releases, requests for coverage, and information about errors that call for correction to news@the-tech.mit.edu. Letters to the editor should be sent to letters@the-tech.mit.edu. *The Tech* can be found on the World Wide Web at <http://the-tech.mit.edu>.

ARTS

CONCERT REVIEW

A Cappella Groups Make Some Noise at GBIS

Logs Steal the Show With Smiles and Costumes

Jillian Berry

ARTS EDITOR

Greater Boston Invitational Songfest (GBIS)
Saturday, Oct. 14, 2006
Kresge Auditorium, 8 p.m.

As is tradition, the Greater Boston Invitational Songfest (GBIS) took place last Saturday night in Kresge Auditorium. With family and students packed into the seats, six of MIT's a cappella groups took to the stage. Each group sang three songs and talked a little about who they are.

The only all-female group, the Muses, started off the show with a rendition of Kelly Clarkson's "Behind These Hazel Eyes," sung by Valerie A. Yorgan '08. Yorgan certainly showed the power in her voice with this pop song, but she had a few problems with pitch, and the song sounded rushed. The Muses followed up with Edwin McCain's "I'll Be," sung by Stephanie H. Cho '06, and Morgan C. Scully's '09 rendition of Natasha Bedingfield's "Unwritten." The songs were good choices; all of the singers, however, were a little out of sync with each other.

Next up were the Cross Products, MIT's Christian co-ed a cappella group. Daniel J. Wendel '08 began their set with "This Is Your Life." There was an almost suspenseful lead-in to the lyrics, and the audience appeared to really enjoy it. Wendel's voice was soothing, and he hit all the notes. Although he ended with strength, Wendel was somewhat overpowered by the background vocalists through most of the song. Prior to beginning the second piece, "Getting Into You," Esther Chung '09 explained the meaning behind the song, which added to its appeal. Chung's high voice was sweet and beautiful in this slow and emotional song, though there was one odd note by a male member of the group, and the duet singer was a bit stiff. Eleojo E. Ocholi '08 completed

their set with "He Is the Way." As in all of their songs, the choreography was simple but in time with the songs, and everyone looked like they were having fun.

The Chorallaries, MIT's oldest co-ed group, came out next, dressed in their traditional black and red. Hao Ding '10 and Holly R. Johnson '07 sang "Hands Down" by Dashboard Confessional. While the singers were good, especially Johnson, their chemistry was even better, and it made this unconventionally romantic song work. For the second song, YeeKwan (Anna) Lo '08 performed Daniel Powter's "Bad Day." Lo's voice was rich and powerful, and she conveyed more emotion than I would have expected from a pop song. Her rendition was amazing, and I may even like it better than the original. Finally, Benjamin M. Schwartz '06 would have made Frank Sinatra proud with "New York, New York."

MIT's all-male a cappella group, The Logarithms (Logs), were the fourth group to perform. Unlike all of the other groups, who were dressed in coordinated ensembles and came on stage from the side, the Logs were all dressed in different crazy costumes — including a robot, Shrek, and a pirate — and came onstage by running through the aisles. Matthew A. Robertson '08 started the group off with "Stay With You" by the Goo Goo Dolls. Robertson looked effortless as he belted out the song. His song preceded a very funny description of the Logs by Michael J. Fitzgerald '07 (as Sacha Baron-Cohen's Borat Sagdiyev). To follow, Matthew S. Schoeneck '07 performed the Fray's "Over My Head (Cable Car)," and he sounded just like the original. The final performer was Michael R. Miller '09, who sang "Feel Good, Inc." by the Gorillaz. Miller's intense performance was accompanied by Stephen B. Nicholson '08 and Fitzgerald's attempted (and hilarious) rapping in the middle of the piece. Throughout the performance, the music was technically sound, but

perhaps more importantly, you could see that they were having fun. They were arguably the best group of the night.

The Logs were a tough act to follow, but Resonance was strong as they opened with Michael Borohovski's '09 performance of "Kryptonite" by 3 Doors Down. Ted A. Fernandez '09 then sang Third Eye Blind's "Deep Inside of You." Although his voice was robust and melodic, I felt the song was a little slow, and there was not enough variation to grab my attention. Resonance finished with Koyel Bhattacharyya '09 singing Christina Aguilera's "Fighting." Bhattacharyya was amazing with her unbelievably strong voice and confidence. Although she could not hit some of the highest notes, her performance was incredibly powerful.

The final group of the night was the MIT/Wellesley Toons. Alison Wheeler started with Kelly Clarkson's "Gone." Her voice was strong and expressive, but became a little screechy at the end. Next, Jennifer D. Lobo '07 performed Lynn Miles's "I Know It Was Love." Although Lobo had a wonderfully deep and emotional voice, the lyrics were difficult to understand and the song was rather slow. For the last song of the evening, Ron Ron Cheng '07 sang Ben Folds' "Army," with the help of the audience. While the audience participation was a nice thought, it took a long time to set up, and when the audience

finally sang the song, Cheng was lost in the noise. However, the song was funny and a nice way to end the show.

Overall, GBIS was a fun night that showed the wide variety of talent at MIT.



JONGU SHIN—THE TECH

MIT's a cappella groups gather on Saturday, Oct. 14 in Kresge Auditorium to perform in the Greater Boston Intercollegiate Songfest a cappella concert for family weekend.

(Clockwise from top right)

Matthew S. Schoeneck '07 (left) and Kevin P. Schoenfelder '09 (right) sing in costume with the MIT Logarithms.

Eleojo E. Ocholi '08 sings with the MIT Cross Products.

Hao Ding '10 and Holly R. Johnson '07 croon with the Chorallaries.

The MIT/Wellesley Toons point to the audience as they strike a pose.



JONGU SHIN—THE TECH



SAMUEL E. KRONICK—THE TECH



SAMUEL E. KRONICK—THE TECH

FILM REVIEW ★★★

The Magic, The Suspense, 'The Prestige'

Nolan Brothers Craft a Screenplay That Entertains — And Horrifies

By Nivair H. Gabriel

ARTS EDITOR

The Prestige

Directed by Christopher Nolan

Based on the novel by Christopher Priest

Written by Jonathan Nolan and Christopher Nolan

Produced by Christopher Nolan, Aaron Ryder, and Emma Thomas

Starring Christian Bale, Hugh Jackman, Scarlett Johansson, Michael Caine, Andy Serkis, and David Bowie

Rated PG-13

Opens Today

Steampunk! That's what they call it when Victorian mystery meets modern technology meets fantastic magic that could never happen. For anyone who likes the idea of magicians in 18th century London (in cahoots with Nikola Tesla, no less!), "The Prestige" will be quite enticing. Director Christopher Nolan's affinity for darkness, exemplified in "Batman Begins" and "Memento," is a big asset here — the film, and the novel by Christopher Priest on which it was based, contain thrilling elements of horror. The old-fashioned, chilling mood is an alluring premise in itself, but together with brother Jonathan, Nolan also

created a decent screenplay. "The Prestige" consistently entertains, and it's got a few rare moments of brilliance.

The film begins with a box of water. After years of bitter rivalry, two magicians (Christian Bale and Hugh Jackman) face each other backstage, each watching the other drown in a glass case as his trick turns utterly sour. This death, however, is merely the first act — we aren't getting the full story.

As the film continues, we see the two men in both past and present, and the threads of the tale slowly twist themselves together. Though I've never read the book and I'm sure that some elements were added and others left out, the screenplay works. Nolan keeps the pace up; the plot doesn't drag, and this reviewer's mind was occupied without being confused.

Cinematographer Wally Pfister, who also worked with Nolan on "Batman Begins" and "Memento," doesn't do anything groundbreaking here, but the film still looks polished and beautiful. The magic tricks are presented with style; viewers will gleefully celebrate the suspense of every act. Unfortunately for MIT students, having an electrical engineering background makes it impossible to ooh and aah at some of the "magic" in the film (which tends to be either mundane or categorically impossible), but the tricks run primarily by actors are



TOUCHSTONE PICTURES

Magician's helper Mr. Cutter (Michael Caine) shows Rupert Angier (Hugh Jackman) how to make a dove disappear in "The Prestige."

still impressive.

Piper Perabo, as magician Rupert Angier (Jackman)'s assistant and wife, excels in her portrayal of the most pivotal trick in the movie; she is the first member of a supporting cast

that makes this movie delightful. Alfred Borden (Bale) also has a romantic foil — actress Rebecca Hall gives a gorgeous and sensitive performance here, and without her Borden's character would have no depth. Unfortunately, however, the last romantic interest

(Scarlett Johansson) is a dreadful stain on a movie filled with talented actors. Johansson, bereft of an expressive face, also can't decide whether to be American or British, and since the rest of the actors have perfect accents, her lazy speech is that much more egregious. Thankfully, there are four more cast members to round out the talent: with Michael Caine, Andy Serkis, Roger Rees, and the indomitable David Bowie.

Leads Bale and Jackman, though unable to disguise their action-hero muscle, perform their intellectual roles with enthusiasm and

play well off each other. Even though the script does not afford amazing opportunities for character development, both actors impress and engage — Bale especially. As Rupert Angier, Jackman inspires sympathy with his portrayal

"The Prestige" is a period piece; it doesn't set out to portray history, but to capture a fantastical place in genre, and it does that quite well.

of a tortured, desperate man searching for a secret, and Alfred Borden's treatment of him seems repugnant — until the movie flips a switch and suddenly Borden is the good-hearted underdog, and Angier the privileged and menacing overlord.

It is a thought-provoking zigzag of emotions that carries through the entire film.

"The Prestige" is a period piece; it doesn't set out to portray history, but to capture a fantastical place in genre, and it does that quite well. Though the film reveals no heartwrenching or weighty truths of life, it will give you hours of pure enjoyment, and a couple of interesting ideas to rattle around in your head. Put your trust in Christopher Nolan's storytelling, Christian Bale's fabulous acting, and a well-chosen and talented supporting cast. You won't be disappointed.



TOUCHSTONE PICTURES

Sleight-of-hand master Alfred Borden (Christian Bale) amazes a young boy (Anthony DeMarco) in "The Prestige."

FILM REVIEW ★★★

'Little Children' Not For Children

Satirical Film About Suburbia Highlights Moody, Disturbing Topics

By Tina Ro

Little Children

Directed by Todd Field

Based on the novel by Tom Perrotta

Written by Todd Field & Tom Perrotta

Produced by Albert Berger, Todd Field, and Ron Yerxa

Starring Jennifer Connelly, Patrick Wilson, Jackie Earle Haley, Gregg Edelman, and Kate Winslet

New Line Cinema

Rated R

Opens Today

Little Children" brings out the beauty and lack of beauty in everyday life. The satirical film incorporates laughter, sorrow, discomfort, and happiness; the audience leaves the theater emotionally and mentally drained from the intensity of the film. "Little Children," originally a novel by Tom Perrotta, is directed by Todd Field; Field also directed, "In the Bedroom," which was nominated for an Academy Award in 2001.

Taking place in a Massachusetts suburb, "Little Children" revolves around a minimal central plot. Different relationships and events characterize and create cohesion for the movie. The exterior scenario involves a sex offender Ronald James McCorvey (Jackie Earle Haley), who after his release from prison attempts to integrate back into society. The neighborhood's fear and rejection of the man ironically invoke our sympathy for him and his honest attempts to "be good."

The public's fear of the "pervert" manifests itself at the playground and town pool — two key locations in the film. These places bring together individuals into what may be called bittersweet relationships. Sarah (Kate Winslet), unhappy with her husband, ventures out with her daughter to the town pool, where she develops a relationship with stay-at-home dad Brad

(Patrick Wilson). Sarah is well-educated, yet spends her time as a housewife by choice. Still, each day she desperately desires and looks forward to the little time she dedicates solely to herself. Brad is not dissatisfied with his stay-at-home status; his previous failure of the bar exam and present lack of will to study situates him in a lifestyle of watching his son while his beautiful wife (Jennifer Connelly) works to support them. Brad, with similar tasks as Sarah, provides her with the companionship she wants, while they both endanger their relationships at home.

The movie focuses on dialogue. It barely has a soundtrack — which supports the austere reality "Little Children" desires to portray. The sounds that do appear range from the commotion of children playing at the pool to the sound of deep breathing. Other moments are filled with silence — due to fear, peace, or even just the simple absence of sound in the scene. The movie's slow movement carries the audience through the scenes in an almost dream-like manner. The camera focuses on details of the surroundings that are normally ignored — such as the sentimental adornments of a home, the majestic



NEW LINE CINEMA

Sarah Pierce (Kate Winslet), the unhappy housewife of "Little Children," holds her daughter Lucy (Sadie Goldstein).

sun reflecting off the clear blue surface of the town's pool, and swings (emphasized with the hollow sound of the swaying of an empty seat)

FILM REVIEW ★★

Once Again, Politics Disappoints

Robin Williams Film is More Like Lamest 'Man of the Year'

By Bill Andrews

CAMPUS LIFE EDITOR

Man of the Year

Written and directed by Barry Levinson

Produced by Barry Levinson, James G. Robinson

Starring Robin Williams, Laura Linney, Christopher Walken, Jeff Goldblum, Lewis Black

Universal Pictures

Now Playing

I love Robin Williams. Don't we all? I mean, he's hilarious! And he can act, a nice bonus for a movie star. So "Man of the Year," his latest film about a comedian winning the U.S. Presidential election, co-starring such other genuinely funny people as Lewis Black and Christopher Walken, should have been a surefire, no-holds-barred, slam-dunk hit. But as politics has all too often caused me to lament — "Alas."

Let's get right down to it. This movie is billed as a comedy. It's starring all these funny people and has a highly amusing premise. All of the trailers are hilarious. Why, then, did writer/director Barry Levinson feel the need to turn it into an action flick halfway through? It's as though I went to a BSO concert, and after the intermission the musicians finished the symphony

'Man of the Year' Full Of Action Scenes, But Deficient in Hilarity

Man of the Year, from Page 6

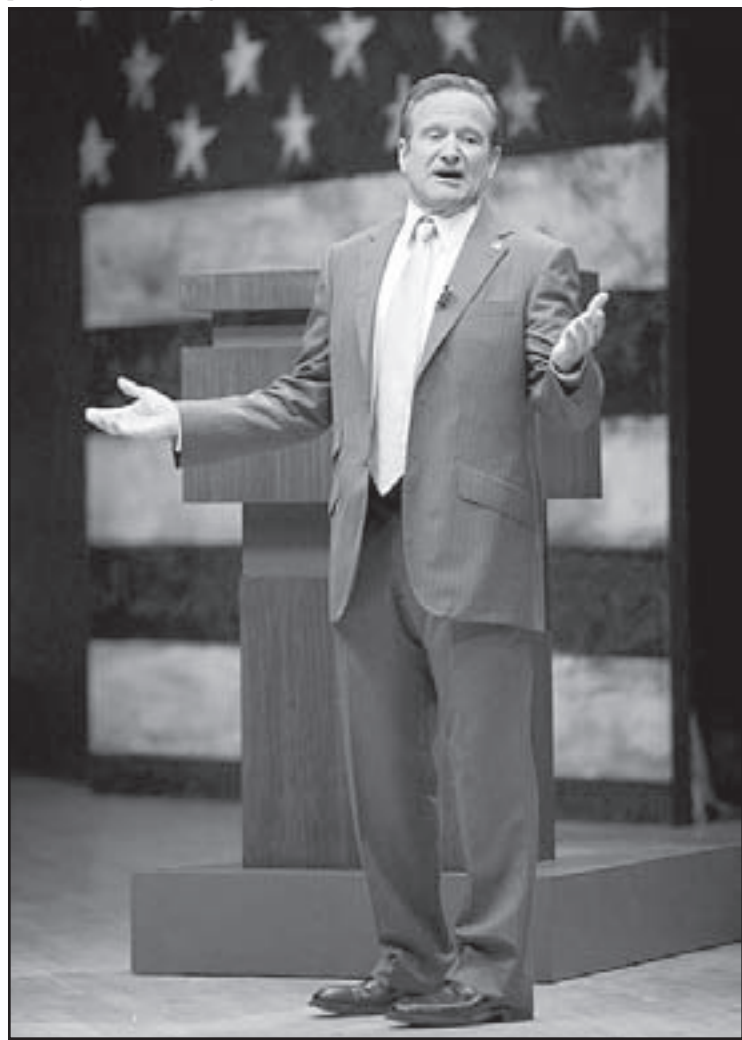
via interpretive dance: it's not what I wanted to see, and they're not really good at it anyway.

Granted, the first half of the movie is pretty good. It's funny, it's interesting, all the characters are having a good time, and Robin Williams is riffing on politics and bathroom scales and marijuana (among other things). If the whole movie had been this good, it would've been a great film, but instead, it shifts gears. Instead of humor driving the plot, and action just being an excuse for more jokes (which is fine with me), the whole mood changes: suddenly we are watching a gloomy, suspenseful, action-filled movie, where jokes take a back seat. All of which I could forgive, but the action just wasn't that good, and that's all there was.

Indeed, once the humor is gone, this movie has little else going for it. The story, so fresh and innovative at first, becomes so hackneyed and obvious I called the ending (down to the very set) half an hour ahead of time. A quick reminder, in case no one has seen the trailers: Tom Dobbs (Williams) hosts a fake news show and, on a whim, runs for president. His manager (Walken) and head writer (Black) think it'll be great for publicity, and Dobbs has a great time — until suddenly, in an unexpected (or not) twist, he wins! Hilarity ensues! Well, except for the fact that his election is exactly when the movie stops being funny.

How's the acting? Well, when they're being funny, they're great; when they're not, it's clear that none of them became stars by acting (lest anyone impugn me, remember that Walken began his career by dancing). How're the sets, effects, editing, score, makeup, and costumes? In a word: meh. Nothing remarkable, nothing out of the ordinary. To beat a point home, this is a movie that really needed to be funny, and just wasn't.

Is it worth seeing? Sure, Williams is funny, and it's nice to see Jeff Goldblum acting again — but don't see it in the theater. Not even at LSC, on the weird chance that they play it. No, your best bet is to wait till it hits TV. Little will be cut (it's rated PG-13), and you'll be able to switch the channel halfway through, probably to something funnier.



Tom Dobbs (Robin Williams) is a fake news show host and surprise U.S. President in "Man of the Year."

Despite Serious Topics, 'Little Children' Offers Up Laughs and Humor

Little Children, from Page 6

against a blurred playground. These shots give depth and significance to the mundane characteristics of suburban life.

The restricted rating is anything but an understatement. More than nudity or violence, the mature situations and content create discomfort and shock the audience at times. Sober topics such as — adultery and mutilation for starters — arouse and test the viewer.

The complexity of the film, however, does not deprive it of laughter. The dark humor evident throughout presents no single punch lines. Instead, single laughs echo in the theater throughout the entire movie. Different situations appear humorous to different viewers. The guaranteed laughter the film provokes gives just the right amount of comic relief needed to go along with the themes of the film.

The closing of the film ties everything together to the universal ideal that the past is for learning from and the future is for creating. "Little Children" is not a light-hearted Friday night flick; it is much more. This movie shines a unique light onto suburbia.

Is everything in a mental health visit really 100% confidential?

Everything that you tell a mental health clinician is privileged information. This means that the information about you cannot be given to any other person without your permission. There are a few exceptions: 1) if you are in danger of physical harm by suicide, then your clinician can notify other people in order to keep you from harming yourself; 2) if someone else is in danger, then that person can be informed; 3) if you are involved in the abuse or neglect of a child or an elderly person, then your clinician is mandated to inform the appropriate agency.

I am applying for a job and the application asks if I have ever been diagnosed with a psychiatric disorder. Does seeing someone at MHS mean I have to answer yes to this question?

Not necessarily. Many people are seen at MHS for things other than "psychiatric disorders." It is also important to remember that for most jobs a "yes" answer to that question usually just leads to a few more questions and the prospective employer possibly contacting the clinician at MHS.

I am applying for a job that requires a security clearance. Will the fact that I have been seen at MHS have an impact on my clearance?

This is an issue that comes up frequently. Usually the agency that is doing the clearance contacts MHS after notifying you (we need your permission to release information; usually the agency has already asked you to sign something to this effect). The agency will ask your clinician for his or her professional opinion as to whether you are a risk to security. They are generally more interested in the clinician's overall assessment regarding your potential risk to security than in the details of your medical record.

This is one of a series of mental health FAQs developed by the Student Health Advisory Committee (SHAC) with input from MIT Medical's Mental Health Service (MHS). More questions and answers on mental health issues are available online.

Go to <http://web.mit.edu/medical> to find answers to the following questions

- ▶ Does information about mental health appointments go in my medical record?
- ▶ Who should use mental health services?
- ▶ How do I make an appointment?
- ▶ What should I expect at my first visit?
- ▶ Does it cost anything to use the Mental Health Service at MIT Medical?

To learn more about SHAC membership, look out for our "Turn the Tables: Examine Medical" event, or visit our website <http://web.mit.edu/medical/student>.

MIT Mental Health Service

MIT Medical, E23-3rd Floor

For appointments and information (617) 253-2916

Walk-in hours 2–4 pm, Monday–Friday for urgent matters

TRIO

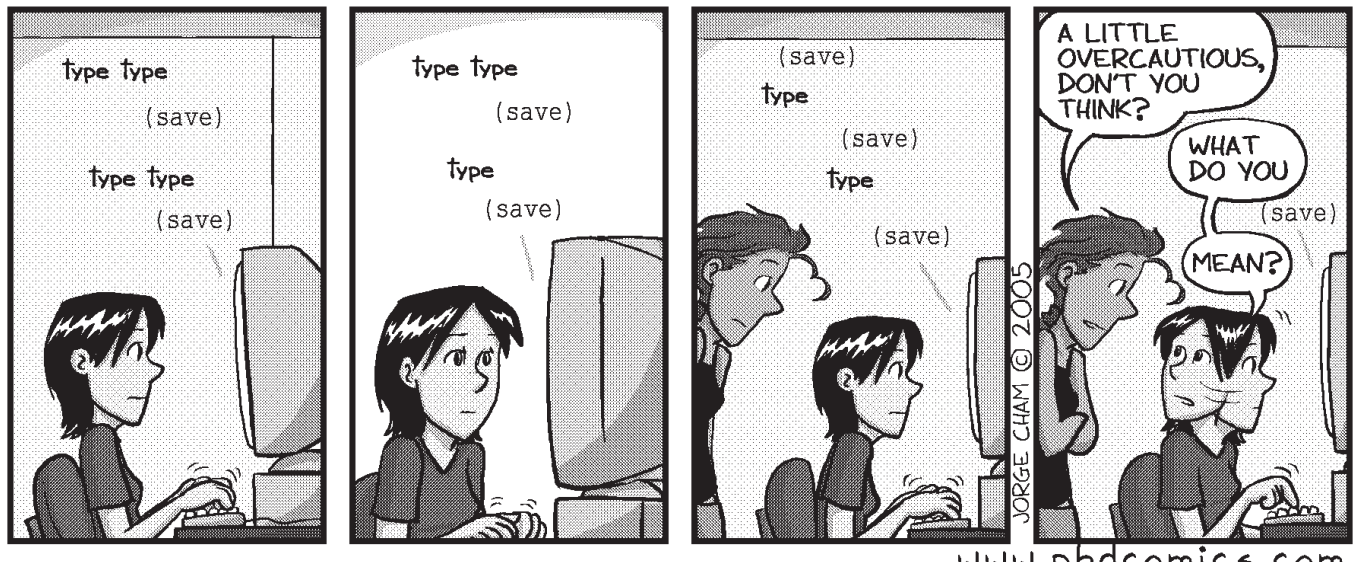
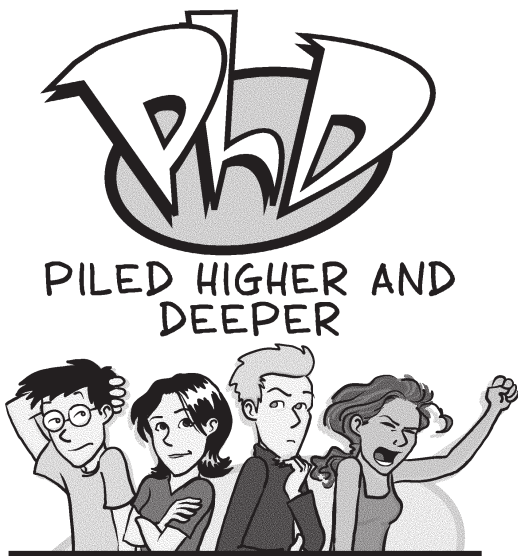
Emezie Okorafor
alum.mit.edu/www/emie

THE ADVENTURES OF MAN

Scott Burdick
sburdick@mit.edu

FoxTrot by Bill Amend

Crossword Puzzle
Solution, page 14



www.phdcomics.com

Bonus Crossword
Solution, page 14

su | do | ku

© Puzzles by Pappocom

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.

Solution on page 14.

Solution, tips, and computer program at <http://www.sudoku.com>

T-SHIRTS ...a necessary fact of College!



part of R.A.W. (Rinnigade Art Works)

ph - 617-625-3335
email - info@qrsts.com
www.qrsts.com

...and best of all - no boring lectures

- Deal direct...no middlemen
- Fast turnaround
- Award winning & computer literate art dept.
- Free delivery & reasonable pricing *Cambridge & Boston Area
- Full color t-shirts and coffee mugs - no minimum!
- Locally owned & operated in Somerville, MA.

...and best of all - no boring lectures

-serving the M.I.T. Community since 1989

Who's the driving force behind record-breaking deals? You & Us

Working closely with our clients, UBS has been the driving force behind some recent record-breaking deals, including the \$24.5 billion acquisition of Kerr-McGee Corporation and Western Gas Resources by Anadarko. If you want to hear more about opportunities to join a firm with this momentum, an outstanding training program and unlimited career potential, visit our Graduate Recruiting website at:

www.ubs.com/graduates

UBS is an equal opportunity employer committed to diversity in its workplace. (M/F/D/V)



Financial Advisor, Bridge Provider and
Administrative Agent

\$24,529,000,000

Purchase of Kerr-McGee Corporation
August 10, 2006

and purchase of Western Gas Resources
August 23, 2006

Largest independent oil and gas exploration
and production company in the U.S.*

Investment
Bank

You & Us



Housing: Application Results Not Used To Single Out Smokers

Smoking, from Page 1

the room do not fill out the form, or cannot come to an agreement, smoking is not permitted.

The city ordinance also requires all roommates to be "smokers," as opposed to permitting smoking in their room, a concern for many students.

"We're not trying to identify smokers," Smedick said. "If that was the case we'd ask all students to fill out the form." Smedick said that this is just a matter of self disclosure on the part of the students. Students are responsible for following the policy, she said.

"This is not an MIT policy per se, but MIT is going to abide by it," said Daniel Trujillo, associate dean for alcohol education and community development. City inspections are a

way to enforce the policy, but it is up to each living community and house team to abide by the policy. The appropriate judicial body, such as the Dormitory Council Judicial Committee, will be consulted in the case of disagreements, Trujillo said.

The undergraduate dormitories that permit students to smoke in their rooms upon request are Bexley Hall, Burton Conner, East Campus, MacGregor House, Random Hall, and Senior House. Housing "worked with the MIT legal office to look at the policy," Smedick said.

Ordinance No. 1265 was approved in Cambridge in June 2003 after similar smoking bans were passed in Boston and Somerville.

The Housing Smoking Agreement Form can be found at http://web.mit.edu/housing/undergrad/smoking_agmt.html.

free tickets for MIT Students!

made possible by the Council for the Arts at MIT

Collage New Music (tickets not necessary: simply show your student ID at the Box Office)

Sunday, October 22 at 7:30pm
Pickman Concert Hall, Longy School of Music, 1 Follen Street, Cambridge

with Judith Bettina, soprano and Roger Tapping, viola
Arnold Schoenberg, Five Piano Pieces, Op. 23 (1920/23)
Morton Feldman, The Viola in My Life I-III (1970)
Milton Babbitt, The Head of the Bed (1981)

Boston Modern Orchestra Project

Season Opening Event

Friday, November 3 at 8:00pm
Jordan Hall, New England Conservatory

Charles Fussell, High Bridge, Portrait of Hart Crane, Prelude for Orchestra (1999)
Lisa Bielawa, unfinish'd, sent (2002)
Jacob Druckman, Nor Spell Nor Charm (1990)
Lisa Bielawa, Roam (2001)
Derek Bermel, Thracian Echoes (2002)
Jacob Druckman, Quickening Pulse (1988)

Boston Secession

Altered States: Mysticism in Music

Friday, November 17 at 8:00pm
First Church in Cambridge, Congregational, 11 Garden Street, Harvard Square

Recalling its 1997 inaugural season, Boston Secession repeats this special concert program about the most human of rituals: vocalizing to honor and explore the sacred. Traversing a wide range of religious traditions and compositional techniques, this program features Benjamin Britten's Rejoice in the Lamb, as well as works by Pauline Oliveros, Orlando di Lasso, George Crumb and others.

Pick up your ticket at the MIT Office of the Arts (E15-205)

Monday through Friday, 10:00am - 4:00pm

One ticket per valid MIT student ID

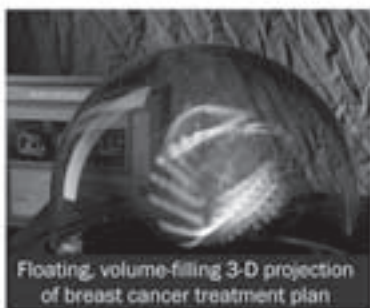
No phone calls please

3-D Medical Careers

Apply Today: Computer Graphics and EE
Medical Imaging and Devices
Holographic 3-D Displays

Actuality Systems develops graphics software and quasi-holographic 3-D display hardware for cancer treatment planning, surgical navigation, and the future of video games.

Use MIT InterviewTrak and submit your resume early.



Floating, volume-filling 3-D projection of breast cancer treatment plan



Next-generation desktop 3-D display technologies

www.actuality-systems.com - cshire@actuality-systems.com
Actuality is an equal opportunity employer located in Bedford, MA.

As featured in Sep/Oct Technology Review pg 59

Annastasia's Palm & Card Readings

Available for Parties

357 Hanover Street
Apt. 1
Boston, MA 02113

(617) 742-8111

\$5 off with student ID

FROM THE DIRECTOR OF "BATMAN BEGINS" and "MEMENTO."

HUGH JACKMAN CHRISTIAN BALE SCARLETT JOHANSSON MICHAEL CAINE

ARE YOU WATCHING CLOSELY?

A FILM BY CHRISTOPHER NOLAN

THE PRESTIGE

TOUCHSTONE PICTURES and WARNER BROS. PICTURES PRESENT A NEWMARKET FILMS and SYNCOPY PRODUCTION A FILM BY CHRISTOPHER NOLAN HUGH JACKMAN CHRISTIAN BALE MICHAEL CAINE SCARLETT JOHANSSON "THE PRESTIGE" ANDY SERKIS PIPER PERABO AND DAVID BOWIE MEG DAVID JULIAN MUSIC BY CHARLES J.D. SCHULZEL CHRIS J. BALL WILLIAM TYLER VALERIE DEAN EDITOR ARRON RYDER EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS ENNA THOMAS CHRISTOPHER NOLAN PRODUCED BY CHRISTOPHER PRIEST WRITTEN BY JONATHAN NOLAN AND CHRISTOPHER NOLAN DIRECTED BY CHRISTOPHER NOLAN

PG-13 PARENTS STRONGLY CAUTIONED
Some Material May Be Inappropriate for Children Under 13
www.prestige-movie.com

IN THEATRES OCTOBER 20

Got news? Let us know!

E-mail news@the-tech.mit.edu

Real People Explore Virtual Lives in Digital 'Utopia'

By Richard Siklos
THE NEW YORK TIMES

It has a population approaching a million. The "people" there make friends, build homes and run businesses. They also play sports, watch movies and do a lot of other familiar things. They even have their own currency, convertible into American dollars.

But residents also fly around, walk underwater and make themselves look beautiful, or like furry animals, dragons or practically anything — or anyone — they wish.

This parallel universe, an online service called "Second Life" that allows computer users to create a new and improved digital version of themselves, began in 1999 as a kind of online video game.

But now, the budding fake world is not only attracting a lot more people, it is taking on a real world twist: Big business interests are intruding on digital utopia. The "Second Life" online service is fast becoming a three-dimensional test bed for corporate marketers, including Sony BMG Music, Sun Microsystems, Nissan, Adidas/Reebok, Toyota and Starwood Hotels.

The sudden rush of real companies into so-called virtual worlds mirrors the evolution of the Internet itself, which moved beyond an educational and research network in the 1990s to become a commercial proposition — but not without complaints from some quarters that the medium's purity would be lost.

Already, the Internet is the fastest-growing advertising medium, as traditional forms of marketing like television commercials and print advertising slow. For businesses, these early forays into virtual worlds could

be the next frontier in the blurring of advertising and entertainment.

Unlike other popular online video games like "World of Warcraft" that are competitive fantasy games, these sites meld elements of the most popular forms of new media: chat rooms, video games, online stores, user-generated content sites like YouTube.com and social networking sites like MySpace.com.

Philip Rosedale, the chief executive of Linden Labs, the San Francisco company that operates "Second Life," said that until a few months ago only one or two real world companies had dipped their toes in the synthetic water. Now, more than 30

companies are working on projects there, and dozens more are considering them. "It's taken off in a way that is kind of surreal," Rosedale said, with no trace of irony.

Beginning a promotional venture in a virtual world is still a relatively inexpensive proposition compared with the millions spent on other media. In "Second Life," a company like Nissan or its advertising agency could buy an "island" for a one-time fee of \$1,250 and a monthly rate of \$195 a month.

For its new campaign built around its Sentra car, the company then needed to hire some computer programmers to create a gigantic driving course and design digital cars that people "in world" could actually drive, as well as some billboards and other promotional spots throughout the virtual world that would encourage people to visit Nissan Island.

Virtual world proponents — including a roster of Linden Labs investors that includes Jeffrey P. Bezos, the founder of Amazon.com; Mitchell D. Kapor, the software pioneer; and Pierre Omidyar, the eBay co-founder

— say that the entire Internet is moving toward being a three-dimensional experience that will become more realistic as computing technology advances.

Entering "Second Life," people's digital alter-egos — known as avatars — are able to move around and do everything they do in the physical world, but without such bothers as the laws of physics. "When you are at Amazon.com you are actually there with 10,000 concurrent other people, but you cannot see them or talk to them," Rosedale said. "At "Second Life," everything you experience is inherently experienced with others."

"Second Life" is the largest and best known of several virtual worlds created to attract a crowd. The cable TV network MTV, for example, just began "Virtual Laguna Beach," where fans of its show, "Laguna Beach: The Real O.C.," can fashion themselves after the show's characters and hang out in their faux settings.

Unlike "Second Life," which emphasizes a hands-off approach and has little say over who sets up shop inside its simulated world, MTV's approach is to bring in advertisers as partners.

In "Second Life," retailers like Reebok, Nike, Amazon and American Apparel have all set up shops to sell digital as well as real world versions of their products. Last week, Sun Microsystems unveiled a new pavilion promoting its products, and IBM alumni held a virtual world reunion.

This week, the performer Ben Folds is to promote a new album with two virtual appearances. At one, he will play the opening party for Aloft, an elaborate digital prototype for a new chain of hotels planned by Starwood Hotels and Resorts. The same day, Folds will also "appear" at a new facility his music label's parent company, Sony/BMG, is opening at a complex called Media Island.

Meanwhile, Nissan's promotion features a gigantic vending machine dispensing cars people can "drive"

around.

And some of this is likely to be covered for the outside world by such business news outlets as CNet and Reuters, which now have reporters embedded full-time in the virtual realm. All this attention has some Second Lifers concerned that their digital paradise will never be the same, like a Wal-Mart coming to town or a Starbucks opening in the neighborhood. "The phase it is in now is just using it as a hype and marketing thing," said Catherine A. Fitzpatrick, 50, a member of "Second Life" who in the real world is a Russian translator in Manhattan.

In her second life, Fitzpatrick's digital alter-ego is a figure well-known to other participants called Prokofy Neva, who runs a business renting "real estate" to others players.

"The next phase," she said, "will be they try to compete with other domestic products — the people who made sneakers in the world are now in danger of being crushed by Adidas."

Rosedale says such concerns are overstated, because there are no advantages from economies of scale for big corporations in "Second Life," and people can avoid places like Nissan Island as easily as they can avoid going to Nissan's Web site.

There is no limit to what can be built in "Second Life," just as there is no limit to how many Web sites populate the Internet.

Linden Labs makes most of its money leasing "land" to tenants, Rosedale said, at an average of roughly \$20 per month per "acre" or \$195 a month for a private "island." The land mass of "Second Life" is growing at about 8 percent a month, a spokeswoman said, and now totals "60,000 acres," the equivalent of about 95 square miles in the physical world.

Linden Labs, a private company, does not disclose its revenue.

Despite the surge of outside business activity in "Second Life," Linden Labs said corporate interests still owned less than 5 percent of the virtual world's real estate.

As many as 10,000 people are in the virtual world at a time, and they are engaged in a gamut of ventures: everything from holding charity fundraisers to selling virtual helicopters to operating sex clubs. Linden also makes money on exchanging U.S. dollars for what it calls Linden dollars for around 400 Linden dollars for \$1 (people can load up on them with a credit card). A typical article of clothing — say a shirt — would cost around 200 Linden dollars, or 50 cents. As evidence of the growth of its "economy," "Second Life's" Web site tracks how much money changes hands each day. It recently reached as much as \$500,000 a day and is growing as much as 15 percent a month.

On Tuesday, a congressional committee said it was investigating whether virtual assets and incomes should be taxed.

But many inhabitants simply hang out for free. For advertisers worried about the effectiveness of the 30-second TV spot and the clutter of real world

billboards and Internet pop-up ads, "Second Life" is appealing because it is a place where people literally immerse themselves in their products.

Steve F. Kerho, director of interactive marketing and media for Nissan USA, said the "Second Life" campaign was part of a growing interest in online video games. "We're just trying to follow our consumer, that's where they're spending their time," Kerho said. "But there has to be something in it for them — it's got to be fun; it's got to be playful."

The sudden rush of real companies into so-called virtual worlds mirrors the evolution of the Internet itself.

"Second Life" is the largest and best known of several virtual worlds created to attract a crowd.



BREAK AWAY.

Geographically, we're in the center of the financial world. Philosophically, we couldn't be further away.

The exceptional individuals at QVT come from a wide variety of academic and professional backgrounds not commonly associated with investing, from hard sciences to literature. Every day we confront some of the world's most complex investment situations, and we find that success comes not from textbook training in finance, but from intelligence, curiosity, and an ability to see things differently from the pack.

QVT is a hedge fund company with over \$5 billion under management. We're going places, and we're looking for more great people to help us get there.

Resume Drop Deadline: TODAY!

Please submit your application online via the MonsterTRAK recruiting system.

QVT
QVT Financial LP
NEW YORK | LONDON | TAIPEI



The 2009 Ring Committee held a study break in Lobby 10 on Thursday evening. They posted past years' brass rat designs for students to examine.

(Above) Daneaya A. Wallace '09 looks up at the previous classes' ring designs.

(Left) Eighty pizzas and 800 rolls of bread were ordered for the study break.

Photography by Eric D. Schmiel

got sperm?

SPERM DONORS NEEDED Up to **\$900** a month!

Healthy MEN, in college or with a college degree, wanted for our anonymous sperm donor program at our Cambridge facility.

Help people fulfill their dreams of starting a family. Receive free health and genetic screenings.

APPLY ONLINE:

www.CRYOBANKDONORS.com

Students Fly Cheaper

Sample Roundtrip Airfares From Boston to:

New York	\$99	London	\$314
Chicago	\$202	Prague	\$375
San Francisco	\$263	Rome	\$398

Terms: All fares are based on roundtrip travel and include a StudentUniverse service fee of \$5. Domestic fares include a 7.5% US transportation tax. Other taxes and fees vary, depending on the itinerary and are not included. Fares are subject to availability and change without notice. Domestic flights valid Mon-Thu with an 8 day advance purchase. 2 day min stay including a Sat night required and max stay is 30 days. International flights valid Mon-Wed with a 8 day advance purchase. Europe/Asia fares valid for departures between Nov 1 and Dec 19. Latin America fares valid for departures through Dec 9. Australia fares valid for departures between Oct 1 and Dec 8. 4 day min stay required and max stay is 90 days. Blackout dates and other restrictions may apply.




StudentUniverse.com

"Engineering, Infrastructure and Global Competitiveness"

by Dr. Jorge Diaz Padilla (Ph. D. CEE 74)
President of the International Federation of Consulting Engineers

TODAY!!!

Friday, October 20th, 2006
Room: 32-155 (Stata Center)
Time: 4:00 pm
Followed by a reception

Royal Bengal

Boston's only authentic Bengali Cuisine restaurant

Open Daily Except Monday
11:30 am – 11:30 pm
Lunch Buffet \$6.95
Reasonably Priced Dinners

313 Mass. Ave., Cambridge
(617) 491-1988
T: Red Line, Bus #1 – Central Square

Unique Bengali fish dishes include
Paabda maachher jhol, Rui maachher
kalia, Mochar ghanto, Shorshe Ilish

Take-out, platters, and catering available. Delivery with minimum order.
10% Discount on \$15 (or more) order with MIT ID.
<http://www.royalbengalrestaurant.com>

ISRAEL



Then and Now

Four Conversations About the History of the Modern State of Israel and the Current Situation

Tuesdays in October, 7:15 pm, MIT, Room 1-150

October 3 1948-1966: Independence and the Founding of the State
Professor Tamar Frankel
Boston University School of Law

October 10 1968-1981: War...and Peace with Egypt
Randall S. Geller
Ph.D. candidate
Middle Eastern Studies
Brandeis University

October 17 1982-1999: Lebanon, Intifadah, and Oslo
Dr. Lawrence D. Lowenthal
Executive Director
Greater Boston Chapter
American Jewish Committee

October 24 2000-2006: Intifadah II and Lebanon II
Professor David Bernat
Wellesley College

Sponsored by MIT Hillel's Israel Initiative. For more info, call the Hillel office at 617-253-2982 or check out our website, mit.edu/hillel.

Beatboxing MIT Grad Student Provided Designs For Challenges

Design Squad from Page 1

a vexing problem for public television. Yes, PBS still has a reputation as a go-to place for toddlers and younger kids.

But how do you corral a tween audience hooked on "Cheetah Girls" and "High School Musical," and convince them that "educational" can be cool?

The answer, producers hope, is to borrow looks and themes from elsewhere on the dial. WGBH has gotten results in the past from "taking a commercial format that we know kids love and turning it inside out," says Brigid Sullivan, the station's vice president of children's programming.

That was the idea behind "Fetch," WGBH's live action-cartoon hybrid, which premiered on PBS in May and got so popular so fast that it will be featured on a float in the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade. "Fetch" comes from the production team behind "Zoom," and has a science-based curriculum. It's also a postmodern fantasy, starring a cartoon dog who hosts a reality show for tween contestants. Its director, a veteran of "Queer Eye for the Straight Guy," helped to infuse the show with a manic mood.

"Design Squad," another "Zoom" spinoff, is aimed at a slightly older crowd, and it isn't quite so high-concept. The contestants are eight TV-friendly high school students with serious engineering aptitude. (Auditions involved constructing a chair that would hold the kids' own weight — made entirely of newspaper and masking tape.) They'll be divided into teams of four, which will change with each episode, and rack up individual points. The winner will get a \$10,000 scholarship from the Intel Foundation.

And no cartoon hosts here; instead, contestants are guided by a pair of 20-somethings who look as if they could be helming MTV's "TRL," but happen to have engineering backgrounds. Deanne Bell, 27, had left an aerospace engineering job to travel the world when she spotted a call for auditions online. Nathan B. Ball G, 23, an MIT graduate student, helped to design some of the show's challenges before he was tapped for an on-air job.

Ball also does beatboxing on the side, which will come in handy on a particular challenge, when contestants are asked to choreograph a light show for a hip-hop act. The rest of the challenges are similarly tele-genic; contestants build a machine

that makes pancakes, and design a "summer sled," to go on grass, for L.L. Bean.

As the show was conceived and filmed, executive producer Marisa Wolsky says, she thought about "Project Runway." She wanted something fast-paced and competitive, with an emphasis on process. She wanted to appeal to girls.

And she wanted to highlight engineering's real-world applications — to liberate the field from its pocket-protector image, and inspire young viewers to practice the lost art of tinkering.

"It used to be that when you were growing up, you saw your father repairing his car in the driveway," Wolsky says. "No one repairs anything anymore."

Indeed, if "Runway" makes a convincing case that fashion is art, the "Design Squad" producers want to prove that engineering can be artful, too.

Choreographer Wyatt Jackson, another "Zoom" veteran who judged the light-show challenge, says he's sold.

"A lot of my best friends are engineers," Jackson says. "We talk about these kinds of things. Their world is not that different from my world."

The MIT Figure Skating Club invites skaters of all levels to **SKATE WITH US!**



Our annual RINK-OPENING SOCIAL is **tomorrow, Saturday, October 21, 9 am - noon at Johnson Rink.** Snacks and music will be provided, but please bring your own skates! (We have a limited supply of skates to lend to people who don't own a pair.) web.mit.edu/skatingclub/www/

Travel with STS to this year's top 10 Spring Break destinations! Best deals guaranteed! Highest rep commissions. Visit www.ststravel.com or call 1-800-648-4849. Great group discounts.

Solution to Crossword Puzzle
from page 8

Solution to Bonus Crossword
from page 9

Solution to Sudoku
from page 9

The biggest threat to depression is your awareness of it.

#1 Cause of Suicide
UNTREATED DEPRESSION
<http://www.save.org>

This space donated by The Tech

Support MIT-EMS



drink in lab

Apply for our IAP EMT class.

for more information and to apply

<http://ems.mit.edu>

DEADLINE: NOVEMBER 1ST



'Fun-Loving' Mascot Available on Request

Costume Once Hijacked For Harvard Prank

Beaver, from Page 1

tume (and have someone in the group act as the mascot) or have a member of Team Tim show up to their event all decked out. The only rule is that Tim must stay on campus, according to Smith.

In March 2002, the costume was taken off campus to Harvard as part of an attempted hack, which involved simulating a sexual act on the statue of John Harvard. During the prank, Tim's paw was stolen by a Harvard student. The MIT pranksters were charged \$650 by the CAC, the cost of a new set of paws. The paw was later stolen back by an MIT student posing as a reporter for *The Harvard Crimson*, Harvard's student newspaper.

The idea for Team Tim came from looking at other colleges with mascots, Smith said. Several athletic programs had a group of students who would act as the mascot.

Sally E. Peach '09 (also a *Tech* photographer) is another member of the team. She has always wanted to be a mascot and said that her most memorable event was the latest "grad rat ceremony." The graduate students made a "Tim-sized" Brass Rat for the mascot.

Tim appears at various campus events, and is sometimes even hired to pass out flyers and pens for the MIT Federal Credit Union.

Tim the Beaver is "just a fun-loving guy," Ciborowski said, who is "definitely not an MIT student because he's never sad and always has a smile." Ciborowski said that it is obvious that Tim does not complete problem sets each week.

Peach provides a similar view of the MIT beaver. When she puts on the Tim costume, she tries to be "sweet

and inviting" and "give people hugs," while occasionally dancing a little.

Being in the actual mascot costume, though, is not as gleesome as Tim appears to be. Peach said that the costume is awkward and is hard to see in. It also gets very hot, Peach said, despite the fact that the costume comes with an ice pack shirt and a fan inside it.

The costume is "not as bad as you would think," Ciborowski said. But the gloves can be "frustrating" because there is only room for four fingers. Another added difficulty, Ciborowski said, is that Tim cannot walk up stairs (Tim's feet are bigger than a typical stair step) and has to take an elevator or ramp.

Typically, members of Team Tim work in pairs, with one student acting as a spotter or handler to help Tim the Beaver get around, according to Walsh.

The members of Team Tim have really bonded with each other, Smith said. She said that she hopes the team will have training programs in the future to teach people how to be "effective without saying anything." Walsh said that hiring mimes to help with the training is a possibility.

Beavers were adopted as MIT's mascot on Jan. 17, 1914 at the Technology Club of New York, according to the CAC Web site. "Of all the animals of the world, the beaver is noted for his engineering and mechanical skill and habits of industry," William T. Hornaday's book on the animals of North America stated. The book was referred to when making the decision. "His habits are nocturnal, he does his best work in the dark."

Other animals originally considered included the kangaroo and the elephant.

THE MIT PRESS BOOKSTORE

Fall 2006

LOADING DOCK SALE

Saturday, October 21st

Sunday, October 22nd

10:00 am - 7:00 pm

Books up to 95% off! Huge savings on:

*MIT Press overstock • out-of-print books
journals back-issues • other publishers' books
damaged books • plus food, and more!*

The MIT Press Bookstore
Kendall Square Subway Stop
292 Main Street, Cambridge
(617) 253-5249
books@mit.edu

"a feeding frenzy for the brain!"

Worried about the changes to the GIRs?
Make your voice heard!

Town Hall Meeting

This Sunday, October 22

2 - 4 pm

Bush Room (10-105)

Free Food

Come discuss the recommended changes to the GIRs.
All students are welcomed and encouraged to attend.
Email edcomm-sac@mit.edu with questions/feedback.

Student Advisory Committee on the recommendations
of the Task Force on the Undergraduate Educational Commons

SPORTS

Defense Can't Stop Golden Bears Attack, Allows 478 Yards in 42-25 Football Loss

By Ryan Lanphere
STAFF WRITER

The song remained the same this past Saturday for the football Engineers (0-4, 1-5), who failed to match the offensive production of the Golden Bears of Western New England College (1-3, 3-3) and fell in their fourth straight contest

42-25.

The Golden Bear offense was led by sophomore running back Jordan Capitanio's, whose nose for the end zone yielded four rushing touchdowns, and freshman quarterback Justin Walz, who gave a breakout performance in setting a school record 28 completions in his first career start.

The Engineers started the day on a strong note with an impressive game-opening drive that lasted 5:23, covered 77 yards in 11 plays, and resulted in a touchdown.

The opening score came when

Engineers quarterback Richard A. Mancuso '09 connected with tight end Thomas J. Franklin '09 on a 12-yard passing play. Franklin, finding the end zone for the first time this year, finished with 48 yards on four receptions in addition to his first quarter touchdown.

The Engineers failed to convert the extra point and so ended up with an early 6-0 lead.

WNEC countered MIT's opening drive with two first quarter touchdowns of their own coming on a Capitanio TD dash and a 16-yard TD toss from Walz to freshman classmate Matt O'Brien.

Early in the second quarter, the Engineers closed the gap to a single point on an eight-play, 55-yard drive lasting 2:57 that made the score 14-13 in favor of Western New England. MIT's second score came on another Mancuso pass, this time to tight end Christopher W. Ruggiero '07 from three yards out. Ruggiero led the Engineers' offense with five

receptions for 90 yards and two touchdowns all leading to a spot on the New England Football Conference offensive weekly honor roll.

The one point deficit was as close as the Engineers would get. The Golden Bears went on to score 21 unanswered points, taking a 35-13 lead early in the third quarter.

The strangest of these scores came with six seconds to go in the first half. In an unfortunate imitation of their zebra-striped brethren from the Pac-10, the NEFC crew of officials made two shocking calls, setting up the Golden Bears to take control of the waning seconds of the first half.

The first was after a one-yard rush with 39 ticks on the clock, when the referees mysteriously called to stop the clock, allowing WNEC to save a time-out which they used a play later to extend the half.

After taking their final time-out of the half with six seconds to go,

the Golden Bears set up on third and goal from the three-yard line. Anxious to score another TD, Capitanio took two steps forward towards the line of scrimmage just as the ball was being snapped, a clear false start. But the referees remained silent and Capitanio used his illegally gained momentum to cross the goal line and make the score 28-13.

The Engineers were able to score two more times but neither score made a difference in the game's final outcome. Running back Thomas C. Scotton '07 scored on an impressive 25 yard rush to the near side of the field when he was able to shimmy past several WNEC defenders before finding daylight and the end zone. Scotton finished with 73 yards on 14 carries, leading the Engineers' ground attack.

The final MIT score of the day came on Ruggiero's second touchdown, a 52-yard quick seam pass from Mancuso. Ruggiero was able to break two tackles before distancing himself from the trailing WNEC defenders.

Mancuso finished the afternoon with 194 yards on 14 completions in 27 attempts. His three touchdown passes were unfortunately matched by three interceptions. Mancuso was most likely trying to do too much, as all three interceptions ended fourth quarter drives for the Engineers.

Despite surrendering 478 yards of total offense, several Tech defenders were able to put up impressive individual numbers. Safety David O. Kalk '08 once again led the Engineers defensive effort with 11 solo tackles, one tackle for a loss, a forced fumble, and a pass break-up, all of which added up to his third weekly defensive honor roll selection of the season.

Kalk's 44 solo tackles this season tie him for fifth place in the nation among all Division III Football players.

Other notable performances came from linebackers Phillip T. Zakielarz '07 (13 total tackles), Samuel Jasinski '08 (12 total tackles), and cornerback Corey Garvey '10 (10 solo tackles, two for a loss). Engineer safety Joseph T. Goldschmid '08 pulled down MIT's lone interception in his own end zone, thwarting a potential third quarter score.

The Engineers will travel to Newport, Rhode Island next Saturday to face the Salve Regina Seahawks (0-4, 1-5) at 12:00 a.m.

Three MIT Students Win 22 Mile Relay

Crazy Alpine Beavers Stay Together Without a Relay

By Eric Gilbertson
TEAM MEMBER

The MIT Outing Club won the first ever intercollegiate Presidential Range Relay Race, a 22-mile race across Mount Washington and the Presidential Range in New Hampshire's White Mountains last weekend.

Schools from all over New England, including Dartmouth, Bates, Colby, Castleton, Plymouth State, and Green Mountain, participated in the race organized by Tufts Mountain Club. Three MIT teams competed, the Crazy Alpine Beavers, the Fast Alpine Beavers, and the Faster Alpine Beavers.

On the winning Crazy Alpine Beavers team, which finished in 7 hours and 30 minutes and beat the nearest competitor by over 90 minutes, were Eric W. Gilbertson '08, Matthew W. Gilbertson '08, and Daniel G. Walker G. Neither of the other two MIT teams finished the race.

The race course began at Crawford Notch and roughly followed the Appalachian Trail up Mounts Jackson, Pierce, Eisenhower and Monroe to Mount Washington at halfway, then across Mounts Clay, Jefferson and Adams to Mount Madison, gaining a net 9000 feet of elevation along the way. The course finished with a steep descent down to Appalachia.

Mount Washington, famed for having the 'worst weather in the world,' was luckily sunny and clear for the race, albeit cold, with a wind chill around zero degrees Fahrenheit. Conditions were treacherous in places, with patches of snow and ice covering the rocky trail.

Although most teams chose to run the race as a three times seven-mile relay race, with exchanges to relief runners at Mount Eisenhower and Mount Jefferson, the Crazy Alpine Beavers decided to complete the whole 22 miles without an exchange. Only one other school, Plymouth State College, attempted such a feat; however, the trail proved too difficult for them to finish.

Although the team started later than most other teams in the wave start, they passed all but one team before the first exchange. MIT quickly reeled in and passed the remaining team while climbing Mt. Monroe, the first peak of the second leg. The team maintained its pace to widen its lead throughout the remainder of the race.

Team Crazy Alpine Beavers plans to compete again next year to defend its title. Also participating in the event as Team Faster Alpine Beavers were Michael A. Kokko G, Zach J. Traina G, and Jonathan M. Hanselman '09; Team Fast Alpine Beavers was comprised of Kathryn P. D'Epagnier G, Luisa Chiesa G and Tom Kirchofer.



STANLEY HU—THE TECH

Running back Thomas C. Scotton '07 dives into the end zone to score on a 25-yard touchdown run, igniting a second half rally for the Engineers against Western New England College on Saturday, Oct. 14, at Steinbrenner Stadium. MIT fell short, losing 42-25 to bring their record to 1-5 for the season.

Sport Taekwondo Club Dominates 13 Team Meet

By Bronwyn Edwards
TEAM MEMBER

The MIT Sport Taekwondo Club kicked off the 2006-2007 competition season on Sunday, Oct. 15 by hosting and winning the first Ivy Northeast Collegiate Taekwondo League tournament of the season.

In attendance were 13 colleges, including Harvard, Tufts, Brown, and rival Cornell Universities. The MIT team consisting of men and women of different skill levels finished with 548 points, well ahead of Cornell's second place 377.

MIT started the competition on a high note, competing in forms, patterned movements unique to belt levels, and gathering 168 points and a comfortable lead.

Although the black belt division offered stiff competition, MIT's Erica Y. Chan '07 took first place in women's black belt forms.

The red belt division competitors also performed very well. Rene R. Chen '07, club president, earned first place in the women's division,

while Richard-Duane S. Chambers G earned first place in the men's division. Teammate John C. Ho G was right behind him, taking third place.

Blue belts Nathan P. Wang '08 and Forrest W. Liao G came away with first and second place respectively in their division.

In the green belt group, made up of students who started Taekwondo last fall, Christopher J. Han '09 took first and Ning Wu G took second among men, while Corinna Hui '09 and Christine M. Lee '09 took second and third place in the women's division.

In the men's yellow/white belt division, Otoniel Tabares '09 placed second out of over 40 competitors, while Miranda J. Ha '07 took third place in the women's division.

The sparring matches continued to assure MIT's dominance. In the advanced sparring division (A-team), Women's A1 (Chen, Chan, and Ziyang Chu '07) had some impressive victories throughout their matches, and claimed first place in women's A1 division by a safe margin.

C-Team (Novice) sparring began soon after A-Team competitions, and the experienced green belt members kept up their reputation as fierce competitors. Men's C1 (Darren M. Chun '07, Han, and Jamie B. Edwards '08) seized third place after several close matches. Women's C1 (Ha, Lee, and Hui) fought their way to first place in their division.

D-Team sparring, the beginner's division, gave new club members the chance to shine. Nicole A. Bieber '10 and Elisabeth M. Markham '09, both white belt students who started this year in the Sport Taekwondo PE class, participated in their first tournament, taking third place in their division.

The final rounds of the tournament were left to the B-Teams (intermediate divisions) of the competing colleges. In the men's division, B1 (Chun, Chambers, and Ho) took second place overall after intense matches. Men's B2 (Arpun R. Nagaraja '09, Jaroslaw Labaziewicz G, and Liao) secured third place in their division.

Women's B1 (Chen, Sharon A. Lawrence '07, and Chu), after sev-

eral stunning and tiring matches, stole first place in the division with a beautiful sudden death victory by Chen. Women's B2 (Lee, Hui, and Ha) continued their aggressive and effective performance, securing third place in the division.

MIT remained in the forefront of the competition through the end of the tournament. Tufts placed third, scoring 203 points.

UPCOMING HOME EVENTS

Saturday, Oct. 21, 2006

Sailing, Oberg Trophy 9:00 a.m., Charles River

Crew, Head of the Charles 9:00 a.m., Charles River

Men's Soccer vs. Springfield 11:30 a.m., Steinbrenner Stadium

Field Hockey vs. Clark 1:00 p.m., Jack Barry Field

Women's Soccer vs. Smith 2:30 p.m., Steinbrenner Stadium

Sunday, Oct. 22, 2006

Sailing, Oberg Trophy 9:00 a.m., Charles River

Crew, Head of the Charles 9:00 a.m., Charles River

Sailing, Oberg Trophy 9:00 a.m., Charles River

Crew, Head of the Charles 9:00 a.m., Charles River

