



WILLIAM YEE—THE TECH

Jizi Dai '08 receives a filled-out copy of a student survey from Kathleen Y. Li '10 during this past Monday's Dorm Storm event in East Campus' Talbot Lounge. Dai, the public relations chair for the Undergraduate Association, helped organize the event, which attempted to gather information for improving student life.

## Student Life Division Plans to Restructure

*New Institute Chaplain Position Created*

By Angeline Wang  
NEWS EDITOR

The Division of Student Life is undergoing a structural reorganization in an effort to focus on improving living-learning communities and increasing the variety of life skills that students develop while at MIT, according to Dean for Student Life Larry G. Benedict. Three new units are being added — Residential Life, Student Development, and Student Support — that will cluster together currently existing components of the division.

Other changes include additional emphasis on assessment and fundraising for the entire division and the addition of the position of Institute Chaplain that will be filled by Robert M. Randolph, current senior associate dean for student life. (See the organizational chart on page 14.) Barbara A. Baker, current associate dean for Student Life Programs, will take over Randolph's duties after the

reorganization.

Benedict said that the newly-organized DSL plans align with recommendations from the 1998 and 2006 reports from the Task Force on Student Life and Learning and the Task Force on the Undergraduate Educational Commons.

"It is a strategic direction that student life is taking," Stephen D. Immerman, associate dean for student life, said.

The division's changes will officially take effect Jan. 1, 2007. No additional staff will be hired in the short term, Benedict said, but there will be shuffling of positions and components.

The changes should also put DSL in a better position to work with the Division on Undergraduate Education, which is also undergoing reorganization, Benedict said.

Benedict believes that the major

DSL, Page 14

## HST to Offer New Medical Program

*Program For Graduate Students Interested in Translational Medicine*

By Kirtana Raja  
ASSOCIATE NEWS EDITOR

Starting February 2007, MIT's Division of Health Sciences and Technology will offer graduate students interested in translational medicine — a field in which basic biological research and clinical medicine are integrated — an opportunity to become part of the first class of Graduate Education in Medical Sciences program scholars.

The GEMS program was chartered through a \$650,000 award grant from the Howard Hughes Medical Institute.

The GEMS program will be of-

fered to current MIT science or engineering PhD candidates involved in research projects with potential clinical applications, but is not equivalent to a medical degree. Ten students will be chosen from the applicants based on their academic standing and merit to become part of the first group of GEMS scholars in Feb. 2007.

According to a recent article by the News Office, William Galey, director of graduate education programs at HHMI, said that the GEMS program aims to help "facilitate development of training programs that improve the understanding of medicine and pathology by PhD scientists

conducting biomedical research."

Dr. Elazar Edelman, director of the Harvard/MIT Biomedical Engineering Center, and director of the GEMS program at MIT, said that HHMI asked schools to submit proposals to their award grant program called the Med Into Grad Initiative, targeted at integrating medical knowledge into graduate Education.

Edelman said that two main forces came into play regarding HHMI's decision to fund this program: concern that basic research in the life sciences was not making it into clinical medicine research to the extent that practical medical applications could be developed to better the lives of people, and the realization that in order for medical research to receive more funding, it had to become more pertinent to real life, such as through translational medicine research.

"The HHMI wants to remove sci-

GEMS, Page 13

## MIT Professor Named Research Leader of the Year

Angela M. Belcher, professor of materials science and biological engineering, was named Research Leader of the Year by *Scientific American* in its annual "Scientific American 50," the magazine's annual compilation of individuals, teams, companies, and other organizations demonstrating leadership in the advancement of technology.

Belcher was recognized for her research involving the "living virus called M13 to construct metal nano-components that may be eventually incorporated into commercial devices," according to the magazine. Belcher said that her work uses biology as a tool for synthesis to produce materials in a sustainable way. Having a DNA sequence to code the synthesis of materials would be ideal because it would lead to efficient production as well, she added.

Belcher said that she was "very surprised, very excited" about receiving the honor. "I do what I love most. [It's] great to know other are excited about what we do," she said. "My postdocs, group make it all happen."

Four other MIT researchers appeared on the list. They are Professors Richard A. Young and Susan L. Lindquist of the Department of Biology and the Whitehead Institute for Biomedical Research, ranked 22nd and 23rd on the list, respectively, and Elizabeth Goldring, a senior fellow at the Center for Advanced Visual Studies, ranked 45th on the list. Young shares 22nd place with Laurie A. Boyer, a postdoctoral scientist at the Whitehead.

—Joyce Kwan

## Manson Benedict

MIT NEWS OFFICE

Manson Benedict, an Institute Professor Emeritus who worked on the Manhattan Project, died Sept. 18 at his home in Naples, Fla. He was 98.

Benedict was well known for his pioneering role in nuclear engineering. He developed the gaseous diffusion method for separating the isotopes of uranium and supervised the engineering and process development of the K-25 plant in Oak Ridge, Tenn., where fissionable material for the atomic bomb was produced.

He received many awards for his work on the Manhattan Project during World War II, and for his later career as a scientist, educator, and public servant, which focused on nuclear power and other peaceful uses of atomic energy.

In 1951 he was invited to be MIT's first professor of nuclear engineering in the Department of Chemical Engineering. The Department of Nuclear Engineering was established on July 1, 1958, with Benedict

Benedict, Page 11

## George B. Thomas

MIT NEWS OFFICE

George B. Thomas, a mathematician who turned a one-year teaching appointment at MIT into a 38-year career and whose well-regarded textbook has been used around the world, died Oct. 31 of natural causes in State College, Pa. He was 92.

Thomas, known as a young teacher for his ability to communicate mathematical concepts, was hired in 1951 by publisher Addison-Wesley to revise their then-standard, widely used calculus textbook. Rather than revise, he wrote his own, a classic text that has been in use for 54 years.

At MIT, Thomas came to be regarded as an outstanding teacher, "one of the best teachers the department has ever had," according to then Department Head Ted Martin. Not only did he teach a wide variety of subjects, but he also willingly took on new courses. Administratively, he served as executive officer of the department for ten years

Thomas, Page 15



MICHAEL MCGRAW-HERDEG—THE TECH

With little fanfare, a white flag appeared on top of the Great Dome early yesterday morning. It appeared that the flag was meant to be accompanied by a banner, though the latter was not completely secured and was not visible to passersby on Thursday.

## In Short

¶ The subject listing and schedule for the spring 2006-2007 academic term is now available online at <http://websis.mit.edu>.

¶ Margaret A. Gray was named interim vice president for human resources on Nov. 7, while the search for a successor to Laura Avakian continues. Gray was previously the director of organization and employee development.

¶ The graduate program in urban studies and planning was ranked first out of 94 North American programs in the "Planetizen 2007 Guide to Graduate Urban Planning Programs."

Send news information and tips to [news@the-tech.mit.edu](mailto:news@the-tech.mit.edu).

## ARTS

The Gilbert and Sullivan Players Succeed With "The Sorcerer."

Page 5

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

# WORLD & NATION

## Five Shot in Detroit Street Attacks

By Nick Bunkley  
THE NEW YORK TIMES

DETROIT

Five people were shot here shortly before dawn Thursday, seemingly at random, and the police were searching for two men they believe were involved.

Two of the people died, including a 58-year-old woman who was shot while sitting in her car outside the day care center where she worked. The other victims were hospitalized with injuries described as non-threatening.

The shootings happened in less than 15 minutes at three locations within a four-block area on the city's west side, said Commander James Tolbert of the Detroit Police Department's major crimes unit. The surviving victims and other witnesses reported seeing two gunmen at one of the locations and one man armed with a rifle at the others.

Tolbert said investigators were positive there were no more than two assailants, but one man might have been responsible for all five shootings. The motive for the attacks was unclear.

## Iraq Government Seeks Arrest Of Militant Sunni Cleric

By Kirk Semple  
THE NEW YORK TIMES

BAGHDAD, IRAQ

The government issued an arrest warrant late Thursday for Sheik Harith al-Dhari, one of Iraq's most prominent Sunni Arab clerics, on charges of inciting terrorism and violence, officials said.

Al-Dhari, head of the influential Association of Muslim Scholars, is an outspoken critic of the foreign military presence in Iraq and of the Shiite-dominated government led by Prime Minister Nouri Kamal al-Maliki. He is a champion for many hard-line and disaffected Sunni Arabs, and word of the arrest warrant raised concerns that it could widen the sectarian divide in Iraq and further inflame the insurgency.

Interior Minister Jawad al-Bolani announced the warrant on state-run television, saying, "The government's policy is that anyone who tries to spread division and strife between the Iraqi people will be chased by our security agencies."

Al-Dhari regularly travels throughout the Middle East and could not be reached for comment on Thursday. Appearing on Al-Jazeera television, Mohammed Bashar al-Faidi, a spokesman for the Association of Muslim Scholars, condemned the warrant, saying, "I don't know how to describe it, but it represents the bankruptcy of the sectarian government following one scandal after the other."

## Storms in Southeast Kill 12, Injure Dozens

By Patrick Gannon and Brenda Goodman  
THE NEW YORK TIMES

WILMINGTON, N.C.

A volatile storm system killed at least 12 people and injured dozens across the Southeast before heading toward the Eastern Seaboard, prompting forecasters to issue flash flood warnings from Virginia to Maine.

Powerful winds and tornadoes ripped off roofs, demolished houses, tossed trucks and toppled trees in six states, leaving at least 13,500 people without power. Forecasters predicted that while the storms were weakening, coastal and low-lying areas farther up the coast should look out for heavy rains, flooding and downed power lines through Friday morning.

A tornado that hit a mobile home park near Riegelwood, N.C., around 7 a.m. Thursday was responsible for many of the fatalities. "It appears that the tornado touched down in a mobile home area," said Gov. Michael F. Easley of North Carolina in an afternoon news conference. It damaged 30 to 40 houses, skipped over a highway and leveled some brick houses on the other side, Easley said.

# Sudan Gov't Agrees to Allow UN Peace Force into Darfur

By Robert F. Worth  
THE NEW YORK TIMES

UNITED NATIONS

The Sudanese government Thursday agreed in principle to allow a joint U.N.-African Union peacekeeping force into the war-stricken Darfur region, reversing its longstanding refusal to let U.N. troops in.

The agreement, reached after a day of talks with U.N. officials in Addis Ababa, the Ethiopian capital, raised hopes for a more effective peacekeeping effort in Darfur, where more than 200,000 people have been killed in brutal ethnic and tribal warfare since 2003. A small African Union peacekeeping force has been unable to quell the violence.

It is not clear how soon the new force can enter Darfur. Two major issues must still be worked out before the agreement becomes final: the number of troops, and how the commander will be selected.

A document issued by the parties in the talks — members of the U.N. Security Council, the Arab League, the African Union and a number of African leaders — specified a force of 17,000 soldiers and 3,000 police

officers. The issues will be taken up at a meeting scheduled for next Friday in Brazzaville, Congo Republic.

"This is welcome news, after working tirelessly to find a solution for Sudan," said Richard A. Grenell, a spokesman for John R. Bolton, the American ambassador to the United Nations. Andrew S. Natsios, the American special envoy for Sudan, was at the meeting in Addis Ababa.

The agreement was a breakthrough. Sudan's president, Omar Hassan al-Bashir, had repeatedly rejected requests by Western leaders for a U.N. force in Darfur, a vast arid region in western Sudan. Fighting has grown worse in recent weeks, despite a peace accord signed in May by Sudan and the main Darfur rebel group.

It was not clear what made the Sudanese leaders change their minds. But a U.N. official who was present said the Chinese ambassador to the United Nations, Wang Guangya, had played a role in persuading Sudan's foreign minister, Lam Akol, that there was no hidden agenda in the effort to introduce a stronger peacekeeping force. The

official spoke on condition of anonymity, citing diplomatic protocol.

The agreement is something of a personal triumph for Kofi Annan, the departing U.N. secretary-general. He introduced the idea of a hybrid force and lobbied African leaders for days before convening the meeting.

Sudanese rebels said Thursday that government troops and militias had killed more than 50 people in an attack in northern Darfur, Reuters reported. Sudanese officials told Jan Egeland, the U.N. undersecretary for humanitarian affairs, that all of his proposed destinations for a three-day tour of Darfur were too dangerous to visit.

The agreement calls for more money, troops and equipment to be given to the African Union force, whose mandate expires on Dec. 31, to supplement a \$21 million package that is already being delivered with the permission of the Sudanese government. But the core proposal is the new joint force, which is to be "predominantly African in character" while including "command and control structures" provided by the United Nations.

# US Seeks New Steps by North Korea Before Talks Continue

By Michael Cooper  
THE NEW YORK TIMES

HANOI, VIETNAM

The United States is working with China and other Asian allies to pressure North Korea to take a visible step toward dismantling its nuclear program before starting a new round of the long-running nuclear disarmament talks, American officials said Thursday.

Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice said that while she was hopeful the talks — begun in 2003 with numerous interruptions since — would restart in December, it is pointless to return to the bargaining table without a show of good faith from both sides.

Speaking to reporters in Hanoi after a breakfast meeting with some of her counterparts here for the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation meeting, Rice refused to expand on what exactly those steps would be, saying

she did not want to pre-negotiate in the news media.

But American officials, who spoke on the condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to speak publicly about the matter, said an acceptable move on North Korea's part might be to dismantle one of its nuclear facilities and to readmit international inspectors.

American officials said they would like to see the dismantling begin with a facility like North Korea's 5-megawatt reactor, which is continuing to produce nuclear fuel, or its plutonium reprocessing center, where spent reactor fuel can be turned into material for weapons. But they said it remained uncertain whether North Korea, which has so far evaded demands from the United States to begin dismantling its nuclear program, would agree.

"I do think that after setting off a

nuclear test, the North Koreans need to do something to show they're committed to denuclearization that goes beyond words and just saying that they're committed to denuclearization," Rice said, "because after having set off a nuclear test, I think there's some skepticism about that."

The disarmament talks have dragged on inconclusively for three years, and the chances for rolling back the country's now-proven nuclear capability remain uncertain.

Two weeks ago, China announced that the six-nation talks would reconvene shortly after a hiatus of more than a year, and American officials said at the time that they would take place in November or December.

But Kim Jong-il, the North Korean leader, has participated in many rounds of talks over the past several years while he accelerated his pursuit of nuclear weapons.

# WEATHER

## Sun Returns This Weekend

By Angela Zalucha  
STAFF METEOROLOGIST

Before you start getting excited about working on your November tan, the return of the sun this weekend is both a good and bad thing. Obviously a sunny day puts most people in a good mood, unless you're homesick for Seattle or England. But you should take a moment to thank all of the clouds we had last week, since they helped keep the temperature around a nice 60°F (16°C). Clouds act like a blanket by absorbing some of the radiation emitted by the surface and reradiating it back down instead of letting it escape into space. This is the greenhouse effect. You may have heard that term with respect to global warming, but in some cases, the greenhouse effect is a good thing. In addition to clouds, the atmosphere itself also contributes to keeping the planet warm; if we had no atmosphere, the average surface temperature would be -2°F (-19°C).

Today's rain will end by this evening, as a low pressure system exits the region. This weekend and early next week are dominated by high pressure, so expect partly to mostly sunny skies and a return to average temperatures.

### Extended Forecast

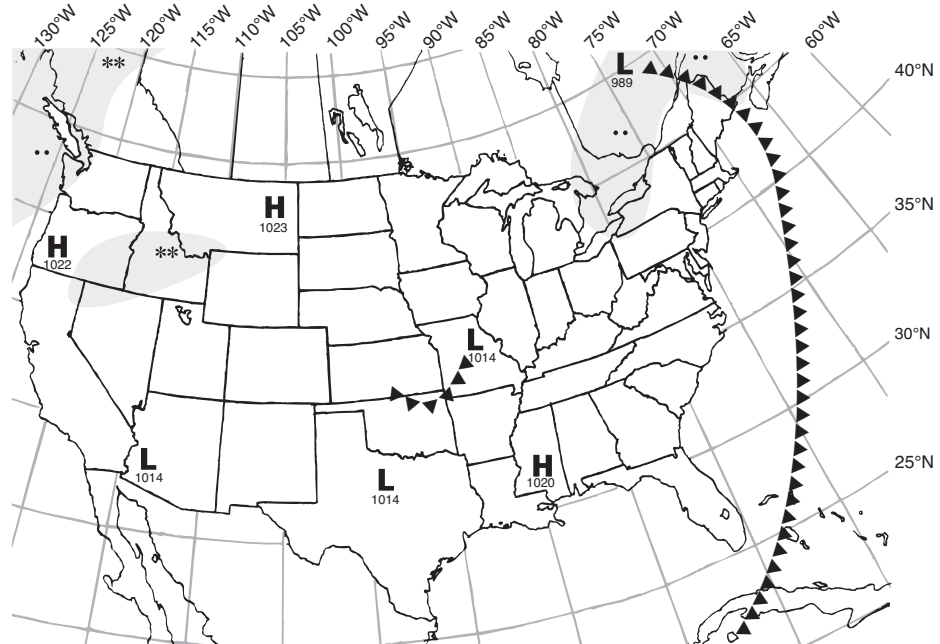
**Today:** Windy with showers possible. High 65°F (18°C).

**Tonight:** Decreasing cloudiness. Low 46°F (8°C).

**Tomorrow:** Partly sunny. High 52°F (11°C).

**Tomorrow night:** Partly sunny. Low around 37°F (3°C).

Situation for Noon Eastern Standard Time, Friday, November 17, 2006



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

Compiled by MIT Meteorology Staff and The Tech

# Loyalty Leads to House's Pick of Hoyer as New Majority Leader

By Kate Zernike  
THE NEW YORK TIMES

WASHINGTON

If you placed an order for a congressman, chances are you would get Steny Hoyer. There is the immovable silver hair and the gleaming smile, the assiduous courting of colleagues, supporters, and lobbyists, even the requisite life-changing encounter with John F. Kennedy.

In his early political career in Maryland, Hoyer was known as a machine politician. Here, he is "the members' member."

It is a label applied by his champions, who admire him as an institutionalist, as well as his detractors, who sneer at him as a pol. But both agreed on Thursday that this quality allowed him to become majority leader of the new Democratic-led House.

The biggest test of Hoyer's polit-

ical skills comes now, as he tries to lead a caucus under a new speaker, Nancy Pelosi, who has long been his rival in leadership and who strongly supported his opponent.

Hoyer, 67, has been running for some sort of political office since his 20s, when he worked alongside a young Nancy D'Alesandro — later Nancy Pelosi — for Daniel Brewster, a Democratic U.S. senator from Maryland. Hoyer later entered the state Senate, becoming at 35 the youngest Senate president in Maryland history.

During the past several election cycles, he has campaigned early for Democratic challengers, earning loyalty that ultimately paid off in the leadership election. Many freshmen lawmakers said they respected the stand his rival, Rep. John P. Murtha of Pennsylvania, had taken opposing the Iraq war, but that they

had committed to Hoyer early, as he had to them.

"He was out for me before anyone thought I had a race," said Chris Murphy, a Democrat who won a tough campaign in Connecticut.

Asked about him, Hoyer's friends return repeatedly to the themes of hard work and a methodical nature.

"He looks the part, he speaks well, he's got good presence, and obviously all of that helps, but in the end, it's about whether people trust your judgment," said Leon Panetta, who became friends with Hoyer while both served in Congress. "It's not something you earn over a short period of time. He's been around and he's earned a reputation."

Steny Hamilton Hoyer was born on June 14, 1939, in New York to a family of Danish origin — his name is the diminutive of his father's, Steen.

## Turkey Offers Military Training to Iraq

By Sabrina Tavernise  
and Sebnem Arsu

THE NEW YORK TIMES

BAGHDAD, IRAQ

Turkey offered Thursday to provide military training for Iraqi security forces, an apparent effort to exert influence over an increasingly weak Iraqi state.

The offer was made during a visit to Turkey by Prime Minister Nouri Kamal al-Maliki of Iraq, his first since he took office in the spring. As the Iraqi government has increasingly come unraveled, American officials are considering options to try to avert an all-out civil war. Iraq's neighbors, meanwhile, are stepping forward to secure their own place in its unstable landscape. Iran offered assistance in securing Iraq during al-Maliki's first visit there, in September.

"We told them that we were ready to provide training for both the military and the public security forces," Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan of Turkey said Thursday at a news conference with al-Maliki, the official Anatolian News Agency reported.

The offer, which is not the first by the Turkish government, comes at a sensitive time. One option American officials are weighing is whether to engage Iraq's neighbors, in particular Syria and Iran, whose governments have been accused by American officials of meddling here.

Washington's ties with Turkey are far better. But in an example of the complexity of relationships in the region, there is deep distrust for the Turkish government among Iraq's Kurdish minority, members of which occupy powerful positions in the Iraqi government.

Turkey is worried that a complete collapse in Iraq would produce an independent Kurdish state. That would be likely to embolden Turkey's own Kurdish minority, which has long waged a guerrilla war in its southeast.

## O.J. Simpson Confesses in Book, Publisher Says

By Edward Wyatt

THE NEW YORK TIMES

LOS ANGELES

The publisher of a book by O.J. Simpson, in which he hypothesizes about how he could have committed the 1994 murder of his ex-wife and her friend, said on Thursday that she believed Simpson's statements were, in fact, a confession.

"The book is his confession," the publisher, Judith Regan, said during a telephone interview. "I would have had no interest in publishing anything but that." Titled "If I Did It," the book is scheduled for release on Nov. 30. A two-part television interview of Simpson is to be broadcast on Fox on Nov. 27 and Nov. 29.

Regan acknowledged, however, that Simpson, who was acquitted of criminal charges in the slayings, did not say directly in the book or the interview that he killed his former wife, Nicole Brown Simpson, and her friend, Ronald L. Goldman. Rather, he spoke about the murders in the hypothetical sense, a stance that admits nothing and could be viewed as a denial.

But the plans for the book, and the interviews, have created a storm of outrage from family members of the victims and from women's groups and victims' rights organizations.

Regan defended her decision to publish the book, which she said was spurred in part because she, like Nicole Brown Simpson, was a victim of domestic abuse. She added that she was willing to help the victims' families recover any money that flowed to Simpson from the book.

# Nuclear Deal With India Wins US Senate Backing Thursday, 85-12

By Thom Shanker  
THE NEW YORK TIMES

WASHINGTON

The Senate gave overwhelming approval late Thursday to President Bush's deal for nuclear cooperation with India, a vote that expressed that a goal of nurturing India as an ally outweighed concerns over the risks of spreading nuclear know-how and bomb-making materials.

By a vote of 85-12, senators agreed to a program that would allow the United States to send nuclear fuel and technology to India, which has refused to sign the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty.

The agreement, negotiated by President Bush and Prime Minister Manmohan Singh of India in March, calls for the United States to end a decades-long moratorium on sales of nuclear fuel and reactor components. For its part, India would divide its reactor

facilities into civilian and military nuclear programs, with civilian facilities open to international inspections.

Critics have been unwavering in arguing that the pact would rally nations, such as North Korea and Iran, to press ahead with nuclear weapons programs despite international complaints and threats. Opponents of the measure also warned the deal would allow India to build more bombs with its limited stockpile of radioactive material, and could spur a regional nuclear arms race with Pakistan and China.

Sen. Richard G. Lugar, R-Ind., who is chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, hailed the measure's passage as "one more important step toward a vibrant and exciting relationship between our two great democracies."

His endorsement was significant, coming from a Senator respected for

efforts in nonproliferation and whose name is part of a sweeping program to secure nuclear bomb-making materials in the former Soviet Union. He also expressed "thanks for a truly bipartisan effort" to Sen. Joseph R. Biden, the Delaware Democrat set to become Foreign Relations chairman with the new Congress.

While advocates of the measure said it would be an incentive for India to refrain from further nuclear tests, denunciations came quickly from a minority of senators who opposed it, as well as from critics in the House.

"It is a sad day for U.S. national security when the Senate passes a sweeping exemption to our nonproliferation laws that will allow India to increase its annual bomb-production capacity from seven to over 40 bombs a year," said Rep. Edward J. Markey, D-Mass., co-chair of the House Bipartisan Taskforce on Nonproliferation.

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## Corrections

In the Nov. 14 article "Sexual Health Educator Joins MIT Medical Team," Chad D. Waxman is not a part time educator, but is a full time assistant health educator.

The Nov. 3 story, "MIT Web, E-mail Down After Power Outage," incorrectly reported that an NSTAR outage darkened "most of Cambridge." The outage affected about 1,300 of NSTAR's approximately 48,000 Cambridge customers.

## Election Dilection

Bill Andrews

If you weren't in lab all week, some of you may be aware that we had an election last week. And by we I don't mean the med students 'we' or even the grad students' we; it was national baby. The entire House of Representatives, a third of the Senate, and a large number of state governors were all up for re-election, and the people made their voices heard.

Well, not all the people of course, since the US still has a pretty pathetic voter turnout. But, enough people made their voices heard, and as a result we are in for some serious changes. Thank goodness.

Now, a part of me wants to avoid being controversial. Why cause a big commotion, especially when we're all just a bunch of scientists and engineers anyway, right? Well, off-hand I can think of three "political" issues that concern us directly: stem cell research, global warming research, and gay marriage. Well, all right, that last one only counts if you're gay (or you happen to know someone who is), but still. Whether we like it or not, the decisions being made in our nation's capital are going to have a large impact on our lives and possibly even our careers, so we'd better start getting informed and up to date.

The whole world, it seems, is becoming more and more divisive, and politicians have begun using science itself as a wedge issue. When you see someone's campaign include a scientific concept (whether it's evolution or gravity), you know it's only a matter of time before your own work (whether stem cell research or abstract math) is called into question as well. One way or another, we'll have to start putting up with controversial things all the time. Few

things are as controversial as getting to work, only to find it's been shut down because of the government.

The debate doesn't have to be ugly, though. Take me, for instance. Sure, I'm a staunch liberal overjoyed at the Democrats' capture of majority control of both houses of Congress and the governorships. I, like most Americans apparently, was tired of the Republican stranglehold over every single branch of government, and didn't think they were doing a good

points, and the beautiful cycle of opinions will continue. It's win-win, since both sides (perhaps even third and fourth sides too) get their messages out, bystanders become educated, and no one needs to get upset or offended.

Of course, things don't always work that way, as anyone who's ever been on an Internet forum or chat room knows. Someone takes a statement too seriously, they respond with a harsh invective and are flagrantly offensive, and naturally someone will take the bait and then the cycle of opinions turns into a flame for all. That's the problem with discussing politics, and it's natural that we all feel some trepidation at the thought. But as long as we all remain civil and logical and most importantly, entertaining, things will be okay. They might still work out for the best, just like our government might, judging from last last Tuesday.

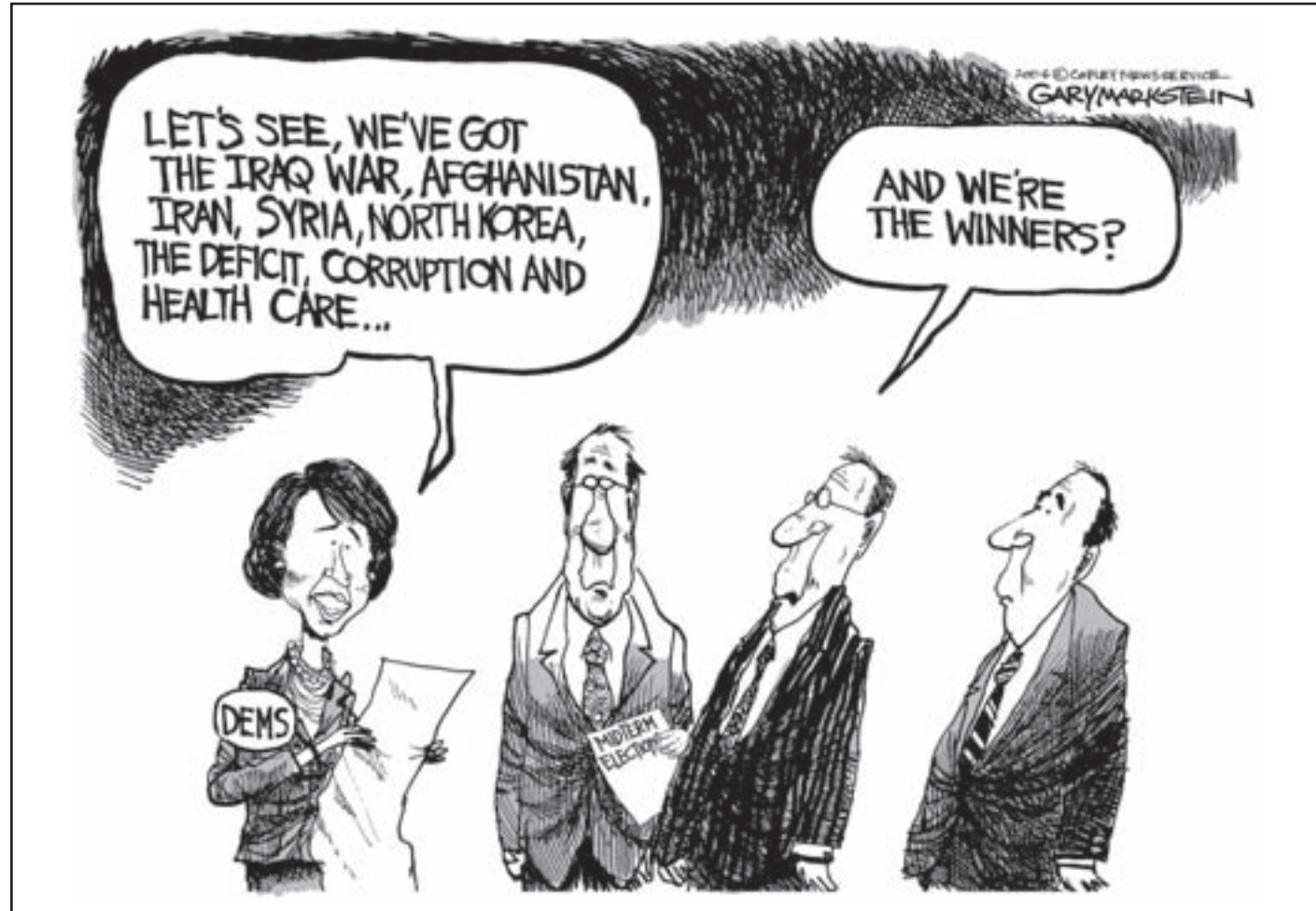
Because, let's face it: anytime the checks and balances are all run by the same people, something might be wrong. Whenever we have a president refusing to acknowledge reality, or an administration famously chiding the press for foolishly remaining in a "fact-based" world, or a vice-president who shoots his buddy in the face (again, I just couldn't resist), perhaps it's time we ask for a change of management. We are the most hated nation in the world, after all, and it's not like we can just move away ... yet. And even then, we'll probably have to use Japanese parts and Chinese labor.

Too much? Perhaps. But, it got you to read through to the end, and it might even get you to write back, get involved, and get others excited. The sooner we stop being afraid of the issues, the sooner we can take care of them. I mean, we're MIT: we're expected to change the world. But in order to do that, we have to be able to talk about it.

*Whether we like it or not, the decisions being made in our nation's capital are going to have a large impact on our lives and possibly even our careers, so we'd better start getting informed and up to date.*

enough job to go back to work. Call me crazy, but after Iraq, Katrina, and the biggest corruption scandal in history, I didn't really want to see what was next.

But, unlike so many on either side of the issues, I present my views calmly and rationally. If you disagree with me, I invite you to write a response explaining and defending your points of view. That way, not only can you have an excuse for punting p-sets, but you'll get a chance to educate thousands of others on your points of view. You'll get your chance. Then, hopefully, someone who agrees with me will address these



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## ARTS

## THEATRE REVIEW

*'The Sorcerer' Bewitches Audiences**MITGSP Puts on Magical and Funny Love Story*

By Bill Andrews

CAMPUS LIFE EDITOR

*"The Sorcerer"*

MIT Gilbert and Sullivan Players

Nov. 10-12 and Nov. 16-18

Kresge Auditorium

There are those who believe fervently in love, who know that there can be no greater happiness and no more satisfying feeling. They quote Shakespeare's Duke Orsino, "If music be the food of love, play on!" Then there are those who don't believe in love, who feel that it's either lust at first sight or just friends with super benefits; they know what the above quote really means. In "The Sorcerer," the Gilbert and Sullivan Players' current show, both aspects of love are revealed, with hilarious and (humorously) deadly consequences.

Young and wealthy Alexis Pointdextre (Len Giambone '92), newly betrothed to bashful and beautiful Aline Sangazure (Emily Pettit), decides to force the peaceful villagers of their quiet town to learn the joys and wonders of love. In typical Gilbertian fashion, he enlists the aid of J.W. Wells (Rosie Osser G), a scowling, fast talking, smooth sorcerer, whose surprisingly effective love philtre is all the rage. After everyone has drunk this potion, comical mismatches and lamentable spectacles ensue, resulting in a

big, goofy, emotional mess. Will matters be set right? Will there be four weddings, or a funeral? Will Alexis and Aline alight in altruistic 'appiness (it is a British play, after all), or will Wells' wickedness willfully wound the world? Without giving anything away, I can tell you it's worth your while to find out.

There was pretty much nothing in this show I didn't like. From Armen Babikyan to Cathy Zhang '09, if you were in the program you did a great job. Let's go in chronological order, then. The orchestra, large and in plain view, already won the show points before it even began, since I'm such a fan of expansive pit orchestras. Sure, there might have been a few out-of-tune notes, but the skill with which the musicians usually played made these minor flaws easy to overlook. Music Director Jimmy Jia '02 did a great job of reigning in what could have been a large and unwieldy group and provided a great backdrop to showcase the singers.

Speaking of singers! I love going to G&S shows just for the singing; it's operatic enough to make you feel smart and cultured, and funny and down-to-earth enough that you'll actually like it (if you give it a chance). MITGSP shows typically feature amazing singers, and this cast was no exception. The chorus numbers were particularly delightful to hear, as whole masses of people were able to hit various chords perfectly, and in rapid succession, too — always a

neat trick. And while the large numbers sharing the stage made some of the choreography a little difficult to interpret at times, it did give the eyes a fun workout trying to keep up with multiple couples (and later mis-matched couples).

Individually, the cast was even more impressive. First and foremost, Osser's Wells completely stole the show: there was not a moment she was onstage that the eye wasn't drawn to her. Whether it was her rubber-faced scowling or her ever-polite pinky jutting from a teacup, she would have made even a dreary show interesting, and instead served as icing on the cake for this fun romp. Keeping up the pace, Pettit's performance as a demure and doey-eyed ingénue was sweet and convincing, as was her voice during songs; one gets the impression that there's nothing she couldn't sing. Likewise, Giambone's performance blended elegantly the nurturing lover and the arrogant meddler, his self-assurance providing a good counterpoint for Pettit's apprehension. Their duets together were particularly beautiful, especially for fans (like me) of close harmony. Likewise were Adrien Packel, Carrie Lee, Nick Bozard, and Elaina L. Cherry '07 (who had feature parts), who were fun to listen to and watch, as each was able to make the audience laugh or sigh, and harmonize perfectly while doing it. It was a shame they were featured so little, especially since Bozard and Cherry were

a bit difficult to hear even from the front row.

In fact, if there's a negative to the show, it would be that often it was difficult to understand what the cast was saying, either from a lack of projection or an overzealous orchestra. It's a bit of a shame not to be able to hear Gilbert's funny lyrics, but then I'd choose Sullivan's music over them anytime. Apart from that, everything worked well in this show. The set, tastefully simple with very realistic trompe l'oeil rocks and a pretty little tent, served as an elegant way to divide the action onstage without hampering it. The costumes, a charming mix of classic Victorian and modern sensibilities, placed the show perfectly, establishing the setting as a long time ago and pretty far away. The lighting too was at times dazzling (almost, though not quite, to the point of distraction), and at times subtle, always emphasizing the action just right.

So even if you don't believe in love, even if you think Sullivan's music is "too pretty," as my fiancée once objected years ago, "The Sorcerer" is a show that'll make you laugh and sigh. Just reading through the program one can see the effects of love potions and lovely ballads in the air: Katherine Drexel ends her bio by asking her partner, Noe Kamelamela '05 to marry her, and I later heard she said yes. So should you say to this beautiful show. Congratulations to all!

## EXHIBIT REVIEW

*Fashion and Fine Art Meet at MFA**New Exhibit Displays Designer Masterpieces*

By Marie Y. Thibault

EDITOR IN CHIEF

*"Fashion Show: Paris Collections 2006"*

Museum of Fine Arts, Boston

Gund Gallery

Nov. 12, 2006 — March 18, 2007

The crowd awaiting the introduction to the newest, first of its kind, Museum of Fine Arts exhibit, "Fashion Show: Paris Collections 2006," could have been considered a work of art themselves. Fuchsia and floral blouses and dresses flashed against a more austere background of steely gray and chic jet black pants, trench coats, and boots.

These reviewers and reporters were dressed better than the usual grouping of journalists — no wonder, since we would be previewing an exhibit that features clothing from ten top designers. Some are household names, like Chanel and Christian Dior, while others, like Yohji Yamamoto and Hussein Chalayan, are only familiar to those who follow the fashion industry.

Our brief welcome included an introduction to representatives from several of the fashion houses. I was secretly delighted to find a similarity between my last name and that of Chanel's representative, Arlette Thebault. Impeccably dressed and styled, these men and women were on hand to answer our questions about their label's designs.

Through the entrance, we were first greeted with the slouchy menswear style of Yohji Yamamoto. His oversized coats and hoods fall somewhere between the elegance of a plush bathrobe and the macabre style of a "Lord of the Rings" cloak. Yamamoto says that "Men's suiting on a woman's body ... for me, that is femininity."

This collection cut a strong contrast when situated next to the dainty ruffles and manikin curtseys of Viktor & Rolf. The scene here is a bit "Nutcracker," with metallic gold, silver, and clear shoes and nets covering the faces of all the manikins, or "précieuses," as named by the statement on the exhibit's wall. Entire dresses are plated in silver and there is a distinct holiday-and-tinsel mood to the pieces.

There is a comfortable elegance to Cyprian Hussein Chalayan's designs. And by comfortable, I mean the sensation of sinking into a lounge chair comfortable, as a couple of his pieces come complete with an armchair collar. The shapely silhouette of a dress, I was surprised to realize, was molded from the curves of a maroon, overstuffed velvet armchair.

If these first three designers surprised me with the freshness of their creations, the next label, Maison Martin Margiela, astounded me with its ingenuity. Vests, jackets, even entire dresses were created from everyday items found anywhere and everywhere. There is a men's "playing cards waistcoat." "Playing cards taken from packs of many different card games are shuffled and aged by dyeing, fraying, and iron-

ing, and used as a fabric to create a waistcoat," reads the description next to the piece. Obviously immense amounts of time and effort were put into each article of clothing, yet the finished product looked easy and carefree.

Take, for example, a jacket made entirely of strings of pearls and beads. It is a rainbow of champagne, Tahitian, and jade-colored pearls, but there is more to this jacket than meets the eye. A representative from Maison Martin Margiela told me that the jacket must be perfectly balanced in order to sit on the wearer easily, meaning creators must weigh each strand carefully. Where does the inspiration for a dress made entirely of scarlet and maroon silk flowers draped over a manikin come from? That, the representative tells me, is the "six million dollar question." "Some days the materials come before the ideas, other days the ideas come before the materials," he says.

Continuing through the exhibit, I came upon Rochas. Olivier Theyskens, artistic director for Rochas, seems to favor tans, blacks, and grays in this collection. Ruffled, puffy sleeves are also in vogue, and one striking gown features dainty birds rising into a sleet-colored sky.

Tunisian designer Azzedine Alaïa's seductively lacy furred pieces concentrate on a very feminine shape. Though I wasn't as enthusiastic about some of the heavier pieces, which included a goat-fur skirt, I was left in raptures by a gown made of shirred mousseline. A sassy, thigh-skimming dress made of chantilly lace was a joy to look at as well.

Christian Dior's display was noticeably more dramatic than its compeers, with red metallic panels casting a glow of love and hatred upon its onlookers. This collection was marked by elaborate, ornate fabrics and embroidering. One breath-taker, the "embroidered silk taffeta, linen, and leather dress; leather gloves, leather cross," elicited a guffaw from a fellow reviewer, who had noticed a black beaded and embroidered skeleton sewn into the skirt of the dress. The year "1789," marking the beginning of the French revolution, was glued in beads onto another manikin's chest. That same manikin wore quilted leather pants that had been painted to look like blood.

The Valentino collection did not evoke as much emotion as the Dior, but was nonetheless impressive. Glitter and elegance abounded with a couple of evening gowns, but my favorite piece was a simpler knee-length lilac shift.

Christian LaCroix's "Mozart dress" was modeled on what representative Carrie Phillips called a courtesan-like manikin. The dress, a "gold-embroidered silk crepe over white silk organza skirt with handpainted gold leaf," defined extravagance and was the perfect feast for the eyes. This lavishness was easy to get used to, and I became personally attached to a white organdy and crepe gown.

I could only think of the White Witch from

"Narnia" as I stood in front of a Chanel wedding dress. It was a fluffy affair, made of tulle, silk, and sequins and its bolero, or jacket, was gathered with a peach ribbon. It was spell-binding. It ... really must be seen with your own eyes.

My afternoon at the MFA fashion exhibit was a thoroughly exhilarating and awe-inspiring one, but I realize I owe that to my fascination with fashion and clothes. Sure, this sort of dis-

play might be boring to some, because as with anything, a prior enthusiasm for the subject is the only guarantee for enjoyment. But I encourage everybody to view the exhibit (especially since it is free to college students) and take a chance on the fashion world. I hope that the well-planned displays, videos of runway shows, and beautiful fabrics will convince you that fashion really is art.



PETER STIGTER

A model shows off an evening ensemble by Viktor Horsting and Rolf Snoeren. Viktor and Rolf is one of the designers whose work is on display at "Fashion Show: Paris Collections 2006."

## MOVIE REVIEW ★★★½

# 'For Your Consideration'

## New Guest and Levy Comedy Delivers Laughs And a Message

By Tanya Goldhaber

*"For Your Consideration"*

Directed By Christopher Guest

Written By Christopher Guest

and Eugene Levy

Starring: Catharine O'Hara, Parker Posey,

Harry Shearer, Rachel Harris,

and Christopher Moynihan

Rated PG-13

In the upcoming film, "For Your Consideration" Christopher Guest and co-writer Eugene Levy have strayed from their signature fake documentary "mockumentary" style in favor of the more traditional "narrative." Nonetheless, the movie has the same feel that Guest and Levy infused in such movies as "Best in Show" and "Waiting for Guffman"; that is, undeniably a Christopher Guest and Eugene Levy movie.

The film itself is about the making of a film called "Home for Purim." The film-within-a-film centers on a Jewish family, whose matriarch is dying and longs to see her family. Normally scattered throughout the country, they coming home for Purim, her favorite holiday. Possibly the funniest scenes in the movie revolve around the filming of "Home for Purim," and indeed that movie by itself is a hilarious parody of other films in its genre. The fun starts when a rumor begins that one, or perhaps many, of the actors on the film have a good chance of being nominated for an Academy Award. The rest of the film investigates how that affects the characters and their relationships.

The film stars Catherine O'Hara, Parker Posey, Harry Shearer, Rachel Harris, and

*The fun starts when a rumor begins that one, or perhaps many, of the actors on the film have a good chance of being nominated for an Academy Award.*

Christopher Moynihan as the stars of "Home for Purim." Eugene Levy and Christopher Guest actually play minor characters: Harry Shearer's agent and the director of "Home for Purim" respectively. It is clear that in this movie, Guest and Levy focused more on writing and directing and less on acting in the movie itself. Nonetheless, the scenes they do appear in are quite funny, as always, particularly in the one scene that shows Guest directing.

What makes Guest and Levy's movies incredible is that most of the dialogue in each of the scenes is improvised. The results in "For Your Consideration" are some hilariously awkward moments and some lines that no one could have possibly written. The dialogue in "Home for Purim" itself, however, was scripted, and as melodramatically as possible, making it just as funny.

While the movie is not really laugh-out-loud funny most of the time, it is nonetheless highly amusing. I left the theater feeling like I had seen not just a funny movie, but also a well-done and thought-provoking film. It could just as easily have been a drama with no laughs whatsoever, and still would have been a good movie. Christopher Guest and Eugene Levy, however, like to convey their points using humor, and the way they do it is very effective. I find that nothing makes an impression on me quite like the things that make me laugh, and Levy and Guest certainly do.

This movie probably is not for everyone. If you are a fan of actions flicks or outrageous humor, you probably will not like "For Your Consideration." The movie focuses primarily on the interaction between the characters, which provides the basis for the humor in the film.

I personally found "For Your Consideration" to be funnier than both "Best in Show" and "Waiting for Guffman." Of course, you will have to actually see it to decide.

## INTERVIEW

# How to Write Your Own Script

## Eugene Levy and Christopher Guest on Being Funny and Life Without Oscars

By Tanya Goldhaber

STAFF WRITER

Prior to the release of "For Your Consideration," writers, actors, directors, and producers Eugene Levy and Christopher Guest sat down with a few reporters from around Boston to discuss the making of their new movie.

Q: How do you decide who writes what?

Eugene Levy: Well, we write the outline. We spend some months doing this, kind of fleshing out the story, giving the characters extensive backgrounds. Very specific backgrounds, you know, very specific productions they were in. Then we map it out and pretty much lay it out scene-by-scene. What we do is we lay the story out and provide each scene with enough exposition to move the story along and the actors improvise the dialogue. And they have to get this information out, or it's just a big free-for-all. All the dialogue was improvised with the exception of the movie within the movie, in this case "Home for Purim," and all the television shows were scripted. Not all the television shows, but some of them.

Q: Have you been in a movie where the producers want to change the script like that?

Christopher Guest: It happens all the time.

Q: That drastically?

CG: Even more drastically than that. It happens all the time. A movie, a large movie, with a large budget, there's a tremendous amount of pressure on the people making the movie to make it succeed. And the bigger the budget, the committee gets bigger, many people at the studio, several producers ... more about recouping the money I guess. But it happens a lot. It happens all the time.

EL: And that thing about throwing the script away, like the scene in the movie, it happened on a film I was working on called "Serendipity." I'm playing a salesman and John Cusack is across the counter and the we're doing the scene as scripted and the director kept coming on set and he'd just stand there and he'd say "let's try it again." So we'd do the scene again and he'd say "one more please." And this just kept going on and finally I just had to go up to him and said "look, are we remotely close to what it is you're looking for? Why don't we just forget the script and just improvise what it says." So that's how the scene was done. You know, "don't cross the line, don't come behind

the counter." In a strange way, he was going for something, and I don't know what, and it got progressively more strange in terms of my character.

Q: How did you get this group of actors together? How did all this evolve? How long did it take?

CG: I would say it began with "Spinal Tap," which was 20 years ago, and in "Spinal Tap," Fred Willers, Harry Shearer, Michael Caine, Rob Reiner, and I wrote the film, and Paul Benedict was in that movie and he's part of this company.

Q: What would you think if this movie got nominated for an Oscar?

CG: First of all, people who make comedies know, and we're not really part of that process. We're a separate industry. It's not what makes us do these films. Some people making big-budget movies really do go after that, but Eugene and I try to make a movie that, first of all, makes both of us laugh, and then hopefully some other people. For people who do comedies, you don't have that.

Q: [to Christopher Guest] Have you thought of asking your wife [Jamie Lee-Curtis] to become part of your company?

CG: Well, we've been married for 22 years, and when we got married, we decided that we wouldn't work together, because we wanted to keep our actual lives separate from the work that we did. We've remained consistent.

Q: What's the ratio of footage shot to what appears in the movie?

CG: We probably shot about 50 hours. It is a lot, because we shoot in Super 16, which no one does, basically. The reason we do that is because we shoot in hand-held and the cameras are lighter. We shoot the entire mag, basically, and everything is printed. So we do have more material. Every take.

Q: There weren't any outtakes at the end of the film. Why not?

CG: I don't do that in my films. It's a terrible thing because basically what it says is that the movie wasn't funny, so now we're going to show people laughing. It's the lowest Darwinian part of comedy for me. I hope that the movie is the movie, and there are no little laughing bits.

Q: The makeup was amazing. How did Catherine O'Hara get that face?

CG: She actually did it with her muscles. There's no prosthetic of any kind. And when I talked to her about the face, she said that she couldn't put anything on her face because her skin was so sensitive. So I asked her what we should do, and she said that she could actually make that face. And she came out and it was just perfect.

EL: It's hard to believe. It was very tiring. We would have to break after three minutes and stop, because she does this weird thing where she literally draws up her face and does that.

Q: Is comedy easier for you to do?

EL: I wouldn't say it's easier. I'd say it's maybe more rewarding. It's just different. I've done movies that have been very rewarding. I try to have a good time on every movie that I do. There have been very few movies where I didn't enjoy myself. And this one is just special because you just don't encounter this kind of movie anywhere else. You just don't have this kind of creative flexibility and freedom. And this is the only experience that I've had where the creative input is exactly what you see when the movie comes out. The studio doesn't creatively interfere. Chris [Guest] has final cut on the movie. It's also a very low budget movie. There's not a risk factor for them. They know they're going break even. That's a big part of it. You keep the budget down, because once the budget starts rising ...

CG: If someone said: "I'll give you \$50 million to make this movie," I would say "I can't do that." The studio wants control to protect their investment, and I understand that, but then I can't do my thing. And that's why I'm doing this.

Q: Do you find yourself, when you're directing these folks, laughing out loud occasionally?

CG: (jokingly) No, I don't find it very funny. (laughter) We've done this so much, occasionally we do, but it's work, and, as someone said, comedy is serious business. There are certain times when we laugh. I remember during "Waiting for Guffman" near the end of the movie where Eugene was playing a comic in Florida, and I was watching the movie, and of course I didn't know what he was going to do, and I was laughing so hard that I couldn't look at the monitor. I was literally doubled over. And I thought, as this was happening, "This is strange, I'm directing this movie, but I can't even see what's happening." I had to basically not be heard. And that kind of stuff usually happens with other movies.

Q: Eugene, how did you get involved in be-

Levy and Guest, Page 7

## MOVIE REVIEW ★★★½

# From the Slaughterhouse, With Love

## 'Fast Food Nation' Takes Another Look at Your Favorite Burger

By Minyoung Jang

STAFF WRITER

*Fast Food Nation*

Directed By Richard Linklater

Written By Eric Schlosser

and Richard Linklater

Starring: Wilmer Valderram, Ethan Hawke,

and Greg Kinnear

Rated R

Opens today

As someone who tries to be health-conscious, I often experience a momentary twinge of guilt when I step into a Burger King and order a burger smothered in a "special" sauce. I'm pretty good at ignoring my suspicion that I'm consuming large quantities of chemicals that would be unpronounceable if I wasn't an MIT student. At least, that was until I watched *Fast Food Nation*, an exposé on the "shit in the meat" of Mickey D's and its cousins.

Although the movie is a fictional account inspired by the bestselling book (by Eric Schlosser) of the same name, director Richard Linklater was quick to note at last month's press screening that it's not a faithful adaptation or a documentary. Indeed, this is both one of the movie's greatest strengths and weaknesses.

What made the book so powerful was that it portrayed how disturbingly pervasive the influence of fast food has been on America's socio-economic development. Spanning decades and an entire continent, it chronicles the industry's role in creating a new type of economic subservience through its influence on the demise of independent local farmers, the stagnation of minimum wage, and the rise of franchising. Then there's the commercialization of food and the dangerous rise in obesity rates.

In contrast, the movie focuses on only a few moments in the lives of a group of characters, in which fast food plays an integral role. A fast food company executive decides to investigate reports of *E. coli* contamination caused by "shit in the meat" by visiting the company's meat supplier. Though he is shielded from hearing illegal immigrants voice their concerns about the dangerous working conditions at the meat packing plant, the audience is not. He also crosses paths with one of the company's many high school employees, who begins to question the mentality of mindless obedience encouraged by her bosses and prevalent among her peers.

This "slice of life" approach that Linklater takes in his storytelling may be disappointing for those who have read the book, as it fails to capture the frightening scope of fast food's influence that made the book effective. However, the appeal of this approach is understandable since it breaks a lengthy history down into more manageable bites better suited to the limited attention span of the average movie-goer. In theory, bringing the story down to a more personal level should also help us better relate to the characters. Unfortunately, this didn't really happen given that the characters frequently felt like caricatures. In a character-driven movie, this is a problem.

I blame this on utterly predictable dialogue which even the talented cast couldn't completely overcome. (I call the cast talented and the dialogue bad because although I cringed at what I was hearing, I found its delivery surprisingly sophisticated and nuanced.)

For almost an hour, the usual clichés about the fast food industry were interspersed with mildly amusing but rather juvenile jokes which seemed to have no other purpose than to find as many synonyms for excrement as possible.

When Linklater could finally be bothered to write thought-provoking dialogue, he had his characters spew it out in diatribes reminiscent of the soliloquies prominent in Kevin Smith's movies. While some of these came alive — most notably, Ethan Hawke's inspirational speech — others felt forced and artificial, simply falling flat.

Initially, the dialogue situation was not helped at all by the campy photography and music, with garishly bright colors and images of the mundane remaining just that. Yet once Linklater finally started moving beyond bathroom humor and delving more into the grim situations the characters face, the contrast between the bright visuals and the bleak, dark story becomes an excellent metaphor. What better way to emphasize that the bright, shiny packaging of our favorite fast food joint is simply a cover for a reality more sinister than we could have ever imagined?

Why Linklater waited until the movie was half over to get to the meat of his story is beyond me, for the latter half is unmistakably powerful. For instance, the movie closes with a sobering montage of scenes from a real slaughterhouse in Mexico that makes you reconsider the conditions under which meat is processed in today's world. To his credit, he also doesn't attempt to wrap up the story with a happy ending, acknowledging that there is "no one simple answer."

At the press screening, Linklater said one of his goals in producing this movie was simply to get people to think about the issues associated with the fast food industry. In this, he passes with flying colors. Weeks later, I'm still reluctant to eat a fast food burger and definitely have been thinking more about the politics behind food. Though the movie isn't perfect, I highly recommend that everyone see it — then read the book.

## BALLET REVIEW

# Kirov Shows Off Tchaikovsky's Masterpiece

## Swan Lake at the Wang Theatre

By Tina Ro

STAFF WRITER

Swan Lake

Kirov Ballet and Orchestra

Saturday, Nov. 11, 2006, 8 p.m.

The Wang Theatre

Crowds dressed in sequined tops, pearls, and spiffy neckwear lined up to watch the Kirov Ballet's Saturday night performance of the classic Swan Lake. The Kirov — one of Russia's two major ballet companies along with the Bolshoi — featured Alina Somova as Odette/Odile and Igor Kolb as Prince Siegfried.

Marius Petipa's and Lev Ivanov's original choreography to Tchaikovsky's timeless score resulted in a fine performance. In the fairy tale story, Prince Siegfried falls in love with Odette, a queen who has been transformed into a swan by Rothbart the evil sorcerer. The spell is broken when Prince Siegfried rescues Odette with his undying love. Somova, as Odette and Odile, played her character as a true prima ballerina — full of poise and grace. The lovers danced with such connected and natural movements that their unity and love were visually depicted through their lucidity and harmony.

However, Swan Lake provided the audience with much more than just a love story. The elaborate scenery, from the forest to the castle, created a three dimensional effect. On the side, fully costumed extras remained on stage; their presence helped establish the scene. The little details, such as the dancers dancing with golden goblets at a celebration, added the something extra that makes a show great.

The swans wore traditional white tutus. By contrast, the evil sorcerer's complex costume included white face paint, a headpiece, and black-feathered wings. Odile, the evil twin of Odette, wore the exact outfit of Odette except in black — demonstrating the common theme of good versus evil. The show presented solo performances on a cello and violin duet as well as group performances of festively dressed dancers dancing away at a ball to a full symphony sound. The dynamic quality of the ballet kept the audience engaged throughout the two hour performance.

The overall show lasted for three hours, including forty minutes of intermission. The audience, with an average age in the sixties,

*In the fairy tale story, Prince Siegfried falls in love with Odette, a queen who has been transformed into a swan by Rothbart the evil sorcerer. The spell is broken when Prince Siegfried rescues Odette with his undying love.*

alertly watched the dancers. The sheer magnitude and length of their applause signaled their satisfaction with the show. The Wang Theatre with its intricately carved gold wood and painted murals presented an awe-inspiring atmosphere even before the guests stepped into the actual showing room. Although regular tickets are expensive for the average student,

the opportunity to attend a ballet at the Wang exists: rush tickets to many shows are available for about \$20. I've heard it said that ballets are something that a person either loves or abhors; however, I believe the magical ballet experience creates a dreamlike world that can be appreciated by anyone — even if only for a night.

With alternating leads, Swan Lake played five shows from Thursday, Nov. 9 to Sunday, Nov. 12. The series of shows began the 2006-2007 Dance Series, which continues through April.

## CONCERT REVIEW

# A Night of Firsts

## BSO Gives Beautiful Performance Of Bartok and Brahms

By Tanya Goldhaber

Bartok and Brahms

Boston Symphony Orchestra

Nov. 10, 2006

Once again, the Boston Symphony Orchestra has delivered a breathtaking performance. This particular concert was a program of firsts: Bartok's first (and only) opera, Duke Bluebeard's Castle, and Brahms' First Symphony in C-minor. Both performances were inspired, exhibiting both the technical excellence and emotional passion heard so often from the BSO.

In the first half of the program, the BSO performed Bartok's Duke Bluebeard's Castle as a complete, unstaged opera. This particular opera was performed in the original Hungarian, and translations to English were provided in the program. The opera is scored for only two soloists: a soprano and a baritone. There is also a brief, spoken prologue, given in this performance by Ors Kiszfaludy. The soprano for this performance was Anne Sofie von Otter and the baritone was Albert Dohmen. Both are talented artists who delivered wonderful performances. The only serious complaint was that both had a vibrato that was too wide in the higher and lower ranges respectively. At times it was hard to distinguish pitch due to the range of the vibrato itself.

The story of Bluebeard's Castle is older than the opera itself, and has been told many times with various details altered. The basic plotline of the story is that Duke Bluebeard arrives home with his new bride, Judith. There are seven locked doors in his palace. In Bartok's version, Judith has Bluebeard open the doors for her, but in other versions she opens the doors on her own with Bluebeard's keys. In all the versions of the story, however, Bluebeard alternatively begs and commands Judith not to open the seventh door. Of course, she does, and finds all of Bluebeard's previous wives. In this telling of the saga, they are still alive, and Bluebeard explains that he met one in the morning, one in the afternoon, and one in the evening. These are, predictably, metaphors for the stages of Bluebeard's life. He

explains to Judith that he met her at night, and she retreats into the room behind the seventh door, and Bluebeard dies. The audience does not actually see him die, but it is implied by his final line which, roughly translated from Hungarian, is "And now it will be night forever." The piece was also not typical Bartok. It strayed from Bartok's signature folk-music feel and instead focused on picture-painting. Bartok's imagery was, in fact, very effective, and while following the action in the program, I was amazed at how clearly the music matched my mental picture of the scene.

Bartok is also genius in how he writes beautiful, melodic lines while simultaneously creating underlying musical tension. The ultimate effect was to create a sense of awe at what lay behind the earlier doors (jewels, a garden, etc.), while, at the same time, imposing a sense of unsolved mystery and reminding the audience that many of the doors remained unopened. The performance, all in all, was effective and riveting to listen to.

The second half of the night consisted of Brahms' First Symphony in C-Minor. Since the BSO was already warm and in its groove, the performance was that much better. The Brahms Symphonies are always a joy to listen to, and the BSO's performance was engaging and passionate. When the piece was in its final measures, I had trouble believing that the performance was over already.

Brahms' First Symphony is a work of musical maturity, largely because, as First Symphonies go, this one was written late in Brahms' career. Brahms was already relatively well-established as a composer when he completed the symphony, so the work was highly anticipated by the musical community. At this point, Brahms had written several pieces for large orchestras, among them two Serenades and the First Piano Concerto. I personally find the Brahms Symphonies to be more effective than the Serenades, and the BSO's performance of the Brahms in particular was fantastic.

Both works were beautifully executed and I would recommend everyone to try to see them or any other BSO performance.

## EXHIBIT REVIEW

# Who Says Beauty is Only Skin Deep?

## Museum of Science Springs For Controversial BodyWorlds 2

By Rosa Cao

EXECUTIVE EDITOR

BodyWorlds 2

Museum of Science

Through Jan. 7, 2007

Adult: \$24, Student: \$21

BodyWorlds 2, the travelling exhibition now showing at the Museum of Science, is not so much a world of bodies as it is an erratically curated room or three of case studies, ranging from a man literally beside himself (me an' my skeleton, strolling down the street), to a window into the complex digestive systems of a pair of hapless camels.

There are gems, like the baby goat defined only by its blood vessels — the rest of the body has been digested away — and what high definition those blood vessels give. Fine sprays of capillaries track every contour of the head and limbs, while major arteries and veins trace where organs, muscles and nerves would have rested. The same process has been applied to a human arm, showing a dense network of capillaries at our sensitive fingertips, condensing to larger vessels that run up the arm. The specimens in this section are displayed in blue velvet cases; spotlight illumination gives them a dramatic ruby glow.

Also engaging were the specimens of diseased organs: desiccated coal miners' and smokers' lungs, broken hearts, and tumor-ridden kidneys. During my visit, these provoked visceral "ews" from any number of on-lookers. Perhaps these, together with an up close and graphic display of an obese specimen, will encourage viewers to try to take better care of their bodies.

Some of the most heavily advertised specimens show flayed bodies arranged in dynamic poses; at the MoS these included the vivid but crudely posed "Ballet Dancer" and "Soccer Player" (Soccer players don't shoot with their toes and arabesques should not involve crooked turned in feet or bent knees. A little homework here would have done wonders). Up close, the bodies look like nothing so much as

educationally color-coded jerky.

Real muscles look like fresh steak: juicy, bulging, and shining with bodily fluids. Real organs pulsate. Real nerves stretch like spiderwebs. Plastination, a proprietary process by which liquid resins are infused into cells, replacing water, and then cured to solidity, does an excellent job of preserving more robust tissues. Nerves don't fare so well: only the largest fibers survive, and those that do are often knotted or broken. Muscles survive much better, as do ligaments and tendons.

Semi-see-through cross-sections (lengthwise) of a body were fascinating, but only because they showed the superiority of non-invasive high resolution methods like MRIs over the anatomical methods of past centuries. More dramatic were the blunt dissections that showed the squishy three-dimensional tetrises of our interiors: fitting lungs, liver, stomach, and heart, the core of the digestive, circulatory, and respiratory systems in the couple of cubic feet afforded by the human torso requires some highly efficient packing. One man is shown simultaneously bending forward and backwards, as if split down the middle by a giant woodchopper.

Strangely, the spectacle of dismembered human bodies are anything but horrifying in this context. The bodies do not look dead, tortured, or brutally dissected, but rather, faintly bemused, with expressive eyebrows, wide innocent blue eyes (and yes, for the most part they are blue), and, incongruously, eyelashes. They bear a strong resemblance to each other, like a mutant branch of the human race, without skin or (with one notable exception) fat.

In this exhibit, pedagogy takes a backseat to visual whimsy, although anyone who actually

took the time to read every plaque and listen to the audio tour would get a fairly systematic education in basic anatomy. As usual, the MoS has done a good job of choosing its exhibits to balance substantive information with crowd-pleasing entertainment.

One of the most detailed and fascinating parts of the show actually came from the MoS's own collection, a series of preserved human embryos in tall cylinders of clear preservative. They range from the tiny — a five-week old embryo barely distinguishable from a curl of clipped fingernail — to a small but clearly mammalian 20-week-old.

Von Hagens exhibits have been controversial. The exhibitors go to great length to address concerns about the provenance of the bodies: don't worry, the donors gave full informed consent. Signs throughout the exhibit breathlessly declare the genius of physician, anatomist, artist! Dr. Gunther von Hagens, and his "groundbreaking" and "unique" method of plastination. Such shameless self-promotion (eulogizing the man for history ...

although, unlike his works, the man is not yet dead) seems unnecessary: the specimens on display should speak for themselves as well as the method that brought them to the display floor.

The Museum of Science is a non-profit institution, yet the Body Worlds franchise is very much about profit — to the tune of \$40 million over the past seven years, transforming freely donated bodies into profit, from ticket sales to themed merchandise.

So if you have \$21 dollars to spare for an excursion into corporal architecture (\$16 in the evenings), there are probably worse ways of spending a few hours, especially when there's the rest of the MoS to explore for free.

*The bodies do not look dead, tortured, or brutally dissected, but rather, faintly bemused, with expressive eyebrows, wide innocent blue eyes (and yes, for the most part they are blue), and, incongruously, eyelashes.*

# Satisfaction From Acting, Writing, Not Clowning

Levy and Guest, from Page 6

coming a comedian?

CG: Because he's funny.

EL: The first movie I did was in 1971, and it was a movie called "Cannibal Girls." My first job was as a coffee boy. My second film was improvisationally based, and it was a horror-comedy. We didn't even have makeup artists. Keep in mind I had an afro and nut-ton-chops and a big mustache, and I used to tease my co-actress because she would touch up her makeup after every scene. And I would say: "Why are you doing that? You just did your makeup. Are you crazy?" For me it was just: "Hey, they're putting us up in a motel for a month. What fun." I had no idea that one day it was going to come out on the big screen. Honestly, I'm a character actor, and all the work I've done on movies and television is character work.

Q: So you weren't the kid making everyone laugh?

EL: No. I was never that kid. It was more with writing. It was just doing successful character work.

Q: Are you two working on anything right now?

CG: Not that I know of. After movies like this I usually take a year, year and a half off to just have a very regular life. Then maybe I'll have another idea one day.

Q: Is writing more satisfying for you than acting?

CG: It's a different kind of satisfaction. It's fun coming up with a story you think might work, potentially. It's fun acting. It's putting on silly clothes and wigs. And it's fun and inspiring to edit. I edit for 11 months. That's really fun and intellectually stimulating.

# BIG CLOCK, small hands

By Ali Ghajarnia & Nancy Hua



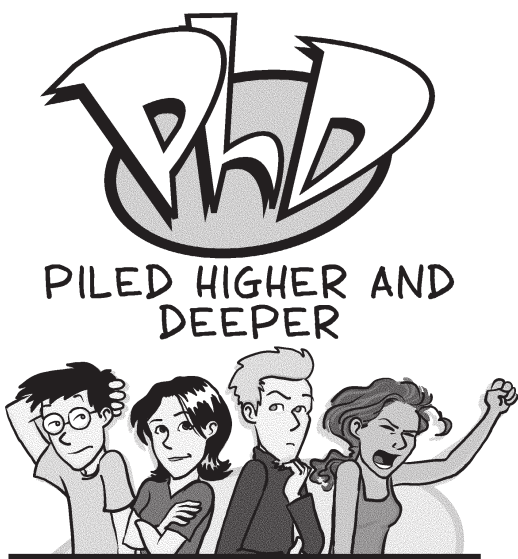
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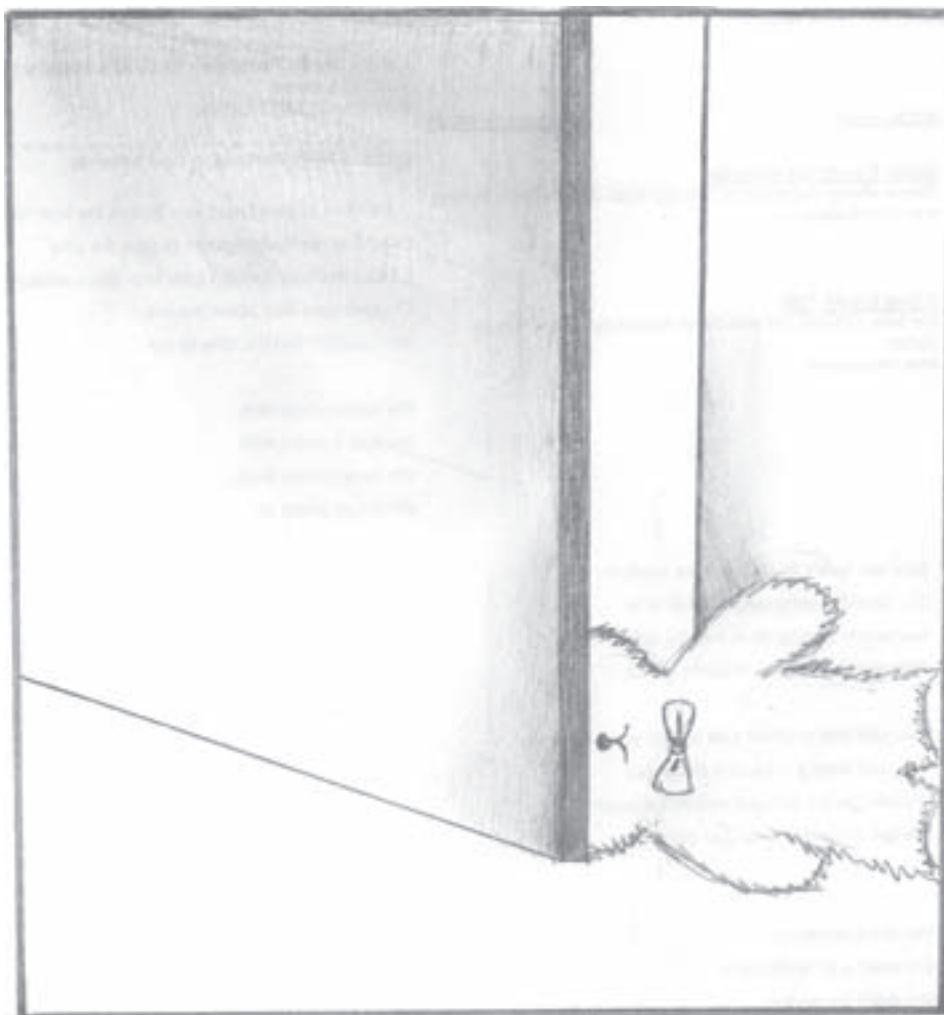
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Instructions: Fill in the grid so that each column, row, and 3 by 3 grid contains exactly one of each of the digits 1 through 9. Solution on page 15.

## More Cowbell

By Jia Lou



I think Mr. Snuggles is trying to tell us something.

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

**Crossword Puzzle**  
 Solution, page 12

**FoxTrot** by Bill Amend

**Dilbert®** by Scott Adams

# MIT Alum and Prof. Benedict Was Often Recipient of Awards

Benedict, from Page 1

as the first department head.

From 1958 to 1968, Benedict was a member and chair of the Advisory Committee of the Atomic Energy Commission, appointed by Presidents Eisenhower and Kennedy.

Benedict won many awards, including the William H. Walker award in 1947, the Perkin Research Medal in 1966, the Robert E. Wilson Award in 1968, the Enrico Fermi Award in 1972, and the National Medal of Science from President Gerald Ford in 1975.

The Wilson Award citation said of Benedict, "He has served education, industry and government with quiet and unwavering dedication."

Born Oct. 9, 1907, in Lake Linden, Mich., he received a B.S. from Cornell University in chemistry and a PhD from MIT in physical chemistry. While at MIT, he met his wife, Marjorie (Allen) Benedict, who also earned a PhD in chemistry. His wife died in 1995 after 59 years of marriage.

Benedict is survived by two daughters, Marjorie Cohn of Arlington, Mass., and Mary Sauer of Naperville, Ill., and Naples, Fla.; three grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

The Manson Benedict Fellowship fund was established in Nov. 1983.

A memorial symposium in his honor will be held at MIT at a date to be announced later.

# Tomorrow!

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OMARI STEPHENS—THE TECH

In preparation for paving over a cut in Mass. Ave, workers shovel the remains of temporarily installed pavement into the bucket of a backhoe for disposal on Monday, Nov. 13. Steel plates had been left over the cut since Saturday, Nov. 11, when a pipe was installed across the road.

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### Solution to Crossword

from page 10

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Check out [web.mit.edu/cdsa](http://web.mit.edu/cdsa) for more information!

# Harvard & MIT Joint Curriculum Includes Clinical Experience

GEMS, from Page 1

ence from its ivory tower and bring it down to the plane where it can have communal and clinical impact," said Edelman.

The GEMS program will have a supplementary curriculum that students can complete alongside their own degree, ensuring that they can finish both the PhD and GEMS training by the time of graduation. The program will commence in February and continue for a span of three academic semesters.

The curriculum is as follows: a human pathology course, including molecular and cellular mechanisms of disease; a medical pathophysiology course; a clinical experience, working with mentors who collaborate clinical medicine techniques and basic biological research; a seminar with examples of translational medicine; and HST's Graduate Seminar which discusses the professional skills needed in interdisciplinary research, such as ethics, responsible conduct of research, and proper communication.

The program is offered by HST, through collaboration with MIT, Harvard Medical School, Massachusetts General Hospital, Brigham and Women's Hospital, and Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center.

The required classes will be developed and taught by HST faculty. The pathology class will most likely be held at MIT, while the pathophysiology class will likely be taught at Harvard. Students will travel to one of the three participating hospitals for their clinical experiences.

Scholars will be expected to com-

plete the pathology course this spring, the pathophysiology course in fall 2007 and finish the next spring with the clinical experience. The seminars will be held every other week for the duration of the program.

The program will continue under support of the HHMI grant for the next four years, and after that time, will hopefully become part of MIT's programs and thus be funded by the Institute, said Edelman.

Eligible applicants can be from any major in the School of Science or School of Engineering, but should have completed 7.01, 7.05, or any other comparable biology course. Although the program is geared at students in the first three years of graduate school, more senior students with applicable research projects will also be considered.

Edelman said that although merit certainly plays a part in the selection process, students that can provide the most compelling reasons why he or she wants to participate in the program and how the experience will make the greatest impact on their career will be selected first.

Edelman said that students will benefit from GEMS most because they can "develop a perspective that they did not previously have."

An informational meeting about the program was held on Nov. 8 and 42 students attended. Edelman said that he was pleased with the student interest in the program, as well as the widespread support from MIT faculty and staff.

Deadline for applying to the program is Nov. 30 and more information is available at [hst.mit.edu/gems/](http://hst.mit.edu/gems/).

# The Sorcerer



## MIT Gilbert & Sullivan Players

Nov 10, 11, 16, 17 - 8pm

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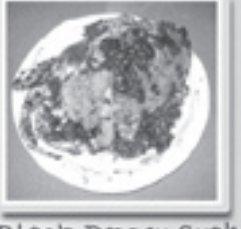
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# Boston Secession

## 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 **WGBH's Eileen Kushner as narrator**. Performance includes 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

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# Size Matters...



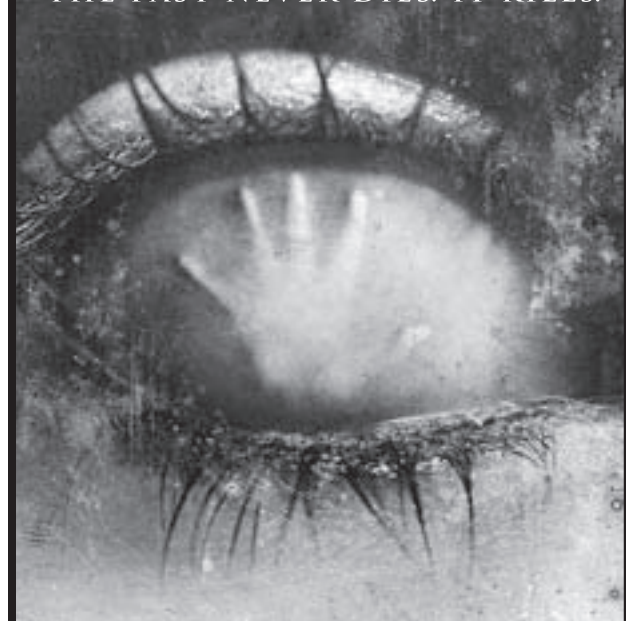
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# DSL Units Outline Future Plans

## Fundraising, Assessment Emphasized in Division's Restructure

DSL, from Page 1

changes students will notice will be long-term. "On a daily basis, most students won't know the difference, and if we do our job right, most students shouldn't notice a difference," Benedict said. "Ultimately, we're going to be providing better services to students."

### New emphasis on fundraising

According to Immerman, the major change in fundraising is that it will become more "focused and intentional," but that the effort itself is not new. DSL has been working on it for over a year, beginning to build the infrastructure that will support fundraising, he said. Immerman, along with Candace L. Royer, associate dean for the Department of Athletics, Physical Education, and Recreation, will be leading the fundraising efforts.

The funds raised will go toward the increasing demands that follow from an "explosion of activities and programs, which costs tremendous amounts of money," Immerman said. "Whatever the amount, it will be substantial." Support is needed for two buildings and programs.

DSL is looking toward new ways to raise these funds, including asking for alumni support. "We ought not to look to increasing tuition," he added.

DSL also hopes to increasingly assess their programs. According to Daniel Trujillo, who will lead the Community Outreach unit that assessment falls under, the first step looks at the data that already been compiled and uses it to revise the division's strategies and programs.

"We currently have a good holding of data, through many student surveys," Trujillo said.

### New units outline goals

Development of living-learning communities will be directed by the new Residential Life unit, which includes Housing, Residential Life Programs, Fraternities, Sororities, and Independent Living Groups, and Dining. According to Director of Housing Karen A. Nilsson, who will lead the Residential Life unit, she plans to ask students for input after January when the changes become official. "It's always been our practice to utilize our students on teams," Nilsson said.

For the short term, Residential Life will focus on getting the newly-named Ashdown House, NW35, settled, Nilsson said. The new graduate dormitory is expected to open in summer 2008. In the long term, FSILGs will discuss the possibility of moving to the Cambridge side of the Charles River.

Student Development will include the Student Leadership Development, the Public Service Center, Student Activities, and the Hobby Shop. Associate Dean Laura Capone, who will be heading the Student Development unit on an interim basis, also plans to meet with students in December for a "visioning session."

"Clustering of the existing offices and programs... will ultimately give MIT students limitless opportunities," Capone said.

"We want to provide a lot of opportunities, more than we do now, so students can actually practice all of the things they learn in class and also develop new leadership skills outside

of class," Benedict said.

According to Benedict, the Student Leadership Development Committee is currently looking at opportunities for freshmen to become more involved with activities outside of class.

The Student Support unit will not be very different in its focus, according to Benedict, and the other units — DAPER and Enterprise Services, which includes Copy Tech and the Card Office — are also not changing.

Search for a DAPER department head is ongoing and is unrelated to the planned reorganization. According to Capone, who is leading the search, she expects the interim head Immerman to stay for the entire academic year. The new hire should begin on July 1. Capone hopes to either extend an offer by or be close to a decision by Independent Activities Period.

### Randolph to be Institute Chaplain

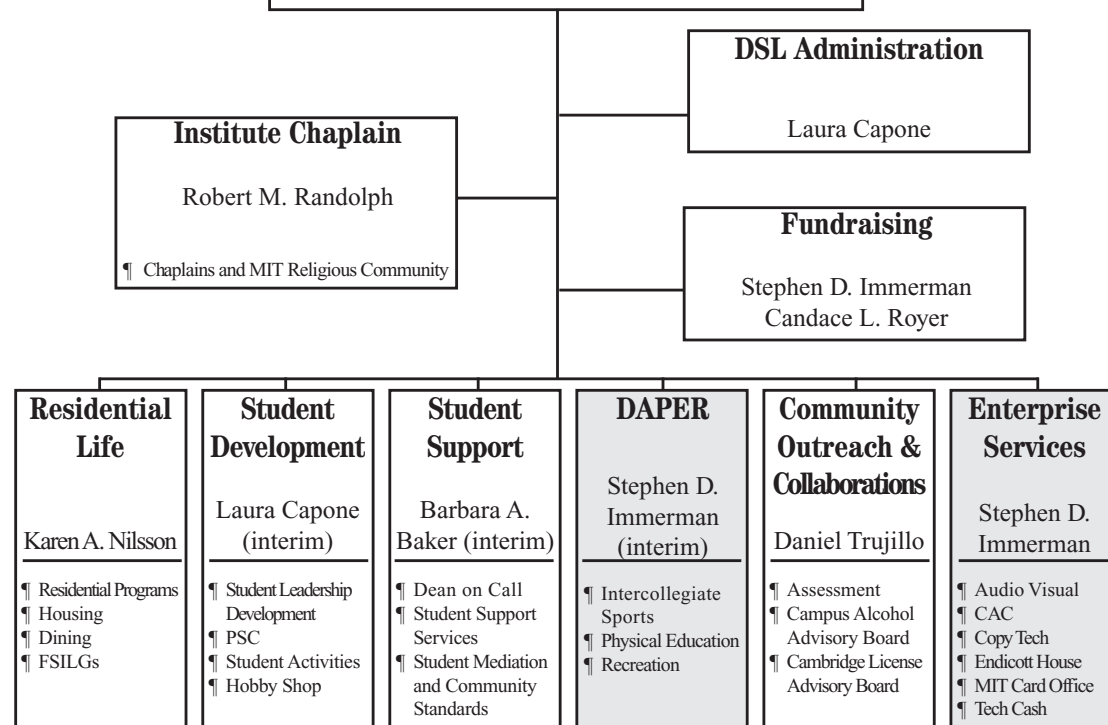
According to the MIT News Office, Randolph's goals for the new Institute Chaplain position, which he will assume in January, include developing a protocol for memorial services, as well as promoting understanding and tolerance throughout campus.

"I hope in the long run we will see more programs that encourage expression and interfaith conversation," he said to the News Office.

Randolph "has been involved with chaplains and ministry here for all of his career here," Benedict said. "In some ways, this simply reflects what he has been doing for a long time but actually gives him more time to focus on those areas."

## Division of Student Life

Larry G. Benedict, Dean



Shaded departments are those whose roles have not significantly changed.

SOURCE: LARRY G. BENEDICT, DIVISION OF STUDENT LIFE



A tent for groundbreaking ceremonies held on Wednesday, Nov. 8 was erected on the site of future graduate dormitory NW35 on Tuesday, Nov. 7.

LOUIS BREGER

# Thomas, 92, Author Of Calculus Text and MIT Math Professor

Thomas, from Page 1

and as graduate registration officer from 1962-67.

Thomas was born Jan. 11, 1914, in Boise, Idaho. His mother died in the influenza pandemic in 1919, and young George grew up in sometimes difficult circumstances. At one point he lived in a tent with his father and stepmother. "It must have been sort of hard times, because I can remember going out with her to pick weeds of some kind along the roadside that were edible," he recalled afterward, according to his daughter, Fay Bakhru.

His father's work in a bank helped lead Thomas to discover his own fascination with numbers. After studies at Spokane University and Washington State College, which led to bachelor's and master's degrees, Thomas hoped to become a high school math teacher, but "that somehow didn't work out," as he related afterward.

During World War II, Thomas helped program the differential analyzer for the calculation of firing tables for the Navy.

After the Soviet Union launched Sputnik in October 1957, Thomas was part of a national effort to improve math and science education in American schools. He also traveled to India on a Ford Foundation grant to teach Indian instructors how he and his American colleagues taught math.

Thomas worked in a shoe store for a time to save money for doctoral studies, and eventually went to Cor-

nell, where he completed his Ph.D. in mathematics in 1940, and then came to MIT, from which he retired in 1978.

Thomas' commitment to education went well beyond MIT. From 1955-57, he served on the Board of Governors of the Mathematical Association of America, an organization devoted to mathematics, especially at the undergraduate level. He was elected its first Vice-President 1958-59. Thomas also served on the Executive Committee, Mathematics Division, of the American Society for Engineering Education from 1956-59. He was a member of the Commission on Mathematics of the College Entrance Examination Board, 1955-58, for which he co-authored monographs on mathematics, and spoke at numerous forums about teaching and high school curriculum reform. In addition to his calculus text, which had a significant impact, he was also one of the editors on a series of high school mathematics texts for Addison-Wesley Publishing.

Twice widowed, Thomas is survived by two daughters, Fay, of Glen Mills, Pa., and Jean H. Thomas of West Chester, Pa.; a son, James H. Thomas of Owls Head, Maine; a stepson, Brad Waldron of Beverly, Mass., two stepdaughters, Melissa Goggin of Beverly, Mass., and Susan Hamill of Maine; three sisters, Mary Nelson of Twin Falls, Idaho, Carol Hypes of Greeley, Colo., and Peggy Turner of Lubbock, Texas; three grandchildren; five great-grandchildren; and six step-grandchildren.

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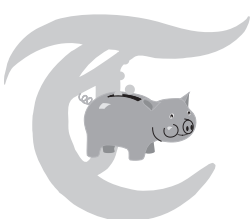
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### Solution to Sudoku

from page 10


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## SPORTS

## Baseball's Offseason: Who'll Overpay Whom

By Wang Lei

It's November, deep in pigskin season — Ohio State-Michigan is tomorrow for chrissake — so why am I writing about baseball?

Well, as a Miami native, I can tell you my football season started to sour right around the time the Dolphins chose to sign Culpepper over Brees in the free agency market and the Canes decided to not fire Coker for his embarrassing choke job against LSU in last year's Peach Bowl. Without getting into a self-pitying, woe-is-me soliloquy like a 2003 Red Sox fan, I'll just say that I no longer have reasons to wake up on Saturday and Sunday afternoons, and April couldn't seem further away.

Besides, being the only one of the four major sports without a salary cap, baseball off-season is like watching a NASCAR race for four-and-a-half months. But instead of watching for that 10-car pile-up, you're watching for that equally crippling three-team deal involving promising prospects, aging has-beens, the Yankees, and eight-digit multi-year contract extensions. You watch, and you pray to God your team/car isn't involved.

Like any good crash in NASCAR, where one car in the pack usually goes haywire to set off the pile-up, a good baseball off-season is set off by a team going crazy and signing Ridiculously Overpaid Free Agent (ROFA). Of course, if you even remotely follow baseball, you'll know that the ROFA signings are most prevalent with the Yankees (e.g. their entire staff not named Mussina, Wang, and Rivera).

I'm going to take this moment for an aside:

Most people laugh at the Yankees' current business model of overpaying free agents, but I think they have something to their method of madness. Since the Yankees make ROFA signings in nearly every position, they become the price-setters of each position in the free agency market. This allows for mediocre FA's with similar statistical achievements to use the ROFA signing to pump up their own price, leading to similar ROFA signings by desperate clubs looking to make a move late in the off-season with dwindling

options. But these desperate clubs aren't working with a carte blanche like the Yankees, so their moves in subsequent off-seasons, or even mid-season, are naturally limited by their own ROFA signing.

Wait, did I just legitimize the way the Yankees operate? Forget I said anything....

So who will be this year's ROFAs? It's hard to really know until the middle of the season. But here are my three leading candidates:

1. Daisuke Matsuzaka (Japan) — When was the last time someone paid \$51 million just to talk to you? Let me give you an idea of how absurd this is: there were five teams in the league with a payroll smaller than \$51 million. If the Red Sox gives this guy \$30 million for three years, a very conservative estimate, he'd still be most expensive pitcher any team has ever paid for by a mile. If there's ever a no-win situation, Boston's got one.

2. Joe Borowski (Florida) — This will be the third straight year the Marlins have done the following: sign a retread closer with his best days behind him to a one-year deal, where the guy ends up having a career year, then someone overpays for him as he falls back to earth the next season. With their respective bullpens in shambles, look for the Yankees or Red Sox to make Borowski their overpriced set-up man in '07.

3. Alfonso Soriano (Washington) — C'mon, do you really expect the top FA of this off-season to be left off this list? Soriano is entering the prime of his career, and is a perennial 50 homer/40 steal threat — read: he's going to get paid. Other teams are going to drive up the price for the Mets, who are ogling him like he's Scarlett Johansson and may end up overpaying.

Some other potential ROFA candidates: Jim Edmonds (does he have enough left in his tank to provide two years and \$19 million worth of protection for Pujols?), Jeff Suppan (read: Kris Benson), Jason Schmidt, Barry Bonds (just kidding).

So enjoy the Ohio State-Michigan game — I'll probably be drowning in sorrow, trying to sleep, and counting the days until baseball season starts again.

## Men's Hoops to Spread Burden Of Replacing D'Auria's Offense

By Ryan Lanphere

STAFF WRITER

After sweeping all of the individual NEWMAC awards and finishing with a program best 21 wins last season, the 2006-2007 men's varsity basketball team has its sights set high for this season.

The first task for the Engineers will be to find a replacement for the 2005-2006 NEWMAC Player of the Year Mike W. D'Auria '06 who graduated this past spring. D'Auria played a role in every part of the game for the Engineers last season, averaging 19.5 points, 5.1 rebounds, 3.5 assists, and 2.4 steals per game.

In recognition of his efforts, D'Auria received numerous accolades including the Division III All-American Team (the first in the program's history), the D3hoops.com Northeast Region Player of the Year (also a program first), and ESPN The Magazine Academic All-America team. His 1,528 career points put him third all-time, his 586 points last season were three shy of the all time

single season mark, and his 71 steals and 257 field goals were both MIT single season records.

Looking the fill the void left by D'Auria, 2005-2006 NEWMAC Rookie of the Year James M. Bartolotta '09 should greatly expand the role he played last year. Bartolotta averaged 11.1 points and 4.5 rebounds per game to go along with his team best 82.1% clip from the free throw line. Bartolotta should see action at both guard spots and also as a forward.

The Engineers also lost a lot of size in the front court with the graduation of forwards Phillip E. Murray '06 and Gary R. Atkins '06 along with a one year departure to Cambridge, England by Hamidou Soumare '08.

As a result, the Engineers will feature, as Coach Larry Anderson puts it, "an equal opportunity offense." These opportunities will be seized by many Engineers, who include: point guard Bradley H. Gampel '09, wingmen Alexander G. Krull '07 and William D. Mroz '08, and forward Willard J. Johnson '09.

The Engineers freshman class is

raw but talented. Coach Anderson says guard Patrick S. Sissman '10 and forward Erich W. Bracht '10 have made "significant strides" in practice so far and should be solid contributors right away for MIT.

The team goals for the 2006-2007 season are as lofty as last season's finish. Besides improving each day in practice, they hope to make a run at a NEWMAC Championship after falling in the tournament final last year. If things go as planned, MIT also could also figure into the national tournament picture as well.

Anderson is in his 12th year as the head coach. After leading the Engineers to a 18-7 regular season finish last year he was awarded the NEWMAC Coach of the Year honor.

The Engineers have a tough schedule lined up for the 2006-2007 seasons, "the toughest schedule that we have ever had in my 12 years at MIT," according to Anderson. The schedule includes non-conference match-ups against preseason No. 12 Tufts University on December 2 and No. 3 Amherst on Dec. 7. Both games are scheduled for 7:00 p.m. tip-offs at MIT's Rockwell Cage.

### Men's Basketball Fast Facts

Home Venue: Rockwell Cage

Conference: NEWMAC

Last Season's finish: 21-9, 8-4 in NEWMAC. Second in conference regular season, second in conference tournament, lost in the semi-final of the ECAC tournament.

Key Returnees: James M. Bartolotta '09, Willard J. Johnson '09, Bradley H. Gampel '09, Will D. Mroz '08, Alexander G. Krull '07.

Schedule:

Date	Opponent / Event	Location	Time / Result
Fri., Nov. 17	vs. Middlebury (Gordon College Tournament)	Wenham, Mass.	6:00 p.m.
Sat., Nov. 18	TBD (Gordon College Tournament)	Wenham, Mass.	6:00 p.m.
Tue., Nov. 21	at Connecticut College	New London, Conn.	7:00 p.m.
Sat., Nov. 25	at Suffolk University	Boston, Mass.	2:00 p.m.
Tue., Nov. 28	at Lesley University	Cambridge, Mass.	8:00 p.m.
Thu., Nov. 30	at Endicott College	Beverly, Mass.	7:00 p.m.
Sat., Dec. 2	vs. Tufts University	Cambridge, Mass.	2:00 p.m.
Tue., Dec. 5	at Western New England	Springfield, Mass.	7:00 p.m.
Thu., Dec. 7	vs. Amherst College	Cambridge, Mass.	7:00 p.m.
Tue., Dec. 12	vs. Emerson College	Cambridge, Mass.	7:00 p.m.
Wed., Jan. 3	vs. Fisher College	Cambridge, Mass.	7:00 p.m.
Sat., Jan. 6	vs. Springfield College	Cambridge, Mass.	2:00 p.m.
Tue., Jan. 9	vs. Babson College *	Cambridge, Mass.	5:30 p.m.
Thu., Jan. 11	at U.S. Coast Guard Academy	New London, Conn.	7:00 p.m.
Sat., Jan. 13	vs. Wheaton College	Cambridge, Mass.	3:00 p.m.
Wed., Jan. 17	Worcester Polytechnic Institute	Cambridge, Mass.	7:00 p.m.
Sat., Jan. 20	at Babson College *	Babson Park, Mass.	1:00 p.m.
Wed., Jan. 24	at Clark University	Worcester, Mass.	7:00 p.m.
Sat., Jan. 27	vs. Newbury College	Cambridge, Mass.	3:00 p.m.
Wed., Jan. 31	at Wheaton College	Norton, Mass.	7:00 p.m.
Sat., Feb. 3	vs. U.S. Coast Guard Academy	Cambridge, Mass.	1:00 p.m.
Wed., Feb. 7	at Springfield College	Springfield, Mass.	7:00 p.m.
Sat., Feb. 10	Worcester Polytechnic Institute	Worcester, Mass.	2:00 p.m.
Tue., Feb. 13	vs. Lasell College	Cambridge, Mass.	7:00 p.m.
Sat., Feb. 17	vs. Clark University	Cambridge, Mass.	2:00 p.m.
Tue., Feb. 20	NEWMAC Tournament Quarterfinal	TBA	7:00 p.m.
Sat., Feb. 24	NEWMAC Tournament Semifinal	TBA	TBA
Sun., Feb. 25	NEWMAC Tournament Final	TBA	TBA

\* — denotes a conference game

SOURCE: MIT DAPER

### UPCOMING HOME EVENTS

#### Friday, Nov. 17, 2006

Pistol vs. Army, duPont Athletic Center, 5:30 p.m.  
Women's Basketball vs. Eastern Nazarene College, Rockwell Cage, 6:00 p.m.  
Women's Hockey vs. Castleton State, Johnson Ice Arena, 7:00 p.m.

#### Saturday, Nov. 18, 2006

Men's Crew, Foot of the Charles, Charles River, 8:00 a.m.  
Pistol vs. Army, duPont Athletic Center, 9:00 a.m.  
Women's Basketball, MIT Tip-Off Tournament, Rockwell Cage, 1:00 p.m.  
Men's and Women's Swimming vs. Babson, Bowdoin, and Tufts, Zesiger Center, 1:00 p.m.  
Women's Hockey vs. St. Michael's College, Johnson Ice Arena, 3:00 p.m.

#### Sunday, Nov. 19, 2006

Men's Crew, Foot of the Charles, Charles River, 8:00 a.m.  
Men's and Women's Fencing, Northeast Fencing Conference Competition, Johnson Athletic Center, 8:30 a.m.



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