

MIT Pilots VoIP, Internet-Based Phone Service With 500 Users

By Benjamin P. Gleitzman
NEWS EDITOR

Information Services and Technology is currently in the midst of a pilot program to route telephone conversations over the Internet without the use of traditional phone lines. The pilot, now available to select departments and groups at MIT, employs Voice over Internet Protocol to send and receive voice conversations over any IP-based network.

More than 500 users are participating in the VoIP pilot at MIT, according to Theresa M. Regan, vice president of IS&T. The MIT network currently has on the order of 20,000 traditional phone lines, including desk phones, fax phones, dorm phones, circuits, and elevator emergency phones.

The transition from traditional telephone line to Internet-based routing offers the advantage of mobility, reduced infrastructure costs, and integration with next generation unified

communications applications, according to Mark Silis, manager of Network and Infrastructure Services at IS&T.

The MIT VoIP system uses Asterisk, an open source television switch, to connect VoIP phones with other VoIP phones on the MIT network, as well as with telephones on the worldwide telephone system, also called the public switched telephone network.

Calls made between VoIP phones can be routed completely over the network, but calls placed to land lines will still travel over the PSTN and be subject to long distance charges.

The VoIP phone itself can be a softphone, software for PCs or handheld devices capable of sending and receiving calls, or a physical telephone device that connects to the network via an Ethernet jack or wireless access point.

Advantages, disadvantages of VoIP
Wireless VoIP phones can be

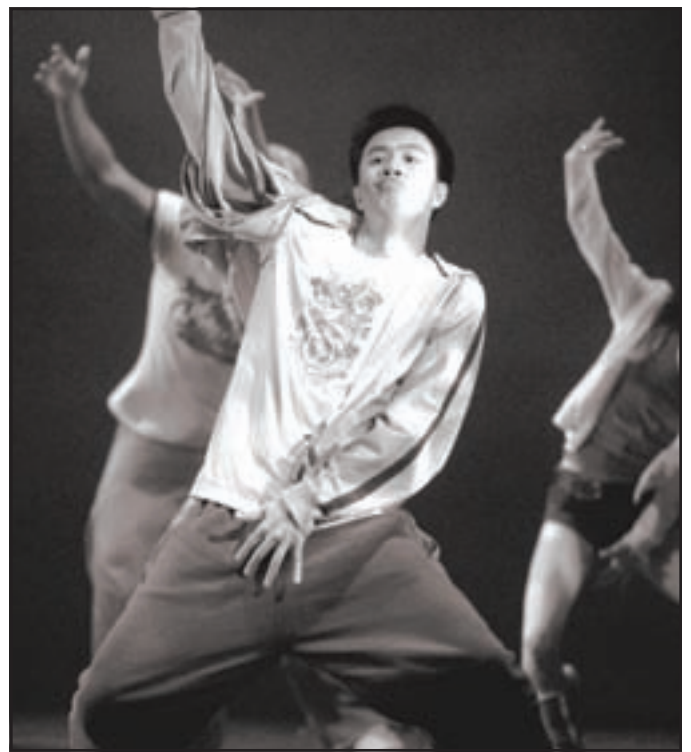
used as long as the user maintains a connection to the wireless network, allowing telephone access to locations that cell towers may not be able to provide. Since all calls are routed via the Internet to MIT's telephone system, a VoIP call placed from anywhere in the world to the Boston area is not subject to long distance charges.

"Disadvantages [of the VoIP service] are mainly focused around the fact that it's a young technology and traditional voice services have had over a century "to work the kinks out," Silis said.

Due to current network configuration, users cannot walk across campus using a wireless VoIP phone without losing their call, but IS&T plans to migrate MIT's wireless network onto a virtual local area network which will solve the problem.

"This network topology will be

Phones, Page 12



WILLIAM B. YEE—THE TECH

Derek H. Chu '07 goes "Back2TheBeats" to the music of Fort Minor and Ratafat at Gyrohazard, Dance Troupe's Fall show. Gyrohazard opened last night on Thursday, Dec. 7 in Little Kresge Auditorium. The show features 19 different dances and will show through Sunday, Dec. 10. Refer to page 15 for additional photographs.

UA-GSC Sudan Resolution Passes

By Marie Y. Thibault
EDITOR IN CHIEF

The Graduate Student Council General Council passed its share of a Undergraduate Association-GSC joint resolution on Wednesday supporting MIT's targeted divestment from certain companies involved with the Sudanese government. Even with this sign of support, which comes in addition to the UA's recent passing of the same resolution, the student body is not entirely unanimous on the topic of divestment from certain companies involved with the Sudanese government. The MIT Corporation's Advisory Committee on Shareholder Responsibility is currently considering whether MIT should divest or not.

Opinions are divided between

those who support targeted divestment and believe that it will send a strong message with an economic incentive to the Sudanese government and those who feel that divestment does nothing to help Sudanese civilians and that there is no evidence that divestment will be effective.

The UA-GSC joint resolution's author, Kayvan Zainabadi G, said that approval of the resolution shows that "basically the entire student body of MIT is in favor of targeted divestment." The result of the vote was 26-2-7 (yes-no-abstaining) with only GSC representatives being allowed to vote. The vote at the UA Senate meeting was similar to that at the GSC General Council meeting, with a majority of "yeas" in the voice count and no "nays."

The number of abstentions was not counted.

Targeted divestment involves divestment from those companies that are the worst offenders, meaning they fund the Sudanese government or fund military arms, though there are different models of targeted divestment that can be followed. The resolution asked that "MIT take actions to encourage corporate responsibility in Sudan, including targeted divestment from offending companies doing business with the genocidal government of Sudan immediately (no later than December 31, 2006)."

Discussion on the topic was extended from 10 minutes to about 25 minutes, GSC President Eric

Sudan, Page 14

Prof. Comatose After Hanoi Bike Accident

THE BOSTON GLOBE

Seymour Papert, a professor emeritus at MIT who is one of the pioneers of artificial intelligence and an authority on how computers can help children learn, was seriously injured after being struck by a motorbike in Hanoi, where he was attending a conference.

The accident on Tuesday left Papert, 78, in a coma. He underwent brain surgery at French Hospital, hospital officials said.

He was struck while crossing a street near his hotel, Hoang Xuan Lan of Hanoi Technology University,

told the Associated Press. The university is hosting the conference.

A native of South Africa, Papert worked with renowned researcher Jean Piaget and helped develop the Artificial Intelligence Laboratory at MIT with Marvin Minsky. Their book, "Perceptrons," is considered one of the seminal works on the topic. Papert also helped create Logo, a programming language used to teach computer science.

Since retiring, Papert, who lives in Maine, has been adviser to the MIT Media Lab's international One Laptop Per Child project.



CHRISTINA S. KANG—THE TECH

Phil Good from Berklee College of Music sings at the Holiday Coffeehouse in the Student Center on Thursday, Dec. 7. Good's singing was followed by performances from Giles Li and Vudoo Soul. The event was sponsored by the Asian American Association.

Harvard Narrows Down List Of Presidential Candidates

By Marcella Bombardieri
and Maria Sacchetti
THE BOSTON GLOBE

Harvard has whittled down hundreds of nominees for its next president to a small list, including internal candidates and presidents of some of the nation's top universities, according to a source familiar with the process.

The source would not give a specific number, but said the university is considering a smaller group than the 30 names that the presidential search committee presented to Harvard's Board of Overseers on Sunday.

Harvard is focusing on an elite group of academics, many of them with deep ties to Harvard.

The university's last president, Lawrence H. Summers '75, who had been a Harvard professor, was atypical because of his political experience in Washington as Clinton's former treasury secretary.

Eleven of the 30 names were first

reported yesterday in the student newspaper, the *Harvard Crimson*, in an article about the Sunday overseers meeting. The source confirmed those 11 names to the Globe yesterday, as well as two others.

Harvard spokesmen declined to confirm the information yesterday.

The search began shortly after Summers announced his resignation in February, ending a tumultuous five-year tenure.

The presidential search committee, which includes the Corporation, the university's main governing board, as well as some members of the Board of Overseers, is conducting the search. It will keep narrowing the list of contenders with the intention of picking a president by early next year.

The Board of Overseers then must give the final stamp of approval.

Harvard, Page 12

In Short

¶ At a special faculty meeting Nov. 29, a motion was passed to delay votes on the proposed changes to the General Institute Requirements that were presented in the report from the Task Force on the Undergraduate Educational Commons released earlier this year. No votes will occur until at least Feb. 2007.

¶ The review of the MLK program is available at https://web.mit.edu/provost/mitdocs/MLK_Report_May2006.pdf. The report discusses the Martin Luther King Visiting Professor and Scholar Program and emphasizes the importance of developing an Institute-wide strategy for the recruitment of minority faculty at MIT.

¶ The PE lottery for IAP opened this week and will close Wednesday, Dec. 13. IAP PE classes begin Jan. 8 and end Jan. 29. Students can enter the lottery at <http://web.mit.edu/athletics/www/physed/index.html>.

¶ Buffets are now offered at Pritchett Hall Dining on Tuesday nights and at McCormick Hall Dining on Thursday nights. Preferred dining is accepted at both locations. MacGregor's pilot dining program offering Tuesday buffets ended this week.

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

SPORTS

Does the Bowl Championship Series system for determining the college football champs work?

Page 16

NEWS

FoxTrot to end daily publication this month.Page 10

Massachusetts to list death rates per heart doctor.Page 13

World & Nation.	2
Opinion.	4
Campus Life.	5
Arts.	6
Comics.	8
Sports.	16

WORLD & NATION

Senate Confirms New Chief of FDA

By Stephanie Saul

THE NEW YORK TIMES

The Senate confirmed Dr. Andrew C. von Eschenbach as commissioner of the Food and Drug Administration on Thursday, with some lawmakers expressing hope that his leadership would bring stability to an agency hobbled by turnover and criticized for poor oversight of the nation's drug supply.

Dr. von Eschenbach, 65, a surgeon who has been treated for melanoma and prostate cancer, became acting FDA commissioner in September 2005 following the abrupt resignation of Dr. Lester Crawford. Previously, he had served as chief academic officer at the M.D. Anderson Cancer Center in Houston and had led the National Cancer Institute.

In the past 10 years no commissioner has served more than two years. A report released in September by the Institute of Medicine, part of the National Academy of Sciences, deplored a "lack of stable leadership" at the agency. The report said that turnover at the helm would compromise efforts to improve the effectiveness of the agency, which the report criticized as hobbled by internal squabbles, poor management and outdated rules.

Top Asian Economist Sees a Further Dollar Decline

By Keith Bradsher

THE NEW YORK TIMES

HONG KONG

A senior Asian Development Bank official said on Thursday that the dollar was likely to decline further, and he called for East Asian countries to make sure that their currencies rose in unison and did not gyrate.

The remarks by the official, Masahiro Kawai, represented the first time that the bank — or for that matter, any important monetary institution in Asia — had urged collective action by East Asian nations to manage the current slide of the dollar. National monetary authorities in the region together hold more than \$3 trillion in foreign reserves, most of it in dollars, and their huge purchases of dollars this year have played a crucial role in limiting the American currency's decline until now.

"We believe that some U.S. dollar depreciation would be necessary, and collective joint appreciation of the East Asian countries could be needed" to manage the decline, Kawai said. "It's very important for the East Asian currencies to appreciate collectively against the U.S. dollar."

Labor Hopes New Congress Will Support Right to Unionize

By Steven Greenhouse

THE NEW YORK TIMES

Claiming a major role in the Democrats' victory last month, labor leaders are pressing congressional Democrats to enact a measure to make it easier for workers to unionize.

Labor leaders see the measure as pivotal to stop a slide in union membership that has lasted decades. But many businesses and Republicans oppose the bill, which would allow employees at a workplace to unionize as soon as a majority sign cards expressing support to join a union.

The AFL-CIO plans to flex its muscles for the bill by holding a rally Friday on Capitol Hill that it expects to include the incoming Democratic chairmen of the Senate and House labor committees, Sen. Edward M. Kennedy of Massachusetts and Rep. George Miller of California.

Even before the Democrats won control of Congress, the bill, the Employee Free Choice Act, had 216 co-sponsors in the House, including 14 Republicans, just two short of a majority.

With the Democrats capturing both houses, labor and its allies voice confidence that the bill will pass in the House, but they fear a formidable battle in the Senate, where some foresee a Republican filibuster.

Voting, Vote Counting Will See Changes For 2008 Elections

By Ian Urbina and Christopher Drew

THE NEW YORK TIMES

By the 2008 presidential election, voters around the country are likely to see sweeping changes in how they cast their ballots and how those ballots are counted, including an end to the use of most electronic voting machines without a paper trail, federal voting officials and legislators say.

New federal guidelines, along with legislation given a strong chance to pass in Congress next year, will probably combine to make paperless voting machines obsolete, the officials say. States and counties that bought the machines will have to modify them to hook them up to printers, at federal expense, while others are planning to scrap the machines and buy new ones.

In addition, the various forms of vote-counting software used around the country — most of which are protectively encoded by their manufacturers for reasons of trade secrecy — will for the first time be inspected by federal authorities, and the code could be made public. There will also be greater federal oversight on how new machines are tested before they

arrive at polling stations.

"In the next two years, I think we'll see the kinds of sweeping changes that people expected to see right after the 2000 election," said Doug Chapin, director of electionline.org, a nonpartisan election group. "The difference now is that we have moved from politics down to policies."

Motivated in part by voting problems during the midterm elections last month, the changes are the result of a growing skepticism among local and state election officials, federal legislators, and the scientific community about the reliability and security of the paperless touch-screen machines used by about 30 percent of American voters.

Many of these machines were bought in a rush to overhaul the voting system after the disputed presidential election in 2000 and the issue of hanging chads. But concerns have been growing that in a close election the paperless machines give election workers no legitimate method to conduct a recount or to check for malfunctions or fraud.

Several counties around the country are already considering scrapping their voting systems after problems

this year, and last week federal technology experts concluded for the first time that paperless touch-screen machines could not be secured from possible tampering.

After having stalled for over two years, federal legislation requiring a shift to paper trails and other safeguards, proposed by Rep. Rush Holt, D-N.J., has a better chance of passage next session, several members of Congress and election officials say.

They say that fixing the voting system is viewed as a core issue by the new Democratic leaders, and the bill already has the bipartisan support of more than a majority of the current House. Sen. Diane Feinstein, D-Calif., who will be the new chairwoman of the Senate Rules and Administration Committee, said she plans to introduce a similar bill in January.

But it is also clear that the changes will not come without a struggle. State and local election officials are still reeling from the last major overhaul of the country's voting system, initiated by the Help America Vote Act in 2002, and some say that the \$150 million in federal aid proposed by Holt would not be enough to pay for the changes.

Worker Wages Rise Faster Than Inflation, Job Market Improves

By Jeremy W. Peters and David Leonhardt

THE NEW YORK TIMES

After four years of barely keeping pace with prices or falling below them, wages for most American workers have begun rising significantly faster than inflation.

With energy prices now sharply lower than a few months ago and the improving job market forcing employers to offer higher raises, the buying power of American workers is now rising at the fastest rate since the economic boom of the late 1990s.

The average hourly wage for workers below management level — everyone from school bus drivers to stockbrokers — rose 2.8 percent between October 2005 and October of this year, after being adjusted for inflation, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics. Only a year ago, it

was falling by 1.5 percent.

In recent years, many Americans grew anxious about the future and economists questioned whether the recovery from the 2001 recession would ever produce genuine gains for ordinary workers.

The fall in unemployment to 4.4 percent and the recent surge in wages, however, raise the prospect that the job market could be on the brink of another strong run, much like the one that lifted incomes in the late 1990s.

"The labor market is pretty tight right now, so it's not a huge surprise that we've started to see big wage gains," said Nariman Behravesh, chief economist for the research firm Global Insight. "I think the big surprise is that it took so long."

Still, there are a number of economic forces at work that raise doubts about whether the recent

gains are the start of another boom. Instead, economists say, it is possible the improvement may turn out to be little more than a temporary spike.

For now, though, with the number of unemployed Americans who are actively seeking work at a five-year low, help-wanted signs are proliferating again and many businesses are having a harder time finding employees.

That means even workers like Mercedes Herrera, an immigrant from Mexico who cleans bathrooms at San Felipe Plaza, a high-rise office building in Houston, are enjoying more leverage with their employers. Last month, Herrera's union, the Service Employees International Union, settled a month-long strike and secured raises of more than \$2 an hour over the next two years for some 5,300 janitors in Houston.

WEATHER

A Milder Weekend

By Michael J. Ring
STAFF METEOROLOGIST

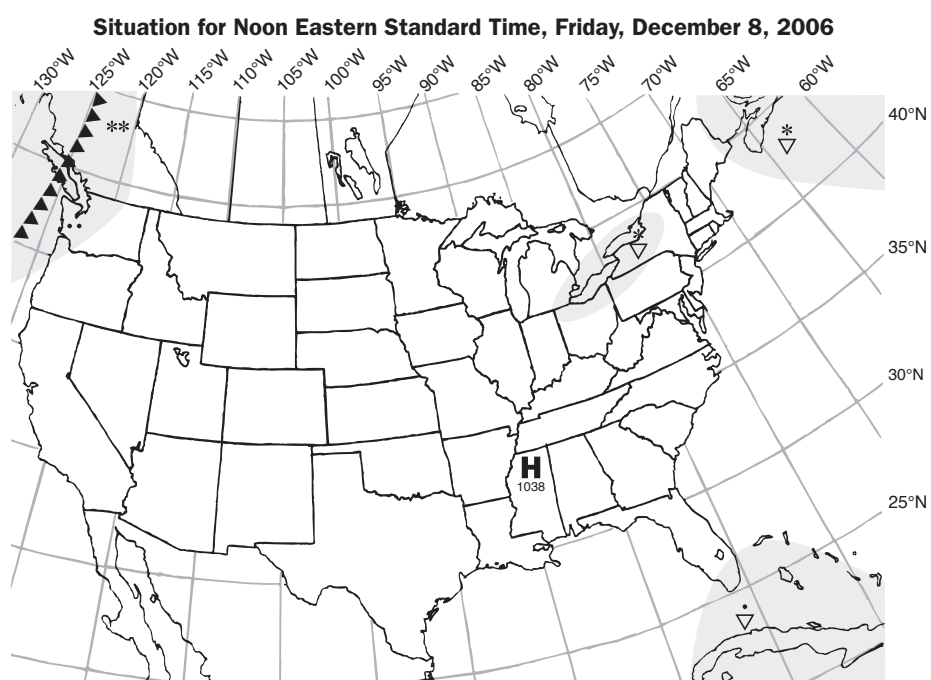
We will enjoy a respite from the chilly weather of the past few days as a strong high pressure system moves across the continent this weekend.

The cold temperatures in the eastern half of the country over the past few days have been a result of this anticyclone. With a clockwise circulation, and a center situated to our west, the high pressure system has brought northerly winds and cold temperatures to the East and Midwest. Subfreezing temperatures extended all the way to the Gulf Coast last night, while temperatures dipped to the single digits Fahrenheit around the Great Lakes. In contrast, the southerly winds to its west have warmed the plains and mountain states; Denver will reach 60°F (16°C) today.

As the center of the high pressure passes through, our winds will swing from northerly to southerly and warmer temperatures will follow. We won't get as quite as warm as Denver did today, but will make a run at 50°F (10°C) by early next week.

Extended Forecast

Today: Flurries in the morning; then clearing. High 34°F (1°C).
Tonight: Clear and cold. Low 25°F (-4°C).
Saturday: Partly cloudy and milder. High 42°F (6°C).
Saturday night: Partly cloudy. Low 32°F (0°C).
Sunday: Sunny and warmer. High 48°F (9°C).
Monday: Sunny and continued mild. High 50°F (10°C).



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

Compiled by MIT Meteorology Staff and The Tech

Report Argues Bush Iraq Policy Not Working, Must Shift Course

By Sheryl Gay Stolberg
THE NEW YORK TIMES

WASHINGTON

In 142 stark pages, the Iraq Study Group report makes an impassioned plea for bipartisan consensus on the most divisive foreign policy issue of this generation. Without President Bush, that cannot happen.

The commissioners gave a nod to Bush, adopting his language in accepting the goal of an Iraq that can "govern itself, sustain itself and defend itself." But the administration's talk of Iraq as a beacon of democracy in the Middle East is absent, as is any talk of victory.

Instead, the report confronts the president with a powerful argument that his policy in Iraq is not working and that he must move toward disengagement. For Bush to embrace the study group's blueprint would mean accepting its implicit criticism of his democracy agenda, reversing course in Iraq and throughout the Middle East and meeting Democrats more than halfway.

Assuming he is not ready to go that far, despite some recent signals of flexibility, he faces the more gen-

eral question of whether he is ready to embrace the spirit of the report — not to mention the drubbing his party took in the midterm elections a month ago — and produce a new approach of his own that amounts to more than a repackaging of his current worldview.

"In a sense," said Dennis Ross, a Middle East envoy who worked for both President Bill Clinton and the first President George Bush, "what you have here offers the Democrats a ready handle to show, 'We're prepared to be bipartisan on the issue of Iraq, because we'll embrace the bipartisan Iraq Study Group — are you prepared to be bipartisan as well?'"

The study group, for instance, calls for direct engagement with Iran and Syria; so far, Bush has refused. While Bush has steadfastly resisted a timetable for withdrawal, the report says all combat brigades "not necessary for force protection could be out of Iraq" — note the careful use of the conditional — by the first quarter of 2008.

The report in effect calls on Democrats, at least those who have been pushing for a rapid withdrawal

of troops, to show patience, warning that a fast pullout would lead to "a significant power vacuum, greater human suffering, regional destabilization and a threat to the global economy" — in effect, pushing Iraq into total anarchy.

But the real target of the Iraq Study Group is Bush. The president has already sought to play down the role the report will have in shaping his thinking. The administration has several reviews of its own under way, and Tony Snow, the White House press secretary, began saying as early as October that the White House was "not going to outsource the business of handling the war in Iraq."

So while Bush called the report "an opportunity to come together and work together" after receiving it on Wednesday, it was no surprise on Capitol Hill that many Democrats were quicker to embrace it than Republicans. Members of the president's party seemed to be adopting a kind of wait-and-see posture, praising the report for its seriousness and depth as they searched for clues about what Bush would do.

Supreme Court Takes on Two Cases That Could Clarify Antitrust Law

By Linda Greenhouse
THE NEW YORK TIMES

WASHINGTON

The Supreme Court added two important antitrust cases to its calendar for the current term on Thursday. Both cases, granted at the request of defendants in private antitrust suits, are likely to lead to clarification of areas of antitrust law that have become increasingly unsettled.

One of the cases has been closely watched on Wall Street. It is a class-action lawsuit against more than a dozen leading investment banks and institutional investors that participated in syndicates to underwrite the initial public offerings of hundreds of technology companies during the 1990s.

The lawsuit, brought by purchasers of the stocks, charges that the sharing of information among the underwriters and the way in which they allocated stock to their customers amounted to an antitrust conspiracy.

The U.S. District Court in New York dismissed the lawsuit in 2003, finding that the defendants were en-

titled to antitrust immunity because much of the conduct they were said to have engaged in was explicitly permitted by the Securities and Exchange Commission. But the 2nd U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals reinstated the suit last year, ruling that Congress had granted no such immunity.

The issue for the Supreme Court in this case, *Credit Suisse First Boston Ltd. v. Billing*, No. 05-1157, is how to treat the inherently collaborative activity of an underwriting syndicate, activity that — while it would appear to violate the Sherman Antitrust Act — is permitted by the regulatory agency that oversees it.

While the eventual outcome of that case is uncertain, there is little uncertainty about the second antitrust case the court accepted. The question in that case, *Leegin Creative Leather Products, Inc. v. PSKS Inc.*, No. 06-480, is how antitrust law should treat the minimum prices that manufacturers require retailers to charge for their products.

In a 1911 case known as the *Dr. Miles* precedent, this practice of "resale price maintenance" is always

illegal under the Sherman Act. The case asks the justices to re-evaluate the precedent in light of modern economic theory, and instead to make these arrangements subject to case-by-case analysis under what is known as the rule of reason.

In other areas of antitrust law, the court has steadily backed away from the categorical view of antitrust liability and is highly likely to use this case as a vehicle for doing to same thing for resale price maintenance.

Leegin, a privately owned company, manufactures the Brighton line of women's leather goods and does business only with retailers, mostly small specialty stores, who agree to abide by the suggested retail prices for the products. In 2002, after learning that Kay's Closet, a store in Lewisville, Texas, was discounting Brighton products, Leegin suspended shipments.

The store brought an antitrust suit and won more than \$1 million in damages, which are tripled under antitrust law. The 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals, in New Orleans, upheld the judgment.

Investigation of Gov't Program Reveals Several Withstanding US Oil Royalties

By Edmund L. Andrews
THE NEW YORK TIMES

WASHINGTON

An eight-month investigation by the Interior Department's chief watchdog has found pervasive problems in the government's program for ensuring that companies pay the royalties they owe on billions of dollars of oil and gas pumped on federal land and in coastal waters.

In a scathing report to Congress, the Interior Department's inspector-general says the agency's data are often inaccurate, that its officials rely too heavily on statements by oil companies rather than actual records and that only about 9 percent of all oil and gas leases are being reviewed.

The report undermines claims by top Interior officials that the department is aggressively pursuing underpayments and outright cheating by companies that drill on property owned by the American public.

And though investigators did not attempt to estimate the amount of money that the government might be losing, they cited a host of weaknesses that make the government vulner-

able to being short-changed.

Interior officials defended the program on Wednesday, but announced that they would develop "an action plan" to address the inspector-general's recommendations.

The report comes as lawmakers in both parties have been attacking the Interior Department for failing to correct blunders that department officials now concede could cost the government as much as \$10 billion over the next five years.

It also reinforces complaints by critics, from auditors within the agency to lawmakers in both parties, who have said that enforcement has become superficial, prone to errors and overly deferential to oil companies.

These are among the inspector-general's findings:

— Since 2000, the number of audits has declined by 22 percent and the number of auditors has been reduced by 15 percent, even though soaring energy prices have doubled the total amount of money at stake, to about \$10 billion a year.

— Though the Interior Depart-

ment says it has "reviewed" about 72 percent of all revenues from federal leases, it actually examined only 9 percent of all properties and 20 percent of all companies.

— The department's "compliance review" system, a computerized form of fact-checking that has increasingly replaced audits, essentially relies on the word of the oil companies being monitored. Officials conducting such reviews do not ask companies for their actual records.

— Government data are incomplete and often inaccurate, making it almost impossible for enforcement officials to develop strategies for selecting companies for special scrutiny.

The report said the agency's follow-up efforts were often sketchy, because officials who identified underpayments by companies did not have a procedure for verifying that the agency actually billed the companies or collected the money.

It also said the agency's statistics about recovering money were incomplete, inaccurate and sometimes misleading.

Heads of Iraq Group Seek Support of Congress

THE NEW YORK TIMES

The co-chairmen of the Iraq Study Group called on Congress on Thursday to endorse the group's bipartisan call for a sharp change in course in the Iraq war, as they worked to step up pressure on President Bush to move quickly to adopt the recommendations the panel released on Wednesday.

"If the Congress could come together behind supporting, let's say, utopianly, all of the recommendations in this report, that would do a lot toward moving things downtown," said former Secretary of State James A. Baker III.

The group's co-chairman, former Rep. Lee H. Hamilton, a Democrat from Indiana, also urged members of the Senate Armed Service Committee to begin to exercise "very vigorous oversight of the war effort."

"I think Congress has been extremely timid in its exercise of its constitutional responsibilities on the question of war-making and conducting war," Hamilton said.

The committee's chairman, Sen. John W. Warner, R-Va., said he expected his panel to take up the study group's proposals, but not until it had heard the results of reviews being conducted for Bush by the Pentagon and the National Security Council.

Anti-Abortion Bill Stalls; Session Nears End

By Carl Hulse

THE NEW YORK TIMES

WASHINGTON

The House on Wednesday rejected an anti-abortion measure offered by Republicans as congressional leaders struggled to bring the 109th Congress to a close.

On a 250-162 vote, backers of the measure fell short of the two-thirds majority necessary to pass the bill, which would require medical personnel to inform women that a fetus could experience pain and to offer anesthesia for the fetus. The supermajority vote was required under special rules used to consider the bill.

Democrats accused Republicans, who will no longer be in the majority next year, of trying to score political points. The measure had no chance of becoming law in the last few days of this session.

"We are wasting time today on a bill that is laden with rhetoric but very little science," said Rep. Lois Capps, D-Calif. But Republicans said the measure was intended to allow women to make informed choices when considering abortions. They disputed scientific research suggesting that a fetus did not experience pain. "This legislation is very, very badly needed," said Rep. Phil Gingrey, R-Ga., an obstetrician.

Proponents of the measure said they do not expect the new Democratic majority, whose leadership strongly supports abortion rights, to bring up such measures, and that they will press the leadership to allow a second vote under regular rules. But Republican officials said they had no plans to revisit the issue.

Ebola Threatens Gorillas With Extinction, Say Researchers

By Denise Grady

THE NEW YORK TIMES

The Ebola virus has killed from 3,500 to 5,500 gorillas in one region of the Congo Republic since 2002, and its continued spread, along with hunting, could wipe out the species, researchers reported Thursday.

"A lot of animals are dying," said Dr. Peter D. Walsh, an ecologist at the Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Primatology in Leipzig, Germany, and an author of a report published in the journal *Science*. "There's a massive decline."

Several Ebola vaccines have been developed that work in animals in the lab, including monkeys, and Walsh is eager to test them on gorillas in the wild, by injecting the animals with darts or putting an oral vaccine in food. By tracking the spread of the virus and vaccinating animals in its path, it might be possible to stop outbreaks, he said.

Other researchers say that although vaccination might be feasible, it is not known whether the vaccine could be made into a heat-stable version or an oral form. In addition, there would be miles of red tape to cut through, involving various conservation groups, donors and governments.

Dr. Stuart Nichol, chief of molecular biology in the special pathogens branch of the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, said: "It's really going to be a nightmare to try to press forward with some kind of vaccine approach. On the other hand, it doesn't feel good to sit back and do nothing. But in reality it's going to be exceedingly difficult to do anything."

Two Fatal Blazes Renew Focus on Fraternities' Lack of Sprinklers

By Libby Sander

THE NEW YORK TIMES

CHICAGO

With fatal fraternity house fires in Nebraska and Missouri last month fresh on their minds, fire officials in a handful of college communities have intensified their push for city ordinances requiring fraternity and sorority houses to install sprinkler systems.

"It comes down to the law of averages," said Rex Mundt, fire chief of Urbana, Ill., home of the University of Illinois' main campus, where municipal officials are considering a mandatory sprinkler ordinance similar to one adopted in 2004 in adjacent Champaign. "Sooner or later, if we don't get something done, we'll be caught with something terrible."

Though off-campus housing in general poses special fire-safety challenges, fraternity houses, notorious among fire officials for raucous parties and erratic housekeeping, are most worrisome, officials say.

From 1973 to 2003, 49 fatal fires in dormitories and fraternity and sorority houses killed a total of 77 students, according to the National Fire Protection Association. Of those fires, more than half occurred in fraternity houses, accounting for 44 fatalities, while only one was in a sorority house.

OPINION



Chairman

Zachary Ozer '07

Editor in Chief

Marie Y. Thibault '08

Business Manager

Jeffrey Chang '08

Managing Editor

Michael McGraw-Herdeg '08

Executive Editor

Rosa Cao G

NEWS STAFF

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

PRODUCTION STAFF

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

OPINION STAFF

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

SPORTS STAFF

Editor: Travis Johnson '08; **Staff:** Chris Bettinger G, Ryan Lanphere '06, Albert Ni '09, Caroline J. Huang '10.

ARTS STAFF

Editors: Jillian Berry '08, Nivair H. Gabriel '08; **Staff:** Bogdan Fedeles G, Kapil Amarnath '07, Tony Hwang '07, Andrew Lee '07, Nikhil S. Nadkarni '07, Alice MacDonald '08, Mirat Shah '08, Sarah Dupuis '10.

PHOTOGRAPHY STAFF

Editors: Christina Kang '08, Omari Stephens '08, Ricardo Ramirez '09; **Associate Editor:** Yun Wu '06; **Staff:** Melanie Miller G, Stanley Hu '00, Scott Johnston '03, Gheorghe Chistol '07, Fred Gay '07, Dmitry Kashlev '07, Stephanie Dudzic '08, Scot Frank '08, Tiffany Iaconis '08, Nicole Koullis '08, Mary-Irene Lang '08, David Reshef '08, David M. Templeton '08, Kenneth Yan '08, Connie Yee '08, Sally E. Peach '09, Eric D. Schmiedl '09, Jerzy Szabowski '09, Yalu Wu '09, Mindy Eng '10, Catherine Huang '10, Bea Jarrett '10, Samuel E. Kronick '10, Diane Rak '10, Aaron Sampson '10, Jongu Shin '10, William Yee '10.

CAMPUS LIFE STAFF

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

BUSINESS STAFF

Advertising Managers: Cokie Hu '08, Tai Ho Kang '08; **Staff:** Julia Ye '09, Neeharika Bhartiya '10, Jennifer Chu '10, Heymian Wong '10.

TECHNOLOGY STAFF

Director: Shreyes Seshasai '08.

EDITORS AT LARGE

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

ADVISORY BOARD

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

PRODUCTION STAFF FOR THIS ISSUE

Editors: Tiffany Dohzen G, Austin Chu '08, Michael McGraw-Herdeg '08; **Associate Editors:** Jessica Witchley '10.

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

Corrections

A brief in the Tuesday, Nov. 28 issue, "UA Senate Supports Targeted Divestment From Sudan," reported that the Undergraduate Association Senate unanimously passed a resolution supporting MIT's targeted divestment from Sudan. According to UA Senate Speaker Steven M. Kelch '08, the vote was taken by voice and those voicing "yea" were an obvious majority. No "nays" were heard. The decision cannot be termed unanimous because abstentions were not counted.

Letters To The Editor

In Support of Divestment

Mustafa Dafalla's Dec. 1 letter attempts to explore the possible negative impacts of divestment in relation to MIT's potential divestment from Sudan. Dafalla, however, chooses to focus his arguments on "economic sanctions" as opposed to the actual issue of divestment per se. Since divestment and economic sanctions are not equivalent, his ensuing arguments are unfortunately made irrelevant.

Targeted divestment is different from economic sanctions in two important ways. First, as its name implies, it is not a blanket measure as are economic sanctions. It can be specifically targeted to minimize the negative impact on the civilian population and maximize pressure on the government, thus serving as a tool for positive change. For example, based on the Sudan Divestment Task Force targeted model, of the some 400 international companies doing business with Sudan, only about 28 of the "worst-offender" companies are selected for actual divestment, a mere seven percent of the total number. These 28 companies qualify for worst offender status because they provide negligible benefits to the civilian sector, their business directly supports the government's ability to wage genocide, and they have flagrantly ignored inquiries into their irresponsible behavior (for a complete list of these companies please email info@sudandivestment.org). In any case, the potential benefits that might

trickle down to the Sudanese people from investments in such companies may well be illusory: According to the annual report of Transparency International, Sudan ranks as 156 of the 163 most corrupt governments in the world, with business profits predominantly benefiting government circles and the insulated privileged few. Therefore, money from these companies does not reach the average Sudanese citizen but is rather funneled to large military expenditures that help perpetuate the genocide in Darfur. In addition, the targeted model excludes all socially beneficial economic sectors such as agricultural (which employs 80 percent of the population), pharmaceutical, and any enterprises of humanitarian nature. Therefore, comparing this targeted divestment model to the Iraq sanctions is like comparing apples to oranges.

Secondly, divestment, unlike sanctions, is not a governmental policy imposed on another government, but rather is a decision taken at the individual level. It basically boils down to a personal or institutional choice: do we or do we not support a company whose business helps prop up a corrupt, genocidal government? And let us not lose sight of this basic fact — the divestment argument is not about inflation, GDP numbers or of the macroeconomic policy in Sudan, it is about the government of Sudan perpetrating a deliberate and systematic murdering of its civilians in Darfur. Therefore, we stand at the crossroads of a fundamental question: do we take a stand against genocide by divesting from companies that help support a Su-

danese regime that has killed, by UN estimates, 400,000 of its own population and raped and tortured countless others? Or do we stand idly while such actions continue unabated with impunity? It is our strong belief that MIT should divest itself of even symbolic acquiescence in this moral outrage.

Further, let us not forget that a moral stance need not only be symbolic: Rosa Parks' decision not to give up her seat on a Montgomery public bus on December 1, 1955 was not based on a sense of pragmatism but was a personal choice to take a stand against injustice. That heroic choice and personal sacrifice in turn inspired the Montgomery bus boycotts, a targeted divestment campaign against the city-run bus companies that helped levy enough pressure to lead to the eventual repeal of the unjust segregation laws.

We note, finally, that while the opponents of divestment are eager to highlight the potential negative outcomes of a Sudanese divestment campaign, we simply point to the definite outcome of inaction: the killing of what the World Health Organization estimates as 10,000 civilians a month in Darfur. We sincerely hope that we at MIT will not hesitate to act until the time when there are no Darfurians left to help.

The divestment petition can be found and signed online at <http://www.petitiononline.com/divest>.

Kayvan Zainabadi G

Steven E. Ostrow, Lecturer in History
Franklin M. Fisher, Professor Emeritus in
Economics

MARILYN SIMPSON
CLARONLEDGER.COM/RAMSEY
COPILEY NEWS SERVICE



Opinion Policy

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

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

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

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

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

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

To Reach Us

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

CAMPUS LIFE

Imminent Collapse

Learning About Ignorance

By Bill Andrews
CAMPUS LIFE EDITOR

Wow, I'm surprised you have time to read this, considering how hosed you are. I mean, it's the end of term, everything's due soon, and I dunno about you, but I certainly don't have the time to do anything but tool and tool and maybe sleep. It's too bad, though, since there are so many better things I could be doing with my time.

Learning to krump, for example. That's right, my few dance-savvy readers who already know and love krumping — I went there. For the rest of us, krump is a new style of aggressive dancing, which apparently gets its name from

Kingdom Radically Uplifted Mighty Praise. That settles that, eh? It was featured in the documentary *Rize*, which I (and, probably you) never saw, though I did mean to. If you're still unsure of what it is, just YouTube "krump" and see what pops up. You'll be amazed and flabbergasted, just as I was when, a week ago, I was introduced to krumping.

I was just minding my own business, trying so hard to finish my editing for this newspaper, when the Editor in Chief walked over and said, "Hey, have you guys ever heard of krumping?" Two hours later, I was no further in my work, but knew much more about the world and my ignorance of it.

Alas, here was yet another example of something about which I knew nothing. Isn't it a little disheartening that, no matter who you are or where you live or how much you know, there still exists a multitude of things about which you don't even know you don't know (to paraphrase departing Secretary Donald Rumsfeld's almost poetic gibberish)? Maybe you're one of those optimist, glass-is-half-full types (in which case I wonder which school you got into), and you see the miraculous breadth of life and the world's state as something great, a wonderful equalizer which everyone has in common and can relate to. But no, you'd be wrong, because it sucks to find out you're even dumber than you thought you were.

For me, krumping, and the totally unrelated (though similar looking) style "clowning," was more than just laughing at people spazzing

Whether it's juggling seven things at once, or hearing someone (non-Japanese) speak Japanese, or playing the piano, I always wish I could join them.

around. (Disclaimer: I'm not really one to talk, since my spasms don't look nearly as good.) It was just another in the long list of things that have taken me down a peg. My first ever B+, a whole bunch of girls (before I met my fiancée, of course), waiting tables, and now krumping, have each served to remind me not only that I was capable of making mistakes, but that I constantly do so. Just what I needed to boost my morale for all the projects due these days.

But, all was not lost. You see, there are many times in life when I see someone display skillz so mad, I can't help but be jealous. Whether it's juggling seven things at once, or hearing someone (non-Japanese) speak Japanese, or playing the piano, I always wish I could join them. The problem, of course, is that I don't want to learn these skillz. I'd rather just wake up one day having them, perhaps via a magic genie or a deal with God ("I'll trade You one church for knowing Latin, deal?").

And, that fateful day, with the Editor in Chief standing nearby and some dudes on the screen flippin' out, I realized that krumping was not one of these skillz. I wasn't jealous at all! Quite the opposite, actually, I was happy I didn't know how to look like that (while sober). Man, talk about a waste of time (well, odds are you were wasting time anyway, given Facebook's popularity these days).

The key, it turns out, is prioritization. Of course we can't know esoteric stuff like krumping, or the scientific name of the sea louse, but so what? Who cares if you don't know such things, or even that they might exist? It's hard enough learning everything we need just to get by @mit.edu, let alone trying to figure out everything. As long as you don't get cocky, and make sure you know everything you're supposed to know (unlike Rumsfeld this time), you'll be fine.

And the best part is we already know this. When we're performing academic triage these days, putting off the paper due Monday to work on the lab report due today, we're already practicing for a life as real adults, getting ready to not know all sorts of things. Kinda makes me feel like dancing, if I weren't so busy.

College Student Price Index

By Batya Fellman

How often do we open up our fridges, check our cabinets, or search through our freezers, only to realize that our habit of putting off grocery shopping for another week has left the kitchen completely devoid of anything remotely passable as food? The debate then becomes "can I put off my lab for a couple hours while I run out to the store, or should I head to LaVerde's and buy more cereal and milk? Is that lab really worth the extra few dollars I would spend at LaVerde's, or do I really have to run to Star?"

With so many grocery stores within a short distance of campus, sometimes it can be overwhelming to decide where to go to buy that next loaf of bread. Do we want the convenience of LaVerde's, the all-purpose Star, the wholesomeness of Whole Foods, or that weird store that all the Californians talk about but you have never really been to — Trader Joe's?

Ideally, we would like to base our decision on relative store prices rather than a spur of the moment decision. Inspired by the economics-friendly Consumer Price Index (CPI), the UA Dining Committee collected prices of a selected basket of goods from all four stores creating the CSPI (Cheap Student Price Index). It is the intent of this survey to answer the question every college student asks him or herself: where do I get the cheapest food?

Ranging from ground beef to flour to macaroni and cheese, a selection of twenty goods was chosen and prices of the items were collected. If a comparable good was not available at any one of the four locations, it was removed from the set of twenty items. All the prices were then normalized to the appropriate unit

(gallons for items like milk, and pounds for items like apples) and a comparison was drawn amongst the overall price level as well as the various sets of items.

Regarding the overall price levels, LaVerde's, as many students might suspect, had the highest CSPI with an index of 4.43. It was followed by Whole Foods at 4.17, and Star at 3.72. Trader Joe's proved to be the cheapest at 3.44. Even more interesting were the comparisons among specific items. Although LaVerde's had the highest CSPI, Whole Foods was consistently the most expensive for produce and meat items, while LaVerde's, Trader Joe's, and Star were more comparably priced. However, when it came to crucial college staples, LaVerde's charged 27 percent more than the average of the other three stores for orange juice.

When it came to crucial college staples, LaVerde's charged 27 percent more than the average of the other three stores for orange juice.

macaroni and cheese.

The CSPI serves as a good basis for the general price levels at each of these stores. Even with this data, the average college student may disregard the incredibly high prices at times for the convenient location of LaVerde's, pay a premium to get higher quality meat and produce at Whole Foods, or maybe realize you have to go to Star because you cannot find Twinkies at Trader Joe's. There are always exceptions to the rule, but this weekend, I will be happily shopping at Trader Joe's because they have the lowest CSPI.

Fellman is the chair of the UA Dining Committee. C. Carter Jernigan '07, Ruth Miller '07, and Ying Yang '10 also contributed research for this piece.

Hail to the Queen

The English and Global Awareness

By Matt Zedler
CAMPUS LIFE COLUMNIST

There is a global perception that the majority of Americans are overweight, self-absorbed, and woefully uninformed of what happens in the rest of the world. While I would strongly deny the universality of this statement, I believe that the reporting (or lack thereof) done by media in the US does confirm with the uninformed and self-absorbed image. With the exception of a few stations (C-SPAN, NPR, PBS), the media is privately owned, meaning that its content is often biased. Liberal friends complain about the right-wing coverage of FOX news, and my conservative father calls CNN the "Communist News Network."

In addition, all media tends to focus on local and national issues rather than international news because people tend to be more interested in (and therefore more likely to watch) stories which have a stronger connection to their lives. As a result, you are much more likely to see a feature on why Americans are overweight or the East Coast summer heat wave than one on the ethnic conflict in Sri Lanka or even an important issue like the election recount in Mexico.

Living in the UK for almost a year gave me a chance to experience American media from an outsider's position. In addition, studying abroad gave me more of a reason to

take advantage of the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) as well as the privately-owned English press. The broadsheets (newspapers) are as likely to be skewed in the UK as our privately owned papers in the US, with the articles in the left-wing *Guardian* being regarded as heresy to the right-wing readers of the *Daily Mail*. It seemed that English students were as likely to read a paper on a regular basis as their American counterparts, but the difference came when one considered usage of the BBC, primarily the Internet site.

The publicly-owned BBC covers UK local and national affairs, but the international world service is what has made it famous. Perhaps more useful during the age of imperialism (back when the UK dominated nearly one-third of the planet), the international section of the BBC covers events from every corner of the planet.

While coverage is not perhaps as complete as it could be, it is much better than one could find in any newspaper. The ease of availability of global information through the BBC is one reason I think the English are more globally aware than other cultures.

The English also seem to be more inquisitive about what is happening in the rest of the world as a nation. I believe the size of their small island and the imperialistic past plays a small role in that penchant. When the national and local news gets rather dull, the English can always turn to the BBC and find out about the latest crisis in the Sudan or the newest economic growth indicator from China.

Having had colonies throughout the world in nearly every continent, the English maintain strong ties with several far-flung nations. Indeed, many English families have members living in the former colonies of Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, or the US. While Americans may have family members living abroad, the likelihood of having the majority of the family residing in the same country is much higher, making the international news less relevant.

Of course, my perception may have been slightly skewed by observing from a vantage point where people tended to have a great interest in what was happening internationally. With a large international student population, several courses offered in more humanistic and political topics, and a tendency to

attract the middle to upper classes, the University of Cambridge perhaps was not representative of the UK. Even so, it should be comparable to the student body of MIT, and I feel that international awareness is less pronounced here because of the nature of the majority of the courses. Engineering does not typically require strong global understanding, even though several areas which absorb engineers can instill global awareness.

In the end, the resources are there to become more aware of events happening in the rest of the world. While these resources may not have been accessible in past decades, the prevalence of the Internet has brought them to almost every corner of the globe. We have a choice to tune in or turn off, and it appeared to me that the English at Cambridge had more visibly made the choice to stay tuned.

Engineering does not typically require strong global understanding, even though several areas which absorb engineers can instill global awareness.

The Association of Taiwanese Students presents

TAL 101

YOUR PASSPORT TO TAIWAN

Sat, Dec. 9, 2006
5pm - 8pm, Lobdell

Experience a night of Authentic Taiwanese food, crafts, and music!

Featuring cities throughout Taiwan!
with performances by Harvard C sharp, Dance Revelasian, Harvard Wushu, Kevin Koo, MIT Chinese Choral Society, and more!

Ticket/Pastry Sales:
Dec. 4, 5, and 8th
Lobby 10, 10am - sellout
\$3 member, \$5/nonmember
At the door:
\$5/member, \$8/nonmember

ARTS

CONCERT REVIEW

MIT Wind Ensemble Explores 'The Art of Fugue'

Despite Slow Start, MITWE Picks up Wind

By Tanya Goldhaber

MIT Wind Ensemble
MIT Wind Ensemble Winter Concert:
The Art of Fugues
Friday, Dec. 1, 2006
Kresge Auditorium

On Friday night, Kresge Auditorium rang with the sound of the Kresge Organ, which was played for the first time since the 1990s, as part of the finale to the MIT Wind Ensemble's winter concert: The Art of Fugues. The concert, true to its name, consisted of several arranged Contrapuncti from Johann Sebastian Bach's "Art of Fugue," as well as six other pieces that integrated the fugue structure. The repertoire for the concert was very well selected, and many of the arrangements were spectacular.

The highlight of the concert, by far, was the last work, "Mannin Veen," by Haydn Wood. The piece itself is a tone poem based on Manx Folk-Tune, and made for an enjoyable piece to start with. MITWE did a particularly good job performing it, while the or-

gan at the end added a nice touch. This piece stood out as one in which MITWE was very together as an ensemble, and brought a lot of emotion and depth to Wood's work.

There were also some good solos in the latter half of the program. One who shined was oboist MartaLynne D. Milan '10. Her solos were amazingly clean and had an outstanding, smooth, resonant tone. The entire horn section also played very well in general, but stood out more in the last two pieces as being one of the most together, in-tune, and cleanest sections.

The concert began with the "Susato Suite," by Tylman Susato. The six-section suite was not originally scored for any particular instruments, but was subsequently arranged by John Iveson for wind ensemble in 1975 based on vague instructions left by Susato upon completion of the piece. MITWE stumbled a bit with this particular work, perhaps because they were just warming up. The piece is also much more exposed than a typical piece for large wind ensemble because it is arranged for fewer instruments, so any errors on the part of one player stand out

much more.

The one primary flaw in the first half of the program was that MITWE seemed to have trouble staying together. Granted, keeping a large wind ensemble together is very tricky and the repertoire was by no means easy. The Bach Contrapuncti, especially, would be vicious to prepare for any large ensemble. Bach's "Art of Fugue" was originally written for harpsichord, and this particular transcription was done by MITWE's assistant conductor, Kenneth Amis. The transcription itself was spectacular and made for some very enjoyable interplay between the instruments. Nonetheless, the instruments were not always completely together.

"Old Wine in New Bottles" is a series of four folk songs, elaborated by Gordon Jacob. MITWE performed three of the songs, and I found the performance to be very well done.

The "Tocatta for Percussion Instruments" by Carlos Chavez was a very interesting piece, although the fugue was often hard to weed out, as the structure of the piece, understandably, was based almost entirely on non-melodic rhythms. That said, aside from

the few times when some of the drummers were not entirely together, the percussionists of MITWE did a fantastic job preparing this obviously difficult piece and bringing it to life.

MITWE seemed to hit its groove, so to speak, during the second half of the concert. I have always been a huge fan of the Dvorak "Slavonic Dances," and now I am also a huge fan of the transcription of "Slavonic Dance No. 1" for wind ensemble by Kenneth Amis. I had previously never heard any of the Slavonic Dances done by a wind ensemble. After hearing it performed well by MITWE, I am looking forward to my next experience. I hope that Kenneth Amis will soon transcribe another one for MITWE to perform.

I have heard very few performances of Hindemith pieces that I have liked, but MITWE's was one of them. Their performance of the Hindemith "Symphony in B flat" was not only clean, in tune, and together, but also lively and soulful. The problems of ensemble and intonation present in the first half nearly disappeared, making for a spectacular finale to the concert.

INTERVIEW

Goo Goo Dolls 'Let Love In'

Takac Talks About Album, Touring, and Life

By Jillian A. Berry

ARTS EDITOR

Let Love In
The Goo Goo Dolls

Earlier this year, the Goo Goo Dolls released *Let Love In*, their tenth record, and their first studio album since 2002's *Gutterflower*. Although they've moved away from their punk rock roots, their songs remain just as powerful as singles like the title track, "Let Love In," addressing the problems of the world.

Last Friday night, the Goo Goo Dolls performed at the Orpheum Theatre in Boston. Over it, a lackluster rock band from California, opened the show, but the Goo Goo Dolls then came out with a bang, performing "Stay With You" off their new album. Lead singer Johnny Rzeznik was almost unrecognizable with a Bono-inspired look featuring sunglasses and slicked back hair. Throughout the night, the band made the audience feel included as they let us sing some of the verses, and Rzeznik even answered an audience member's cell phone. Although the show was full of energy, Rzeznik was somewhat detached since he had been to the dentist earlier that day and was on pain medication. Nevertheless, the music was still amazing, and they sounded quite different from their albums (in a good way). "Sympathy," normally an emotionally packed, yet mellow song, was performed in a fast paced style more reminiscent of their rock songs. Likewise, they played "Better Days," a sensitive Christmas song from the new album, with a faster tempo and edgier sound compared to the studio version.

Though they only played for an hour and a

half, the Goo Goo Dolls were able to show off 16 songs, including two encores, and they made every second count.

A few weeks ago I talked with Robby Takac, the bass player and a vocalist for the Goo Goo Dolls.

The Tech: How long have the Goo Goo Dolls been together?

Robby Takac: 20 years and a few months. Crazy.

TT: How old were you when you got together?

RK: I was 21 when we started playing. I'm not 21 anymore. I wish I were.

TT: This album has certainly moved away from your rock roots. Do you think you've mellowed with age?

RT: I just think if Johnny and I were to go out now as the people that we've grown up to be and go out and try to be the band we were in 1986, I think we'd feel really silly. For me, I think the most exciting part about being in a band like this is it can literally grow up with us. You know I was in college and John was in college, when we met, I think our whole expectation of being in a rock band was to have enough beer to get to the next day, hopefully feel groggy in class, get out of school, get a real job and move on with our lives by twenty-something. I guess that anyone who wants to be in a band or wants to play music for a living that's what they want to do. But I think in the back of their minds, most people understand it's like winning the lottery. I mean it's not about talent so much most of the time; certainly not the most talented people become the most successful, but we've been able to grow up as people,

and at the same time make sure our band grows up along the way.

TT: Now you mentioned that you had an idea that this might not have worked out. If you hadn't been as successful as you've been, what do you think you would have done?

RT: I've always been in music forever. I do radio, Johnny and I own a recording studio together. So it would have been something like that, unless I went mad and joined some ... cult. Then everything would have changed. I could have become a Scientologist or something. Who knows, maybe I'd be running the world right now if I was a Scientologist.

TT: Where does the majority of your inspiration come from for your songs?

RT: I think I can speak for John as well ... I think it's really just a collection of observations since the last time that we had to sit down and think about what sort of approach we're gonna take. It's hard some times because sometimes you're writing from your own perspective, and sometimes you're not, and no one really knows when you're writing from your perspective or not. But no matter what you say, people are immediately going to assume the easiest thing, and that's you're singing about yourself, and whatever you're singing about is a girl ... I think that the record goes a little bit deeper than what the average person probably thinks. Probably for the first time we got to express that very outwardly ... The video [for "Let Love In"] deals with poverty, the video deals with politics, social issues, military action, with the dawn of the nuclear age, with fear, with the dawn of the nuclear family; the concept of love is much larger than a boy and girl holding hands at the park.

TT: You mentioned "Better Days" is about Hurricane Katrina, is that true?

RT: Well actually, no this is interesting. We got asked to write a Christmas song for a record that NBC and Target were putting out for their stores. We looked on the list and everyone was doing "Here Comes Santa Claus" and just all the standard issue "let's make a rock song out of a Christmas song" bogosity that happens around Christmas every year ... At the very last minute, Johnny and I were talking, and I said, "you should really try to write a song man cause this is full of standard issue guys playing Christmas songs as a rock band." The next day Johnny showed up with that song for a Christmas song, and we went in the studio and it was recorded within two days. Probably within the next two or three days, somehow, someone at CNN heard it, and they were in the midst of getting their Rita and Katrina Hurricane Relief Effort together and they used the song as the musical backdrop to the whole campaign. So it was very weird, all of a sudden this song that Johnny had written about



BRIAN D. HEMOND—THE TECH

Guitarist and singer Johnny Rzeznik begins the second song of the show, the 1998 hit "Slide." The Goo Goo Dolls played last Friday, Nov. 30, to a full house at the Orpheum Theatre in downtown Boston as part of a tour for their latest album, "Let Love In."

how he felt about this girl — ok, this one was about a girl. Very interesting, happened the other way on this one. This song he had written from his heart about this little situation he had had, all of a sudden was thrust on to this huge level.

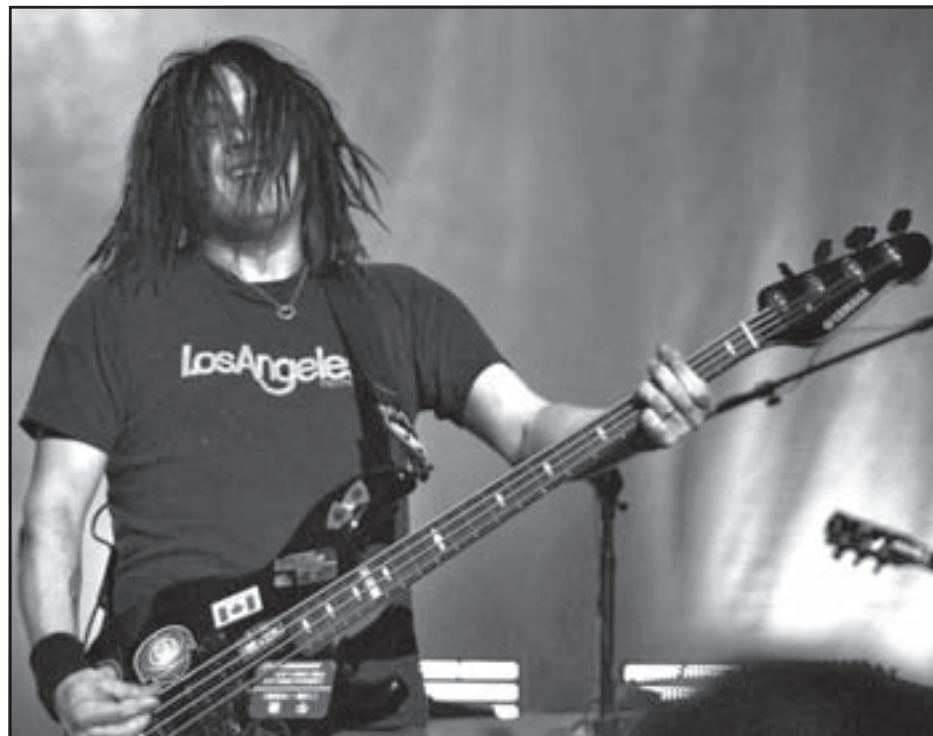
TT: One of the songs on the record is a cover of Supertramp's "Give a Little Bit." Were you surprised by the success of it after singing it on the "Live in Buffalo, July 4, 2004" DVD?

RT: That's why we covered it. The DVD we made it was pouring rain about half way through.

TT: I think the rain actually made it better.

RT: I do too ... I think we thought even in the rain, a song that we literally learned two days before, if you go into the extras on the disc, there's a portion where they show us trying to learn the song the day before. We didn't know it at all. We just kind of went out and faked our way through it. After we listened to it, we were like, "oh my God, that almost sounds like one of our songs." It just sounded so good, we decided to go in and try to do it for real. So we went in with all the same folks that were at the show and we went in and recorded it. The original idea was for it to be a bonus track on the disc. But we decided somewhere along the way that it fit into the whole theme of the record. So it just ended up in the body of the record.

TT: You're on tour right now?



BRIAN D. HEMOND—THE TECH

Bassist and singer Robby Takac pounds out the chords to a song. The Goo Goo Dolls played last Friday, Nov. 30, to a full house at the Orpheum Theatre in downtown Boston as part of a tour for their latest album, "Let Love In."

Robby Takac on Life, Winging it, and LA

Goo Goo Dolls, from Page 6

RT: Yes, we've been on tour since May.

TT: What is your favorite part of touring, and what is your least favorite part of touring?

RT: My favorite part of touring is the shows and my least favorite part of touring is when we're not playing shows. No, that was actually very true for most of my life, but now ... I've been to a host of places many, many times, but I've never seen anything in most of them. I've really taken an interest in getting out and seeing what's around in a lot of places I've been, so I've been seeing a lot lately.

TT: Do you still live in Buffalo when you're not touring?

RT: My wife and I live in Los Angeles ... John lives there too. For the past five years I've had a recording studio in Buffalo, that's where

we grew up. John just joined me in the studio and we're setting up to do our next record there ... LA is a really cool place. John really, really, really, really, really, really, really hates it right now.

But for me, I have a pretty easy, not easy, pretty cool situation there. John's not married now, he's got a girlfriend, but he's not married so his life is different from mine. I think professionally the best thing for us to do as far as making this next record is to get out of LA because what we found with this last record was when we're in LA we're constantly worried about the outcome, and you can't be worried about the outcome when you're just

in the beginning of the process.

TT: Whenever you hear one of your songs on the radio, do you turn it up or turn it off?

RT: Depends who's around [laughs]. I'm just kidding. There's nothing more embarrassing than being caught listening to your own band; but at the same time I think when a record first comes out you're really curious to hear what it sounds like once it

When we're in LA we're constantly worried about the outcome, and you can't be worried about the outcome when you're just in the beginning of the process.

goes through the airwaves and ends up on that little clock radio at your hotel room. But I would have to say once I hear it one time, I can't get to the radio fast enough.

CD REVIEW

Swan Lake Releases Pleasant But Muddled Debut

Collaboration of Acclaimed Indie Songwriters Lacks the Right Chemistry

By Andrew Lee

STAFF WRITER

Swan Lake

Beast Moans

Jagjaguwar Records

Swan Lake's member list reads like a Canadiophile's indie dream-team with members including Daniel Bejar of Destroyer, Carey Mercer of Frog Eyes, and Spencer Krug of Wolf Parade, to give it certifiable super-group status. Frog Eyes, which had previously taken up duty as Bejar's backing band on a Destroyer EP, also counts Krug as a former member, so it doesn't take a stretch of the imagination to foresee a collaboration between all three frontmen. Such a friendly, established rapport can be a welcome ingredient to any musical partnership. But in the case of Swan Lake's *Beast Moans*, the collaboration appears to have fostered an atmosphere of moderate complacency among Bejar, Mercer, and Krug, thus diminishing the impact of what could have otherwise been an excellent record.

Beast Moans is a classic case of too many auteurs spoiling the oeuvre: three esoteric rock-

ers hole up in various remote Canadian cottages to record each other's tuneful musings. The good news is that Swan Lake's efforts provide plenty of study material for eager indie cross-breeders. The distinct influence of each individual's bands working in tandem can be regularly detected. "Widow's Walk" is Wolf Parade meets Destroyer, "A Venue Called Rubella" is Destroyer meets Frog Eyes, while "Bluebird" completes the circle by combining influences from Frog Eyes and Sunset Rubdown (Spencer Krug's, uh, third band).

So while the various stylistic dualities make their requisite appearances, it's in a clumsier way than it should have been. All three take frequent vocalist duty and often share it, creating a confusing clash of melody that could almost be mistaken for a studio mash-up of two different songs. The reality was probably not far from that. Tracks such as "A Venue Called Rubella" and "Shooting Rockets" are guilty of overpopulated arrangements, which wouldn't be such a bad thing if the mix were more refined. The band, however, took the unfortunate step of self-producing the record, and it appears they weren't up to the task of sifting through the mess of it all.

That's not to say *Beast Moans* isn't somewhat of a glorious mess. There are times during the album when it's clear someone took the reins for that particular song. "All Fires" is one of Spencer Krug's best slices of acoustic defeatism, and the rest of the band masterfully pulls away just enough to give him space to echo while still enriching the despair with pained guitar tremolos. Bejar typically waxes verbose, then ironically commands for "the freedom to be alone with the freedom" above a charging acoustic strum and an arpeggiating keyboard in "The Freedom." One wishes that Swan Lake could have more consistently found that type of authoritative voice.

One wonders whether the bandmates' mutual admiration and respect tricked each of them into thinking that they didn't need to bring their best ideas to the drawing board because someone else would. The collective experience of Swan Lake's members then becomes a double-edged sword that provides them with enough sensibility to avoid recording outright duds but deprives them of the edge needed to push the material to its potential. Without something to prove, Swan Lake's debut record reaches vainly for a reason to exist beyond being just an agreeable experiment.

MOVIE REVIEW ★★★

Bobby: Boring But Beneficial

Star-filled Movie More Educational Than Entertaining

By Bill Andrews

CAMPUS LIFE EDITOR

"Bobby"

Written and Directed by Emilio Estevez

Starring: Anthony Hopkins, Martin Sheen, William H. Macy, and Demi Moore

Rated R

Now playing

When the seasons change and the weather starts to get colder, the big movies also change and become "seriouiser," and more Oscar-worthy. The summer blockbusters are mostly out of theaters, and the biggest ads go to dramatic motion pictures, hyped as life-changing experiences. I went to see "Bobby" knowing all this, and so I was able to enjoy myself. For, despite it not being the greatest or most entertaining movie ever, I was able to see it for what it is; less an expression of art, or even a money-making opportunity, and more of a political statement.

The story is ostensibly about 22 people who had little in common except witnessing the assassination of Bobby Kennedy in the Ambassador Hotel in California. We follow, among others, the stories of married couples dealing with their age- or alcohol-related problems, of kids dealing with Vietnam and issues of valor and cowardice, and of immigrants dealing with racism and outlets for their anger. On the outside, "Bobby" is one of those movies not about a single story, but about groups of people and their connections, like "Crash" and "Magnolia."

What makes "Bobby" different is that it's really about an era, or, even more intangibly, about

a feeling. Despite one of the most star-studded casts I've ever seen (at least 20 big names, and probably more that I didn't recognize), the central character of Bobby Kennedy is actually played by himself, in the form of old video clips and recordings. By giving Bobby this almost mythic status ("he's so special no one could portray him accurately;") the audience is being whisked away into the mindset central to the movie: Bobby Kennedy was the last hope for a great America. As Dwayne, an African-American campaign worker says, "Now that Dr. King is gone, no one [is] left but Bobby — no one." Sure, most of the movie is about these other people and their lives, but the pervading feeling almost every one of them has in common is hope for Bobby's presidency, and then despair when they find out he's been killed.

By trying to evoke for the audience what was (presumably) the wide-spread hopeful sentiment of the era, writer-director Emilio Estevez is presenting a stark contrast to the current political climate, and he pretty much succeeds. Even I, someone who wasn't born until 15 years after Bobby's death, could feel the sense of joy and hope, and later the loss and despair that I was supposed to. An era I had no first-hand experience with was made clearer to me, and I felt I could begin to understand what it was like back then, which was surely among Estevez's goals. My mom, who saw "Bobby" with me and who lived through the events herself, assured me that this feeling was much stronger through her actual nostalgia, as opposed to an imagined one from me. We both left the theater disillusioned with the political process and wishing there was

someone as charismatic, as just, as perfect for the presidency as Bobby Kennedy.

But the one fatal flaw in Bobby is, simply, that it's boring. While the payoff at the end is certainly grand and the stories are generally interesting, I was never really taken with any of the stories, and found myself frequently looking at my watch. Had the stories been more compelling (perhaps going more in-depth with fewer characters), or the actors less famous (for the first hour, my mom and I found ourselves playing "who's that?" in every scene) I would have been able to really lose myself in the movie, making the final moments of the film that much more moving and emotional. As it is, the ending is clearly the best part of the whole movie, as all the stories finally tie into one another and we hear a steady stream of Bobby's speeches; the irony of hearing him speak at length about justice and non-violence, while his blood is spattered on the ground and those nearby, was impossible to miss, and it made his words that much more bittersweet.

Even with all the flaws, it was still worthwhile to see "Bobby." For someone like myself, who's only ever seen the sixties on a screen, being able to get a taste of the feelings and emotions of those days is a nice experience, and I imagine actually remembering those feelings is pretty nice too. It's a little sad that Estevez didn't make a more interesting movie, but then again, it's a sad movie. The last hope of a generation was brutally killed on what should have been a day of triumph, and everyone, whether you were part of a loveless marriage or an angry immigrant, felt the country's loss on that day.

CD REVIEW

(No)

Change in the House of Damo

New Damien Rice Heats Up to Lukewarm

By Sarah Dupuis

ASSOCIATE ARTS EDITOR

Damien Rice

9

Produced by Damien Rice

14th Floor Records

Prejudice and precedent work together as a cunning tag team. These two nouns have tricked millions of unsuspecting consumers into spending their hard-earned bucks on mediocre (at best) sequels, second novels, and sophomore albums. The newest push? Damien Rice's second full-length album, *9*. The latest victim? None other than myself.

So here's the precedent. Rice, an Irish songster best known for his role in orchestrating the soundtrack to Mike Nichol's 2004 film "Closer," has been writing and performing his original music since his days in the rock band Juniper. His first full length album, *O* (2003), with songs well known for their frequent appearances in television and film sound tracks, was the sort of feel-good folk album that gloriously united soccer moms and indie kids on the new music front. Featuring soft acoustic guitars, gorgeous cello lines, mellow drums, and relaxed harmonies between Rice and fellow vocalist and bandmate Lisa Hannigan, *O* served as a successful vessel for Rice to carry his often sexually-toned songs into the mainstream, while also demonstrating his potential for releasing some darker-toned material. His follow-up, an EP entitled *B-Sides* (2004), showed off a sampling of songs outlining infidelity, heartache and generally unhealthy living, all underscored with Rice's familiar acoustic strum and Hannigan's smooth harmonies. "All right," I thought, "Damo (as Rice is affectionately known among fans) is taking a step in the right direction!" Upon simple observation of his last two releases, I expected improvements upon Rice's old formula in his newest album. Simply put, I expected *9* to kick some folk ass.

Maybe my own prejudice got in the way. Rice is an excellent showman, which could perhaps be the dominant factor that pushed me to purchase *9*. I saw him on tour with Fiona Apple last year, and his live performance was captivating. Stunning. High energy, high emotion. Rice put on one of the best live shows I've ever seen, and the new material he played seemed like a further exploration of all my favorite parts of *O*.

Was I blinded by love? It's possible. After months of defending Rice's new material against those who called it boring, I finally purchased *9* and gave it a thorough listening. Scratch the *a*; I gave it a good dozen listenings, and what I found was an inoffensive album that was thoroughly tolerable yet quite clearly stagnant. Rice's passively aggressive vocals certainly take a less traditional turn in the opening track of *9*, a confessional tune which also prominently features Hannigan's solo voice. The rest of the album then wavers uncertainly between radio-friendly pop folk tunes and harsh, melancholic rock songs that end with Rice caterwauling in either agony or orgasm.

So is *9* a good album? To put it obtusely, it's not a bad one. Has Rice evolved? He's taken a step, but it seems to be more of a crab-walk than a forward leap or a regression. *9* stands, but it stands on those two legs I described earlier: prejudice and precedent. I look forward to the next time Rice creates something that can stand wholly on its own.

Those interested in catching Rice's live performance will have their opportunity next Monday, Dec. 11 at 6:30 p.m. at the Orpheum Theatre.

Want to meet the stars? How about free CDs?

Write for our arts section!

join@the-tech.mit.edu

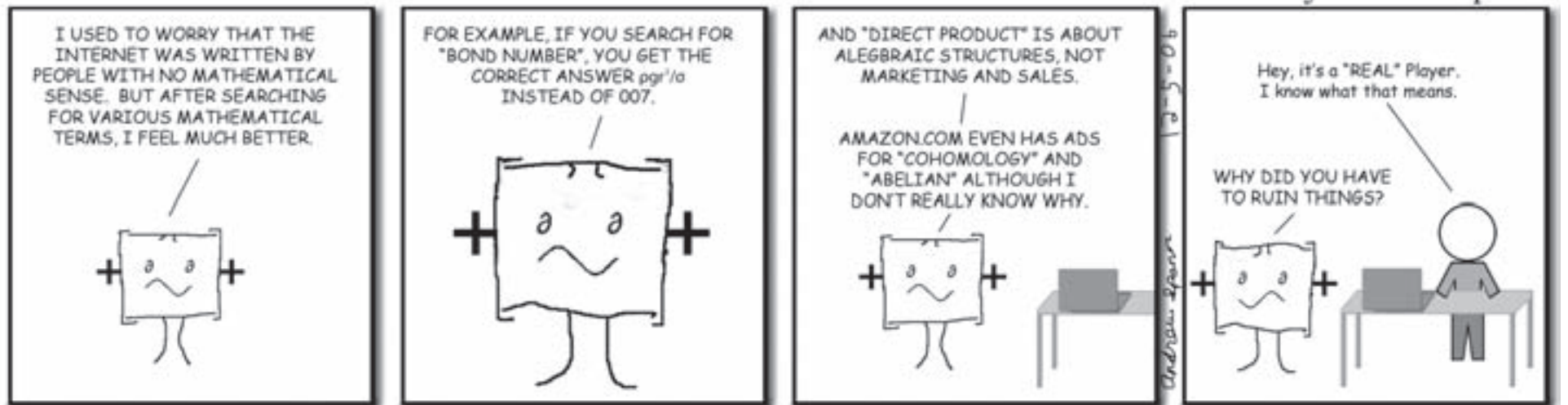
Trio

by Emezie Okorafor



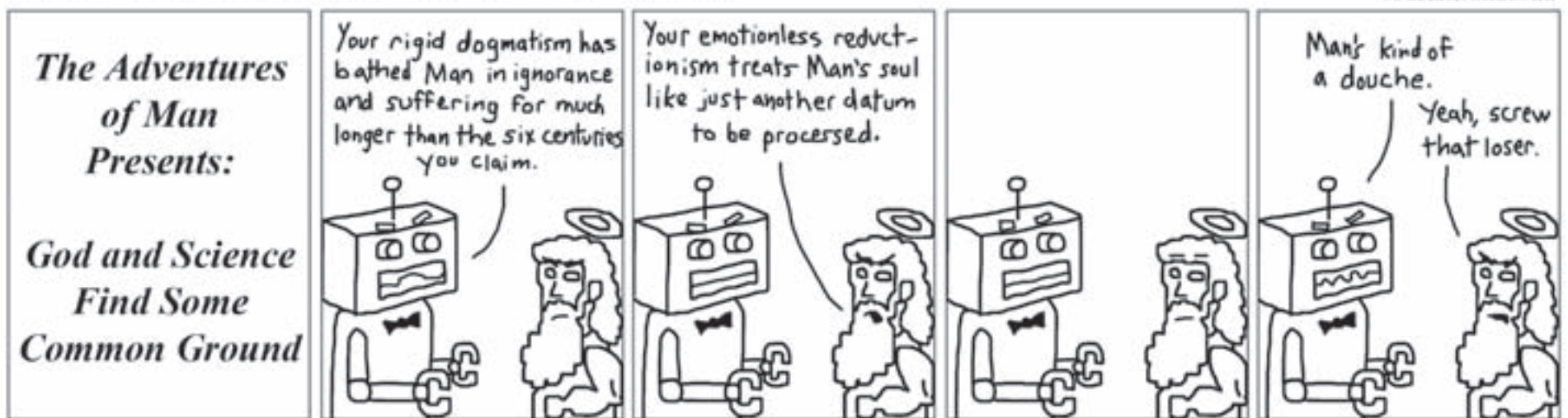
PROOF OF FALSE

by Andrew Spann



THE ADVENTURES OF MAN

By Scott Burdick sburdick@mit.edu



BIG CLOCK, small hands

By Ali Ghajarnia & Nancy Hua



FoxTrot by Bill Amend

Dilbert® by Scott Adams

su | do | ku

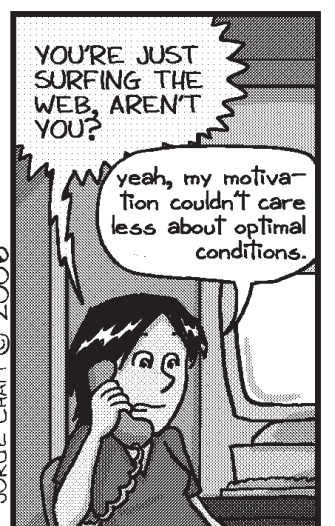
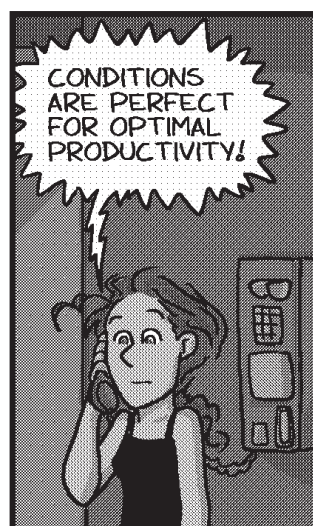
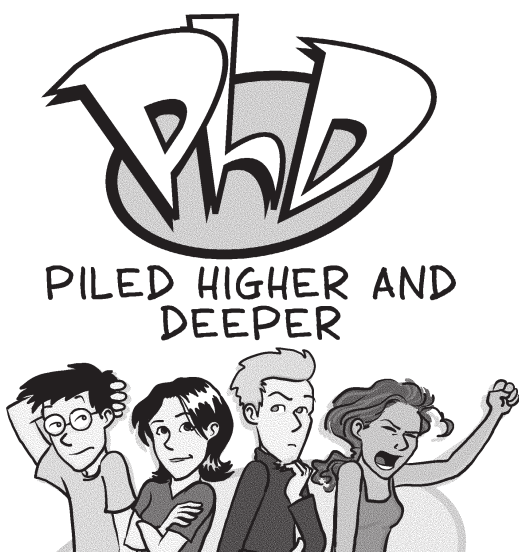
© Puzzles by Pappocom

Instructions: Fill in the grid so that each column, row, and 3 by 3 grid contains exactly one of each of the digits 1 through 9. Solution on page 12.

Crossword Puzzle

Solution, page 12

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



JORGE CHAM © 2006

NEW SPRING 2007 COURSES

First year students, now is the time to register for spring semester classes! Are you looking to fulfill your CI, HASS or HASS-D requirement? Or do you just want to spice up your spring 07' semester?

Then you should register for one of these exciting new hands on, team based classes:

2.00AJ (16.00AJ). Fundamentals of Engineering: Exploring Sea, Space and Earth. (CI)

2.00B Solving Real Problems. (CI)

4.001J (11.04J) CityScope Destination 2007: New Orleans. (CI)(HASS-E)

5.92 Energy, Environment and Society. (CI)

HST.410J (6.07J) Projects in Microscale Engineering for the Life Sciences(CI)

21L.017. The Art of the Probable. (HASS-D)(CI-H)

21M.616 Learning from the Past: Performance, Drama, Science (HASS-D)(CI-H)

21L.016 Learning from the Past: Drama, Science, Performance (HASS-D)(CI-H)

For full class descriptions visit:

<http://mit.edu/firstyear/2010/explore/spring.html>

Enrollment is limited with preference given to first year students

Office of Undergraduate Advising and Academic Programming
7-103 and 7-104
617-253-6771

FoxTrot to End Daily Production of Comic

By Eric Harrison
HOUSTON CHRONICLE

HOUSTON

FoxTrot, the popular comic strip that runs in more than 1,000 newspapers, will end daily production Dec. 30, as its creator joins the growing list of cartoonists to grow weary of the daily grind.

Bill Amend, who created *FoxTrot* in 1988, will continue to write and draw the Sunday strip.

"After spending close to half of my life writing and drawing *FoxTrot* cartoons, I think it's time I got out of the house and tried some new things," he said in a statement. "I love cartooning, and I absolutely want to continue doing the strip, just not at the current all-consuming pace."

Aaron McGruder, Bill Watterson, Berkeley Breathed, Garry Trudeau and Gary Larson also have all either taken sabbaticals or ended their strips altogether, citing the grueling pace and challenge of maintaining originality and quality as factors in their burnout.

McGruder, who created *Boondocks*, ended his strip in March for what was supposed to be a six-month hiatus. He had already handed drawing duties to a substitute artist while devoting time to developing an animated TV series for the Cartoon Network. The strip has now officially been canceled.

In earlier generations, the lives of comic strips seemed endless. After the original artists died or retired, successors continued the strips. That was because the characters and titles were owned by syndicates, the companies that distribute comic strips and other features to newspapers. The syndicates had the right to fire creators and replace them at will.

That began to change — at least for the most popular and powerful cartoonists — in the late 1980s.

Breathed started the trend.

"I had to quietly, secretly, threaten the comic pages' first walkout in 1989" to gain ownership of *Bloom County*'s copyright from Washington Post Writers Group, Breathed said in a 2001 interview with *The Onion*'s A.V. Club. "It had never been done before."

A Houston native whose *Bloom County* became only the second comic strip — after Trudeau's *Doonesbury* — to win a Pulitzer Prize, Breathed ended the strip in 1989, at the height of its popularity. *Opus*, his current strip, appears only on Sundays.

FoxTrot, *The Boondocks*, *The Far Side*, *Doonesbury*, and *Calvin and Hobbes* were all distributed by Universal, which since taking on *Doonesbury* in 1970 has attracted the most envelope-pushing cartoon features.

Cartoonists are retiring their strips now because they can, because they own them. And because maintaining the quality of strips such as *FoxTrot*, *Doonesbury*, and *Calvin and Hobbes* isn't easy. These aren't gag-a-day strips.

In addition to the daily dose of humor, there's character development, narrative arcs and, in the case of *Doonesbury* and *Boondocks*, the struggle of staying topical.

Watterson ended his wildly popular *Calvin and Hobbes* in 1995, he has said, in part to avoid the inevitable drift into "halfhearted repetition" — the fate of many long-running comic strips.

Larson retired *The Far Side* the same year. Earlier, he had taken a 14-month leave to travel and study jazz guitar. He had drawn more than 4,000 cartoons since the cartoon went into syndication in 1979. Since "retiring," Larson has made animated films and published books.

Lee Salem, president of Universal Press Syndicate, dangled the possibility of *FoxTrot* popping up later in another form, such as animation. "In addition to Sunday newspapers, we may see *FoxTrot* entertaining us in other kinds of media platforms," he said in a statement posted on the company's Web site.

A spokeswoman for the syndicate wouldn't confirm that plans are in the works for a *FoxTrot* movie or TV series, saying only that it's "too early" to discuss it.

Amend, she said, is "not doing interviews" and Salem didn't care to elaborate on the statement.

date: FRIDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2006

time: 8:00 PM

location: MIT 26-100

tickets LOBBY 16 or VISIT FACEBOOK.COM/PLUS1 avail. at: FOR VIP SEATING (WHILE SUPPLIES LAST)

ARRIVE EARLY! SEATING IS FIRST COME, FIRST SERVED!

MA008

BE LESS PRODUCTIVE AT THE OFFICE.

The office has always been a place to get ahead. Unfortunately, it's also a place where a lot of natural resources start to fall behind. Take a look around the next time you're at work. See how many lights are left on when people leave. See how much paper is being wasted. How much electricity is being used to run computers that are left on. Look at how much water is being wasted in the restrooms. And how much solid waste is being thrown out in the trash cans. We bet it's a lot.

Now, here are some simple ways you can produce less waste at work. When you're at the copier, only make the copies you need. Use both sides of the paper when writing a memo. Turn off your light when you leave. Use a lower watt bulb in your lamps. Drink your coffee or tea out of mugs instead of throwaway cups. Set up a recycling bin for aluminum cans and one for bottles. And when you're in the bathroom brushing your teeth or washing your face, don't let the faucet run. Remember, if we use fewer resources today, we'll save more for tomorrow.

Which would truly be a job well done. This message brought to you by the 43 environmental charities that make up Earth Share.

For more tips or information on how you can help, write Earth Share, 3400 International Drive NW, Suite 2K (AD3), Washington, D.C. 20008.

Drink out of mugs instead of throwaway cups.

Ad Council

IT'S A CONNECTED WORLD. DO YOUR SHARE.

This space donated by The Tech

The Art of Living @ MIT Presents



CIRQUE DE MAGIC

Featuring world-renowned Las Vegas Magician
Simon Winthrop,
& Cirque-style performers



Saturday, Dec. 9th, 12:00 noon
KRESGE AUDITORIUM -MIT
48 Massachusetts Ave, Cambridge MA

Tickets: [http:// MIT.edu/ArtofLiving](http://MIT.edu/ArtofLiving)
Info:866-360-3632

MIT Students: \$20, Others: \$25,
Regular Adults: \$50, \$75, \$100,
50% OFF Regular Price for Children under 12 and Seniors



ART OF LIVING FOUNDATION
SILVER JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS

The Art of Living Foundation, in association with the International Association for Human Values, is active in over 150 countries offering educational and humanitarian services on a non-profit basis. Visit us at www.artofliving.org and www.iahv.org.

A fundraiser to benefit Art of Living Foundation's social and humanitarian projects around the world.

Heart Surgery Death Rates Will Be Listed

By Liz Kowalczyk
THE BOSTON GLOBE

Massachusetts health officials have decided to publicize the patient death rates for individual heart surgeons, the first time the state will release information on the quality of care provided by individual doctors — not just by hospitals and physicians' groups.

Beginning Dec. 18, it will be possible to go to a Web site and look up the mortality rates for 55 surgeons who perform cardiac bypass operations.

About 4,000 patients had bypass surgery at 14 Massachusetts hospitals in 2004, according to the state's most recent figures. It is one of the most common operations.

The decision will make Massachusetts the fourth state to release such data on heart surgeons, officials said, and follows more than a year of discussions with the state's cardiac surgeons.

Many heart surgeons initially opposed publicizing their patient results but now accept the state's decision, said department chiefs. The surgeons believe it is inevitable that insurers and government agencies soon will release a wide range of performance measures in the hopes that it will create market forces to improve care.

In New York, where mortality data for individual cardiac surgeons have been released since 1991, state officials credit the program with lowering death rates, but surgeons in Massachusetts are worried that public reporting could hurt care by discouraging doctors from taking high-risk patients who are more likely to die.

Studies, however, have not reached a clear conclusion on whether such risk avoidance has occurred in New York, and Massachusetts health officials said they were unconvinced that public reporting is detrimental to patients.

"Ultimately people have a right to know the best data available on the performance of their practitioners," said Paul Dreyer, director of the Division of Health Care Quality in the Department of Public Health.

The heart bypass results will be posted on hcp.med.harvard.edu/massdac/index.htm, the Web address for Mass-Dac, the Harvard Medical School center that collects and analyzes heart patient data for the state, said Amy Lischko, commissioner of the state division of Health Care Finance and Policy.

The division's Web site, mass.gov/healthcareqc, also will post an abbreviated form of the mortality data.

Mass-Dac does not collect mortality data for other heart surgeries such as valve replacements.

The surgeon-specific data will be similar to hospital heart surgery mortality data Mass-Dac already makes public. Mac-Dac's Web site will show the percentage of patients who died soon after their bypass operations and whether the death rate is higher or lower than the state average, Dreyer said.

Heart surgeons' mortality rates will be computed for 2002, 2003, and 2004 together, officials said, because it takes three years for most surgeons to accumulate enough cases to make their results statistically meaningful.

State officials said they believe surgeons will not avoid high-risk cases, because they are adjusting the data to weigh each surgeon's mix of patients and the severity of their illness.

Several people who have seen the data said several surgeons are identified as "outliers" — those who have higher-than-expected mortality rates. But Dreyer said none of the "outliers" currently practice surgery in Massachusetts.

Hospitals often become aware of problems through their internal reviews before they receive the state data. The data will be almost two years old by the time they are posted, and Dreyer said the Public Health Department is working with Mass-Dac to reduce the time lag in reporting by at least six months. But he said there always will be a lag because of the extensive work it takes to collect and analyze information from patients' charts, a delay some doctors point out makes the data less useful to the public.

The state and Mass-Dac have released the heart-bypass mortality rates at individual hospitals for three years, and a similar lag exists for those reports. The state's data collection program has not found huge variations among hospitals, with the exception of UMass Memorial Medical Center in Worcester, which temporarily suspended its cardiac surgery program last year because of a higher-than-average mortality rate, and Caritas St. Elizabeth's Medical Center, which suspended a surgeon earlier this year.

UMass medical center's executives suspended the surgery program when state officials presented them with the data, shortly before it was to become public.

When the six-year-old state law that requires collection of mortality rates was enacted, Dreyer said he and other health officials decided against reporting mortality data for individual surgeons, because they believed state agencies and hospitals would bring about quality improvements by using the physician data internally to identify poor performers and push for improvements.

There's a lot to learn outside of lab

GRTs help teach it.



Bexley GRT/Senior v. Undergrad Softball Game (Undergrads won, 19-9) Photo: Dan Schultz

Learn what it takes . . .

Friday, Dec. 15th @ 3 PM
GSC Office, 50-220

Friday, Jan. 12th @ 3 PM
GSC Office, 50-220

Wednesday, Jan. 17th @ 5:30 PM
3-270

To apply to be a Graduate Resident Tutor, go to

web.mit.edu/slp/

Deadline: Feb. 9, 2007

THANK YOU M.I.T.



Bose® Wave® music system



QuietComfort® 2 Acoustic Noise Cancelling® Headphones



Companion® 3 multimedia speaker system

Thank you to Students, Faculty, Staff and Employees of M.I.T.

Bose Corporation was founded and built by M.I.T. people. Our success in research and in business is a result, in no small part, of what M.I.T. has done for us. As one measure of our appreciation, we are extending special purchase privileges to all students and employees of M.I.T. for their personal use.

Please direct all inquiries to the "M.I.T. Purchase Program."

Bose Corporation
1-800-444-BOSE



©2004 Bose Corporation. Patent rights issued and/or pending. Delivery is subject to product availability.

Royal Bengal

Boston's only authentic Bengali Cuisine restaurant

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

313 Mass. Ave., Cambridge
(617) 491-1988

T: Red Line, Bus #1 – Central Square

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

Take-out, platters, and catering available. Delivery with minimum order.
10% Discount on \$15 (or more) order with MIT ID.

<http://www.royalbengalrestaurant.com>

got sperm?

SPERM DONORS
NEEDED

Up to **\$900** a month!

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

Help people fulfill their dreams of starting a family.

APPLY ONLINE:

Receive free health and genetic screenings.

www.CRYOBANKDONORS.com

Something on your mind? Write a letter to *The Tech!*

letters@the-tech.mit.edu

Circle K's first
SNOWMAN BUILDING
COMPETITION!!! Jan 15, 2007

Come build a snowman with your friends!
AWESOME PRIZES! FUN! FOOD!

Sign up: 12/11/06 in the Student Center
Entry fee: \$5 for team of any size

All money raised will be donated!
Contact kpikhart@mit.edu for more info



Divestment Opinions Vary Among Students

ACSR Plans to Meet Again Before Holidays

Sudan, from Page 1

G. Weese said. Weese said he felt the results show that a "significant number of students are interested in the Institute doing something about this situation."

Mustafa G. Dafalla '09, who opposes the resolution, felt that more time was needed for discussion. He said that though he understood the necessity of time constraints, his argument was broken off after only a couple of minutes while Zainabadi was given enough time to finish presenting his views.

Weese agreed that this exposed what is "perhaps a weakness" of the meeting schedule, adding that the "proposer of a resolution has a certain advantage ... because the presenter gets to talk longer than a random audience member." Dafalla in this case, was a "random bystander," he said.

Petitions circulated

Both Dafalla and Zainabadi have authored petitions, with Dafalla opposing divestment and Zainabadi urging divestment.

Zainabadi, whose petition was signed by 483 people as of last night, delivered two copies of his petition to Kirk D. Kolenbrander, vice president for Institute affairs and secretary of the MIT Corporation, on Friday, Dec. 1, intending for one copy to be given to President Susan Hockfield. He also delivered a copy to Ann F. McNamara, an administrative officer in the Office of the President.

Dafalla said that he plans to turn in his petition, which had garnered support from 94 signatories as of last night.

Dafalla said that he felt the student decisions to support targeted divestment from MIT were made "without a lot of analytical discussion." This, he said, should be taken into account when the ACSR considers student opinion.

Dafalla opposes divestment and emphasized that the divestment campaign doesn't have a constructive focus. He added that there needs to be an "emphasis on positive initiatives that MIT can do that aren't hindered by whatever deci-

sion we [MIT] make."

One such initiative that Dafalla has in mind is a company that he is trying to establish with a friend. He hopes to make treadle (foot-operated) irrigation pumps available to farmers. The pumps would be manufactured from local materials. He will be traveling to Sudan in January in hopes of starting this company.

Zainabadi said that Dafalla's proposed initiatives for improving Sudan's infrastructure are "almost laughable." He likened such projects to building railroads during World War II in order to stop the Holocaust.

"They [the Sudanese government] are doing something horrific," Zainabadi said. "Divestment is not the end ... I'm not saying it's the cure all."

Zainabadi added that the Sudanese government has not felt any sort of punitive measurements.

Some urge more analysis

Still, not everyone agrees that punitive measures will have the desired effect of stopping genocide in Darfur. UA Senator Ali S. Wyne '08, who does not agree with the GSC-UA joint resolution, said that the history of success of punitive economic measures is mixed. In addition, he said, at the UA Senate meeting, "everybody conceded to having very little knowledge of the situation and of economic punitive measures."

The "temptation is to do something ... even if we're not acquainted with the facts," Wyne said. "We should not vote with our hearts ... we must vote with our minds."

Dafalla echoed this sentiment, saying that "the default shouldn't be to divest." He finds fault with targeted divestment because he feels that it "essentially doesn't say anything." MIT should have nothing to do with those companies that are contributing to the atrocities in Sudan, he said. But this same statement can be applied to any country, he said.

"My own judgment, so far, is that divestment from corporations that are directly or indirectly contributing to the crimes of the Sudanese government is appropriate," Professor of Linguistics Noam A. Chomsky wrote in an e-mail. He added that "we should be thinking of ways to help the suffering people of Sudan, and there are specialists in the area who care about those people and have sensible ideas about how to proceed."

ACSR to meet soon

Michael Baenen, staff to the ACSR, said that one more meeting of the committee is scheduled before the winter holiday break. Weese, who is a member of the ACSR, said that he will tell the committee members about the UA-GSC joint resolution, because they have asked for student input.

Still, Dafalla said that after considering the momentum behind the subject of divestment, "I don't know if [my view] is necessarily going to make a difference."

Kolenbrander said that both sides of the argument will be considered, saying that "reasonable people can have different perspectives."

ALLEN NITRATE CRUSH ENTERTAINMENT ENGLISH DISTRIBUTION, LLC. and WORLDWIDE ENTERTAINMENT JACK UTTSCH presents PARIS HILTON in NATIONAL LAMPOON'S "PLEDGE THIS" with PAULA GARGES SARAH CARTER GEOFFREY AREND GREG CIPES KERRI KENNEY SMITH REX BLANCA LAWSON AMANDA RYAN RANVY SPELLING ALEXIS THORPE HOLLY VALANCE DIVA ZAPPA RICK NAJERA and MICKEY EWAN music by CARLOS DURANGO and HIS ORCHESTRA MUSIC SUPERVISOR JONATHAN FINE CASTING BY MONIKA MUKKELSEN and ED ARENAS COSTUME DESIGNER ELLEN FALGORE PRODUCTION DESIGNER CHARLOTTE GOURKE EDITOR GEORGE FOLSEY, JR. and MARCY LEVITAS HAMMON, A.C.E. DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY FORTUNATO PROCCIPOLI LINE PRODUCER PETRA MUEBEL EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS PARIS HILTON CHESTER ENGLISH JIM DILORENTO GREG COHEN JEREMY DALLON GARY GUTTELSON ANGAD PAUL ASH SHAR and WAYNE MUEBEL CO-PRODUCED BY STRATHFORD HAMILTON PRODUCED BY JACK UTTSCH AND JUAN CARLOS ZAPATA WRITTEN BY CHERYL GIBBERDI AND ANNA ORROPTA DIRECTED BY WILLIAM HENS

R RESTRICTED
UNDER 17 REQUIRES ACCOMPANYING PARENT OR ADULT GUARDIAN
PERMISSIVE STRONG CRIME AND SEXUAL CONTENT
RUDY LANGUAGE AND SOME DRUG MATERIAL

The Sloan Subject Bidding (SloanBid) System Bidding Dates for Spring, 2007 Courses

<https://sloanbid.mit.edu>

First time logging in? Use your MIT ID as both your log in and password. Follow instructions on the site to change your password or retrieve lost passwords.

Institute-wide bidding for Sloan subjects:
Opens 9:00 a.m., Friday, December 22
Closes 5:00 p.m., Monday, January 1

Waitlist Round for closed Sloan subjects:
Opens 9:00 a.m., Thursday, January 4
Closes 5:00 p.m., Thursday, January 11

Section Swap Round for sectioned Sloan subjects:
Opens 9:00 a.m., Tuesday, January 16
Closes 5:00 p.m., Tuesday, January 23

Please contact Scott Alessandro, salessan@mit.edu, if you have questions regarding Sloan Course Bidding.

Successful bids will appear on your Registration Form on February 5 and will be posted on the bidding website as of January 4 -- write down your password to check results!

Available for sale at affordable price

ADORABLE AKC REGISTERED Female yorkie Susie. Vet checked and baby health is 100% OK. Currently on vaccinations and wormings with one year health guarantee. For more information contact me via an email: rev_jeffry@yahoo.com

ADDRESS:
3405 Mike Padgett Highway
Pine Bluff, Arkansas 71601
PHONE: 267 234 3563

Dance Troupe Presents 'Gyrohazard'



Dance Troupe's fall show, Gyrohazard, opened last night in Little Kresge Auditorium. The show, featuring 19 dances, will run until Sunday, Dec. 10.

Counterclockwise from above:

Evgeny Anatolyevich Logvinov G performs the finest funkstyle in "The Fownk" to music by LL Cool J, Slick Dogg, and Mr. Short Khop.

Alexandra M. Beyer '10 and Michael P. Hurley '10 make hearts beat faster as they dance "Al ritmo de la lujuria" (translation: to the rhythm of lust) to the music of Wisin y Yandel and Bone Thugs-N-Harmony.

Rachel N. Peterson '09 showers the audience with love in "Statinnather" to the music of Fergie, Ne-Yo, and T.I.

Lacey J. Kitch '08 expresses nonsense in "Strangers" to "People are Strange" by The Doors.

Viviana M. Serra '07 gets "Ridonkulous" to the music of Fort Minor, Busta Rhymes, Black Eyed Peas, MIA, Rihanna, Benzino, Ne-Yo, and Bubba Sparxx.

Photography by William B. Yee



SPORTS

UPCOMING HOME EVENTS

Saturday, Dec. 9, 2006
Swimming vs. Smith and Wheaton 1:00 p.m., Zesiger Center



DAVID M. TEMPLETON—THE TECH

Forward Erich W. Bracht '10 eyes up a teammate as Amherst College senior Dan O'Shea plays defense during the second period of the Engineer's blowout 47-79 loss on Thursday in Rockwell Cage. Bracht was the second-highest scorer for the Engineers with 14 points.

Michigan is a Better Team, But Florida Right Choice For BCS

By Travis Johnson
SPORTS EDITOR

The people who vote in college football polls have an impossible job.

It's not even clear what they're supposed to do. Rank the teams from best to worst in a neutral site game? Rank the teams by the quality of their season? Rank the teams by the size of their mascot?

Even knowing what they're supposed to do, how can you compare teams from different conferences that have rarely played common opponents, never mind each other?

This year, the voters chose to rank them as follows: 1) Ohio State, 2) The-Team-I-Want-to-See-Play-Ohio-State, and 3) Michigan.

Writers, coaches, and the state of Michigan are outraged at the system, and have started the annual calls for a play-off system. But play-offs will never happen, and I think the current Bowl Championship Series system is about as good as it can be.

The reason the BCS was created was to pit No. 1 versus No. 2 in a season-ending game that determined an undisputed national champion. But this year was a special case: we

already had a No. 1 versus No. 2, and Ohio State won by a field goal.

Keeping in mind the goal of finding an undisputed champion, the BCS game shouldn't be a rematch. Michigan will never be the undisputed No. 1, since it has already lost to Ohio State, the would-be No. 2. A No. 1 that has lost to No. 2 is a definitely not a clear winner.

Just think about a Michigan-Ohio State National Championship game. If Michigan won, it would be "champion" but the legitimacy of the title would certainly be disputed. If Ohio State won, it would be a clear champion, but we'd never really know if the SEC was such a good conference that Florida, Arkansas, Auburn, and Tennessee could all beat OSU.

As it stands, either Ohio State will complete its undefeated run or Florida will win and prove just how difficult the SEC was. But in both cases we will have an undisputed champion, exactly what the BCS was designed to provide.

There are some changes that would really help and are more plausible than the playoff system we all dream of. The final poll votes were made public this year, and they shouldn't be next year. There's a reason ballots are usually secret; we want voters to express their true feel-

ings without worrying about what friends, family, and bosses might think.

Ohio State coach Jim Tressel abstained because, "we felt it was somewhat of a conflict of interest," but it's clear he didn't want to have to answer the question: "Did you vote for team X because you think they'd be easier to beat?" I wouldn't either.

It should be a rule that only conference champs play in the title game. This year's voting made it clear that this is an unwritten rule, but making it official allows voters to make Michigan the No. 2 ranking it deserves, while still setting up a national title game that determines the best team.

I know my last suggestion invites the unpopular No. 1 versus No. 3 national championship game, but if No. 2 lost to No. 1 in the conference, they shouldn't be national champs and therefore shouldn't play for that designation. The only exception would be if the two teams haven't played, which can happen in goofy conferences like the Big Ten.

And while I'm dreaming, the polls should tell voters exactly what criteria they should use: "Please list the top 25 Division I-A in order of how successful they'd be in a real post-season system."

Depression is a serious threat to anyone that has a brain.

Depression is a suppression of brain activity that can strike anyone. It can make life unbearable, but it is also readily, medically treatable. And that's something you should always keep in mind.

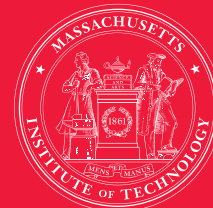
Public Service message from SA/VE (Suicide Awareness/Voices of Education)

#1 Cause of Suicide
UNTREATED DEPRESSION

<http://www.save.org>

This space donated by The Tech

**INTERESTED IN HEDGE FUNDS,
PRIVATE EQUITY AND REAL ESTATE?**



MIT Investment Management Company

MIT's Investment Management Company is
Looking for Investment Analysts to Help
Steward MIT's \$12 Billion Investment Portfolio

GO TO
WWW.MITIMCO.ORG
FULL-TIME AND INTERNSHIP
POSITIONS AVAILABLE