Ig Nobels Given For Wacky, Odd Research

By Joanne Y. Shih

The highly entertaining Sixteenth 1st Annual Ig Nobel Prizes were awarded Thursday night in the Sanders Theatre at Harvard. The event, possibly the Rocky Horror Picture Show of ceremonies, recognized ten ingenious achievements, some more useful than others, in fields ranging from literature to medicine to mathematics.

Several Ig Nobel winners from previous years made appearances, much to the audience's delight. Loud whoops and cheers greeted the entrance of 2003's Medicine Prize winner, C. W. Moeliker, from the Netherlands, who was the first person to document homosexual necrophilia in the mallard duck. This year's winners were just as interesting — and some just as questionable. Ivan R. Schwab, the first winner of the night, received the prize for ornithology for evidence that ducks overseas have headaches.

The winners of the acoustics prize, Dr. Lynn Halyers, Randolph Blake, and James Hillenbrand, were applauded for their experiments on why humans cannot stand the sound of fingernails scraping on a chalkboard. Apparently, the sounds are cringe-inducing not because of their high frequency but because they resemble primitive animal warning noises. Following the acceptance speech for this prize was a rather painful demonstration of their experiment. Francis M. Fesmire, from the University of Tennessee College of Medicine, won the prize in medicine for his discovery of a most unusual cure for intractable hiccuping. After a Terminal Intractable Hiccuping with Digital Rectal Massage.

Bart Knoles, this year's winner of the Ig Nobel Prize for Biology, holds a platter of cheese as he presents a sixty-second description of his discovery. His research showed that a certain malaria-carrying mosquito is equally attracted to the smells of limburger cheese and human feet.

Arthur L. Jones

Arthur L. Jones, a former director of the MIT News Office, died on Oct. 2 at Brigham and Women's Hospital following complications from treatment he was receiving for leukemia. He was 61 and had lived in Newton.

Kathryn S. Willmott, who recently retired as a vice president at MIT, said of working with Jones, “When Arthur Jones called, it wasn’t just MIT calling, it was Arthur. And people knew they could count on him to tell the truth.”

A native of Baltimore, Jones was an award-winning journalist in both television and print media. He worked at the Boston Globe, sharing a team Pulitzer Prize in 1975 for meritorious public service, and he received a New England Television Emmy Award in 1980 while he was news manager at WBZ-TV in Boston.

Jones served as director of communications for the city of Boston in the administration of Mayor Raymond L. Flynn and before that, as assistant press secretary to Gov. Michael D.ukakis.

Jones moved to Washington, D.C., in 1993 to serve in former Presi-
**Oil Market Unnerved By Signs of OPEC Cuts**

By Jad Mouawad

The oil market was unnerved Thursday by speculation that OPEC was considering cutting its production to stem a recent decline in oil prices. After jumping as much as 2.5 percent early on, oil prices eased a bit later in the session.

A decision to cut production is still being discussed by oil ministers from the 11 members of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries, which are considering holding an emergency meeting in coming weeks, an OPEC delegate said.

Several news organizations, including The Financial Times and Reuters, citing unidentified OPEC delegates, said the organization planned to cut production by 1 million barrels a day, a reduction of nearly 4 percent of the current level of 27.6 million barrels. The cut would primarily come from Saudi Arabia, although most other OPEC members would also pare their output.

But there were conflicting reports from various representatives of OPEC's member nations who said no agreement had been reached.

**World & Nation**

**Amish Deceased Said to Rest After Lurid Monday Massacre**

By Ian Urbina

As is customary in Amish tradition, guests brought food, not flowers. A barn was ready in late 19th-century German, but there was no singing. The dead were laid in simple pine coffins and dressed in homemade white dresses, symbolizing purity. Two sermons were given, both in Pennsylvania Dutch.

Four days after a grisly attack on an Amish schoolhouse here, funerals were held Thursday for four of the five girls killed by a gunman who was found to be wearing former prey of the death of his newborn daughter and driven over the edge by the fantasy of sexually assaulting young girls.

The first of Thursday's services began at 9 a.m. in the woodworkong shop of the father of the deceased, Naomi Rose Ebersol, 7.

"We are here facing the unexpected," said one of the two Amish pastors who spoke and whose remarks were relayed by a Mennonite minister who attended, David Nisley. "We know and believe that these girls are in heaven with the Lord Jesus Christ." The man said the pastor read from the Book of Matthew, about the importance of innocence.

"Unless you become like these little children, you cannot enter the kingdom of heaven," the pastor said, emphasizing the need for the faithful left behind to regain the purity and innocence threatened by the tragedy.

After the 90-minute service, about 100 mourners followed the men with long black staffs and women in white bonnets climbed into their black and grey buggies and clips-chopped in quiet procession to Bart Amish Cemetery. Along the way they passed the home of Charles Carl Roberts IV, the 32-year-old killer, who was a milk truck driver.

A few hours later, a similar ceremony was held in the home of the family of the oldest victim, Marian Fisher, 13, who told Roberts during the attack on Monday to kill her and spare her classmates. And in late afternoon, the service for Mary Liz Miller, 8, and her sister Lena Miller, 7, went under way.

Another victim, Anna Mae Stoltzfus, 12, is to be buried Friday.

"It is part of the realization that the person is no longer in the body," said Rhoads, a Mennonite who has attended many Amish funerals. "It's part of the reality of life."
Rice in Iraq to Support Prime Minister, Urge Faster Progress

By Philip Shenon

THE NEW YORK TIMES

Warriors Wearing a helmet and a flak jacket and flanked by machine-gun-toting bodyguards, Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki, with his father and several generals, Senator of State Condoleezza Rice visited Baghdad on Thursday, insisting that there were new signs of progress in Iraq and that the Bush administration was not going to shed its hawkish, neoconservative image of the occupation.

“This is a critical time,” she said of the visit, on the first day of her week in Iraq, “and a critical time for Iraq.”

Traveling from Israel on Thurs-

day and arriving in Baghdad early morning, Rice had to abandon her comfortable official jet at an American air base in Turkey and to board a C-130 military plane equipped with anti-missile technology for the final leg of her journey into Baghdad, that procedure has become routine for all high-ranking Bush admin-
istration officials flying into the airport.

From the airport in Baghdad, Rice flew in a helicopter to the heavily fortified American-controlled Green Zone, bypassing the dangerous 10-mile stretch of airport highway into the city.

Reporting with her were told of the Baghdad trip only hours before departure and were instructed not to share details with anyone, in-
cluding their editors and families, that they had safely arrived. They were barred from reporting how long she would stay in Iraq until after she had left the country.

The extraordinary security pro-
tection for Rice’s trip here — her first in Iraq in six months, her fifth as secretary of state — appears to be evidence of continuing turmoil in Iraq three years after the American ouster of Saddam Hussein.

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Opinion

Corrections

The table entitled “UA Election Results Fall 2006” mistakenly gave the title of “Random House Senator” to the senator from Random Hall.

Opinion Policy

Editorials are the official opinion of The Tech. They are written by the editorial board, which consists of Chairman Zachary Oxer, 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 cartoons are written by individuals and represent the opinion of the author, not necessarily that of The Tech. 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, MA 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 letters will be given higher priority. Once submitted, all letters become the 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.

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More Cowbell
by Jia Lou

Crossword Puzzle
Solution, page 9
THE VORTEX REACHES CRITICAL MASS...

HEY, WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

GUILT BEGINS TO STRAIN THE SYSTEM

V'LL JUST CHECKING EMAIL.

YEY, I SHOULD GET BACK TO WORK.

YEY, ME TOO.

THE BUBBLE OF UNPRODUCTIVITY COLLAPSES

YEY, WHERE DID EVERYBODY GO?

% phd.nl
% author: Csilla
% date: 09/06/06

load THESIS_TOPIC
while (funding=true)
  data = run_experiment(THESIS_TOPIC);
  GOOD_ENOUGH = query(advisor);
  if (data) GOOD_ENOUGH
    graduate();
    Break
  else
    THESIS_TOPIC = new();
  years_in_gradschool ++
end

www.phdccomics.com

Dilbert® by Scott Adams

FoxTrot by Bill Amend

su|do|ku

© Puzzles by Pappocom
Can help MIT continue to S

plans of college students crowded the steps outside the Museum of Fine Arts' main entrance last Thursday night, hoping in on the front door and eager for their chance to squeeze inside. At the Museum's second annual College Night, "free" was the adjective of the evening, and students from all over the Boston area came to collect the various giveaways offered. Last year the event lured upwards of 1,500 students from more than forty colleges and universities, and this year continued the trend. With an enticing assortment of desserts, a local DJ, the chance to check out the MFA's exhibitions, hourly raffles and an outdoor concert – all for free — the irresistible crowd outside the building was justified.

Once inside the building, attendees showed their student IDs and entered the College Night lottery. Prizes included a Tivoli radio, a two-gigabyte iPod nano, an MFA gift bag and a collection of CDs by artists who have performed at the MFA, including Cat Power, Petra Haden, Marnie and Joanna Newsom, who performed later in the evening.

"The event is for raising awareness of the museum. We're building a new wing, which is really exciting, and we hope people will come see the new act," said Patty Dickerson, an employee of the MFA. Students poured in to the many open galleries, particularly the special exhibition Domains of Wonder: Masterworks of Indian Painting, on tour from the San Diego Museum of Art's South Asian collection. The event brought a number of new museum-goers who will continue to explore new exhibits over their college years.

The museum's Garden Court terrace was swankier than might have been expected for college students paying no entry fee. Light green tablecloths adorned with scattered white candles gave the room the feel of a chic café, but the electronic down-tempo musical selections of DJ Yamin were well-suited to the College Night audience. Ironically, the biggest turnaround in an otherwise lively room was the crowd: students literally waited ten minutes each before they could walk down the stairs to the terrace, and getting out was just as difficult.

"It's very poorly organized," said Kristen Ferraro, an RA at Merrimack College. "Trying to funnel everyone through that one little door? Not a smart idea." The impatience of the crowd was assuaged, however, when free SmartWater and a delicious collection of catered cookies rewarded the wait.

The most memorable and anticipated part of the evening occurred in Calderwood Courtyard, and featured a live performance by acclaimed singer-harpist-songwriter Joanna Newsom. Tickets to the show were free but limited, and so many students who came explicitly for the musical performance but were turned away were somewhat sore.

Opening act Chris Brokaw was the first to appear on the small outdoor stage. Brokaw, who played with Newsom in Berlin two years ago, started his set with a dry, enunciated cover of Lisa Walker's "Crooked." His set featured a handful of instrumental pieces combined with various sounds effects and an electronic tambourine sound. The most interesting tune performed was the politically charged "Eyes of a Hook," in which Brokaw sang, "Here in the Union, we lay on our backs and shoot stars ..." before plunging into a distorted electric sound for the chorus. His set was well suited for a humid New England fall night, and the outdoor atmosphere was perfect save for the lack of visible stars in Boston.

A bush fell over the audience when Joanna Newsom entered the courtyard. Dressed in the kind of flowing blue dress she's known for, Newsom apologetically told the audience she hadn't been speaking much today and hoped we'd put up with her still-healing voice. Perhaps the sickness lessened itself to her performance, because the emerging sound was unlike the childish tunes heard on Newsom's last album release. There was a new maturity to her voice, although the songs were unmistakably Newsom. After opening with "Bridges and Ballrooms," a song off 2004's "The Milk-Eyed Mender," Newsom told the audience she'd be playing a lot of new songs this evening. No objections. Her set list included the new songs "Emmylou," "Swarovski and Diamonds," "Cosmix," and the fifteen-minutes-long "Skin." Newsom also catered to devoted fans of her old material and played "The Book of Right-On," "Sadie," and "Peach, Plum, Pear," although she forgot the lyrics to her other material on more than one occasion. She later chalked this lapse up to "inattention to performance, but did not seem embarrassed — the audience was supportive and right with her throughout the set.

The most exciting part of Joanna Newsom's music is watching it move through her. As the songs change dynamics and emotion, Newsom is brought along, alternately violently and placidly. When she becomes passionate, the harp seems to direct her with its strings and not the other way around. At other times, she seems to gather little stories or berries from the strings of the harp, gently plucking as though reaching for a Faberge egg.

When she's harping fun, she has all the funk of an up-right bass player, and her harp solo breaks have all the soul of an old jazz standard. And then there's that voice, caterwauling and yodeling about birds and trees and flowers before shooting up into an operatic vibrato and finally settling on a pure, low, sinuous tone.

Her internal musical diversity is offset by a genial personality. Throughout the show, Newsom sipped a concoction for the health of her throat from a wine glass. "In drinking the craziest thing ever right now," she told the audience after completing her second song. "I can't tell if it's making me better or worse. It's not that crazy: it's, like, lemon and honey ... but a lot of lemon and a lot of honey." She paused to sip. "There's gonna be a lot more hilarious rapport like that throughout the night while I rest my voice. Stay tuned." The audience did.

After the musical performance ended, attendees shuffled out of the courtyard and exited down the same steps on which they originally congregated. The evening's success was evident from the murmurs of biddled students — "this is why we go to college in Boston," one proclaimed. The MFA appeared to have met its goal of acclimating students to its galleries and events, and those in attendance at College Night to enjoying a unique and memorable evening.

Luckily, for those who missed out last Thursday, the MFA is always free for students with an MIT ID card, and the museum's special exhibits change regularly. A calendar of events and exhibition listings can be found on the MFA's website at http://www.mfa.org.
Elephants Come to Town!

Elephants, horses, and ponies paraded past the MIT campus yesterday morning on route to Boston. Handlers from the Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus walked the animals from the train tracks behind Simmons Hall to the TD Banknorth Garden, where they will reside until their departure on Sunday, Oct. 15. In keeping with its annual visits to Boston, the circus will perform the 135th edition of what it touts as “The Greatest Show on Earth.”

(counterclockwise from left)

Kindergarten children sit on the grass near the Sloan School to watch the procession pass down Memorial Drive.

MIT campus police look on as elephants march past the 77 Massachusetts Ave. crosswalk.

The animal train heads toward the Longfellow Bridge to cross into Boston.

Photography by Gheorghe Chistol

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Enjoy food, fun, and prizes; including a $200 American Express gift card give away and much more!

Friday, October 27
On-Campus Interview Sessions: 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM
Monstertrak resume deadline: October 16, 2006

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Proud to be an Equal Opportunity Employer
MIT Hillel Students Build Sukkah

Members of MIT Hillel erected a Sukkah in Kresge Oval to celebrate Sukkot, a major Jewish holiday which begins tonight. The makeshift structure is representative of the temporary homes the Jews lived in while wandering the desert for 40 years. Sukkot is also a celebration of the fall harvest season. MIT Hillel students will eat and sleep in the structure to observe the week-long holiday and also to raise money for the homeless.

(left) The Sukkah in the middle of construction.

(right) David B. Stiebel ’09 and Eitan Z. Reich G support Naomi E. Stein ’10 as she hangs decorations.

Photography by Samuel E. Kronick

Solution to Crossword
from page 5

Solution to Sudoku
from page 6

Innovation at Google: A Spotlight on Google Maps.

Come meet Bret Taylor and other members of Google’s Product Development team.

Speaker Bio: Bret Taylor is the Senior Product Manager for Google’s developer programs. He joined Google in early 2003, where he has been responsible for over 25 product launches, including Google Maps, the Google Maps API, and Google Local. Prior to Google, Bret worked as a software engineer at Reactivity, a startup incubator in Silicon Valley. Bret holds an MS and BS in Computer Science from Stanford University.

MIT 34-101
Wednesday, October 11, 2006
Pizza 6:45 pm
Presentation 7:00 - 8:30 pm

Nightline
We're here to listen.
THEORETICAL POSTULATE HAVE EMPIRICAL SCIENTIFIC IMPLICATIONS!

THE PURELY LOGICAL ABSOLUTE PROOF THAT GOD EXISTS.
IN 5 SIMPLE SENTENCES.

The Divine Paradox is distinct from all other books in that it is the only book that logically proves that God exists by assuming and affirming that God does not exist.

Paradox Logic.

The Divine Paradox completes under its scope not just the proof of God's existence, but includes the logical proof of God's nature (is God pure being or pure consciousness?), number (is God one or more than one?), gender (is God male, female, both or neither?)

- **THE EXISTENCE OF GOD:** It is useless and unintelligent for one to claim to know God, if in fact there is none. Thus, it is only practical to begin our dissertation with an intelligent, logical and verifiable proof of God's existence or non-existence.

- **THE NATURE OF GOD:** If the nature of God is absolute, then all else is relative. This means the speed of light in Einstein's equation (E=mC^2) can no longer be constant. The absolute can only be one and undefined, but light on the other hand is of dual nature, being both granular (particle) and corpuscular (wave), and confined with space and time.

The proposition of the varying speed of light (VSL) has been suggested by physicist Dr. João Maia de Castilho (PhD Cambridge University) and appears in the April 2003 edition of DISCOVER Magazine. His speculations are purely scientific. The alternative suggested in the Divine PARADOX is founded on conclusive, scientific, philosophical and theological objectivity. The analysis is based on the postulate of PARADOX LOGIC:

p is (not) p. If (not) p. Then p.

- **THE NUMBER OF GOD:** The failure to make the distinction between the one absolute nature of God and many relative attributes of God has caused both historically and contemporaneously, wars and violent battles. An impartial, logical solution to this may solve such conflicts. The Divine Paradox shows on the purely logical, empirical, and mathematical basis of calculus using the integration of the exponential function (f(x)=e^x), that the unity of plurality of divinity are not mutually exclusive.

- **THE GENDER OF GOD:** The Divine Paradox logically proves that God is both male and female in reality and not just allegorically. Implying that God's gender is not merely anthropomorphic. This now compels us to discuss matters with the Women Warriors of the Amazon as well. We can now see with clarity and not be lost in the jungle of misconceptions.

All topics concerning God are treated mathematically in context of this new found method of paradox logic. This new logic stands in direct challenge against traditional Greek Aristotelian logic. That logic says: If p, then (p). This logic of the Divine Paradox says: If not p, then (not p). The Divine Paradox stands in direct challenge against traditional Greek Aristotelian theology. That theology says: p is (not) p. The theology of the Divine Paradox says: p is (not) p. Paradox logic remains valid and consistent.

The Divine PARADOX deconstructs the syllogism of traditional Greek Aristotelian thought structure. And restructures it into the five simple sentences. Thus, the 'Gods' on Mount Olympus are now forced to make a fundamental shift in paradigm.

The Divine PARADOX initiates a completely scientific approach in dealing with the definition of God. In addition, its subsequent proof is a curious refutation of the method Philosophical (a priori) with the method scientific (a posteriori). Together they bend to incontrovertibly validate the existence of God.

FINALLY, the Divine PARADOX shows its point as valid and capable of effectively addressing global perspectives held on all theological topics. It surveys the spectrum of human thought regarding God's nature, number, and gender. Points very relevant to our contemporary civilization. And it presents a purely scientific, philosophical, mathematical, deductive, analytical answer to the atheist, agnostic, and skeptic. In this, its mission has been fully accomplished.

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**THE CHALLENGE**

In Poetic Justice

Intelectuals
Follow Citizens! Lead me your Eyes!!!
We come to deny misconceptions, not to praise them.
Here we stand upon the pedestal of this new form of PARADOX LOGIC.
And none can withstand success,
Contend against the strength of its outrageous claims & arguments

When your sword is
Gather-Go! Build your bowels!
But
Linger longer
Reconstruct the Nucleus of your thoughts!
And yet... all this will prove but useless, fruitless.
Inducing the Argument of the five simple sentences.

(Let warriors reign) Their forms as best, and shareless pain they squander
And hope... Those who contend... Can then redeem their dignity from disputes of shameful defeat!
Against

THE DIVINE PARADOX.

The Divine Paradox was written by Mr. Mark Collingridge, Editor.
The non-standard American style was edited by Mr. Vincent Bellherit, Senior Editor of The New York Times.
The Symbolic cover was professionally designed by Mr. Barry Minnberg, (Who's Who in America, Who's Who in the World).

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PAID ADVERTISEMENT
Harvard May Revise Curriculum
Religion and United States Studies May Be in Core Curriculum

By Marcella Bombardieri

Harvard’s idea of what every student should study before donning a cap and gown may be about to change dramatically.

Undergraduate education should be far more relevant to the real world than it is now, according to a curriculum task force’s proposal distributed to professors Wednesday. The courses students are required to take, outside their majors, should teach them what they need to know to be responsible citizens in the 21st century, no matter what career they choose.

And what they need to know, the report says, includes two major sub-

jects that Harvard does not require students to study now: religion and the United States.

Today, the Core Curriculum, as it is known, is more esoteric, and stu-
dents could fill a literature require-

ment with a narrowly focused course called “Women Writers in Imperial China.” If the faculty adopts the pro-

posal, students would be more likely to take something broader, like “The Emergence of World Literature,” or “Art and Censorship.”

Faculty will probably discuss the report at a November meeting, and may vote on a final draft early next year, according to a task force leader.

Supporters see the proposal, the latest in three years of contro-

versey over the curriculum, as part of broader efforts to make the faculty more responsive to the needs and in-

terests of students.

“The Core was really designed to get faculty to agree to teach in,” by

allowing them to teach whatever they wanted, said Mary C. Waters, a soci-
fessor who served on the task force.

In contrast, future course require-

ments should connect scholarship with “what you are going to be like, and what the world is going to be like, when you get out of college,” said Louis Menand, an English pro-
fessor who served on task force cochairman.

The report addresses what to do about general education, the required courses students take outside of their majors, roughly a year’s worth of work. The Core, designed amidst the culture wars of the 1970s, requires students to take courses that expose them to different “approaches to knowledge,” regardless of the sub-

jects.

The new proposal harks back to an earlier era at Harvard, when pro-
fessors were less squeamish about imposing values. During World War II, the college designed a curriculum that sought to define what students needed to know in order to contrib-
ute to society, and which was widely influential in academia.

The report says any students should be required to take one course in each of seven categories: Cultural Traditions and Cultural Change, the Ethical Life, the United States, Societies of the World, Reason and Faith, Life Sciences, and Physical Sciences. (Some existing requirements, like foreign language, would remain.)

Possible course topics, the task force suggested, could be “The Wars of Religion,” “Stem Cells and Hu-

man Cloning,” or “Practices of Citizen-

ship: Ancient and Modern.”

The report differs sharply from a proposal floated last year, which would have resembled what many schools do and required students to take a certain number of classes in particular areas, such as science. But the proposal did not lay out a strong vision for what an education should be. It died partly because it was un-

popular, but also because it became entangled in the controversy over the leadership of former president Law-

rence H. Summers ’75. The latest proposal, however, does echo some of Summers’s goals for improving the curriculum.

Students interviewed Wednesday all sharply criticized the Core. Sever-

al said they found little rationale for the courses offered, many of which are widely considered easy and not to be taken seriously.

“At least [the proposal] is at-

tempting to give us a range of what seems important, so we won’t just take Alexander [the Great], Dino-
saurs, Cosmic Connections, and Magic of Numbers,” said junior Ol-

ivia Brown, referring to well-known Core courses.

But senior Jenny Tsai said the proposal sounds too fleeting, betry-

ing an anxiety about the contempo-

rary world. “It seems to be about fears about the Middle East and the need to learn science so we can create better weapons to maintain American supremacy,” said Tsai, a social studies major.

Menand, however, said being up to date was the point.

“No general education should be timeless,” he said. “There’s no ques-

tion it’s a response to the world we live in now.”

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countries, but initial discussions have been held with China, India, Brazil, Argentina, Egypt, Nigeria, and Thailand.

“What I can say for sure is that we plan to do most of our testing in the field, and that Thailand is among the most probable locations for that testing,” Michail Bletsas, the OLPC chief connectivity officer, wrote in a Sept. 27 e-mail.

It is unclear whether the recent coup in Thailand will affect the country’s plans to test and to purchase the laptop.

The OLPC has been sending developer boards all over the world for the past several months, Bletsas said. The fully functional “alpha” machines will not be shipped overseas until November.

Making these laptops usable for children in areas with less developed infrastructure who might not have easy access to power or internet connectivity “has been our main concern from day one,” Bletsas said. Theft is also a strong concern for the OLPC, but the creators believe that “the machine’s unique design and kid orientation will help towards discouraging gray and black markets for it.”

“We are trying to test all aspects of the laptop: soup to nuts,” Bender said. According to Bletsas, the relatively low cost of the laptops is the result of many factors, the three most important being OLPC’s non-profit status, the laptop’s software that allows it to carry out typical tasks without the usual resource obesity of current personal computers,” and the novel low-cost dual display design.

The first display option is a transmissive, full-color mode, and the second display option is a high-resolution reflective mode that is sunlight-readable. This dual-mode LCD, developed by Mary Lou Jepsen, OLPC chief technical officer, has a higher resolution (200 DPI) than most laptop displays on the market. The dual display also consumes approximately one-seventh of the power of other laptop displays.

Bletsas said that the latest laptops will be powered by an AC adapter, along with a human-powered generator that works with a zip-pull cord mechanism similar to an outboard engine starter. This new mechanism replaced the crank “because of superior ergonomics.”

The laptops are currently Linux-based and will include a 500 MHz AMD processor, 128 MB of DRAM, and 500 MB of flash memory, but no hard drive. The laptop will also include four USB ports. The laptops support wireless broadband that allows them to create an ad hoc, local area network where each laptop will be able to talk to its nearest neighbors.

The official name for the laptop is still a work in progress, but according to Bender, “2B1 is the name of a foundation Nicholas Negroponte started in the mid-1990’s. The goal ‘To Be One’ is shared by the OLPC and seems to be a likely name for the laptop.”

Negroponte was a co-founder and chairman emeritus of the MIT Media Lab, and served as its director until 2000. Bender was a founding member of the MIT Media Lab and served as its Executive Director from Sept. 2000 to Jan. 2006. Both Negroponte and Bender are currently on leave from MIT to work full-time on the OLPC.
free tickets for MIT Students!
made possible by the Council for the Arts at MIT

Birju Maharaj Dance Company
Sunday, October 8, 8:00pm
Somerville Theater
55 Davis Square, Somerville

Pandit Birju Maharaj is internationally recognized as the greatest living exponent of Kathak dance, northern India’s centuries-old storytelling-based classical dance form. Filled with technical virtuosity and flamboyance, Kathak is characterized by elaborate rhythmic footwork (tatkars), graceful spins (chakars), hand gestures (mudras) and subtle expression of moods and emotions (bhava-abhinaya). An extraordinary, Birju Maharaj integrates pure classical movements and style with a distinctly contemporary use of space in his multi-person choreographies. He will be joined by his foremost disciples Saswati Sen and Muhua Shankar, along with three musicians

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Ig Nobel, from Page 1

The prize in mathematics was awarded to Nic Svenson and Piers Barnes of Australia for calculating the number of photographs necessary to almost ensure that no one in a group photo will have their eyes closed. The formula instructs photographers to divide the number of people in the picture by two if the lighting is poor and by three if it is good.

In addition to the awards, other highlights of the ceremony were the 24/7 Lectures, which included MIT Professor Missy L. Cummings and Nobel Laureate Frank Wilczek, also from MIT. Cummings’ seven-word or less speech, following her 24-second technical lecture, was on the topic of automobile safety: “Don’t talk. Don’t e-mail. Just drive.” Wilczek, who won the Physics Nobel in 2004, had to lecture on the topic of dark matter. His explanation? “What you see isn’t what you get.”

The night, with the theme of inertia, got off to an interesting start even before the actual event began. While waiting for the pre-ceremony, a few costumed men milled about the lobby, including one completely covered in silver paint wearing nothing but briefs, and another with a gigantic cardboard model of a human cell taped to his head. Similar instances of randomness occurred throughout the two-hour event.

A minute past 7:30 p.m., the pre-ceremony show commenced with a group of performers, including a king and queen, rhythmically walking to the tempo of Liszt’s Hungarian Rhapsody, in an act entitled “Franz Liszt vs. Inertia.” Paper airplanes were freely thrown, even though a projector screen before the audience kindly requested them to cease and desist from unleashing paper projectiles, a ploy of reverse psychology, no doubt.

The Ig Informal Lectures, a free event where the winners will be able to explain the reasoning behind their research, will be held tomorrow in the Stata Center at 1 p.m. Tickets are available at the MIT Press Bookstore. More information about the Ig Nobels and the Annals of Improbable Research, the international science humor magazine that sponsors the awards, can be viewed at http://www.improbable.com/.
MIT Gets First Look At Championship Course

Cross Country, from Page 16

against MIT again at the NEWMAC championships on Oct. 28 on this same course.

This meet was a good warm-up for the MIT runners, as it allowed them to get familiar with some of its trouble spots, including that slippery downhill, which ends at the edge of a lake. “It’s important to let athletes visualize their race strategy for the NEWMAC’s course,” said women’s team captain Alisha R. Schor ’07.

The women’s team owes much of Saturday’s success to Jessica A. Thompson ’07 and Erika M. Erickson ’08, both of whom had been sidelined with injuries for over a month. “I was ecstatic to be able to run with my team again,” said Thompson.

Erickson came in 12th overall and second among women with a time of 20:24 on the five-kilometer course. Thompson also scored for the team, coming in 16th overall and fourth for MIT with a time of 20:59.

The rest of the women running for MIT also had strong races. Adrienne M. Bolger ’09 came in third place overall and first for MIT with a time of 19:37. After Erickson, Elizabeth L. Labuz ’09 finished in 17th place (20:57). Rounding out the top seven for the Engineers were Gwenstyn B. Johnson ’08 in 22nd place (21:12), Rebecca L. Mell ’07 in 24th place and Brianna L. Pernot ’19 in 27th place (21:27).

Both teams’ next race will be the NEICAAA All New England Championships tomorrow, at their home course at Franklin Park in Boston.

Dismal Wheaton Squad Swept by 20-2 Engineers

Volleyball, from Page 16

Melknower ‘10 led all servers with eight kills as Sarah Oster contributed 12 of her own. Alexis Lissman and Lauren Smith shared setting duties, distributing eight and seven assists, respectively.

MIT will resume action on Tuesday, Oct. 10, against NEWMAC foe U.S. Coast Guard Academy while Wheaton will travel to Bates College this weekend to compete in the Mid- coast Classic.

Danghe, from Page 16

serves and late career resurgence from Page 16

Joe Nathan (7-0, 1.58 ERA, and 9 saves) anchored by closer Joe Mauer).

Morneau and AL Batting Champ

lefty hitters, which the Twins have in Joe Nathan, Chih Kuo, Derek Lowe, and Greg Maddux.

MLB: World Series Y ankees vs. Dodgers

NY Mets vs. Los Angeles Dodgers

My pick: Dodgers in five. This series was by far the toughest for me to make a prediction on. The Mets shared the best regular season record in baseball with their brethren from the Bronx, the Y ankees, at 97-65. Despite this, the recent loss of Pedro Martinez and Orlando “No- body has a clue how old I really am” Hernandez will hurt the Metro politans more than any other team’s injuries in the playoffs. Pedro was their ace, an almost guaranteed winner of two games in a playoff series and now the Mets will be forced to look for answers elsewhere. These answers will have to come from veteran pitchers Tom Glavine, Steve Trachsel, and rookie John Maine. I can’t see this ragged group holding up to the Dodgers rotation of Hong- Chi Kuo, Derek Lowe, and Greg Maddux.

ALCS Y ankees vs. Twins

My pick: Y ankees in six. While my heart says Twins, my head can’t get past the Y ankees and their 200 million dollar line-up of hitters who have no problem with watching pitchers cross the plate. The Y ankees joyless plate discipline will more than make up for their anything-but-perfect pitching (While I would love nothing more than to see Bobby Abreu celebrate after a walk, his homerun trot isn’t getting a lot of people to sleep). Johan Santana will win two, but the Y ankees line-up will produce about a thousand runs in the other four games.

NLCS Dodgers vs. Padres

My Pick: Dodgers in seven. The NL West rivals from sunny SoCal will be paired against one another in the NLCS. Having two teams so familiar with each other should make it an exciting series to watch. The Dodgers have the better playoff rotation and offense, and the Padres boast a superior bullpen anchored by the all-time saves leader Trevor Hoffman, but they may not have much left after their heavy regular season workload.

I expect this series to go back and forth, lasting seven games and enter- taining all those baseball fans who think watching a pitcher bat should still be a part of baseball.

World Series Y ankees vs. Dodgers

My pick: Y ankees in six. This is a sickening prediction, but I just can’t see October playing out any other way. It is not that I hate the Y ankees, but I certainly can’t root for the most boring club in baseball. The Y ankee World Series teams of the 90’s were at least interesting, even though they boasted plenty of passionate home grown talent in Mattingly, Jeter, Williams, and Rice.

Hansly, has anyone told the Y ankee players that they are getting paid millions of dollars to play a game? I think that I had more fun watching 8:01 lectures than the Y ankees during our baseball season. The last time I saw that many people on a baseball field not enjoying them- selves was when the Tigers lost 119 games in 2003 and even then I’m not quite sure. I’d almost feel sorry for Y ankee fans, but they seem as in- different (other than booing) as the players themselves.

The Dodgers aren’t even worth mentioning here. The Y ankees will ruin a potentially great October by putting half their team worldwide to sleep after six painfully anti-climactic games. Here’s to hoping I am completely wrong.

UPCOMING HOME EVENTS

Saturday, Oct. 7, 2006

Sailing, Sir Ian MacFarlane Trophy

Women’s Soccer vs. Coast Guard

Charles River, 9:00 a.m.

Steinbrenner Stadium, 1:00 p.m.

Sunday, Oct. 8, 2006

Sailing, Sir Ian MacFarlane Trophy

Men’s Soccer vs. Western New England

Charles River, 9:00 a.m.

Steinbrenner Stadium, 5:30 p.m.

Monday, Oct. 9, 2006

Men’s Soccer vs. Springfield

Steinbrenner Stadium, 3:30 p.m.

Tuesday, Oct. 10, 2006

Women’s Soccer vs. Springfield

Rockwell Cage, 7:00 p.m.

Thursday, Oct. 12, 2006

Men’s Water Polo vs. Brown University

Zesiger Center, 8:00 p.m.  October 6, 2006
# Engineers Can’t Stop Run in Blowout Loss

By Ryan Lanphere

Last Saturday, very little went the way the football Engineers (1-3, 0-1) had hoped as WPI’s defense scored its third of the 2006 season. WPI continued to put up a stag-gering 512 yards of offense compared to the Engineers’ merely 187.7 number which aptly described MIT’s lifeless showing. The seafaring Cor-sairs had little trouble on the ground rushing for 333 yards led by running backs Rob Sullivan and J.T. Hurst who both topped the century mark by gaining 123 yards on 18 carries and 107 yards on 16 carries respectively. UMass Dartmouth’s air attack was equally effective, led by end Charles Gryska who pulled down seven receptions for 99 yards and two scores.

The game was essentially beyond MIT’s grasp only 2:21 into the first quarter. After a 3-and-out on the Engineers’ first position of the game, Dartmouth returner Ryan Howard brought back freshmater punter Cu-ray Garvey’s kick 50 yards to the MIT 22-yard line. On the very next play Corsair quarterback Alex Garro con- nected with Gryska for a 22-yard touchdown pass. The rest of the game played out much in the same manner as the first play went: outpatient until late in the fourth quarter.

The Engineering’s only stops before that came on a blocked 32-yard field goal attempt with 3:25 to go in the first half which was picked up by Ryan L. Brunovick ’09 and returned for about 20 yards. The other stop came minutes later when Corey Guey- vy ’09 intercepted a poorly thrown Garro pass and returned it for 19 yards of his own. Earlier in the half, Garvey connected for his first career field goal, a 35-yarder.

One of Tech’s few bright spots came early in the second quarter as a 68-yard offensive scoring drive over seven plays lasting 3: The drive was capped by a 77-yard touch-down run by running back Robert C. Utz ’09. An kickoff on the right side to make the score 21-0.

The drive was kept alive by a 36-yard-long Kevin T. Vogelsang ’09 re- ception from quarterback Richard A. Mancuso ’09 on fourth and one from MIT’s own 41-yard line. Mancuso finished with 153 yards on 12 completions in 25 attempts while throwing one interception. Utz, who returned to the Engineers’ line-up after missing the first three games with an ankle injury, led the Engi-neers on the ground with a promising 34 yards on four carries but didn’t get many opportunities because MIT was playing catch-up all day.

MIT’s defense was led by safeties David O. Kalk ’08 and Joseph T. Goldschmid ’08 who had to make far too many plays after receiving little help from the MIT defensive front. Goldschmid contributed 11 solo tackles while WPI tallied 12 solo tackles and was honored by his second NEFC weekly honor roll selec-tion, the first coming two weeks ago after MIT’s victory over Framingham State.

The biggest hits of the day came from MIT receivers Vogelsang and Christopher W. Ruggiero ’07 (who led MIT with receiving yards on four receptions) Late in the third quarter, after a leaping 17-yard recep-tion by Ruggiero, Vogelsang had a sickenig de-cleating comeback block on a Corsair defender, eliciting pants of empathy from MIT safety Kevin J. Foley ’09, who missed this week’s game due to a concussion af-ter being the victim of a similar hit last week.

Not to be outdone by his team-mate, with less than four minutes to play in the game Ruggiero made one of the plays of the year in the backfield, at the MIT 23 yard line. On the very next play Garvey connected for his first career touchdown pass to freshman punt returner Co- rnelius Smith who pulled down the ball in the back of the end zone.

On Saturday, Sept. 30 the MIT men and women’s cross country teams traveled to the Mt. Holyoke Invitational in South Hadley, Mass. Despite not having many of their top runners compete, the men came into the meet confident and delivered a win. Not only did the Engineers score a perfect 15 points, ten from the runners finished before anyone from the other three teams.

Kevin F. Brudi ’07 led from the start and won in a time of 26:43. Fol-lowing Brudi to round out the top five were Jeremiah “Yermie” R. Co- hen ’09 (27:19), Aarne J. F. Stak ’09 (27:53), Christopher W. Ruggiero ’07 (28:54), and Alexander C. Spencer ’10 (27:52).

Despite the relatively easy win, some runners had trouble negotiating the course. With its narrow paths and sharp corners, it proved to be decep-tively difficult. One particularly pro-curious downhill spelled trouble for two MIT runners, Wong and Ryan N. King ’09. Despite taking nay snips, both managed to get up and finish the race in good position.

The women’s team had another impressive showing as well and finished fourth in the meet, behind Wellesley Uni- versity, tied with Mount Holyoke, and defeating four other teams, in- cluding Clark and Babson College. All four of these schools will have men’s and women’s teams competing in the NEFC next season.

# Cross Country, Page 15

## Boring Yankees Will Win World Series

By Adrienne Bolger and Yermie Cohen

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Despite my Angels missing the playoffs, as a baseball fan I am look-ing forward to this October. There is no team that really stands out, and every team has significant questions.

Will Billy Bean’s A's ever make it to a seven-game series in October? Will the Twins be able to win a game not pitched by Johan Santana? Will this be the year that $200 million will actually buy a ring, especially with the meat of that spate of 43-year-old with bulging discs in October? Will the Mets’ key tender additions over the last few years fi-nally pay off? Or do the Cardinals still have a pulse?

We’ll find out soon enough, but here is my take.

ALDS Minnesota Twins vs. Oak-land A’s

My pick: Twins in five. Despite the impossible game one victory over Johan Santana and the Twins, I am going to stick with the Gems from Minnesota. Frank Thomas’

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## Volleyball Dominates Wheaton 3-0

By Mindy Brauer

The MIT women’s volleyball team improved to 5-0 in conference play with a 36-15, 30-17, 30-10, vic-tory over Wheaton College in a New England Women’s and Men’s Ath-letic Conference (NEWMAC) match on Tuesday night.

The Engineers’ overall record is now 26-2, marking the 26th time the program has surpassed a 20-win total in its 32 seasons of existence. In addition, Tech has reached this milestone every season since head coach Paul Dill’s 11-year tenure.

Amanda J. Morris ’08 recorded a solid all-around performance for MIT as she collected 12 digs, five blocks, and two aces. Frances M. Roper ’07 hit a career-high seven kills while Briana J. Stephenson ’07 added nine.

Sophomore Sparta ’08 spiked seven kills on 11 errorless attempts for a .636 hitting percentage. Stephenson paced MIT’s blocking corps with four and Alexandra N. Hunt-Carico ’08 contributed three total blocks.

Carrie C. Buchanan ’08 collected 15 digs while Alexandra T. May ’10 notched nine. May and Catherine

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## Men’s XC Wins Mt. Holyoke Invitational Top 10 Male Finishes All Engineers; Women Tie for 2nd behind Wellesley

By Adrienne Bolger and Yermie Cohen

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