MIT's Oldest and Largest Newspaper

By Benjamin P. Bleitzman

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 handles 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.

"By using VoIP directly to the network, we can save on long distance charges and save money," said Regan. "For the student body as a whole, this retention of voice calls will save up to 30% of the cost of traditional phone lines." The number of abstractions was not counted.

"Targeted divestment involves divestment from those companies that are the worst offenders, meaning they fund the Sudanese government or Sudanese civil wars, 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, 2007)."

Discussion on the topic was extended from 10 minutes to about 25 minutes, GSC President Eric Sudan, Page 14

UA-GSC Sudan Resolution Passes

By Marie Y. Thibault

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 UAC'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 UAC's General Council passed its share of a student body of MIT is in favor of targeting companies involved with the Sudanese government. The student body of MIT is in favor of targeting companies involved with the Sudanese government. The student body of MIT is in favor of targeting companies involved with the Sudanese government. The student body of MIT is in favor of targeting companies involved with the Sudanese government.

"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-abstain) with 86% of the 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 "yess" 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 Sudanese civil wars, 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"
Senate Confirms New Chief of FDA

By Stephanie Saul

The New York Times

December 8, 2006

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 personnel shifts and criticism 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 credited 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

December 8, 2006

A senior 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 diverge.

The remarks by the official, Masahiro Kawai, represented the first time that the bank — or for that matter, any important monetary institution outside Asia — had urged concerted 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, and they are needed “to manage the decline,” Kawai said. “It’s very important for...”

Worker Wages Rise Faster Than Inflation, Job Market Improves

By Jeremy W. Peters and David Leonhardt

The New York Times

December 8, 2006

The average hourly wage for American workers is now rising at the fastest rate since the economic boom of the late 1990s.

The fall in unemployment to a 3½-year low, help-wanted signs are proliferating, and the number of unemployed Americans who have been collecting welfare is falling rapidly. All of these factors have contributed to the recent surge in wages, but economists say it is possible that wages could rise too rapidly, putting upward pressure on prices.布鲁斯

The T

A Milder Weekend

By Michael J. Ring

The Tech

December 8, 2006

We would welcome 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 center of the high to the west warmed the plains and mountain states. Denver will reach 60°F (16°C) today.

As the center of the high moves 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 we will make a run at 50°F (10°C) by early next week.
Investigation of Gov't Program Reveals Several Withstanding US Oil Royalties
By Edmund L. Andrews

WASHINGTON

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

A House committee on Thursday to endorse the group's call for a sharp change in course in the Iraq war, as they worked to step up pressure on President Bush, who cannot afford to adopt the recommendations the panel presented on Wednesday.

If the Congress could come together before setting up, they say, an important new conference committee to begin to exercise “very vigorous oversight of the effort.”

The House panel has been extraordinarily in its exercise of its constitutional responsibilities on the question of war-making and conducting

Heads of Iraq Group Seek Support of Congress
By Carl Hulse

WASHINGTON

The House on Wednesday rejected an anti-abortion measure of - by Republicans as congressional leaders struggled to bring the 1990s Congress to a close.

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

Democrats accused Republicans, who will no longer be in the ma - jority of, of trying to score political points. But Republicans said they felt 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 medical personnel to offer anesthesia if they felt abortion was a moral decision, suggesting that a fetus did not experience pain. “This legislation is, very badly needed,” said Rep. Phil Gingery, R-Ga., an obstetri - cian.

Proponents of the measure said they do not expect the new Demo - cratic majority to bring similar bills in the next Congress, but they brought up such measures, and that they will press the leadership to allow a second vote under usual Republican rules. But Republican leaders said they had no plans to revisit the issue.

Ebola Throats Gorillas With Extinction, Say Researchers
By Debbie Grady

The Ebola virus has killed from 3,500 to 5,900 gorillas in one region of the Congo Republic since 2002, and its continued spread, along with the virus' spread to humans, raises fears that the great apes might be destined to become extinct.

Several Ebola vaccines have been developed that work in animals in the lab, including monkeys, and Walsh is eager to test them on goril - las 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 save the species.

Other researchers say that although vaccination might be feasible, it is not known whether the vaccine could be made into a heat-stable version in an oral form. In addition, it might be necessary to tape to cut through, involving various conservation groups, donors and govern - ments.

Dr. Stuart Nichol, chief of molecular biology in the special patho - gens 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 watch. 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

With fatal fraternity house fires in Nebraska and Missouri last month, centers for fire safety remain a handful of large college campuses have intensified their push for city ordinances requiring fra - ternity and sorority houses to install sprinkler systems.

The report said the agency’s fol - low-up efforts were often sketchy, because officials who identified un - derpayments by companies did not have a procedure for verifying that the agency actually billed the com - panies or collected the money.

In 2003, the number of audits has declined by 22 percent and the number of auditors has been reduced by 15 percent, even though surprising 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 per - cent of all delinquency cases. The department’s “compliance review” does not include an analysis of whether the companies actually paid any of the disputed amounts.

The department’s “compliance review” is based on a formula of fact-checking that has increasing - ly replaced audits, essentially relying on the internal controls of the oil companies being mon - itored. Officials conducting such reviews count for only 15 percent of the companies for their actual records.

Government data are incom - plete and inaccurate, making it almost impossible for enforce - ment officials to track the statistics that are needed for enforcement, similar to one adopted in 2004 in adjacent Champlain. “Sooner or later, if we don’t get something done, we’ll be caught with something that isn’t going to work.”

Though off-campus housing in general poses special fire-safety challenges, because animals 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.

Fraternities’ Lack of Sprinklers

The Ethic of the Male Dormitory

Ethics are the glue that holds society together, the glue that keeps us from sliding off the proverbial cliff of chaos and anarchy. The glue that keeps society from dissolving into a Hobbesian state of nature, where man is a wolf to man.

The glue of ethics comes in different forms, but the greatest form is the ethic that is shared by the male fraternity system. It is a form of “the good of the group.”

This ethic is expressed in two forms. The first is the ethic of self-sacrifice. The second is the ethic of self-regulation.

The ethic of self-sacrifice is expressed in the actions of the fraternity brother. He is willing to put the group before himself. He is willing to make sacrifices, even if they are personal, to make sure that the group is successful.

The ethic of self-regulation is expressed in the rules that govern the fraternity. The rules are designed to protect the group, to keep it from self-destructing.

The ethic of the male dormitory is the glue that holds society together. It is the glue that keeps society from sliding off the proverbial cliff of chaos and anarchy. It is the glue that keeps society from dissolving into a Hobbesian state of nature, where man is a wolf to man.

The ethic of the male dormitory is a form of “the good of the group.” It is a form of “the good of the group.”

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EDITORIALS

Editorials are the official opinion of The Tech. They are written by the editorial board, which consists of Chairman Tibrewala, Editor in Chief Marie Y. Thibault, Managing Editor Michael McGraw-Herdeg '08, and Opinion Editors Emily Ko '08 and Aditya Kohli '09. 

Guest columns are written by individuals and represent the opinion of the author, not necessarily of the editorial board. Columns 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.

Letters to the Editor are written by individuals and are submitted to the editorial board, and do not necessarily reflect the views of the MIT or local community and have the author's name in italics. Columns without italics are written by Tech staff.

Letters To The Editor

Mustafa Dafalla's Dec. 1 letter attempts to explore the possible negative impacts of divestment in relation to a potential divestment from Sudan. Dafalla, however, chooses to focus on his arguments on "economic sanctions" as opposed to the actual issue of divestment per se. Since divestment and economic sanctions are distinct issues, it is unfair to equate the two, and this comparison unfortunately makes Dafalla's argument invalid.

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 is 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 same 400 international companies doing business with Sudan, only about 28 of the "worst-offenders" 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 actions. A complete list of the 28 companies please email info@sudandivestment.org. In any case, the potential benefits that might accrue to the Sudanese people from investments in such companies may well be outweighed. According to the annual report of Transparency International, Sudan ranks at 156 of the 163 most corrupt governments in the world, with business profits predominantly benefiting government officials and the privileged few. Therefore, given that revenue from this 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 divestment model explicitly excludes all sections of the Sudanese oil sector 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 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 perpetuate 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's willingness to divest, accepting a divestment bill and systematic muzzling of its civilians in Darfur. Therefore, we should make the crossroad of a difficult decision: do we or do we not stand against genocide by divesting from companies that help support a Sudanese regime that has killed, by UN estimates, 400,000 of its own population and raped and tortured countless others? Or do we stand idly by 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 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 buses companies helped Levi easy enough to pressure local government to lift 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 online at http://www.petitiononline.com/divest.

Kayan Zainabah G, Business Manager

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

Opinion Policy

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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 submitted to letters@the-tech.mit.edu. The Tech can be found on the World Wide Web at http://the-tech.mit.edu.
When it came to college staples, LaVerde changed 27 percent more than the average of the other three stores for orange juice. When we indexed our entire food index versus the CSPI, we found that the other three stores had 15 percent, 14 percent, and 13 percent more comparable priced items. However, when it came to generic college staples, LaVerde’s had 27 percent more than the average of the other three stores for orange juice and an even more impressive 35 percent more for the boxed macaroni and cheese.

The CSPI serves as a good basis for the general price levels at each of these stores. With this data, the average college student can do a more informed comparison on 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 4.31, and Star’s at 3.72. Trader Joe’s proved to be the cheapest at 3.44. Even more interesting is the comparison among specific items. Although LaVerde had the highest CSPI, Whole Foods was consistently the least expensive for produce and meat items, while LaVerde’s, Trader Joe’s, and Star were more comparably priced. However, when it came to conve- ncial college staples, LaVerde’s had 27 percent more than the average of the other three stores for orange juice and an even more impressive 35 percent more for the boxed macaroni and cheese.

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MIT Wind Ensemble Explores 'The Art of Fugue'

By Tara Goldhaber

MIT Wind Ensemble MIT Wind Ensemble Winter Concert: The Art of Fugues

Despite Slow Start, MITWE Picks Up Wind

By Jillian A. Berry

Takac Talks About Album, Touring, and Life

Goo Goo Dolls 'Let Love In'

Despite Slow Start, MITWE Picks Up Wind

ARTS

CONCERT REVIEW

MIT Wind Ensemble Explores ‘The Art of Fugue’

By Tara Goldhaber

MIT Wind Ensemble

MIT Wind Ensemble Winter Concert: The Art of Fugues

December 8, 2006

ARTS

The TECH

Page 7

Goo Goo Dolls, from Page 6

RT: Yes, we’ve been on tour since May.
FT: What’s your favorite part of touring, and at least once you’ve been on tour, is it ever not fun?
RT: My favorite part of touring is the shows and the acting. It’s a real fun tour when we’re not playing shows. But, that was actually much more true for most of my life, but now… I’ve been a lot of great times, I’ve been lucky, but I’ve never seen anything in most of my life. I’ve really just been out of things that’s been really something’s been around a lot of places I’ve been, so… I’ve seen a lot of fun lately.
RT: You’re currently touring in Buffalo when you’re not touring?
RT: 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 grow up. John just moved into the studio and we’re putting some of all our new record to record other people’s upstairs. The good news is that Swan Lake’s efforts provide plenty of options for the characters, but the distinct influence of each individual’s bands working in tandem can be regularly detected. —Waltz in Wolf Parade meets Bruey, “A Venue Called Rubella” is Destroyer at its sunliest, while “Blinded” combines the circle by combining influences from Fros and Sunset Rubdown (Spencer Krug’s, uh, third band).

Swan Lake

Beck

Starring: Anthony Hopkins, Martin Sheen, Sean Penn

Star-filled Movie More Educational Than Entertaining

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. Whenever you’re playing or when your songs on the radio, do you turn it on or turn it off?

RT: Depends who’s listening. There’s nothing more embarrassing than being caught listening to Little Mix. For the same time I think when a record first comes out you’re really curious to hear what making this music by ourselves we’re going through the airwaves and ends up on that… that’s pretty nice too. It’s a little sad that you 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

1 2 3 4 5

★★★

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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. Whenever you’re playing or when your songs on the radio, do you turn it on or turn it off?

RT: Depends who’s listening. There’s nothing more embarrassing than being caught listening to Little Mix. For the same time I think when a record first comes out you’re really curious to hear what making this music by ourselves we’re going through the airwaves and ends up on that… that’s pretty nice too. It’s a little sad that you 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

1 2 3 4 5

★★★

Swan Lake

Beck

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Trio by Emezie Okorafor

IT SEEMS THAT YOU WALKED RIGHT INTO OUR SLEEPY MINI-ECLF, AND YOU HAVE NOTHING TO BLAME BUT YOUR OWN SHALLOWNESS.

MUFFINS! YOU BROUGHT MUFFINS! I LOVE MUFFINS! ESPECIALLY BANANA MUFFINS.

FELL ME. AVA. WOULD YOU LIKE TO TRY A PRAYER FOR OUR DEARLY BELOVED CREDIBILITY, OR SHOULD I?,

SORRY, SHUTTING UP NOW.

PROOF OF FALSE by Andrew Spann

I USED TO WORRY THAT THE INTERNET WAS WRITTEN BY PEOPLE WITH NO MATHEMATICAL SENSE, BUT AFTER SEARCHING FOR VARIOUS MATHEMATICAL TERMS, I FEEL MUCH BETTER.

FOR EXAMPLE, IF YOU SEARCH FOR "BOND NUMBER," YOU GET THE CORRECT ANSWER "50" INSTEAD OF 607.

AND "DIRECT PRODUCT" IS ABOUT ALGEBRAIC STRUCTURES, NOT MARKETING AND SALES.

AND AMAZON.COM EVEN HAS ADS FOR "CSS ENCYCLOPEDIA" AND "ABELIAN" ALTHOUGH I DON'T REALLY KNOW WHY.

Hey. It's a "REAL" Player. I know what that means.

WHY DID YOU HAVE TO RUIN THINGS?

THE ADVENTURES OF MAN

By Scott Randick

The Adventures of Man Presents:

God and Science Find Some Common Ground

Your rigid dogmatism has battered Man in ignorance and suffering for much longer than the six centuries you claim.

Your emotional reaction is treated Man’s soul like just another datum to be processed.

May kind of a douche. Yeah, screw that loser.

BIG CLOCK, small hands

By Ali Ghajarnia & Nancy Hua

HEYYYYY WHERE’S THE FOOD??!

WELCOME CANNIBAL COALITION!
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.

Solution, tips, and computer program at http://www.sudoku.com
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 (16.00A).J Fundamentals of Engineering: Exploring Sea, Space and Earth. (CI)

2.00B Solving Real Problems. (CI)


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

HUSTON

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 1984, 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."

McGruder, Bill Watterson, Berkeley Breathed, Gary 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 decision.

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 and replace them at will.

That began to change — at least for the most popular and powerful cartoonists and their syndicates — in the late 1980s. The strip has now officially been canceled.

In 1995, Breathed, who created Bloom County, 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 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 Syndicates, 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 spokesman 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.

This message is brought to you by the Environmental Charities that make up Earth Share. For more info on the organizations that make up Earth Share, please visit: www.earthshare.org
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
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.

A fundraiser to benefit Art of Living Foundation’s social and
humanitarian projects around the world.
Service May Reduce Phone Cost in Future

Phones, from Page 1

gradual, building-by-building,” said Regan.

Call quality is also a concern, as phone conversations are very sensi-
tive to lag and latency. “Voice is not quality, it is not high
bandwidth,” said IS&T Director of Telephony Allison F. Dolan, but VoIP
phones are subject to jitter, packet loss, and delay, which can cause
phone conversations to sound dis-
torted, speed up, or drop completely.

Additionally, with increased mo-
bility comes uncertainty as to the
caller’s current location. E911, the
emergency 911 calling system, al-
lows the police and fire department
to pinpoint a caller’s location in the
event of an emergency, but may not
be reliable with a call placed from a
wireless VoIP phone.

“Currently our VoIP system al-
lows subscribers to enter the primary
location where their VoIP service
will be used and we then automati-
cally pass this information to the
MIT Police,” Silis said. “While there
is not currently a solution for roam-
ing VoIP users outside of the MIT
network, there are methods available
today for locating wireless users on
the MIT campus.”

Reduced cost in long run

Officially announced in March, VoIP services at MIT have been an
ongoing project since at least nine
months prior, according to Dolan.
“For two years, we’ve been staying aware of the trends,” Dolan said.

According to Dolan, there was
“no compelling cost reason for go-
ing in [the VoIP] direction in the
short run,” but the VoIP system of-
fers clear long-term cost advantages,
especially in new buildings on the
MIT campus.

Buildings will not require both
network and telephone wire to be
run throughout the building, and
some telephone boxes and expens-
ive circuits will also not be need-
ed.

“In three to five years, you won’t
be able to buy a telephone switch as
we know it today,” Dolan said.

Students will eventually be able
to use VoIP phones in their dormi-
tories, and IS&T along with Hous-
ing have partnered and are currently sponsoring a pilot in the Warehouse
residence (NW30), according to
Regan. Before the service will be
offered to the entire student popula-
tion, long distance billing issues will
have to be addressed.

Other colleges piloting VoIP

Dartmouth College became the
“poster child for 100 percent transi-
tion” to VoIP when the college made
the switch to Ethernet-routed phone
conversations in 2003, following a
full upgrade of their network infra-
structure. At that time, Dartmouth
offered free softphones to incom-
ing freshmen. According to Dolan,
many of the best colleges and big
universities are in a pilot mode of
VoIP including University of Penn-
sylvania and University of Colo-
rado.

IS&T plans to have more detailed
plans for the VoIP system by spring
of 2007, Dolan said.

More information about VoIP
service at MIT can be found at http://
web.mit.edu/it/topics/voip/.

 SOLUTION To Crossword

from page 9

Solution to Sudoku

from page 9

Presidential Candidate
List Includes Officials
From Top-Tier Schools

Harvard, from Page 1

On the list of 30 candidates pre-
sented to the overseers were three
Harvard leaders who worked for
Summers: provost Steven E. Hyman,
a neuroscientist; Elena Kagan, the
dean of Harvard Law School; and
Drew Gilpin Faust, a history profes-
sor and dean of the Radcliffe Institute
for Advanced Study.

The list also included top-tier
academics in the United States
and Britain: University of Penn-
sylvania president Amy Gut-
mann; Brown University president
Ruth J. Stroum; Princeton Univer-
sity president Shirley M. Tilghman;
Tufts University president Lawrence
S. Bacow; Stanford provost John W.
Elkington; Alison F. Richard, the
vice chancellor of the University of
Cambridge in England; and C.
Bollinger, president of Columbia
University.

Two former Harvard administra-
tors were also part of the group: Kim
B. Clark, the former dean of Har-
vard’s business school, who surprised
many by leaving to become president
of Brigham Young University-Utah
in 2005; and Harvey V. Fineberg, a
distinguished Harvard provost who is
now president of the Washington-based

Institute of Medicine. Also on the list
is Anne-Marie Slaughter, a former
Harvard professor who is dean of
Princeton’s Woodrow Wilson School
of Public and International Affairs.

Fineberg, Bollinger, and Gut-
mann were among the top candidates
in Harvard’s last search.

The university’s top governing
board expects to name a final candi-
date early next year.

Search committee chairman
James R. Houghton said in a letter to
about 250,000 alumni, students, fac-
ulty, and staff last spring that Harvard
would be seeking someone with high
intellectual distinction, proven lead-
ership qualities, and “a capacity to
guide a complex institution through
a time of significant change.”

Harvard is poised to significantly
expand its campus, boost stem cell
research, and revamp the undergrad-
uate curriculum.

Interim president Derek Bok, who
was the president of Harvard from 1971
to 1991, is in charge until a new
president is found.

Bok took over in July after Sum-
ners ended his term, which was
marked by his controversial remarks
about women’s aptitude for science
and math careers and by battles with
the faculty of arts and sciences.

NEW SPRING 2007 COURSES

Do you enjoy the feeling that you get from volunteering and helping others?

Then register for one of these new service-learning seminars:

SP.713 Promoting the Arts Through Design

SP.776 Design for Demining

SP.778 Toy Product Development

SP.784 Wheelchair Design in Developing Countries (WDDC)

Full class descriptions can be found at: http://mit.edu/firstyear/2010/explore/spring.html

First year students are encouraged to register.
Heart Surgery Death Rates Will Be Listed

By Liz Kowalczyk

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 credited 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 help.med.harvard.edu/masshealth.info, 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/healthcareave, 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. Mass-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 heavy workload 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.

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Divestment Opinions Vary Among Students

ACSR Plans to Meet Again Before Holidays

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!

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. Worse, 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.”
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 Bobby Bubba Sparxx. Photography by William B. Yee
SPORTS

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

By Travis Johnson

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 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.

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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.

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.”

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