

10-250 Renovations to Begin During IAP

Multimillion Dollar Makeover Will Upgrade Seating, Lighting, Audiovisual Equipment

By Arkajit Dey
STAFF REPORTER

The lecture hall 10-250 will be closed for renovation during January's Independent Activities Period and the spring semester. Large classes traditionally held in 10-250 will move to other venues for the spring.

The renovation will upgrade 10-250 with new "seating, carpeting, lighting, heating, ventilation, and cooling," Assistant Registrar Peter D. Bedrosian said. There will be several audiovisual equipment updates, including cameras dedicated to record classes for archiving on OpenCourseWare, which provides free online course materials.

"We are working hard to keep it at its current capacity [of 450] without impacting the front of the room," Registrar Mary Callahan said. The front of the room must remain spacious and "optimal viewing" from all angles must be maintained, she said. "10-250 is such an important space for the teaching mission and student life at the Institute. The Institute needs a major lecture hall."

The project cost was roughly estimated to be "several million" dollars from a feasibility study completed over the summer, Bedrosian said. A final cost will be determined by the contractors, O'Conner Construction, brought on the project last month.

Demolition will take place during IAP and construction will begin in February, Bedrosian said. The project



HELEN HOU—THE TECH

Large classes will have to find other venues next semester, as 10-250 will be undergoing renovations beginning during the Independent Activities Period and extending into the spring semester.

will be substantially completed by the beginning of August, leaving a month "for punch list items and to allow faculty to orient themselves to the new audiovisual and lighting controls" before the fall term starts, he added.

The results of the feasibility study were presented in September to the Committee for the Review of Space

Planning, which approves funding for Institute renovations. CRSP approved the project to "move forward through the schematic design phase," said Bedrosian. And at the end of this phase, a schematic design estimate will be presented to CRSP for final project approval.

Bedrosian said it was preferable to

renovated during the spring and summer because "room usage overall is lighter during this period" and just the summer alone would not have been sufficient time to complete the upgrades before next fall.

According to Assistant Registrar

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IFC Elects Leaders; No Rush Chair Found Yet

By Natasha Plotkin
STAFF REPORTER

On Wednesday, Alberto Mena '09 and Reid C. Van Lehn '09 were elected president and vice president of the Interfraternity Council, respectively. Mena said that one of his primary goals is to improve IFC transparency and communication.

Mena and Van Lehn will be joined by four other newly-elected executive board members: Jacob A. Levinson '09 as Judicial Committee chair, David J. Hutchings '10 as risk manager, D. Ballin Smith '10 as program development chair, and Daniel Chen '11 as executive assistant. Chen ran unopposed for his position.

The position of recruitment chair is currently still open. According to outgoing IFC President Daniel S. Eads '08, the people nominated for the position ultimately decided not to run for election. Mena said new nominees would be named at the next IFC meeting. The exact date for the election has not yet been decided, Eads said.

Mena's primary goals for his term include "leading all of the fraternities and work on creating more transparency within our system, both to fraternity members and the rest of the MIT community," he said. Mena said he also wants to "inform the MIT community about what the fraternities do both on and off campus, since we want to make people realize we're doing a lot of things that the MIT community appreciates."

Mena said that, to achieve these goals, "keeping open lines of communication is the first step. ... I want to make sure that everyone is on the

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OLPC Sued for Allegedly Copying Keyboard Design

By Joyce Kwan
NEWS EDITOR

A Natick-based company filed a lawsuit against the One Laptop Per Child Foundation last Thursday, claiming OLPC copied its multilingual keyboard technology.

Lagos Analysis Corp. (Lancor), a company owned by Nigerians, filed the suit in Nigeria where the keyboard

is patented. The suit was filed against OLPC, Founder Nicholas P. Negroponte '66, and OLPC's representatives in Nigeria.

Lancor is seeking unspecified damages from the group and a court injunction to halt sales of the XO laptop (originally known as \$100 laptop) while the case is litigated.

Lancor plans to file suit in U.S.

courts as well, alleging copyright and contract violation, said Lancor Co-President Walter Oluwole.

According to OLPC's official statement, OLPC is aware of Lancor's claims but "has not been served with any legal documents related to this alleged suit as of this time."

"OLPC has requested that LAN-COR identify the patents or copyrights in question, but the company has yet to substantiate its claim against OLPC with any documentation," the statement continues. "OLPC has the utmost respect for the rights of intellectual property owners and all the intellectual property used in the XO Laptop is either owned by OLPC or properly licensed."

Oluwole said the OLPC attorneys have contacted Lancor's attorneys.

Lancor has records that Negroponte ordered two of its Konyin keyboards online, Oluwole said. Oluwole claimed OLPC "reverse engineered" the Konyin keyboard to use its software as the basis for the keyboard of the XO laptop and published the heavily adopted source code online for the public to see.

Such copying is forbidden under Nigerian patent law, Lancor Founder Ade Oyegbola told *The Boston Globe*. In addition to its patent in Nigeria, the Konyin keyboard's technology has a patent pending in the United States, Oluwole said.

Oluwole said no other company has Konyin's shift-key technology that allows users to directly add accents to letters. The Nigerian government attempted to create such a multilingual keyboard for 23 years but failed be-

cause of the large number of Nigerian languages, he said. Nigeria has over 250 recognized languages. The Konyin keyboard, successful in handling the 250 languages, took eight years to engineer, he said.

In January 2007, at the Consumer Electronics Show in Las Vegas, a friend of Oyegbola noticed a striking similarity between the keyboard of an early version of the XO on display and the Konyin keyboard, which he owned, Oyegbola told the *Globe*. Oyegbola said he saw a document describing a keyboard layout nearly identical to his own on OLPC's Web site after he heard about the likeness from his friend.

Oluwole said they began trying to get in touch with Negroponte in January. For three weeks, Lancor attempted to reach Negroponte without success until the company was finally turned down, he said.

Lancor did not want to go to the media and file the lawsuit, but "we have not been able to communicate with this person," Oluwole said. Lancor wants Negroponte to understand he violated our rights, he said.

Oluwole said he has been subject to numerous hate messages via e-mail and phone because of the lawsuit.

Negroponte, former director of the MIT Media Lab, launched OLPC in 2005 with the intent of providing a high-quality yet low-cost laptop to children in developing countries. The XO laptop, which is rain-resistant and solar-powered, uses the open-source Linux operating system and features wireless Internet connectivity.



ARTHUR PETRON—THE TECH

Lagos Analysis Corp. filed a lawsuit in Nigeria against the One Laptop Per Child Foundation saying the project copied its multilingual keyboard technology. The company is based in Natick, Mass.

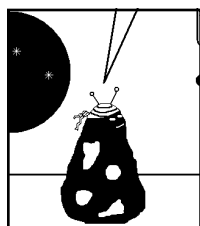
In Short

¶ Freshmen placed in Next House will be allowed to participate in the Housing Adjustment Lottery beginning next fall, according to Next house President Franklyn F. Lao '08. Next residents were previously not allowed to participate in REX due to the Residence-Based Advising Program. Minor changes will be made to the lottery schedule to accommodate this change.

¶ Online pre-registration for IAP and spring starts Monday at 9 a.m. The registration form is available at <http://student.mit.edu>.

¶ OpenCourseWare celebrated the addition of 1,800 courses with an event hosted by President Susan Hockfield on Wednesday.

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



Comics

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Musical Theatre Guild presents 'Pippin.'

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NEWS

MIT launches \$200,000 prize for energy technology ideas.

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WORLD & NATION

Supplies Short, Food Banks Tighten Belts

By Katie Zezima
THE NEW YORK TIMES

MANCHESTER, N.H.

Food banks around the country are reporting critical shortages that have forced them to ration supplies, distribute staples usually reserved for disaster relief and in some instances to close.

"It's one of the most demanding years I've seen in my 30 years" in the field, said Catherine D'Amato, president and chief executive of the Greater Boston Food Bank, comparing the situation to the recession of the late 1970s.

Experts attributed the shortages to an unusual combination of factors, including rising demand, a sharp drop in federal supplies of excess farm products, and tighter inventory controls that are leaving supermarkets and other retailers with less food to donate.

"We don't have nearly what people need, and that's all there is to it," said Greg Bryant, director of the food pantry in Sheffield, Vt. "We're one step from running out. It kind of spirals. The people that normally donate to us have less, the retailers are selling to discount stores because people are shopping in those places, and now we have less food and more people. It's a double, triple, hit."

A New Push to Roll Back 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell'

By Thom Shanker and Patrick Healy

THE NEW YORK TIMES

WASHINGTON

Marking the 14th anniversary of legislation that allowed gay people to serve in the military but only if they kept their orientation secret, 28 retired generals and admirals plan to release a letter on Friday urging Congress to repeal the law.

"We respectfully urge Congress to repeal the 'don't ask, don't tell' policy," the letter says. "Those of us signing this letter have dedicated our lives to defending the rights of our citizens to believe whatever they wish."

The former officers offer data showing that 65,000 gays and lesbians now serve in the American armed forces, and that there are more than 1 million gay veterans. "They have served our nation honorably," the letter states.

The letter's release comes as rallies are scheduled on the National Mall by groups calling for a change in the law, which is known as "don't ask, don't tell" because it bars the military from investigating soldiers' sexual orientation if they keep it to themselves.

Florida Freezes Its Fund as Governments Pull Out

By Mary Williams Walsh and Michael M. Grynbaum

THE NEW YORK TIMES

Seeking to stem a multibillion-dollar run on an investment pool for local governments, top Florida officials voted Thursday to suspend withdrawals from the fund, leaving some towns and school districts worrying about how they would pay their bills.

Local governments in recent weeks have been withdrawing billions of dollars from the fund, fearing losses on investments in debt related to subprime mortgages. The rush to get out of the fund began even though a relatively small percentage of the fund is invested in subprime-related debt, and it is unclear what losses the fund might sustain.

Florida's troubles were the latest episode in the crisis in subprime lending that has been troubling the credit markets this fall, hitting homeowners, mortgage providers, hedge funds and Wall Street firms. It was the first time since the problems started that a large state investment pool has been forced to freeze withdrawals.

Thousands Protest Thursday As Chavez Seeks More Power

By Simon Romero
THE NEW YORK TIMES

CARACAS, VENEZUELA

Three days before a referendum that would vastly expand the powers of President Hugo Chavez, this city's streets were packed on Thursday with tens of thousands of opponents to the change. The protests signaled that Venezuelans may be balking at placing so much authority in the hands of one man.

Even some of Chavez's most fervent supporters are beginning to show signs of hesitation at backing the constitutional changes he is promoting, which would end term limits for the president and greatly centralize his authority. Other measures would increase social security benefits for the poor and shorten the workday.

New fissures are emerging among what was once a cohesive bloc of supporters, pointing to the toughest test at the polls for Chavez in his 9-year presidency.

In the slums of the capital, where some of the president's staunchest backers live amid the cinder-block hovels, debate over the changes has grown more intense in recent days.

"Chavez is delirious if he thinks we're going to follow him like sheep," said Ivonne Torrealba, 29, a hairdresser in the gritty Coche district, who has supported Chavez in every election, since his first presidential campaign in 1998. "If this government cannot get me milk or asphalt for our roads, how is it going to give my mother a pension?"

Both Chavez, a self-described socialist who has won previous elections by wide margins, and his critics say opinion polls show they will prevail, suggesting a highly contentious outcome. But departing from its practice in last year's presidential election, Venezuela did not invite electoral observers from the Organization of American States and the European Union, opening the government to claims of fraud if Chavez wins.

The intensified polarization has altered Caracas' appearance, with graffiti of "Si" by the president's supporters competing with "No" scrawled throughout Caracas. A pro-Chavez march is scheduled here for Friday before the frenetic campaigning around the referendum ends.

Polls are to close at 5 p.m. Sunday, with results expected as early as that evening.

Chavez and senior officials here have exhibited increasingly erratic behavior ahead of the referendum. Chavez has lashed out at leaders in Colombia and Spain and asked for an investigation into whether CNN was seeking to incite an assassination attempt against him.

Reports of such plots are not in short supply here. The main state television network also broadcast coverage this week of a memorandum in Spanish that it claimed had been written by the CIA in which destabilization plans against Chavez were laid out. U.S. involvement in Venezuelan politics remains a particularly issue here, after the Bush administration tacitly supported a coup in 2002 that briefly ousted Chavez.

"We reject and are disappointed in the Venezuelan government's allegations that the United States is involved in any type of conspiracy to affect the outcome of the constitutional referendum," Benjamin Ziff, a spokesman for the U.S. Embassy here, said in a statement.

Broadway Bustling Again After Stagehands Strike for 19 Days

By James Barron
THE NEW YORK TIMES

NEW YORK

At "Chicago," the cast had to do a run-through because the new leading man and two other stars joining the show — Vincent Pastore and Aida Turturro, of "The Sopranos" — had never rehearsed together.

At "Hairspray," George Wendt had to be fitted into an enormous squishy undergarment — a combination padded bra and fat suit. Wendt, who played the barfly Norm on "Cheers," is appearing, in drag, as the fashion-challenged character once played by Harvey Fierstein.

At "Wicked," the crew had to put water in the bubble-making contraption that carries the actress Annaleigh Ashford across the stage before her opening line, which took on multiple meanings: "It's good to see me, isn't it?"

So it was on Thursday night, on an unusual opening night on Broadway.

After a stagehands' strike that shut down all but eight Broadway theaters for 19 days, some shows raced the clock to get the curtain up. Others, like "Mamma Mia!" — which has made all those Abba songs a fixture at the Winter Garden Theater since 2001 — treated Thursday night like pretty much any other night.

But it was not any other night. Beneath the show-must-go-on euphoria that came with the end of the strike was a definite undercurrent of worry: How much damage had the strike done to Broadway?

The consensus was that it was too soon to say.

"I don't know how long it will take to build back up, but I can tell you this: We're sold out this weekend — there won't be any seats," said Barry Weissler, a producer of "Chicago." "Maybe we can take these 19 days and make them past history. We did it after 9/11 and after the musicians' strike.

We can do it now."

The accord ending the strike, the second on Broadway in five years and the longest since 1975, was reached Wednesday night, around the time the darkened shows usually let out. People who were involved in the negotiations said the producers won some flexibility on rules covering how many stagehands must work on a show, and when. In return, the stagehands won annual wage increases of up to 4.5 percent for five years.

But the timing of the settlement meant that the casts and crews of about 30 shows had less than 24 hours before curtain, and the pressure was on.

And getting a theater ready for a show after a three-week hiatus is like opening a dusty, neglected summer house after a long winter — if that summer house were full of complicated electronic equipment, moving floors and one-of-a-kind costumes.

WEATHER

The Day After Tomorrow

By Mike Yee
STAFF METEOROLOGIST

Yesterday, the first of two cold fronts passed through the New England area. The second rolls through today, accompanied by a blast of polar air. A strong upper level jet will fuel significant cold air advection, resulting in gusty winds on a very cold weekend. Make sure to bundle up when you go out Saturday night, as temperatures will plummet into the low 20s°F. High pressure and a lack of cloud cover means clear skies through tomorrow, so look forward to a brisk, sunny day.

Elsewhere in the country, a severe storm is brewing over the Southwest. The system will cross the Great Plains to arrive on the East Coast by Sunday afternoon. Boston's first real taste of winter will be mostly rain, giving way to snow as the evening progresses. Expect more precipitation Monday, and be wary of ice as temperatures dip below freezing that night.

This weekend is also the last in the college football season. Expect Virginia Tech to give Boston College a run for its money (VT 10, BC 14) and Missouri to put up a fight against Oklahoma (OU 31, Missouri 24). Resurgent Tennessee looks to knock off falling LSU (Tennessee 37, LSU 35), as Oregon State topples a QB-less Oregon team (Oregon State 17, Oregon 6).

Extended forecast

Today: Cool and getting cooler. High 44°F (7°C).

Tonight: Freezing and windy. Low 27°F (-3°C).

Tomorrow: Cold, with gusting winds. High 35°F (2°C).

Tomorrow night: Windy and cold. Low 21°F (-6°C).

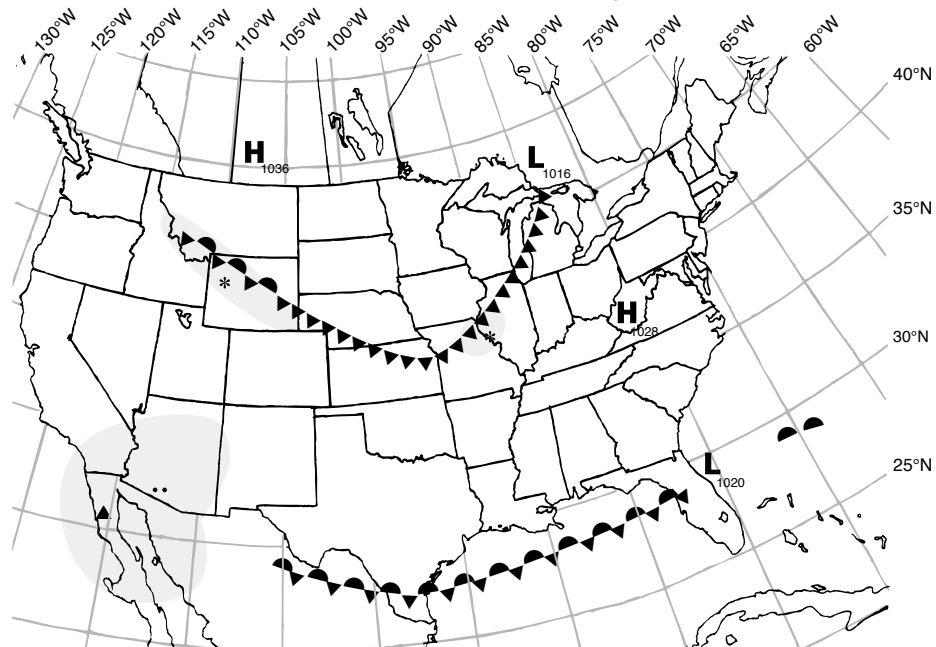
Sunday: Afternoon rain and snow. High 36°F (2°C).

December: Miserable and cold.

January: Miserable and cold.

February: Miserable and cold.

Situation for Noon Eastern Standard Time, Friday, November 30, 2007



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

Compiled by MIT Meteorology Staff and The Tech

Emergency Rule to Be Lifted on Dec. 16, Musharraf Announces

By Carlotta Gall
THE NEW YORK TIMES

ISLAMABAD, PAKISTAN

Hours after being sworn in to a second term, President Pervez Musharraf announced Thursday that he would lift his state of emergency on Dec. 16, leaving barely three weeks for election campaigning and setting the stage for further confrontation with his opposition.

Musharraf's promise to lift the emergency came after he ended eight years of military rule on Wednesday and was another step toward meeting some of the most urgent demands both at home and abroad to return the country to democracy.

"I fully intend to lift the emergency on Dec. 16, to end the Provisional Constitutional Order and to hold fair and free elections according to the constitution," he said in an address to the nation on state television and radio on Thursday evening.

"No destabilization or hurdle will be allowed in this democratic process," he added. "Elections, God willing, will be held on Jan. 8 ac-

ording to the constitution and no one should create any hurdles."

Yet even before his announcement, an umbrella movement of opposition parties, the All Pakistan Democratic Movement, led by former prime minister Nawaz Sharif, said they supported a boycott of the elections to protest the lack of democratic norms under the emergency.

Two leaders of the lawyers' movement against Musharraf, who were released from detention on Thursday, also called for a boycott. One, Munir Malik, a constitutional lawyer and former president of the Supreme Court Bar, left an Islamabad hospital in a wheelchair and said the lawyers would renew their struggle.

Lawyers protesting Musharraf's swearing-in clashed with police in the city of Lahore, and threw bricks, glasses and sticks at the police who blocked their demonstration. Several lawyers and police officers were injured.

Meanwhile, even as Musharraf announced a deadline for the end of the emergency, he showed no relaxation on the detention of the former

judges and senior advocates of the Supreme Court, or of the continued suspension of radio and television stations.

Somber and dressed in a traditional black tunic favored by civilian leaders, Musharraf took his new oath in a ceremony layered with contradictions, lecturing diplomats afterward on what he termed their obsession with democracy.

The constitution Musharraf vowed "to preserve, protect and defend" was suspended three weeks ago when he imposed the emergency, which only he holds the power to rescind.

The presidential oath was administered by a Supreme Court chief justice, Abdul Hameed Dogar, whom Musharraf appointed after dismissing the previous Supreme Court, which seemed about to rule another term for him illegal.

The former chief justice, Mohammed Ifikhar Chaudhry, and a number of other Supreme Court justices remain under house arrest, meanwhile, as do four senior advocates who work at the court since the emergency was imposed.

In Slovakia, Three Arrested After Attempt to Sell Enriched Uranium

By Dan Bilefsky
and William J. Broad
THE NEW YORK TIMES

BRUSSELS

Two Hungarians and a Ukrainian were arrested Wednesday after trying to sell highly enriched uranium, Slovak diplomats and police authorities said Thursday. The quantity, however, was far too small to make a crude warhead.

Zuzana Dutkova, a spokeswoman for the Permanent Representation of the Slovak Republic to the European Union in Brussels, said the three suspects, who were arrested in Slovakia and Hungary, were in possession of just under half a kilogram of uranium in powder form.

Dutkova, who said she had been briefed on the case by officials from the Ministry of Internal Affairs in Bratislava, said, "We are almost 90 percent sure that the material originated in one of the former Soviet republics. It was possible to use this material for terrorist attacks or to build a dirty bomb."

Western experts, however, cautioned that uranium, even when highly enriched, has too little radioactivity to make a dirty bomb — a weapon that

combines highly radioactive material with conventional explosives to disperse over a large area deadly dust that people would inhale. Dirty bombs are considered more a psychological armament than a weapon of mass destruction because their radioactive material is potentially much less lethal than a bomb using conventional explosives, experts say. Consequently, dirty bombs are sometimes called "weapons of mass disruption" whose destructive power rests in the panic they provoke.

By contrast, highly enriched uranium can fuel nuclear arms. However, the experts said the amount of material confiscated — about a pound — was far shy of the 60 to 110 pounds a terrorist would need for a crude atomic weapon. They also cast doubt on the level of enrichment the Slovak authorities attributed to the uranium.

Dutkova said officials from the Ministry of Internal Affairs were still trying to determine who was trying to buy the uranium, which the three suspects were believed to have been planning to sell for \$1 million. She said two of the suspects were arrested in Slovakia, along the Hungarian bor-

der, while the other was arrested in Hungary.

She said that a total of 481.4 grams of uranium had been hidden in containers, and that investigators determined it was enriched to 98.6 percent uranium-235. Uranium is considered highly enriched if it contains 20 percent or more uranium-235, which can split in bursts of atomic energy.

Thomas B. Cochran, director of the nuclear program at the Natural Resources Defense Council, a private group in Washington that monitors atomic arsenals, said he doubted that the 98.6 percent enrichment figure given by the Slovaks was correct.

It was far more likely that "98.6 percent is the confidence in the radiation detector measurement, not the enrichment," Cochran said.

When Slovakia joined the European Union in May 2004, its eastern border with Ukraine became the union's easternmost frontier. Some E.U. officials have been concerned about security at that border, fearful that it could become a hotbed for terrorists and organized criminal gangs seeking to smuggle explosives or banned material into the union.

Lebanon Presidential Vacancy Broken After Support Voiced for Army Chief

By Thanassis Cambanis
and Nada Bakri
THE NEW YORK TIMES

BEIRUT, LEBANON

The political logjam over Lebanon's vacant presidency was broken Thursday when a leader of the Syrian-backed opposition announced his support for the compromise candidate accepted by the pro-Western alliance. The deal follows Syria's participation in the American-sponsored Middle East peace conference.

Lebanon has teetered on the edge of factional violence over the question of who would succeed the former president, Emile Lahoud, who was widely considered a tool of Syria.

The country has been without a president for a week; the new agreement over the candidacy of Gen. Michel Suleiman, the army's chief of staff, is the first major turning point in two years of political clashes between the governing coalition, backed by the United States and Saudi Arabia, and the opposition, led by Hezbollah and backed by Iran and Syria.

Suleiman won the support of the opposition Christian leader Michel

Aoun, a retired general and a former army chief who was seeking the presidency himself and is backed by Syria.

The breakthrough, first signaled in a series of public pronouncements on Wednesday, came on the heels of Syria's attendance at the Annapolis conference on the Middle East peace process. Syria, the most important outside influence over Lebanese politics, had hesitated until the last minute over whether to attend the conference.

Immediately after the talks, Syrian allies in Lebanon endorsed the first major political breakthrough. Analysts say the talks could thaw strained relations between Syria and the United States.

"The Syrians did not want to go to Annapolis, and without them the conference would have been a failure and would have weakened the Arabs," said Talal Atrissi, a political analyst and sociologist at Lebanese University. "The Syrians traded their participation, which did not cost them anything, with a deal on the Lebanese presidency."

Hilal Khashan, a political science professor at the American University of Beirut, said that Syria won a concession from the United States and France in exchange for its appearance at Annapolis. The Syrian government does not expect real progress on negotiations with Israel over the occupied Golan Heights, Khashan said, but it now expects the United States and France to give Syria more leeway to influence Lebanese affairs.

"Syria is eager to get out of its stranglehold, it is eager to collaborate with the U.S., to end its isolation," he said.

An agreement over a new president could clear the way for Lebanon to finally face the thorny issues that rose to the surface in 2005 after Syria ended 29 years of occupation — with Hezbollah's armed militia at the top of the list.

The deal could hit a snag in coming days, politicians and analysts said, but the agreement over Suleiman is the first time that leaders from every major faction have publicly endorsed a candidate. The vote is set for Dec. 7.

Fed Chief Reinforces Suggestions of Rate Cut

By Edmund L. Andrews

THE NEW YORK TIMES

WASHINGTON

Ben S. Bernanke PhD '79, chairman of the Federal Reserve, acknowledged on Thursday that a "fresh wave of investor concern" had led to tougher credit conditions that posed new risks to the economy, reinforcing the view that the Fed is likely to cut interest rates again when it meets on Dec. 11.

Speaking one day after another top Fed official signaled that policy makers might have to reduce interest rates to head off trouble, Bernanke pledged that the Fed would remain "exceptionally alert and flexible" in setting policy.

"Economic forecasting is always difficult, but the current stresses in financial markets make the uncertainty surrounding the outlook even greater than usual," Bernanke said in remarks to a business group in North Carolina.

Noting that investors have been shaken by losses and write-downs on soured mortgages, Bernanke said a new round of turbulence in financial markets had reversed some of the recovery in credit markets after a first round of panic broke out in August over subprime mortgages.

"Needless to say, the Federal Reserve is following the evolution of financial conditions carefully, with particular attention to the question of how strains in financial markets might affect the broader economy," he said.

Kasparov, Freed From Jail, Warns on Russia's Direction

By Clifford J. Levy
and Michael Schwartz

THE NEW YORK TIMES

MOSCOW

Released from jail after serving a five-day sentence for leading an opposition march, Garry Kasparov, the former chess champion, said on Thursday that Russia was heading toward chaos under President Vladimir V. Putin.

Kasparov said his coalition, Other Russia, would continue its protests against the Kremlin to spotlight what he described as a government that has grown increasingly repressive.

"We've entered a very dangerous period because we don't know where this is going to stop," he said at an impromptu news conference outside his home in Moscow shortly after being freed. The failure of the government to abide by its own laws and constitution, he said, "could result in a catastrophe for the whole country."

Kasparov was arrested last Saturday when he and other members of his coalition tried to deliver a letter to federal election officials contending that the parliamentary election this Sunday is biased toward Putin's party, United Russia.

Kasparov said he had not been treated badly behind bars, but said that he had been denied access to a lawyer and that a court would not hear evidence in his defense.

President Bush and other Western leaders had expressed alarm about Kasparov's arrest, but the Kremlin dismissed their concerns, saying that Kasparov had violated the law by holding an unauthorized march and thus had faced appropriate punishment.

In Britain, Muslims Propose Code for Civic Life

By John F. Burns

THE NEW YORK TIMES

LONDON

Moderate British Muslim leaders on Thursday proposed guidelines that aim to root out extremism, promote a culture of "civic responsibility" and foster women's rights in the country's mosques, Islamic centers and Muslim schools.

The guidelines, circulated in draft form to Muslim groups across the country, represent a sweeping new effort by the moderate leaders to combat alienation among disaffected Muslim youth and to foster a new atmosphere of openness and tolerance among Britain's 2 million Muslims, particularly in the country's 1,500 mosques.

The 10-point "code of conduct" will be put before Muslim groups for public discussion, with the aim of producing a final version by March 2008. The proposals would commit groups that accept the code to "actively combat all forms of violent extremism" within their communities and to "promote civic responsibility of Muslims in wider society."

The guidelines come nearly two and a half years after the suicide bombings in London that killed 52 people on July 7, 2005, and a failed plot to repeat the attacks on the London transit system two weeks later. Six of those involved in the second, failed wave of attacks have been sentenced to lengthy prison terms.

Court Convicts Teacher Of Insulting Islam

By Jeffrey Gettleman

THE NEW YORK TIMES

NAIROBI, KENYA

The British teacher in Sudan who let her 7-year-old pupils name a class teddy bear Muhammad was found guilty Thursday of insulting Islam and sentenced to 15 days in jail and deportation.

Under Sudanese law, the teacher, Gillian Gibbons, could have spent six months in jail and been lashed 40 times.

"She got a very light punishment," said Rabie A. Atti, a government spokesman. "Actually, it's not much of a punishment at all. It should be considered a warning that such acts should not be repeated."

British officials, meanwhile, were furious. As soon as the news broke that Gibbons had been convicted, the Foreign Office in London, which had called the whole ordeal "an innocent mistake," summoned the Sudanese ambassador — for the second time in two days.

"We are extremely disappointed," said Omar Daair, spokesman for the British Embassy in Khartoum, the capital.

Gibbons, 54, has been in jail since Sunday, and Daair said her sentence would include time served, which means she will spend 10 more days behind bars before being sent to Britain.

OPINION



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"I've decided to be good for Christmas. It'll reduce our carbon footprint if Santa doesn't bring me coal."

UA Needs Transparency

Meeting Agendas, Minutes, Bills, Account Ledgers Should Be Easily Accessible

David Sheets

You cannot make an informed decision without accurate, accessible information. If we, as students, wish to guide and inform decisions of our student and Institute representatives, we need information. While the MIT administration needs to increase its operational transparency to be held accountable for its policies, decisions, and spending, the adoption of transparent practices must start with us.

The Undergraduate Association has been hypocritically demanding of the administration for several terms now and must move to become more transparent itself or face continued irrelevance.

While the UA purports to be the voice of the undergraduate student body, its potential power is diluted by its consistent irrelevance. Only with broad support can the UA speak and act honestly as a representative of general consensus. The UA could exercise real power with sufficient backing by students but this can only happen when students are well-informed. Without information like UA Senate and committee meeting minutes, agendas, and the text of proposed, amended, and passed resolutions easily available, an average busy student has no chance of participation and no method of oversight.

Each semester, the UA is granted a portion

of the Student Life Fee that every undergraduate pays in addition to their tuition. In total, there are tens of thousands of dollars of funds under the UA's control each term. Where is this money, your money, spent? How much is spent by each UA committee or group and for what purpose? This is data that we should demand to have, not only from the UA, but from the Institute as a whole. If the UA opens their books,

To clear itself of hypocrisy, spend our money honestly, and realize its potential power as a voice of the student body, the UA must adopt sweeping transparency measures.

they have a much stronger position with which to approach the MIT administration on the issue of transparency.

Once UA proceedings become public and students can easily and effectively inform themselves about issues and policies, real debate can occur. With an informed and engaged constituency, the UA can muster real support for its efforts from improving textbook information to appointing and holding accountable

students who sit on Institute committees. Furthermore, with legitimacy and backing, the UA can approach the MIT administration and demand transparency and accountability measures similar to what it has taken.

Implementing such transparency is often cited as a key obstacle, as it is difficult to both communicate well and distribute and organize information effectively. However, this argument is fundamentally flawed: when information is available, waste and excess quickly come to light. The cost of transparency will be repaid many times over through its benefits.

To clear itself of hypocrisy, spend our money honestly, and realize its potential power as a voice of the student body, the UA must adopt sweeping transparency measures. The current effort that is currently put into recording and disseminating the UA's proceedings falls far short of what is expected. The UA should quit arguing about Senate procedures and genocide — efforts that do not further its mission — and spend its time doing what it was chartered to do: represent students. In order to represent students, it must inform students. Tell your UA representative that you'd like an up-to-date Web site with calendars, agendas, minutes, bills, and account ledgers. Tell them that the UA's violation of its constitution regarding timely distribution of agendas is unacceptable. Change must start with us.

David Sheets is a member of the Class of 2009.

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

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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

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November 30,
2007

COMICS

The
Tech

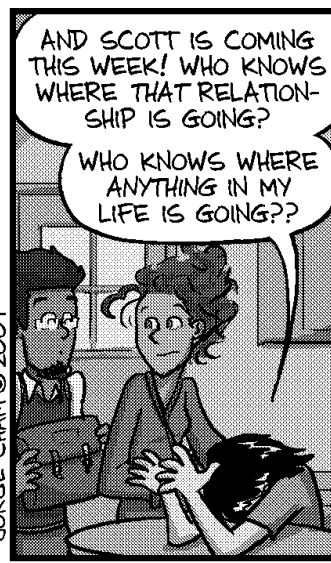
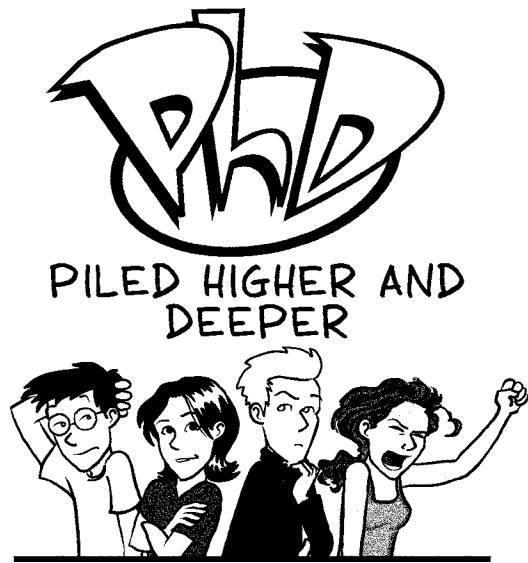
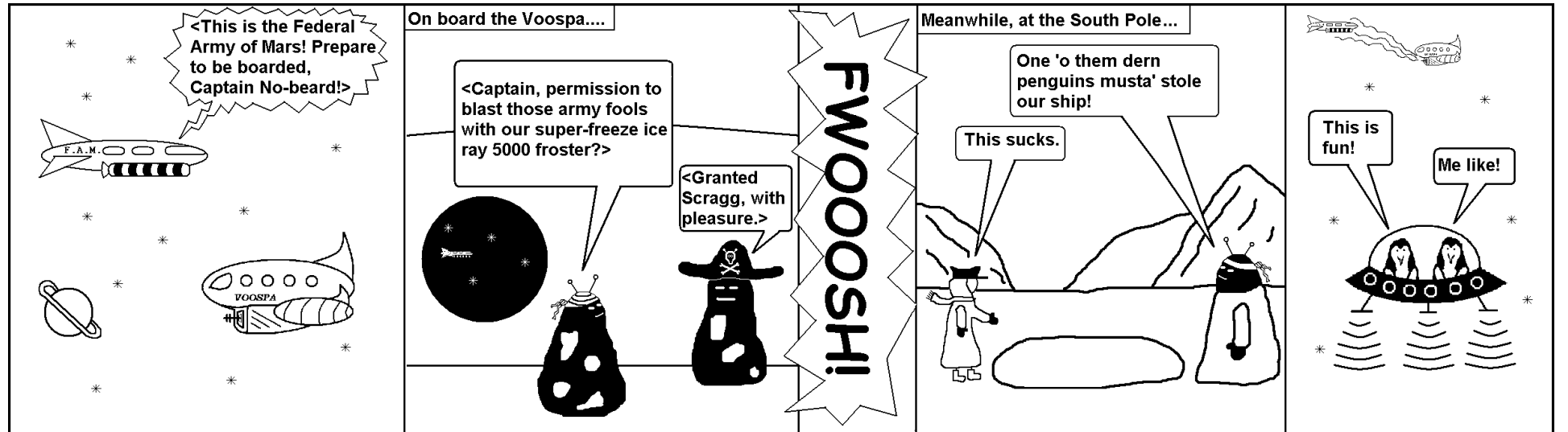
FUN

Page
5

PAGES

OVNI

by Roxana Safipour



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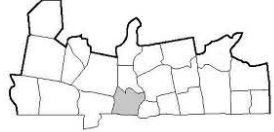






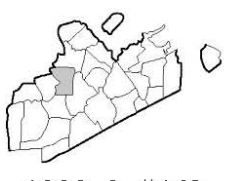
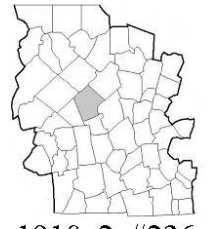
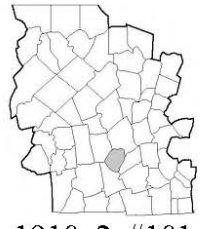

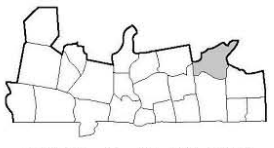
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Doonesbury

BY GARRY TRUDEAU

Dilbert®

by Scott Adams

 1916, 4, #225 (N)	 1914, 4, #417
 1931, 7, #740	 1902, 8, #252 (N)
 1898, 5, #621	 1892, 4, #1804
 1928, 1, #281	 1884, 1, #428
 1884, 5, #610 (E)	 1933, 3, #468
 1910, 2, #236	 1910, 2, #101
 1884, 5, #1428	 1886, 5, #103 (N)

Pseudoscience

by Daniel Klein-Marcuschamer

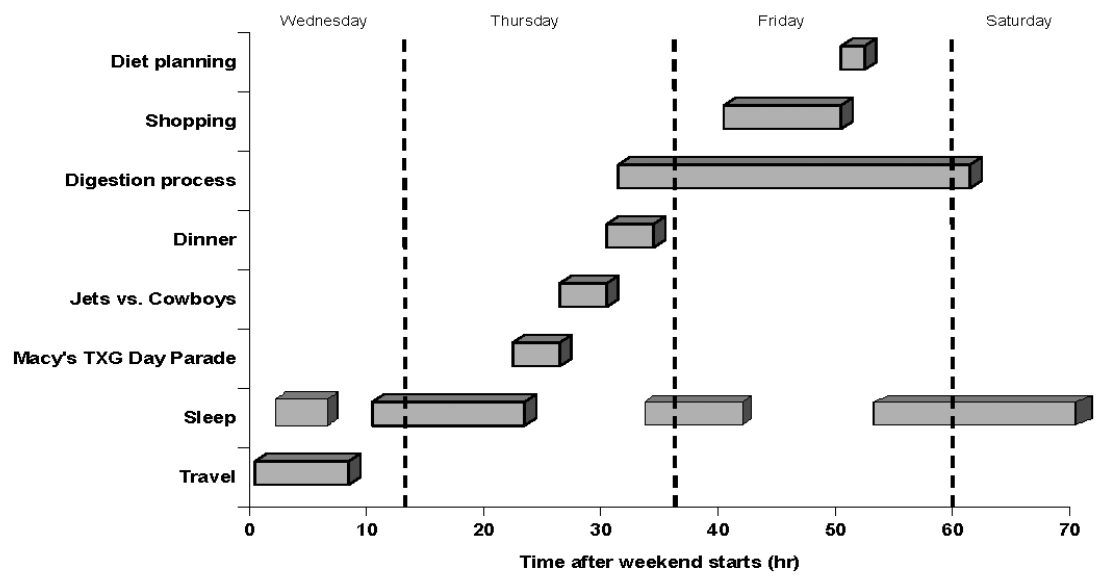


Figure 21. The diagram shows a sample timetable for a Thanksgiving weekend, starting from Wednesday at noon. Sleeping is the most popular activity, and it overlaps with others such as travel and the Thanksgiving Day Parade (even if the viewer is technically awake, the state of mind is very close to sleeping). The football games are used by a sizable percentage of the male population as a reason to excuse themselves from kitchen labor. This is followed by dinner, which takes more than a day to digest, given that it contains more energy than that consumed daily by a young walrus. A fraction (largely female) of the population makes plans for starting a diet, after realizing that most of the clothes they tried on during Black Friday do not fit (including shoes).

Crossword Puzzle

Solution, page 14

ACROSS

- 1 Merry
- 7 Dick Grayson to Bruce Wayne
- 11 Gen. Arnold's nickname
- 14 Son of Daedalus
- 15 Soothing plant juice
- 17 Dense volcanic rock
- 18 Tugboat equipment
- 19 Good person
- 21 Literary collection
- 22 H.S. math
- 23 Nay opposer
- 24 Living entity
- 29 Articulate
- 31 Beer head?
- 32 Sleeve cards
- 34 Shinto temple gateway
- 38 Peter, Paul & Mary hit
- 41 Chair or car style
- 42 Aboard ship
- 43 Theater section
- 44 Goose the gas
- 46 One cuffed
- 48 Ger. auto

DOWN

- 1 Triangular sail
- 2 Andean tubers
- 3 Juanita's house
- 4 Like some exams
- 5 Ottoman honcho
- 6 Tallinn man
- 7 Unit of electricity
- 8 Hi, on HI
- 9 Spur wheels
- 10 Not micromanage
- 11 Clay or Frick
- 12 Narrow ridge
- 13 Turkish nabob
- 16 By way of
- 20 Broad band of color
- 24 Poetic peepers
- 25 Frasier, to Kelsey
- 26 Well-behaved
- 27 Battling
- 28 Table constellation
- 30 Loud complaints
- 33 Buffet tray warmer
- 35 Prison uprising
- 36 "Picnic" playwright
- 37 Nice notion
- 39 Neon or radon
- 40 Torments persistently
- 45 City on the Danube
- 47 __ terrible (bad money in Tokyo?)
- 48 Half a single?
- 49 Leonine growths
- 50 Fleeting traces
- 52 Wielded
- 55 Zilch
- 56 Fabricated
- 57 Machu Picchu builders
- 58 Do a boring job
- 59 Otherwise
- 62 Longing for

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14						15			16			
17						18						
19					20							
21				22						23		
24	25	26	27			28		29	30			
31				32			33		34	35	36	37
38				39				40				
41					42					43		
44	45			46					47			
48	49	50		51	52		53					
54			55			56				57	58	59
60									61			62
63									64			
65					66				67			

Think you've solved it?

If you're an MIT student and your answer is correct, you could win a new iPod Nano! Go to libraries.mit.edu/puzzle to get a copy or submit your answer by December 11, 2007 to be eligible for the drawing.



O COME, O COME, EMMANUEL!



SPEND ADVENT WITH LEM

- Sunday, Dec. 2:** Evensong in the MIT Chapel, 6:30 pm
- Sunday, Dec. 9:** Worship and Christmas Caroling at Harvard, meet in W11 entryway at 5 pm
- Wednesday, Dec. 12:** Advent Service of Lessons & Carols in MIT Chapel, 5:15 pm, followed by Christmas caroling in Lobby 7 and dinner in W11
- Sunday, Dec. 16:** Evensong in the MIT Chapel, 6:30 pm
- Wednesday, Dec. 19:** Taize Prayer Service in the MIT Chapel, 5:15 pm with dinner following in W11

For more information on these and other LEM events, see <http://web.mit.edu/lem>



Lutheran Episcopal Ministry at MIT <http://web.mit.edu/lem>

You are welcome here

su | do | ku

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.

© Puzzles by Pappocom

Solution on page 14.

		3			1			8
		1			4		2	
	7			5				1
		9						7
	8						1	
2						5		
6				2			9	
	3		4			6		
9			3			7		

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

ARTS

MOVIE REVIEW ★★★

*'Beowulf': Plot and Clothing Optional**Stunning Visual Effects and Action Sequences Entertain*By Diana F. Ye
STAFF WRITER*Beowulf*

Directed by Robert Zemeckis

Written by Neil Gaiman and Roger Avary,
based on the epic poem *Beowulf*Starring: Angelina Jolie, Ray Winstone,
Anthony Hopkins, and Crispin Glover

Rated PG-13

Now playing

If you think "Beowulf" looks like another one of those over-the-top epic-action-type movies, well, you'd be right. Not that this is a bad thing. Sure, "Beowulf" has a simplistic plot, negligible amounts of character development, and stilted dialogue, but it is also pretty exciting, visually stunning, and just plain entertaining.

The original story of "Beowulf" was written as an epic poem in the 11th century and is pretty straightforward. Beowulf goes to help old King Hrothgar with the monster Grendel. Beowulf fights Grendel. Beowulf finds out the monster's got a mother. Beowulf fights mother. Beowulf takes over as king when Hrothgar dies and Beowulf grows old then fights a dragon. Throw in a few court intrigues and a sexified interpretation of Grendel's mother (played by Angelina Jolie), and you've got the film version. The plot is certainly not one of the movie's strongest points, nor is it meant to be.

The movie doesn't take itself too seriously, something that is one of its strengths, especially in contrast to some of the other movies of this type that have come out lately. For example, before Beowulf fights with Grendel, he strips himself of his armor — and then his clothes — in order to meet the monster on more equal terms. Apparently, beating the monster bare-handed isn't enough; it's got to be bare-everything. But don't worry; certain "aspects" of Beowulf's anatomy remain cleverly concealed by a variety of furniture, weapons, and monster limbs. Whether during this unnecessary nudity or his "I AM BEOWULF!!" routine, the writers grant the audience tacit permission to laugh at their stalwart hero. And while Beowulf's posturing may be absurd and amusing, in action, his strength,



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The Viking hero, Beowulf (played by Ray Winstone), sets sail in search of future glory in "Beowulf."

fighting skills, and chiseled CG physique still manage to impress.

Speaking of impressive physiques and nudity (whether necessary or not will depend on the viewer), the filmmakers have chosen to envision Grendel's mother not as grotesque Monster No. 2 but as gorgeous Angelina Jolie. The sight of her rising out of the murky waters of her underground lair like a gothic Venus de Milo, covered in golden water and nothing else, is probably enough to convince a certain segment of the population to go see the movie. However, the change from monster to seductress is more compelling visually than as a plot twist. It makes the story (slightly) more complicated, but the idea and Jolie's character are not explored enough to make the story any richer. At least it helps tie in the fight with the dragon at the end of the movie to the fight with

Grendel at the beginning, one of the problems with the original epic poem.

Yet, as I said before, plot is certainly not the main point of "Beowulf." The story serves merely as a showcase for the remarkable visual effects and thrilling action scenes. Nowadays, movie technology just keeps getting better and better. Not only have the 3-D glasses been upgraded from flimsy cardboard to a sturdier and more stylish black plastic, the 3-D effects themselves are more stunning than anything I've seen before. The audience I saw it with would certainly agree. It would have been annoying to hear them gasping in awe every time a spear hurtled at them from the screen if I wasn't gasping internally along with them. The filmmakers use a lot of clever shots and some really crazy camera perspectives that take full advantage of the 3-D effects.

In addition, the whole thing is shot in something called "performance capture" in which digital sensors are used to "capture" a live actor's performance as input into a computer, which can then be further modified. This gives the actors in the movie the grave, stylized look of people in a renaissance painting. Though it cuts down somewhat on the expressive quality of their faces, the slightly surreal look, in combination with the 3-D perspective, suits the mythical nature of the legend.

Overall, "Beowulf" looks very good, and its visual effects alone are probably enough to make it worth seeing (for the portion of the population that isn't already sold on Angelina). Unless you are drastically opposed to this type of movie, the solid action and beautiful graphics can definitely provide an evening's worth of entertainment.

MOVIE REVIEW ★★★1/2

*Can You Feel the Love?**'Margot at the Wedding' Realistically Portrays Family Relationships*

By Praveen Rathinavelu

Margot at the Wedding

Written and directed by Noah Baumbach

Starring: Nicole Kidman, Jennifer Jason Leigh, Zane Pais, and Jack Black

Rated R

Now playing in limited release

Noah Baumbach's "Margot at the Wedding" is a broad, relentless portrait of a family perpetually strained to the point of breaking. But, oddly, it never does. It is a family whose members are racked by insecurities and self-doubt; they lash out at each other in ways that are almost incomparably cruel. Yet somehow you leave the theater knowing that the characters feel deeply for each other.

Baumbach's film seems to operate under a similar paradox. With characters that can seem almost globally unlikable and a rapid, sometimes aimless, editing style — one that is hardly concerned with tying the scenes together into a cogent narrative arc — "Margot at the Wedding" really shouldn't work. But it does, and it's terrific.

"The Squid and the Whale," Baumbach's previous film, depicted, with startling acuity, a family being severed by divorce. The film is memorable for its insight into the lives and vernacular of the overeducated and hyper-literate but also, more remarkably, into the intricacies of family. The film is largely about its protagonist, a teenage boy, coming to terms with his family, and consequently himself. Baumbach doesn't stray too

far from these preoccupations in his latest film.

The title character, Margot (played by Nicole Kidman), is a member of that particular brand of intelligentsia to which Baumbach is so perfectly attuned. She is a successful writer visiting her childhood home in order to attend the wedding of her sister, Pauline (Jennifer Jason Leigh). Margot is accompanied by her son, Claude (Zane Pais), who seems to be the embodiment of everything pubescent and awkward. Pauline's fiancé, Malcolm (Jack Black), is pretty much everything you'd expect Jack Black to be. That

is to say, a loser, albeit a charming one.

The characters, particularly Margot and Pauline, can claw at each other with such cruelty that they sometimes approach caricature. But it is a testament to both the performances of the actors and Baumbach's sharp writing, that the characters remain believable. Kidman, particularly, is able to express a tremendous amount of self-scrutiny and insecurity embedded within her brutality. Margot's family is an inescapable reflection of herself, and she cannot help being harshly critical. She is com-

pletely incapable of accepting Pauline marrying Malcolm, a man who has no discernible job and who Margot describes as "not ugly, but extremely unattractive," because she is struggling with her own waning desirability.

The most unique, and potentially frustrating, thing about "Margot at the Wedding" is the subtlety with which it examines its characters and snaps from scene to scene. The film gradually presents a series of events and interactions that create an honest portrait of a family, but the events don't all contribute to some large cumulative idea. Rather, they exist solely because it is the slow drip of life that shapes our families, the occurrences that don't necessarily have a point but are most telling about who we are. It is with these disjointed, often meaningless, events that Baumbach makes us understand the family he creates. This naturalism that pervades the film is so palpable in every scene: the way people often laugh inexplicably during a fight or the way that people's faces are often obscured in shadow even in the middle of a conversation.

Once we stop expecting anything concrete or definitive from "Margot," it's easy to revel in how nuanced and casual the truth that occupies the film really is. When Claude sings "Sunday Girl" in a painfully pubescent falsetto, or when Margot remarks that "stupid people get into Harvard early all the time" and wrenches every bit of humor and bitterness out of the statement, it is so deeply satisfying because it is so familiar to us. No further elaboration is really necessary, or even welcome.



PARAMOUNT VANTAGE

Jack Black as Malcolm and Nicole Kidman as Margot star in Noah Baumbach's "Margot at the Wedding."

OLIVER WYMAN



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Information Session**

Monday, December 3rd

The Hotel at MIT

6:00 pm – 7:30 pm

Musical Theatre Guild Puts on 'Pippin'



The Musical Theatre Guild's production of "Pippin" continues tonight and on Dec. 1, 6, 7, and 8 at 8 p.m. and on Sunday, Dec. 2 at 2 p.m.

(clockwise from above)

The Leading Player (played by Mia A. Shandell '10) entices as she commands the stage and decides the fate of the actors.

The widow Catherine (Karen A. Hart '11) and an ensemble of angels try to raise Pippin's (Benjamin Moncivaiz '11) spirits as he searches for meaning in his life.

The queen Fastrada (Carrie A. Lee '10) dotes over her younger and very handsome son Lewis (Matthew Spencer G).

The Leading Player demands the attention of the audience as she directs her play.

Catherine's son Theo (Nicolina A. Akraboff '07) tries to talk to Pippin about his pet duck.

As Pippin explores the various possibilities of sex, he is scared by the demanding presence of the lustful couple Fastrada and Lewis.

Photography by Andrea Robles



CD REVIEW

An Experiment in Musical, Cultural Fusion

Yo-Yo Ma's Latest CD Tells the Story of Asia's Silk Road

By Roberto Perez-Franco

STAFF WRITER

New Impossibilities

Yo-Yo Ma

Sony Classical

2007

Yo-Yo Ma has pulled an ace from his sleeve with his most recent album *New Impossibilities*. Far from canonical, the pieces on the record are wild, living, breathing music. The title, although borrowed from a Mark Twain phrase, seems closer to the kind the writer Jaramillo Levi would use to crown one of his short story collections. In a very real sense, that is what Ma brings to us in his latest production: stories collected from the thousands of miles of the ancient and modern Silk Road. His language is articulated through bold musical sounds, and his subject is the deep continental Asia: Iran, China, and everything in between.

The project that produced this recording has a long history behind it, which can be summarized as follows: Yo-Yo Ma wanted to bring the Silk Road to life in the heart of Chicago. He created the Silk Road Ensemble and invited the Chicago Symphony Orchestra to

play with them. And play they did. The cello virtuoso got the whole city of Chicago and its most prestigious cultural entities behind his brainchild. For a year the Silk Road project enriched Chicago's cultural life with displays of Asia's ancient and modern culture, through music and performing arts. The city-wide, year-long project finished with a series of the master performances, the best of which are collected in this compact disk.

The three most modernist tracks happen to be the less convincing ones. The first half of the "Arabian Waltz," with its ethno-meets-jazz style, is much superior to its Firebird-like strenuous second half. "The Galloping Horses," albeit interesting, struck me as too shallow to be taken seriously, evoking images closer to playful hamsters than running stallions. The lowest point of the anthology might be the "Song of Eight Unruly Topsy Pops," which seems almost out of place with its ultra-modern, pretentious orchestration.

In stark contrast, the other six tracks are excellent. "The Night of the Flying Horses," for the most part a mellow serenade, is sure to lull the listener into a sweet relaxation right before it makes him jump out of his chair with its non sequitur finale that blends circus music with blue grass. "Shristi" includes a majestic display of exotic percussion instruments. Its militant rhythm conjures images of persecution, hunters chasing their prey over expansive steppes, and tribal dances around the fire. In "Night at the Caravanserai," the listener is transported again to unknown lands: you can almost feel the sand under your feet, see the caravans crawling through the desert, enjoy the passion of love in a tent by an oasis. The very ambitious "Ambush From Ten Sides" makes an almost operatic and successful attempt at telling a story of battles between kingdoms in ancient China.

The highest points of the selection, however, are the two other tracks, which could not

be more different from each other. "Vocusion" is a playful blend of voices and percussion. Primitive, ritual, irreverent, this performance will make you smile and rejoice. My personal favorite, and arguably the best track of the disk, is "The Silent City," a heart-breaking elegy for Halabja, a town in Iraqi Kurdistan that was destroyed two decades ago. Its sublime use of long, seemingly endless string arpeggios depicts the sorrow, emptiness, and abated anguish of a survivor contemplating the destruction.

This is not your dad's old Yo-Yo Ma album. For sure, not all tracks will please every taste. The record is an experiment in musical and cultural fusion, and as such it comes with both pluses and minuses. It is clear Ma is using his titanic reputation to push ahead this project, born from his roots and from nostalgic inspiration. After listening to the result, I think you might feel as grateful as I do for his effort. And if you are curious about the Silk Road Ensemble and would like to see them perform live, you are in luck. Yo-Yo Ma's Ensemble is scheduled to spend this week at Harvard's New College Theatre. For more information, visit the project's Web site: <http://www.silk-roadproject.org>.

It is clear Ma is using his titanic reputation to push ahead this project, born from his roots and from nostalgic inspiration.

CONCERT LISTINGS

The Best Shows of December 2007

Quit Cramming for Finals and See Shows Now

By Sarah Dupuis

ARTS EDITOR

The end of the semester is only a few weeks away, and if your workload looks anything like mine, I bet everything will pile up right about ... now. This won't stop me from going out to shows, of course, and I should hope you'll be out doing the same. Lots of not-so-well known but totally fantastic bands are headed to Boston this month, so if you're thirsting for something new, now's the time to see what's on the scene. You know, before Built to Spill starts touring for the fiftieth time this year.

As usual, special interest shows (and there are more than a couple) are marked with stars, and you can always e-mail arts@tech.mit.edu if you know of some rocktastic musical event that's evaded our detection.

Saturday, Dec. 1

Ted Leo and the Pharmacists
The Roxy, All Ages, \$16.50, 6:30 p.m.

The last and only time I saw Mr. Leo and Co., they were opening for Death Cab for Cutie at the Orpheum. Now they're headlining their own tour and based on the (lack of) age restrictions and early start time, I'm betting they'll sell well in Boston.

*Hopewell (with The December Sound [CD release], The Brother Kite) **

T.T. the Bear's Place, 18+, \$9, 10:15 p.m.

Blame it on the side effects of Steer Roast, but seeing Hopewell at MIT last spring was one of the best stumble-upons ever. Will seeing them on purpose be as exciting and mystifying as their courtyard performance? Tune in this December to find out.

Wednesday, Dec. 5

Dirty Projectors (with Deer Tick, Nat Baldwin)
The Middle East (Upstairs), 18+, \$9

After seeing Dirty Projectors open for Grizzly Bear, I decided I didn't like them. After seeing them open for Hella, I decided I might. After hearing some recordings, outlook is positive. Bizarre guitar melodies and screaming girls serve as a backdrop for an over-the-top vocalist in a possibly innovative group.

Thursday, Dec. 6

Victory Records Tour (feat. Bayside, The Sleeping, June, A Day to Remember, Driver Side Impact)

The Middle East (Downstairs), All Ages, \$16dos, 6 p.m.

When I was a freshman in high school, I would have totally wanted to go to this show. Luckily for me, I grew out of the punk emo phase five years ago. Luckily for 15-year-olds, this one's all ages.

Friday, Dec. 7

Cake's Unlimited Sunshine Festival
Orpheum Theatre, All Ages, \$35, 7:30 PM

This annual traveling festival of musicians headed up by Cake comes to Boston with Brazillian Girls, Oakley Hall, Detroit Cobras, King City, and Agent Ribbons. Pricey ticket; fun show.

Saturday, Dec. 8

MIT Cross Products Fall Concert
10-250, Free, 5 p.m.

Ah, it's a cappella season again. This is MIT's co-ed Christian a cappella group's annual fall performance.

MIT Chorallaries Fall Concert
10-250, Free, 8 p.m.

If the Cross Products aren't your thing, or you just don't feel like leaving after their concert, check out the MIT Chorallaries a cappella group.

Sunday, Dec. 9

Third Annual Yule Ball (feat. Harry and the Potters, Draco and the Malfoys, Uncle Monsterface, Math the Band, Remus and the Lupins)
The Middle East (Downstairs), All Ages, \$12dos, 5 p.m.

This is not the sort of thing that appeals to me, but I understand it's quite a craze, so have at it MIT Muggles. I'll come out once they get The Weird Sisters on the bill.

Wednesday, Dec. 12

*Margot & the Nuclear So and So's (with Le Loup, The Motion Sick) **

The Middle East (Upstairs), 18+, \$9

A fantastic little band that is elegant on record and emo-

tionally unrestrained in concert. They take their name from Wes Anderson's "The Royal Tenenbaums," and I like to think their musical sensibilities are influenced by the film as well.

Saturday, Dec. 15

*Friends of John: A Benefit Concert for the John Ryan Pike Memorial Foundation (feat. Tokyo Police Club, Ra Ra Riot, Vampire Weekend) **

The Middle East (Downstairs), 18+, \$15dos, 7 p.m.

Friends of former Ra Ra Riot drummer John Pike will play a show to fully benefit his memorial foundation, which hopes to raise money for those pursuing some musical education. Indie pop for a good cause.

Friday, Dec. 28

*Francine **
T.T. the Bear's Place, 18+, \$15, 11:20 p.m.

Frontman Clayton Scoble (ex-Poundcake) has been "on the Boston scene for, like, forever" according to my boyfriend, who turned me on to these guys about a year ago. This is the kind of music you can share with your friends, your S.O. and your mom; it's restrained but forward-thinking, delicate but jarring, eloquent and full of humor, all topped off with Scoble's fantastically smooth and emotive voice.

Sunday, Dec. 30

Soulive
Paradise Rock Club, 18+, \$22.50dos, 8 p.m.

Though they'll also play on New Year's Eve in the same location, it's \$20 cheaper on the thirtieth, so I'll bet you can guess my recommendation. Now that they've returned to trio status and renounced huge venues and tour busses, you can bet they'll be right in their element at Paradise.

Monday, Dec. 31

Badfish — A Tribute to Sublime
The Middle East (Downstairs), 21+, \$40

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Many Displaced Classes Moved To 26-100 for Spring Semester

10-250, from Page 1

Wayne Johnson, there are usually eight large classes in 10-250 in the spring: 7.013 (Introductory Biology), 7.05 (General Biochemistry), 9.00 (Introduction to Psychology), 18.03 (Differential Equations), 1.00 (Introduction to Computers and Engineering Problem Solving), 5.12 (Organic Chemistry I), 5.561 (Chemistry in Industry), and 6.002 (Circuits and Electronics). Of these, 18.03 and 7.013 have the most students with approximately 700 and 350, respectively.

"[Lecture hall] 26-100 will find more use this spring semester than usual because of the 10-250 remodeling," Johnson said. Most of the classes usually held in 10-250 have been

moved to 26-100. The two 18.03 lectures have been relocated to 34-101. Many other classes also had to be relocated to make room for the displaced 10-250 classes.

She added that the renovations are expected to "greatly enhance the teaching and learning environment for our faculty and students." Also "because the room is used so much by so many other groups outside of classes, it was the most important space to get renovated first," said Bedrosian.

10-250 has not been fully renovated since 1978, according to Callahan. The project "has been on the list for a couple of years now" and is expected to "greatly enhance the teaching and learning environment for our faculty and students."

"Because the room is used so much by so many other groups outside of classes, it was the most important space to get renovated first," Bedrosian said.

The 10-250 renovations continue the Registrar Office's ongoing work to meet the goal of Project 2000 — initiated in 1988 — to renovate all rooms on campus by the year 2000. Of the 158 classrooms managed by the Registrar's Office, 90 have been renovated since 1988, Callahan said. Pending approval, there are also plans to renovate the other large lecture halls, such as 26-100 and 54-100, in the near future, Bedrosian said.

The architect hired for the project, Tommy Quirk, also designed the Pappalardo laboratories in Building 3 and lecture halls 3-270 and 3-370.

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IFC Executive Board Plans Improvements For Communication

IFC, from Page 1

same page.”

He said he also wants to examine the possibility of creating task forces to handle IFC relations with the Cambridge Licensing Commission and Cambridge Police, as well as the Boston Licensing Commission and Boston Police.

Incoming vice president Van Lehn, whose job is to work with the president and focus on managing internal relations between the IFC member chapters, said his primary goal is to improve communications between fraternities. “Right now, I think we’re not communicating very well, and there is a lot that the fraternities could learn from each other with improved communication,” Van Lehn said.

Van Lehn explained the rationale behind his goal: “Each chapter is working towards effective house management and, since we are not competing with one another, we might as well share our knowledge.” He would like to use the IFC Delegates Council, over which he presides, as a vehicle for this communication.

Like Mena, newly-elected risk manager Hutchings said he would like to more closely examine IFC rules and policies over the next year.

“The IFC is an organization with many constituents and my job is to work with them to produce the safest and most effective policies for everything the IFC does,” Hutchings said in an e-mail.

Hutchings’ goal for his term is “to make sure that all the fraternities are aware of the resources and support that MIT provides” and also “to make sure everyone has a safe and fun time.”

Eads expressed satisfaction with the progress the IFC made during the past year, noting in particular a slight increase in the number of people joining fraternities and high levels of participation in fraternity events. “We did some excellent work improving our relations with the MIT administration and the MIT Police, as well as the Boston and Cambridge city officials,” Eads said.

Eads said he would like to see the new board expand on recent initiatives to improve communication with the MIT faculty.

“I’m really excited about the new board,” he said. “They have already proven that they have extreme commitment to the IFC based on work they have already done in the past year.”

The elected board will be installed at the next IFC executive meeting on Dec. 12.

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Disagreements Occur Over Postconcussion Guidelines in College

Concussions, from Page 16

with him from the time he got hit until the time he went back into the game. And that decision is clearly in the hands of the doctors, 100 percent. Coaches don't make those decisions, and neither do the players."

Pritchard said in a telephone interview: "I think it looked worse than it was. It kind of looked like T. C. went down, is Tavita O.K., he's O.K., and I run in. People need to know that there was a lot more that was done beforehand."

The question of whether a player who sustains a concussion should ever return to the same game can be divisive. It is strongly discouraged at the high school level because studies have shown that teenagers' brain tissue is less developed and they are more susceptible to subsequent concussions, which in rare cases can lead to coma or death. (At least 50 high school or younger football players in more than 20 states since 1997 have been killed or have sustained catastrophic head injuries on the field, according to research by *The New York Times*.)

N.F.L. players, meanwhile, are generally believed to be fit to return if their symptoms have cleared.

Dr. Henry Feuer, who works the sidelines for every home football game for Indiana University and the Indianapolis Colts, and also counsels many of his state's high schools, agreed with several other experts that college athletes are generally more comparable to professionals than high school players. He also said that most — if not all — Division I programs have formal postconcussion guidelines and testing.

"I feel strongly that teenagers are different, and high schools often don't have a physician on the sideline," Feuer said. "In college they almost always do and they have sports-medicine athletic trainers, too."

Oklahoma's Bradford sustained a concussion in a Nov. 17 game against Texas Tech, and was removed after telling team personnel that he was forgetting the plays. Scott Anderson, the Sooners' head athletic trainer, said that Oklahoma used the Automated Neuropsychological Assessment

Metrics test, another set of questions that evaluate neurological symptoms, in determining that Bradford should not return to the game.

Bradford was cleared to play the next week. Anderson said he was pleased that Bradford alerted team personnel to his injury because, as opposed to a sprained knee, concussions can be (and often are) hidden by a player who wants to stay in the game.

"One of our huge battles with concussion is we're extremely dependent on self-reporting," Anderson said.

The injury to Hawaii's Brennan was obvious — while he was scrambling in the fourth quarter, a Fresno State player hit him at full speed virtually helmet-to-helmet. Brennan was briefly knocked unconscious and did not return. The Hawaii team doctor, Andrew Nichols, declined to be interviewed about how Brennan was cleared to play the following week, on Nov. 16. Last Friday, in a victory against Boise State, Brennan passed for 495 yards and 5 touchdowns.

Brennan had the extra consideration of his professional future. Sustaining another concussion could cost him several spots and millions of dollars in next spring's N.F.L. draft. Without discussing Brennan specifically, Feuer said that he asks every prospect at the N.F.L. combine about his concussion history.

"You check for easy concussability, and whether it takes them a long time to get back," Feuer said. "That gets put into their negative column, or whatever, come draft time."

The last thing Kelli Pritchard said she has considered this week was how Tavita's sitting out Saturday would affect his N.F.L. future. She speaks with Tavita several times a day on the phone to monitor how he is feeling, but knows that all she can do is hope that her feelings are considered.

"I know a lot is going to go into this decision," Kelli Pritchard said. "It's a really hard decision to make for everybody, because everybody's going to get criticized one way or another."

Solution to Crossword

from page 6

J	O	C	O	S	E	W	A	R	D	H	A	P
I	C	A	R	U	S	A	L	O	E	V	E	R
B	A	S	A	L	T	T	O	W	L	I	N	E
S	A	L	T	O	F	T	H	E	E	A	R	T
				A	N	A	A	L	G	Y	E	A
O	R	G	A	N	I	S	M	S	A	Y		
R	O	O	T	A	C	E	S	T	O	R	I	I
B	L	O	W	I	N	I	N	T	H	E	W	I
S	E	D	A	N	A	S	E	A	L	O	G	E
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B	M	W	R	I	P	N	A	N				
S	A	I	N	T	E	L	M	O	S	F	I	R
I	N	S	I	G	N	I	A	S	A	N	E	L
D	E	P	L	A	N	E	D	E	N	C	A	S
E	S	S		S	A	D	E	S	T	A	M	E

Solution to Sudoku

from page 6

5	6	3	2	9	1	4	7	8
8	9	1	6	7	4	3	2	5
4	7	2	8	5	3	9	6	1
3	5	9	1	6	2	8	4	7
7	8	4	9	3	5	2	1	6
2	1	6	7	4	8	5	3	9
6	4	8	5	2	7	1	9	3
1	3	7	4	8	9	6	5	2
9	2	5	3	1	6	7	8	4

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SPORTS

Wrestlers Drop Pair of Decisions at Tri-Meet

Entering Wednesday night's tri-meet as the top heavyweight in the New England College Conference Wrestling Association, Glenn J. Geesman '09 contin-

Sports Shorts

ued his starlit prominence with a 4-1 victory over Daniel Dalle-Molle of American International College, though Tech's top musclem finally suffered his first defeat, 9-6, to Johnson and Wales

University's Sean DeDyn. Geesman improved to 10-1, though MIT (0-3) lost the team battles, 32-9 and 50-0, to American International and host Johnson and Wales, respectively, at the Harborside Recreation Center.

Travis C. Samuel '08 and Joseph B. Silverman '10 also picked up wins, as the Engineers cut into American International's 32-0 lead late in the match. Samuel's 10-7 decision over C.J. Chaika and Silverman's 1-0 win against Morgan Wanzer made it 32-6, while Geesman's victory accounted for Tech's final three points.

The Cardinal and Gray ran into a roadblock against perennial power Johnson and Wales, the third-ranked team in New England in Division III. The Wildcats ran the table, though Silverman proved strong in a 5-4 loss before Geesman kept it close against DeDyn in the Pilgrim League match.

Overall, the Engineers suffered seven forfeits during the tri-meet. In the evening's final joust, the hosts pulled out a thrilling 23-22 victory over American International.

MIT will next compete in the Rochester Institute of Technology Tournament in Rochester, N.Y., on Dec. 1.

—Mike Stoller, DAPER Staff

Women's Basketball Stumbles at Wentworth

In its first road game of the season, MIT women's basketball fell to Wentworth Institute of Technology, 72-39, on Nov. 20. The loss lowered the Engineers' ledger to 1-2 while the Leopards improved to 2-1 on the year.

MIT opened the game with a pair of free throws by Kimberly Soo Hoo '08, but Wentworth countered with nine unanswered points. A three-pointer from Clara J. Yuang '09 ended the spurt and narrowed the gap to four (9-5) at the 15:39 mark. The Engineers stayed within striking distance as a layup from Samia A. Mahjub G once again brought them within four (17-13) at the midway point of the half. Almost a minute later, a basket by Wentworth ignited a 24-6 run that spanned the next eight minutes. Mahjub registered the final basket of the period when she drained a three

with five seconds left to make the score 41-22.

Wentworth started the second half with nine straight points before free throws by Mahjub ended a five-minute scoring drought for the Engineers. MIT continued to attack with a trio of three-pointers from Yuan, but it could not overcome the deficit.

Yuan paced the Engineers with 16 points on 5-of-10 shooting from behind the arc. Mahjub tallied 13 points, four rebounds, two steals, and one block in 26 minutes of action. Cheryl M. Kwinn '09 grabbed a team-high seven rebounds while Alice S. Yeh '09 bolstered MIT's offense with eight points.

—Mindy Brauer, DAPER Staff

Men's Basketball Drops Gordon, 66-44

After closing the first half on a 15-4 run, MIT men's basketball followed up the impressive stretch by holding Gordon College to just four points in the first 12 minutes of the second half. The Engineers enjoyed one of their best team efforts of the season in a 66-44 victory over the previously unbeaten Fighting Scots. James M. "Jimmy" Bartolotta '09 paced the victory with another performance that covered the stat sheet while Hamidou Soumare '08 controlled the dynamics of the battle with a huge effort on the defensive end.

Entering Tuesday unscathed through its first three games, Gordon (3-1) was poised to serve as MIT's stiffest test of the season. After trading baskets for the first 13 minutes, the game had the appearance of replicating last year's tight contest, which was won by Gordon late.

Despite the even start, Soumare's presence on defense shifted momentum firmly in favor of the Engineers as back-to-back blocks led to easy baskets in transition for the Cardinal and Gray. Ahead 24-23 with 6:01 on the clock, Bartolotta sandwiched a three between two long-range triples by Will D. Mroz '08 over the next five minutes as MIT (4-1) moved in front by double figures. Bradley H. Gampel '09 forced a steal with less than 30 seconds remaining in the opening frame, which led to a fast-break hoop for Alexander F. Bagley '08. With another score and a rocking crowd backing the effort, the Engineers headed to the locker room ahead, 37-25.

Mroz maintained the hot touch to open the second half, taking a feed by Bartolotta and draining another three just 12 seconds into the frame. The field goal sparked a 22-6 run for the Engineers as MIT extended its advantage to 59-29 with 8:28 left in regulation. As MIT went deep into its bench soon after Gordon snapped the run, the offense dropped off but the defensive intensity remained as Tech's hardwood unit ensured its fourth straight win of the season.

—James Kramer, DAPER Staff

Disagreements Occur Over Postconcussion Guidelines in College

By Alan Schwarz
THE NEW YORK TIMES

Last Saturday, Stanford quarterback Tavita Pritchard was struck in the head by an opponent so violently that his helmet was ripped off, his bare head snapped back and forth and his skull slammed to the ground with a thud.

Hawaii quarterback Colt Brennan, a Heisman Trophy contender, was knocked unconscious by a crushing hit three weeks ago. The Oklahoma freshman quarterback Sam Bradford sustained a concussion while being trampled in a game two weeks ago.

Each impact triggered the delicate and controversial process of determining when the athlete is fit to return to the field, both that day and in subsequent weeks. College players operate in a murky zone: their bodies are between youth and manhood, they play in quasi-professional environments on national television — unpaid but with the riches of professional careers dangling before them — and no rules govern how concussions are treated in college football.

Amid much debate about the dangers of concussions, the National Football League has adopted new rules and guidelines for handling the injury. Experts are trying to raise awareness at the high school level, where players appear particularly susceptible to postconcussion syndrome and more serious injuries. At the college level, each team can devise its own procedure for diagnosing and treating concussions.

Hawaii's Brennan and Oklahoma's Bradford, both cleared by their team's medical personnel, will start in crucial games Saturday: Brennan against Washington and Bradford against top-ranked Missouri in the Big 12 Conference championship game. Hawaii and Oklahoma stand to receive millions of dollars if they qualify for an elite bowl game.

Pritchard also has been cleared as Stanford prepares to play Saturday against the University of California at Berkeley, its archrival. But Coach Jim Harbaugh said in a telephone interview yesterday that he had not decided whether Pritchard would start or if T. C. Ostrander, who has started four games this season, will take Pritchard's place.

Back at the Pritchard home in Lakewood, Wash., Kelli Pritchard, Tavita's mother, has found herself resisting the urge to get as involved with her son's care as her instincts tell her. She said that while she trusts Stanford's medical staff, a part of her knows that a few years ago she would be driving Tavita to his pediatrician and having tremendous influence

over his safety.

"I have to be careful that I'm not being condescending and asking questions that are totally inappropriate," Kelli Pritchard said. "And yet I can't ever separate myself from being the mama bear."

Harbaugh said he expected both Pritchard and Ostrander to play Saturday because both are capable and of similar talent. He said he would decide how much each plays, and who starts, solely on how they perform in practice.

"We'll make that evaluation on who gives us the best chance to win," Harbaugh said. He added that unless Pritchard displayed the effects of the concussion in practice, which he had not through Tuesday, the injury would not be a consideration. "If there was some kind of postconcussion effect, like being not as accurate with his passes, that would without question impact how much he plays," Harbaugh said.

Pritchard's case has been scrutinized heavily both inside and outside Stanford, in part because of a strange series of events in which Pritchard was removed from the Notre Dame game last Saturday but returned for several downs after Ostrander was injured, only to be removed again.

Pritchard's concussion took place late in the third quarter when he was struck in the helmet after a long scramble. He lay motionless for about 30 seconds before standing up and woozily walking off the field.

Harbaugh said trainers on the sideline gave Pritchard the Standardized Assessment of Concussion test, a 10-minute series of questions that evaluates short-term memory, cognitive awareness and other neurological issues.

"He received a perfect score," Harbaugh said. Doctors also determined that Pritchard was displaying no physical symptoms of a concussion.

When Ostrander injured his hand midway through the fourth quarter, Harbaugh said he was told by medical personnel that Pritchard had been cleared to play. Pritchard appeared for one series, and took one hard tackle in which his head struck the ground again, before Ostrander returned for the rest of the game.

"The doctors determined that he was cleared to go back in after 10 minutes," Harbaugh said. "I believe that there definitely should be scrutiny on this. But the other thing that I'm saying is that we have a concussion protocol. Tavita passed that. We have a battery of doctors that were

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UPCOMING HOME EVENTS

Friday, Nov. 30, 2007

Pistol vs. Coast Guard	5 p.m., duPont Athletic Center
Women's Swimming, MIT Invitational	6:30 p.m., Zesiger Center
Men's Swimming, MIT Invitational	6:30 p.m., Zesiger Center
Women's Ice Hockey vs. Holy Cross	7 p.m., Johnson Ice Arena

Saturday, Dec. 1, 2007

Pistol vs. Coast Guard	9 a.m., duPont Athletic Center
Men's Swimming, MIT Invitational First Session	10 a.m., Zesiger Center
Women's Swimming, MIT Invitational First Session	10 a.m., Zesiger Center
Squash vs. Middlebury	10 a.m., Zesiger Center
Women's Ice Hockey vs. Manhattanville	3 p.m., Johnson Ice Arena
Men's Swimming, MIT Invitational Second Session	5:30 p.m., Zesiger Center
Women's Swimming, MIT Invitational Second Session	5:30 p.m., Zesiger Center
Men's Ice Hockey vs. Vermont	6:30 p.m., Johnson Ice Arena

Sunday, Dec. 2, 2007

Squash vs. Bryant	1 p.m., Zesiger Center
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