Subcommittee Chosen To Refine Curriculum, Collect GIR Feedback

By Nick Bushak

During last week's faculty meeting, the MIT Task Force on the Undergraduate Educational Common announced the formation of a subcommittee to collect feedback on the task force's recommendations that were released in October 2006 and determine more specific recommendations for changing the curriculum.

The new subcommittee will provide a "final and specific" recommendation for the changes more generally suggested in the task force's final report last year, Dean for Curriculum and Faculty Support Diana Henderson said. The changes proposed earlier included possible revisions to the General Institute Requirements and increased emphasis on global education, as well as other curriculum reforms.

The subcommittee will be made up of six faculty and one student, and it will be expected to release its recommendation by the end of the academic year, Henderson said.

The task force has already been collecting feedback on the changes from faculty and students, and the new subcommittee will continue to collect feedback to guide curriculum recommendations. Input has been collected through discussions with the Undergraduate Association, on-campus open houses at the end of the fall semester, and an online survey.

MIT's First Student Life Dean To Retire at End of School Year

By Jeff Guo

Dean for Student Life Larry G. Benedict will retire at the end of this academic year. As the Institute's first dean for student life, Benedict drew fresh attention to improving the student experience, resulting in the construction and renovation of several residential dormitories and the expansion of residential dining among other initiatives.

"My decision to retire has been several years in the making and I have delayed it in the past because of my great love for MIT, its students and its culture," Benedict wrote in an e-mail statement to Division of Student Life staff on the morning of Oct. 19.

Benedict became MIT's first student life dean after an administration restructuring in 2000 carved out the Division of Student Life as a new body focusing on campus dining, housing, and student services.

"I've very sad to see him go," said Undergraduate Association President Martin F. Holmes '08. "He's been one of the strongest supporters of the UA, student groups, and students in general."


Benedict was personally named as a defendant in the Julia M. Carpenter '03 wrongful death lawsuit by Guy's parents in April 2001.

In addition to these achievements, Benedict represented the Division of Student Life on the mental health task force in 2001. The task force was formed to evaluate student support and mental health services at MIT following this string of student deaths.

Before he leaves MIT, Benedict will be expected to release its report within three weeks; the annual radiation exposure limit for reactor operators is 5 rem. The annual radiation exposure limit for reactor operators is 0.5 rem. According to a press release from the NRC, the reactor operator was exposed to an unusually high dose of radiation.

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission said a special inspection of the MIT research reactor yesterday after receiving a report that a reactor operator was exposed to an unusually high dose of radiation. According to a press release from the NRC, the reactor operator was exposed to 4 rem during operations that would normally incur a maximum exposure of 0.5 rem. The annual radiation exposure limit for reactor operators is 5 rem. The NRC inspection should be completed within three weeks; the report will be made public approximately 30 days later.

The boats were judged on a scale of one to 10 by five judges from MIT. The boats were judged on a scale of one to 10 by five judges from Zesiger, student groups, and students in general.

The two boats have been competitive in head-to-head competition for several years. In the last round of the Zesiger Race, the boats had been neck-and-neck, with one boat slightly ahead.
WORLD & NATION

Panel Urges Global Shift On Sources of Energy
By Andrew C. Revkin
NEW YORK TIMES

Energy experts convened by the world’s scientific academies Mon-
day urged nations to shift swiftly away from coal and other fuels that are the main source of climate-warming greenhouse gases and to pro-
provide new energy options that could continue to feed the growing demand from people who still must cook in the dark on wood or dung fires.

In a report commissioned by the governments of China and Brazil, the 15 experts called for a “double effort” by both public and private energy research budgets and a firm — and rising — price on emissions of greenhouse gases to encourage a shift in investments toward cleaner or more efficient technologies.

The report, “Lighting the Way — Toward a Sustainable Energy Fu-
ture,” was posted online at www.intereacademypanel.net by the In-
terAcademy Council, a group representing the world’s 150 scientific and engineering academies.

Bruce M. Alberts, a former president of the U.S. National Academ-
ies of Sciences and a co-chairman of the InterAcademy Council, said the independent academies would now press the case for their proposals with their respective governments.

Kyrgyzstan’s Leader Dissolves Parliament
By David L. Stern
ROBERT KRYSTEKN

President Karmanbek Bakiev disbanded Parliament and called Sunday for new parliamentary elections after Bakiev announced on Thursday that he would dissolve it. Bakiev also announced that voters had overwhelmingly adopted a controversial new constitution and election law in a weekend referendum.

Bakiev said he had witnessed widespread ballot-stuffing and warned that this Central Asian state — home to a U.S. air base that provides vital support to the war effort in Afghanistan — was sliding into authoritarianism.

Bakiev announced the referendum and unveiled the actual docu-
ments just a month ago. It was, he said, an effort to break once and for all the political impasse that has stymied the country even since its previous leader, Askar Akayev, was driven from power in March 2005 by violent protests against falsified parliamentary elections.

Organized Crime Takes Lead in Italy’s Economy
By Peter Klein
THE NEW YORK TIMES

Organized crime represents the biggest segment of the Italian econ-
omy, accounting for more than $127 billion in receipts, according to a report issued Monday.

The new figure reflects a trend that has been under way for a few years, the annual report says. The figure last year was $106 billion, but it is not quite the biggest segment of the economy. It also said that the line between legitimate business and criminal activity was be-
coming harder to discern, making it more difficult to weed out criminal elements.

The annual report is titled “SOS Businesses” and was released by the Confesercenti, an association of small businesses. The report, which analyses the extent of criminality throughout Italian businesses, asserts that through various activities — extortion, usury, contract-
robbery, gambling and Internet piracy — organized crime syndicates account for 7 percent of Italy’s gross domestic product.

“From the weaving factories, to tourism to business and personal services, an economy going to public contracts to real estate and finally the criminal presence is consolidated in every economic activity,” the 86-page report said.

Senator Received Donations From Phone Company Execs
By Eric Lichtblau and Scott Shane
WASHINGTON

Executives at the two biggest phone companies contributed more than $42,000 in political donations to Sen. Jay Rockefeller, D-W.Va., this year while seeking his support for le-
gal immunity for businesses particip-
ating in National Security Agency eavesdropping.

The surge in contributions came from a who’s who of executives at the companies, AT&T and Verizon, starting with the chief executives and including at least 50 executives and lawyers at the two utilities, according to campaign finance reports.

The money came primarily from a fundraiser that Verizon held for Rockefeller in March in New York and another that AT&T sponsored for him in May in San Antonio.

Rockefeller, chairman of the Sen-
ate Intelligence Committee, emerged last week as the most important back-
er of immunity in devising a compro-
mise plan with Senate Republicans and the Bush administration.

A measure approved by the intel-
ligence panel on Thursday would add restrictions on the eavesdropping and extend retroactive immunity to carri-
ers that participated in it. President Bush secretly approved the program after the Sept. 11 attacks.

Rockefeller’s office said Monday that the sharp increases in contribu-
tions from the telecommunications executives had no influence on his support for the immunity provision.

“Any suggestion that Senator Rockefeller would make policy deci-
sions based on campaign contribu-
tions is patently false,” Wendy Moni-
g, a spokesperson for him, said. “He made his decision to support limited immunity based on the Intelligence Committee’s careful review of the situation and our national security interests.”

AT&T and Verizon have been lobbying hard to insulate themselves from suits over their reported roles in the National Security Agency program by gain-
ing legal immunity from Congress. The effort included meetings with Rockefeller and other members of the intelligence panel, officials said. Both companies face suits from customers who say their privacy was violated. Administration officials say they worry that the suits, pending be-
fore the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 9th Circuit, could bankrupt the util-
ities.

House Democrats have balked at the immunity, refusing to include it in a bill they drew up and saying they would not even consider it unless the administration produces long-sought documents on the origins of the pro-
gram.

Rockefeller received little in the way of contributions from A.T.& T. or Verizon between the first of the year, reporting $4,050 from 2005. From last March to June, he collected a total of $44,850 from ex-
ecutives at the two companies. The increase was first reported by the on-
line journal Wired, using data com-
piled from the Web site OpenSecrets.

Neither Rockefeller’s predeces-
sor as committee chairman nor his House counterpart received increases in contributions from the phone com-
panies, records show. But industry executives have given significant contributions to a number of other Washington politicians, including two presidential contenders, Sens. Hillary Rodham Clinton, D-N.Y., and John McCain, R-Ariz.

Microsoft Drops Fight Against Antitrust Regulators in Europe
By Steve Lohr and Kevin J. O’Brien
NEW YORK TIMES

Microsoft has given up its nine-
year fight against antitrust regula-
tors in Europe, saying Monday that it would not challenge a court judg-
ment from last month and would share technical information with ri-
vals on terms the software giant had long resisted.

European regulators and some software giants in Europe hailed the agreement as a breakthrough that provided a strong legal foundation for the European Union’s power to force a dominant company to share its intellectual property with rivals.

But just how much effect the agreement will have on the global software marketplace remains un-
certain because many issues in the case already have been addressed, either by engineering or by previous legal settlements, according to some industry analysts.

As part of its past efforts to set-
tle its antitrust problems, Microsoft has reached costly agreements with competitors that were the company’s most outspoken critics, including Sun Microsystems, IBM and Novell.

In general, analysts say, the private agreements between Microsoft and competitors provided for cross-li-
censing and sharing technology.

What is clear is how much Mi-
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ing in Europe is shrinking. Just last month by the Court of First Instance in Luxemburg. The court reaff-
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pany must obey a 004 European Commission order to share confi-
dential computer code with com-
petitors.

After the courtroom setback, Steven A. Ballmer, Microsoft’s chief executive, wrote a conciliatory letter to Nellee Kroes, the European competition commissioner, accord-
ing to a commission staff official.

Micro-Weather

June or October?
By Garrett P. Marino

START MEDICANTHREAD

Yesterday was a hot day, and in some areas surpassed, the 80 degree-
mark yet again. Logan reached 81 degrees, nearly tying its record of 83 set in 1979. In fact, October to date has averaged more than 5 degrees above nor-
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Conflict Simmers on a Second Kurdish Front in Northern Iraq

By Richard A. Oppel Jr.

The New York Times
In Iraq, now at more than $196 billion, the administration’s handling of Iraq.

Many families sat in the bleakness, watching television’s commercials and the report of their neighbors’小区.

At Qualcomm Stadium, to which thousands of evacuees came from hard-hit areas,

By Solomon Moore

On Nov. 20, it is to go on the block at Sotheby’s as one of the highlights of the day Monday to escape approaching flames.

By Steven Lee Myers

The New York Times

By Roni Caryn Rabin

The New York Times

Study Finds Rise in Choice of Double Mastectomies

By Roni Caryn Rabin

More women with breast cancer are choosing to have their healthy breast surgically removed along with their affected breast, a new study has found. And the increase in double mastectomies is occurring after the radical procedure in 2003, up from just under 2 percent in 1998.

The study, published in The Journal of Clinical Oncology, examined only a small number of the 1.9 million women who receive breast cancer diagnoses in the United States each year. But experts said the study’s results could be useful to women who are still electing to have the procedure, a call for a prophylactic mastectomy.

The study’s lead author, Dr. Todd M. Tittel, chief of surgical oncology at the University of Minnesota Medical School, started the study because of an increase in double mastectomies, an upward trend that shows no sign of leveling off and is occurring even as the practice of breast-conserving surgery is expanding.

Thompson Links Deaths of Daughter and Schiavo

By Marc Santora

In his public life, former Sen. Fred D. Thompson had long refrained from talking about the Terri Schiavo case. Thompson was a vocal opponent of the procedure in 2002, as an episode that friends and colleagues said had played a significant role in his decision not to seek a Senate re-election in 2002. But on Monday, when questioned at a news conference about his reaction to the Terri Schiavo case, Thompson opened up about the death, saying that Schiavo’s case had personal meaning for him because of how his daughter, Elizabeth Panichi, known as Betsy, had died.

“Of course, I did not like the image of Terri Schiavo in that situation like that in my own personal life with my own daughter,” Thompson was visibly flustered by the question.

Porsche Seen Likely To Gain VW Merger

By Mark Landler

The European Court of Justice in Luxembourg is expected to strike down the so-called Volkswagen Law, a statute devised by the German government to prevent the auto giant from an unwanted takeover.

While such a decision would be a significant milestone in European development of a single market, it will move only a small, but highly profitable maker of sports cars swallowing a company 14 times its size.

It would be a classic David-and-Goliath tale, if this Goliath were not so tiny and belligerent.

Porsche has been buying shares in Volkswagen for two years, and it has made no secret of its goal. It has even arranged a $14 billion credit line for additional stock purchases, though Porsche executives insist they are under no pressure to raise their stake and in no hurry to do so.

One Person's Trash Is Another's Last-Minute Treasure

By Carol Vogel

It’s hardly a place you would expect to find a $1 million painting. But one March morning four years ago, Elizabeth Gibson was on her way to get coffee, as usual, when she spotted a large and colorful abstract canvas nestled between two big garbage bags in front of the Alexander, an apartment building on the northwest corner of Broadway and 72nd Street in Manhattan.

By Yeon Lan Kim

The New York Times

By Rep. David R. Obey, D-Wis., the chairman of the House Appropriations Committee, said that the bill would raise concern about the $22 billion a year in funding for new armored vehicles designed to withstand attacks by missiles and roadside bombs, and a rise in operational costs because of the increase in the number of troops, from approximately 160,000 to 200,000.

President Bush asked Congress on Tuesday to add almost $196 billion for the war in Iraq and in Afghanistan, the largest request for new security programs, setting the stage for a new confrontation with Democrats over the way and 72nd Street in Manhattan.

Many families sat in the bleakness, watching television’s commercials and the report of their neighbors’小区.

At Qualcomm Stadium, to which thousands of evacuees came from hard-hit areas, and an electric guitar jammed with singer’s
to dodge embers from fires fed
on dry shrub and grasses.

Students were declared an emergency under spending rules, even though the need for the money was
in question — comes in the middle of the White House’s fight with Congress over the $110 billion in post-disaster bills for the fiscal year that began Oct. 1. None of those bills has been completed so far.

Democrats on Capitol Hill, having
in the Senate.

House and Senate leaders have worked until the last minute to keep the president’s request until they receive
in the spending bills the White House has vowed to veto
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Rep. David R. Obey, D-Wis., the chairman of the House Appropriations Committee, criticized Bush for the amount of money in the bill, saying, “I believe the president attacked Democrats as spendthrifts.

It’s amazing to me that the president
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Why the U.S. and Israel Are Strong Allies

Stephen D. Fried

The value that the U.S.-Israel relationship has to both partners of the alliance is incalculable not only because of its strategic importance, but also because it projects values that matter deeply to the American people. In their address at MIT on Oct. 3, academicians Stephen M. Walt and John J. Mearsheimer argued that support of Israel is not in America’s national interest, and to advance their claim, they suggested that lobbyists run largely by American Jews control and dictate American foreign policy — therefore explaining the United States’s strong relationship with Israel.

As the U.S.-Israel relationship reaches 60 years of unflagging dedication, it is indeed important to consider what precisely is the basis for this strong alliance.

The economic influence is not aimed at hegemony, but rather it is motivated by the sin- cerity of conviction, free-market economy, free press, and Western-styled civil rights optimize the symbiosis between government and people and lead to stability. Israel is the only regime in its region that possesses these qualities, and therefore American support of Israel demonstrates our commitment to these values and further enhances us as a values-driven nation.

The thesis Walt and Mearsheimer construct is that “Israel’s security is ultimately not of substantial concern to the United States.” Their attitude (called “behavioral rationality”) is that American national interests supersede any moral imperative or ethical concern. By extension, according to this school, there is no compelling national interest for America to foil genocide in Darfur because America has little interest in relationship with petroleum-exporting countries. This bothers me, and I believe it should bother you. Values matter, they define who we are. American foreign policy attempts to make good on those values, and although sometimes we may fall short of this noble goal, our national interests will always be tied to them, which is why the Israel Lobby continues to be germane. Israel is perhaps the most reliable, capable, and willing friend of the United States in its region and in the world. That statement is not a romanticization but a pragmatically verifiable by the fact that Israel’s support for the United States’s positions in international for- ums (like the United Nations) has surpassed any other governments — even those of other countries such as France, Britain, and Canada — for the last 60 years.

Democracy and human rights across the board have been unified in one voice supporting Americanfriendship with Israel. Whereas support for American foreign policy in European countries sways with changes in political climate and zeitgeist, Israel supports the United States is simply a fact of life.

Israel is perhaps the single most reliable, capable, and willing friend of the U.S. in its region and in the world.

Likewise, in poll after poll, Americans say that they want to support Israel. According to a Gallup poll from February 2007, more than half of Americans rated Israel as a “vital friend,” while 55 percent of the respondents rated the Swiss State as “favorable” and “important.” This nation is the only country to be named in both categories, as 93 percent of representatives and 85 percent of senators express the same sentiments. Legislation that supports Israel (such as the Iran Freedom and Support Act of 2005) pass Congress with the highest margins and are supported by Congress because it supports Israel’s national security concerns and America’s national security concerns are interlinked in lock.

The shared security interest was true during the Cold War and continues to be true in the present global war on terror. Every American president since Harry S. Truman has person- ally supported Israel, including Jimmy Carter, who dropped his recent change in heart, stated during his own administration: “The survival of Israel is not a political issue, it is a moral im- perative. That is my deeply held belief, and it is the belief that is shared by the vast majority of the American people — a strong secure Israel is not just in Israel’s interest. It’s in the interest of the United States and in the interest of the entire free world.”

In the summer of 1942, 400 rabbis went to Washington, D.C. to lobby Congress to take steps to rescue the Jews of Europe, but most people said America had no compelling nation- al interest to do so. American fighter jets flew past Auschwitz in 1944 and bombed a rubber factory nearby instead of saving potentially millions of lives. In 1984, the United States funded Operation Moses, a covert project that airlifted 8,000 black Jews from Sudan to Israel where they were at risk of being murdered by para- military groups. The operation took American taxpayer dollars and was done at the risk of alienating oil-exporting regimes.

Why was American policy so different in 1984 than in 1942? Perhaps because there was an Israel Lobby that called on America to act upon its values by intervening in the interna- tional arena, just as it now does via-is pro- Dur. While some may protest that the operation did not advance American interests, I am proud that American policy sometimes upholds ide- als instead of surrendering to the pressures of geopolitical forces like oil and nationalism. Is- rael has similarly committed itself to the same ideals by having the highest percent of its GDP voluntary, and strong.

As we approach the 60th anniversary of the American-Israeli relationship, I am confident that the alliance will continue to mutual, voluntary, and strong.

Stephen D. Fried is a member of the Class of 2009.

Opinion Policy

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Dissents are the opinions of signed members of the editorial board who disagree with the published dissent with the editorial.

Letters to the editor, columns, and editorial cartoons are writ- ten by individuals and represent the opinion of the author, not necessarily that of the newspaper. Electronic submissions are encouraged and should be sent to letters@the-tech.mit.edu. Hard copy submissions must be addressed to The Tech, P.O. Box 79785, Cambridge, Mass. 02219-7980, 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, but letters will be given higher priority. Once submitted, all letters become property of The Tech, and will not be returned. Letters, columns, and cartoons may also be posted on The Tech’s Web site and/or printed in other publications. Letters to the editor are limited to 500 words. To contact, send mail to general@the-tech.mit.edu, and it will be di- rected to the appropriate person. You can reach the editor in chief by e-mailing cic@the-tech.mit.edu. Please send press releases, requests for coverage, and information about errors that call for correction to news@the-tech.mit.edu. Letters to the editor should be sent to letters@the-tech.mit.edu. The Tech can be found on the World Wide Web at http://www.the-tech.mit.edu.

To Reach Us

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The Tech’s e-mail address is letters@the-tech.mit.edu. The Tech’s mailing address is The Tech, P.O. Box 79785, Cambridge, Mass. 02219-7980, or sent by interdepartmental mail to Room W20-483. For your convenience, some editors can be reached by phone at the numbers below. Please call only during normal operating hours, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday.

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October 23, 2007
To the Newly Initiated Sisters of

Kappa Alpha Theta

Kirsten Arrevold
Jasmin Baek
Sheena Bhatta
Neeharika Bhartiya
Julie Bharucha
Olga Batvinnik
Rachel Buchhorn
Angela Chang
Michelle Chang
Helen Chen
Kam Yim Cheng
Katherine Choi
Danielle DeLatte
Yuting Deng
Prarthna Desai
Amy Du
Amrita Ganguly
Naisi Gao
Yvette Hilario
Jamie Huang
Julie Hui
Taylor Jay
Naomi Jiang
Stephanie Lacy
Kathy Li
Anita Lin
May Liu
Corina Oprescu
Pia Pal
Michelle Princi
Ellie Pula
Sivakami Sambasivam
Yun Song
Danielle Wang
Feci Wang
Shan Wang
Kristen Watkins
Drew Wolfert
Sarah Wright
Gloria Yang
Debbie Yue
Alice Yu

Congratulations!

With Faith, Hope, and Love,
The Sisters of Kappa Alpha Theta, Zeta Mu Chapter
There’s nothing like the lack of supervision, creatures of the night, or the feeling of a wind that realizes how I work best. I’ve already taken great joy in the fact that we have two grown sisters. They’ve been talked about, like not listening to music with lyrics, or working on my desk instead of the computer. So I can’t stop myself. I could build adequate cash flow for furniture, the two are the same as often as not. When better than college calculations, the abdomens of squirrels passing by. I’ve been told that my unnatural ability to triple his grade point average simply by looking at the dork … I mean, dark? Or is there perhaps something I can use it to become an even more strange superhero, drawing all the wisdom of the universe from a security blanket wired into my brain.

No. Melodramatic pronouncements, unfortunately, only go so far in real life. Besides, even if I’d become a bedazzling-veiled, cape with spandex pajamas has been outdated since Elvis. Fortunately, only go so far in real life. Besides, even if I’d become a bedazzling-veiled, caped with spandex pajamas has been outdated since Elvis. I think it’s making my laptop jealous.

There was no escape. Police cars zoomed in when she was growing up because of the social traditions. So the culture is preventing necessary change (though even this is questionable), what do you do?

I have to admit, though, I am a little curious as to just how bizarre some study habits are.”

What happens? They acknowledge their problems. Chariot vs. Whale

Bar Rhythm

Hardly Working

Through My Eyes

Questioning My Character

Sarah: When are you getting in?

Barbecue on her next trip up to Boston. And to practice patience, I’m always working on my desk instead of the computer. So I can’t stop myself.

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Talking Turkey

Who the Hack Is Mr. Gobbles?

By Daniel Turner

OK, so a turkey hangs out in Kendall Square. Big deal — I’ve seen a lot of turkeys in my lifetime. Maybe that’s just because I grew up on a rural Minnesota farm, but that isn’t an explanation for why barely anyone around here seems to know what a turkey is. You see, I walked down the path that leads past Quantum Books into East Cambridge twice a day for over a year. In that time, I saw some pretty strange episodes involving the Kendall Square turkey, affectionately known as Mr. Gobbles. I’ve seen him walking, running, flying, sleeping, munching on grass, and being chased by everyone from obese women to skinny kids.

One of the first incidents was when a short woman wearing wrap-around sunglasses and a flashy yellow shirt passed Mr. Gobbles and asked me, “Hey man, is that a peacock?” I wanted to give a witty reply about how stupid her question was, but no, I held my tongue and politely explained that it was a turkey. Wikipedia states, “Turkeys are . . . rarely mistaken for any other species.” That site needs amending!

Other days, I hear bits of cell phone conversations like this: “I don’t know what it is (pause as other person replies). It’s on the other side of a fence.” A couple of times young mothers, with babies in strollers, suddenly have a burst of energy and quickly speed walk past Mr. Gobbles to keep their child out of harm’s way. Mothering instincts or Darwin at work, perhaps? More like ignorance — what is he going to do, eat your kid?!

The worst incident was when two obese women (approximately in their 40s) chased Mr. Gobbles, grinning, laughing, shouting, and clapping. I suggested they stop. They left looking very sultry. Gobbles had his peace and quiet.

And then there are all the bored tourists on trolley tours. They look totally exhausted as the trolley pulls up to the stop light. Then, like wildfire, I see them exchange exclamations of surprise and delight. Suddenly everyone on the trolley whips out cell phones and cameras to shoot pictures of the turkey from across the street. Then they put away those same cameras as they get a green light and the driver explains, “Up next is MIT, a very famous institution . . .” MIT just isn’t as exciting as a turkey, apparently!

Occasionally I see a group of twentysomethings, strapping, smartly-dressed lads from local businesses exchange glances, laugh, point at Mr. Gobbles, and then mutter something like, “I bet my dad knows what it is.” Come on, you have how many degrees and you don’t know what a turkey is?

When I was in grade school, every fall we had to make drawings of turkeys by tracing our hands. Were most of the so-called intelligent people around here so smart that they skipped grades? So, hackers, the gauntlet is laid down — please transform the dome into a giant turkey so I don’t have to answer stupid questions any longer and so people will know what they are eating on Thanksgiving.

SCHOLARS PROGRAM

BURCHARD SCHOLARS PROGRAM

ALL MIT JUNIORS AND SOPHOMORES

THE 2008 BURCHARD SCHOLARS PROGRAM IS NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS


The Burchard Scholars Program brings together members of the MIT faculty with juniors and sophomores who have demonstrated excellence in some aspect of the humanities, arts, and social sciences. 30 Burchard Scholars are invited to a series of dinner-seminars throughout the year to discuss topics of current research or interest by faculty members, visiting scholars, and Burchard Scholars. The 2008 program begins in February.

For information or an application, contact: Dean’s Office, SHASS, E51-255 (x-38962)

APPLICATION DEADLINE: MONDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2007

Sponsored by the DEAN’S OFFICE, SCHOOL OF HUMANITIES, ARTS, AND SOCIAL SCIENCES
October 23, 2007

OVNI
by Roxana Safipour

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

Crossword Puzzle
Solution, page 12

ACROSS
1 Profusion
2 Data
3 Cameo stone
4 The way to Lao-tzu
5 In the least
6 Bounded
7 WE
8 St. crosser
9 Fashion lines
10 Tired of it all
11 Model of perfection
12 Preminger film
13 Without content
14 Take away
15 Intermesh
16 Nail smoother
17 Start of Evan Esar quote
18 Take away weaponry
19 Befuddled
20 Bagel topper
21 Short drink
22 Dollar bill artist
23 Wickerwork material
24 Automaton
25 Capone henchman
26 Spread wide
27 Sneaker
28 Mad as a Spaniard
29 Chinese currency
30 Part 2 of quote
31 Atkins or Huntley
32 Part 3 of quote
33 Centerward
34 Greet, in a way
35 Chair holder
36 __ better watch out!
37 Grimm figure
38 Exploiter
39 Campus sports org.
40 North of Mexico
41 My denizens
42 Part 3 of quote
43 Arafat of the PLO
44 Spread of denial
45 Words of denial
46 Rot resistant wood
47 Having wings
48 Farmer Turkish titles
49 Me to Pierre
50 Dollar bill artist
51 Danish seaport
52 Artwork
53 "The Highwayman" poet
54 "__ a Wonderful Life"
55 Takes to court
56 Spread wide
57 Taj Mahal site
58 Tanker or cruiser
59 On the peak
60 End of quote
61 Recipe abbr.
62 Greek letter
63 __ a Wonderful Life
64 Colorful mount
65 Lieder of cosmetics
66 Medium section of a scherzo
67 Math course
68 Extends across
69 Warren of the NFL
70 Out of a scherzo
71 __ better watch out!
72 __ a Wonderful Life
73 __ Bracelet
74 "__ a Wonderful Life"
75 __ a Wonderful Life
76 __ a Wonderful Life
77 __ a Wonderful Life
78 __ a Wonderful Life
79 __ a Wonderful Life
80 __ a Wonderful Life

DOWN
1 Marsh bird
2 Marsh bird
3 Cameo stone
4 The way to Lao-tzu
5 In the least
6 Bounded
7 WE
8 St. crosser
9 Fashion lines
10 Tired of it all
11 Model of perfection
12 Preminger film
13 Without content
14 Take away
15 Intermesh
16 Nail smoother
17 Start of Evan Esar quote
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78 __ a Wonderful Life
79 __ a Wonderful Life
80 __ a Wonderful Life

Solution, tips, and computer program at http://www.sudoku.com
a school does not vary much over a short time span, Anderson said.

The first category that is addressed by Washington Monthly is social mobility. The magazine analyzes schools by predicting graduation rates based on incoming SAT scores and the number of Pell grants awarded. Pell grants are awarded to low-income undergraduates and are a measure of how many under-privileged students attend an institution.

The predicted graduation rate for MIT this year was 102 percent, reflecting the fact that incoming MIT students have very high SAT scores and that there are very few Pell grant recipients this year. Washington Monthly does not cap the predicted graduation rate at 100 percent.

The difference between MIT’s actual graduation rate (94 percent) and the predicted graduation rate was used as the measure for social mobility. MIT was ranked 205 in this category this year.

MIT ranked second overall in the number of PhDs awarded in 2007. This number contributes significantly to the research category ranking. Another component is the amount of research grant money that a college or university is awarded. MIT ranked 15th in this category behind schools such as Johns Hopkins University and the University of Washington, which ranked first and second, respectively.

A common contention with the Washington Monthly rankings is how the research category is measured. By using the absolute value of grant money awarded as opposed to a proportional measure that incorporates the size of the faculty or student body, this category gives an advantage to larger schools.

Washington Monthly argues that this advantage is acceptable because larger schools generally have larger research capabilities.

The final category deals with the amount of community service performed by students and graduates of a school. The category takes into account the number of graduates that join the Peace Corps and the size of Reserve Officer Training Corps programs. These two groups are considered representative of other service organizations even though some schools such as Princeton do not have ROTC programs.

“We feel that participation in the military is a big part of social service,” Anderson said. The ROTC program at MIT ranked 13th.

Also included in the community service category is the percentage of Federal Work-Study Funds that are spent on service in the local region. MIT has improved in this area because of new community service programs offered by the Public Service Center, such as ReachOut, a part of the America Reads literacy program.

Although MIT dropped this year in the Washington Monthly rankings, the Institute still performed better than many of the most selective colleges and universities in the country that also sit at the top of the U.S. News rankings. Harvard University was ranked 27th in this year’s Washington Monthly rankings.
College Tuition Rising at More Than Double the Inflation Rate

By Jonathan D. Glater

THE NEW YORK TIMES

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– December 15, 2008

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We’re seeking successful, enthusiastic individuals who want to launch their careers at an innovative company. As a leading provider of independent investment research, our mission is to create great products that help investors reach their financial goals. We provide a unique work environment for our employees through our dynamic culture, competitive salaries, and comprehensive benefits. Morningstar encourages employees to explore, create, and innovate to achieve personal and professional growth.

We will be conducting interviews on your campus this fall. For more information, please check with your career services office or visit corporate. morningstar.com/careers.

Morningstar is an equal opportunity employer.
Unauthorized file sharing of copyrighted materials is against the law and MIT policy.

As the fall semester at MIT is in full swing, we think it is important to remind you about the serious consequences of unauthorized downloading and sharing of copyrighted materials. We cannot stress enough the unauthorized downloading and sharing of copyrighted files via the Internet. The Recording Industry Association of America (RIAA) has notified MIT and other universities of its intention to continue to sue students for infringing their members' copyrights. It has been reported that as of the beginning of 2006, the RIAA had filed over 17,500 lawsuits. We believe this campaign will continue and expand. See www.djlawsite.com.

It is also worth reminding you that, in addition to the RIAA, many other content owners, including the Motion Picture Association of America, send takedown notices under the Digital Millennium Copyright Act (DMCA) for videos, movies, and software. Takedown notices request that access to infringing files on the Internet be removed or disabled. Students should reconsider engaging in any unauthorized activities in light of the pervasive monitoring of file sharing that content owners do on the Internet.

We know that this has been a most stressful experience for those students who have been named in the past. Accordingly, we are writing this note to ensure that you can avoid this consequence by complying with MIT policy and the law. We also want to let you know of options available to students facing a notice, including those directly related to the takedown notice. MIT alone has been served with a proper subpoena, MIT will not delete, any peer-to-peer program. Again, unless relating to the claims and to retain, and not delete, any peer-to-peer programs.

Copyright Enforcement Activities

In the past few years, companies in the entertainment industry have aggressively attempted to stop unauthorized downloading, copying, and sharing of music and video by college students. They have taken schools and their students to court in an attempt to stop copying. This monitoring allows these companies to identify Internet Protocol (“IP”) addresses, but they cannot identify users of those IP addresses. Therefore, when a company determines that an IP address has been used to violate its copyright, it sends a takedown notice to the Internet Service Provider (“ISP”) asking it to then send the notice to the user of that IP address. The notice describes the alleged unauthorized downloading and sharing of the company’s copyrighted materials. If the ISP does not provide any identifying information to the content owner unless it is required to do so in response to a valid, enforceable subpoena for records.

The RIAA has developed a comprehensive strategy for gathering copyright violations. In addition to takedown notices, the RIAA has been sending campus ISPs copies of notices prior to filing lawsuits; “preservation requests” and “pre-litigation settlement letters.” It has been reported that the RIAA has sent almost 3,000 pre-litigation settlement letters. MIT alone has received more than 50 settlement letters this year.

Pre-Litigation Settlement Letters

If, after a settlement letter is sent, there is no response, MIT is legally required to provide the identity of the user of a particular IP address. The letter provides information indicating that the user has violated copyright laws. It provides an opportunity to settle the claim as early as possible at a “significantly reduced” amount compared to the judgment a court might award. It also informs the user to preserve evidence relating to the claims and instructs the user to retain, and not delete, any peer-to-peer programs. MIT’s practice is to forward the settlement letter along with an education notice to the user. The notice explains the requirements for settlement and directs the user to seek legal counsel before making a decision.

Lawsuits and Subpoenas

If, after a settlement letter is sent, there is no response, MIT is legally required to provide the identity of the user of a particular IP address. The letter provides information indicating that the user has violated copyright laws. It provides an opportunity to settle the claim as early as possible at a “significantly reduced” amount compared to the judgment a court might award. It also informs the user to preserve evidence relating to the claims and instructs the user to retain, and not delete, any peer-to-peer programs. Mit’s practice is to forward the settlement letter along with an education notice to the user. The notice explains the requirements for settlement and directs the user to seek legal counsel before making a decision.

Outside legal counsel for the RIAA has also been sending “pre-litigation settlement letters” to the DMCA agent for MIT. The settlement letters are directed to the user of a particular IP address. The letter provides information indicating that the user has violated copyright laws. It provides an opportunity to settle the claim as early as possible at a “significantly reduced” amount compared to the judgment a court might award. It also informs the user to preserve evidence relating to the claims and instructs the user to retain, and not delete, any peer-to-peer programs. MIT’s practice is to forward the settlement letter along with an education notice to the user. The notice explains the requirements for settlement and directs the user to seek legal counsel before making a decision.

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Copyright enforcement activities have increased significantly in recent years. In addition to takedown notices, the RIAA has been sending campus ISPs copies of notices prior to filing lawsuits; “preservation requests” and “pre-litigation settlement letters.” It has been reported that the RIAA has sent almost 3,000 pre-litigation settlement letters. MIT alone has received more than 50 settlement letters this year.

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Dean’s Replacement To Be Announced in Spring ’08, Clay Says

Benedict, from Page 1

said he plans to reexamine dining services and further renovate the dormitories. He cited among his current chief concerns the opening of NW35, the new graduate dormitory being built near Sidney-Pacific graduate dormitory, as well as the blue ribbon dining committee, which will address concerns about dining costs and availability.

Benedict says he would tell the next dean to “get to know MIT.” “It’s a very different place, it has its own personality,” he said. “Get to know the students. They’re wonderful.”

Prior to his arrival at MIT, Benedict served as dean for student affairs at Johns Hopkins University. His first task at MIT was to create the entirely new Division for Student Life, portions of which had previously been part of the Department for Undergraduate Education. “[Benedict] built the division from the many fragments we had to put together,” Chancellor Phillip L. Clay PhD ’75 said.

During Benedict’s tenure, he oversaw the construction of the Zesiger Sports and Fitness Center, as well undergraduate dormitory Simmons Hall and graduate residences the Warehouse, Sidney-Pacific, and the soon-to-be-completed NW35. He expanded the housemaster program to graduate residences and restarted residential dining at Baker House, McCormick Hall, and Next House. Benedict supported student activities and oversaw a student leadership development initiative, as well as the expansion of the Public Service Center.

“I will remember Larry Benedict as an effective and caring professional of great integrity, energy and compassion.” Clay said.

Clay, who announced Benedict’s retirement in an Oct. 19 e-mail to the MIT community, has appointed Dean of Graduate Students Steven R. Lerman ’72 to chair an advisory committee of MIT staff, faculty, and student representatives that will identify Benedict’s replacement. The committee will decide on qualities desired in the next dean for student life and present Clay with a shortlist of four to 10 candidates.

Lerman said the final decision rests in the hands of Clay, who said he hopes to announce the name by next spring in time for the new dean to start July 1.

In his retirement, Benedict said he hopes to do volunteer work and go fishing. But before anything, he said, he will take some time off.

“I’ve got to catch up on sleep,” he said.

MIT Greek Fire Relief Fundraising

MIT Hellenic Students’ Association
October 22nd-26th, Lobby 10 Booth
http://web.mit.edu/hellenic/www/fundraising

During the summer of 2007, a series of forest fires burned in Greece, especially in the areas of Peloponnesse and Evia. The fires destroyed approximately 80,000 acres of forests, 29,000 houses and 100 villages. There were 79 casualties, leaving many orphans.

This catastrophe motivated us to organize a fundraiser for the relief from the disastrous consequences of those fires. We are cooperating with the MIT Public Service Center and the “Federation of the Hellenic-American Societies of New England” (FHASNE, http://www.fhasne.com). The proceedings are going to be transferred to the “Greek Fire Relief Fund” set up by the “Federation of the Hellenic-American Societies of New England” for:

• The forests to revive
• The people to rebuild
• The orphans

We count very much on your contribution. Any donation is very important for the cause. You can donate by:

• Depositing money to the following account we have set up at MIT: #272113 - Helenele Stel - Humanitarian Relief. You can deposit through the MIT Cashier’s Office, NE49-3077, 600 Technology Square, Cambridge, MA 02139, 617 253 5426, cashiers-office[at]mit[dot]edu, Monday through Friday 10 am - 2 pm.
• By making a check payable to “FHASNE Fire Relief Fund” and handing it to us during the week of October 22nd - 26th at the lobby 10 booth we have reserved for this cause.
• By handing cash to us at the same time and location.

Please, give your name, address and phone number when you donate, because the donations are tax-deductible.

Sponsored by: MIT Public Service Center
Come attend a Technical Presentation
“Taking a Crack at the Hard Problem of Machine Intelligence: A General Learning Machine Based on the Brain”

Tuesday, October 23, 2007 at 5:00 p.m.
in Building 4 Room 237
followed by Free Pizza and Soda at 6:00 p.m.

Ph.D. & M.S. students apply to attend Sandia’s Science & Engineering Expo (SEE Sandia)
- January 7-9, 2008
- www.sandia.gov/employment
  + Career Opportunities
  + Job Posting 59612
  + SEE Sandia

Bachelor’s students apply to attend Sandia’s Master’s Fellowship Recruiting Event:
- November 28-30, 2007
- www.sandia.gov/employment
  + Career Opportunities
  + Job Posting 58746
  + Masters Fellowship Program

Sandia will also be conducting interviews on October 24, 2007 at the MIT Career Services Office.

Visit our website at www.sandia.gov

Solution to Sudoku from page 8

What’s Going On?

MIT can be a bewildering place if you don’t know what’s going on.

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‘Ship Happens’ Wins Z-Center Cardboard Boat Race

OCTOBER 23, 2007

Zesiger, from Page 1

the Institute: Professor Wesley L. Harris, Dr. Kim B. Blair, Professor Thomas J. Allen, Professor Donald R. Sadovsky, and Dr. Art W. Epstein PhD ‘95.

Ship Happens and Unsinkable II competed in the first heat. Ship Hap-

pens, an all-white vessel with portions for each rower, was captained by

Ellian Cohen ‘08, who was joined by Cheni Ouyang ‘08 and Rebecca K. Oman ‘08. The Unsinkable II, sporting a lacquered cardboard hull, was captained by Christina A. Jaworsky ‘11 and manned by Alex T. Val ‘11 and Justin T. Lan ‘11.

Contrary to its name, Unsinkable II was not so unsinkable. The ship sank before the race even began, and when the team attempted to compete, with just two members, it sank again. Although Ship Happens automatici-

ally won the round, they still com-

pleted the course in a speedy 1:58.74 thanks to synchronized, even strokes and straight steering.

“We started with a bunch of box-

es that we had left over from when

we unpacked,” said Jaworsky, captain of the Unsinkable II. Jaworsky said she and her teammates calculated the boat size needed to support their weight and painstakingly caulked each seam of the cardboard.

The second heat pitted the two pi-

rate teams, Conner Four Pirates and

The Black Pearl, against each other. The Conner Four Pirates, a yellow boat, was led by Aineily K. Braun ‘10 and crewsed by Maria R. Bheagant ‘11 and Alexander F. St. Claire ‘08. The Black Pearl, which sported a pirate flag and decorative cardboard oars, was captained by Alan D. Foreman ‘09, while Stephen P. Fournier ‘09 and Gavin M. Cotter ‘09 made up the crew.

While the Conner Four Pirates were more successful than Unsink-

able II, water started rushing into the Pirates’ boat from the start. “The cardboard buckled under our weight,” said Jaworsky. Despite ef-

forts to remove the water with a pitch-er, the boat sank after approxi-

mately 10 yards.

However, the Conner Four Pi-

rates valiantly refused to abandon the race, attempting to use the twist-
ed cardboard as a raft for another 10 yards before the vessel finally sank for good. The Black Pearl, on the other hand, had a bit of a rocky start as the crew members struggled to reach the water with the kickboards, but they soon leveled off and finished with a time of 3:32.08.

In the final round, Ship Happens faced The Black Pearl. Although The Black Pearl had won its semifinal heat, the water weakened the struc-
tural integrity of the boat, causing it to sink shortly after the final race began. The team on The Black Pearl tried to keep the cardboard vessel in one piece and dragged it along, but the attempt was unsuccessful. Some members of the audience suggested they “seize [the other team’s] boat,” but members of the fated boat were determined to go down with their ship if necessary.

Meanwhile, the team from Ship Happens tried to beat its previous time, but failed, finishing just over at 2:03.35.

After the final round, prizes were awarded to the teams with winners and runner-ups in each category. With average scores of 6.4 and 8.1, The Black Pearl and Ship Happens were the runner-up and winner for best looking, respectively. Similarly, the runner-up for best technically constructed was The Black Pearl with an average score of 6.2, and the winner was Ship Happens with an average score of 8.8. The runner-up and winner for most spirited went to Conner Four Pirates and The Black Pearl, respectively.

For fastest time, which was based on the heat rounds, The Black Pearl was runner-up and Ship Happens was the winner. Finally, the Titanic award for best sinker was ironically awarded to Unsinkable II with Conner Four Pirates as runner-up.

At the end of the Head of the Zesiger only one boat was left intact, but everyone’s spirits were floating high. The competition demonstrated MIT student creativity and willingness to get a little wet.

Got a lot on your mind?

Share some thoughts with us!
Write for Campus Life. join@tech.mit.edu
Wonderful Weekend For a Boat Race

The 43rd annual Head of the Charles Boat Regatta was held this past weekend. Over 1,700 boats completed the 3 mile course.

(clockwise from right)
¶ The MIT heavyweight crew team passes the Weeks Footbridge on Sunday.
¶ Crew teams head towards Weeks Footbridge.
¶ The MIT lightweight crew team charges up the Charles River in the Lightweight Men’s Eights race.
¶ Men’s heavyweight crew glimmers in the sun in the Championship Men’s Eights race on Sunday.
¶ MIT Sloan Crew Club position themselves at the starting line for the Club Women’s Eights on Saturday.
¶ Ryan M. Daspit ’09 (left) and Ryan A. Flynn ’10 (right) row with the men’s lightweight crew team on Sunday.
¶ Guitarist Tim Reynolds, founder of the band TR3, headlines the 2007 Row-A-Palooza concert on Sunday.