

MIT's
Oldest and Largest
Newspaper



The Weather
Today: Mostly sunny, mid 40s°F (8°C)
Tonight: Rain, sometimes heavy, mid 30s°F (1°C)
Tomorrow: Morning rain, followed by intermittent showers, low 40s°F (6°C)
Details, Page 2

Volume 128, Number 10

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Friday, March 7, 2008

Profs Debate Merits of Tasty Pancakes, Yummy Pastries; No One Wins

By Yuri Hanada
STAFF REPORTER

Mob psychology, a conversation with an intelligent computer, and audience participation all numbered among the tactics used by six MIT professors Wednesday evening at MIT Hillel's Sixth Annual Latke vs. Hamentashen Debate.

Termed the "intellectual highlight of the MIT year" by moderator Jeremy Wolfe PhD '81, Department of Brain and Cognitive Sciences senior lecturer, the heated debate pits two Jewish delicacies against one another: the latke, a fried potato pancake often served during Hanukkah, and the hamentash, a three-sided, fruit-filled cookie traditionally eaten during Purim.

Defending the latke were Peter A. Dourmashkin '76, Department of Physics senior lecturer, Stephen W. Van Evera, Professor of Political Science, and Patrick H. Winston, Professor of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science. For the hamentash were Erik D. Demaine, Associate Professor of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science, Ari W. Epstein PhD '95, Terra-scope lecturer, and Hazel Sive, Professor of Biology.

The hamentash team won the coin toss (actually a ramen-noodle-package toss) and charitably opted to let the latke team speak first.

Classical latke mechanics

Dourmashkin opened by demonstrating the sinking and floating properties of the potato and latke, which he kept in his shirt pocket. The differences between potato and latke properties were further exemplified by Galileo's breakthrough, where the scientist realized that both fall to the ground at the same rate.

Dourmashkin said that the phrase "Your Latke," often mistakenly pronounced as "Eureka," is attributed falsely to Archimedes. Dourmashkin concluded by explaining the association of pi with latkes — and he added that the hamentash can only be associated with the square root of three, "an ugly number."

A project-based paradigm for pedagogy from pastries

Epstein spoke first for the hamentash side with a presentation on "The

Latke-Hamentashen, Page 12



DHAVAL ADJODAH

A latke mascot (Matthew S. Cons '08) and a hamentashen mascot (Lindsey A. Pete '08) duke it out before Wednesday's annual Latke-Hamentashen Debate held in 26-100.

Follett Is Fourth MIT Student To Star in 'Beauty and the Geek'

By Ramya Sankar
STAFF REPORTER

Another "Beauty and the Geek" season is about to begin, and another MIT contestant is ready to show off his talents.

Three MIT students have appeared on the CW Television Network reality show in the past, and Christopher L. Follett G will become the fourth when the fifth season begins next Tuesday.

"Beauty and the Geek," allegedly the "ultimate social experiment," tries to play off the stereotypes of good-looking women and socially inept men for audience laughs and a \$250,000 prize. The show relies on talent and knowledge contests that explore the audience's preconceived, negative notions of the labels "beauty" and "geek."

What makes a geek? The stereotypical geek, as portrayed by the likes of Screech on the hit TV show "Saved by the Bell," is usually a gawkish intellectual. Follett begs to differ. He says he thinks of a "geek" as a person who is "really passionate about math or science and is really good at it." He finds it a compliment, and he says MIT is full of geeks.

So how does a "geek" get on a reality TV show? For Follett, it was a little arbitrary. He was approached by one of the show's casting staff after his performance in the MIT Gilbert and Sullivan Players' *HMS Pinafore*. A running joke among the musical's cast had been that Follett should take part in the reality TV show — and he did, after an audition in Boston, a videotaped audition, and a Los Angeles visit.

Although Follett said he thought the show would just be a "light amusing experience," he soon found it to be more intense than he had expected. Despite the surprise, he still



ERIC SCHMIEDL—THE TECH

Christopher L. Follett G will appear on the fifth season of "Beauty and the Geek" which premieres Tuesday, March 11 on the CW.

felt rewarded because he met new people. The show "has opened my mind towards a group of people I would normally never be in contact with," Follett said.

Asked if he would do it again knowing what he knows now, he said "I probably wouldn't." But, he added, because of what the experience taught him about people, skipping it would have been a mistake.

"Being on reality television is a very cool experience," Follett said as advice to future "Geeks" out there. "It will be intense. Don't take it

lightly."

Reactions from his friends and family have been positive, Follett said. In fact, his girlfriend encouraged him to accept an offer to appear on the show.

Follett admitted to having watched "Beauty and the Geek" before, season two to be exact. When Follett was a prospective freshman, he met Ankur M. Mehta '03, who became a contestant in season two, and he watched Mehta on the show.

Follett, Page 10

In Short

¶ Nobel laureate Carl E. Wieman '73 will give a talk for MacVicar Day 2008 today in 32-123 from 3:30–5 p.m. The 2008 MacVicar Faculty Fellows, honored for excellence in teaching, will be announced at a faculty reception following the talk.

¶ The food trucks near Bldg. 68 will be unavailable today because of the groundbreaking for the Koch Institute for Cancer Research. The trucks will return Monday.

¶ Physical education registration is now open. Register online at <http://web.mit.edu/athletics/www/physed/> before next Wednesday, March 12. Fourth quarter PE classes begin April 2.

¶ Campus Preview Weekend is April 10–13. Register an event or offer to host a prospective freshman at <http://web.mit.edu/admissions/mitcpw/>.

Robert M. Wells '08

Robert M. Wells '08 was sociable and perseverant, always interested in making friends and focusing his — and their — full efforts into new things.

Wells, 22, who died of a fall this past Saturday, "was a very likable guy," remembered his advisor, Edward A. Gibson.

Naturally gregarious, Wells made friends easily among the Brain and Cognitive Sciences department. "I feel like he could make friends with anyone," said Abigail M. Clark '09. "I enjoyed being around him."

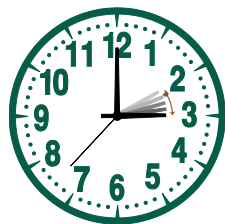
Wells brought candy to office hours and "really tied the group together" when they collaborated, she said. One time, when a particularly tough statistics test was coming up, he helped a group get through a marathon study session that lasted nearly 24 hours.

"It's such a cliché," said former men's water polo coach Felix Mercado, "but everyone loves him." "He had the best personality," said Mercado, who coached the team in fall 2004 when Wells first came to MIT from the small town of Ballston Spa, New York.

Wells hadn't done water polo before college, but he gave it a shot joining the varsity team two weeks before his first semester at the Institute.



Wells, Page 10



It's that time again! Set your clocks forward one hour for DST this Sunday at 2 a.m.



Comics

Page 6

ARTS / CAMPUS LIFE

'Ask A TA' gets an e-mail!

Page 5

Jhumpa Lahiri's latest book *Unaccustomed Earth* is captivating

Page 8

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

WORLD & NATION

Senate Votes to Strengthen Product Safety Commission

By Stephen Labaton

THE NEW YORK TIMES

WASHINGTON

Responding to a wave of defective toys and other goods, the Senate approved a measure on Thursday that would overhaul the country's consumer product laws and strengthen the beleaguered safety agency that oversees the marketplace.

Besides increasing the staff and budget of the Consumer Product Safety Commission, the legislation would create a public database of complaints about products and empower state prosecutors to act if they think the federal government is not doing enough to protect consumers.

If the bill became law, it would be the first major consumer product legislation in 18 years, enacted as federal regulators struggle to cope with the explosive growth of foreign imports, particularly from countries with few significant safety standards.

The Senate bill, which was supported by consumer groups, was adopted 79-13. It now heads to a conference committee to be reconciled with a more modest measure that was endorsed by the White House and major manufacturers and was unanimously passed in December by the House.

German Authorities Report Problems With Blood Thinner

By Gardiner Harris and Walt Bogdanich

THE NEW YORK TIMES

WASHINGTON

Concerns about the safety of the blood thinner heparin spread to Germany on Thursday after drug authorities there received reports of patients being sickened after getting the drug.

Meanwhile, Food and Drug Administration officials announced that they were asking all companies in the United States that produce heparin to test it with two new procedures.

The complex tests, nuclear magnetic resonance spectroscopy and capillary electrophoresis, are the only ones that can uncover whether the drug contains a possibly counterfeit ingredient.

Dr. Janet Woodcock, deputy FDA commissioner, said that the agency would post instructions online for how to conduct the tests.

FDA officials said Wednesday that a possibly counterfeit ingredient had been found in certain batches of heparin linked to at least 19 deaths in the United States and more than 700 severe allergic reactions.

Federal officials said they could not yet say that the contaminant, which mimics real heparin, caused the reactions.

GOP Has Edge in Fundraising

By Leslie Wayne

THE NEW YORK TIMES

WASHINGTON

For all the success that Democratic presidential candidates have had in raising money — taking in a combined total of more than \$500 million in the current race — the Republicans are beating them in one crucial area of fundraising: the money being raised by the parties themselves.

The Democratic National Committee ended 2007 nearly flat broke, with cash of \$2.9 million and debts of \$2.2 million. Since then it has raised some money, paid down debt and managed to put \$3.7 million in its piggy bank. This compares, however, with \$25 million that the Republican National Committee has in cash on hand, after having raised \$97 million since the beginning of 2007.

And with Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., now the presumptive Republican nominee, party officials started plotting with his campaign this week on deploying those resources against the well-financed Democratic candidacies of Sens. Hillary Rodham Clinton, D-N.Y., and Barack Obama, D-Ill.

Democrats Seek Compromise To Seat Disputed Delegates

By John M. Broder

THE NEW YORK TIMES

WASHINGTON

With the two Democratic presidential candidates in near-deadlock and battling for every delegate, party leaders and the rival campaigns started searching in earnest on Thursday for a way to seat delegations from Florida and Michigan. But they remained deeply divided over how to do so.

After weeks in which the issue hovered in the background, it shot to the forefront of the Democratic race as it became apparent that the delegates at stake could be vital in influencing whether Sen. Barack Obama or Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton wins the nomination.

Clinton won the most votes in primaries held in Florida and Michigan in January. But the states held their contests earlier than allowed by the Democratic National Committee's rules, leading the party to strip them of their delegates to the nominating convention. Neither candidate campaigned actively in the two states, and Obama was not on the ballot in Michigan.

Obama has maintained a slim but steady lead over Clinton in delegates awarded by voting in the primaries and

caucuses of other states. The Clinton campaign is hoping she can translate her advantage in the popular vote in Florida and Michigan into a big share of their combined 367 delegates.

The fate of those disputed delegates has emerged as a battleground between them that could be as important as their next big primary battle, in Pennsylvania in April. But though the states, the party and the candidates have all suggested that they have no choice but to find a solution and that they are open to another round of voting, much remains to be settled, including what kind of contests to hold, when to hold them, how to allocate the delegates and, critically, who picks up the multimillion-dollar tab in each state.

"I'll leave it up to the Democratic National Committee to make a decision about how to resolve it," Obama told ABC News on Thursday night. "But I certainly want to make sure that we've got Michigan and Florida delegates at the convention in some fashion."

The campaigns are not negotiating with each other, but are talking through surrogates and party leaders about a variety of options.

Aides to Clinton, brimming with

confidence after primary victories in Ohio and Texas this week, signaled that they were open to a re-vote under certain conditions. Aides to Obama were a bit warier, sensing that the recent change in the electoral and psychological dynamic could work against him in any new election in those two states, Democrats said.

In the contests in January, Clinton prevailed in Florida by 50 to 33 percent over Obama. In Michigan, where Obama's name was not on the ballot, Clinton took 55 percent of the vote while "uncommitted" won 40 percent.

"We haven't ruled out rerunning these contests," said Harold Ickes, a top adviser to Clinton and her chief delegate hunter. "We've said we think it should be settled. We believe some configuration could be devised that each party is not happy with but each party is willing to accept."

Even if Florida and Michigan conduct new elections, it is unlikely that either candidate will have enough pledged delegates to win the nomination outright, advisers to both campaigns say. But their relative strength in pledged delegates could affect their ability to attract support from super-delegates.

Gunman Kills Eight in Attack on Famous Seminary in Jerusalem

By Steven Erlanger and Isabel Kershner

THE NEW YORK TIMES

JERUSALEM

A gunman entered a famous Jewish seminary in the heart of Jerusalem on Thursday night, killing at least eight students and wounding at least nine others, three of them seriously, the Israeli police said.

In a scene of havoc and confusion while the students prayed, the gunman killed two people at the entrance to the Mercaz Harav yeshiva and then entered the first-floor library, spraying Kalashnikov rifle fire into the students there, according to the Israeli police.

The gunman, who has not yet been identified, was thought to be either a Palestinian or an Israeli Arab living inside Jerusalem. The dead were thought to be mostly between 20 and 30 years of age.

It was the deadliest attack on Israeli civilians in nearly two years and the first attack inside Jerusalem in four years. It occurred at the start of the Hebrew month in which the Purim holiday occurs, and many of the witnesses said that at first they thought the gunfire was firecrackers in celebration.

Only one gunman appeared to be involved, and he was killed at the scene by a part-time student and security officers.

But the attack came at a time of increased Israeli-Palestinian tension, after a spate of violence in the Gaza Strip. Thursday's killings drew criticism from President Bush and the United Nations and are bound to put more pressure on Prime Minister Ehud Olmert to respond with force. The violence Gaza has led to unrest in the occupied West Bank as well and further complicated the political

situation for Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas of Fatah.

Abbas originally suspended contacts and peace talks with Israel indefinitely; after a plea from Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice to keep talking, he agreed on Wednesday to return to negotiations, but refused to say when.

Abbas condemned Thursday's shootings.

In Gaza, the radical Islamic movement Hamas did not take responsibility for Thursday's attack in Jerusalem but praised it. In a text message, Hamas said: "We bless the operation. It will not be the last."

Mark Regev, spokesman for Olmert, said that "tonight's massacre in Jerusalem is a defining moment." He said that "the same warped and extremist ideology behind tonight's massacre is also behind the daily rocket barrages in the south."

WEATHER

Soggy Saturday

By Cegeon J. Chan

STAFF METEOROLOGIST

There have been eight straight weekends in Boston with at least one drop of precipitation. This weekend will certainly be no exception. Although it is sunny during the daytime hours today, rain will be moving in later tonight. Not only will this possibly impact your Friday night plans, but due to the size of the precipitating region, this storm will also rain-in on your Saturday night activities as well.

Most storms generally track west to east. However, this particular one starts out in Georgia and moves northward. With the storm aligned north-south, this sets us up for a prolonged rainstorm. Most computer models are predicting over 2.5 inches of rain. To put this in perspective, statistically, Boston receives only about one storm a year with that amount or more. On the flip side, in one of the drier areas of the U.S., Yuma, AZ receives only a measly 3.2" for the entire year. After the storm moves out, Sunday will be sunny and definitely a better day to be outside.

Extended Forecast

Today: Mostly sunny in the afternoon, but partly sunny by evening. Highs in the mid 40s°F (8°C).

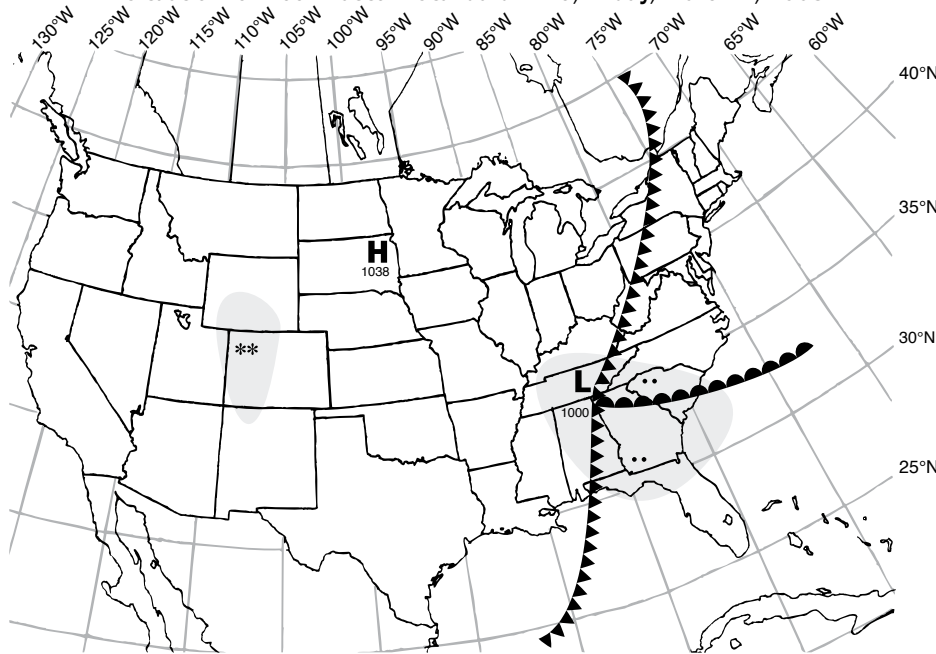
Tonight: Rain with periods of heavy rain. Lows in the mid 30s°F (1°C). Northeast winds 15 to 20 mph.

Tomorrow: Rain in the morning with intermittent showers in the afternoon. Highs in the lower 40s°F (6°C).

Tomorrow night: Rain but even heavier. Low around 30°F (-1°C).

Sunday: Sunny and windy. Highs in the lower 40s°F (6°C).

Situation for Noon Eastern Standard Time, Friday, March 7, 2008



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

Compiled by MIT Meteorology Staff and The Tech

Blasts Kill at Least Fifty-Four In Baghdad Shopping District

By Richard A. Oppel Jr. and Mohammed Obaidi

THE NEW YORK TIMES

BAGHDAD

Two bombs struck a bustling shopping district in the heart of Baghdad on Thursday evening, turning display windows and cabinets and glass shelves into deadly shrapnel and killing 54 people and wounding 123 more, the Iraqi authorities said.

The attack, in the Karrada neighborhood, was the worst in the capital since early February, when bombings killed almost 100 people at two Baghdad pet markets, and it reinforced fears that insurgents can still carry out devastating attacks in well-guarded areas. While violence has fallen sharply from last year, bomb attacks in Baghdad have risen in recent weeks.

There were no immediate claims of responsibility. But the attackers used an old tactic to maximize casualties: detonating one bomb and then setting off a second blast to kill passers-by and emergency services workers who rush to the scene to aid the victims.

A shoe salesman who would identify himself only by his first name, Hatam, said the first bomb slammed him to the ground. He got up, looked behind him, and rushed to aid a woman whose leg had been ripped off by the blast.

"We managed to drag her away from the spot, and then the police came really quickly, and they were shouting at the people to move back because there might be another explosion," he said. "But the people didn't listen, and even some of the policemen who were already there didn't pay attention, and that is when the second explosion happened."

This time, Hatam said, he walked away. "I couldn't go back again," he said. "The scene was so horrible, and I lost the energy to see dead people."

The explosions sprayed chunks of human flesh for 50 yards. The second bomb, about 10 minutes after the first, killed more people. A number of Iraqi soldiers and police officers who rushed in after the first attack were among the dead and wounded.

Some witnesses said the first

bomb was hidden in a trash can. The second explosion may have been from a vest worn by a suicide bomber, the U.S. military said.

One witness said a man on a motorcycle carried the bomb into the crowd. But other witnesses interviewed later said the second bomb had been planted there previously.

In the chaos that followed the attacks, Iraqi security forces fired Kalashnikov rifles in the air to warn people away. But many people pushed forward anyway to search for family members feared dead.

The attack "was like an electric shock, it happened so suddenly nobody could avoid it," said Abu Abdullah, who operates a kebab stand near the scene. "Some people were burning, and I saw some without legs."

Insurgents struck in the north this week, Iraqi authorities in Mosul said Thursday, attacking guards at Badoosh Prison, killing one guard and wounding another with an improvised bomb as they patrolled nearby. The bodies of four more guards who had been kidnapped the previous day were found Thursday.

Credit Crisis Grows As Investors Become More Risk-Averse

By Floyd Norris

THE NEW YORK TIMES

The credit markets came under renewed stress on Thursday as investors sought absolute safety and even moved away from debt issued by Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, the government-sponsored mortgage lending enterprises.

The intensifying credit crisis came as one regulator, Timothy F. Geithner, the president of the Federal Reserve Bank of New York, said that some banks had moved from being too willing to take on risks to being reluctant to take any chance of losing money, a move that was making the crisis worse.

"The rational actions taken by even the strongest financial institutions to reduce exposure to future losses have caused significant collateral damage to market functioning," Geithner said in a speech to the Council of Foreign Relations. "This, in turn, has intensified the liquidity problems for a wide range of bank and nonbank financial institutions."

Those liquidity problems intensified Thursday as a new increase in the number of mortgage foreclosures

was reported and two financial companies that had relied on borrowed money said they were unable to raise the cash demanded by their lenders.

Both Carlyle Capital, a company sponsored by the Carlyle Group, a major private equity fund, and Thornburg Mortgage, the second-largest independent mortgage lender in the United States after Countrywide, said they had been unable to meet the demands and had defaulted on some obligations. Their stock prices plunged.

As the economy grew through most of this decade, much of the growth was fueled by borrowing, both by individuals taking out mortgages and by investors who sought high returns through highly leveraged investments. Some of those investments are now unraveling because lenders will not lend enough money to enable investors to hold on to them. That reluctance forces the sale of investments, which lowers prices and makes lenders even less willing to risk their capital.

"Leverage is acceptable in a stable economic environment, but not in an economic crisis," Geraud

Charpin, a strategist at UBS, wrote last week.

At the end of last year, Carlyle Capital had \$21.76 billion in assets, of which \$21.69 billion had been pledged as collateral against loans. It had borrowed \$31 for every dollar of equity, and even a \$150 million line of credit from its parent, the Carlyle Group, was not enough to keep it out of trouble as lenders demanded more collateral to back up their loans.

Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, whose debt has been viewed as almost as safe as that of the government itself, have played an essential role in keeping the mortgage markets functioning. That is because many mortgage companies have gone out of business and investors have been unwilling to buy mortgage-backed securities unless the government, or one of the enterprises, guaranteed the mortgages.

The difference between the yield on long-term debt guaranteed by Fannie Mae and that of similar Treasury debt rose to its largest level in more than 20 years, providing a new sign of the nervousness that has affected financial markets.

Notorious Russian Arms Dealer Arrested in American-Led Sting

By David Johnston and Seth Mydans

THE NEW YORK TIMES

WASHINGTON

A Russian businessman regarded by the United States as one of the world's most notorious arms dealers was arrested in Thailand on Thursday as part of an American-led sting operation. He was promptly charged in the United States with conspiracy for attempting to smuggle missiles and rocket launchers to rebels in Colombia.

The businessman, Viktor Bout, 41, is suspected of supplying weapons to the Taliban and al-Qaida and of pouring huge arms shipments into Africa's civil wars with his own private air fleet. He was arrested by the Thai authorities at a hotel in Bangkok in an operation in which undercover investigators posing as rebels from the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, or FARC, sought to purchase millions of dollars in arms.

Federal prosecutors in New York said they would seek the extradition of Bout (pronounced boot) and an associate, Andrew Smulian, who was

also arrested in Bangkok on Thursday, to stand trial in the United States on a charge of conspiracy to provide material support to a foreign terrorist organization. Although American officials said Thailand appeared to be eager to be rid of Bout, it was not known when he would be brought to the United States.

Michael J. Garcia, the U.S. attorney for the Southern District of New York, said that Bout "was apprehended in the final stages of arranging the sale of millions of dollars of high-powered weapons to people he believed represent a known terrorist organization, the FARC."

The FARC is a leftist insurgency that has been fighting Colombia's government for decades and is believed to finance its activities in part through cocaine trafficking. The FARC has been identified in the U.S. criminal code as a foreign terrorist group and aiding such a group is a crime.

The arrest was set in motion by the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration, which alerted the Thai authorities that Bout was traveling to

Thailand, said Police Col. Petcharat Sengchai of the Crime Suppression Division in Bangkok, who led the arresting team. A criminal complaint unsealed in Manhattan said the plans for a meeting with Bout in Thailand had taken shape after earlier meetings, most of them conducted by Smulian, with informants posing as FARC members in the Netherlands Antilles, Denmark, and Romania. The conversations were secretly recorded by drug enforcement agents. The actual size of the deal was not made clear from the documents released by the government, but the complaint indicated that Bout planned to charge a \$5 million delivery fee to transport the surface-to-air missiles and armor piercing rocket launchers to South America.

American officials have long publicly identified Bout as a rogue weapons smuggler who profited mainly from arms dealing that fueled bloody conflicts in Africa. He was said to have built a shadowy network of air cargo companies in the Middle East, Africa, Eastern Europe and the United States.

U.S. Park Recreation Fees Rise To Cover Firefighting Costs

By Jim Robbins

THE NEW YORK TIMES

HAMILTON, MONT.

Reeling from the high cost of fighting wildfires, federal land agencies have been imposing new fees and increasing existing ones at recreation sites across the West in an effort to raise tens of millions of dollars.

Additionally, hundreds of marginally profitable campsites and other public facilities on federal lands have been closed, and thousands more, from overlooks to picnic tables, are being considered for removal.

"As fire costs increase, I've got less and less money for other programs," said Dave Bull, superintendent of the Bitterroot National Forest here in Hamilton. The charge for access to Lake Como, a popular boating destination in the national forest, will be increased this year to \$5 from \$2.

Last year, the Forest Service collected \$60 million in fees nationwide, nearly double the \$32 million in 2000. The Bureau of Land Management, the country's biggest landlord, also doubled its revenues over the same period, to more than \$14 million from \$7 million. The agency projects revenues from the fees will grow an additional \$1 million this year.

Though the new and increased fees still account for a small portion of the agencies' overall budgets, they have riled elected officials and environmental and recreation groups across the West. The critics complain that there has been insufficient public involvement in the changes — imposed at hundreds of locations over the past three years or so — and suggest they reflect a significant shift in federal policy to a market-based approach from one of managing sites for public benefit.

ECB, Britain Hold Rates Steady

By David Jolly

THE NEW YORK TIMES

The European Central Bank and the Bank of England left their interest rates unchanged on Thursday, highlighting their differences with the Federal Reserve in the United States.

The European Central Bank left its rate at 4 percent and the British central bank stood pat at 5.25 percent. Both moves had been widely expected.

In contrast to the Fed, Jean-Claude Trichet, the president of the European Central Bank, and Mervyn King, the governor of the Bank of England, appear confident that growth is strong enough and inflationary pressures pressing enough to justify current policy.

The Bank of England kept rates steady because "growth is holding up," said Dominic Bryant, senior European economist at BNP Paribas in London. The situation on the Continent is a little more complicated, he said, because two euro-zone countries — Spain and Italy — were sharply slowing. Nonetheless, he said, there is little chance that the ECB will lower rates before the second half of the year.

Ben S. Bernanke PhD '79, the chairman of the Fed, has declared a weakening economy to be a greater threat than inflation. The Fed is widely expected to cut rates by as much as three-quarters of a point at its next meeting on March 18.

Under Power-Sharing Agreement, Kenyan Parliament Convenes

By Jeffrey Gettleman

THE NEW YORK TIMES

NAIROBI, KENYA

The Kenyan Parliament met for the first time on Thursday since a power-sharing deal was struck to end a political crisis that had plunged the country into chaos.

Politicians from the ruling party and the opposition spoke sweet words of unity — but the top leaders continued to sit apart from one another in the chamber.

"Honorable members, you must now become the ambassadors of peace and reconciliation," President Mwai Kibaki told the lawmakers. "Please forget the history of what has happened, not because you want to put it aside, but because you want to do something much better."

The lawmakers — who include 21 women, a record here — now begin the difficult work of executing the much-anticipated and possibly awkward power-sharing deal. Under it, the top opposition leader, Raila Odinga, becomes prime minister and the ruling party and opposition divide the Cabinet posts.

This was the deal to bring back peace to Kenya, which had been considered one of the most stable countries in Africa before the violence of recent months.

On Thursday, Kibaki urged the Parliament to swiftly pass the legislation needed to turn the political agreement into law. Lawmakers on both sides have predicted more skirmishes over the next few weeks as they negotiate how much power Odinga actually gets and how Cabinet positions are reassigned.

Grand Canyon's Age Placed at 17 Million Years

By John Noble Wilford

THE NEW YORK TIMES

Coming upon the Grand Canyon long ago, an old prospector is supposed to have said in amazement, "Something awful happened here."

The something appears to have started happening some 17 million years ago, geologists concluded in a study reported in Friday's issue of the journal *Science*. If correct, that is at least 11 million years earlier than previous estimates.

By dating mineral deposits inside caves up and down the canyon walls, the geologists said they determined the water levels over time, as erosion carved out the mile-deep canyon as it is known today. They concluded that the canyon started from the west, then another formed from the east, and the two broke through and met as a single majestic rent in the Earth some 6 million years ago.

Previous theories had posited 6 million years as the earliest age for the beginning of the entire Grand Canyon of the Colorado River.

The new research was conducted by geologists at the University of New Mexico, led by Victor Polyak. The researchers, supported by the National Science Foundation, used an improved uranium-lead dating technique, which yields ages of mineral back tens to hundreds of million years.

OPINION

Letters To The Editor



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Decisions are Hard, Let's Go to an All You Can Eat Dining Hall

This letter is in response to Kevin Wang's March 4, 2008 column, "Not Even Fit For a Last Meal":

After years of coddling and spoon-feeding by helicopter parents, it's no great surprise that MIT students are overwhelmed by their newfound freedoms upon arriving in Cambridge.

All-you-can-eat dining halls seem like a pretty sweet idea. As we all know, as the volume of food increases, so does quality — or maybe I have that backwards? I can't seem to remember; perhaps I've been letting adults think for me too long.

Man, it's so hard when I have to make decisions about where to eat, especially lunch! It sucks that I might have to decide between Middle-Eastern or Japanese cuisine, when at any other school I could just go get a plate full of the all-American meat and potatoes of the day. I would definitely sit down to eat a 6-course meal during my lunch break THAT DOESN'T EXIST. Huh, maybe all those options are scattered around campus so I can grab food when I can, instead of picking leaves off the trees in the Stata Amphitheater. It's almost as if all those options are actually meant to cater to busy student schedules!

And dude, those kitchens are so annoying. I don't use them, so clearly nobody else does either. Oh, there are entire floor cultures based around cooking? That's weird. Well, the fact that I could pay triple in an AYCE dining hall what I would pay for ingredients myself is clear proof that dining hall food is better, right? I really like waiting in line a half-hour for a plate of heat-lamped pasta. It makes me hungrier and the food tastier, which is a good thing, because it might not be edible I weren't famished. And then there are those pesky decisions I would have to make for myself, not to mention learning time management. It just doesn't make sense that I have to prepare myself for the real world, when I plan on living with my parents forever.

Perhaps some class in the distant future will be able to enjoy having no choices, but for now, I'm happy with having diverse and disjointed food options. So throw in a big centralized AYCE dining hall, but don't wipe out my alter-

natives in the meantime, thank you.

Sarah C. Hopp '08

Tech's Suicide Implications Inappropriate

The Tech should apologize for its blatant front-page suggestions that the death of Robert M. Wells '08 was a suicide. With no evidence, they make implications that compound the suffering of Mr. Wells's friends and family. The facts of such tragedies are determined by licensed professionals, and *The Tech* can report on these facts when available. In the interim, instead of wild speculations, they should stick to publishing the facts and perhaps the thoughts of the people who actually knew Mr. Wells (all of whom seem to agree that this was an unfortunate accident).

Amal K. Dorai G

Editor's Note: After careful consideration, The Tech decided to investigate substantial concerns, including some from Wells's friends, that Wells's death was a suicide. The Tech's reporting balanced the thoughts of those who knew Wells best — his friends and fraternity brothers — with Wells's own writings.

Calling for a Technocracy

Being a laissez-faire student activist for almost five years at MIT, I've come to notice a disturbing trend from the MIT administration. This statement is nothing new to regular readers of *The Tech*, but the seriousness of the issue calls for repetition.

It's clear that MIT's administration is operating with unchecked authority. Senior administrators are able to create unwarranted flag policies that contradict existing fire codes, enforce mandatory meal plans for our dining halls, and evict students from graduate dorms on their own volition. More disturbing is the opacity of the administration. The Green Hall eviction came as a huge surprise to the residents who were suddenly forced to move into a more expensive dorm, further away from campus, with smaller rooms and hardly any common spaces. The administration is also reluctant and slow to release data to students investigating administrative op-

erations.

Administrative inefficiency and incompetency have also led to many poor policy decisions. The 2007 Baker House Dining Report revealed a remarkably unprofitable business that MIT Dining claimed as a huge success. Why are we building a new dining hall no more than 100 feet away from two other ones operating with \$500,000 in losses each year? Does anyone else wonder why MIT Housing must continually raise rental rates even though they are not subject to property taxes and are guaranteed a full set of residents? It must be the outrageous cable rates (without ESPN). Isn't it time that the administration operate under a meritocracy like the rest of MIT?

Most disenchanting is the MIT administration's propensity to disregard Student, Alumni, and Faculty (SAF) input. Many administrative decisions are dishonestly and arrogantly explained only after being made. MIT community input is vital to the Institute's well being and is not something you can put a bandage on with an after-the-fact blue-ribbon committee. A lack of input leads to the erosion of MIT's culture. Numerous articles have discussed the administration's hypocritical stance on hacking, praising it as a defining piece of MIT culture, yet taking students to court for their involvement in hacks. The administration is able to get away with ludicrous policies because of student turnover and lack of Institutional memory. I want to emphasize that this is alarmingly disrespectful to students. After boasting that the world's future leaders are on MIT's campus, to ignore their sentiments when making decisions that affect them is either extremely hypocritical or just plain dumb. Why would students join the W1 committee when their votes will be outnumbered by the committee's administrators?

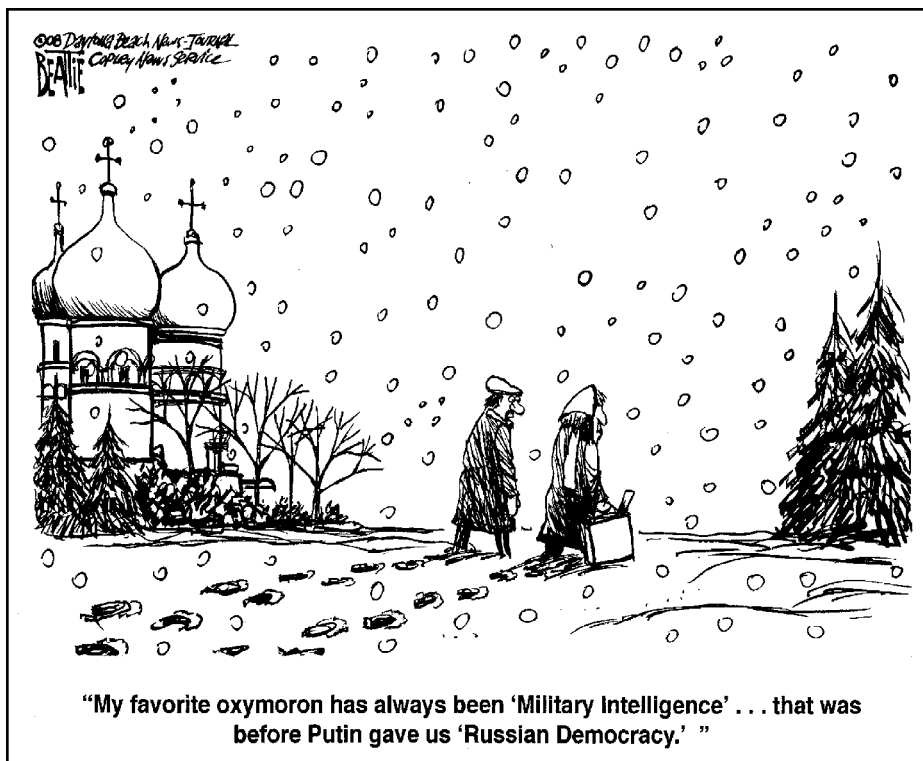
It's time to start solving these problems with a community driven, 21st Century adaptation of democracy, or "technocracy."

There must be administrative transparency and metrics for success. All substantial administrative initiatives must have a clearly defined objective, set of goals, measures for success, and an estimated cost made public to the MIT community. This will lead to well-reasoned, fairly-debated policy initiatives. Checks and balances must exist so that any proposition can be acted upon by the administration if and only if it has received majority support from affected constituents; all SAF would have the opportunity to vote on a proposed action. Increasing SAF involvement in the community would force the administration to abide by majority interests. SAF would also have the ability to petition the administration to revoke and revise policies. A public forum should be available for any member of the MIT community to voice their complaints, which administrators must respond to. There should be greater organizational clarity and accountability, making MIT staff and administrators readily accessible by SAF and ultimately responsible for their actions. Finally, we should look within MIT for answers. Have classes focus on improving MIT society: creating the opportunity for student involved policy analysis would be both educationally and institutionally beneficial.

This type of governance system could be implemented with technological voting tools and the Internet, and set MIT apart from peer institutions by giving students the ability to actively participate in the way MIT is run. It would increase community activism and help make effective, well-thought policy decisions that everyone could understand. Alumni would have more pride, be more involved, and be more willing to donate to the Institute. MIT's culture could be preserved and who better than MIT to technologically advance government?

Be proactive and experience technocracy at: <http://technocracy.mit.edu/>

David Dryjanski G



"My favorite oxymoron has always been 'Military Intelligence' . . . that was before Putin gave us 'Russian Democracy.'"

Opinion Policy

Editorials are the official opinion of *The Tech*. They are written by the editorial board, which consists of Chairman Benjamin P. Gleitzman, Editor in Chief Nick Semenkovich, Managing Editor Jessica Witchley, Opinion Editor Aditya Kohli, and Contributing Editor Rosa Cao.

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

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IT'S FRIDAY

Brought to you by **CAMPUS LIFE**

The Tech, March 7, 2008, Page 5

Some Beauty Is Skin Deep

Figuring Out Fashion

By **Manisha Padi and Ying Yang**

A couple days after last week's column came out, we overheard a group of unsuspecting critics reading the article on Tech Shuttle and comparing thoughts. We were confronted with overheard questions like, "why would they include drinking a glass of water?" and "what the **** does exfoliating mean?" So, we duly apologize for not explaining ourselves thoroughly and hope to do so this week.

When we called our column Figuring out Fashion, it was under the broad definition of fashion that is truly applicable to any place, even MIT. Fashion is the art of presenting yourself to the best of your abilities, and we're here to explore not only all the outward aspects of fashion, but also the unexpected side effects that come from being self aware. From our own experiences, we never knew how self-conscious we could be about our senses of style until we realized that we weren't even following half the advice we wisely wrote in this column.

There is much more to looking good than clothes, especially since most of us don't have the money, time, or tolerance to wear couture to class every day. Today we will explore the incredibly important question of how to feel good on the inside, which is the only way the outside will ever come together. We ourselves are far from achieving this goal, but we know that when we take care of our bodies and keep our outlooks positive, we look amazing no matter what we wear.

So on to the more important question — what does "exfoliating" mean? And what is an exfoliant? Well, an exfoliant is one of the three main skincare products available for your beautification — cleanser, exfoliant, and moisturizer. Now, what do all these do?

1. Cleansers do the work of soap. Soap itself is usually good enough for the body, but a gentler and more specialized mixture is more appropriate for the face since soap does dry out the skin. Choose this product carefully. There are many types of cleansers out there,

including cream, acne-fighting, and foaming. The only way to choose is to stay focused on your own skin type. If your skin gets cracked and chapped in the winter, your skin is probably dry, while if it oozes oil even when you are inactive, it's probably oily. Simple. An easy way to find the best cleanser for your skin type is to head down to Sephora and ask them for some free samples of their most intriguing formulas.

2. Exfoliants are products that have small rough particles in them that are used to rub off dried skin layers and reveal fresher skin below. These are also often marketed as "scrubs," but it is best to check the consistency before buying. In general, these products aren't very abrasive, and can sometimes be combined with cleansers. These also work great on your body, but since they tend to dry out the skin, it's best not to use them every day. We suggest exfoliating moderately, at least once a week.

3. Moisturizers are absolutely essential. We know from experience how much of a turn off it is when a good looking, interesting person reaches out to shake your hand and their skin is rough, ashy, and generally unpleasant.

Moisturizers usually make use of fats, like oils and butters, to smooth over the surface of the skin. There are some oil-free varieties available for those prone to oily skin. Use moisturizer daily on your body and your face and make sure to go out and

find the moisturizer that is right for your skin.

If you feel like you have absolutely no time whatsoever to integrate cleansers, exfoliants, and moisturizers into your daily life, then at least try and add one of the three. A very simple and cheap option is using the classic, St. Ives Apricot Scrub. It works for almost all skin types and is very inexpensive.

As one last tip, an easy way to tell if your products are too intense for your skin is if you complete a routine and your skin feels tight on your face and has a matte tone to it. This is an indication that you think you're oilier than you are. Also, remember that time of year, diet, hydration level (hence the suggestion for drinking water), and amount of sleep, all have a large impact on skin tone, so keep in touch with yourself.

We hope you've gotten some basic ideas of how to take care of your skin from this week's article, and that you were inspired to be a little more caring about the most important person in your life — you.



Ask A TA

To AskaTA@tech.mit.edu.

Why work so hard ... trading time for money. Spending more time at work, than with you family and kids ... Life goes by too fast ... It's time for you to think ... make a wise decision. Why wait until one morning you wake up and kids are gone and you don't even know them ... It's happening to most American... working two jobs to barely pay bills.

STOP THE INSANITY Visit ... Work Smart Not Hard (<http://eromero.homestead.com/>) What do you have to loose??????

—Enrique Romero

Enrique, I'm touched. You've really nailed the consummate dilemma plaguing grad students these days and I think your well reasoned inquiry deserves a thorough answer. Why do we work so hard, spending hour upon hour in lab or staring at a computer screen? Why are we trading time for money, when all of our peers from college have high paying consulting jobs? Life does go by too fast. One day you're a 1st year, being deluded by visions of grandeur, seduced by overtly complicated but ever so alluring experiments, and the next day, you wake up and you're a 4th year without a compelling data set. Perhaps it is time for us to think and make a wise decision. What are we doing here, conducting research and TAing undergrads who never write in or show up to recitations? We most certainly want to know our kids one day and we want don't want to say to them, yes Jimmy or Susan, your parents did spend the prime of their lives in lab. But you're right in raising the alarm. The cautionary tale you describe in your missive may very well befall us all.

I know you want us to stop the insanity. The reasoning on your Web site suggests that we start, "capitalizing on the Home-Based Business craze and the Self-Development boom," but it's just not that easy for us. We don't understand any of these real word terms you bandy about. What's a Home-Based Business Craze? What's a Self-Development boom? Is that a conference we can go to? I'm sorry Enrique. I know you're trying to help us, but you tempt us with a world we simply can't imagine.

Nonetheless, your case is strong. You say we simply have to e-mail you all of our personal information and then we can be on our way to financial success. It is a sorely tempting proposition. And at the end of it all, you counter by asking us, "What do you have to loose??????"

Well Enrique, I'll tell you. We have lots to loose. We have lots to loose because we're afraid. You see, there's this thing called the real world out there. I've never experienced it, but from what I've been told, it's inhabited by lawyers, accountants, and evil suit wearing monsters. It's hell out there and we're just not ready to toe the young professional waters of the River Styx. Your appeal to go out there and start a home business is alluring, but we all know the reality that awaits us. If we go out there, it's no free food, no seminar cookies, no nap time, no lab Frisbee, no pizza journal club, no cheap beers and stimulating conversation at the Muddy. If we go out there, we're doomed. They'll eat us alive. They'll make us pay bills, wear ties, act our age, get a 401k, attend leadership meetings and team building exercises! TEAM BUILDING EXERCISES!!!!

Don't you see? While there may be riches in that world out there, we just aren't ready to abandon the paradise we've constructed for ourselves. You ever read that book, *Lord of the Flies*? Well that's what life is like in grad school. Out there in the real world, there are adults to bully us around, society to impose restrictions on us, but here in grad school, we're kings of the island. We make up our own rules and do as we please, with only the scary monsters in the woods (advisors) forcing us into irrational frenzies. Sure there are downsides. We wear rags and scavenge for food, whilst chasing the never-ending goal of "guaranteed funding". But other than that, we have an enviable existence: no adults, no rules. Indeed, we have truly found paradise. And no Mean Milton or guide to home business success will ever take that away from us.

—TA Charles Lin G

Drawing on the Radio's Greatest Hits

1. The Modern Lovers, "I'm Straight"
2. The Mountain Goats, "Cubs In Five"
3. Nico, "These Days"
4. Disco Doom, "Ultra Lord"
5. Stereo Total, "On Yeah"
6. The Band, "The Weight"

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Hear these hits and more during Drawing on the Radio (myspace.com/drawingontheradio), Friday evenings from 8–9 p.m. on WMBR 88.1 FM, hosted by DJs Annatina Capresident, Matthew Masecretary, and Unjincided.

wmbr
88.1fm

Overheard At Harvard

"I ordered a grilled cheese sandwich and they didn't even have it on the menu. I feel so powerful."

—Unknown Harvard Student



"We've been trying all night to become Facebook friends but it's been really really difficult."

—Unknown Harvard Student

Facebook fail

Pseudoscience

by Daniel Klein-Marcusamer

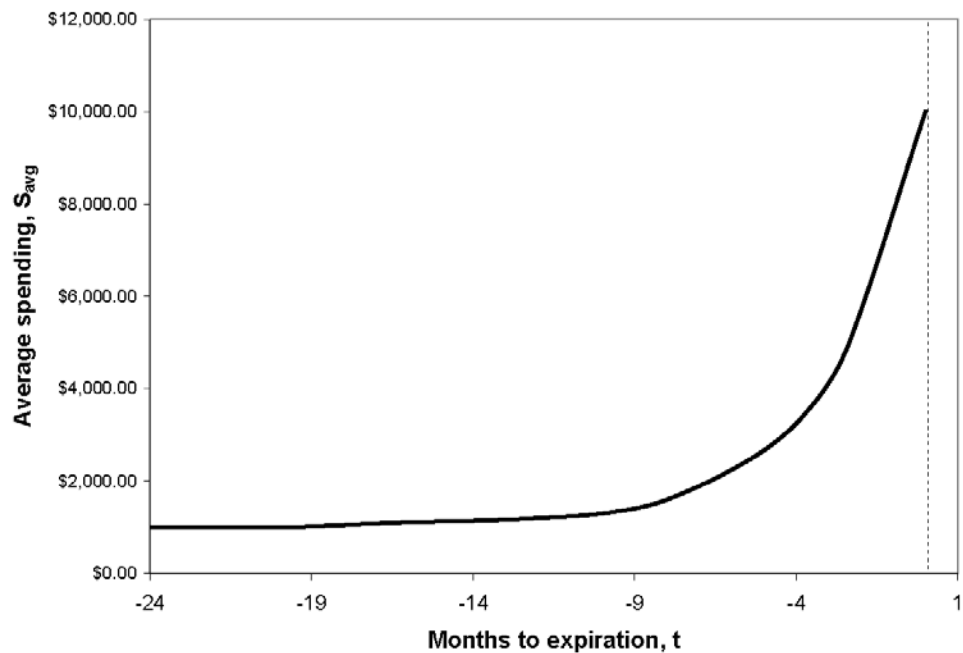


Figure 28. Spending profile of a \$30,000 budget allocation. The t-axis, measured in negative months before expiration date ($t=0$), shows that average spending (S_{avg}) is nearly constant as $t \rightarrow -\infty$, but begins to grow exponentially as the expiration date approaches. The above behavior arises from the policymaking theory contending that the importance of a monetary allocation, I , is inversely proportional to the money left untouched at $t=0$. The present paper shows, contrary to the established framework, that I is inversely proportional to the derivative of S_{avg} evaluated at $t=0$. This study aims at revising the old model, in which unused resources are interpreted as an error in identifying good recipients, instead of an error in allocating appropriate amounts.

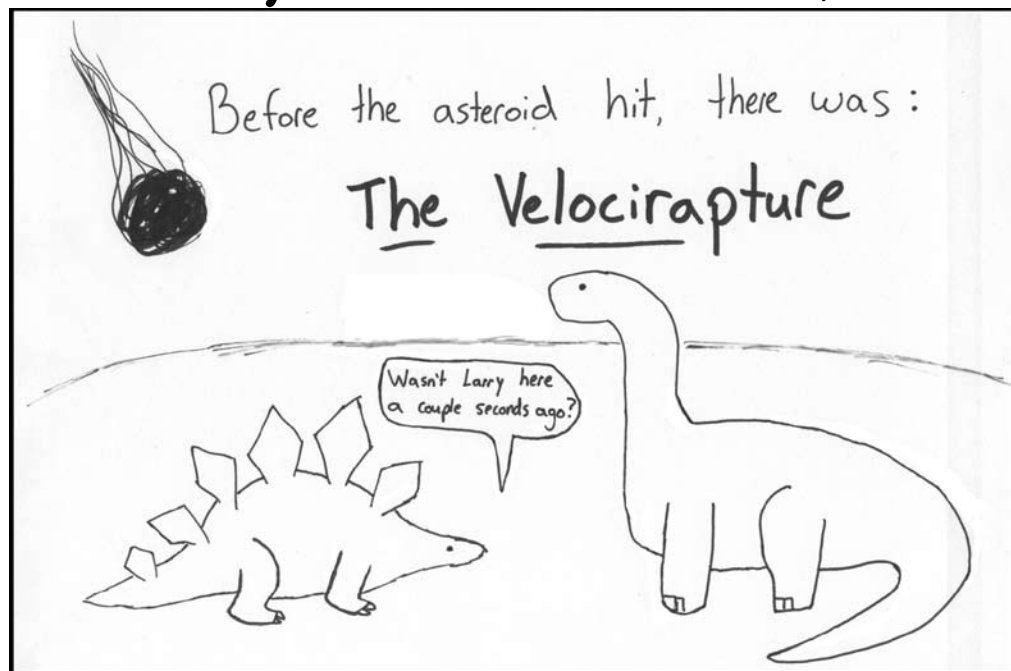
Steal My Comic

by Michael Ciuffo



The Daily Blunderbuss

by Ben Peters



"Words - WORDS, Words"

by Philip Engel

Solution on page 14

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| 57 | | | | | 58 | | 59 | | 60 | | | |
| 61 | | | | | 62 | | | | 63 | | | |
| 64 | | | | | 65 | | | | | 66 | | |

ACROSS

- 1 "As You Like It" locale
- 5 Proscribe
- 9 DEA agent, slangily
- 13 Phenomena
- 15 Coarse cabbage
- 16 Israeli airline
- 17 Indicator of exponentiation
- 18 Titles of 11 Down
- 19 ___ colada
- 20 Board (for a journey)
- 22 2006 Aguilera album
- 24 London district
- 26 A menace
- 27 Painful dental procedures
- 31 Born
- 32 Interwoven strands
- 33 Electronic device
- 35 Kind of sale
- 38 Horse fodder
- 39 Fey and Turner
- 40 Reverse
- 41 Cultivated grass
- 42 Contents of 1 Across
- 43 Known in advance
- 44 Before descent?
- 45 Re:
- 57 "___ gun!"

DOWN

- 1 As a change of pace
- 2 Dutch cheese
- 3 Croat's neighbor
- 4 Betrayals
- 5 Eating utensils
- 6 Spike
- 7 Greek epic
- 8 Goes down
- 9 Ocean god
- 10 Proof of innocence
- 11 Indian princes
- 12 Standard works of literature
- 14 Labored
- 21 X (Cyrillic)

23 Joint

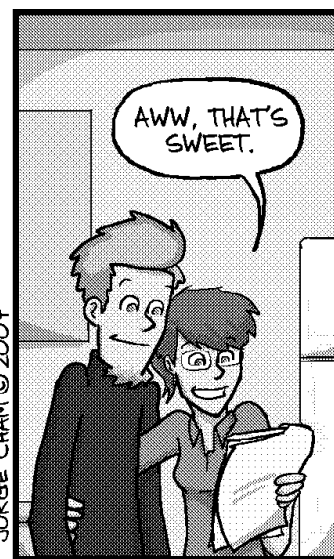
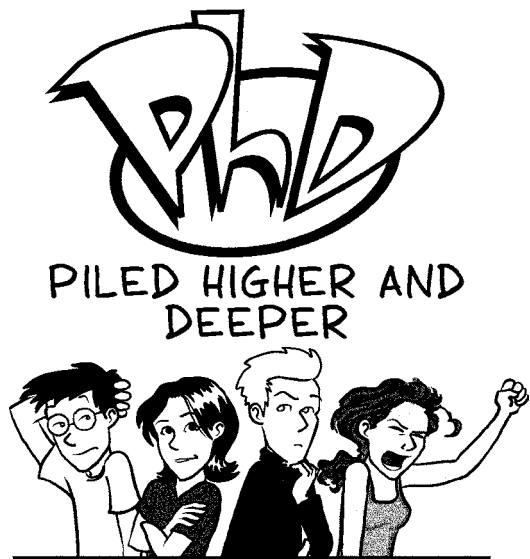
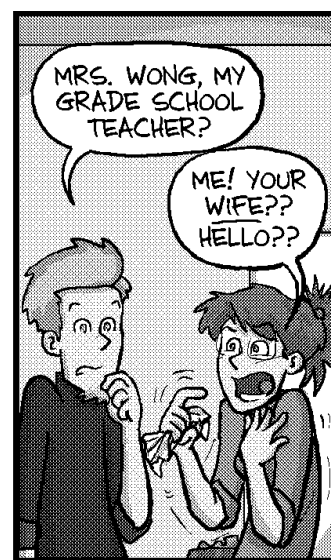
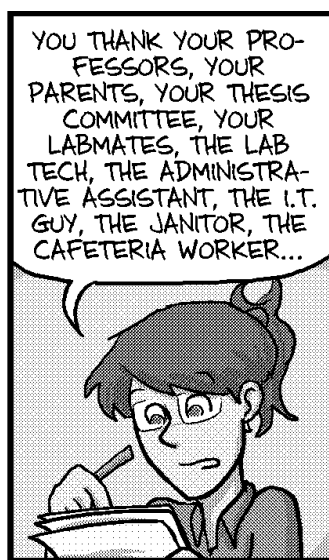
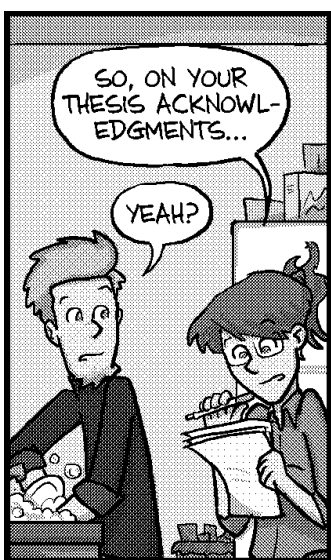
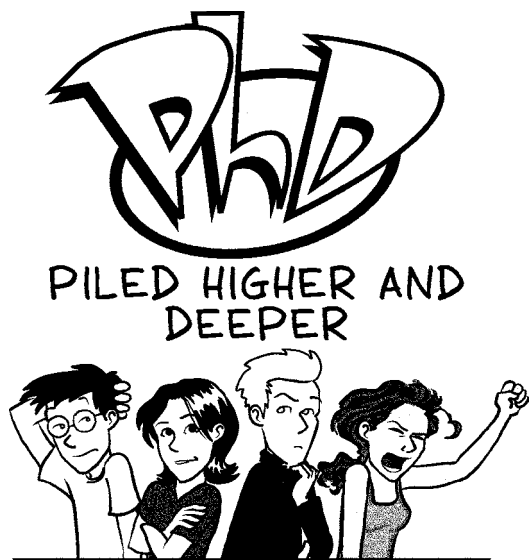
- 25 Once-popular song
- 27 Instruct
- 28 Conference call, e.g.
- 29 Tiny arachnid
- 30 Source of strength
- 34 Radio component
- 35 Crossed (a river)
- 36 Like Canadian doubles
- 37 Perfect set of three
- 39 National newspaper
- 40 Jogging gait
- 42 Clears (debt)
- 43 Establishes publicly
- 44 Famous robot's nickname
- 46 Be opposite to, as an angle
- 47 Cation ending
- 48 Wall hanging
- 49 Low cry
- 51 Garment of South Asia
- 52 Lazy
- 54 Culinary herb
- 55 Ooze
- 56 Harmless

Sum: 65
Product: 159252480

© Puzzles by Pappocom

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

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. Solutions, tips, and computer program at <http://www.sudoku.com>; see also solution, page 12.



WWW.PHDCOMICS.COM

Doonesbury Flashbacks

BY GARRY TRUDEAU

Dilbert® by Scott Adams

Crossword Puzzle

Solution, page 12

ACROSS

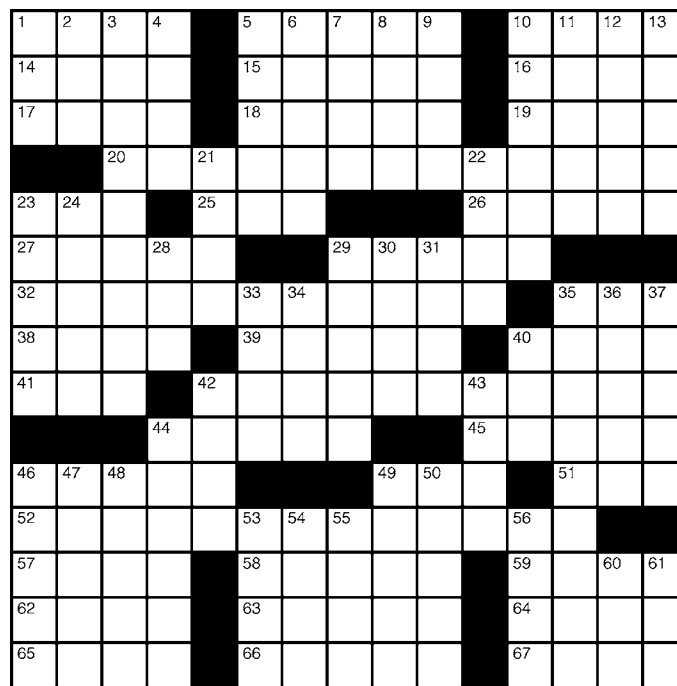
- 1 Witticism
- 5 Lacks
- 10 Brainstorm
- 14 Citrus hybrid
- 15 Really detest
- 16 Skye caps
- 17 Hired thug
- 18 Use a loom
- 19 The like
- 20 Hit by the Left Banke
- 23 First gear
- 25 Philosophical ending
- 26 Change
- 27 Obliterate
- 29 Letter flourish
- 32 Hit by the Ventures
- 35 Again, in music
- 38 ___-bitty
- 39 Swelter
- 40 Poet Van Duyn
- 41 Oh yeah, ___ who?
- 42 Hit by Aerosmith
- 44 Ball favorite
- 45 Spoils
- 46 Computer language std.
- 49 Actor Neill
- 51 Fairness-in-hiring letters
- 52 Hit by the Everly Brothers
- 57 Ventilation duct
- 58 Daily record
- 59 Like community property
- 62 Friendly leader?

DOWN

- 1 Little pitcher
- 2 Self-image
- 3 Ballroom dance
- 4 Singer Turner
- 5 Peddles
- 6 Crosswise, nautically
- 7 "Pygmalion" playwright
- 8 Classic Chevy
- 9 Low card
- 10 What history often
- 63 Perry or Havelock
- 64 Part of B&O
- 65 Young men
- 66 Arrests
- 67 President Polk's middle name
- 11 Intimidate
- 12 Host
- 13 Son of Jacob
- 21 Invented facts
- 22 Precipitate
- 23 Puppeteer Shari
- 24 Use a soapbox
- 28 Planetarium vista
- 29 Vampire killer
- 30 Once, once
- 31 Justice Bader Ginsburg
- 33 Spoken
- 34 Former Steelers coach Chuck
- 35 Baseball commissioner, 1969-84
- 36 Asinine

ACROSS

- 37 Final authority
- 40 E. Lansing sch.
- 42 Small dam
- 43 "___ la Douce"
- 44 Chopper enthusiasts
- 46 Very disturbing
- 47 Spicy sauce
- 48 Supplied hints
- 49 Get into your birthday suit?
- 50 Chasm
- 53 Mid-month time
- 54 Gold-coated
- 55 Ring around the moon
- 56 Pan handler?
- 60 ___ de la Plata
- 61 Red or White team



ARTS

CD REVIEW

*SM & Jicks Make Art Out of 'Trash'**The Clown Prince Returns Magnificently on Guitar-Centric New Release*

By Sarah Dupuis

ARTS EDITOR

Real Emotional Trash

Stephen Malkmus & the Jicks

I'm a fanatical appreciator of absolutely everything Stephen Malkmus has ever created, but such laudatory devotion should not be taken as accepting passivity on my behalf. I like his past efforts in very different ways. Pavement, the band with which Malkmus attained the status of "Clown Prince of Indie Rock," seems (analogously, of course) like a silly but sexy teenage girl next door. Malkmus' literary and sardonic ramblings, inextricably combined with the expert sloppiness of the rest of the group, shouted, "We don't give a fuck, and we're damn good anyway."

His solo efforts (backed by the transient and talented Jicks) are more like that teenager's hot mother. The Jicks are no minivan-piloting soccer mom, however; they're a MILF, calculatedly beautiful with hints of past wildness, and the insight of maturation to combine intelligence and restraint with

downright skill.

MILFs get old, however, and unless you're really into the May-December thing, they lose their appeal. But Malkmus, now settled down at forty-one with two young children of his own, is far from exhausting his internal think-tank. His fourth post-Pavement release, *Real Emotional Trash*, offers up genius songs, filled with tastily feral guitar solos and grounded by Malkmus' vocals, which have only grown smoother and cooler with age.

"Of all my stoned digressions, some have mutated into the truth," Malkmus slurs at the start of appropriately buzzy opener "Dragonfly Pie," on which the guitars seem to impersonate the titular insect. This album's lyrical content is filled with just those kinds of digressions, and, as Malkmus has emphasized in interviews, words just don't matter as much to him anymore. He's

letting his guitar speak for him now.

Lucky for him (and us), his axe is a great orator. One benefit of age is Malkmus' increasingly *Guitar Hero*-worthy ability on his instrument. This skill is especially apparent on "Hopscotch Willie" (the strange, trippy tale of a man falsely convicted of murder, who pants "like a pit bull / minus the mean") and "Elmo Delmo," a medieval jam reminiscent of Pig Lib's "Witch Mountain Bridge."

The Jicks' updated lineup certainly adds to the pure goodness of *RET*. New recruit Janet Weiss (who's played for Quasi, Elliott Smith and Sleater-Kinney, to name a few) not only hits her drums with grooving fury, but also contributes pure, playful harmonies to several of the album's tracks. She sounds especially good on standout and closer "Wicked Wanda," which moves from slow rock pop into pure distorted pleasure as

Malkmus pleads, "Strike me square / Into the arms of the air."

Another standout, "Cold Son" progresses through a fun, synth-filled verse into a gorgeous ballad of a chorus. "Who was it that said the world is my oyster? / I feel like a nympho stuck in a cloister," he proclaims before degenerating into noisy fade-out nonsense. "Baltimore" has too many catchy sections to count, while rollicking strummer "Gardenia" will surely do well on college radio stations. The only song that seems out of place is the far-too-long title track; "Real Emotional Trash" clocks in at over ten minutes and gets lost in noodling, but this misstep can be forgiven by the time-warp two-chord rock section that comes in around six minutes.

Filled with untouchable guitar solos, well-crafted melodies, and memorably strange lyrics, *RET* sits pretty in the Malkmus catalogue. It's distinct from past releases, but it's not out of the ballpark. It's not a terribly surprising album, but it's also quite unlike what you've heard from him before. For all these reasons, it'll dwell in your Discman for months. Way to go, SM & Co.!

BOOK READING

*Sharp and Familiar Ethnic Experiences**Jhumpa Lahiri Reads From Her Latest Book*

By Praveen Rathinavelu

ARTS EDITOR

Unaccustomed Earth

Reading by Author Jhumpa Lahiri

March 4, 2007

32-123

Jhumpa Lahiri isn't the sort of writer who shies away from her heritage. Her writing is replete with details of the Indian-American experience, peppered with references to Raj Kapoor and salwar kameez, because she writes about what she knows. But to say that her stories are primarily about an ethnic-American experience seems to severely limit the scope of Lahiri's writing. Her stories aren't about immigrant families, but families in general. On March 4th, in front of a crowd that was spilling out of 32-123, Lahiri reinforced this resistance to the labels that frequently hamper writers such as her. She offered the audience a writing style that is crisp, discerning, and instantly recognizable to anyone who has struggled to reconcile generations and cultures, but also, parents and children.

This was Lahiri's third time coming to MIT for a reading, corresponding to her third book: a collection of 8 short stories titled *Unaccustomed Earth* that is a follow-up to *The Namesake* (recently made into a movie) and the Pulitzer-Prize winning *Interpreter of Maladies*. Before reading, Lahiri expressed how

"MIT endures in [her] family's mythology" because it is where her father had his first job in the US in 1969. As a result MIT seems to "always make an appearance" in Lahiri's writing. Fittingly, Lahiri read a story from her latest book called *Hell-Heaven*, which focused on a Bengali family living in Central Square and their relationship with a young MIT graduate student from India.

After the reading, Lahiri told the audience that her stories in *Unaccustomed Earth* largely focus on "Children who are now adults, straddling a divide." Her stories relate the experi-

ence of being in the first generation of one's family raised in America to the experience of then "raising [one's own] children in this country." The narrator of *Hell-Heaven* is a Bengali woman who is looking back on a period of her youth, but more specifically, at her mother in that period. Lahiri has a terrific ability to create

a complex and nuanced relationship between the narrator and her mother without saying much explicitly. She subtly draws a divide between the narrator in her present state and her younger counterpart; we are able to glean the narrator's growth and increased understanding of her mother through her retelling of the past.

The richest characters in *Hell-Heaven* are the narrator's parents; they are somber and reserved but also capable of a tremendous amount of understated emotion that is the best display of Lahiri's subtle hand. It is also a good

example of the delicacy and generosity with which her stories treat the cultural clashes that fill her writing. Lahiri withholds judgement of any of the characters in her story and as a result, none of them seem flat or lifeless. It is also the reason we can look past the Indian-American context in her stories and start to explore something broader in her writing. Initially, the narrator's mother leads a drab, almost ascetic existence as if she seems to give herself entirely to the people around her; it might be so she can forget about herself. But she eventually finds solace with her husband and herself, and her progression is that of a person creating a life for herself — even if it comes later than one would expect. In her introduction, Lahiri's writing was described as being a kind of variation of the American Dream and by the end of the story, as the characters have grown and settled into a kind of equilibrium with each other, the description begins to seem apt.

Unaccustomed Earth will be on shelves April 4, 2008. There will be a release event with Ms. Lahiri on April 3 at Brookline Booksmith, where copies will be available.

Lahiri withholds judgement of any of the characters in her story and as a result, none of them seem flat or lifeless.

Roadkill Buffet Runs Over Audience With Laughter

Roadkill Buffet, MIT's improv comedy troupe, performed their monthly show in 6-120 last Friday, Feb. 29.

(below) John U. Gardner G, an alum of Season 4 of The CW's "Beauty and the Geek," partici-

pates in a dating show game.

(right) Adam C. Love '07 and Benjamin M. Park '10 open the show with the improvisational game 'Freeze.'

Photography by Monica Kahn





OMARI STEPHENS—THE TECH

Don Contois of the Steelco Fence company helps install a fence in preparation for the construction of MIT building 76, which is scheduled to open in 2010. The new building, which will house the David H. Koch Institute for Integrative Cancer Research, will be constructed along Main St. between the Stata Center (Building 32) and the Koch Biology Building (Building 68; also named for David H. Koch '62).

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- Steve Reich** "New York Counterpoint" for clarinet and tape (1985)
- Mario Davidovsky** "Synchronism No. 9" for violin and electronic sound (1988)
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Colin Jacobsen, violin

Carla Kihlstedt, violin

Ken Ueno: On a Sufficient Condition for the Existence of Most Specific Hypothesis *World Premiere*

Ken Ueno, throat singer

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Follett's Reality TV Experience Was Fun Mixed With Intensity

Follett, from Page 1

But he said he had not kept in touch with Mehta, nor had he been in contact with previous MIT contestants — and so he really had no idea what to expect. His labmates advised him to be himself and relax, which he admitted is easier said than done.

Follett graduated from MIT in 2007 with a bachelor's degree in physics and is currently pursuing a PhD with the joint program in Oceanography between MIT and Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute. From

an early age, Follett wanted to be an oceanographer, a passion he picked up after many sailing outings with his grandparents.

Follett will be at a party to watch the "Beauty and the Geek" season five premiere on Tuesday night at 8 p.m. in Room 4-237.

While the goal of the show is to win the cash prize, Follett's said he was also motivated by a belief that "people are too quick to say no to really cool opportunities."

"When you get an opportunity, you take it when you can," he said.

Wells Remembered As An Outgoing Classmate, An Inspirational Friend

Wells, from Page 1

"Rob wasn't afraid to try anything," Mercado said, and "he wanted to do everything one hundred percent."

In water polo, Wells worked hard, and met the friends who would become his fellow brothers when they pledged at Delta Upsilon. "His fraternity brothers were probably his saving grace," said Mercado.

Even after a serious shoulder injury, Wells kept fighting to play, only giving up the sport once it became physically impossible to keep at it.

In the next fall, Wells started to play varsity football, where coach Dwight E. Smith remembered him for his "passion for just wanting to get out there and do it again." Wells played as backup quarterback until midway through the season, when a series of injuries left him unable to walk. Smith remembered that he pushed hard because of his dedication to the team: "He just didn't want to quit. He just didn't want to stop doing it."

Others might have abandoned physical exertion after these experiences, but Wells went right back at it. He liked working out and staying fit, and he played intramural sports with his fraternity.

"I have never seen anyone be so excited about IM sports," said Quinn M. Scriptor '08, a DU brother who met Wells in his freshman year. "Any IM sport that DU played, Rob was there." Wells especially loved IM hockey, and he was competing on DU's hockey team this spring.

At his fraternity, Wells brought a contagious enthusiasm to IM sports — he motivated all his friends there to join up. "He was great at rallying people around his cause," Scriptor said.

In school, Wells was the one who organized people, who assembled study groups, and made e-mail lists to help people work together. He was also outspoken, using a keen sense of offbeat humor to keep people entertained during classes that might otherwise have been boring.

Wells was confident and helpful, said Tracey M. Ragsdale '08, who was

his lab partner this semester in Laboratory in Higher Cognition (9.61). He never let things faze him, always saying to himself "Oh, yeah, that test wasn't great ... but I'm going to enjoy myself," said Ragsdale.

Wells's advisor also thought of him as confident, with an endearingly funny demeanor: "He always wore Yankees gear ... He really enjoyed having people be annoyed with him for being a Yankees fan," said Gibson.

But Wells was also a serious student with a passion for psychology. He liked cognitive psychology, especially behavioral research that figures out why people do what they do, Gibson said.

"He was a very lively presence," said Rebecca Blevins Faery, director of first-year writing, who taught Wells in his freshman year. "He always had something to say. He would make funny comments quite often," but "he was serious also."

Faery said that Wells was a learner: he was "really open to learning things, or changing positions that he held."

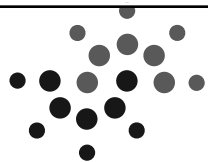
Four years later, this hadn't changed. Heather A. Paxson, who taught Wells in Understanding Culture (21A.109) this semester, wrote in an e-mail that "Rob demonstrated sharp insight and a passion for justice. He demonstrated deeply felt respect for perspectives radically different from his own."

Wells was also genuinely honest. "He wasn't afraid to admit his weaknesses or his shortcomings," Mercado said. He was someone "that you use as an example ... of no matter how tough it is, no excuses. You figure it out."

"I really miss him," Clark said. He was "sort of a different person for our major. That's why he really stood out, being that outgoing."

Wells is survived by his parents Michael and Laura; his sister Kayla; his maternal grandparents John and Phyllis Dumollin, Sr., of Londonderry, N.H.; several aunts, uncles, cousins, fraternity brothers, and friends; and his girlfriend Billie Briones.

A funeral will be held at St. Mary's Church in Ballston Spa, New York tomorrow at 9:30 a.m. A memorial service will be held at MIT next week.



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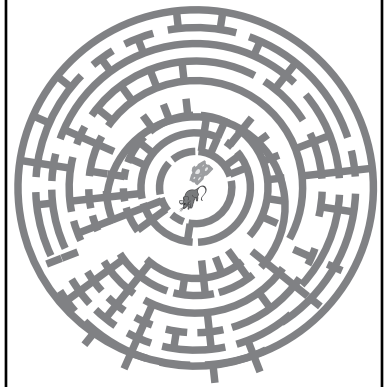


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Nader Loses Audience Vote at Latke vs. Hamentashen Debate



Terrascope lecturer Ari W. Epstein PhD '95 presents different toppings that one can eat with hamentashen. The annual Latke vs. Hamentashen Debate took place this past Wednesday evening in a packed 26-100.

OMARI STEPHENS—THE TECH

Latke-Hamentashen, from Page 1

hamentash: an ideal model of project-based learning.”

The traditional learning model, or “firehose” method of learning, ultimately hurts the students’ educational experience, Epstein said, illustrating his point by showing pictures of unfortunate students with latkes. Epstein proposed a “constructivist” method of learning that bases the experience on students’ own interests.

Hamentashen offer students endless dough and filing possibilities, from apricot to tuna, Epstein said — while latkes only let students choose between potato and sweet potato.

He had the audience participate to try to prove his point: half the audience, the hamentash side, could decorate their paper-plate “hamentashen” with stickers and decide on a unique fold. The latke side was left with plain paper plates.

Politics, psychology, and pancakes

Back on the latke side, Van Evera called on audience members to “let the inner Karl Rove out” in his presentation on “Latkes rule, hamentashen drool: the case for latkes as American political campaign consultants would make it.”

Using the time-honored “prove-it- isn’t-so” rhetorical strategy, Van Evera

connected the hamentash to “all things bad,” such as Osama bin Laden and al-Qaeda, and he encouraged the audience to start referring to the cookie as the freedomtash. Van Evera then roused the audience into a mob-like chant of, “USA! USA! Latkes, latkes USA!”

Van Evera concluded that latke cooking oil is a matter of national security because it can be used to fry al-Qaeda invaders.

An undesirable mutation

Sive argued the hamentash side from a systems biology approach. Citing Scientist H. A. Men, a researcher based on the Stata Center, Sive argued that to determine what genetic networks build the h. tashen (the hamentash’s true scientific name), a mutant screening approach must be taken. The results of a mutant screen were fascinating, she said, as three main phenotypes were observed — too much filling, too many tails, and arrested development, which UROP students named, “latke.”

Sive continued by applying the mutant screen results to broader genetic networks, which brought scientists to conclude that wild-type h. tashen is a complex, important life form compared with the rudimentary latke, whose genetic network consists of only a straight line.

The intelligent machine prefers latkes

Winston presented the audience with a computer program that has sup-

posedly passed the Turing Test, which tests whether a machine is intelligent by measuring its capability to converse with a human. The following conversation ensued:

Winston: Do you like latke?

Computer: I eat them often, how about you?

W: They say the chancellor eats hamentashen frequently.

C: He must be very reckless.

W: They say they eat hamentashen at TEAL.

C: TEAL must be a place where fun goes to die.

W: Which team will be ready to go on day one?

C: The hamentashen team has no experience.

W: What would you want to eat if the red phone rings at 3am?

C: Latke without any doubt.

Circles or triangles?

Demaine, who like Winston is a computer scientist, took a stance based on folding. Latkes naturally want to fold up into triangles, Demaine said, but hamentashen are happy the way they are, since triangles cannot be folded into circles.

Obviously, he said, a bigger question of triangle versus circles emerges — one cannot fold a triangle to a circle, and perfect circles don’t exist (even on the internet). Since no perfect circles exist, there can be no perfect latke, Demaine argued. Demaine said he spent a lot of time looking at pictures of latkes on the Internet, but even “the most beautiful latke that he could find” was unsatisfactory.

Demaine further argued that because circles cannot tile a plane, frying latkes is a waste of space and energy. Wasting energy, he says, contributes to global warming.

After each team presented 5 minute rebuttals, Wolfe ran an “election,” where audience members chose among the latke, the hamentash, and Ralph Nader. The debate ended in a tie, so Wolfe determined that it would need to happen again next year.

Sponsored by MIT Hillel, this year’s debate was organized by Matthew Cons ’08, Benjamin Epstein ’10, and Mish Madsen ’09.

“The debate demonstrates what MIT Hillel strives to do: bring together a community,” said Cons.

“We run the debate purely for the entertainment,” added Epstein. “After all, there’s really nothing funnier than listening to your physics professor passionately try to convince you that Gauss’ Law is actually a latke-lovers’ conspiracy.”

Asked whether he really does prefer the latke, Dourmashkin replied, “I never have hamentashen.”

Solution to Crossword

from page 7

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

Solution to Sudoku

from page 6

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

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| Sunday May 4 | Int'l Folk Dance in Lobdell |
| Tuesday May 13 | Contra Dance in W20-407 |

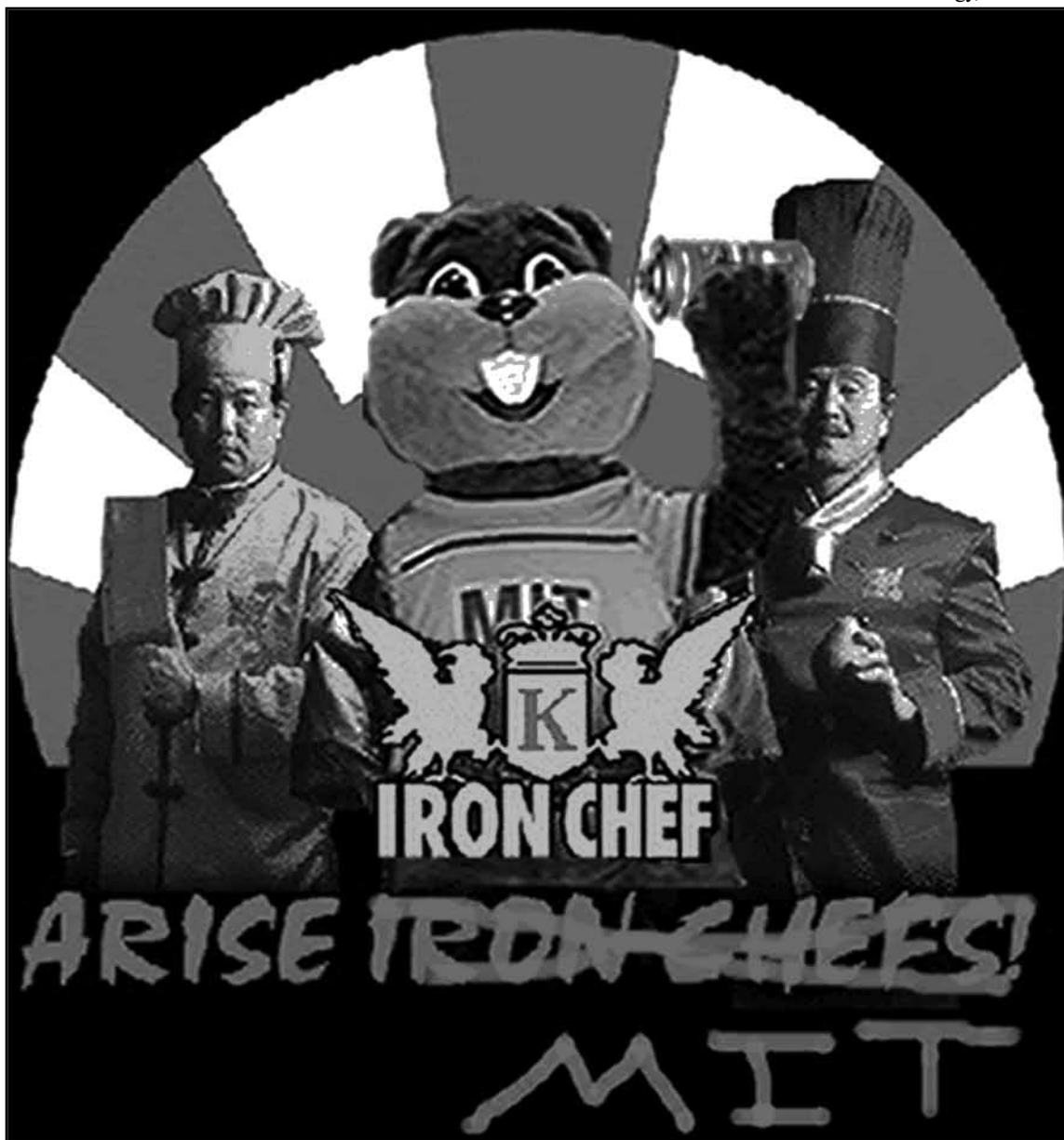
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American Universities Create Partnerships in Saudi Arabia

By Tamar Lewin
 THE NEW YORK TIMES

Three prominent American universities the University of Texas at Austin, the University of California, Berkeley, and Stanford University — are starting five-year partnerships, worth \$25 million or more, with King Abdullah University of Science and Technology, a graduate-level research university being built in Saudi Arabia.

Under the agreements, the mechanical engineering department at Berkeley, the computer-science department and Institute for Computational and Mathematical Engineering at Stanford, and the Institute for Computational Engineering and Sciences at the University of Texas will help pick the faculty and develop the curriculum for the new university, known by the acronym KAUST, which is scheduled to open next year with a \$10 billion endowment.

Over the five years, each university will receive a \$10 million gift, \$10 million for research on their home campus, \$5 million for research at KAUST, plus administrative costs.

“The agreement will allow us to improve our facilities here in California, and fund a stream of graduate students, without taxing our exist-

ing infrastructure,” Albert Pisano, the chairman of Berkeley’s mechanical engineering department, which he said had voted 34-2 to proceed with the agreement. “We’re going to work on projects that are good for the Middle East and for California, like energy sources beyond petroleum, improved water desalination, and solar energy in the desert.”

Despite its enormous oil wealth, Saudi Arabia lacks world-class research universities. In the last few years, as the Persian Gulf nations have begun to worry about the eventual need to convert from an oil-based economy to a knowledge-based economy, they have started offering lavish inducements to American universities to bring their expertise to the region.

Although men and women will be able to mingle freely at the new university, faculty at the American institutions said they were concerned about the possible pitfalls of working in a society where women cannot drive, gay rights do not exist and Israelis are not welcome.

The agreements do contain an exit clause. “We have a 30-day cancellation provision, allowing us to leave the agreement with no penalty if at any time we are dissatisfied,” Pisano said.

University officials said they had addressed the issues of academic and

personal freedom head-on.

“We are working with a university that has guaranteed nondiscrimination on the basis of race, religion or gender,” said Peter Glynn, director of the Stanford institute. “We recognize that this university operates in Saudi Arabia. Having said that, this university recognizes that if it wants to be world-class, it has to be able to freely attract the best students and faculty from around the world.”

He acknowledged that the issue could be sticky. “We have several Israeli faculty involved with this, but to be honest, there’s very little of what Stanford will be doing that will involve travel to Saudi Arabia,” he said. He added that Stanford’s main role would be designing the curriculum and recruiting initial faculty, from around the world. “We believe this university can have a major impact in Saudi Arabia and in the region, and that’s why we’re doing this.”

KAUST has already announced partnerships with the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution in Massachusetts, the Institut Francais du Petrole, National University of Singapore, the American University of Cairo and Indian Institute of Technology in Bombay, the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology, and others.

Solution to Words...

from page 6

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SPORTS

Synchronized Swimming Places Seventh at East Regional Champ

By Anna J. Simon

TEAM MEMBER

The Synchronized Swimming Club took seventh place at the East Collegiate Regional Championships with a combined score of 41.5 points last weekend at Canisius College in Buffalo, New York. Canisius College's varsity team, which has regularly placed high nationally, finished first with a score of 100 points. Keuka College placed second with a score of 80 points, followed by Wheaton College's varsity team (77) and Boston University's club team (57).

MIT was represented by swimmers in both the "C" (intermediate) and "D" (novice) divisions of the technical element competition. In the intermediate competition, Anna J. Simon '10 placed 9th with a score of 60.000, short of the 66.727 points scored by top intermediate swimmer Sonje Ryen from Wheaton College in Norton, Mass.

In the novice competition, the Engineers had a particularly consistent competition, averaging over 50 points. Karen L. Chu '08 earned 13th place with a score of 53.289, followed by teammates Joanna Rodriguez-Noyola '09 (15th), Lucia T. Tian '08 (16th), Adele A. Schwab '08 (19th), Sarah F. Ackley '08 (25th), and Mindy Eng '10 (27th). Michelle Juarbe of Canisius College won the novice competition with a score of 61.855.

MIT also performed well in the routine portion of the competition.



ADELE A. SCHWAB

Karen L. Chu '08, Lucia T. Tian '08, and Anna J. Simon '10 (clockwise from left) of the MIT synchronized swimming team compete in the 2008 East Zone Regionals held last weekend at Canisius College in Buffalo, New York.

Rodriguez-Noyola placed 9th with a score of 66.333 in the solo competition, followed by Schwab at 10th with a score of 57.177. In the duet competition, Ackley and Eng performed a piece choreographed by Alyse Wu '08, placing 9th with a score of 63.500. Rachel B. Licht '10 and Irene M. Kaplow '10 have also competed in the duet competition this season but were unable to attend this meet.

In the trio competition, Tian, Chu, and Simon earned a score of 55.667 in a routine choreographed by Tenley D. McHarg '04 to tie for sixth place with a trio from the University of

Pennsylvania. Andrea J. Hawksley G also swam the routine during this season.

The team's routine, featuring members Chu, Rodriguez-Noyola, Tian, Schwab, Ackley, Eng, and Simon edged out Pennsylvania State University's B Team for 8th place with a score of 66.250, barely falling behind the University of Pennsylvania's score of 67.000.

The club, which welcomes new members who have good basic swimming skills, is planning an exhibition with Boston University later this spring.

Division Champions Face Off in Finals of NECHA Tournament

By Jeff Lemieux

DAFER STAFF

The University of Connecticut used a late six-goal outburst to overpower MIT and claim a 6-1 victory in the NorthEast Collegiate Hockey Association Conference A Championship on Sunday afternoon at the Conway Arena in Nashua, N.H. The Engineers' bid to attain the conference crown was thwarted for a second straight season, as MIT fell to Bryant University in the title game last year.

The Engineers, the NECHA Conference A East Division regular season champions, finished with an impressive overall record of 14-5-1. The Huskies, who won the NECHA Conference A West Division regular season title, went 16-7-1 over the course of the season.

The beginning of the championship game was close, as neither team managed to find the back of the net in the first period.

UConn then broke the deadlock early in the second period and never looked back, scoring six straight goals over the ensuing 30 minutes. Jake Hawvermale opened the floodgates at the 15:55 mark, finishing with help from Chris Earle and Dan Roche. Hawvermale then scored his second on the power-play just over

five minutes later, again receiving an assist from Earle, this time along with John Stockler. It became 3-0 to the Huskies with 2:27 remaining in the second period, as Hawvermale along with Charlie Luther assisted Stockler for the their third goal.

Any thoughts of a third period comeback for MIT were dashed just 37 seconds after the break, as Ryan McLaughlin took a feed from T.J. Seifert and scored to make it 4-0 in favor of UConn.

Stockler added a fifth, unassisted goal at the 10:14 mark, before Kevin Donovan rounded out the Huskies' scoring with 5:55 on the clock. Assists on Donovan's goal were credited to Brendan Stanley and Matt Nardone.

The Engineers did receive a consolation strike late in the third period from Ryan W. Ballentine '09, who scored with help from Nick R. LaBounty '09 and Nicholas J. Maietta G.

Ballentine (14 goals, 27 assists) and LaBounty (23 goals, 18 assists) tied for the team lead in points with 41, which was a career-high for both.

Goaltender Stephen L. Yablonski '11 played the entire game in net for MIT, taking the first playoff loss of his young intercollegiate career after earning the wins in both the quarterfinals and semifinals. He finishes his rookie season with an impressive goals-against average of 2.33.

Women's Water Polo Opens Season Undefeated

By Analiese DiConti

TEAM MEMBER

The women's water polo club opened their season last weekend at Bates College, going 4-0 in a tournament that featured North Atlantic Division rivals. The Engineers defeated Wellesley College (10-8), Bates College (13-4), Boston University (10-4), and Bowdoin College (13-3).

Despite splitting her time in goal and in the field, rookie Caroline A. DeBoer '11 led the team with nine goals over the course of the weekend. Captain Analiese M. DiConti '10 had her debut in goal, allowing only three goals in her six quarters in the cage and tallying eight goals on offense.

Set defenders Kristen L. Cook G and Kellie S. Young '11 proved to be tremendous, keeping the opponents' hole sets almost scoreless throughout the weekend. Cook and Young also scored eight and six goals of their own, respectively.

Blair K. Brettmann G outswam the opponents throughout the weekend, taking advantage of many opportunities in front of the cage to score eight times. Lisa C. Tacoronte '10 also scored six times, and Rachel E. Price '10 scored her second goal as an Engineer.

Next, MIT faces Boston College on Thursday at 6 p.m. in the Zesiger Center for rights to the top seed in the North Atlantic Division of the Collegiate Water Polo Association. The Engineers are three-time defending champions of the North Atlantic Division.

Figure Skating Club Finishes Seventh As Brown Skates to Bronze in Dance

By Diana Cheng

TEAM MEMBER

The MIT Figure Skating Club placed seventh out of thirteen competitors at an intercollegiate figure skating competition held at the University of Delaware last weekend.

Saja A. Fakhraldeen '09, Kachina C. Gosselin '10, and Jingyi "Cynthia" Tang '09 placed 4th, 6th, and 7th respectively out of eight skaters at the Preliminary Freestyle level.

Fakhraldeen's program to music from "Little Children" featured a waltz jump-toe loop combination, a one-foot upright spin, and a salchow. It was choreographed by captain Aubrey L. Samost '10.

Gosselin's program to the Celtic music of "The Butterfly" featured a loop-loop jump combination, lay-back to back spin, and a straight line step sequence. Tang's program

to "Tara's Theme" from "Gone with the Wind" featured a waltz-salchow-toe loop jump sequence, a spiral sequence, and a back spin. Kristina K. Brown '10 placed 7th in the Pre-juvenile level out of nine skaters.

In the Juvenile ice dance, Brown earned a bronze medal out of five skaters with her swing dance. Fakhraldeen, Tang, and Gosselin skated the Dutch Waltz in Preliminary dance and placed 7th, 9th, and

10th out of ten skaters, respectively.

In the Low Team Maneuvers, the team placed fifth overall out of five teams. Brown performed a circular step sequence and camel-sit spin, Fakhraldeen did a waltz-toe jump combination, Gosselin did a scratch spin, and Tang contributed a Salchow jump.

The club continues its season next weekend by hosting its annual exhibition on Saturday, March 15th at 6 p.m.

UPCOMING HOME EVENTS

Friday, March 7, 2008

Men's Track and Field, ECAC Championship
11 a.m., Johnson Athletic Center
Women's Track and Field, ECAC Championship
11 a.m., Johnson Athletic Center

Saturday, March 8, 2008

Men's Track and Field, ECAC Championship
11 a.m., Johnson Athletic Center
Women's Track and Field, ECAC Championship
11 a.m., Johnson Athletic Center
Men's Ice Hockey vs. Alumni
12:15 p.m., Johnson Ice Arena
Women's Ice Hockey vs. Alumnae
12:15 p.m., Johnson Ice Arena
Men's Tennis vs. Endicott College
2 p.m., duPont Tennis Courts

Monday, March 10, 2008

Men's Tennis vs. Gordon College
4 p.m., duPont Tennis Courts

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| | |
|---------------------------|---|
| Salem State College (0-1) | 0 |
| MIT (4-1) | 9 |

Men's Volleyball

Tuesday, March 4, 2008

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| MIT (15-8, 7-2 NECHA NE ¹) | 3 |
| Endicott College (9-9, 5-3) | 0 |

¹ North East Collegiate Volleyball Association New England Division