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The Weather

Today: Mostly sunny, highs in the lower 70s°F (22°C)
Tonight: Mostly clear, low 50°F (10°C)
Tomorrow: Sunny. Highs in the mid 70s°F (24°C)
Details, Page 2

Volume 128, Number 39

Cambridge, Massachusetts 02139

Tuesday, September 16, 2008

Aafia Siddiqui's Son Released; DOJ Hints At Conspiracy Charges

By John Hawkinson
STAFF REPORTER

The young boy arrested with Aafia Siddiqui '95 on July 17 has been released to Pakistani custody to be turned over to Siddiqui's relatives, The Associated Press reported yesterday.

Siddiqui and the boy were arrested outside the Ghazni province governor's compound on suspicion of carrying a bomb. She allegedly had "numerous chemicals" and plans for explosives in her possession.

The Afghan Foreign Ministry claims the boy, Ali Hassan, was adopted by Siddiqui in 2005, and that he is a dual U.S./Pakistan citizen, the AP said. The Ministry said the boy had been held by Afghanistan's intelligence service for ten days, according to the AP.

The boy's release appears to be a response to pressure from Pakistani diplomats, as well as human rights groups, many of whom have been clamoring for his release and expressing concern over the conditions under which he has been kept.

There is still confusion about the boy's identity. The AP reported that Pakistan's Foreign Ministry said U.S. DNA tests showed the boy was Siddiqui's biological son, not an ad-

opted son.

"Preliminary nuclear DNA analysis indicates that [REDACTED] DNA is consistent with that of a potential offspring of Aafia Siddiqui," said an Aug. 22 letter released by the Department of Justice. "Additional testing is being conducted and should be completed by next week," referring to the week of Aug. 24-29.

The DOJ has not released any further information and declined yesterday to comment on the Afghan and Pakistani foreign ministry statements.

Separately, the DOJ has linked Siddiqui to an existing terrorism case, and that suggests more charges are forthcoming. Assistant U.S. Attorney Christopher L. LaVigne alleged "Siddiqui is an unindicted co-conspirator" in a 2003 conspiracy for which Uzair Paracha was convicted, Lavigne wrote in a letter dated Thursday, Sept. 11. The letter was released Friday, and refers to *United States v. Uzair Paracha*.

Uzair Paracha was convicted of conspiracy, providing material support and resources to al Qaeda, and document fraud, and sentenced to

Siddiqui, Page 16



ANDREW J. SHUM

The MIT sailing team participates in the Women's Man-Labs Trophy on the Charles River on Saturday morning.

At NW35, Fall Community Picnic Toasts New Dorm, Dean Colombo

By Jingyun Fan

Despite the long trek from main campus to NW35, turnout for last Monday's fall Community Picnic was far greater than organizers had anticipated, said Gayle M. Gallagher, senior director of Institute events.

Over 4,500 students and faculty members gathered at the courtyard of the Ashdown graduate dormi-

tory to tour the new dorm and to welcome the new Dean for Student Life, Costantino "Chris" Colombo.

"Turnout was wonderful," said Ashdown housemaster Ann Orlando. "It was a great day and a lovely event."

Last year's picnics were held in Killian Court and hosted around 3,000-4,000 people. Because NW35 is located much farther from

main campus, direct shuttles to and from the student center were provided. Still, organizers were afraid as few as 2,500 would show up this year.

They were pleasantly surprised when the opposite happened. "It was a great mix of the community, a lot of faculty," said Gallagher, who

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FALL 2008 UA ELECTION CANDIDATES

2012 Class Council

Position	Candidates
President	Rishi Dixit Jing Jing Gong Christopher D. Luna
Vice President	Andy D. Kalendarian Timothy Z. Chang
Treasurer	David S. Zhu
Secretary	Anjali B. Thakkar
Publicity Chairs	Michaela S. LaVan and Ellen B. McIsaac
Social Chairs	Sappho Z. Gilbert and Cynthia Wang Akara K. Ambak and Michael A. Thompson Sid Saraswat and Jean Mario N. Martin Hongyou Xiong and Sydney A. Giblin

Voting for the Fall 2008 elections opened Monday online at vote.mit.edu. Students will be able to vote electronically for the UA Senate and Freshman Class Council until Thursday at midnight. On Friday, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Lobby 10 will be converted into a voting station where students may submit paper ballots. Students will not be allowed to loiter in Lobby 10 except to vote. On Saturday, the winners will be announced on the UA Web site.

Voting online requires Web certificates. Candidate platforms and photos are available at elections.scripts.mit.edu/candidates.

According to UA Election Committee Chair Ainsley K. Braun '10, the number of seats a dorm or living group gets in the Senate depends on "population size and par-

Senate Seats

Residence	Seats	Candidates
NW35	1	Samuel Rodarte '12
East Campus	2	Harrison L. Bralower '11, Donald B. Guy '12, Ciara M. Lomax '12, Vrajesh Y. Modi '11
McCormick	2	Kristina N. Cibor '11, Mengjie Ding '12, Eleni Orphanides '10, Ye Yao '11
Next House	2	Timothy J. Stumbaugh '12
New House	2	Shin Nee S Wong '12, Richard A. Dahan '12
Burton-Conner	2	Zachary D. Tribbett '12, Caryn E. Krakauer '11
Baker	2	Cyril Lan '11, Andy Wu '12, Daniel L. Katz '12
Simmons	2	Daniel D. Hawkins '12, Vinay Tripuraneni '11, David S. Zhu '12
Random	1	Ekaterina Kuznetsova '09
IFC	5	William G. Near '10, Sun Kim '11
Panhel	1	None
Bexley	1	None
MacGregor	2	None
Senior Haus	1	None
Off Campus	1	None
LGC	1	None

tially off of history and how much a dorm wishes to be represented."

This year, several senate seats lack candidates. These positions will be filled by write-in votes.

SOURCE: AINSLEY K. BRAUN '10, UNDERGRADUATE ASSOCIATION

Caltech Committee Visits MIT to Learn Our Ways

By Aditi Verma

From Sept. 2 to Sept. 4., a group of 11 undergraduates from Caltech visited MIT as part of a two-week, cross-country trip to observe student life and culture at eight East Coast colleges, including Harvard University, Williams College, Princeton University, and Olin College.

At MIT, the Caltech students met with DormCon and the Undergraduate Association, and talked with UA President Noah S. Jessop '09, Senior Associate Dean for Students Barbara A. Baker, and Associate Dean for Residential Life Donna M. Denoncourt. On Sunday they arrived home to prepare a report that will recommend improvements to Caltech's student groups, residential organization

and facilities.

"We wanted to separate fact from fiction about what goes on at other schools," said Anthony Chong, a member of the visiting committee. "We all know people who say 'You know, I have a friend at another school, and they do stuff totally different there and they're actually happy.'"

There are over 4,000 undergraduates at MIT, compared to about 900 at Caltech. The gap in size makes up much of the difference in student life at the two schools. The visitors often remarked that everything at MIT was on a much larger scale.

"There's stuff that MIT can do that we can never do — like there's no way

Student Life, Page 23

In Short

¶ Rwanda President Paul Kagame will present the Karl Taylor Compton Lecture on Thursday from 3:30-5 p.m. in Kresge Auditorium. The event is free and open to the public.

¶ The 2008 Career Fair will take place Thursday from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. in Johnson Athletic Center. The Career Fair Kickoff and Networking Session will take place Wednesday, 7-9:30 p.m. at the Kresge BBQ Pits.

¶ A "movie-on-the-lawn" event, hosted by the UA Committee on Student Life, will feature *Ferris Bueller's Day Off* tonight at 8 p.m. in Kresge Oval. Free hot chocolate and pizza.

¶ Leila W. Kinney of Comparative Media Studies will replace Associate

Provost Philip S. Khoury as the director of arts initiatives, effective Oct. 1.

¶ Institute Professor John M. Deutch '61 spoke before the U.S. Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources Friday about the importance of pursuing all available avenues of energy research. An archived webcast is at http://energy.senate.gov/public/_files/energy091208.ram.

¶ A memorial gathering will be held for former MIT Corporation Chairman Alexander V. d'Arbeloff '49 on Oct. 17 at 3:30 p.m. in Kresge Auditorium.

¶ Procurement's Annual Vendor Fair is Thursday 9 a.m.-2 p.m. in McDermott Court. Free food & samples!

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WORLD & NATION

A Lifeline for AIG From State

By Mary Williams Walsh
and Michael J. De La Merced

THE NEW YORK TIMES

Federal Reserve officials were in urgent talks with Goldman Sachs and JPMorgan Chase on Monday to put together a \$75 billion lending facility to stave off a crisis at the American International Group, the latest financial services company to be pummeled by the turmoil in the housing and credit markets.

The talks, which began last week and continued through the weekend, added to the sense of agitation in the stock market Monday, as investors grappled with the implications of the bankruptcy of Lehman Brothers, which, like AIG, was a large counterparty to derivatives contracts held by countless financial institutions.

Shares in AIG tumbled more than 60 percent on Monday morning as concerns grew that the firm lacked capital to withstand cuts to its debt rating, which appeared imminent. The company's potential write-offs are mounting and may ultimately reach \$60 billion to \$70 billion, according to two people briefed on the situation.

The day started off with news that AIG had requested a \$40 billion bridge loan from the Fed, a request that was rebuffed, and ended with the word that its need had soared to \$75 billion. The firm suffered several ancillary credit-rating downgrades during the day, but as of Monday night had not seen its main debt ratings cut by Standard & Poor's or Moody's.

HP to Cut 24,000 Jobs After Merger

By Ashlee Vance

THE NEW YORK TIMES

MILLBRAE, CALIF.

The computer and printer maker Hewlett-Packard announced on Monday that it would eliminate 24,600 jobs, or 7.5 percent of its work force, as part of its plan for digesting Electronic Data Systems, the computer services giant that HP acquired for \$13.9 billion in August.

"I think most of you that follow us know I am a big believer that having the most efficient cost structure directly relates to your ability to scale and grow," Mark V. Hurd, HP's chief executive, told securities analysts gathered at a hotel here, near San Francisco's airport.

Almost half of the job cuts will occur in the United States. The company, based in Palo Alto, Calif., expects the reorganization to result in annual cost reductions of nearly \$1.8 billion. Hewlett said it would record a \$1.7 billion charge in the fourth quarter tied to the layoffs.

The layoffs are the start of a three-year plan in which HP will try to unify its existing services business with EDS. Up to half of the eliminated positions may be refilled over the course of the reorganization, HP said.

Art Auction Attracts Plenty of Bidders, Despite Financial Turmoil

By Carol Vogel

THE NEW YORK TIMES

LONDON

Against a backdrop of reeling financial markets and nervous investors, Sotheby's and the British artist Damien Hirst forged ahead with "Beautiful Inside My Head Forever," a highly publicized auction of 223 works, all by Hirst and all made within the last two years.

In a gamble that could have ramifications for other artists, Hirst was bypassing his dealers — the Gagosian Gallery, based in the United States, and White Cube, based in London — and taking his work straight to auction with a sale that began here on Monday night and concludes on Tuesday afternoon.

And there were signs that the bet was paying off: The first session's total was \$127.2 million, above the high estimate for the entire sale, \$112 million.

"I woke up this morning in the teeth of the gale of recession," Hirst's business manager, Frank Dunphy, said after the sale, "but we came out as confident as ever."

Dow Falls Over 500 Points In Largest Loss Since 2001

By Alex Berenson

THE NEW YORK TIMES

Fearing that the crisis in the financial industry could stun the broader economy, investors drove stocks down almost 5 percent on Monday, sending the Dow Jones industrial average and Standard & Poor's 500-stock index to their lowest levels in two years.

The Dow fell 504.48 points, its biggest one-day point drop since Sept. 17, 2001, the first trading day after the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks.

In the minutes before the opening of the New York Stock Exchange, dozens of traders were clustered around the specialists who oversee trading of American International Group and Bank of America, shouting bids and offers. As the opening bell clanged, dozens of flat-panel monitors around the specialists' posts pulsed with frantic trading.

With Lehman filing for bankruptcy and AIG in distress, investors were worried that consumers and companies would have difficulty getting loans.

The credit markets, in turmoil for more than a year, showed new distress on Monday. Prices of credit

default swaps, used by institutional investors for protection from potential bond defaults, rose sharply.

The prices of Treasury bills and notes soared as investors sought safe places to park their capital. Oil prices dropped sharply on Monday, on concerns that demand for energy would shrink as economies slowed down.

The market volatility was likely to continue for some time, economists and strategists said.

"By my own forecasts, it gets worse before it gets better," said Stuart Hoffman, chief economist at PNC Financial Services Group in Pittsburgh.

On Tuesday, Goldman Sachs will report its earnings, and the Federal Reserve will decide whether to change short-term interest rates. On Wednesday, Morgan Stanley reports earnings.

"Markets will remain unusually volatile for a period of time," said Marc Stern, chief investment officer of Bessemer Trust, which manages about \$50 billion. "This isn't a fun period for most investors."

Financial companies led the plunge on Monday, with Goldman Sachs dropping 12 percent and Citi-

group falling 15 percent. But stocks that investors view as particularly sensitive to a slower economy, like those of technology companies and manufacturers, were also punished.

On Monday, the Dow closed at 10,917.51, down 4.4 percent. The S&P 500-stock index of the biggest U.S. public companies fared even worse, falling 59.00 points, or 4.7 percent, to 1,192.69, its lowest close since October 2005.

The crisis on Wall Street caused by the bursting of the real-estate bubble has now lasted 13 months and has caused far more damage than analysts initially forecast.

In the last two months, the chaos has taken a vicious turn, with investors quick to attack any financial company whose balance sheet appears less than pristine. Three of the five biggest American investment banks have failed or been bought since March, and Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, the giant mortgage companies, were effectively nationalized earlier this month.

Plunging housing prices have also crimped consumer spending and slowed the overall economy, which has lost 700,000 jobs this year.

Obama, McCain Take Different Approaches to Wall Street

By Jackie Calmes

THE NEW YORK TIMES

WASHINGTON

The crisis on Wall Street will leave the next president facing tough choices about how best to regulate the financial system, and although neither Sen. Barack Obama nor Sen. John McCain has yet offered a detailed plan, their records and the principles they have set out so far suggest they could come at the issue in very different ways.

On the campaign trail on Monday, McCain, the Republican presidential nominee, struck a populist tone. Speaking in Florida, he said that the economy's underlying fundamentals remained strong but were being threatened "because of the greed by some based in Wall Street and we have got to fix it."

But his record on the issue, and the views of those he has always cited

as his most influential advisers, suggest that he has never departed in any major way from his party's embrace of deregulation and relying more on market forces than on the government to exert discipline.

While McCain has cited the need for additional oversight when it comes to specific situations, like the mortgage problems behind the current shocks on Wall Street, he has consistently characterized himself as fundamentally a deregulator and he has no history prior to the presidential campaign of advocating steps to tighten standards on investment firms.

He has often taken his lead on financial issues from two outspoken advocates of free market approaches, former Sen. Phil Gramm and Alan Greenspan, the former Federal Reserve chairman. Individuals associated with Merrill Lynch, which sold itself to Bank of America in the market

upheaval of the past weekend, have given his presidential campaign nearly \$300,000, making them McCain's largest contributor collectively.

Obama sought on Monday to attribute the financial upheaval to lax regulation during the Bush years, and in turn to link McCain to that approach.

"I certainly don't fault Sen. McCain for these problems, but I do fault the economic philosophy he subscribes to," Obama told several hundred people who gathered for an outdoor rally in Grand Junction, Colo.

Obama set out his general approach to financial regulation in March, calling for regulating investment banks, mortgage brokers and hedge funds much as commercial banks are. And he would streamline the overlapping regulatory agencies and create a commission to monitor threats to the financial system and report to the White House and Congress.

WEATHER

Sunny September to Continue

By Cegeon J. Chan
STAFF METEOROLOGIST

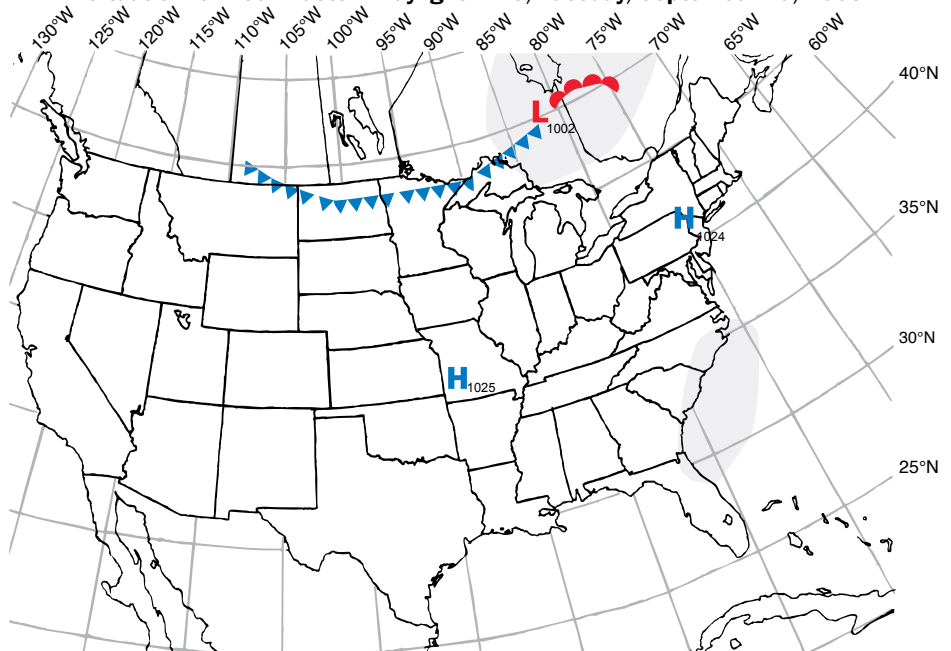
When people ask "When's the best time to visit Boston?" I smile and think to myself, "could they have asked an easier question?" September is certainly the best time. Climatologically, this is the month with the most number of sunny days. Combine that with the comfortable temperatures, this is the month where anybody would be able to enjoy the outdoors (OK, maybe not those pesky skiers). Excluding the effects of the two tropical storms, this September is no different. In fact, if you blindly believe the numerical weather prediction models, there will not be any rain for the next two weeks!

Why is September so unique? In the summer, the radiational heating is so much stronger, and as a result, the surface becomes too warm and the air turns convectively unstable, likely generating thunderstorms. In the winter, the solar heating differential from equator to pole is much greater. As a result, there is a large temperature difference, providing "fuel" for storms to develop. (Boston also gets the "bonus" feature of being by the ocean where the (colder) land and (warmer) ocean contrasts are even greater.) Finally in the spring, because the ocean is colder than the land, the sea breeze "kicks in" and usually provides cloudy skies in Boston. However, as exhibited so far (and will be shown) this month, in the absence of all these processes, a sunny September will prevail.

Extended Forecast

- Today:** Mostly sunny. Highs in the lower 70s°F (22°C).
- Tonight:** Mostly clear. Lows near 50°F (10°C).
- Tomorrow:** Sunny. Highs in the mid 70s°F (24°C).
- Tomorrow night:** Mostly clear. Low in the mid 50s°F (12°C).
- Thursday:** Sunny again. Highs in the mid 60s°F (18°C).
- Friday:** Sunny still. Highs in the lower 60s°F (16°C).

Situation for Noon Eastern Daylight Time, Tuesday, September 16, 2008



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

Compiled by MIT Meteorology Staff and The Tech

No Swift Return to Heavily Damaged Galveston Island

By Ian Urbina
and Thayer Evans
THE NEW YORK TIMES

GALVESTON, TEXAS

As the search continued here for people killed or stranded by Hurricane Ike, authorities said Monday that they were faced with much larger challenges than simply clearing roadways and restoring electricity before they could let residents back onto this debris-strewn island.

The sludge left in homes and on roads as floodwaters recede represents a "toxic soup" of mud, human waste, asbestos, lead and gasoline that poses serious health risks and must be removed before people return, they said.

Homes must be inspected for structural damage and for leaks before natural gas service can be restored.

And before debris can be hauled away, hazardous material has to be separated from what can be sent to recycling centers, burned or chipped into mulch.

"The damage just looks like a lot of debris," said Steve LeBlanc, the city manager. "Just clean it up. Flip

a switch. And we can be back online. It's a whole lot more complicated than that."

Total damages to the island are estimated to be more than \$10 billion, city officials said.

Officials said they did not expect electricity and natural gas to be restored on the entire island for at least a month and that it might take more than a year to remove all the debris. Water should be running within the next couple of weeks, they said.

Waiting on hold with his insurance company, one resident, John Strange, took a break from scraping sludge off his home's vinyl floor. He said the bugs that were emerging from the sludge were just too overwhelming.

"They could fly away with your hat," he said. "The roaches are bigger than I've ever seen in New York City. They'd whip a New York roach. The mosquitoes are as big as your thumbnail. You name them, you know, like 'Hey, George.'"

City officials said the death toll on the island remained at five. They estimated that 15,000 to 20,000 people had stayed on the island, and they

pleaded with them to leave.

"Quite frankly, we are reaching a health crisis for those that are remaining on the island," LeBlanc said. "We're asking and strongly encouraging those that are here to leave, and we're certainly telling those that are away to stay away."

He added, "We don't want to go in a downward spiral."

Officials said the bridge onto the island would remain closed to all but emergency workers for several more days, or at least until safety concerns could be addressed.

Along 54th Street, a city engineer carried a can of fluorescent spray paint as he marked condemned houses with an orange circle with an X in the middle. "I feel like the undertaker," he said, standing before a house that was reduced to rubble.

Pools of standing water were creating breeding zones for mosquitoes, which were beginning to fill the air, and city officials asked the county to begin spraying to kill the larvae. One man was found on the street with more than 1,000 mosquito bites, said Alicia Cahill, a spokeswoman for the city. He was airlifted to the hospital.

Rivals in Zimbabwe Sign Power-Sharing Deal

By Celia W. Dugger

THE NEW YORK TIMES

HARARE, ZIMBABWE

After almost three decades of untrammled power, President Robert Mugabe of Zimbabwe on Monday signed an agreement that gives his longtime political rival, Morgan Tsvangirai, the authority to shape and carry out government policies as the country's new prime minister.

The power-sharing deal, a momentous development in one of the world's most repressive countries, was celebrated at a remarkable ceremony here. A rambunctious audience of Tsvangirai's backers clapped, hooted, danced and chanted from the purple upholstered seats.

Among them were party activists who had gone into hiding for months before the June runoff election — widely denounced as a sham — and others who have been victims of state-sponsored violence over the years.

"I came to make sure my big fishes have not betrayed me and to make sure I'm walking in a free country," said Godknows Nyamweda, 36, a local ward councilor here who rolled up his sleeve to show scars where he said he had been sliced by a knife.

As a brass band struck up a gospel tune, opposition supporters put their own words to it, singing, "Tsvangirai, can I turn to you in hard times?"

The question is whether this deal will help bring better times to a country where the economy has been shrinking for 10 straight years, most people are out of work, millions are hungry and inflation tops an almost incomprehensible 11 million percent.

As Simpson Robbery Trial Opens, Motive Is the Focus

By Steve Fries

THE NEW YORK TIMES

LAS VEGAS

The basic facts of a September 2007 hotel room confrontation here are not in dispute, so opening arguments on Monday in the criminal trial of O.J. Simpson boiled down to the prosecution and the defense debating whether Simpson aimed to steal valuable sports memorabilia or to recover personal keepsakes.

A Clark County assistant district attorney, Christopher Owens, and one of Simpson's lawyers, Yale Galanter, pointed to different excerpts from hours of audio recordings made by various participants in the hotel room encounter to support their claims, making it clear the jury would be asked to decide what the recordings say about Simpson's intent.

Simpson, 61, is charged with kidnapping and armed robbery. The charges stem from a confrontation in which he and five men raided a room in the Palace Station Hotel and Casino and left with hundreds of items largely related to Simpson's football career. The material had been in the possession of two collectibles dealers, Alfred Beardsley and Bruce L. Fromong.

The dealers have insisted that the items were theirs and that they were expecting a meeting with a legitimate buyer when Simpson's group burst in.

Emergency Room Patients Often Left Confused After Visits

By Laurie Tarkan

THE NEW YORK TIMES

NEW YORK

A vast majority of emergency room patients are discharged without understanding the treatment they received or how to care for themselves once they get home, researchers say. And that can lead to medication errors and serious complications that can send them right back to the hospital.

In a new study, researchers followed 140 English-speaking patients discharged from emergency departments in two Michigan hospitals and measured their understanding in four areas — their diagnosis, their ER treatment, instructions for their at-home care, and warning signs of when to return to the hospital.

The study, published in the July issue of *Annals of Emergency Medicine*, found that 78 percent of the patients did not understand at least one area and about half did not understand two or more areas. The greatest confusion surrounded home care — instructions about things like medications, rest, wound care and when to have a follow-up visit with a doctor.

"We're finding that people are just not prepared for self-care, and that's what is bringing them back," said Dr. Eric Coleman, director of the Care Transitions Program at the University of Colorado, who was not involved in the study.

The researchers described a woman in her 20s who went to the emergency room with abdominal pain. After extensive testing, doctors there diagnosed pelvic inflammatory disease, a sexually transmitted infection.

Nuclear Agency Says Iran Has Improved Enrichment

By Elaine Sciolino

THE NEW YORK TIMES

PARIS

Iran has substantially improved the efficiency of its centrifuges that produce enriched uranium, the International Atomic Energy Agency said Monday, indicating that the nation has overcome some of the technical challenges that had plagued its enrichment program.

In a six-page report, the agency charged the Iranians with continuing to stonewall about what some Western governments suspected was Iran's past research on designing a nuclear weapon. The agency acknowledged that it had failed "to make any substantial progress" in its investigation.

"We seem to be at a dead end," said a senior official with links to the agency. "We would describe it as a gridlock."

The report is another setback to an agency initiative begun last summer that gave Iran fixed deadlines to resolve questions about nuclear activities in the past two decades and asked the United States and other countries for patience in pursuing new sanctions.

In another revelation, the agency said for the first time that a foreign expert or group of experts may have helped Iran with experiments on a detonator that could be used in the implosion of a nuclear weapon.

Covert Georgian Recordings Cast Russia As an Aggressor

By Dan Bilefsky,
C.J. Chivers,
Thom Shanker,
and Michael Schwartz
THE NEW YORK TIMES

TBILISI, GEORGIA

A new front has opened between Georgia and Russia, now over which side was the aggressor whose military activities early last month ignited the lopsided five-day war. At issue is new intelligence, inconclusive on its own, that nonetheless paints a more complicated picture of the critical last hours before war broke out.

Georgia has released intercepted telephone calls purporting to show that part of a Russian armored regiment crossed into the separatist enclave of South Ossetia nearly a full day before Georgia's attack on the capital, Tskhinvali, late on Aug. 7.

Georgia is trying to counter accusations that the long-simmering standoff over South Ossetia, which borders Russia, tilted to war only after it attacked Tskhinvali.

Georgia regards the enclave as its sovereign territory.

The intercepts circulated last week among intelligence agencies in

the United States and Europe, part of a Georgian government effort to persuade the West and opposition voices at home that Georgia was under invasion and attacked defensively. Georgia argues that as a tiny and vulnerable nation allied with the West, it deserves extensive military and political support.

Georgia also provided audio files of the intercepts along with English translations to *The New York Times*, which made its own independent translation from the original Ossetian into Russian and then into English.

Russia, already facing deep criticism and the coolest audience in European capitals since the Cold War, is arguing vigorously against Georgia's claims. Last week, Prime Minister Vladimir V. Putin expressed bafflement at what he saw as the West's propensity to believe Georgia's version of events.

In an interview arranged by the Kremlin, the Russian military played down the significance of the intercepted conversations, saying troop movements to the enclave before the war erupted were part of the normal rotation and replenishment of long-

standing peacekeeping forces there.

But at a minimum, the intercepted calls, which senior American officials have reviewed and described as credible if not conclusive, suggest Russian military movements earlier than had previously been acknowledged, whether routine or hostile, into Georgian territory as tensions accelerated toward war.

They also suggest the enduring limits — even with high-tech surveillance of critical battlefield locations — of penetrating the war's thick fogs.

The back and forth over who started the war is already an issue in the American presidential race, with Gov. Sarah Palin of Alaska, the Republican vice presidential candidate, contending that Russia's incursion into Georgia was "unprovoked," while others argue that Georgia's shelling of Tskhinvali was provocation.

Georgia claims that its main evidence — two of several calls secretly recorded by its intelligence service on Aug. 7 and 8 — shows that Russian tanks and fighting vehicles were already passing through the Roki Tunnel linking Russia to South Ossetia before dawn on Aug. 7.

Many States Aim to Cut Greenhouse Gases by Billing Polluters

By Felicity Barringer
and Kate Galbraith
THE NEW YORK TIMES

Ten states from Maryland to Maine are about to undertake the nation's most serious effort yet to tackle climate change, putting limits on carbon dioxide emissions from utilities and making them pay for each ton of pollutants.

The program is due to get off the ground in nine days, but already there are worries that it may fail to reduce pollution substantially in the Northeast, undermining a concept that is being watched carefully by the rest of the country, by Congress and by European regulators.

The Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative, or RGGI, will cap emissions for 233 plants. By putting a price on the carbon dioxide they emit, it gives plants a financial incentive to clean themselves up, with the proceeds channeled to energy-saving and renewable energy programs in each state.

The states will set their own limits, with each issuing tradable permits, or allowances, for carbon pollution. On Sept. 25, utilities will start

bidding at auction for allowances, which they can later sell — mimicking the so-called cap-and-trade programs that effectively reduced acid rain in the 1990s.

The concept has been praised by environmentalists and state officials. But the emissions cap was based on overestimates of carbon dioxide output, which has dropped sharply from 2005 to 2006 and is on a lower trajectory than anticipated.

So auction demand may be weak at the start, with millions of allowances the states planned to sell not immediately needed. And with the cap on emissions most likely to be higher, at least initially, than the plants' actual carbon-dioxide output, it may be many months before utilities have an incentive to cut pollution.

As traders watched the RGGI dynamic evolve, the already low price of carbon futures fell by about 40 percent in the last three months in this country, according to Evolution Markets, a brokerage firm. "The supply of allowances is more than what the market needs," said Milo Sjardin, head of the North America division of New Car-

bon Finance, a research and analysis firm. "Prices are not going to be high, not for the foreseeable future." He also noted that the market was also "not going to produce a lot of emission reductions" as long as the supply of allowances outstrips utilities' need.

The trading of carbon dioxide allowances exists in Europe, and in a small way in this country; some companies have taken part in trading on the Chicago Climate Exchange, which opened in 2003. But the market has been voluntary and participation largely experimental.

Because it makes participation in a pollution-capping scheme mandatory, the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (known as RGGI and pronounced "reggie") is already spurring more trading in anticipation. Both the Chicago exchange and the New York Mercantile Exchange have recently made it possible to trade future RGGI allowances.

The trading scheme would hold carbon emissions to 188 million tons annually through 2014, and scale them back by 2.5 percent each year through 2018.

OPINION

Going Ballistic: Treasury Uses Their Bazooka

An Analysis of Government Intervention in the Credit Crisis

By Joe Maurer

Two Sundays ago, Henry Paulson's Treasury Department again tried its hand at directing this year's hot new drama "Credit Crunch" by placing mortgage giants Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac into a conservatorship. Since the program's debut last year to scathing reviews by bankers turned critics, it has been marked by epic plot twists including major bank failures and the death of some of the financial industry's most established players. As such, it is this investor's sincere hope that the Treasury has finally succeeded in scripting a conclusion to this saga.

In July, Paulson gained the authority to rescue financial titans Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac if the need arose, saying at the time, "if you've got a bazooka and people know you've got it, you may not have to take it out." His tough talk reassured markets for a short while, but over last weekend, Paulson decided to aim his bazooka squarely at the mortgage liquidity mess.

So with the stroke of a pen and a little speech, the Treasury Secretary converted a decades long implicit taxpayer guarantee on Fan and Fred's debt into a concrete public bailout of the nation's two major mortgage holders. In doing so, he added the largest liability yet to the government's growing list of private market interventions since the start of the credit crisis last year.

There is certainly a lot to like about the Treasury's announcement. The move clarifies what had formally been a gray area for investors and banks alike by putting the full weight of the federal government behind the stability of the two government-sponsored enterprises (GSE) in the form of a conservatorship. It also removes the blundering CEOs of Fan and Fred and stops the absurd practice of a GSE lobbying the government that sponsors it, ending an era of million dollar accounting errors and beltway-insider mentalities.

By reassuring investors, the government has done the market a great favor. When one considers that a financial transaction is basically just a bet on the future of the market, it becomes easy to see how removing volatility encourages trading. Thus, when markets opened the day after the Treasury's decision, traders took a bullish outlook, with the Dow Jones Industrial Average finishing 289.78 points higher.

Unfortunately (queue foreboding music), not all is well and good during this scene. The Treasury's deal comes with some ominous fine print, saddling the U.S. Government with up to \$200 billion in obligations to help Fan and Fred ride out any additional mortgage related losses.

If the mortgage situation degrades, or if the formerly government-sponsored enterprises (should they be called the government's socialist enterprises now?) are called on to take on even more risky debt to 'stabilize' the market, taxpayers will be on the hook to foot the bill.

Let's be clear from the start: the Treasury did what they had to do to prevent a massive selloff of Fannie Mae's and Freddie Mac's stock and the broader financial slide that would

intoxicant to preventing change. And because of their coziness with the government, Fan and Fred always enjoyed preferential treatment by their regulator, which wasn't always beneficial to their long term stability.

For example, when the government lowered Fan and Fred's already low capital requirements earlier this year to give the market a quick boost, it left the companies even more leveraged than they already were, meaning that the GSEs stood an even greater chance of not having the capital to ride out an unexpected downturn. Investors took note and their stocks sunk accordingly.

Unfortunately, as is the case of most of the government's actions during the housing crisis, the politicians preferred a temporary bump to a long term solution. Fixing the problem before it became an issue would have been the cheaper, responsible way for congress to handle the Fan and Fred, but that has rarely been reason enough for the bureaucrats before. There is an excellent reason why congressional approval ratings currently sit in the teens.

The failure of multiple sessions of congress to act on a dire prognosis of major deficits (Fannie and Freddie combined lost over \$3 billion last quarter alone) and investor concern (both companies have seen their stock values plummet by more than 80 percent this year before the takeover, and shares currently go for under a dollar) is the greatest tragedy in this story, and the foils of Social Security and Medicare do not inspire confidence that congress has the potential to learn from their mistakes.

Ultimately, the problems with this conservatorship have little to do with the terms of the deal itself, which are as good as could be hoped for under the circumstances. Instead, it is the precedent set by rescuing institutions that, like Bear Stearns this spring, are believed to be 'too big to fail.'

The argument is that some financial companies are so large and important that their collapse would harm the entire economy, so the government is obligated to save them. This, however, is not capitalism. It is not the survival of the fittest mentality that enabled America to grow and prosper to become the economic powerhouse of the world. Like it or not, when an institution fails, the market rids itself of deadweight, and what remains are the battle hardened survivors. (The ones who weren't the targets of the bazooka.)

Secretary Paulson's call for the two companies to be shrunk to a far more manageable size after the crisis passes is a good start, but it will be up to the next administration to fire the final shell into the hearts of the monsters that are Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac.

In the meantime, it is clear that this story is not settled. As this piece is written, Merrill Lynch has been sold, Lehman Brothers has filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy, and AIG is attempting to raise cash fast. While the government has ruled out a rescue for Lehman, the financial crisis is nearing a climax, where tough calls will have to be made.

A string of government intervention here would profoundly hurt our economy going forward. Keeping at heart that the invisible hand of Adam Smith is ultimately daffier than those of Hank Paulson and Ben Bernanke (MIT education notwithstanding), we must be willing to endure a thorough shakedown now to end the Band-Aid fixes that have only deepened the credit crisis; above all else, that means trusting in capitalism, not government, to get us through.

Joe Maurer is a member of the Class of 2012.

While I normally advocate a laissez-faire style of economic regulation, Fan and Fred's unique position makes that impossible.

accompany such a scenario. Stripped of the ability to raise new capital, Fannie and Freddie would be forced to discontinue buying mortgages, freezing the market for new loans, and sending home prices into a tailspin.

While normally I advocate a laissez-faire style of economic regulation, Fan and Fred's unique position makes that impossible. It is the government who created these monsters and kept them alive, so it is the government who is going to have to pick up the pieces. Taxpayers will pay money for decades of political incompetence, because it is unconscionable and utterly stupid to even consider dumping the problems of Fan and Fred on Wall Street. Voters should not blame The Street for what Washington started.

The problems with Fannie and Freddie stem from their core mission. They are publicly traded companies with privately chosen boards and executives, chartered by the government to expand the availability of mortgages to more citizens. While the goal is noble (though arguably part of the reason for the housing bubble in the first place), the reality is that despite controlling roughly half of the U.S. mortgage market (a cool \$5 trillion), Fan and Fred have not fulfilled their mission.

The inherent conflict of interest means that shareholders sell when the government calls upon the companies to take a greater role in the market, as has been the case during the credit crisis. It isn't wise to count on profit oriented investors to try and fill your potential money pit, but that has been the GSE's business plan until now.

While there were always warning signs from concerned economists, the money doled out by Fan and Fred lobbyists served as a powerful



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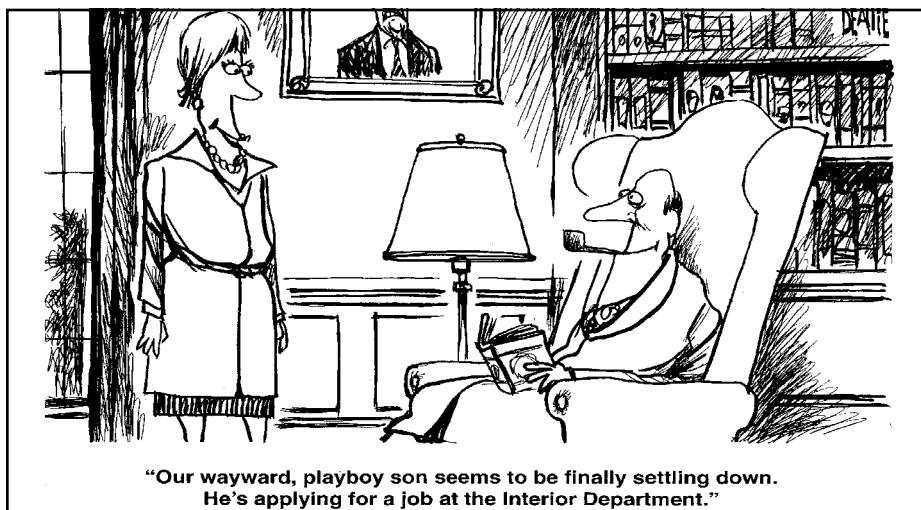
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The Russian-Georgian Conflict: An Inside View

By Florence Gallez

Right in the middle of an 18-month treatment for a pair of amenorrheic ovaries on strike due to poor diet, I couldn't help wondering, sitting in the waiting room of the Moscow clinic earlier this year, whether my Georgian-born gynecologist would be at any minute snatched away by the Russian security services, put on a Tbilisi-bound plane and sent back home indefinitely.

After all, this is exactly what happened during Russia's anti-Georgian campaign two years ago. The Kremlin's response to the fall 2006 standoff with its former Cold War foe, which had been brewing since Georgian President Mikheil Saakashvili came to power in 2004 and moved Georgia closer to the West, was a well-planned purge of Russia's Georgian Diaspora, complete with economic sanctions, suspension of transport and mail links, harassment of Georgian businesses, tougher visa rules, mass deportations, and the Moscow police asking schools to turn over lists of children with Georgian-sounding last names so as to locate their parents. Ethnic cleansing, no less.

A phone call this weekend to Diana Tsintadze at ON Clinic allayed my fears: "All is well, the crisis hasn't affected me, neither personally nor professionally," she said.

Still, as a Moscow resident for eight years before hopping on a Moscow-MIT one-way flight, I can't help thinking about the 100,000 or so Georgians living in Moscow, or their US-based compatriots such as the 5,000 living in the New York area. And then, about the thousands of citizens in Georgia and the independent enclave of South Ossetia displaced and wounded in the most violent confrontation between the two old rivals in decades: the five-day war of August 8–12, 2008 between Russia and Georgia.

Overnight, the brief war that was fought after Tbilisi's August 8 invasion of the pro-Russian separatist region of South Ossetia, which sparked the larger-scale Russian invasion to drive the Georgian forces back, has thrown all these people and the little-known regions they are from into the midst of high geopolitics and new Cold War rhetoric.

In their criticism of Russia's violent and sudden response, Western nations have framed these people's fate and the whole conflict as a clear-cut tale of evil Russia bent on the demise and annexation of West-loving Georgia.

There is no doubt that Saakashvili's Georgia has shown impressive economic growth and a genuine desire to integrate with the Western world, and that Russia's skillful political tactics, such as issuing South Ossetians with Russian passports and then integrating them into the Russian social welfare system, has amounted to the covert assimilation first of the population and then the whole region, into the Russian Federation. Given the expansionist nature of Russian ambitions, it is not hard to imagine Russia's full-scale annihilation and annexation of Georgia.

But this conflict is far more complex. The first frictions between Russia and Georgia can be traced back to the battle of Aspindza in 1770 and there are plenty of possible culprits for the current ones: the Georgians for stoking up ethnic hatred in 1992, the Ossetians for racketeering and constant provocation, Saakashvili for irresponsibly shelling a city, Putin for a brutal and cynical takeover, and America and the West for failing to keep a close watch on Saakashvili's madder impulses, to back its democratic rhetoric with action, for watching it all passively and letting Russia get away with it almost unscathed. In Europe, such cowardice allowed Hitler to take over.

Now, as Sarkozy's skillfully negotiated ceasefire agreement gives hope for an end to this destructive episode and Russian troops withdraw, crucial questions remain: what is the true death toll in Tskhinvali? Will there be a full investigation into the causes and lessons of the war? Where were Saakashvili's American military advisors who should have heard of his wild scheme and helped avert it? Above all, now that Russia has won this small war against one of its neighbors, will it stop there?

If one needs more evidence that Russia's real goal is to bring back Georgia, and by extension its former soviet Republics and who knows what else, within its orbit, its planned increase in defense spending may offer some clues: it will reach 1.28 trillion rubles (\$50 billion) in 2008 and will be boosted 26 percent next year, according to Finance Minister Alexei Kudrin. President Dmitry Medvedev's announcement last week that following the war with Georgia he will make modernization of the Russian army a top priority is but the lat-

est of the Kremlin's repeated pledges to create powerful armed forces, which it sees as key in Russia's national revival.

One can also look at the little clues — the city-drafted poster on the front door of my apartment building in Moscow, which says "Moscow for Muscovites!" — or the mass street patriotic hysteria stretching across nine time zones that followed Russia's upset of the Netherlands in the quarterfinals of the Euro 2008 football championships in June. Some signs are more sinister, such as the use of a new textbook in schools this fall, titled "A History of Russia, 1900–1945," which "explores Stalin's personality" and is part of a series of revised education materials the authors say will help promote patriotism in young people.

The question is not whether Russia dreams of, and plans to regain its lost power and territories. It is whether it is capable of doing so. And the answer is "no."

There is cause to treat with skepticism the renewed strength, regained superpower status and rebirth that Russia has been trumpeting about to all and sundry, sometimes through thuggish foreign policy. It is clear it wants them. But its crumbling, underfinanced social infrastructure, mindless and passive populace, brainwashed beyond belief through the mostly state controlled media, its stunted and disorganized opposition, emaciated army and outdated weaponry, and paranoiac fear in the face of NATO expansion make Russia look weak, and even tragically funny. Like the little boy in the kindergarten's playground throwing a tantrum: everybody can hear him and sure, it's noisy, but what real threat does he pose?

There is no doubt that Russia dreams day and night of regained status, expansion and maybe more, as the recent events in the Caucasus confirm, but these are just that — dreams.

One needs real capacity to implement plans, such as ideas, a thoughtful, critical and creative people, and values such as integrity and freedom, which will allow them to thrive. Russia is very poor in all these areas. Also, it has few friends, and its friendships are dysfunctional. One day these friends are by its side, the next they are gone or ready to stab her in the back, should their own interests be compromised.

Russia's attempts — and failure — at win-

Where were Saakashvili's American military advisors who should have heard of his wild scheme and helped avert it?

ning support from its Central Asian allies on Abkhaz and South Ossetian independence are symptomatic. Even Venezuela, to whom Russia has sold \$3.5 billion worth of arms in recent years, hasn't offered recognition, despite the close personal ties Putin has developed with President Hugo Chavez.

Russia has oil and gas, but not much else. Essentially, it is alone. One more reason the United States and the West should not fear its expansionist fantasies.

"What about the United States' own imperialistic agenda?" I hear you say — but since when have someone's evil acts absolved one from one's own?

Florence Gallez is a graduate student in the Department of Comparative Media Studies.

A Brief Response

By Keith Yost

A week ago I wrote an article on the Georgian conflict titled "Eastern Promises." In the article, I described the rhetoric being trotted out by foreign policy hawks to justify a hard stance against Russia, dismissed their narrative as flawed, and then argued for why even if the narrative was correct, it would be in U.S. interests to engage Russia diplomatically rather than revert to a Cold War us-them mentality.

Last Thursday, Anurag Maheshwari wrote a response piece that called me an extremist neoconservative, blinded by my hatred for human civilization. He incorrectly surmised that I wanted to extend NATO membership to Georgia and Ukraine — it appears that Mr. Maheshwari did not care to read beyond the first paragraph of my piece before launching into insults. While I might not be as isolationist as Mr. Maheshwari, who seems to believe that any American involvement anywhere around the world is evidence of imperialistic aims, my basic argument, that we have more to gain by cooperating with Russia than playing brinkmanship, is a far cry from neoconservatism.

Beyond his piffle about American Empire and how "our controlled media propagates lies," and despite his tragic misreading of my piece, Mr. Maheshwari has hit the nail on the head when it comes to detailing the flaws in the simplistic narrative of Georgia as a damsel in distress. To his account of the nuanced history between Russia and its satellites, I would only add that our recent decision to base missile defense sites and radars in Eastern Europe has unnecessarily heightened tensions — not only is missile defense a technologically impractical goal, but Russia's offer to have the sites based in Azerbaijan was perfectly reasonable — Azerbaijan's proximity to Iran would have made it a superior site for shooting down Iranian missiles.

Keith Yost is a graduate student in the Department of Nuclear Science and Engineering and the Engineering Systems Division.

The Pickens Plan: A Windy Salvation?

By Holly Moeller

I woke up in the wee hours of last Sunday morning to the sound of Tropical Storm Hanna tearing at my open window. Groggily, I stood up to admire the force of the storm and found I could barely make out the typically brilliant lights of downtown Boston through the driving rain. The juxtaposition of the raw power of storm winds with the awe-inspiring expanse of city lights reminded me of plans to help replace energy needs with wind power. Too tired to dwell on the matter, I climbed back in bed and let the storm's unlikely lullaby return me to sleep.

The idea of wind power has been around for centuries — think kites, sailboats, windmills, and the like — but the scale of humanity's current efforts to harness it is unprecedented. Energy from wind — captured by 410-foot-tall towers with rhythmically rotating 150-foot blades — seems an ideal alternative to burning fossil fuels, and European countries like Denmark and Germany are already spreading their wings — err, turbines — to catch it.

Enter T. Boone Pickens, a man with a big fortune born of Big Oil in the big state of Texas — a man with a very big idea. Pickens wants to transform America into the "Saudi Arabia of wind power," meeting twenty percent of our electricity needs with a swath of wind farms running down the country's heartland. While reducing our dependence on foreign oil, the wind farms will free up natural gas for use as automobile fuel and create thousands of high-paying jobs for Americans.

This big idea has a very big price tag — one trillion dollars in private funds to erect the 100,000 wind turbines and \$200 billion in government dollars to lay down the infrastructure for the wind power grid. A solid investment which seems more reasonable when compared to the \$700 billion-worth of foreign oil we import annually. We can even toss in the \$575 billion price tag — to date — of Iraq to sweeten the pot.

Cost is only the surface of the issue, though. Wind farms must be able to handle intermittency — think contending with Hanna vs. feeling yourself sunburn as you hope for a vagrant breeze to blow your Tech Dinghy back across

the Charles — and maintain a constant power output. (How many batteries do you need to power Boston, anyway?) They must also contend with aesthetic opposition — the "not in my backyard" folks — while staking out the best wind-harvesting sites. (Otherworldly or elegant, at least wind turbines look better than cell towers masquerading as trees.)

Additionally, there are very valid ecological concerns. As with any renewable energy technology, there's a carbon startup cost: the CO₂ emitted during manufacture of the turbines, in this case. It seems that this carbon debt is neutralized within nine months of operation, however. Meanwhile, there are concerns about the toll on wildlife. Birds and bats can be killed while flying through wind farms; whales and dolphins might be disoriented by sounds from the moving blades transmitted through the water. There's solid scientific evidence, though, that these impacts are minimal, especially when compared to the effects of skyscrapers and powerlines (on aerial creatures) or offshore drilling (on marine life).

If such evidence didn't exist, the welfare of many species would obviously be an important concern. Yet we've been managing Earth for human needs for so long down — increasing extinction rates by 10,000 fold — that we might as well take it one step farther. The idea makes the tree-hugger in me cringe. But then again, what will become of the birds and whales when climate change takes its toll on their habitats? Better to mitigate the impact on the whole at the expense of the few.

This is a concept our political system has yet to master. Renewable energy — wind power included — has received hefty bipartisan lip service, but Washington seems to think no one will read the fine print. While presidential candidates run ads featuring hands and solar panels, Congress threatens to end renewable energy tax credits, which reward investors for green innovation. Congress is less and less likely to renew the tax credits, which expire at the end of the year, and politics may sabotage the Pickens Plan, among other wind and solar installations. That \$1 trillion in private investment will be mighty hard to come by with no tax rewards. After all, if Big Oil gets them, why can't everyone else?

The moral of this story is that nothing is perfect, nothing will replace cheap oil, and nothing is as clean and white as those GE wind farm commercials. Here's where we need some of Pickens' big picture attitude. We have to see wind power as a part — not the entirety — of the solution and move it up the priority list. Fast. After all, something is always better than nothing.

Holly Moeller is a graduate student in the Department of Biology.

Go Out and Get a Job!

The Value of Real Work Experience

By Gary Shu

As the MIT Career Fair approaches, the sound of my classmates polishing their résumés becomes a constant roar, and the semester's worries are temporarily replaced by career anxieties. It is that time of year when students are already thinking about the next one, and undergraduates and graduates alike try to determine where their stepping stone into the "real world" is. As someone who has been through both an undergraduate and graduate job hunt, there is just one important tidbit of advice I would like to impart.

(But before I begin, if you haven't submitted your resume to the MIT Career Fair, you're already too late — the deadline was last Thursday. And even if you have, you better haul your ass this Thursday to Johnson Athletic Center with a fistful of resumes. Be prepared to stand in line and look pretty to get your chance to hobnob with bored, tired company representatives. It may not sound exciting, but school is by far the best place to find a job. Business schools, including Sloan, are packed like sardines with people who are looking for that opportunity only found at school.)

My only pearl of wisdom: do what you want to do. The whole purpose of books like "What Color is Your Parachute?" and those nauseating Myers-Briggs personality tests is to provide some structured self-reflection, something that is admittedly given short shrift during the

semester. If you know what your values are, whether it's to rake in the dough or to perform public service, gun for it. If you have some idea of what you want to do, then at least try it. And, well, if you haven't a clue ...

Which leads me to the undergraduate corollary — so-called since undergraduates are usually the students unsure about their future — and that is: If you don't know what you want to do, just do something, *anything*.

You ever wonder why your parents stopped bugging you at the end of college about your grades or what your next step is going to be? That's because they can't help you anymore and they know it. Your parents pushed you to study for the SATs in high school and bugged you to death to make sure that all that money going to MITPAY wasn't being wasted. Instead of crying when they dropped you off at your dorm freshman year, they should be weeping at the end of college because they can't provide you with guidance on your life in any meaningful way.

And if you, the wandering senior, haven't a whiff of a direction, just go somewhere and do something. It may well be that you're trying to rake in the dough or you're attempting to be a menial public servant. Either way, like it or hate it, you will acquire experience and knowledge that your hosed years at MIT never could. That experience will guide you more than your p-sets, your parents, and the Careers Office ever could.

Gary Shu is a graduate student in the Engineering Systems Division.



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Talk Nerdy To Me

The Fuck Buddy That Wasn't

By Christine Yu

I never got the sex talk — my parents handed me a pamphlet, figuring that I'd learn what they considered my usual way; from literature and experts. Well, they were right, I did learn my usual way — the “hard” way. So, here's some tips how to handle some common issues.

Problem: You get walked in on.

Solution: Invite the person to join — usually, that's a great way to make the person run out of the room. Actually, this is the reason that I stopped going to one of the dorms (not saying which, but it's easy to guess). Three's company though, so if they agree, it could be fun. I don't have any expertise in threesomes, sorry.

If you're not that audacious, throw the covers over yourself, and the person should get the hint. If you don't like that idea, put on a show. Exhibitionism can be fun. Also, if you walk in on someone, don't gawk. Give the couple — err, sometimes couples — their privacy!

Problem: You wake up in bed with someone, and you have no recollection of the night before — including his/her name.

Solution: Go with Michael or Elizabeth! According to admissions statistics, those have been the most popular names for the last 2 years (3 for Elizabeth) in a row! (Ever wonder why they published that?) Actually, darling or sweetie is a better substitute. Do not use the word baby or honey — that reminds most of us of our parents or grandparents. You could always avoid using a name — I mean how much talking did you really do last night? Try to find an ID — most people keep their student ID close to them at all time. Along with seeing their cheesy senior picture, you'll know their name, which allows you to do all the Facebook stalking you want.

Problem: He can't get it up.

Solution: This is the number one reason why sex and alcohol do not mix well. Sometimes, guys start crying when this happens. (Once again, not that I know from past experience ...) From talking to others on this, I realize there are typically three ways girls handle

this: They 1. Do it themselves 2. Point and laugh 3. Give into a sexless night and then tell all their friends about it later. I suggest either the first or second option. Ok. So, I'm not a total bitch, and I'm too self-conscious to actually laugh. So, it's safer to go with the first, for some reason beyond me, guys tend to get hard by watching a girl pleasure herself. If not, at least you got off.

Problem: She goes dry.

Solution: Lube! Do not just keep thrusting, didn't you learn about friction in physics class? Well, friction is bad here! Ok, some people don't keep lube with them at all times — actual-

ly, the only time I think of lube is when some mentions anal (Astroglide, anyone?). Safe lubes to use are water based, so they dry up quickly. Thus, you're usually reapplying it in the middle of sex. Honestly, it'd be better to stop the sex and have more foreplay, since drying up usually means there wasn't enough time spent on arousing her. So, perform oral on her. For the amount of reply I got on my piece about oral (and the lack of cunnilingus), I guess my simple guidelines weren't enough. I suppose people wanted a rule of thumb for tongue. Well, that'll come next week.

Problem: You left your iTunes on shuffle and Zelda music came on.

Solution: Do not stop kissing, and ask the girl, “how far do you want to go?” First of all, I thought guys stopped asking that question in high school. I mean, I thought guys asked, “are you sure?” in college, cause they're running under the assumption that they're going to get laid. “Err, we can go to base 3.14,” is probably how you should respond if you're faced with this question. (Maybe, that means 69-ing ... I mean you're kind of in a circle.) Also, did he totally miss the fact that the music came on?!

The smoothest way to handle it is to shut off your music. Joke about it. She probably found it comical, hey, she might even mention it in a column!

Whatever you do though, do not to throw the girl off your futon after she changes her mind about it. Trust me on this one; she doesn't want an unnecessary bruise to remind her of the fuck buddy that wasn't. Lesson to be learned here: don't leave iTunes on shuffle — unless you have a playlist made.

Problem: The guy is into [insert fetish here.]

Solution: College is where you're supposed to explore. You might just find you like whatever kink it is he has. Although, if you're really uncomfortable, don't give in to the pressure. However, you should be open minded. Maybe, I give off a kinky vibe. Little “adorable” Asian girl? (I suppose you never

do know with the “quiet” types.) I haven't met a guy who didn't propose some light BDSM, so handcuffs don't seem like such a big deal. People need to stop acting like they're so taboo. Have a good safe word — do not choose anything impossible to pronounce (under three syllables is always good and in English) or something you might say anyway (*coughs* the guy's name.)

Problem: The shirt comes off and you notice a foul smell.

Solution: Occupational hazard of being an MIT student — specifically in certain majors. I suggest taking a shower together, because if the sex is good, you're going to be taking deep breaths. When I say taking a shower, I literally mean taking a shower. It's good foreplay. Do not have sex in the dorm showers. First of all, sex with water is something that's much more difficult than it looks. You'd think water would

add lube — well, it doesn't. Water and water-based lubes are two different things. Also, most of the showers here are too small, and I don't think you're going to want your body rubbing up against fungus — you were probably better off plugging your nose during sex in the first place.

Problem: You haven't had sex in months or you've never had sex.

Solution: Join the club. This might come as a shock, but I haven't had sex in months. (No, I'm not advertising this for Facebook messages proposing one night stands.) Not having sex isn't the end of the world — it's usually less complicated. I mean, sex can get messy, literally. Also, I'm convinced that shopping can be better than sex — I mean, I remember most of my shopping experiences better than my sexual encounters and the physical reminder isn't a bruise! Before I get messages telling me that, “you haven't had good sex,” I'll just say that you haven't had good shopping! I am human, though, so to deal with my libido, I realized that like most things, I was better off doing it myself.

Most importantly, I have to put in the word for responsible sex. Yes, I understand its college, how responsible can sex be? Well, there are certain situations that should be avoided: rape, pregnancy, and STDs. No means no, stop means stop, unless this has been discussed beforehand as some sort of kinky roleplay (importance of a safeword, once again). Communication is essential — don't ever just assume the other person wants it, even if you've slept together before. There are many methods of birth control out there: IUD's, pills, shots. MIT Medical has all of these available, including the morning after pill, should an accident arise. Also, for extra precaution, keep a condom with you at all times. Personally, I keep a Marc Jacobs one. It's proof you can be stylish when it comes to sex, or that I'm a shopaholic. Remember, sex has responsibilities, ranging from infection to insemination, and these problems don't have easy solutions.

Sarah Palin = Dolores Umbridge

A Very Potter Election

By Arkajit Dey
STAFF COLUMNIST

This will be the first year in over a decade to not have a new Harry Potter book or movie released. If you're suffering from Harry withdrawal, this election season has the perfect fix for you. You thought the magical world was the only one with a young hero who must save the world from an evil Dark Lord; a failed lame duck Minister of Magic; an old, grizzled Auror promising to make a clean break from said Minister; a pretty blonde reporter with a penchant for stretching the truth; and a Defense Against the Dark Arts (DADA) professor with a “personality like poisoned honey”? We muggles are not to be so easily outdone. Enter Sarah Palin who quite nicely completes this Harry Potter Election cycle.

Remember when you were reading *Goblet of Fire* and you thought there couldn't be anyone more infuriating than Rita Skeeter? And then how Dolores Jane Umbridge became DADA professor in *Order of the Phoenix* and redefined infuriating? Well no longer do Harry Potter fans have to decide who they'd like to strangle more, for in Palin we have a brunette Skeeter (seriously, compare their hair-dos and glasses) with all the “lovable” personality quirks of an Umbridge. Not convinced? Let's compare.

“The evidence that the Dark Lord has returned is incontrovertible,” Professor Albus Dumbledore tells a disbelieving Minister of Magic, Cornelius Fudge. The Minister reacts by instating Umbridge as the DADA professor, who, by the way, won't be teaching any practical magic in DADA. After all, “who would you imagine would want to attack children like yourself?” says Umbridge. “Oh, I don't know, maybe Lord Voldemort?” counters Harry. No, no, Umbridge won't have any of that: “You have been told that a certain Dark Wizard is at large once again. This is a lie.”

Back in the muggle world, Professor Al Gore tells us an inconvenient truth: “We are facing a global climate crisis.” But there's good news: “We have everything we need now to respond to the challenge of global warming.” Huh, perhaps we should do something about it? No, no, says Palin: “I'm not an Al Gore, doom-and-gloom environmentalist blaming the changes in our climate on human activity.” Translation: “You have been told

that a certain climate phenomena known as global warming is man-made. This is a lie.” Since joining John McCain's ticket, she has apparently changed tack as she responded to Charlie Gibson's suggestion in their interview that she didn't believe global warming was man-made with flat denials (read: lies) that she'd ever made such statements.

Seriously, we should have drawn the line when she went after the polar bears in a New York Times op-ed: “The Center for Biological Diversity, an environmental group, has argued that global warming and the reduction of polar ice severely threatens the bears' habitat and their existence. In fact, there is insufficient evidence that polar bears are in danger of becoming extinct within the foreseeable future.” If the polar bears are anything like the centaurs in the Forbidden Forest, she may want to reconsider getting on their bad side.

Palin may not like Gibson (or most journalists for that matter) after their interview exposed many of her weaknesses, but she'd probably warm up to Skeeter. Quick-quotes quill in hand, Skeeter regaled *Witch Weekly* and *The Daily Prophet* readers with concoctions about a juicy Harry-Hermione-Krum love triangle, how Hagrid being a half-giant makes him extremely dangerous, and how Harry's lightning-bolt scar has left him emotionally disturbed.

Hockey-stick in hand (not too much to imagine is it?), Palin told voters she said “thanks, but no thanks” to that Bridge to Nowhere. But as the Associated Press reported, “Palin was for the infamous bridge before she was against it.” Far from being a heroic symbol of her committed battle against “Congressional earmarks” (the name of McCain's pet hamster), the bridge was just one of the \$750 million worth of earmarks she aggressively fought for as Governor of Alaska, earning her state the dubious distinction of requesting the most federal tax dollars per person of any state, according to the AP.

Worried about getting detention from Um-

bridge where she'll make you write lines in your own blood for disagreeing with her? After all, even Professor Snape got a probation for being “unhelpful”, i.e. not having enough Veritaserum for her to force feed students while illegally interrogating them. Try not firing Palin's ex-brother-in-law and you might just find yourself wishing your punishment was just writing lines.

Instead, as Alaska Public Safety Commissioner Walt Monegan found out, you can expect to be fired and then discredited. At first, Palin said “never was there any pressure put on Commissioner Monegan to hire or fire anybody.” Later she backtracked as it was revealed there were over “two dozen contacts with Monegan about Wooten” according to *Time*.

Before becoming McCain's running mate, Palin said she would cooperate fully with any investigation.

Now her lawyer wants it to be discontinued or at the very least postponed. Of course the jury is still out and Palin denies any involvement in “Troopergate,” but then again so did Nixon when asked about Watergate. I guess, we'll just have to wait and see.

But if Palin gets her way and has the investigation delayed past November, it might not even matter anymore. Palin, who throughout her political career, reports *The New York Times*, “has pursued vendettas, fired officials who crossed her and sometimes blurred the line between government and personal grievance” may actually make Umbridge look like a saint.

But this election was a Harry Potter remake long before Palin entered the scene. Minister Fudge is

No longer do Harry Potter fans have to decide who they'd like to strangle more, for in Palin we have a brunette Skeeter with all the “lovable” personality quirks of an Umbridge.

a failed Wizarding leader; President Bush is a failed Muggle leader. Rufus Scrimgeour is a grizzly, old Auror who put away some Death Eaters in his day and takes over from a failed Minister; McCain is a greying, old war-hero who fought some really bad guys in his time and wants to take over from his failed President. Professor McGonagall is a stern, but kind member of the old guard who never lets her hair down and who didn't always agree with Dumbledore's trust in Harry's ability; Hillary Clinton is a sometimes dour member of the old Democratic guard who wears pantsuits and didn't always agree with American's trust in Barry's experience. Professor Snape is a hook-nosed git with greasy hair and you can never tell if he's in the Order or with the Death Eaters; Joe Lieberman is a balding git and you can never tell if he's a Democrat or a Republican.

Harry is just a boy with the fate of the magical world on his shoulders; Barry (O'Bomber) is just a second-term United States senator with the fate of health care, the economy, and other such Muggle concerns on his shoulders. Palin just gave the Harry Potter Election Sundae a cherry on top. The downside is that she could be just an Avada Kedavra away from the White House if the fate of poor Rufus is any indication, a thought that might just be more chilling than a Dementor's Kiss. In any case, we may not get to see the Half-Blood Prince this year, but at least we still have Harry Potter and the Hockey Mom. I just hope you've been practicing your Patronus.

P.S. Did you know the root of Umbridge's first name Dolores, in Spanish, means pain, kind of like what you get when you try to say Palin very fast and drop the ‘l’?

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Ramblings from Hell

Seven Days of Verse and I Discover I'm Not a Poet

By S. Campbell Proehl
STAFF COLUMNIST

Last Wednesday my poetry professor gave me an assignment: Keep a poetry journal, write a poem a day, or write poems at different times of the day. See what happens in the pages over seven days.

This assignment was inspired by the Hotel Wentley poems written by John Wieners over the course of a week in a rundown San Francisco hotel. I read them before I started my journal. He's deep. And talented. He wrote things like "I held love once in the palm of my hand. / See the lines there." Seriously. This guy had soul.

I signed up for Writing and Reading Poems (21 W.756) because I thought my writing skills could carry over to all genres. This is embarrassing to admit, but sometimes I write poems. Most of them are awful. Sometimes, however, I hit the literary nail on the head and produce something good. I know this because last semester I showed one to my poetry professor and he said "It's good."

I took this class to help me home in on my inner poet. I imagined that by the end of the semester I would be sitting in coffee houses with a French beret, smoking a cigarette, and arguing with other budding poets about the last line of Sylvia Plath's "Medusa."

Organic Chemistry II made me better at organic chemistry. Differential equations improved my math skills. Poetry class turned me into the worst poet ever.

The Wednesday I received the poetry journal assignment, I left campus ready to become one with my feelings. As I biked over the Harvard Bridge, I noticed that the sunset was quite exhilarating. I called *The Tech* to tell them to send a photographer out. While the office phone rang, I thought of how to describe the light to whomever answered the phone.

"Hello, The Tech," they answered.

"Hi guys, it's Sarah. Send out a photographer RIGHT NOW. The light is ..." I searched for the perfect literary phrase, but couldn't find it. "Beautiful!" was all I could come up with. I wasn't off to a good start.

When I got back to my apartment, I penned the most awful poem that has ever been written. It included the line: "The sun set / a large tangerine / over _____ buildings." I left the blank there because I couldn't think of a word that I wanted. If I had been Sylvia Plath's daughter and she hadn't asphyxiated herself at the age of thirty, she would have after reading that poem.

I asked my roommate to read it. She is never harsh, and I figured she would reassure me that I did have literary talent.

"It's a little rough around the edges." Ouch.

I was inspired the next day by the streetlights shining in through my window. I got excited because I imagined that for the next week my motif would be light. I would write about darkness, sunsets, natural light, and ambient light. Literary critics would be talking about my fascination with light for the latter half of the twentieth century.

The second one was more awful than the first. I ripped it out and threw it away, but I remember an awful line about lurking streetlights. I shiver just thinking about it.

I graduated high school thinking I was good at science and math. MIT made me rethink those talents.

It would have been nice to still be confident in my writing skills. But I guess the point of MIT is to make you realize that in every subject there are people who are smarter than you. After three years here, it seems my value stands at about one share of Lehman Brothers.

My downfall started with MIT taking away time for romance. Easily accessible french fries at Cambridge Grill took away my beauty. Stress took away my youth.

Now, I have lost my penchant for language.

Romance, beauty, youth, language. I'm pretty sure those have been the four main subjects of poetry throughout history.

And that,
ladies and gentlemen, is how
I discovered that I am not a poet.
For a poet would end
with food for thought.
But my verse
is for naught.

ROW FOR MIT!



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BY THE STUDENT INFORMATION PROCESSING BOARD

Welcome, especially to freshmen and new grad students! Ask SIPB is a column published semi-regularly by the Student Information Processing Board (SIPB), the volunteer student group concerned with computing at MIT, to help students like you learn more about the computing resources MIT provides, and how to make effective use of them. Look for more columns in the future, and feel free to stop by the SIPB office (W20-557) or e-mail sipb@mit.edu with any questions about computing at MIT.

How do I get to all the useful software on Athena?

Most software on Athena is divided into storage bins called *lockers*. Before you can use the software in a locker, you need to *add* that locker:

```
athena% add maple
athena% maple
[...]
```

If you don't know which locker contains the software you want, you can use the *whichlocker* command (in the *outland* locker) to find out which locker you need to add:

```
athena% add outland
athena% whichlocker mathematica
Locker software on Athena is
  -> maintained by many different
  -> people.
Don't run this unless you know the
  -> maintainer can be trusted.
"mathematica" is in "math" for
  -> linux and sun4
```

I need a scanner and Photoshop. Where can I go?

A small number of workstations in select Athena clusters run Windows or Mac-based variants of Athena, which come with a different selection of software. The New Media Center, in 26-139, is a cluster of iMacs and G5 Power Macs running a variety of multimedia software. The NMC also has a color scanner and computer hookups for MiniDV and S-VHS tapes. There are also two clusters of Windows machines in the WIN.MIT.EDU domain — one cluster is in the back room of the W20-575 cluster, and the other is in 37-312. (Note that 37-312 requires an MIT card as well as the cluster combo for access.) Both the Windows and Mac systems can access your regular Athena home directory, but it is *not* your home directory on those systems. These systems have locally-installed software that is not available on generic Athena machines, including Adobe Photoshop.

You can find a list of Athena clusters on the back of an Athena Pocket Reference Card, or by typing:

```
athena% cview
```

There is also a scanner available in the SIPB office, W20-557, along with other useful office tools and computer advice.

Hey, what's this window with a message that just showed up?

That would probably be a zephyr. Zephyr is Athena's instant messaging system, which displays both official Athena notifications and messages from friends. To send someone a zephyr, type the "zwrite" command followed by their username:

```
athena% zwrite joeuser
Type your message now. End with
  -> control-D or a dot on a line by
  -> itself.
Hi, what's up?
.
Message queued for joeuser... sent
```

We'll cover Zephyr in more detail in a later column, but there are a few quick tips we can give:

One of Zephyr's most compelling features is its multi-user chat support. In addition to sending messages to individuals, you can send messages to a particular "class" and "instance". In general, a class is like a chatroom, and an instance is a particular topic within that room. For example, if you want to know if there exists a polynomial $p(x)$ with real coefficients so that p^2 has fewer nonzero terms than p does, you could ask the math whizzes on class help:

```
athena% zctl sub help math "*"
athena% zwrite -c help -i math
```

(Replace *math* with *** to indicate that you want to subscribe to all instances of class help; the last *** in-

dicates this is a group chat. If you want to stay subscribed the next time you log in, use "add" instead of "subscribe".) To find out more about zephyr, you can check out SIPB's "Inessential Zephyr," also available in hardcopy form at the SIPB office (W20-557).

I forgot my password. What do I do?

You'll need to visit the friendly folks at Accounts. Bring your ID to N42 during business hours and ask for a password reset. Alternately, if you have personal certificates on your computer, you can reset your password through the web form at <https://wserver.mit.edu/fcgi-bin/cpw/>.

Where can I get more help with computing at MIT?

You can come ask SIPB in person or via e-mail. Our office is W20-557, right next to the Athena cluster. Any time the office is open (typically from afternoon to late evening) you should feel free to ask us questions. You can check if the office is open using our door sensor at <http://sipb-door.scripts.mit.edu>. You can also call us at (617) 253-7788 or e-mail sipb@mit.edu.

OLC, short for On-line Consulting, is MIT's official support group for Athena-related questions. OLC has a set of stock answers for Athena-related questions on the web at <http://web.mit.edu/answers/>; this list is also available on Athena — type `olc answers` at an Athena prompt.

To ask OLC a question, first make sure the question isn't already answered in the Stock Answers, then type at an Athena prompt:

```
athena% olc
```

Alternately, you can visit their office in N42, open for walk-in support 9:15 a.m. to 4:45 p.m. M-F. You can also call (617) 253-4435 or e-mail olc@mit.edu. Online support is available 9:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Consultants are also occasionally available on weekends and holidays.

If your question relates to Windows or Macintosh systems, you can contact the Computing Help Desk. The Help Desk phone lines are open M-F from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.; walk-ins are welcome in the office in N42 from 9:15 a.m. to 5 p.m. For help, call (617) 253-1101, e-mail computing-help@mit.edu, or drop by N42. The Computing Help Desk also maintains a set of stock answers for common Macintosh and Windows questions encountered by MIT community members, at <http://itinfo.mit.edu/answer/>.

If you are having trouble with a computer in a dorm, you can ask an RCC for help. RCCs are fellow dorm residents who can do everything from assigning IP addresses, to providing network cables, to helping you configure networking on your computer. To get in contact with your RCC, ask around your dorm or visit <http://rcc.mit.edu> to submit a request. You can also message screenname `rccbot` on AIM with quick RCC requests (such as a printing issues).

My friends and I can't get to our e-mail. Did something break?

<http://3down.mit.edu> provides information about both scheduled and unscheduled network and service outages. If you can't even access the web, x3-DOWN (253-3696) often provides information about major outages. If you suspect an outage, 3-DOWN can tell you whether it's been reported already, and often when it's expected to be over.

How can I learn more about computing at MIT?

Throughout term, there are a number of ways you can learn more about computing or computing specifically at MIT. Information Services and Technology (IS&T) provides some documentation on various components of Athena at <http://web.mit.edu/olh/>; we'll cover some of those topics in the next several issues. In addition, SIPB will be offering weekly Cluedumps, a series of short, informal technical talks throughout the term. Check <http://cluedumps.mit.edu/> for the schedule and locations, and updates.

Of course, stay tuned for upcoming Ask SIPB columns; future columns will cover e-mail, printing, Zephyr, version control, more details of Athena, and more.

To ask us a question, send e-mail to sipb@mit.edu. We'll try to answer you quickly, and we can address your question in our next column. You can also stop by our office in W20-557 or call us at x3-7788 if you need help. Copies of each column and pointers to additional information are posted on our Web site: <http://www.mit.edu/~asksipb/>.



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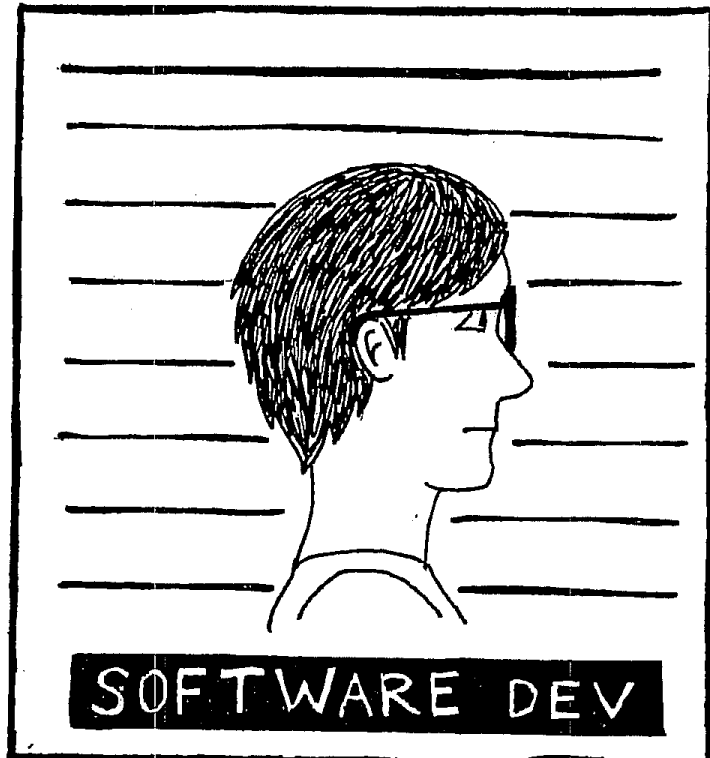
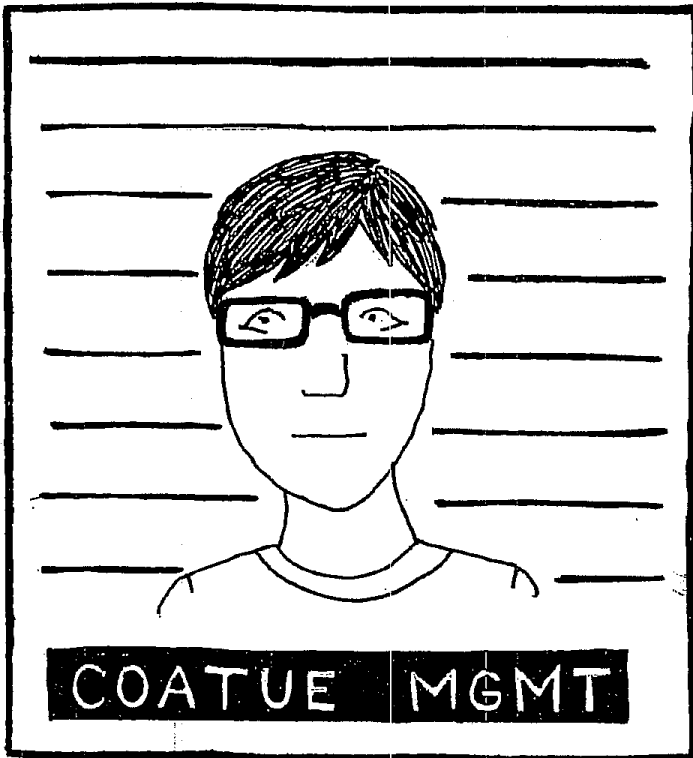
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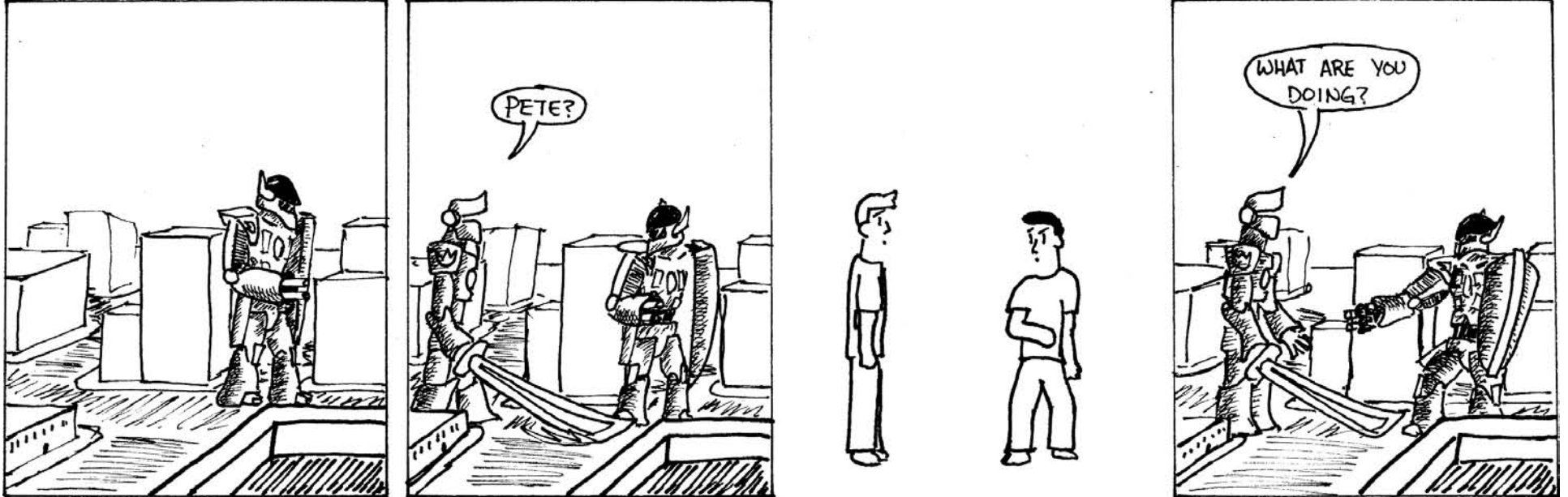
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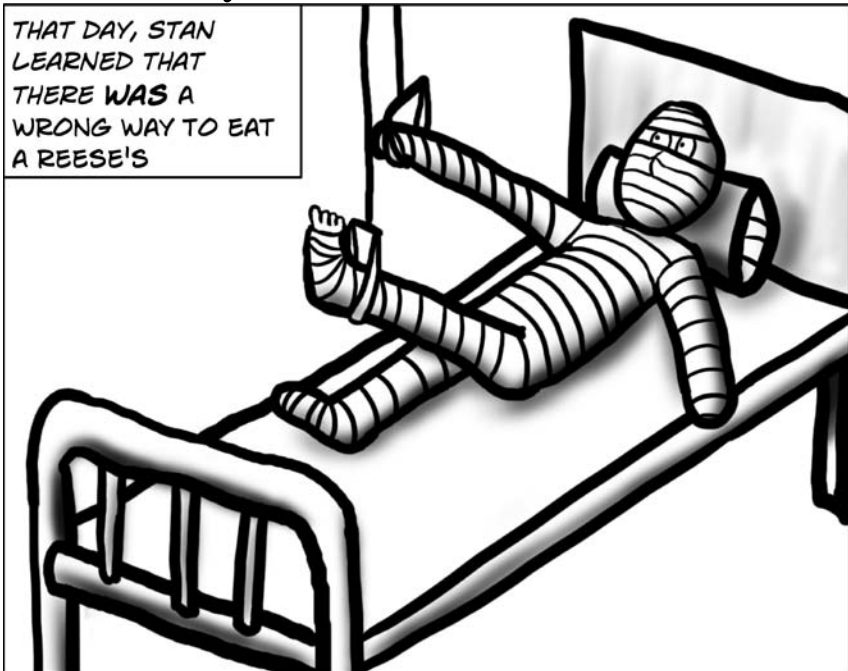
Theory of Pete

by Cai GoGwilt



Steal My Comic

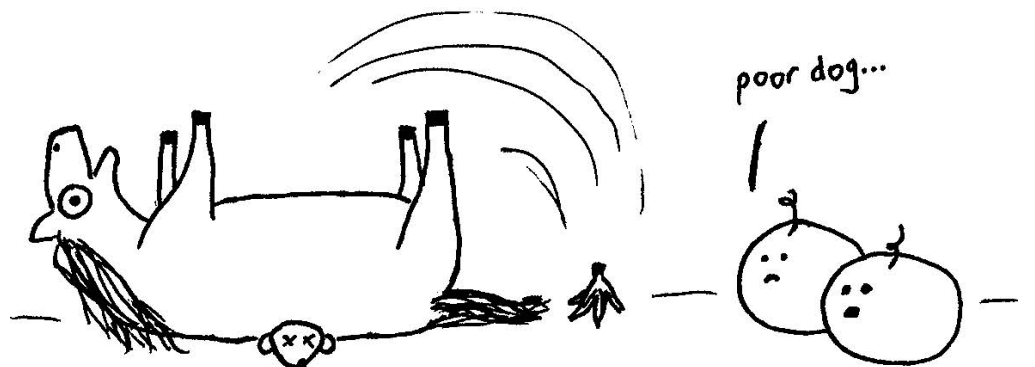
by Michael Ciuffo



Blobbes — Morbid Edition

by Jason Chan

you ever seen a
horse on a dog?



New to *Blobbes*? Here's how it works. Send me a caption at blobbes@tech.mit.edu, and I'll draw a cartoon to go along with it!

Doonesbury

BY GARRY TRUDEAU

Dilbert® by Scott Adams

The Daily Blunderbuss

by Ben Peters

Things to look for:

Two left feet

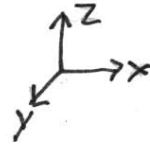


Bad at dancing

Two left hands



Bad at physics



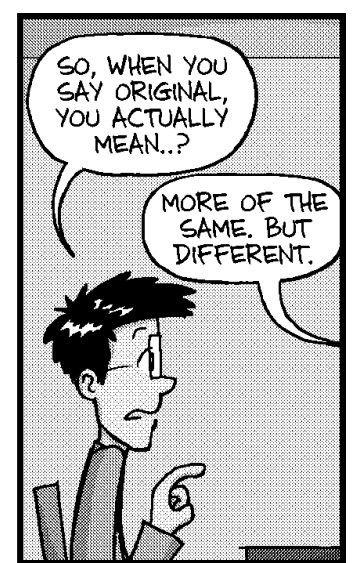
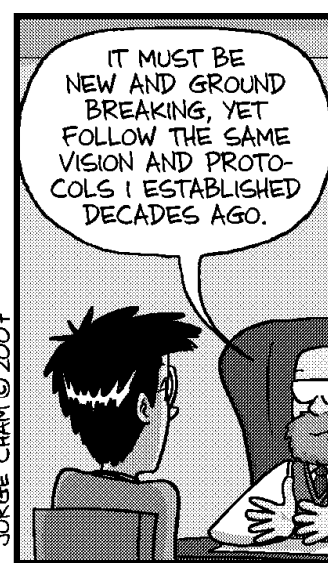
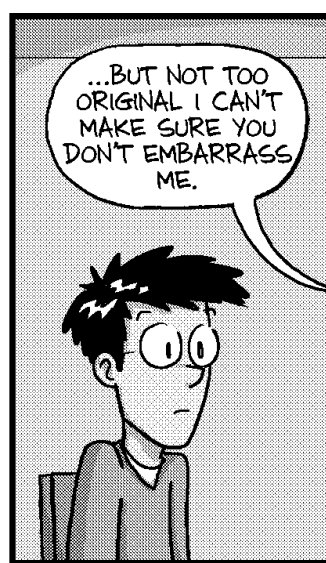
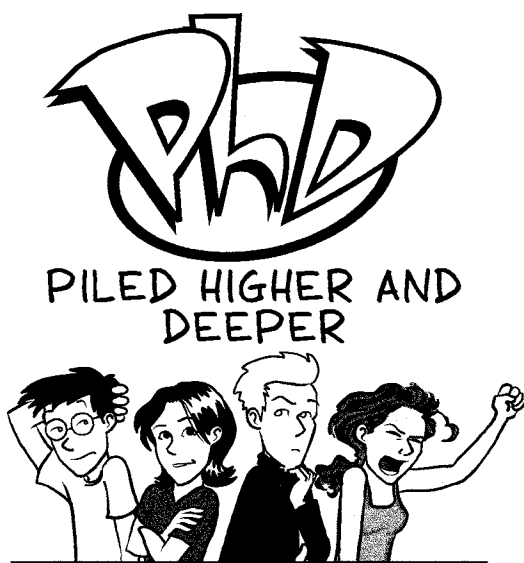
su | do | ku

Instructions: Fill in the grid so that each column, row, and 3 by 3 grid contains exactly one of each of the digits 1 through 9. Solution on page 23.

© Puzzles by Pappocom

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

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



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Crossword Puzzle

Solution, page 20

ACROSS

- Phylcia or Ahmad
- Behaves
- Concorde, e.g.
- Glacial epoch
- Satellite of Saturn
- Comic Margaret
- Raring to go
- Timetable info
- Impish smiles
- Send forth
- Switch positions
- Male body part
- Disney dwarf
- Is of use to
- Give lessons
- "Straight Is the Gate" writer Gide
- Braggart's cry
- Govt. security
- One of the senses
- Largest piggy?
- Graphic artist M.C. _
- Face-saving disdain
- Australian isl.
- Notion
- Takes five
- Bad-mouth
- Win
- Way in, in brief
- Leave out
- Went out
- His: Fr.
- Daly of "Cagney & Lacey"

DOWN

- Coast of Morocco
- Prefix for puncture
- Choice abbr.
- "2001" mainframe
- Keenly eager
- Pay for
- Fight venue
- Deep crack
- Bo's number
- Swed. flyers
- Shrimp dish
- Piercing in tone
- Rich cakes
- Offer
- Clean air grp.
- Bone: pref.
- Dog dogger
- Bit of derring-do
- Office asst.
- Poet Teasdale
- Heads off
- Picture taker, briefly
- "Exodus"
- character
- Org. of Rangers and Ducks
- Atl. Coast state
- Over in Ulm
- Delicacy
- Workplace safety grp.
- Shoshones
- School period
- Backs of singles
- Cut stinger
- Visitors
- Song syllable
- Old Testament book
- Alan or Adam
- Calvin or Rodney
- Approx.
- Lolita-ish
- Toddler
- Tan or Smart
- EI _
- Campeador
- Goddess of folly
- Plunk starter?
- Newspaper VIPs



SOFTWARE DEVELOPER POSITIONS

Career Fair - 9/18 from 11 AM - 6 PM Johnson Athletic Center
Info Session - 9/24 at 7 PM, 4-231
Resume Drop Deadline - 9/25

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Community Picnic at New Ashdown Hosted By Hockfield's Office

Picnic, from Page 1

planned the event.

Gallagher declined to comment on the cost of the picnic, though according to UA President Noah S. Jessop '09, it stayed within budget.

President Susan Hockfield, Dean for Graduate Education Steven R. Lerman '72, and Ashdown housemaster Terry Orlando gave brief remarks.

Hosted by the Office of the President, the Community Picnics were started by President Hockfield last year to mark the beginning and end of the academic year at MIT. One picnic took place last fall and one this spring.

Monday was bright and sunny, and there were balloons and live music. "Everybody seemed to have a good time," said Cissy Giannino, the Ashdown desk manager.

<http://tech.mit.edu>

Caltech Economist Puts Textbook Online for Free to Protest Pricing

By Noam Cohen
THE NEW YORK TIMES

Squint hard, and textbook publishers can look a lot like drug makers. They both make money from doing obvious good — healing, educating — and they both have customers who may be willing to sacrifice their last pennies to buy what these companies are selling.

It is that fact that can suddenly turn the good guys into bad guys, especially when the prices they charge are compared with generic drugs or ordinary books. A final similarity, in the words of R. Preston McAfee, an economics professor at the California Institute of Technology, is that both textbook publishers and drug makers benefit from the problem of "moral hazards" — that is, the doctor who

prescribes medication and the professor who requires a textbook don't have to bear the cost and thus usually don't think twice about it.

"The person who pays for the book, the parent or the student, doesn't choose it," he said. "There is this sort of creep. It's always OK to add \$5."

In protest of what he says are textbooks' intolerably high prices — and the dumbing-down of their content to appeal to the widest possible market — McAfee has put his introductory economics textbook online free. He says he most likely could have earned a \$100,000 advance on the book had he gone the traditional publishing route, and it would have had a list price approaching \$200.

"This market is not working very well — except for the shareholders in the textbook publishers," he said. "We have lots of knowledge, but we are not getting it out."

While still on the periphery of the academic world, his volume, "Introduction to Economic Analysis," is being used at some colleges, including Harvard and Claremont McKenna, a private liberal arts college in Claremont, Calif.

And that, in a nutshell, is a big difference between textbook publishers and the drug makers. Sure, there have been scientists with McAfee's attitude — Jonas Salk was asked who owned the patent to the polio vaccine and scoffed: "Could you patent the sun?"

For the textbook makers, however, it is a different story. McAfee allows anyone to download a Word file or PDF of his book, while also taking advantage of the growing marketplace for print on demand.

In true economist fashion, he has allowed two companies, Lulu and Flat World Knowledge, to sell print versions of his textbook, with Lulu charging \$11 and Flat World anywhere from \$19.95 to \$59.95. As he said on his Web site, he is keeping the multiple options to "further constrain their ability to engage in monopoly pricing."

A broader effort to publish free textbooks is called Connexions, which was the brainchild of Richard G. Baraniuk, an engineering professor at Rice University, which has received \$6 million from the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation. In addition to being a repository for

textbooks covering a wide range of subjects and educational levels, its ethic is taken from the digital music world, he said — rip, burn and mash.

Unlike other projects that share course materials, notably OpenCourseWare at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Connexions uses broader Creative Commons license allowing students and teachers to rewrite and edit material as long as the originator is credited. Teachers put up material, called modules, and then mix and match their work with others' to create a collection of material for students. "We are changing textbook publishing from a pipeline to an ecosystem," he said.

Like McAfee, Baraniuk says he decided to share his material while writing a textbook.

"If I had finished my own book, I would have finished a couple years ago," he said. "It would have taken five years. It would have spent five years in print and sold 2,000 copies." Instead, he said, he posted it on the Web site and there have been 2.8 million page views of his textbook, "Signals and Systems," including a translation into Spanish.

Connexions is strongest in statistics and electrical engineering — areas with technologically advanced students and a greater need to update material than, say, works on medieval history. He said there were 850,000 unique users a month, with more than 50 percent of the traffic originating from outside the United States.

"It's anyone's guess as to when we will break through," he said.

One of the most popular Connexions contributors is Sunil Kumar Singh, a production engineer from New Delhi who works for the Oil and Natural Gas Corp. of India. He explains physics for pre-college students, using the feedback from readers who e-mail from all over the world.

"It is a two-way process," he wrote in an e-mail message. "I, for one, have experienced difficulty during my formal study years with the best of textbooks around." He said the new system "gives me opportunity to respond to the editing needs all the time."

While these open-source projects slowly grow, the textbook publishers have entered the online publishing field with CourseSmart, a service owned by five publishers. In service for only a year, CourseSmart allows students to subscribe to a textbook and read it online, with the option of highlighting and printing out portions of it at a time.

The price is generally half of what a print book costs, a sum that can still appear staggering — an introductory economics textbook costs around \$90 online. (This semester, a student has the option of downloading a book as well — but it is an either-or choice: Read online or download to a computer.)

Frank Lyman, executive vice president at CourseSmart, said that the company was created in response to changing times. "There wasn't a lot of content, and it was in a bunch of formats," he said of past efforts by publishers. "There never was any momentum."

There are 4,000 textbooks currently available — about a third of the market — but the goal is to cover "50 percent of the backpack." Without being specific, he said that tens of thousands of textbooks have been read online and that 1,240 separate institutions have a student who has made at least one e-textbook purchase.

While conceding that open-source textbooks would take hold in a few subject areas, Lyman stressed that the current system would still prevail and that collaborative works online would have a hard time winning an audience.

"Of all the things that are changing, one thing is consistent — the authorship model," he said.

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Information Sessions (Free Food!)

Wednesday	Sept 10	5:30 PM	32-124
Tuesday	Sept 23	12:30 PM	E25-111
Thursday	Sept 25	7:30 PM	32-124

Note! UPOP is a **prerequisite** for the new Gordon Engineering Leadership ("GEL") program

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Suelin Chen, Tilke Judd, Mat Caibowitz, "MOLO, MOVement LOoper." Funded in part by the Council for the Arts at MIT, 2008

APPLY for a Council for the Arts Grant



Application deadline: September 26, 2008
<http://web.mit.edu/arts/do/funding/grantguide.html>



Capriccio, an MIT flamenco and Latin music group, performs in front of the Johnson Athletics Center on Friday.

RACHEL FONG

Additional Charges Expected for Alum Aafia Siddiqui '95

Siddiqui, from Page 1

30 years in prison. Paracha's case involved evidence against him from Majid Khan, Khalid Sheik Mohammed, and Ammar al Baluchi, all of whom are linked to Siddiqui, and are U.S. prisoners in Guantanamo Bay. Siddiqui married Ammar al Baluchi in 2003; al Baluchi is a nephew of Mohammed, the alleged 9/11 mastermind.

Paracha was convicted in 2005 and he appealed before the Second Circuit Court of Appeals. The appeals court decided against Para-

cha.

"The Government continues to investigate Siddiqui's conduct with respect to that conspiracy, but the current charges against her — attempted murder of United States nationals, officers and employees, among other counts — are not related to the conspiracy at issue in *Paracha*," Lavigne said.

Further charges against Siddiqui are expected.

Siddiqui's court-appointed New York lawyer, Elizabeth M. Fink, has not responded to repeated requests for comment.

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Public Service message from SA VE (Suicide Awareness Voices of Education) <http://www.save.org>

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MIT International Science and Technology Initiatives

OPEN HOUSE Wednesday, September 17, 12-2pm La Sala de Puerto Rico, W20-202 International food will be served

Information Meetings

- MISTI MIT CHINA September 18 5:00p-7:00p, E38-700 (7th floor conference room)
- MISTI MIT FRANCE September 23, 5:00p-7:00p, E38-700 (7th floor conference room)
- MISTI MIT JAPAN September 24 5:00p-7:00p, E38-700 (7th floor conference room)
- MISTI MIT INDIA September 24 5:00p-7:00p, E38-600 (6th floor conference room)
- MISTI MIT GERMANY September 25 5:00p-7:00p, E38-700 (7th floor conference room)
- MISTI MIT ITALY October 8 5:00p-7:00p, E38-700 (7th floor conference room)
- MISTI MIT MEXICO October 9 5:00p-7:00p, E38-700 (7th floor conference room)
- MISTI MIT ISRAEL October 16 5:00p-7:00p, 56-114
- MISTI MIT SPAIN October 23 5:00p-7:00p, E38-700 (7th floor conference room)



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tech-wizard *aka Christine, Verizon Team Member*

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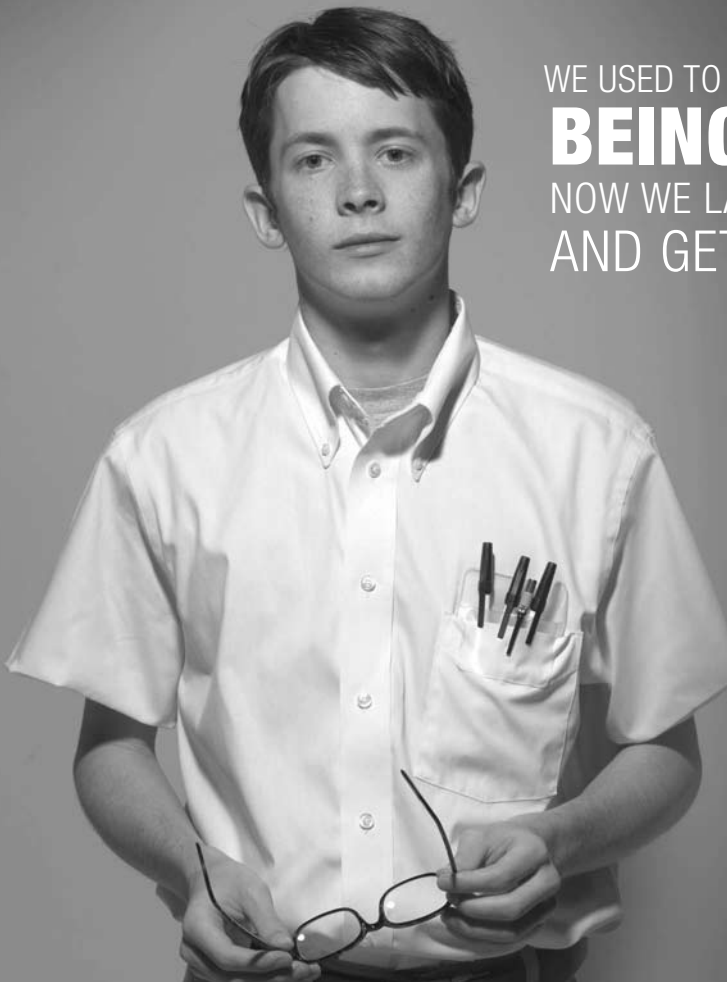
Police Log

The following incidents were reported to the MIT Police between Aug. 25, 2008 and Sept. 3, 2008. This summary does not include incidents such as false alarms, general service calls, or medical shuttles.

- Aug. 25:** W89 (291 Vassar St.), 11:09 a.m., Credit card fraud report. 125 Vassar St., 2:06 p.m., Paudley Zamora, 124 Point Breeze Rd., Webster, Mass. under arrest on Vassar St. for assault by means of a dangerous weapon, to wit a motor vehicle.
M48 (15 Vassar St.), 9:29 p.m., Report of bicycle theft that occurred at 9:30 a.m.
- Aug. 26:** NE48 (700 Tech Square), 11:12 a.m., Report of counterfeit bill; bill taken into evidence.
NW62 (310 Mass. Ave.), 11:21 a.m., Report of desk drawer and cabinets broken into on Aug. 22.
- Aug. 28:** TDC (372 Memorial Dr.), 11:11 a.m., Larceny of laptop.
NW86 (70 Pacific St.), 4:43 p.m., Report of larceny of check that occurred on July 28.
- Aug. 29:** W92, 9:08 a.m., Report of June 24 larceny.
W61 (450 Memorial Dr.), 9:57 a.m., Report of larceny of laptop that occurred the previous night.
NW86 (70 Pacific St.), 10 a.m., Report of fraud that occurred July 25.
- Aug. 30:** NW86 (70 Pacific St.), 3:54 p.m., Report of breaking and entering of vehicle at NW86 parking that occurred Aug. 24.
- Aug. 31:** W16 (48 Rear Mass. Ave.), 7:11 p.m., Report of motor vehicle breaking through the parking gate; malicious destruction of property.
- Sept. 1:** M14 (160 Memorial Dr.), 7:59 a.m., Report of wallet theft from Hayden Library that occurred on Aug. 29.
W7 (362 Memorial Dr.), 3:51 p.m., Report of bicycle theft that occurred on Aug. 30.
- Sept. 2:** West Campus Living Area, 5:13 a.m., Report that female woke up and saw an unknown male in her room.
M56 (21 Rear Ames St.), 8:18 p.m., Reporting person reports that black male with short hair just robbed her of her pocketbook in front of Bldg. 66 and E15 on Ames St.; units responded, report taken; all areas searched, suspect not in the area.
- Sept. 3:** W7 (362 Memorial Dr.), 8:59 a.m., Report of bicycle theft that occurred on May 1.
W89 (291 Vassar St.), 3:21 p.m., Larceny of laptop from residence.
W51 (410 Memorial Dr.), 4:01 p.m., Report of larceny of mountain bike that occurred on Aug. 30.

COMPILED BY ANGELINE WANG

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Career Fair
September 18
11:00 a.m.-
6:00 p.m.
Johnson
Athletic Center

Interviews
September 19
9:00 a.m.-
3:00 p.m.
SIG's Boston office

**"Traders at MIT"
Presentation**
September 24

Info Session
October 2
5-8:00 p.m.
Room 4-153

**Sponsor Week
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Thursday, September 18 | 7:00 pm
MIT Room 6-120



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- Aristotle



Information Session
Thursday, September 18th
Stata Center 32-155
7:00 pm

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Could Cancer Genes Be Used to Harness Stem Cell Therapies?

By **Carey Goldberg**
THE BOSTON GLOBE

On a visit to Bangalore in 1998, Robert A. Weinberg '64, one of America's leading cancer researchers, met a voraciously curious young doctoral student from a South Indian village so remote that he grew up without phones or television, studying by kerosene lamp. He had no Western-style last name, only a first — Mani.

Mani's parents, rice and peanut farmers, had never been to school at all. But Weinberg sensed such scientific promise in Mani, who was then at the Indian Institute of Science, that he invited him to join his prestigious Whitehead Institute laboratory in Cambridge.

Now, Weinberg says his lab has come up with possibly its most exciting discovery since it found the first cancer gene nearly three decades ago, and much of the credit goes to that young Indian researcher, Sendurai (the name of his village) Mani.

Mani and his colleagues at the MIT-affiliated Whitehead found what appears to be a key to metastasis, the insidious process by which cancer spreads throughout the body and often kills. And, in a surprising spin-off, that same discovery also may lead to a relatively safe, simple way to transform normal adult cells into stem cells that could be used to treat other diseases.

They believe their one-step method may avoid the risk of random mutation — and possibly cancer — a stumbling block for therapies based on other recently developed techniques for creating stem cells.

The new findings by no means translate into a cure for cancer or an instant recipe for stem cell therapies, cautions Weinberg, who first came to national prominence in the 1970s for his work on genetic mutations that cause normal cells to become cancerous. But, he says, visibly struggling to convey his enthusiasm without sinking to hyperbole, "I just think this is extremely interesting."

Other researchers who study stem cells and cancer concur, though the work is still in progress. "I think it's fabulous," said Michael Clarke, director of the cancer stem cell program at Stanford University. Weinberg's lab has pinpointed a "stem cell program that cancer cells use to spread. So I think that's incredibly important," he said.

As Weinberg tells the tale, ensconced in a brown leather armchair near a tangled jungle of window plants in his office, metastatic cancer cells and stem cells used to occupy separate halves of his brain, with no bridge between.

But that bridge is emerging from yet a third field: the study of embryos. In earliest human life, some cells undergo a dramatic metamorphosis. From squarish, stuck-together cells of the kind that grow in sheets to form the linings of the ducts in breasts, lungs and other organs, they change into mobile, more sickle-shaped cells that can form bones and blood.

Researchers have long theorized that cancer cells may co-opt the program for that transformation, using it to gain mobility and roll out from a primary tumor to seed others elsewhere.

What Mani and his colleagues found fits into that theory and goes a step further: By exploring genes and proteins involved in metastasis, they found that when a cancer cell undergoes that square-to-sickle transformation, it also gains properties of stem cells, which can spawn vast numbers of new cells.

In particular, they found that by turning on any one of three genes, called Twist, Snail and FOXC2, they could make a cancer cell in a petri dish undergo the square-to-sickle shift. And unexpectedly, these sickle-shaped cells became far more capable of generating new tumors. Mani hopes to prove that the same thing happens in metastasis.

Their work fits into the burgeoning field of cancer stem cells, the increasingly accepted idea that tumors host a few cancer "super-cells," which are capable of forming new tumors despite extensive cancer treatment.

But it went beyond cancer. Weinberg pushed Mani to test a seemingly logical hypothesis: Could inducing the square-to-sickle shift in normal cells turn them into normal stem cells?

Mani tested the idea in normal human breast cells left over from breast-reduction surgery. And indeed, he found that by inducing the square-to-sickle shift, those normal cells also started to resemble stem cells, becoming able to generate great numbers of copies.

Their method, if it pans out, could be easier and safer than other methods to make stem cells now in development because it would involve manipulating a cell's biochemical environment to turn on existing genes rather than changing genes, Weinberg said.

The work suggests that it may be possible, with relatively modest manipulation, to "get what looks like a more mature cell to revert back to a stem-cell-like state," said Dr. David Scadden, co-director of the Harvard Stem Cell Institute, who was not involved in Weinberg's and Mani's work. "This is fantastic because it says ... that maybe cells don't live on a one-way street."

For all his excitement, Weinberg readily acknowledges that Mani's line of investigation has yet to produce a "gold-standard proof" that the stem-like cells are actually stem cells. If their thinking is correct, he said, it should be possible to induce the key metamorphosis in some breast cells of one mouse, place them in another mouse's chest and develop a breast.


The experiment worked once, he said, but his lab has been unable to replicate it, and ended up publishing its work in the leading biology journal *Cell* this May without that crowning proof. But "I'm not discouraged by that lack of success, though it would be nicer if it had succeeded," Weinberg said. Such experiments take time and present technical challenges, he said.

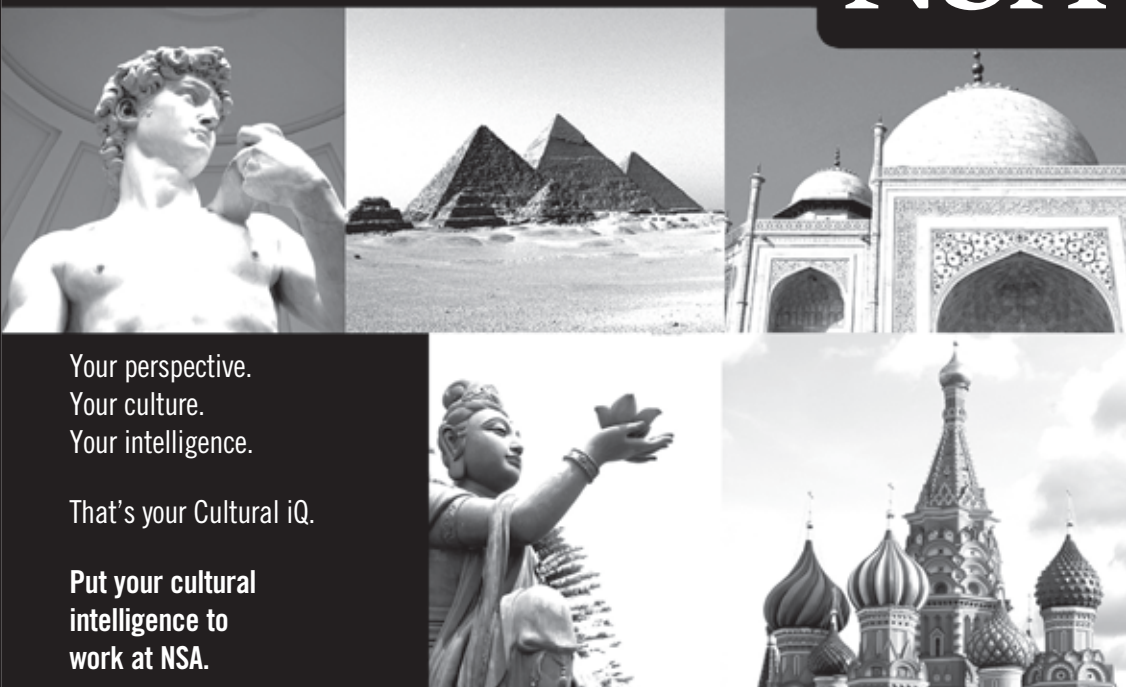
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DATE: September 18, 2008, 11 a.m. - 6 p.m.
PLACE: Johnson Athletic Center Bldg. W34, Floors 1 and 2

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September 18, 2008

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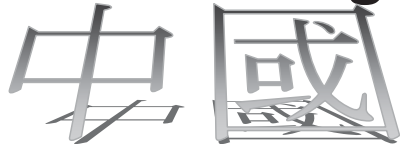
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Harvard Endowment Grew By 8.6 Percent In Last Fiscal Year

By Steven Syre
THE BOSTON GLOBE

Harvard University's \$36.9 billion endowment earned 8.6 percent on its investments in its latest fiscal year, the school's money managers reported Friday, even as stock markets around the world were losing money.

The endowment's return for the year ending June 30 compares with a loss of 13.1 percent by the Standard & Poor's 500 stock index during the same period.

Harvard Management Co., the university's investment arm that runs

the endowment, also easily outperformed many other investment funds in its universe. The fund said an index that measures the performance of 165 other large institutional investors had a 4.4 loss percent during that period; the top performers in that group, moreover, earned 3.2 percent.

Some other closely watched university endowments, particularly that of Yale University, have yet to report results for the fiscal year. The Massachusetts Institute of Technology expects to report its endowment's annual investment performance this month.

Harvard Management said its endowment, which grew \$2 billion during the fiscal year, distributed \$1.6 billion to the university to support teaching, research, and student aid.

Former Harvard Management president Mohamed El-Erian managed the portfolio for a part of the last fiscal year but left the post in December. Robert Kaplan, a Harvard business professor and former vice chairman at Goldman Sachs Group Inc., then ran it on an interim basis until new president Jane Mendillo took over July 1.

Mendillo said Friday she was cautious about the current volatility in capital markets and how that could affect the endowment's short-term performance. "It's a very challenging environment in the financial markets right now," she said. "We don't know how the end is going to look, and we're cautious about the impact on many of the markets we participate in."

One reason Harvard's endowment performed so well last year is it invests less money in equities than many other funds. Harvard lost 12.7 percent on its US stock portfolio and 12.1 percent on its foreign equity portfolio in the last fiscal year. But those categories accounted for an estimated 22 percent of the endowment's total assets at the end of the fiscal year.

Harvard also invests a substantial amount of its endowment in hedge funds, private equity funds, commodities, and real estate. Most of those earned substantial profits in the last fiscal year.

Harvard's "real assets" portfolio, which includes easily tradeable commodities, timber, agricultural land, and real estate, earned 35.8 percent. Private equity investments returned 9.6 percent and hedge funds roughly broke even.

The endowment's bond portfolio also posted big gains during the year. Domestic bonds earned 16.1 percent while foreign bonds gained 21.3 percent and inflation-indexed bonds advanced 20.3 percent. The combined bond portfolio accounts for about 11 percent of Harvard's assets.

Kaplan said the investment volatility created by the way other large investors move in and out of the market was less important to Harvard's strategy than how economies around the world are performing. "We are long-term investors so we have the ability to take a big step back," he said. "Market volatility at any point in time will come and go. But the underlying fundamentals are crucial."

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Solution to Crossword

from page 12

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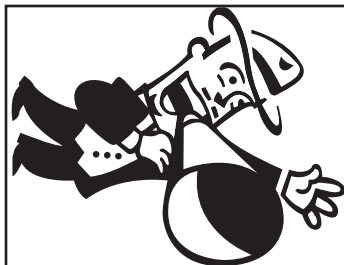
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As Synthetic Biology Becomes Affordable, Amateur Labs Thrive

By Carolyn Y. Johnson
THE BOSTON GLOBE

In a third-floor loft where programmers build Internet start-ups, Mackenzie Cowell is talking about the tools he and like-minded young colleagues are using to fuel what they hope will be the next big thing in biology. The list includes a cut-up Charlie Card, ingredients bought on eBay to make a kind of scientific Jell-O, and a refrigerator, just scored on Craigslist.com, that chills to 80 degrees below zero.

Cowell is part of an effort called DIYbio — short for do-it-yourself biology — that aims to move science into the hands of hobbyists. It is starting by holding sessions where amateurs extract DNA, and attempt genetic fingerprinting using common household items and the kitchen sink.

“It shows you how much science can be about duct tape and having a few screws in the right place,” Cowell said. “It shatters that clinical image.”

What Cowell and crew hope to achieve is a democratization of science that could propel the field of biology into the mainstream, much as computer hackers fueled computer development a generation ago. After all, Silicon Valley's Homebrew Computer Club played a part in the personal computer industry and counts Apple Inc. founders among its attendees; Cowell would like DIYbio to be the Homebrew Club of Biology.

Cowell and his mostly 20-something friends are on a mission that seems inevitable to them, and is beginning to spark the attention, interest — and sometimes safety concern — of professional scientists. The recent shutdown of a lab in a retired chemist's home in Marlborough focused attention on the question of safety and the regulation of citizen scientists.

The idea of doing useful science at home isn't new. Backyard stargazers have long made contributions to astronomy. Bird-watchers participate in a wildlife census.

Now, enter the biohacker.

The movement is getting much of its steam from synthetic biology, a field of science that seeks to make working with cells and genes more like building circuits by creating standardized biological parts. The dream, already playing out in the annual International Genetically Engineered Machine competition at MIT, is that biology novices could browse a catalog of ready-made biological parts and use them to create customized organisms. Technological advances have made it quite simple to insert genes into bacteria to give them the ability to, for example, detect arsenic or produce vitamins.

“This follows in the heels of enormous American enthusiasm for invention that carries on in each generation,” said Scott Mohr, a Boston University chemist who is writing a primer on synthetic biology.

“This is part of the same cycle: You go out there, you're an inventor, and you build mechanical stuff — my dad did that,” Mohr said. “You go into computer programming and write viruses and video games. Those are the parents and older brothers of people who are going to do something even more thrilling” — experiments with living things.

But the work also raises fears that people could create a deadly microbe on purpose, just as computer hackers have unleashed crippling viruses or broken into government websites.

There is little formal regulation specifically for home labs. The state Department of Environmental Protection requires permits for businesses that create hazardous waste. Cambridge was the first city in the nation to pass a law regulating DNA research more than three decades

ago, but it was intended to regulate professional scientists at universities and businesses, not individuals.

Still, authorities have discretion to act if they suspect wrongdoing. In 2004, Buffalo art professor Steve Kurtz was arrested and investigated as a possible bioterrorist because petri dishes and laboratory equipment were found in his home in upstate New York, after his wife had died of a heart attack.

Tom Knight, a senior research scientist at MIT who is cofounding a synthetic biology company called Ginkgo BioWorks, sees the transformative value of biohacking — the phrase used to describe doing to living organisms what computer hackers have long done with electronics. But he has reservations about putting such power into the hands of amateurs.

“I think if the safety issues can be addressed, there is a big opportunity,” Knight said. “It's a huge issue; how do you regulate so [people] don't cause havoc.”

The promises and risks of biohacking were addressed in a paper this summer in the new journal *Systems and Synthetic Biology*. “A young crowd of enthusiastic biohackers ... may spark a wave of innovation,” wrote the coordinator of a European task force examining the implications of synthetic biology. But he cautioned that amateurs who don't adhere to a professional code of conduct and lack sufficient safety training raise the specter of biosafety and security risks.

The clash between the potential benefits and dangers of doing home science were highlighted by the case of Victor Deeb. The retired 71-year-old chemist in Marlborough saw his basement lab dismantled by authorities this summer after it was noticed by fire officials putting out a second-floor air conditioner fire.

The state DEP said officials intervened in Deeb's workspace because it did not meet lab standards. Chemical companies shipping Deeb their materials were unaware that they were shipping to a residence, authorities said.

Deeb, who said he was trying to make safer surface coatings for food containers, insists that the chemicals he was using were less hazardous than common cleaners and household chemicals. He questions why his hobby was seen as more dangerous than, for example, a hunter with a gun collection, or a person using a propane grill.

“The more I tried to explain, the more they thought I was a lunatic,” Deeb said, questioning why he should need permits to tinker in his basement.

Not far from the loft where Cowell is trying to hatch his grass-roots scientific revolution, a group of synthetic biologists at MIT — whose business cards identify them as DNA hackers — are working with Knight to create a resource that could bring sophisticated biology techniques within reach of amateurs.

The company plans to provide standardized biological parts to biotech companies or clean fuel entrepreneurs, not casual garage scientists, but they see the excitement of what biohackers are trying to do. This summer, the company made a comic book-style protocol, with each frame showing how to do a bit of biological engineering, and brought it to a hacker expo, Foo Camp, where people made cells that smelled like banana or turned red.

“For us, it's a continuum,” said Reshma Shetty, one of Ginkgo's founders. “We can make it easier for newcomers and professors” to do biology, “and make it so people can start biotech companies in their basement, just like they can build a Web 2.0 company in their basement.”

Caltech's Past Trips Have Led to Change In Undergrad Housing

Student Life, from Page 1

we could have frats across the river," Chong said. Caleb Ng, president of Caltech's undergraduate student government, said that because they had so few students, Caltech could never run a student government as large and complex as the UA.

But there are benefits to being small, too. Chong said that Caltech had less bureaucracy, and that it is easier for one person to get his ideas heard. The campus is also much cozier.

"You know, at Caltech we're pretty spoiled. I didn't like walking across the [Harvard] bridge ... it's frickin' far," Chong said.

The Caltech students also visited Harvard while they were in Boston. Ng said the school didn't make much of an impression because classes hadn't started yet. There was much more going on at MIT — Chong mentions bumping into "a million sorority girls rushing" as he was walking out of the student center.

Ng said that at heart, Caltech and MIT are very close to each other, even in terms of student life and culture, and that in many ways MIT reminded him of Caltech.

Chong agreed, saying "If you multiplied Caltech by four times, I wouldn't be surprised if it was very similar to MIT." He added, "I think the schools have a lot in common, which is something I don't think a lot of people understand."

The Caltech students had a chance to tour campus and visit the dorms. They were amused by the East Campus roller coaster, remarking that they had undertaken their own construction projects, but never amusement park rides.

According to Chong, when the group was at Senior Haus, a desk worker said to them "Wait, you're Caltech students? The last time I saw Caltech students, I was half naked and I offered them cookies and all they said was 'Fuck you, we want our cannon back.'"

Ng stressed the importance of both schools maintaining close ties and added that he was "very glad" for having been given this opportunity to

visit MIT.

The group was surprised at the MIT administration's attitude toward hacks. "When I went to MIT I found that when anyone gets caught on the roof, they get fined \$50," Chong said. "That sends a very mixed message. If you take hacking, or pranking, as part of your culture, there's some weird contradiction in that."

Chong said that at Caltech, campus security may not interfere with a prank without first checking in with the vice president for campus life.

Caltech has made a similar East Coast expedition twice in its history, once in the 1930s and once in the 1960s. Following the 1930s Student Experience Survey, which included visits to Cambridge and Oxford Universities, Caltech reorganized its undergraduate residences into a house system. Following a recommendation of the 1967 survey, Caltech began accepting women.

One long term goal for the current survey is a restructuring of the Caltech student government, Ng said.

On Sept. 2, Ng and the others met with UA President Jessop and discussed the functioning of the student government at both schools. The MIT UA, with its executive committee, senate and class councils at acts like an umbrella organization that coordinates and oversees all student government activities at the undergraduate level. The Associated Students of the California Institute of Technology or ASCIT at Caltech operates free from Administrative control and is an independent non-profit corporation. It sponsors a number of student ventures and activities and publishes the Caltech's newspaper (The California Tech) and yearbook (The Big T) and even a student hand handbook (little T).

Jeff Guo contributed to the reporting of this article.

Solution to Sudoku

from page 12

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

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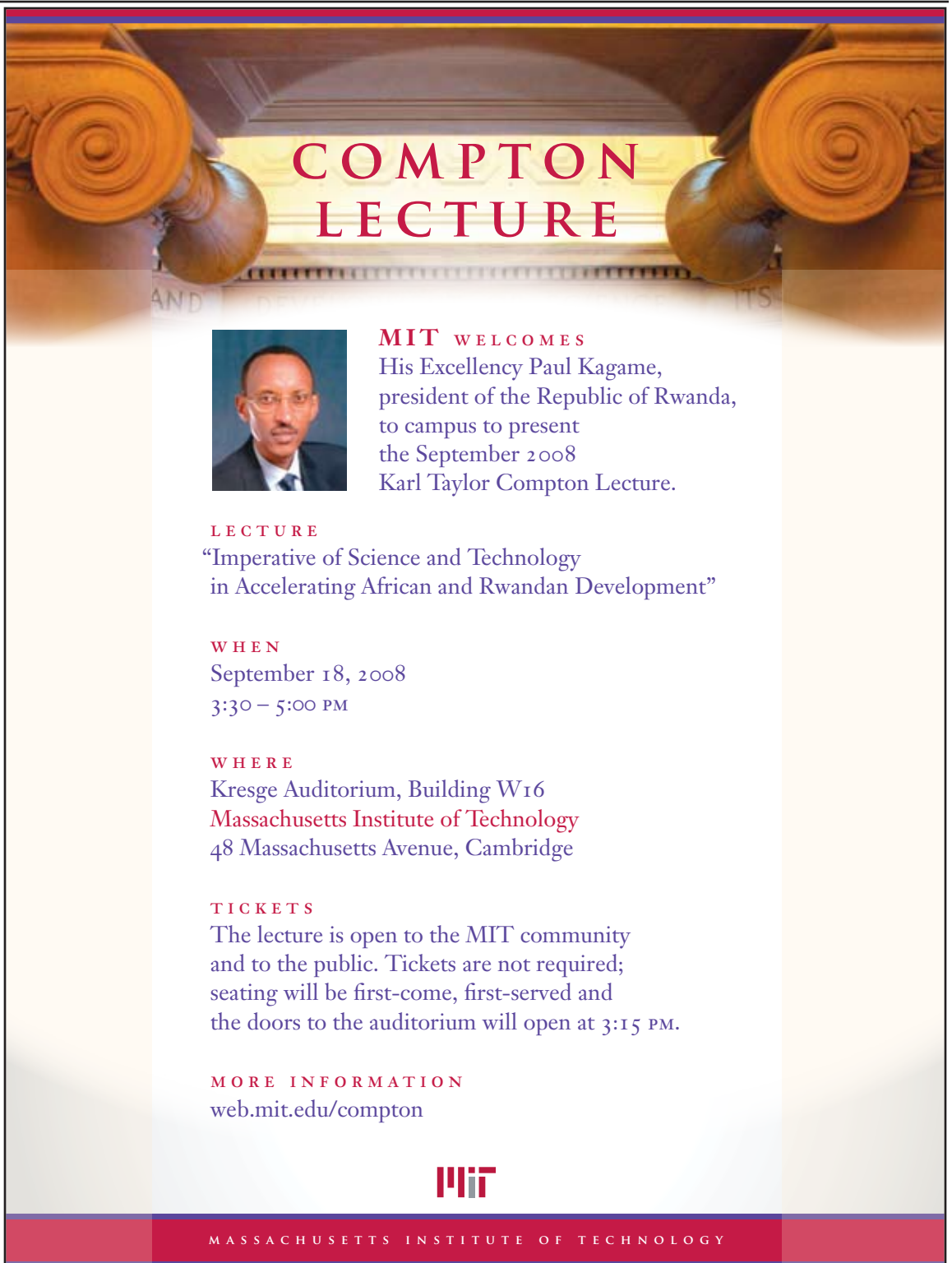
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Confusion in Student Voter Registrations

By Tamar Lewin
THE NEW YORK TIMES

The widespread practice of students' registering to vote at their college address has set off a fracas in Virginia, a battleground state in the presidential election.

Late last month, as a voter-registration drive by supporters of Senator Barack Obama was signing up thousands of students at Virginia Tech, the local registrar of elections issued two releases incorrectly suggesting a range of dire possibilities for students who registered to vote at their college.

The releases warned that such students could no longer be claimed as dependents on their parents' tax returns, a statement the Internal Revenue Service says is incorrect, and could lose scholarships or coverage under their parents' car and health insurance.

After some inquiries from students and parents, and more pointed questions from civil rights lawyers, the state board of elections said Friday, Sept. 5 that it was "modifying and clarifying" the state guidelines on which the county registrar had based his releases.

Student-registration controversies have been a recurring problem since 1971, when the 26th Amendment lowered the voting age to 18 from 21, and despite a 1979 ruling by the United States Supreme Court that students have the right to register at their college address.

Virginia is not the only state with murky guidelines. South Carolina's voter-registration site, for example, says students who want to register to vote at their college address must demonstrate "a present intention to remain in the community."

"There's no issue for snowbirds who live in Iowa but fly to Florida for the winter," said Sujatha Jahagirdar, program director of the Student Public Interest Research Group's New Voters Project. "One demographic group, like students, shouldn't have to overcome a special hurdle to vote. We impose all the responsibilities of citizenship on students, and we have to provide them with the privileges of citizenship, too."

Ms. Jahagirdar said Virginia's warnings were profoundly misleading. "We have been registering young voters for 25 years," she said. "We registered 500,000 young voters in 2004, the majority on college campuses, and we've never heard of a single one who lost health insurance, scholarship or tax status because of where they registered to vote."

In Virginia, the county registrar first issued an alarming release on Aug. 25, and two days later a slightly toned-down version using language taken directly from the state Board of Elections' Web site.

That site says students can determine their legal residence, but advises them to consider certain questions. "Are you claimed as a dependent on your parents' income tax return?" the site asks. "If you are, then their address is probably your legal residence."

The site also tells students to check whether their coverage under their parents' health or automobile insurance, or their scholarship, will be affected by changing their residence.

Civil rights lawyers say these guidelines are problematic and could infringe on students' rights.

"What the state Board of Elections has on its Web site, to me, sounds like it is discouraging students from registering at their school address," said Jon Greenbaum, director of the Voting Rights Project at the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law.

Indeed, the Montgomery County registrar, E. Randall Wertz, said several students had canceled their local registration over their worry about the possible consequences. Mr. Wertz said he had issued the release to try to dispel confusion and explain what

he believed to be the consequences of choosing a college address as a primary residence.

"My understanding of state law has been that by declaring you're voting here, you're saying this is your primary residence, your domicile, and that while you can have many abodes or residences, you can only have one domicile," Mr. Wertz said. "And if this is your primary residence, you have to register your vehicle here, charge your driver's license to here and so on. That's been the interpretation at state training sessions."

Kevin Griffis, the Obama campaign's Virginia spokesman, said the release appeared to be a good-faith effort to convey state guidelines, not a politically motivated effort to stop voting by students.

Mr. Wertz said the initial release had been written by an intern whom he asked to summarize the guidelines. Although the second release used the state's precise language, he said, it still left room for confusion. In other counties, registrars have refused to accept dormitory addresses as residences. But so far, the state has not set clear standards.

"Different registrars around the state interpret it differently," he said. "We've asked for more guidance from the state legislature, but they haven't wanted to deal with it."

Mr. Greenbaum's Voting Rights Project has been involved in other student-registration cases. Last fall, in Statesboro, Ga., in a hotly contested city council race, there were challenges to the registration of about 1,000 Georgia Southern University students who had used dormitory addresses. "We threatened suit, but the issue went away when they figured out that the challenges weren't going to affect the results of the election," Mr. Greenbaum said.

In 2003, in Waller County, Tex., the district attorney wrote a column in a local newspaper threatening to prosecute students at Prairie View A&M, a historically black university, for illegal voting. The project sued, and the district attorney backed down.

In the 1970s, that same county required Prairie View students who wanted to register to fill out a questionnaire asking, among other things, whether they owned property in the county, had an automobile registered there or belonged to any church, club or organization unrelated to the college. A challenge to that practice led the Supreme Court to uphold students' rights to vote at their college address.

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MIT Cricket Tourney Title for Cambridge Cricket Club Sunday

Cricket, from Page 28

vided their best players among the various teams. Local teams from several universities and cricket clubs also came to participate in the tournament; these were the Burlington Cricket Club (BCC), the Cambridge Cricket Club (CCC), the Waltham XI (WXI), the UMass Mavericks (UMM) and the Rising Stars.

The matches were first divided into two groups of four teams each. The teams in each group first played against each other in a round robin format with each match being played with twelve overs a side. The four teams in each group were ranked on the basis of the number of matches they had won and a draw of quarter finals was made. Following the quarterfinals, all matches were played with fifteen overs a side, except in cases of rain interruption. CCC faced Waltham XI, and UMM faced BCC in the semi-finals on Saturday evening. While UMM beat BCC handily, hitting their target of 51 runs in just 6.4 overs, CCC defeated WXI by a margin of just six runs with the match stretching out to the deciding ball. The finals were played on Sunday evening between CCC and WXI and gave the tournament the exciting finish it deserved. CCC repeated their semi-final victory margin, beating UMM by six runs.

According to Jaiswal, the main problem the organizers faced was finding funds for the tournament. The organizers had to present their budget and proposals to many sponsors before finally receiving the money they needed to host the tournament. Various groups at MIT assisted in the sponsorship of the tournament, namely the Student Activities Office; Sangam, the Indian Students Association; the Graduate Student Council; and the International Students Office. In addition, the tournament was supported by the Department of Athletics, Physical Education, and

Recreation (DAPER) in the form of subsidized rates for the astro-turf.

Sinha explained that the standard cricket ball, made of leather, could not be used on this surface as it bounced too high and could injure players. The organizers experimented with many different kinds of balls and finally settled on hard tennis balls with tape. This type of ball bounces less than the hard leather ball, but more than a softer tennis ball. The tape reduces friction and makes the ball slide over the surface so that it comes onto the bat well. As with everything else, MIT students brought innovation into cricket as well.

From the group stage on, the matches have been full of excitement, with several last-ball finishes. A group stage match between the UMass Mavericks and Waltham XI had a nail-biting last over finish and in another match between the Cambridge Cricket Club and Rising Stars, CCC managed to defend as low a total as 70 runs in fifteen overs.

Ashok Patel from Waltham XI was also extremely impressed by the team organization and location. Waltham XI, whose players are mostly business owners in and around Boston, assisted in funding the tournament. He said, "These guys have done a great job in organizing this. Some of us have been driving more than two hours everyday to come and play in the tournament; that's how great it's been."

The club, now mostly graduate students, wants to expand and reach more people from the MIT community. They plan to post updates and schedules on their newly created Web site and take further steps in getting more people involved. Cricket is more than a sport in the South Asian countries, it's a culture in itself. The MIT Cricket Club is making all efforts to bring their culture to MIT and get people enthusiastic about it.

Women's Tennis Sweeps Doubles, Singles in First Conference Match

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the lead of 3-0 over Springfield going into the singles matches.

With such a huge lead, Coach Carol Matsuzaki told the team they could afford to be more aggressive in their singles matches, advice the players took to heart. First off was Vishnevetsky playing number two singles. She hit forehand cross court winners time and time again, not giving up a single game to her opponent. Her final score was 6-0, 6-0. Hansen, playing number one, finished soon afterwards. Hansen painted the lines with her shots and ran her opponent around, leaving her with a score of 6-2, 6-0.

Next up was Hall, winning her match 6-0, 6-2. During the second set and the second game, Hall was

engaged in a long point until she finally had her opponent on the run, hitting a winner to the open court. Hall played aggressively her whole match, and her opponent was always on the defensive. Soon after Hall finished, Pikhart finished her match. During the third game of the second set, Pikhart went on the offensive, and attacked the net for a forehand volley winner, helping to catapult her to a win of 6-1, 6-1. Diskin finished her match next, causing her opponent to give up a number of forced errors, resulting in a 6-3, 6-0 win. Wang was the next one to come off the court. During the second set, Wang hit a down the line forehand winner to make the score 2-1. Wang won her match with a score of 6-0, 6-2. With Wang finished, only two matches were left on the court.

Kerry R. Weinberg '10 was the next one to finish up. Weinberg attacked the net and overpowered her opponent, reaching match point to win 6-4, 6-1.

Katherine M. Smyth '10 was left front and center. Smyth continued to wear out her opponent in long rallies, and often overpowered her. The match went to a third set tie break. Amongst all the excitement, Weinberg was cheering in her own way, helping the atmosphere to stay light and cheerful. During the tie breaker, Smyth showed brilliance. Of the total 16 points played, Smyth completely outplayed her opponent for three of them, and in another five points she hit outright winners, giving her a score of 7-6, 4-6, 10-6. In the end, MIT swept all the matches, winning 9-0 over Springfield.

SCOREBOARD

Men's Cross Country	
Saturday, Sept. 13, 2008	
Engineers Cup	
MIT	1st of 3

Women's Cross Country	
Saturday, Sept. 13, 2008	
Engineers Cup	
MIT	1st of 3

Field Hockey	
Thursday, Sept. 11, 2008	
MIT (1-4)	3
Simmons College (1-3)	0
Saturday, Sept. 13, 2008	
MIT (1-5)	0
Vassar College (1-2)	1
Sunday, Sept. 14, 2008	
MIT (2-5)	11
Elms College (1-3)	0

Football	
Saturday, Sept. 13, 2008	
Massachusetts Maritime Academy (0-2)	14
MIT (2-0)	42

Men's Golf	
Saturday, Sept. 13, 2008	
Bowdoin Invitational	
MIT	12th of 14

Men's Soccer	
Saturday, Sept. 13, 2008	
Rhode Island College (2-3-1)	2
MIT (4-0-1)	2

Women's Soccer	
Saturday, Sept. 13, 2008	
Salem State College (4-0)	1
MIT (1-4)	8

Sailing	
Saturday, Sept. 13, 2008	
Harry Anderson Trophy	
MIT	11th of 20
Man-Labs Trophy	
MIT	6th of 12

Sunday, Sept. 14, 2008	
Captains Cup	
MIT	10th of 12
MIT Invitational	
MIT	3 of 19

Women's Tennis	
Saturday, Sept. 13, 2008	
Springfield College (0-1)	0
MIT (2-0)	9

Women's Volleyball	
Friday, Sept. 12, 2008	
Frostburg State University (11-1)	3
MIT (5-2)	0
Haverford College (9-2)	3
MIT (5-3)	1
Saturday, Sept. 13, 2008	
Johns Hopkins University (8-2)	3
MIT (5-4)	0
MIT (5-5)	0
Stevens Institute of Technology (8-3)	3

Men's Water Polo	
Friday, Sept. 12, 2008	
Washington & Jefferson University (0-2)	6
MIT (1-4)	17
Saturday, Sept. 13, 2008	
Boston College	7
MIT (2-4)	15
Sunday, Sept. 14, 2008	
California Baptist University (9-2)	13
MIT (2-5)	10

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Sports Shorts, continued

Sports Shorts, from Page 28

(45) and WPI (71).

Wentz broke the tape in 19:21, leading a pack of four Tech runners to finish the five-kilometer course in under 20 minutes. Andrea E. Bradshaw's '09 19:48 split was good for second, Elizabeth M. Finn '09 crossed the finish line in third at 19:56, and Jennifer A. Doyle '09 (4th) followed close behind at 19:58. Only RPI's Erin Kyle (5th) was able to finish ahead of any of MIT's top six. Kathryn A. Gordon '11 rounded out the scoring for the Engineers, finishing sixth in 20:13.

For the men, Arumugam finished with a time of 26:33. RPI's Chris Donais was next to complete the 8 kilometer course at 26:46. Gihan S. Amarasiriwardena '11 had the next best time for MIT, placing fourth with a 27:06 split, leading a pack of four consecutive Tech finishers. Paul D. Welle '11 came in fifth at 27:09, William S. Phipps '09 followed close behind, finishing at 27:12, and Kevin. G. Kleinguetl's '11 27:17 was good for seventh. Trevor B. Rundell '09 (9th) and Matthew F. Bieniosek '09 (11th) rounded out the scoring for MIT.

—Greg McKeever, DAPER Staff



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SPORTS

Boston Area Teams Play in the First MIT Cricket Tournament

By Radhika Malik

A group of students was passionate about their favorite sport; they got together and built a club around it. But unfortunately, the club died down. A few years later, another group, equally passionate about the sport, revived the club and took it far enough to organize a great tournament: this year, the MIT Cricket Club hosted the first ever cricket tournament at MIT from Aug. 29th to Sept. 14th.

Although the MIT cricket club was established in 1996, it had dwindled to a small group of play-

ers practicing together on weekends. It experienced a revival this summer and the team members again decided to organize themselves into an official club. After participating in a tournament in Boston where the teams had to play on an uneven grassy track, the club members realized they had great resources at their disposal in the form of a flat track of the Jack Barry AstroTurf Field and flood lights for night matches.

The lead organizers were MIT graduate students Vivek Jaiswal G, Vivek Raghunathan G and Ankur

Sinha G; they were assisted by 12-15 volunteers. The participation from MIT was much better than expected. From having only about 15 players, sufficient just for one team, the participation increased to about 60 when the organizers decided to open the tournament to everyone here. After several announcements and informal try-outs, three teams (MIT Green, Blue, and Red), with nearly twenty players each, were created. To keep all teams at par, the organizers di-

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MICHAEL J. MEYER

Freshman Alexandria C. Hall hits a forehand during the Engineers' first conference match against Springfield College at the du Pont Tennis Courts on Saturday.

Women's Tennis Team Defeats Springfield 9-0 In Match on Saturday

By Jennifer Rees
TEAM MEMBER

The MIT Women's Tennis Team won their match 9-0 this past Saturday over Springfield College.

The word of the day was "compete" and that is just what the team did with tenacity. First up were the doubles matches which seemed to go by in a blur. The number two team of Melissa A. Diskin '11 and Anastasia Vishnevetsky '12 started the competition off by defeating their opponents decisively with an 8-0 win. Soon after, the num-

ber four team of Karina N. Pikhart '09 and Jennifer A. Rees '11 and the number one team of Leslie A. Hansen '10, and Anisa K. McCree '10 finished at the same time. Their final scores were decisive wins of 8-1 and 8-2 consecutively. The last team of Yi Wang '09 and Alexandria C. Hall '12 were left front and center of the doubles matches, and they provided an exciting finale. For the last few games, the points were quick and the two teams traded until Wang and Hall finally topped their opponents with a score of 8-2. This gave MIT

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MENG HENG TOUCH

Matthew J. Perkins '10 passes the ball during an MIT men's water polo match Friday evening against Washington & Jefferson College at the Z-Center Pool.

Salem State Women's Soccer Tops MIT, 1-0

MIT yielded a rare and unfortunate own goal in the 64th minute on Saturday as Salem State women's soccer remained undefeated with a 1-0 decision at Roberts Field.

The Engineers outshot the Lady Vikings 6-3 and were poised to deliver the mild upset until an untimely deflection off a cross by Amber Warnick gave the visitors the lone goal of the match. MIT controlled the midfield for a majority of the contest,

but was unable to generate a serious threat.

Leah Potcner made two stops en route to her fourth consecutive shutout to begin her collegiate career while MIT keeper Stephanie V. Brenman '09 was untested until making a save in the 87th minute.

The Lady Vikings have been impressive on the defensive end to begin the 2008 campaign, completing the first two weeks of the regular season without allowing a goal.

—James Kramer, DAPER Staff



WILLIAM YEE—THE TECH

Kathryn A. Pesce '10 leaps up for the ball in between two Salem State players during a corner kick on Saturday, Sept. 13. The Engineers lost 0-1 due to an own goal in the 64th minute.

Field Hockey Captures Third Place At Betty Richey Tournament

For the third consecutive season, the MIT Field Hockey Team captured third-place in the Betty Richey Tournament hosted by Vassar College. The Engineers overpowered Elms College 11-0 in Sunday's consolation game, after dropping a heartbreaking 1-0 overtime loss to the host school on Saturday.

In Saturday's first round match-up, MIT battled Vassar to a stalemate for the first 70 minutes, including a second half that saw numerous chances for both teams. Vassar sent MIT into the consolation round just over three minutes into the overtime, as Rachel Lowenthal converted a loose ball in front of the net that the Engineer defense was unable to clear after Dixon stopped the Ducks' initial shot attempt.

Against Elms, Jessica M. Oleinik '11 registered four goals and Danielle C. Smith '11 recorded a hat trick of her own. Anna H. Teruya '12, Ekavali Mishra '10, Alona Birjiniuk '09, and Virginia L. Nicholson '12 also contributed to the Engineers' scoring as Tech outshot the Blazers 26-3. Keri A. Dixon '12 made a pair of saves to secure her second shutout in three games.

Teruya and Mishra represented MIT on the All-Tournament team. The Engineers now return home, after completing a six game road swing, to face Daniel Webster on Friday, Sept. 19 at 6:00 p.m.

—Greg McKeever, DAPER Staff

Cross Country Captures Engineers' Cup over RPI and WPI

Both the MIT men's and women's cross country teams captured first place in Saturday's Engineers' Cup at Franklin Park. Jacqui M. Wentz '10 led an impressive showing by the MIT women's team. Tech missed a perfect score by just one place, finishing with a final total of 16 points to beat out RPI (51) and WPI (72).

On the men's side, Tech's 23 points gave them the title over RPI

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UPCOMING HOME EVENTS

Tuesday, Sept. 16, 2008
Women's Soccer vs. Emerson College 4:00 p.m., Steinbrenner Stadium

Wednesday, Sept. 17, 2008
Men's Soccer vs. Wentworth Institute of Technology 4:30 p.m., Steinbrenner Stadium

Thursday, Sept. 18, 2008
Water Polo vs. Harvard University 7:30 p.m., Zesiger Center