

Does Your Vote Count? It Depends On Who's Counting Your Votes

By Florence Gallez

While the debate over who America will vote into the Oval Office is in full swing, so too is the discussion about how the voting will happen. The November elections will feature unprecedented levels and varieties of electronic voting.

Electronic voting encompasses a variety of technologies, including optical-scanning, Internet, and touch-screen systems.

Despite more complex security technology and new legislation that increases security requirements, experts debate over how, if it all, electronic voting should be implemented.

Improved technologies

MIT-affiliated experts consulted by *The Tech* generally agreed that electronic voting technologies have improved over the past several years.

Stephen D. Ansolabehere, professor at Harvard University's School of Government, and former director of the Caltech/MIT Voting Technology Project said, "The systems do work,

in the sense that they do operate reasonably well on Election Day and they do not produce wildly irregular results. Those who have looked at the numerical properties of vote tabulations find them to fit with the numerical properties one would expect from counting."

Security is a concern in all forms of voting technology, he said.

"The security concerns raised with electronics are not exceptional," said Ansolabehere. "It is easy to tamper with paper voting ... by destroying ballots or substituting one set of ballots with another ... Such problems on a wide scale led Brazil to adopt electronic voting," he said.

Olivier Pereira, a Belgium-based cryptography specialist and a professor at the Université Catholique de Louvain who has worked as a visiting scientist in the Theory of Computation Group at MIT's Computer Science and Artificial Intelligence Laboratory several times over the past four years, "I think that e-voting

E-voting, Page 11



ERIC D. SCHMIEDL—THE TECH

To protest Chancellor Clay's campus-wide e-mail detailing what was perceived to be an overly-restrictive policy on hacking, MIT hackers covered the hacks on display in the Stata Center. Hacks were covered with black cloth and description placards with large VIOLATION NOTICE signs were added, detailing how each historic hack was prohibited by Clay's e-mail.

Ig Nobels Reward Quirky Research

By Ramya Samkar

STAFF REPORTER

Spermicidal cola, archeological armadillos, and lap dancers were the talk of the evening at last night's Ig Nobels, where a weird ceremony feted the weirdest science of the past year.

Like real Nobel Prizes, the Ig Nobels award the most novel discoveries in the field of science and humanities. But the Ig Nobels are, well, decidedly less noble.

Redundancy was the theme of this year's event, held at Sanders Theater at Harvard University to a sold out, screaming crowd. Cheers erupted whenever the word "redundancy" was mentioned — which was often.

The pre-ceremony program began with a concert by Paul and Storm, followed by remarks by Master of Ceremonies Marc Abrahams, editor of the *Annals of Improbable Research*. Next was a parade of the "Indignitaries," individuals who came as a group dressed in their themed attire. The last group to parade through were members of the Boston Museum of Bad Art with art in hand.

Anna Lysyanskaya, Dany Adams, and William Lipscomb spoke in the "24/7" lecture series: spending 24 seconds giving a technical explanation of their work, followed by a seven word summary in layman's term (for the sake of redundancy). Lysyanskaya, Professor of Computer Science at Brown University spoke about Cryptography, Adams, biologist at the Forsyth Center for Regenerative and Developmental Biology, spoke about armadillo

Ig Nobel, Page 12

Grad Rat Redesigned for First Time Since 2003



ALLISON M. ALWAN

Grad Ring Committee chair Shahriar R. Khushrushahi G describes elements of the new Grad Rat to an audience of graduate students. The design was unveiled Wednesday evening in Walker Memorial.

By Robert McQueen

STAFF REPORTER

MIT graduate students packed into Walker Memorial on Wednesday night to celebrate the unveiling of the first new Grad Rat ring design since 2003.

The ring features a beaver holding both a diploma, symbolizing graduation, and pizza, symbolizing free food, on the bezel.

The official MIT seal is featured prominently on one shank, while the other shank contains an icon personalized based on the student's department.

The ring may also be personal-

ized to include students' class years and degrees being received. These options are unique to the Grad Rat, as the undergraduate Brass Rat has a uniform design.

EECS graduate student Shahriar R. Khushrushahi, outgoing chair of the Graduate Ring Committee, which designed the ring, said that he wanted to incorporate more symbolism into the Grad Rat so that the design would relate better to the next five graduate classes. Unlike the past ring which included absolute objects like the Stata Center, Khushrushahi

Grad Rat, Page 12

In Short

¶ Michael L. Poon '11 was elected treasurer of the Dormitory Council last night. Poon replaces Erin B. Munsell '09, who was elected Sept. 15, 2008 but subsequently resigned. Munsell replaced Anthony E. Rindone '10, who resigned at the beginning of the school year after he moved into his fraternity.

¶ An energy debate between the Obama and McCain campaigns, hosted by the MIT Energy Club and Energy Initiative, will be held Monday, Oct. 6 from 7:30-9:30 p.m. in Kresge Auditorium. The debate will feature former CIA Director James Woolsey for McCain and Jason Grumet, executive director of the National Commission on Energy Policy, for Obama.

50 Years Ago, Smoot Made a Lasting Mark on Cambridge

By Keone Hon

STAFF REPORTER

After decades of cheering pedestrians during the long trek across the Harvard Bridge, the Smoot marks turn fifty tomorrow, and MIT students and alumni are gearing up to celebrate a tradition that spans generations with a shoreline cleanup, a concert by famed oldies group "The Platters," and a

1950s-themed party.

Oliver Smoot '62, the man who many years ago gave his name (and height) to the measurements that span the bridge, will speak at the beginning of the celebration at a lunch at the Kresge barbecue pits. The class of 1962 will present a new plaque com-

Smoot, Page 13

Pi Phi Completes First Round of Recruiting

Forty-one of the 74 women who registered for recruitment pledged the new MIT chapter of Pi Beta Phi. New members were greeted by sisters of other national Pi Phi chapters at a bid day celebration on Sunday.

Pi Phi recruitment organizer Luisa Badaracco noted, "the new pledge class will provide a very strong base for the future of Pi Phi at MIT." She said that strong representation from all four classes adds to the depth of the class. On November 14, the new pledges will be officially initiated into the sorority as sisters of the sorority.

Since the MIT chapter did not meet its maximum membership capacity of 80 sisters, they will be hosting another recruitment in the spring.

—Robert McQueen

Briefs, Page 13

OPINION

Is This MIT?

Page 4

The Bailout That Isn't: Does rescuing banks violate free market ideology?

Page 5

World & Nation	2
Opinion	4
Arts	7
Comics / Fun Pages	8
Sports	16

WORLD & NATION

Dow Tumbles Almost 350 Amid Investors' Mounting Concerns

By Michael M. Grynbaum

THE NEW YORK TIMES

NEW YORK

Investors drove stocks sharply lower on Thursday as signs of the economy's worsening health and a continued choking of credit unnerved investors ahead of a crucial vote in Washington on a financial rescue plan.

While banks had been the focus for much of the week, their problems spread to insurance companies. But the worst declines came among industrial companies in manufacturing, chemical production and mining industries that are usually impacted by problems in the economy. The declines suggested that the problems of the tight credit market, once mostly contained to Wall Street, were now spreading across the broader economy, a sentiment supported by weak reports on manufacturing activity that were released this week.

The Dow Jones industrial average dropped at the opening bell and never looked back. A burst of selling in the last hour sent the index to a 348.22 loss at the close; it finished the day down 3.2 percent at 10,482.85. The broader Standard & Poor's 500-stock index fared worse, dropping more than 4 percent, and the Nasdaq composite index fell 4.5 percent.

Judge Berates Prosecutors in Trial of Alaska Senator

By Neil A. Lewis

THE NEW YORK TIMES

WASHINGTON

The federal corruption trial of Sen. Ted Stevens, the longtime Alaska Republican, teetered briefly on the verge of a mistrial Thursday after the discovery that Justice Department prosecutors had withheld information they were supposed to turn over to defense lawyers.

But at the end of the day, U.S. District Judge Emmet G. Sullivan decided not to dismiss the charges or declare a mistrial, as had been urged by Stevens' lawyers. The judge, though, severely admonished the department and its public integrity section which is handling the prosecution.

"How does the court have confidence that the public integrity section has public integrity?" he asked at the conclusion of an extraordinary hearing he called after dismissing the jurors for the day. He ordered the government to turn over almost all its files to the defense, saying he no longer believed in the ability of prosecutors to make full disclosure on their own, as is customary in trials.

The surprise development came after prosecutors late Wednesday night sent to the defense team a copy of an FBI report of an agent's interview with Bill Allen, an Alaska oil services executive who is the prosecution's chief witness and has been on the stand this week. In addition to the judicial scolding of the government, the revelation produced a heated confrontation between the chief defense lawyer, Brendan Sullivan, and the chief prosecutor, Brenda Morris, outside the presence of the jury.

Remains Found at Fossett Crash Site

By Jesse Mckinley and Steve Friess

THE NEW YORK TIMES

MAMMOTH LAKES, CALIF.

A day after discovering the wreckage of the plane flown by the millionaire adventurer Steve Fossett when he disappeared 13 months ago, investigators said Thursday they have found small amounts of human remains at the crash site, a rugged and lonely mountainside in the Sierra Nevada of east-central California.

Mark V. Rosenker, the acting chairman of the National Transportation Safety Board, confirmed the finding of remains saying that while they were "very little," he believed a genetic confirmation of Fossett's identity could be made.

"I believe the coroner will be able to do some work," Rosenker said. Fossett's aircraft was discovered Wednesday in a remote area of Inyo National Forest.

With High Stakes and Low Expectations, Palin Survives

By Adam Nagourney

THE NEW YORK TIMES

Gov. Sarah Palin made it through the vice-presidential debate on Thursday without doing any obvious damage to the Republican presidential ticket. By surviving her encounter with Sen. Joseph R. Biden Jr. and quelling some of the talk about her basic qualifications for high office, she may even have done Sen. John McCain a bit of good, freeing him to focus on the other troubles shadowing his campaign.

It was not a tipping point for the embattled Republican presidential ticket, the bad night that many Republicans had feared. But neither did it constitute the turning point the McCain campaign was looking for after a weeks-long stretch in which Sen. Barack Obama seemed to be gaining the upper hand in the race. Even if he no longer has to be on the defensive about Palin, McCain still faces a tough environment with barely a month until the election, as he acknowledged hours before the debate by effectively pulling his campaign out of Michigan, a Democratic state where McCain's advisers had once been optimistic of victory.

"This is going to help stop the bleeding," said Todd Harris, a Repub-

lican consultant who worked for McCain in his first presidential campaign. "But this alone won't change the trend line, particularly in some of the battleground states."

Short of a complete bravura performance that would have been tough for even the most experienced national politician to turn in — or a devastating error by the mistake-prone Biden, who instead turned in an impressively sharp performance — there might have been little Palin could have done to help McCain.

The McCain campaign has grimly confronted a series of polls since the presidential debate last week showing Obama gaining a lead not only nationally, but in battleground states. The significance of Obama's huge financial advantage has come clear as he has forced McCain to fight in what should be Republican states, like Missouri, and thus make the kind of triage decisions like the one he made in Michigan.

The economic problems on Wall Street have posed a severe problem for McCain, moving the presidential debate to precisely the ground that favors Democrats, and Biden sought repeatedly during the debate to lay the problem at the doorstep of the Republican

Party. And even if a financial rescue plan is approved by Congress, there is no reason to think that the bad economic news is going to stop: with reports of bleak unemployment numbers, more gyrations of the stock market, and the prospect of bad economic reports on everything from job losses to automobile sales.

"For more than a year, people assumed that if Obama was the Democratic nominee, the campaign would be a referendum on him," Harris said. "The economic crisis changed that: the campaign is now a referendum on who can get us out of this mess. One of the challenges for the McCain campaign is going to be turn the race back into an up-or-down referendum on Obama."

And through this period — easily the worst one McCain has faced since he was forced to lay off most of his campaign staff more than a year ago when he ran out of money — McCain has appeared off balance. He has been searching for a message and a way to make a case against Obama, and often publicly venting his frustration at the way the campaign is going, as he did this week in a contentious meeting with the editorial board of The Des Moines Register.

House GOP Leaders Wrangle Balky Caucus on Bailout

By David M. Herszenhorn and Robert Pear

THE NEW YORK TIMES

WASHINGTON

House Republican leaders struggled Thursday to persuade some of their members to reverse course and support the \$700 billion economic bailout package, but both parties said that they were guardedly optimistic about winning final passage of the measure in a vote expected early Friday afternoon.

As the White House and congressional leaders maneuvered to drum up support, several lawmakers in each party said they were prepared to switch their votes. But others agonized amid a continuing deluge of calls from angry constituents, and top Democrats warned that they would not bring the bill to the floor unless they were certain of victory.

The Senate approved the bailout plan on Wednesday night, 74-25, with a solid bipartisan majority after adding a thick portfolio of popular tax provisions. The Senate action came after House members defied the leadership of both parties and rejected the plan on Monday. It fell 12 votes short, and Republicans opposed it by two to one.

Democrat leaders insisted Thursday that it remained up to the Republicans to find more votes. The Senate included more than \$150 billion in tax breaks, including incentives for solar, wind and other renewable energy sources, but it included offsets to pay for only \$43 billion, infuriating fiscally conservative Democrats in the House.

"We may lose people," the majority leader, Rep. Steny H. Hoyer, Democrat of Maryland said. "And I have informed the Republican lead-

ership that that may be the case. Because frankly, the things that were added on and the way they were added on essentially appeal to Republicans."

But apparently it was not appealing enough because only a few Republicans stated publicly that they were prepared to switch their votes to yes. One of them, Rep. Zach Wamp, R-Tenn., said the economy was just in too precarious a state.

"The time has come to act," Wamp said in an interview on Fox Television. "If we do not go on the wall, it will be an ugly day in America."

Rep. Jim Ramstad, R-Minn., said he also intended to switch and vote in favor because the Senate had added a provision requiring equivalence, or parity, in insurance coverage of mental and physical ailments.

WEATHER

Fall Getting In Shape

By Roberto Rondanelli

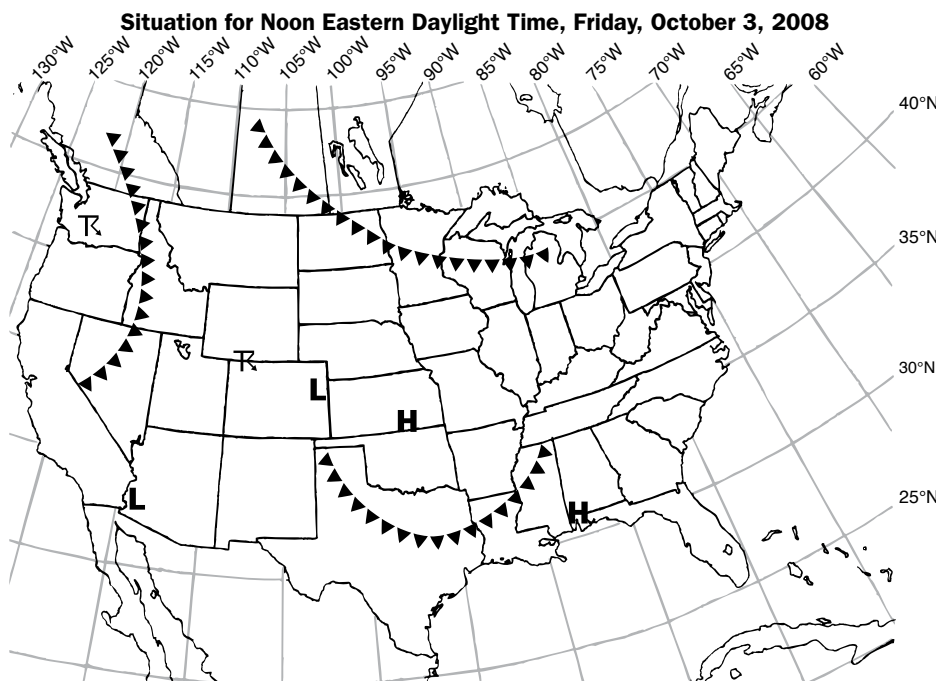
STAFF METEOROLOGIST

New England has a few days in the year that we, people from more temperate climates, can properly call fall. These are those days, and they are the fair warning of the winter that comes ahead. Be quick to see the foliage as it will be a few weeks before snow comes in!

The next few days of weather will be dominated by a high pressure system that will slowly move into our region, producing clear skies, chilly morning, and relatively low temperatures. Monday's forecast looks specially tricky, with a relatively high chance of rainfall and cloudy skies as the southernmost part of the high weakens leaving open the possibility of some squall lines crossing the region.

Extended Forecast

Today: Partly cloudy with a slight chance of precipitation in the afternoon. Low 50°F (10°C). High 64°F (18°C).
Tonight: Clear. Low 47°F (8°C).
Saturday: Mostly Clear. High 63°F (17°C).
Sunday: Partly clear. Low 47°F (8°C). High 62°F (17°C).
Monday: Mostly cloudy, chance of rain. Low 49°F (9°C). High 54°F (12°C).



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

Bloomberg Finds Ally for Extending Term Limits

By David W. Chen
THE NEW YORK TIMES

NEW YORK

City Council Speaker Christine C. Quinn said on Thursday that legislation to alter the city's term limits law would be introduced on Tuesday, paving the way for Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg, Quinn and more than 40 other elected officials to stay in office four more years.

The council's vote on the measure — which Bloomberg has pushed for behind the scenes — could come later this month, Quinn told reporters at a news conference. And while she declined to reveal her position on the legislation, she said she would meet with other members of the council to discuss the bill and "move forward in the process after that."

Quinn's remarks, and the rapid timetable she described, immediately triggered criticism that a deal had already been struck between the mayor and Quinn, who has been his close ally, to overhaul the term limits law, which restricts elected officials to two terms. Voters have twice approved the term limits, and Quinn

had previously said she was opposed to undoing the voters' will.

U.S. Rep. Anthony D. Weiner, a Democrat who represents Brooklyn and Queens, and City Comptroller William C. Thompson Jr., who both plan to run for mayor next year, denounced the plan to extend term limits as a subversion of democracy.

"This is fundamentally about a back-room deal, substituting the value and judgment of the citizens of New York City for their own," Weiner said during a news conference just outside the gates of City Hall. "This is the quintessential inside deal between two ends of City Hall."

Weiner's appearance came on a dramatic day at City Hall, as Bloomberg for the first time explained why he believes extending the term limits is necessary. At a formal news conference in the Blue Room at City Hall, the mayor said that the economic crisis facing the city presents challenges more grave than those New York confronted in the aftermath of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks.

"Given the events of recent weeks and given the enormous challenges we face, I don't want to walk away from a city I feel I can help lead through these tough times," Bloomberg, a billionaire businessman, said.

Still, although the mayor repeatedly pointed to the Wall Street crisis as the driving reason for his decision to overhaul the law and seek another term, it is clear that he began considering the idea and reaching out to potential supporters well before the financial tumult began last month.

Bloomberg said at the news conference that he was still a supporter of term limits, but that he had come to believe that three terms should be the limit, not two. Later in the day, responding to a reporter's question, he said he would not seek any change in the future that would allow him to run for a fourth term.

Bloomberg also spoke expansively about his love of a job he has long called the greatest in the world.

"I think that we have come a long way and I think that we have more to do and that we can do it," he said.

Nebraska's Safe Haven Law Becomes License to Abandon

By Erik Eckholm
THE NEW YORK TIMES

OMAHA, NEB.

The abandonments began Sept. 1, when a mother left her 14-year-old son in a police station here.

By Sept. 23, two more boys and one girl, ages 11-14, had been abandoned in hospitals in Omaha and Lincoln. Then a 15-year-old boy and an 11-year-old girl were left.

The biggest shock to public officials came last week, when a single father walked into an Omaha hospital and surrendered nine of his 10 children, ages 1 to 17, saying that his wife had died and he could no longer cope with the burden of raising them.

In total last month, 15 older children in Nebraska were dropped off by a beleaguered parent or custodial aunt or grandmother who said the children were unmanageable.

Officials have called the abandonments a misuse of a new law that was mainly intended to prevent so-called Dumpster babies — the abandonment of newborns by young, terrified mothers — but instead has been used to hand off out-of-control

teenagers or, in the case of the father of 10, to escape financial and personal despair.

The spate of abandonments has prompted an outcry about parental irresponsibility and pledges to change the state law, which allows care givers to drop off children without fear of prosecution. But it has also cast a spotlight on the hidden extent of family turmoil around the country and what many experts say is a shortage of respite care, counseling and especially psychiatric services to help parents in dire need.

Some who work with troubled children add that economic conditions, like stagnant low-end wages and the epidemic of foreclosures, may make the situation worse, adding layers of worry and conflict.

"I have no doubt that there are additional stresses today on families who were already on the margin," said Gary Stangler, director of the Jim Casey Youth Opportunities Initiative in St. Louis, which aids foster children entering adulthood.

Mark Courtney, an expert on child welfare at the University of

Washington, said that what happened in Nebraska "would happen in any state."

"These days there's a huge void in services for helping distressed families," Courtney said.

When children are abused or neglected, they can be taken by the child-welfare system, and possibly enter foster care. When they commit crimes, they enter the juvenile justice system. In both cases, children and parents are supposed to receive counseling and other aid.

But when troubled children do not fit those categories, they often fall through the cracks, Courtney said. Even middle-income families with health insurance often have only paltry coverage for psychiatric services and cannot afford intensive or residential treatment programs. The poorest, on Medicaid, often have trouble finding therapists who will take the low rates.

And some parents are reluctant to seek whatever help does exist.

Jim Jenkins, a computer network manager in Lincoln, suffered through years with his teenage son, whom he described as "out of control."

Pakistan's Fight With Taliban Widens Into Full-Scale War

By Jane Perlez
and Pir Zubair Shah
THE NEW YORK TIMES

PESHAWAR, PAKISTAN

War has come to Pakistan, not just as terrorist bombings, but as full-scale battles, leaving Pakistanis angry and dismayed as the dead, wounded and displaced turn up right on their doorstep.

An estimated 250,000 people have now fled the gunship helicopters, jets, artillery and mortar fire of the Pakistani army, and the assaults, intimidation and rough justice of the Taliban who have dug into Pakistan's tribal areas.

About 20,000 people are so desperate they have flooded over the border from the Bajaur tribal area to seek safety in war-torn Afghanistan.

Many others are crowding around this northwest Pakistani city, where staff members from the U.N. refugee agency are present at nearly a dozen camps.

The International Committee of the Red Cross flew in a special surgical team from abroad last week to work alongside Pakistani doctors and help treat the wounded in two hospitals, so

urgent has the need become.

"This is now a war zone," said Marco Succi, the spokesman for the International Committee of the Red Cross.

Not since Pakistan forged an alliance with the United States after 9/11 has the Pakistani army fought its own people on such a scale and at such close quarters to a major city. After years of relative passivity, the army is now engaged in heavy fighting with the militants on at least three fronts.

The sudden engagement of the Pakistani army comes after months in which the United States has heaped criticism, behind the scenes and in public, on Pakistan for not doing enough to take on the militants, and increasingly took action into its own hands with drone strikes and even a raid by Special Operations forces in Pakistan's tribal areas.

But the army campaign has also unfolded as the Taliban have encroached deeper into Pakistan proper and carried out far bolder terrorist attacks, like the Marriott Hotel bombing last month, which have generated high anxiety among the political, business

and diplomatic elite and a feeling that the country is teetering.

In early August, goaded by the American complaints and faced with a nexus of the Taliban and al-Qaida that had become too powerful to ignore, the chief of the Pakistan military, Gen. Ashfaq Parvez Kayani, opened the front in Bajaur, a Taliban and Qaida stronghold along the Afghan border.

The military was already locked in an uphill fight against the militants in Swat, a more settled area of North-West Frontier Province that was once a middle-class ski resort. Today it is a maelstrom of killing.

"Swat is a place of hell," said Wajid Ali Khan, a minister in the provincial government who has taken refuge in Peshawar. Khan said he was so afraid that he had not been to his house in Swat for a month.

At a third front, south of Peshawar, around the town of Dera Adam Khel, the army recently recaptured from Taliban control the strategic Kohat tunnel, a road more than a mile long that carries NATO supplies from the port of Karachi to the American and coalition forces in Afghanistan.

Microsoft Unveils Plan For Three Labs in Europe

By Eric Pfanner

THE NEW YORK TIMES

PARIS

Microsoft said Thursday that it would set up research centers in Britain, France and Germany to improve its Internet search technology, describing the move as a vote of confidence in the European economy and in the company's ability to close the gap with Google.

The chief executive, Steven A. Ballmer, said at a news conference that the three "centers of excellence" — near Paris, in London and in Munich — would employ several hundred people.

He declined to say how much the company would invest. But Microsoft, which has fought pitched battles with European regulators over its Windows operating system, said it was making a major financial commitment at a time when many companies were nervous about spending.

"Investing in anything at this time can be a tough sell," Ballmer said. "But when economic times are tough, we have to keep our faith in the promise that technology holds to transform the future."

Microsoft has been pushing to improve its ability to run Internet searches and to attract the advertising revenue that comes with them, after its failed bid to acquire Yahoo. Yahoo struck a deal instead with the market leader, Google, to share some search capabilities. "We are the challenger, not the leader, in search," Ballmer said. "But search is in its infancy, and there is so much room for innovation."

Google accounts for nearly 80 percent of Internet searches in Europe, according to the research company comScore; its share is slightly more than 60 percent in the United States.

As Bombs Fall Silent, An Iraqi City Blossoms

By Erica Goode
and Mohammed Hussein

THE NEW YORK TIMES

SAMARRA, IRAQ

Bombs go off infrequently now in Samarra, and they are mostly small, nothing like the massive explosion that two years ago toppled the golden dome of the famous Askariya Shrine in this ancient city, setting off a wave of sectarian bloodletting across Iraq.

A bakery and a schwarma shop recently opened in a heavily guarded central neighborhood. Earlier this week, dozens of children rode a creaky Ferris wheel and took wagon rides on a downtown street to celebrate Id al-Fitr, the holiday that marks the end of Ramadan.

The shrine itself is slowly being rebuilt. This week, for the first time in two years, hundreds of worshippers attended morning prayers for Id al-Fitr under the delicately blue-tiled dome of the mosque next door.

"It is better now," many residents say if asked. "Today is better than yesterday."

Yet in Samarra, as in many parts of this ravaged country, better is a relative term. The city's name is derived from an Arabic phrase meaning "a joy for all to see." But joy, or even basic satisfaction, remains a scarce commodity.

The violence that once raged throughout the overwhelmingly Sunni city has quieted in the last few months. In August, there were only nine small weapons attacks, compared with 44 last November, according to the U.S. military. One homemade bomb exploded in August. Last November there were 13. The curfew for residents has been pushed back to midnight or even later if there are religious events.

Sunspots Are Fewest Since 1954, But Significance Is Unclear

By Kenneth Chang

THE NEW YORK TIMES

The sun has been strangely unblemished this year. On more than 200 days so far this year, no sunspots were spotted. That makes the sun blander this year than in any year since 1954, when it was spotless for 241 days.

The sun goes through a regular 11-year cycle, and it is emerging from the quietest part of the cycle, or solar minimum. But even for this phase it has been unusually quiet, with little roiling of the magnetic fields that induce sunspots.

"It's starting with a murmur," said David H. Hathaway, a solar physicist at NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center in Huntsville, Ala.

As of Thursday, the 276th day of the year, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Space Weather Prediction Center in Boulder, Colo., had counted 205 days without a sunspot.

In another sign of solar quiescence, scientists reported last month that the solar wind, a rush of charged particles continually spewed from the sun at a million miles an hour, had diminished to its lowest level in 50 years.

Mexican President Proposes Decriminalizing Some Drugs

By Elisabeth Malkin
and Marc Lacey

THE NEW YORK TIMES

MEXICO CITY

President Felipe Calderon, who has made fighting drug traffickers the centerpiece of his administration, proposed legislation on Thursday that would decriminalize the possession of small quantities of cocaine and other drugs for addicts who agreed to undergo treatment.

Calderon said that the proposal was intended to attack the growing problem of drug addiction in Mexico. Still, it will probably be controversial both at home and abroad. A similar measure two years ago provoked strong opposition from the United States and was eventually dropped.

A recent government survey found that the number of drug addicts in Mexico had almost doubled in the past six years to 307,000, while the number of those who had tried drugs rose to 4.5 million from 3.5 million.

Drugs used to flow through Mexico to the United States, and they still do, but an increasing amount of those narcotics now stays in Mexico to feed the habits of domestic consumers.

Under Calderon's proposal, Mexican authorities would not prosecute people found to be carrying small amounts of drugs if they declared they were addicts and submitted to a treatment program.

Those who are not addicts could avoid prosecution by entering a prevention program.

OPINION



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Institute Wisdom Watch

By *The Tech's* Editorial Board



Chancellor Clay “celebrates community traditions” by chastising hackers. Cognitive dissonance much?



A new sorority touches down on campus. If you didn't fit one of the others, here's your chance.



Voter drives on campus register more than 500 students! No more complaining about youth ambivalence.



The shank of the new Grad Rat is no longer dominated by a HUGE letter G. This is a dramatic improvement.



ATO avoids being expelled from the IFC. Good for them. Enjoy MacG while it lasts.



Congratulations to Sarah Palin for correctly pronouncing “Ahmadinejad” in the debate. Well done.



Teetering economy adds a bit of extra urgency to that senior year job search. At least there's always grad school, right ... ?



The Presidential Debates allow the rest of us to hear the candidates' stump speeches, sound byte by sound byte.

This Is MIT?

Elaina Present

I chose MIT because of the stories: the great cannon heist, the police car, the student-run live-action role playing club, the simple trust that was placed in the intelligence and competence of the students — in letting them choose their own living groups that kept up their own cultures, often decades old, in letting them have a voice in any decisions affecting them. I guess I was imagining a sort of Utopia — 5000 of the funkiest, most brilliant minds from the entire country and around the world molding a homeland of their own in which to learn and live.

But the stories I hear now do not echo the ones that drew me in. Yes, Amy Smith seems now every bit as fantastic as she did then, the Infinite is respectably long and the people are ridiculously, scarily smart. I was mercifully allowed a decent voice in my housing assignment, and the Assassin's Guild games run ex-

actly the way all those stories promised. But there is another vibe that I wasn't anticipating, of fear, maybe, or betrayal, or mistrust.

Many students feel that their preferences and opinions, though “valued,” have little effect; though many lines of communication with the administration are open, few are effective and even fewer have any strong feel for what MIT is, what sets it apart. Yes, the people here are brilliant, the best of the best. But I could have gone to a dozen other schools if I wanted to study with brilliant people. I came here because of the traditions, the culture of openness among everyone in the community, but have found it only in small packets, sparsely spread, while the reality seems to be that students are having to choose between getting into grad school and continuing tradition, that such tradition is often not well understood by the administration and other higher-ups.

Student leaders have expressed a feeling of helplessness, as though they're playing a

game whose rules were never posted, working for goals — from dining preferences to clear consequences for actions — facing dead end after dead end. Transparency in admissions is something MIT takes pride in. Perhaps it is time that we widen the scope of transparency at the Institute. We need to see how students can make it clear what is most important to them, from the ground up, in ways that will yield results, not “consideration”; in how traditions are to be maintained so that what is now a gallery does not become a sealed museum remembered only by visiting storytelling craft and tour guides reading off their printed pamphlets; how to make it so that MIT's particular brands of students can continue to maintain their place in the world.

Last summer, I saw the Dark Mark rise above the student center in the dark of pre-dawn, and I declared I'd found my people. But this isn't the MIT I'd heard about.

Elaina K. Present is a member of the Class of 2012.

The Institute of Perfection

How the State of the Institute Ignored All of the Things MIT Is Doing Wrong

Jennifer Nelson

I sat down on the end of a row just before the State of the Institute speech began, and quietly introduced myself to the woman next to me. She wanted to know what I was expecting President Hockfield to talk about. I guess I was expecting a mention of the supposed drop in student integrity, or the demise of the moral hacker, both of which were highlighted in that recent e-mail that caused such uproar among students. As I explained this, the woman next to me seemed surprised, and told me she was wondering about the status of the Stata leakage lawsuit.

So President Hockfield's cheerful speech was not exactly what we thought it would be. These are unsettling times, Hockfield began, referring to the latest problems on Wall Street. But that was about as dreary as her message ever got.

Hockfield launched into a huge list of what MIT is doing right ... and completely ignored what we're potentially doing wrong. Among the strengths that Hockfield

mentioned were our balanced budget for FY2009. How appropos. Boy, if I could find a Presidential candidate that I believed would do that, I just might cry. As if that weren't sweet enough, last year's seniors contributed in record amounts to the senior class gift, freshman applications are steadily increasing, pledges from alumni are at record high levels, Professor Drennan of the Chemistry Department became the first professor in history to become both an HHMI Professor and an HHMI Investigator, five professors were accorded high honors in one week alone ... need I go on?

Most of Hockfield's speech focused on the Institute's professors, building, and finances. So where were the students? MIT students were the focus of only one short video clip. The clip showed various students talking about how they want to help people around the world with everything from energy concerns to eradicating poverty and disease. An admirable cause, to be sure. But slightly unsatisfying if you were looking for the true state of the Institute.

After hearing that inspiring clip and those

incredible statistics, I thought to myself, “Is this really the same school I go to?” I mean, sure, we're amazing students, among the best and the brightest from around the world, but it's a bit hard to believe that our institution is this amazing despite the Wall Street fiasco, the lack of funding from the NIH, and the stressful pressure to find new energy sources. Aren't we noticing the pinch at all? Even a tiny bit?

Hockfield is confident that MIT will pull through and solve the world's problems. I have my doubts. Although, I suppose that it's true that if there's anything an MIT student is good at, it's coming up with creative solutions to a problem when you have no idea what the heck is going on.

But what about that scathing integrity e-mail that hit MIT students so hard? Hockfield never mentioned it once. In fact, Hockfield never mentioned anything at all critical about anybody.

That's a little bit of a disconnect. Am I missing something here?

Jennifer E. Nelson is a marginally dissatisfied member of the Class of 2009.

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Tactical Victory, Strategic Defeat

John McCain Needs More Than the Debates to Turn the Tide

Keith Yost

It was the debate that nearly wasn't.

With less than 24 hours before the first presidential debate between Republican Senator John McCain and his Democratic rival Barack Obama, it was unclear whether the 72-year old "maverick" would even show up at all. McCain, who at the start of the race had wanted no less than ten debates between himself and Senator Obama, on Thursday was claiming it was more important for him to revive the stalled negotiations over the financial rescue than make an appearance at the Friday evening meeting at the University of Mississippi. Ultimately, the media pressure on McCain to participate was too great, and on September 26th there he was, behind a podium fielding questions from Jim Lehrer.

Truth be told, he might as well have stayed in D.C.

It's not that the debate went poorly — on the contrary, most observers gave McCain high marks. His performance was not as strong as it was at the Saddleback Forum or National Service Evening earlier in the year, but it was enough to claim a slight victory over the junior Senator from Illinois.

Rather, the reason McCain might as well have stayed in Washington is that the debate did little to change the minds of voters. Down three points nationally, with no silver lining in the state-by-state breakdown, Senator McCain needed a game changer, and the debate on Friday was clearly not that. Most of the responses from both candidates were mere snippets from well-worn stump speeches. Ostensibly about foreign policy, the 90-min-

ute battle spent nearly half of its time on the financial crisis, and did little to shift voter focus from the economic issues that have been dragging down McCain's numbers over the past week. McCain emphasized his experience and bipartisan credentials, Obama sought to tie McCain to Bush's record, and neither delivered any gaffes or particularly memorable lines.

The tenor of the debate was mostly collegial — on a few occasions Obama tried to provoke McCain's famous temper, interrupting him or tossing a snide comment his way, but by and large it was a civil affair. If anything, the debate showed how closely Barack Obama has moved his foreign policy position towards McCain's in the past few months. On Iraq, the senators split

hairs over time tables and time horizons. On Afghanistan, both agreed that more troops should be sent. On Iran, it was hard to tell the difference between Obama's "direct aggressive diplomacy" and McCain's plan for multilateral diplomatic pressure. Concerning Russia, both McCain and Obama agreed that Ukraine and Georgia should be allowed into NATO. Despite minor differences in philosophy, the broad strokes of both candidates' positions appeared identical.

McCain may be able to score some points from this—before the debate was even concluded, a political ad had already been made from the eleven instances of Obama stating

his agreement with McCain. But Joe Biden once tried to pull a similar trick with his "Joe is Right" ad, and all he got for his troubles was runner-up. Even if McCain succeeds where Biden failed, painting Obama as a "me-too" follower on foreign policy won't compare to the traction he could have gotten from a legitimate foreign policy difference.

If he could move the national focus back to either foreign affairs (his strong suit) or moral values (where at least he stands a fighting chance), then McCain might staunch the slow bleed he's been suffering from. But the chances of that happening are slim. As long as the rescue plan remains in negotiation, the economy is going to dominate the national discussion. And if the failure to pass the rescue package in the House of

Representatives is any indication, these negotiations might well drag on.

If the mountain won't come to McCain, then McCain must go to the mountain.

Emphasizing his experience and bipartisanship (as he did in the debate) will help McCain close the gap over who the voters trust more to run the economy, but it won't be enough to let McCain overtake Obama completely. For that he needs something radical.

The McCain campaign has hit upon a winning idea: stop campaigning. McCain might be great in open audience forums, but he's not going to win this election one town hall at a time, not with the gap that Obama has opened

up. He needs to quit campaigning, just like Obama did back in late July when he went abroad for a "fact finding" trip. Only instead of Germany, McCain needs to travel back to the Senate and focus on forging a consensus on the rescue deal being crafted.

If Senator McCain can place himself right in the middle of the negotiations as they make progress, he might be able to build up credibility with voters as a competent manager of economic affairs. And if, at the end of the day, he can take credit for some fraction of the success, he might even turn the financial crisis to his favor. At a minimum, he should be able to get hours of free media on cable news networks and showcase his experience and bipartisanship.

The photo opportunities are all there. McCain and Bernanke, McCain and Paulson, McCain and his senate buddies — even better might be a few of McCain and Hillary. As she pieces together a 2012 run, what better way to start than with the landmark passage of the Clinton-McCain Asset Relief Program? There's room for two to look presidential.

The risks are huge. What if the negotiations fail? What if McCain is seen as politicizing a needed piece of legislation? What if McCain's involvement is not enough to change voters' perceptions of him as less able on economic issues?

McCain's current position is not desperate, but it still warrants taking a gamble. McCain is lucky that taking a gamble doesn't have to be anything more than going back to the Capitol and doing his job.

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

As long as the rescue plan remains in negotiation, the economy is going to dominate the national discussion.

The 'Bailout' That Isn't

Rescuing Banks is Not a Violation of Free Market Ideology

Keith Yost

Bailout.

The media has fallen in love with that word. It meshes so well with the hydrological metaphors which pervade the finance world. We're always pumping this, or trickling down that, or watching a rising tide lift all boats. It's no surprise that we use water to describe monetary affairs — it was, after all, the economists who started it in the first place with all their talk about "liquidity."

But the image of a bailout, with the U.S. taxpayer rushing to the aid of a sinking bank to help keep it afloat, is not an accurate one. This is not socialism — nor is it a gift to banks or a burden upon U.S. taxpayers. It is the activation of a failsafe that has been present in our economy for decades, a failsafe that is perfectly in accordance with laissez-faire ideals and which belongs as a permanent component in any free market system.

At first glance, a market for money is no different from a market for say, hot dogs. There is a demand (borrowers), a supply (lenders), and the interaction between the two determines an equilibrium price (the interest rate).

The difference that justifies the different treatment of hot dog and money markets is the need for intermediaries. As a short-hand I will collectively refer to financial intermediaries as "banks," but it is important to note that the term extends to any institution that collects deposits and invests them, from credit unions to bank holding companies.

Having lenders and borrowers seek each other out on an individual basis would require an immense duplication of effort — a lender looking to loan out \$1,000 for three years would have to find a borrower looking for the exact converse. Such a process would be immensely inefficient. To avoid this inefficiency, banks have been created to provide centralized information gathering and decision making. By having lenders and borrowers solicit their offers and requests at a centralized bank, it becomes much easier to match the two together.

The intermediary's role is (and should be) purely profit-seeking. It takes deposits, seeks out the areas of highest return, and invests in them.

However, there are two problems that a financial institution can encounter, and here is where the trouble begins. The first problem is one very similar to a hot dog maker that does a poor job of producing hot dogs: a bank may make bad decisions regarding where it should invest. The second problem is that depositors

may demand their money back from the bank in unexpectedly large amounts. Both scenarios manifest in the same manner: the bank is unable to cover deposit demand, but the difference in the reasons (the first bank's assets are bad and the second bank has good assets that simply can't be liquidated fast enough) means that the banks in the two scenarios should have different outcomes. The first problem is one of balance sheet insolvency, the second one of cash flow insolvency. For simplicity I will refer to them as "a solvency problem" and "a liquidity problem" respectively.

In a free market, insolvent banks should be allowed to fail. They made bad bets and must not be allowed to have someone else pay their tab. But illiquid banks, because they still have assets greater than their liabilities, should be able to smooth out their liquidity problem by borrowing from other lenders to cover their short term deposit demand.

In practice, it is difficult for banks to perform this smoothing function purely by borrowing from other banks. A pernicious feedback loop exists: a bank run is a self-fulfilling prophecy. As the probability of bank failure increases, more depositors seek to withdraw their money and fewer lenders are willing to loan short term funds to the bank.

For this reason, the government has been positioned as a lender of last resort: should a solvent but illiquid bank be unable to smooth over its deposit demand by borrowing from other private lenders, the government is committed to intervene and lend money to the troubled bank.

Because the federal government has a duty to act as a lender of last resort to illiquid banks yet avoid lending to insolvent banks, regulation and requirements are needed. In practice, this amounts to two measures: a regulatory system which serves to gather information and help federal decision makers distinguish between illiquid and insolvent banks (and prevent insolvent banks from doubling down on their bets and becoming even more insolvent), and a reserve ratio that gives regulators a margin of error in performing their duties.

The reserve ratio, in short, is a requirement that a certain fraction of a bank's deposits be kept on hand as a reserve. It serves to mitigate the effects of insolvency (since depositors can be paid back with the reserve), and cover unexpected increases in deposit demand.

The higher the reserve ratio however, the greater the inefficiency in the system. If 20 percent of a depositor's funds must remain idle in the bank, the rate of return they receive

will be 20 percent lower than what it could have been. The ideal reserve ratio is zero, where for every dollar lent to the bank it has one dollar to lend out. In practice, the United States maintains a reserve ratio of around 20 percent, reflecting the necessary trade-off between efficiency and regulatory needs.

The subprime housing crisis was, in effect, a series of bad investments. Banks extended mortgages to millions of shaky borrowers, betting that the price of houses would continue to rise. When they didn't, the banks suffered large losses.

These losses have created a liquidity problem across the financial industry. Not only is it a problem of assets not paying back their expected revenue streams (thus straining the banks' ability to return deposits on time), but because not all of the bad mortgages have revealed themselves, banks are forced to maintain greater reserves, to protect against the possibility that a greater than expected number of their assets will turn up bad. Thus, the troubles are multiplied; some of the banks clinging to their liquidity will ultimately not need it. If the uncertainty could be removed, it would be possible to return to normalcy.

This is where the "bailout" comes in.

Both the Federal Reserve and the Treasury Department view the central problem facing the financial markets as one of illiquidity, not insolvency. Given a long enough time horizon, banks would be able to pay off their liabilities. Therefore, they've put together a plan to purchase the troubled assets of banks. The hope is two-fold: to recapitalize banks (the assets would be bought with liquid cash), and remove the uncertainty that is paralyzing the markets. Other approaches have their pros and cons — for example, investing in bank equity would better recapitalize banks, but not remove the uncertainty. But the "bailout" is not a lump-sum transfer to banks; it is not a socialization of losses. If a nominal dollar's worth of mortgage assets is worth 80 cents, the Treasury Department could purchase it for as much as a dollar or as little as 40 cents. With a \$700 billion dollar buy, the tax payers could lose as much as \$140 billion or gain as much as \$700 billion.

We can dispute the details of the rescue plan: how the purchases should be overseen, whether it is best to recapitalize banks through the purchase of equities instead of assets, whether we should aim for maximum taxpayer gain (buying low) versus maximum recapitalization (buying high), or some trade-off in between ... but the fact that we are buying is not a repudiation of the free market. We still have good reason to believe that private institutions, even with their need for reserve

requirements, are still better at generating higher rates of return than public institutions.

Regulatory reform could have prevented a small fraction of the mess. Equalizing reserve requirements across institutions, centralizing oversight authority in a single institution like the Federal Reserve, passing the Federal Housing Regulatory Reform Act of 2005 (sponsored by McCain but opposed by Obama) ... all of these might have taken the edge off of the crisis, but none of them would have prevented the fundamental problem: financiers misjudging the worth of homes. In the future we should enact reform, but not expect it to correct for the fact that sometimes, even the best and brightest can get it wrong.

On Monday, the House of Representatives failed to pass a rescue bill that had been proposed by the Treasury Department, and modified by House and Senate leadership. House Republicans are the direct cause of the failure, having voted against the bill 133-65. But speaker Nancy Pelosi also deserves much of the blame: shortly before the vote was cast, in what should have been a speech emphasizing the legislation's strength and necessity, Madam Pelosi characterized the bill as the death knell of free market capitalism and a repudiation of Republican ideals.

As she spoke ominously of the upcoming election, she might as well have pounded her shoe against the table and told Republicans, "With this bill, we will bury you." Unsurprisingly, the Republicans who voted against the bill were, nearly to a man, the list of Republicans facing tight races this November.

The important thing now is to pass an asset relief bill. The longer the liquidity crunch continues, the longer the real economy (as opposed to the financial one) will be left without needed investment, and the more severe the losses to economic growth will be. The faux-outrage from politicians over executive pay and free market hypocrisy is an unnecessary politicization of a needed solution.

The media, content to portray the rescue bill as a Faustian bargain between banks and tax payers, has been delinquent in its task of educating voters—until the man on the street properly appreciates the nature of the financial rescue and recognizes it not as special interest politics but a free market operation, politics will continue to find a way to interfere with the government's response. It is time to get past the blame game and fulfill our role as lender of last resort.

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

Watch the Baseball Playoffs

Even If You're Not a Red Sox Fan

Gary Shu

It's October and the most exciting time on the sports calendar has arrived — baseball playoffs. For the first time in a long while, of the two teams I'm a fan of, neither are playing for a title in the fall. To the non-baseball aware, this means I am not a fan of the Boston Red Sox, who are sneaking into postseason play as the American League (AL) wild card. My situation is like many students in Boston, who come to school with a team (or three) to cheer on. Many of the uninitiated will leave Red Sox fans, and while that saddens my heart, at least there's another baseball fan out there.

I hope those of you who are not yet baseball fans will still watch this year's playoffs to cheer with me for the Tampa Bay Rays, a team that has never had a winning season in the entire history of the franchise. This year, they dominated their competition in the AL East, the division where they and the Red Sox play. The Rays earned the division title using a coterie of talented and exciting young players like Matt Garza, Evan Longoria (no, not the twin brother of a Desperate Housewife), and Fernando Perez, an Ivy League-educated rookie who was called up

from the minors this year. My brother tells me we played Little League together. I don't remember that — but it would certainly explain the undefeated season we had one time.

I'll be listening on my satellite radio to hear if the Chicago Cubs can break their 99-year World Series drought — a championship famine that has lasted longer than the Red Sox's recently-broken "Curse of the Bambino." In order for the Cubbies to win it all though, they'll have to go through the Los Angeles Dodgers, whose playoff push was led by the recently disposed Manny Ramirez. Once loved by the Boston faithful, he "Manny-being-Mannyed" his way out of guarding Fenway Park's Green Monster in left field. I can't wait to hear the boos rain down on him if he and the Dodgers end up making it to Boston.

I have the fondest memories of baseball playoff games. I remember in undergrad in 2001, baseball season was pushed back after September 11th and games were being played for the first time in November. The country was still stunned, and I had p-sets due, but I found time to escape from them by ice skating in the brisk air while I watched the game on a big outdoor screen. Later, in the 2003 playoffs, I met my girlfriend from

graduate school around the time that the Oakland Athletics played and lost another series of heartbreaking games. She was the reason why I'm an A's fan today.

Two years ago, I literally got chills running the length of my body when one of my favorite Oakland players, Marco Scutaro, came up to bat during the American League Championship Series (ALCS). It was a big game — the winner would move on to play in the World Series. As Marco stood in the batter's box, the fans in the Oakland Coliseum were singing his name like the kid's game 'Marco Polo' — from one end of the stadium to the other. "Marco!" "Scutaro!" I remember reading a quote from him after the game, "They were calling my name!" and I imagined him breathless and grateful. The thought of it still brings tears to my eyes.

Last year, I got a chance for a more mundane trip to watch Oakland play the Red Sox during the last week of the regular season. Boston was already assured of their playoff berth and the A's were only playing for their paychecks. It was my first time in Fenway Park, and it sure was something. I went with a friend who got me the hard-to-get tickets, we drank a lot, smiled with the friendly crowd, confided secrets with each other and watched future-Hall-of-Famer

Mike Piazza hit his last home run over the Green Monster. Even though I'm not a Red Sox fan and it was a meaningless game in terms of championship pennants, it was still an experience never to be forgotten.

Now I'm sure the celebration last year when the Red Sox won their second championship in four seasons was great. (I wouldn't know, I went to bed early that night.) I'm also sure it's the reason why so many MIT students are Sox fans. I can't blame them. It's a magical time — when you can be completely swept up in a crowd of fellow fans dancing and screaming in the city streets. Such events make an impression on young students, and when you graduate, you too will be part of the Red Sox Nation diaspora.

I can only hope that as you watch the playoffs this Fall, you will keep in mind the virtues of some of the other teams besides Boston and consider cheering with me during the playoffs next year when my other favorite franchise makes it back to playing October ball: the New York Yankees.

Gary Shu is a student in the Engineering Systems Division and the Department of Urban Studies and Planning. He is a proud fan of the Oakland Athletics and the New York Yankees.



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Dead duck



ARTS

CONCERT REVIEW

A Secular Blessing

The BSO and TFC Perform Brahms' Monumental Work of Mourning

By Sudeep Agarwala

*Ein Deutsches Requiem, (Op. 45), Johannes Brahms**Boston Symphony Orchestra and Tanglewood Festival Chorus
Symphony Hall, Boston
Sept. 26, 2008*

As with many things, this too started with Beethoven. It must have been a draining performance for both musicians and audience: the first three movements of the *Missa Solemnis* (Op. 123) and 9th Symphony (Op. 125) premiered all in one night on May 7th, 1824. These have both become monumental works that have revolutionized their genres. The Ninth Symphony is the more famous of the two because it was the first (or, at the very least, the most major) symphony to incorporate both choral and orchestral music into a symphony.

The *Missa* seems to have been shafted, potentially because of its religious connotations, but to do so is to miss its point completely: the notable part of the *Missa Solemnis* is that it was composed for a secular audience. Although Catholic in form, text and musical language, Beethoven's piece is humanistic in its meaning and motive, occupying a strange duality between the concert hall and the church.

Johannes Brahms was certainly aware of his sources and influences (moments of the first movement might as well have been written by Beethoven himself), and it's this fine interpolation between sacred and secular that Brahms toes in his monumental *Deutsches Requiem* (Op. 45) nearly forty years later in

1865. But what is central to Brahms's placement in musical development is that he not only understands the historic context of his work, but in some fashion manages to augment the grand dialogue: Brahms's work is grander in scale than Beethoven's, further-reaching and more daring in the breaking tradition. It is more successful for precisely these reasons.

Maybe it's best not to read too much into Brahms's motives. Some sources say that the piece was written for the first suicide attempt of Brahms's friend and mentor: the composer Robert Schumann. Others suggest it was written in response to his mother's death, while still others say that it (like most of Brahms's early opus) stems from early sketches of his first symphony. The truth probably lies in some complex convolution of all of these.

Regardless the motive, it is clear Brahms's work is not religious. Certainly, the texts are taken from Luther's translation of the Bible, the three-note theme of the entire piece is based off the Lutheran Chorale *Wer nur den lieben Gott lässt walten* (F, associated with comfort, A, with hope for reconciliation with a lost loved one, and B-flat, with loneliness — do, mi, fa) and the title of the piece is associated with the traditional Catholic mass for the dead. But there is much that is not patently religious about Brahms's *Deutsches Requiem*; in fact, much of it is insistently secular: never does Brahms invoke the text of the traditional Catholic mass, never does he remind us of the apocalypse, the rapture and most importantly, never once is Christ mentioned throughout the entirety of the mass. This is a piece written

for people, using the German language of the people instead of an elevated and academic Latin, associated, yet distinctly separate from religious influence. It is significant, therefore, that Brahms entitles his piece "Ein Deutsches Requiem" — "A German Requiem".

Levine's performance on September 26th, 2008 with the Boston Symphony Orchestra and the Tanglewood Festival Chorus, prepared by John Oliver, made some interesting decisions about this performance. The TFC delivered a remarkably crisp performance that really highlighted the Brahms's intricate choral writing; particularly notable was the final C major fugue in the sixth movement. Traditionally a musically dense moment in the piece, Oliver's preparation of the TFC clarified and provided a clear motivation behind Brahms's daedalian counterpoint. Overall, however, Levine's performance provided a unique interpretation of the Requiem; tempos took some time to become settled (a more lively tempo in the first movement lolled into senescence in the second movement) but were used effectively to highlight moments in the text.

Of particular note, of course, was the fifth movement, "Ich hab nun in Traurigkeit" ("And ye now therefore have sorrows"), a stunning conversation between soprano solo (here, Christine Schaefer) and choir. While Levine expressed much of the despondent text of the soloist in a faster, recit-like tempo, a more stately tempo in the choral responses reflected their uplifting text. The complicated balance of soloist and choir, however, was not as successful with baritone Michael Volle. Although providing a lively performance in the third and

sixth movements of the piece, Volle's performance did not take the choir into consideration: high notes were uncomfortably punched and phrasing often did not reflect the musical line that Levine had in mind for the choral imitation. Although producing a thrilling performance, Volle's solo work seemed disjoint from the choral and orchestral background.

Minutiae aside, however, Friday night's performance was successful by standards that are not necessarily quantifiable. Perhaps it's glib to say, but it's worth saying either way: Brahms's work is sad, more incredibly and profoundly sad than anything I can describe here. The Requiem is plagued with manic episodes: terrifying shifts between depression and ecstatic joy, between comfort and pain. Every moment of hope returns to its realization of sorrow: beautiful melodies echo their course through the choral and orchestral parts, augmenting and diminishing until they are barely recognizable; melodic lines fragment and devolve into bitter weeping — almost as if the composer himself became too overwhelmed in his grief to be able to finish the thought. And shouldn't this be the thesis of a humanistic work on realizing death? Shouldn't sorrow be the ultimate unifier and comfort for all who mourn? This is why Brahms's work is so viscerally moving, enough to transcend creed and creation: who doesn't know what it is to have lost irrevocably?

It's difficult to state in precise terms, but Levine's performance on Friday night was successful on this criteria: it understood Brahms's discourse and was able to convey the music's powerful message of comfort through sorrow.

CD AND CONCERT REVIEW

Experiment and Soul

Saxophone Summit Isn't a Gimmick

By Samuel Markson

*Saxophone Summit**Seraphic Light**Joe Lovano, Dave Liebman, and Ravi**Coltrane**Telarc Records**Performed at Regattabar at the Charles Hotel
Thursday, Sept. 25, 2008*

A lot of single-instrument groups can be gimmicky — along the lines of, "How many tuba players does it take to make a coherent album?" Many of those efforts are well and good, even virtuosic, but the majority are relegated to narrowly devoted fan-bases — those who, no doubt, brake for vibraphones or are the proud parents of an oboe player — without much chance at breaking through to the larger musical scene.

All of which makes Saxophone Summit an anomaly. On the surface, having three identical melodic instruments in the group seems risky. Most groups strive for more instrumental variety, as it lends greater diversity of tone color, and ultimately more control over the music's emotional message. It would be odd to make an all-baritone concert choir.

Which is all the more reason to go hear Sax Summit. Starting out in 1996 with legends Michael Brecker, Joe Lovano, and Dave Liebman, the summit has equal parts experiment and soul: a communion — at once connected and disjunct, with the independence of a jam session and the synchronicity of a sacred ritual. It is man yearning simultaneously to break free and to find union.

Their latest album — *Seraphic Light* — is all the best of that. Ravi Coltrane (son of tenor legend John, who joined the group after Brecker's

death in 2007) doesn't replace the group's cofounder, but certainly adds his own distinctive voice. Rhythm from Phil Markowitz on piano, Cecil McBee on bass, and Billy Hart on drums complements the horns well. Taking much from both late John Coltrane and the more modern fusion avant-garde, the album is both deeply spiritual and experimental. It's a lot more minimalist than the early avant-garde — not too many of Trane's "sheets of sound" — but it's not easy-listening either. You can't dance to this shit. You just have to sit down and try to keep your head above water as it washes over you.

That can be tough, as I found during their final set at the Regattabar last Thursday. On longer tunes like "Tricycle" (from the 2004 album *Gathering of Spirits*) and "Seraphic Light," the group got pretty out, to the point where it was hard to remember where, or what the melody was (or if there was one). Starting off with a minimal bass solo, the group might careen into

a twenty-minute jaunt, quoting everything from Mingus to Adeste Fidelis, and filling every harmony in between. Or maybe they'd start with a Latin groove and a driving riff in the horns, and whittle the whole thing down to a couple taps on a ride cymbal. This was particularly the case in the live performance, where the players tend to enjoy more space — a chart that runs for seven minutes on the album might run for twenty live. A lot of this time goes towards the less-heard parts of the group, like bass and drums on "Tricycle," or different instruments, such as flute (Liebman, Lovano) on "Cosmos" (8th track, *Seraphic Light*) or aulochrome, a mutant double-sax played by Lovano, also on "Tricycle."

At the same time, though, the group stays close to their spiritual roots. Both live and on the album, the mellow "All About You" is a good counterpoint to the experimental energy around it, with some solid work by Coltrane. "Message to Mike," an elegy to Brecker and

the opener for the live set had the same gutsy sensitivity, but did so without being somber — a musical "Do Not Go Gentle Into That Good Night" with a Horace Silver groove, Wayne Shorter harmonic looseness, and a defiantly Brecker-esque energy. Driving swing from Hart and mysterious voicings from Markowitz lay a good foundation for Liebman, Lovano, and Coltrane to tap into something greater than themselves, and leave a little knot in the listener's stomach.

Other good tracks to listen for are "The Thirteenth Floor," with its irresistibly driving seven-time reedy ostinato, and "Alpha and Omega," with its kaleidoscopic harmonies.

So go out. Listen. Buy the album. Get lost in the untraceable harmonic patterns, and the untappable rhythms. It'll feel weird at first, but after you come back to the melody, back to a riff you recognize, back to the world around you and the overpriced hors-d'ouvres in front of you, you'll be just a little better for it.

DID YOU SEE?

Did you see an incident on
Monday, August 25, 2008
Around 2:00 PM

at 219 Vassar Street

involving the MIT police and the
driver of a dark SUV

Please **confidentially** contact
Ken Resnik at
(617) 742-5800 x113

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Monday 6 October 2008

7:00 PM to 9:00 PM

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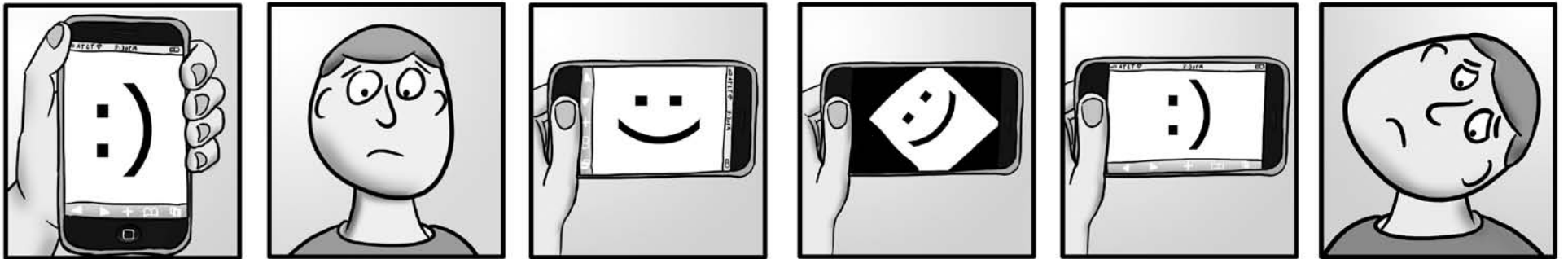
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Steal My Comic

by Michael Ciuffo



Daily Blunderbuss

by Ben Peters



Crossword Puzzle

Solution, page 14

ACROSS

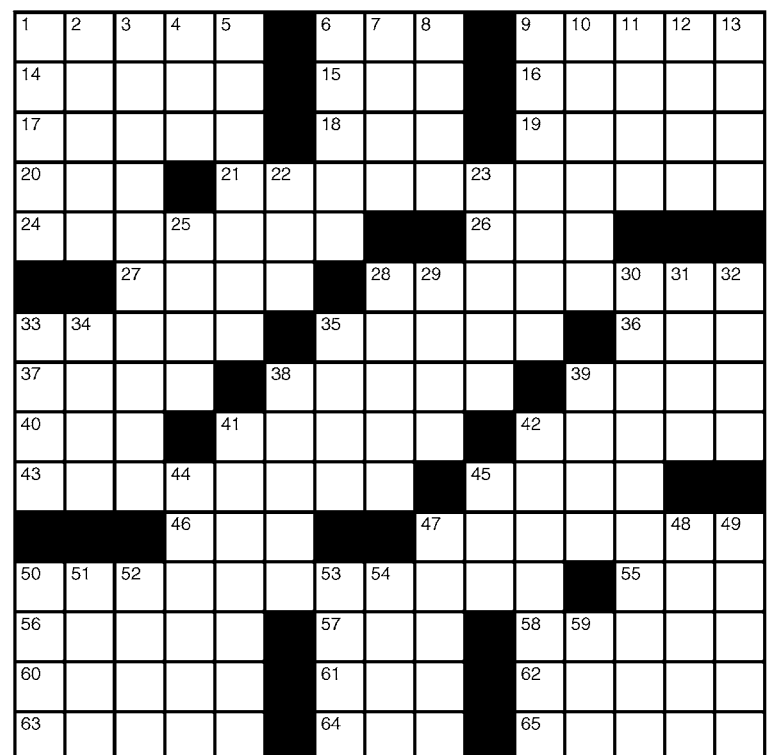
- 1 Bolivian capital
- 6 Lively dance
- 9 Certain 1980s Chrysler models
- 14 Oranjestad's island
- 15 One Gershwin
- 16 Brief summary
- 17 Against a thing, in law
- 18 In what manner
- 19 Part of UHF
- 20 Tear up
- 21 Alannah Myles hit
- 24 Shoulder muscle
- 26 Turkish title
- 27 Long, long time
- 28 Lunch holder, sometimes
- 33 ___ Gras
- 35 With 41A, title for this puzzle
- 36 Victrola mfr.
- 37 Peruse
- 38 Wild card
- 39 Quantum theory pioneer
- 40 ___ Lanka
- 41 See 35A
- 42 Cringe
- 43 Gave solace to

- 45 Cut like grass
- 46 Dernier ___
- 47 Ms. Redgrave
- 50 Booker T. & the MG's hit
- 55 Einstein's birthplace
- 56 ___ cum laude
- 57 Wrap up
- 58 Gold brick
- 60 Steer clear of
- 61 Invite
- 62 Former Pac. alliance
- 63 Kid of early TV
- 64 School grp.
- 65 Body's trunk

DOWN

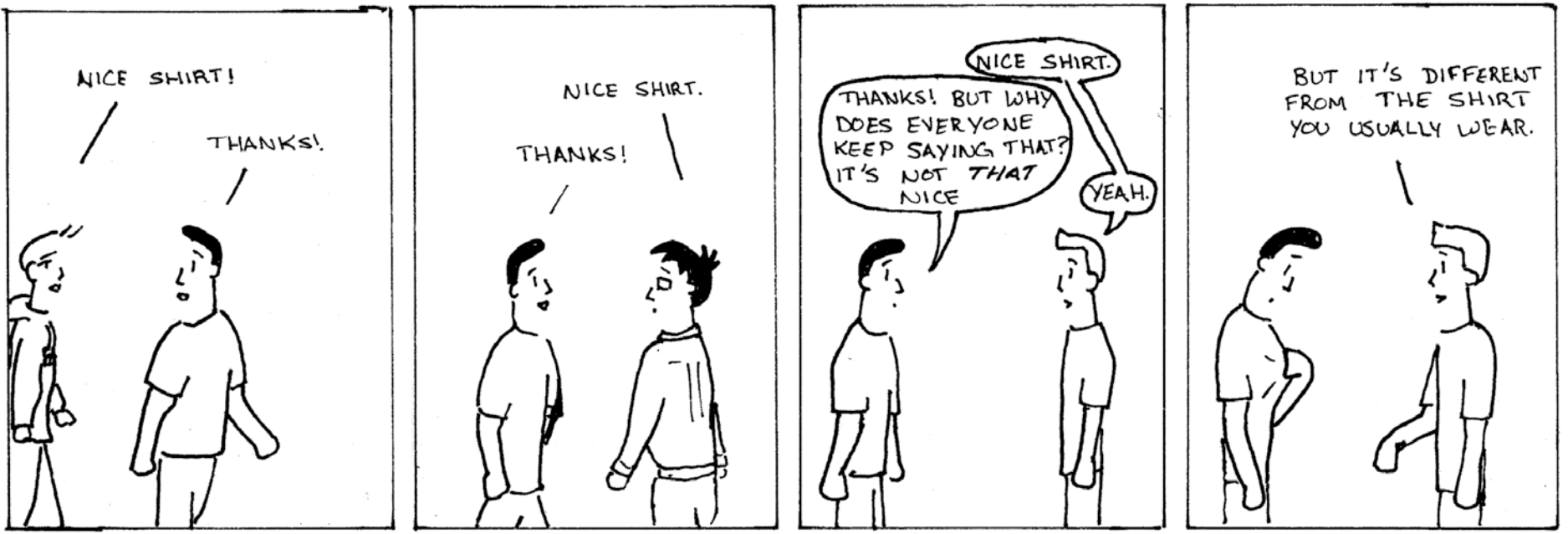
- 1 Scottish landowner
- 2 Putter Palmer
- 3 Prince and the Revolution hit
- 4 Bart's grandpa
- 5 Ice smoother
- 6 Holy war
- 7 Camaro model
- 8 Stare stupidly
- 9 "A Nightmare on Elm Street" villain Freddy
- 10 Stock of wines

- 11 Last of "Hamlet"
- 12 Not common
- 13 Verbal skirmish
- 22 Fleur-de-___
- 23 Mist
- 25 "Sweeney ___"
- 28 Jabbed
- 29 Pub servings
- 30 Rolling Stones hit
- 31 Liniment target
- 32 "Mr. Mom" co-star
- 33 Richie's mom, to Fonzie
- 34 Dynamic opening?
- 35 Scoop holder
- 38 Singer Iglesias
- 39 Boxer Riddick
- 41 Funnel cloud
- 42 Be composed
- 44 Picturesque
- 45 Irish Sea isle
- 47 Spirits of a screwdriver
- 48 Vegas openings?
- 49 Retort to "Are not!"
- 50 Auto financing co.
- 51 Sitarist Shankar
- 52 Swollen heads
- 53 Tide type
- 54 Part of RPI
- 59 "The Matrix" role



Theory of Pete

by Cai GoGwilt

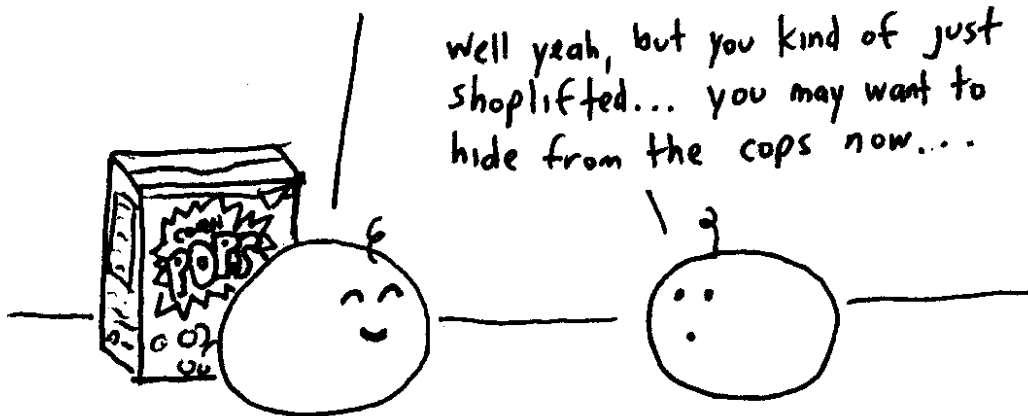


Blobbles

by Jason Chan

I Stole Them Pops

Gotta have them, as part of my complete breakfast!



"New to Blobbles? Here's how it works. Send me a caption or title at blobbles@tech.mit.edu, and I'll draw a picture to go along with it!"

su | do | ku

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

© Puzzles by Pappocom

Solution on page 12.

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

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

Doonesbury

BY GARRY TRUDEAU

Dilbert® by Scott Adams



ERIC D. SCHMIEDL—THE TECH

MIT hackers put the NASA logo on McDermott Court, often called "The Dot," on Oct. 1, exactly 50 years after the National Aeronautics and Space Administration began operations.

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Police Log

The following incidents were reported to the MIT Police between Sept. 4 and Sept. 30, 2008. This summary does not include incidents such as false alarms, general service calls, or medical shuttles.

- Sept. 4:** M46 (46 Vassar St. #5261), 9:06 a.m., Larceny of iPod from office on Sept. 3.
- Sept. 6:** Amherst Alley and Endicott St., 2:45 a.m., Steven Perry of 16 Romsey St., Dorchester, Mass. arrested on outstanding warrant, transported to Cambridge Police Department. M14 (160 Memorial Dr.), 7:17 p.m., Attempted larceny of library material.
- Sept. 7:** M7 (77 Mass. Ave.), 3:43 p.m., Report taken for breaking and entering at the library on Sept. 5.
- Sept. 8:** W89 (291 Vassar St.), 9:23 a.m., Report taken for credit card fraud on Sept. 2.
M7 (77 Mass. Ave.), 5:19 p.m., Report taken from larceny of bicycle from rack at Walker on Sept. 6.
SK (480 Commonwealth Ave.), 9:45 p.m., Report taken for Sept. 1 assault and battery between two housemates.
- Sept. 9:** W53, 7:42 a.m., Report of stolen construction material on Sept. 5.
526 Commonwealth Ave., 2:40 p.m., Breaking and entering, report of laptop stolen on Sept. 8.
Cambridge District Court, 4:31 p.m., Arrest of Joy I. Willis, 379 Poplar Street, Roslindale, Mass.; taken into custody for numerous warrants.
W89 (291 Vassar St.), 7:52 p.m., Reporting person in station to report larceny of pocketbook.
526 Beacon St., 9:06 p.m., Reporting person in station to report laptop stolen from residence.
- Sept. 10:** E51 (70 Memorial Dr.), 12:41 p.m., Larceny of bicycle. NW86 (70 Pacific St.), 3:02 p.m., Larceny of mail.
- Sept. 11:** W92, 9:50 a.m., Report of larceny of chair on Aug. 21. Unknown location, 5:24 p.m., Open investigation of a possible sexual assault.
M1 (33 Mass. Ave.), 5:12 p.m., Report of stolen mountain bike.
E2 (70 Amherst St.), 8:05 p.m., Larceny of bicycle.
- Sept. 12:** 351 Mass. Ave., 4:32 p.m., Larceny of laptop computer.
- Sept. 13:** W5 (350 Memorial Dr.), 1:31 a.m., Larceny of laptop computer.
471 Memorial Dr., 5:15 p.m., Larceny of debit card.
- Sept. 14:** W31 (120 Mass. Ave.), 6:48 p.m., Larceny of cell phone from unlocked locker.
- Sept. 15:** DKE (403 Memorial Dr.), 3:08 a.m., Larceny of laptop computer.
- Sept. 16:** M46 (46 Vassar St.), 7:18 p.m., Reporting person following robbery suspect from the Kendall T stop. Suspect was arrested by transit police.
- Sept. 17:** 2:26 p.m., M4 (182 Rear Memorial Dr.), Larceny of bag containing swimming equipment.
- Sept. 18:** M3 (125 Mass. Ave.), 6:50 p.m., Reporting person in station to report larceny of laptop from office area on Sept. 1.
- Sept. 19:** M7 (77 Mass. Ave.), 1:19 p.m., Larceny of credit card. E51 (70 Memorial Dr.), Larceny of bicycle from rack on Sept. 18.
- Sept. 22:** W84 (550 Memorial Dr.), 1:42 p.m., Larceny of paperwork on Sept. 17.
DKE (403 Memorial Dr.), 6:20 p.m., Breaking and entering, laptop stolen.
- Sept. 23:** NW86 (70 Pacific St.), 11:41 a.m., Credit card fraud on Sept. 13.
407 Memorial Dr., 12:19 p.m., Breaking and entering, laptop and backpack stolen.
407 Memorial Dr., 12:57 p.m., Larceny of backpack.
W4 (320 Memorial Dr.), 9:25 p.m., Report of fraud on eBay on Sept. 12; scammed out of \$1,600 and a computer.
- Sept. 24:** M16 (21 Rear Ames St.), 12:23 p.m., Larceny of laptop computer left in a coatroom at an off-campus location on Sept. 22.
M33 (125 Mass. Ave.), 3:55 p.m., Larceny of wireless keyboard from office.
- Sept. 25:** NW62 (310 Mass. Ave.), 7:26 a.m., Breaking and entering, larceny of uniforms.
- Sept. 26:** M35 (127 Mass. Ave.), 2:23 p.m., Larceny of bicycle from room on Sept. 19.
- Sept. 27:** PBE (400 Memorial Dr.), 12:07 p.m., Breaking and entering, larceny of laptop.
TXI (64 Baystate Road), 7:12 p.m., Breaking and entering, iPod and walkie-talkies stolen on Sept. 25.
W32 (291 Vassar St.), 12:34 p.m., Larceny of backpack from Z-Center cubby hole on Sept. 27.
- Sept. 29:** W89 (301 Vassar St.), 7:42 a.m., Larceny of voltage amp meter on Aug. 18, 2004.
M6 (182 Rear Memorial Dr.), 9:27 a.m., Breaking and entering, larceny of several electronic items on Sept. 28.
Kappa Sigma (407 Memorial Dr.), 12:07 p.m., Larceny of bicycle on Sept. 26.
W89 (301 Vassar St.), 3:48 p.m., Larceny of iPod that was left behind in a SafeRide van on Sept. 7.
- Sept. 30:** M50 (142 Memorial Dr.), 10:42 a.m., Larceny of bicycle on Sept. 29.
E40 (1 Amherst St.), 11:25 a.m., Paper shredder stolen over the weekend.
W31 (120 Mass. Ave.), 11:46 a.m., Larceny of wallet on Sept. 29.
407 Memorial Dr., 12:41 p.m., Breaking and entering, report of suspicious person in a student's room on Sept. 25.
407 Memorial Dr., 1:37 p.m., Breaking and entering, report of stolen laptop.
Kendall Square, 2:27 p.m., MIT Coop in Kendall Square on Sept. 27, found property stolen.
W85 (540 Memorial Dr.), 5:07 a.m., Reporting person reports possible domestic disturbance in the area of the 11th floor. Report taken, numerous floors searched; negative findings.

COMPILED BY ANGELINE WANG

Student Develops Web-Based, Voter-Verifiable Balloting

E-voting, from Page 1

offers many opportunities to have more reliable and arguably more trustworthy elections than what can typically be obtained with paper-only elections ... Various levels of public and administrative verifiability are offered, which do not have counterparts in 'standard' paper-based voting systems."

He cited recent systems used outside of nationwide elections that allow voters to verify that their votes were recorded correctly.

Ansolabehere said he thinks optical scan voting technologies have "shown superior reliability in tabulation and it can be recounted and reconciled," while systems with no tangible record have "irrecoverable flaws owing to programming mistakes in formatting databases for vote tabulators."

In a 2005 research paper, Ted Selker, former MIT professor and former director of the VTP wrote that in the 2004 U.S. presidential election, "numerous pieces of evidence suggest that electronic voting machines outperformed all other methods used."

According to Ansolabehere, the benefits of optical scanning also include ease of formatting ballots and accessibility for blind and non-English speakers.

Legal and business issues paramount

Many experts agree that logistical and legal issues surrounding electronic voting are at this point more challenging than refining the voting technologies themselves.

The real flaw with electronic voting in the United States is not any specific aspect of individual

machines being used today, but the business model, said Ansolabehere.

"This industry is not conducive to innovation. Equipment is sold to individual counties and towns, and it is used for two decades. The firms attracted to this industry have not been those at the forefront of computing technology, and those that have come in, such as IBM and Unisys, have quickly gotten out," he said.

"My general sense of this problem is that the security of all voting systems rests primarily with the personnel running elections and with the legal system," said Ansolabehere.

Political Science Department Head and Professor Charles H. Stewart III sees political roadblocks in the implementation of electronic voting in elections.

"There is an interesting contradiction among many election reformers," he said. "On the one hand, they often favor election reforms to make elections more accessible and convenient to more people. These reforms make voting much more complicated, and automation, including electronic machines, can help manage the complexity. However, reformers are also the most skeptical of using electronic tools to manage elections."

"There is a fair amount of skepticism, especially among Democrats and people on the left," he added. "The more complicated the election, the more automated they want the voting machine to be," Stewart said.

"The type of election technologies that voters tend to favor are the ones that make it easier for voters who have disabilities, who are vision impaired. They want technologies that use automation to ensure these people's votes are counted," he said.

Pereira said that the deployment

of electronic voting systems also often involves a lot of behaviors that cannot be matched easily with those of traditional paper-based voting, which makes such systems harder to reconcile with the various voting regulations and requires an important voter education step.

"I expect that an important stage for the practical deployment of those systems is their use in elections with lower stakes and risks than governmental elections. Such elections typically offer much more possibilities to modify the voting process and to educate voters, while providing important return and records that allow improving the usability of the systems and convincing the public of their interest."

According to Pereira, there is also an important role for systems that allow voting over public electronic networks, such as the Internet. Such solutions allow people to vote from their home at the time they want without having to wait in long lines, improving the voter's comfort and reducing the need for setting up large voting infrastructures.

However, he said that most researchers, including himself, think that these systems should not be used in circumstances where voters could be submitted to some forms of coercion, or when vote selling can be a concern.

Benjamin Mako Hill, a PhD candidate at the Sloan School of Management and a Research Fellow at MIT's Center for Future Civic Media is developing free software, called Selectricity, that he hopes will increase the popularity of web-based voting for non-governmental groups and organizations. The system sup-

ports anonymous and voter-verifiable balloting.

Describing what inspired Selectricity, Hill said it was almost a reaction to the VTP because, "the Caltech/MIT initiative is entirely based on technology for the election of governments and states, and government and state election technology is the least likely to be used," he said.

"Governments are hesitant to use

any technology. If it's unusual and different, they fear that people might be confused," he added. "Governments are incredibly conservative when it comes to e-voting technology."

"We already have great election technology," Hill said. "I'm interested in making technology that people will use more than once every four years, that's relevant to the way we make decisions everyday."



Ever Get Somebody Totally Wasted?

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TAKE A STAND.



FRIENDS DON'T LET FRIENDS DRIVE DRUNK

Ad Council U.S. Department of Transportation

This space donated by The Tech

Study on Accuracy of SAT Prompts Schools To Accept Other Tests

By Sara Rimer
THE NEW YORK TIMES

SEATTLE

For the 5,500 college admissions officials and high school guidance counselors who gathered here over the weekend, there were discussions, debates and analyses of things like the ethics of tracking student applicants on Facebook and "Why Good Students Write Bad College Essays — and How to Stop It."

But for this crowd, at the Seattle convention center for the annual conference of the National Association for College Admission Counseling, the main event was William R. Fitzsimmons's first public presentation of the findings of the Study of the Use of Standardized Tests in Undergraduate Admission.

Mr. Fitzsimmons, the dean of admissions at Harvard, led a commission of college admissions officials who drafted the study, which challenges colleges and universities to examine their use of the SAT and ACT and to consider whether the benefits outweigh the disadvantages or whether they can make the tests optional for admissions.

The line formed early for Mr. Fitzsimmons's panel, and with more than 1,000 people jockeying for a limited number of seats — a scene that brought to mind the college admissions process — the event was moved to the ballroom.

"It's electrifying to both sides of the desk," said Louis L. Hirsh, admissions director at the University of Delaware, "to counselors who are worried about the stresses that the SAT places on the kids, and from the college end, the people whom all of us respect are looking at a test that all of us use and asking all of us to be more thoughtful about how they use it and what role it plays in our admissions."

Mr. Fitzsimmons, who took center stage along with the other members

of the commission, tried to ease the fears of the ardent supporters of the standardized admissions tests, taking pains to say that the SAT had many advantages.

But he also affirmed what many of those present had been saying for years: that the SAT and other standardized admissions tests are "incredibly imprecise" when it comes to measuring academic ability and how well students will perform in college. He said colleges and universities needed to do much more research into how well the tests predict success at their individual institutions.

Test prep can work, Mr. Fitzsimmons said, but he noted — and the audience applauded — that there was a difference between test prep that consists of studying on your own and \$400-an-hour one-on-one tutoring that starts in the seventh grade.

"There is no evidence on what the latter test prep does," he said. "We know it's an advantage, but we don't have enough information."

There has been longstanding debate and concern about the impact of standardized testing on socioeconomically disadvantaged students, and the ballroom erupted in applause when Mr. Fitzsimmons called for an end to the use of "cut scores" to determine who qualifies for National Merit and other scholarships. The practice means that one student is rewarded while excluding another whose SAT score may be only a single point lower, Mr. Fitzsimmons said.

What that single point differential fails to take into account, he said, is the context: The two students may have "lived entirely different lives, had entirely different educational opportunities and entirely different access to test prep."

The audience also applauded Mr. Fitzsimmons's call for U.S. News & World Report to stop using SAT scores as part of its college rankings.



Wednesday Oct. 15th

John Chambers
Chairman, CEO
CISCO



Building the Next Generation Company:
Innovation, Talent, Excellence

Kirsch Auditorium, Stata Center

5:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.

Refreshments at 4:30 p.m.



CSAIL

Grad Rat Features References to Nobel Laureates, Research

Grad Rat, from Page 1

and the GRC focused more on abstract concepts that he believed all MIT graduate students would understand.

"One of the symbols we worked on a lot," Khushrushahi explained, "was the '72' which is found on the left side of the bezel. It represents the 72 Nobel laureates that have passed through MIT." Khushrushahi also said that the 72 symbol is represented as a helix, in reference to MIT's extensive efforts in studying DNA. The 72 symbol also brings to light MIT's contributions to sustainability by incorporating the recycling-symbol-styled arrows at the ends of the numbers. The icon below the 72 symbol represents a greater-than sign in order to acknowledge the fact that many more Nobel laureates will pass through MIT in the future. Lastly, the flames between the numbers symbolize MIT's ongoing research in energy efficiency.

Other symbols on the bezel include the moon, symbolizing late nights spent at MIT, a crane, a reference to MIT's numerous ongoing construction projects, and the acronym IHTFP (which most commonly refers to the phrase 'I hate this fucking place').

Khushrushahi said that the GRC wanted the Grad Rat to reveal the journey to graduation. They accomplished this by including in the design a path that crosses the bezel which encounters all the symbols on it, including book piles and empty coffee cups. And to continue tradition, the bezel shows the MIT beaver clutching a diploma in its right hand while wearing a Grad Rat on its left. Like the Brass Rat given to undergraduates, the Grad Rat shows the Boston skylines on the sides of the ring as well as an engraving of the MIT campus map on the inner-band.

New in 2008 is a second limited-edition alternative ring. Saeed Arida

G, an architecture graduate student and member of the GRC, said she helped design this new ring to appeal to those graduate students who do not like the bulkiness of the traditional Grad Rat. Unlike the large, square frame of the Grad Rat, the new ring is circular and consists of four small bands. The first band is engraved with "MIT," and other three denote the student's graduation year, school, and degree received. "What makes this ring unique," said Arida, "is the fact that each ring is specially constructed for each student."

Graduate students can order their Grad Rats through next week either online at the Graduate Student Council's website (<http://gsc.mit.edu/ring/>) or in Lobby 10. Rings come in stainless steel, silver, gold, and a silver-gold-palladium blend. Prices range from \$150 to \$950, depending on style and bezel size. According to Khushrushahi, approximately one-third of graduate students order the Grad Rat.

This year is the second in which a committee has redesigned the Grad Rat since a plan to redesign the ring every five years began in 2003. Throughout the past year, the GRC worked directly with Balfour, the jewelry company that is manufacturing the Grad Rat.

Initial financial and marketing plans began at the end of summer 2007, while design of the ring itself began in December 2007.

At the unveiling event on Wednesday, rows of buffet tables lined the floors. The rhythmic drumming of the Afro-Brazil band's drums rocked the air before the ring presentation began.

Five rings were lotteried off to the students in Walker, but before names were drawn, an honorary ring was given to Tim the Beaver. After the presentation of the new ring design, a video of Tim the Beaver living the day of the average MIT graduate student was presented.

The idea of presenting rings to MIT graduates was first established in under Class of 1929 President C. Brigham Allen, who formed a committee to design the Brass Rat. The initial design of the Grad Rat remained unchanged for 73 years until when it was first updated in 2003.

A new '08-'09 Graduate Ring Committee has already been formed and will be headed by Alessondra Springmann G.

The newly-unveiled design of the Grad Rat will be offered to the next five graduate classes. The ring will not be redesigned until 2013.

Ig Nobels Celebrate Odd Science With Real Laureates, Gag Prizes

Ig Nobel, from Page 1

reproduction and finally Lipscomb, 1976 Nobel Laureate in Chemistry, spoke about redundancy.

The award show was also interleaved with a three act opera about (what else!) redundancy.

Winners of the dubious Nobel received of a paper certificate and a wooden board with a generic label. Whenever acceptance speeches went over their allotted time, a little girl named "Miss Sweetie Poo," would run to the microphone and proclaim "Please Stop, I'm Bored."

By the end of the ceremony, the theatre was filled with paper airplanes that were thrown during two designated times as well as intermittent periods throughout. The ceremony ended with the final act of the Opera and a photo-op of all the winners. The winners of the awards also got to shake the hands of Lipscomb, an actual Nobel Laureate.

With the closing remarks, Abrahams stated, as in tradition, "If you didn't win a prize — and especially if you did — better luck next year!"

Kees Moeliker, Dan Meyer, Francis Fesmire, and Don Featherstone, all former Ig Nobel Prize recipients were present.

This year's winners of the award include:

Massimiliano Zampini (University of Trento, Italy) and Charles Spence (Oxford University) for their research titled "The Role of Auditory Cues in Modulating the Perceived Crispness and Staleness of Potato Chips." This allowed them to change the crunching sound to make it seem like the chip was crisper than it really was.

The Peace Prize went to The Swiss Federal Ethics Committee on Non-Human Biotechnology for their recognition of dignity for plants. The award was accepted by Urs Thurnherr, a committee member.

Astolfo G. Mello Araujo and José Carlos Marcelino (Universidade de São Paulo, Brazil) were given the Archeology Prize for their study of how Armadillos can "scramble" up an archeological dig site.

The Biology Prize went to Marie-Christine Cadiergues, Christel Joubert, and Michel Franc (Ecole Nationale Veterinaire de Toulouse) for discovering that "fleas on dogs jump higher than fleas on cats."

Dan Ariely (Duke) took the award in Medicine for showing that "high-priced fake medicine is more effective than low-priced fake medicine."

Toshiyuki Nakagaki, Ryo Kobayashi, Atsushi Tero travelled from Japan to receive the prize in Cognitive Science for showing that "slime molds can solve puzzles."

Geoffrey Miller and Brent Jordan took the prize in Economics for showing that "lap dancer's ovulatory cycle affects tip earnings."

Dorian Raymer, physics, proving mathematically that heaps of string or hair or almost anything else will inevitably tangle themselves up in knots.

Deborah Anderson, Joseph Hill, C.Y. Hong's daughter Wan Hong (chemistry) Conflicting studies on Coca-Cola being a spermicide.

David Sims, Literature, "You Bastard: A Narrative Exploration of the Experience of Indignation within Organizations."

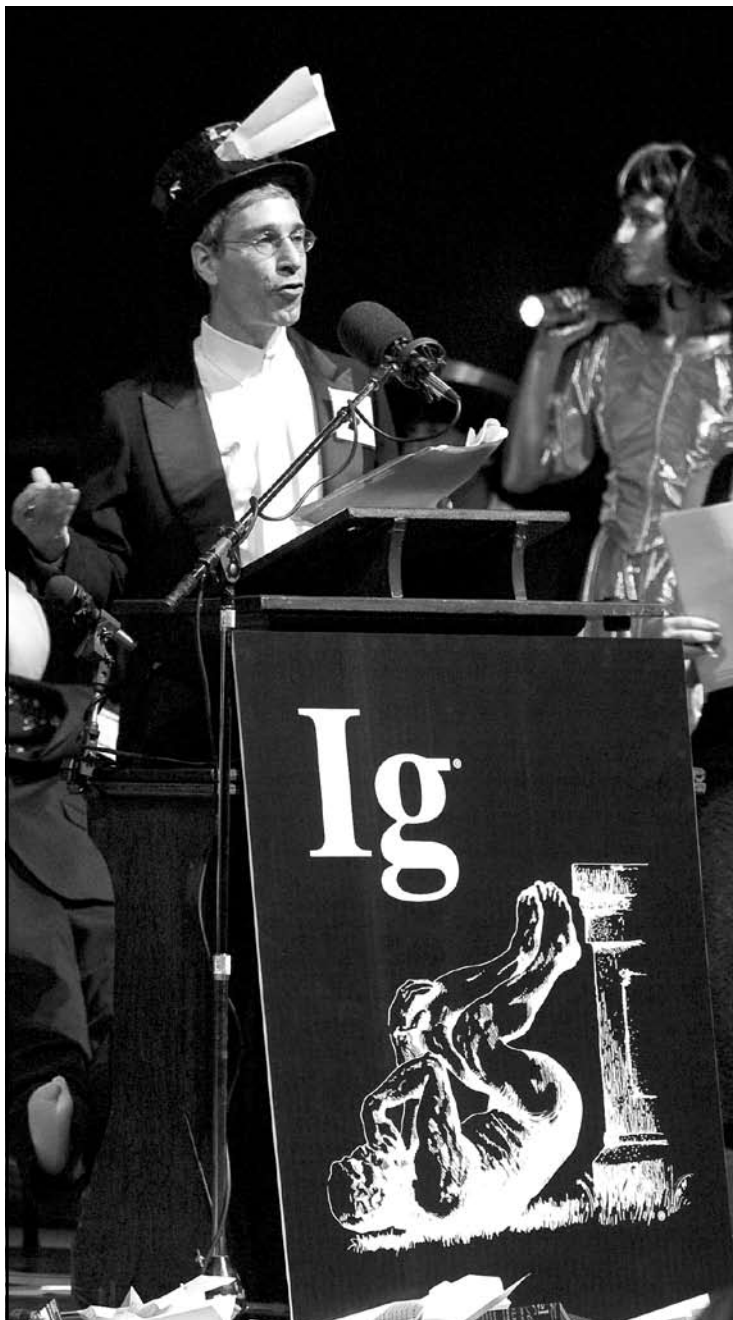
The Ig Nobel awards were first given out in 1991 and originally held at MIT. The purpose of the award is to celebrate the "unusual, honor the imaginative, and spur people's interest in science," according to the nomination form.

At the Ig Informal lectures tomorrow the new laureates will give 5-minute presentations of their award-winning work. The event will take place in 10-250 at 1:00 p.m., and is free and open to the public.



BIYEUN M. BUCZYK—THE TECH

Ig Nobel Prize Laureate Dan Meyer swallows a sword for the audience. He won the Medicine Prize last year for investigating the side-effects of swallowing swords.



BIYEUN M. BUCZYK—THE TECH

Marc Abrahams, the master of ceremonies of the Ig Nobel Prize Ceremony, is hit with paper airplanes as he announces the next Ig Nobel winner.

Solution to Sudoku

from page 9

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

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Briefs, from Page 1

P.E. Lottery Will Be Replaced

A first-come-first-serve system will replace the current lottery system for physical education class registration. The Department of Athletics, Physical Education, and Recreation said they expect to switch over during the 2009 Independent Activities Period and plans to release more details about the change in November.

Director of Physical Education Carrie Moore said the change will create "a more responsive registration system." She added that "the new system will allow students to have immediate feedback and gain better control of the P.E. class registration."

—Mengjie Ding

A Smoot Is 67 Inches

Smoot, from Page 1

memorating the Smoot, which was designed and created in the Hobby Shop by Ilan Moyer '08 and Melissa Rothstein. It will be installed on the Cambridge side of the bridge and will replace a plaque added during the Smoot marks' 25th anniversary which has since disappeared, Associate Director of Student and Alumni Relations Katie C. Maloney said.

Following the barbecue, MIT community members will work to pick up trash, repaint the railing, and perform maintenance along the Charles River shoreline, as Cambridge officials would not allow the Smoot marks themselves to be repainted. Casey said a number of fraternities and sororities would be participating as groups and that other students can sign up as individuals or groups on the event's website at <http://web.mit.edu/smoot/>.

At 5 p.m., community members will be able to attend a concert by "Herb Reed and the Platters," a popular rock group from the 50's and 60's. "They were huge," Director of FSILG Alumni Relations Bob Ferrara, who is heading up the planning for the day's celebrations, said. "The alumni from the 50's and 60's are all really excited about it."

After the concert, the day's sponsors, which include the MIT Club of Boston, the Class of 1962, and Lambda Chi Alpha, will host the "Big 50's Party" at the MIT Museum. The event will feature music, food, and memories from the 1950s, including a performance from alumni of the MIT Logarithms and the dedication of the official "Smoot Stick," a 5'7" stick — the official length of a Smoot — which will be presented to Oliver Smoot. Students who participated in the community service event that morning will be given free tickets to the event.

The inspiration for the event came last year, when author Robert Tavernor published the book "Smoot's Ear: The Measure of Humanity," Ferrara said. Although the book drew on the Smoot story mostly in the title, Tavernor came to MIT to promote the book and his author's talk became a joint Club of Boston and LCA event where Smoot himself made an appearance. The interest in the event and the story convinced Ferrara and Casey that, with the 50th anniversary approaching, it would be appropriate to turn it into a large-scale celebration.

But the real inspiration came fifty years ago when the new pledges of LCA were commanded to measure the Harvard Bridge using the body of the shortest pledge — Smoot. As the story goes, LCA pledgemaster Tom O'Connor '60 had come up with the idea; he was tired of crossing the bridge on his way to and from Boston without any idea of how far he had to go.

So on a Thursday night in October, the pledges set out with a bucket of light-colored paint — probably white wall paint gathered from the supplies closet, Smoot recalled — and began to measure the bridge using chalk to mark each body length. Every tenth Smoot was marked with a line of paint, and every fiftieth Smoot was marked with the current distance in Smoots. The group's original intention was to measure the majority of the bridge with string after some calibration, but an LCA brother who was walking by decided to stay and watch, and so the plans to cut corners were dropped.

It was a tiring night for Smoot, who had to sit up and down over three hundred times, and who, by the end of

the bridge, had to be carried from one spot to the next.

"It took seven of us to do it," Smoot emphasized. "I don't know if seven is the optimal number... but we actually probably could have used more people to lift and put me back down because after a while my arms pretty much gave out. It took a bunch of us to do this, and that was one of the purposes of this pledge task: to teach us that we needed to work with each other and get along and cooperate."

Around the 300-Smoot mark, a policeman drove by, prompting a mad dash from the scene of the crime. But after that close shave, there was surprisingly little reaction to the prank, either from the police or from students. Smoot noted that since there was "nothing that identified Lambda Chi or MIT" there was no reason to expect police at the fraternity's doorstep. But students outside of the fraternity didn't ask Smoot about the marks either, even though his name was painted on the bridge at various points.

In fact, it was several years before Smoot perceived that the Smoot marks had become more than just "marks on the sidewalk" to MIT students. "I graduated and started my life," he said. "I enrolled in law school, got a job, got married; there were a lot of things going on, and I didn't really give it much thought," he said.

"I think it was in the 70's that people began to ask me if I was involved with this. At first it was embarrassing; at this point it's delightful. It's very nice to be part of something that has turned out to be quite positive for the fraternity and for MIT."

Indeed, the prank soon became an MIT tradition, in part because of its clear functionality; for weary pedestrians, the Smoot marks shortened a trek longer than twice the length of the Infinite.

"That's why it became an instant hit, because it serviced a real need, knowing where you are on the bridge," Ferrara said. "Even the police use it now."

"It was a very practical thing, but the part that nobody could foresee was what could become of [Smoot's professional] trajectory," Ferrara added, referring to the fact that Smoot went on to serve on the board of, and eventually head, both the American National Standards Institute and the International Organization for Standardization.

The weekend promises to be an exciting time for alumni to reunite. For the members of Lambda Chi Alpha, it has special significance.

"We're just really excited; [painting the Smoots] is an awesome tradition, and it's something we take a lot of pride in," LCA president Brandon Suarez '09 said.

Many Colleges Wake Up to the Problems of Sleep Deprivation

By Tracy Jan
THE BOSTON GLOBE

It's an age-old predicament: Caffeine-fueled college students cramming for exams and writing papers until the crack of dawn, then skipping or snoozing through classes. Sleep deprivation has long been considered a rite of passage, a point of pride, even.

But now, alarmed by recent studies tying lack of sleep to poor academic performance, college officials are urging students just to go to bed. More than a dozen Massachusetts schools have begun waging campaigns touting the benefits of sleep through dorm seminars, posters, and catchy slogans like, "Want A's? Get Z's."

Wellesley College spreads the message by throwing dorm pajama parties with tea and popcorn. Tufts University passes out sleep masks, ear plugs, and a CD of relaxation tracks. Bentley College holds a weeklong contest called the Biggest Snoozer, and gives away memory foam pillows and white noise machines to students who log the most hours of shut-eye. And Massachusetts Institute of Technology has enlisted the help of far-flung parents, alerting them to watch for warning signs such as e-mails sent at 4 a.m.

"For college students, sleep is the most dispensable thing," said Dr. Vanessa Britto, director of health services at Wellesley. "Most people feel it's a badge of honor. 'I didn't sleep. Parentheses, aren't I great?' Until you point out to them that pulling an all-nighter is the equivalent of driving drunk and is detrimental to their reaction time and memory."

Universities, though, have their work cut out for them to change such a culturally ingrained habit on campus.

With 24 hours of online entertainment available, students today are tempted by myriad diversions other than school books. They're gambling, catching up on their favorite television shows, playing video games, or chatting with virtual friends — then trying to study into the wee hours of the morning.

"It's like, well, I could do my calculus homework or it sounds like the girls next door are doing something fun so I'll just walk over there," said Kelsey Barton, a freshman at Tufts, who said she has been averaging about three hours of sleep a night since starting college this month. "I don't want to miss out."

With so many distractions, Barton often doesn't start on schoolwork until midnight, when she's so tired that it takes her even longer to finish. She downs coffee and Mountain Dew to make it through classes and cross-country practice.

"It's a cycle that I'm now kind of stuck in, and I get more and more tired," she lamented.

College officials say more students seem to be getting stuck on the sleep-deficit treadmill. Skimping on shut-eye has become such a concern that the American College Health Association revamped its annual health survey this fall to include six questions focused on sleep instead of one, said Mary Hoban, director of the Baltimore-based National College Health Assessment.

Nearly 40 percent of students

said they had felt rested on no more than two days in the previous week, according to the latest data from fall 2007.

"It's not like I choose to sleep as little as I do," said Colleen Huysman, a Boston University junior who says she gets five hours of sleep a night and chews gum to stay awake in class. "There's just so much going on that sleep is at the bottom of the priority list. There aren't enough hours in the day for that to happen."

Huysman's attitude, pervasive among her peers, speaks to the fear of BU officials, who launched the university's sleep campaign two years ago after more students started coming to campus clinics complaining of headaches and fatigue, symptoms often related to lack of sleep. BU's initiative includes seminars, a new website of sleep facts, and a special Facebook site depicting students engaged in healthy habits such as exercise and sleep.

College health directors say they struggle to make students aware of the serious health and academic consequences of sleep deprivation without nagging or lecturing — especially when more students are venturing

beyond old methods of using energy drinks and caffeine pills to stay awake. The truly desperate have resorted to prescription drugs like Adderall, which is used to treat attention-deficit hyperactivity disorder and boost concentration.

"Sleep is one of those issues we see as much more of a problem than our students do, so it's a little tough getting our message across," said Dr. David McBride, director of student health services at BU.

Many BU students said they had never heard of the school's campaign. Some simply stay up late as a matter of course.

BU junior Solange Garcia said she goes to bed around 3 a.m. on most nights when she doesn't have a lot of homework. Two or three times a week, she pulls an all-nighter for papers due the following day.

"I used to leave a lot to the last minute because I felt like I produced my best work under pressure," said Garcia, echoing a common refrain. "In turn, I would stay up all night, or as late as my body would allow, and just grasp as much information as I possibly could."

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For more information on the 2008 Ig Nobel Prize Ceremony and the Ig Informal Lectures including this year's winners, please visit: <http://www.improbable.com/>

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Credit Crunch Limits Universities' Access To Short-Term Funds

By Sam Dillon and Katie Zezima
 THE NEW YORK TIMES

In a move suggesting how the credit crisis could disrupt American higher education, Wachovia Bank has limited the access of nearly 1,000 colleges to \$9.3 billion the bank has held for them in a short-term investment fund, raising worries on some campuses about meeting payrolls and other obligations.

Wachovia, the North Carolina bank that agreed this week to sell its banking operations to Citigroup, has held the money in its role as trustee for a fund used by colleges and universities and managed by a Connecticut nonprofit, Commonfund.

On Monday, Wachovia announced that it would resign its role as trustee of the fund, and would limit access to the fund to 10 percent of each college's account value. On Tuesday, Commonfund said that by selling some government bonds and other assets held in the fund, it had succeeded in raising its liquidity to 26 percent.

Still, Wachovia's announcement sent shock waves through higher education, sending hundreds of college presidents rushing to check their financial vulnerability on every front.

Some smaller colleges that had not previously arranged lines of credit were feverishly seeking to negotiate those on Wednesday. And some large institutions said they were facing, at the least, a major financial inconvenience as a result of Wachovia's action.

The University of Vermont, for instance, said that about half of its liquid operating assets — \$79 million — were invested in the fund.

"It appears that the asset is secure," said Richard H. Cate, vice president for finance and administration at the University of Vermont, because, he said, much of the \$9.3 billion is held in securities that will become available when they mature. "But we're not real thrilled with the fact that we can't access all of our money when we want it."

Wachovia's action was perhaps the most tangible signal yet that the credit crisis could have a powerful impact on higher education. Another sign came on Tuesday as Boston University, saying it needed to respond to the financial crisis with cautionary steps, announced an immediate hiring freeze and a moratorium on new construction projects. That decision was unrelated to the action by Wachovia, where Boston University was not an investor.

On Tuesday, officers of Commonfund held a lengthy conference call to provide details of Wachovia's action to representatives of more than 900 colleges and universities, many of whom were upset, said W. Judson Koss, a spokesman for Commonfund.

"The whole issue is liquidity," Mr. Koss said. "This is a fund that has been in operation for over 35 years, and is invested in nothing but Triple-A government and corporate paper, all top-notch equities."

"We've been going along just

fine, but Wachovia had a liquidity concern. They asked, 'What if there's a run on the bank and we can't redeem these securities?' So they were the ones who pulled the pin on the grenade."

Colleges have used the fund, formally called the Commonfund Short Term Fund, almost like a checking account, depositing revenues including tuition payments and withdrawing funds daily to finance payrolls, maintenance expenses, small construction projects and other short-term needs, college officials said.

Nearly 60 percent of the securities in the fund are scheduled to mature by Dec. 31, and thereafter would be available to investors, Commonfund said in a statement. When the remaining funds would become available was unclear. The fund said it was seeking a trustee to succeed Wachovia.

To date, none of the securities have defaulted, and all were continuing to pay timely principal and interest, the statement said.

But for the time being, some institutions that have relied on the fund were scrambling to secure money for operating expenses.

Augsburg College in Minneapolis is one of more than a dozen Minnesota colleges with investments in the fund. Augsburg was fortunate, its president, Paul C. Pribbenow, said, because its holdings were just \$13,392.

"But this certainly raises the specter that we can no longer take anything for granted," Dr. Pribbenow said. "It shows just how vigilant we need to become about every financial relation we have."

The University of Akron had \$800,000 invested in the fund, a small part of the university's total portfolio of operating funds, which typically range from \$100 million to \$150 million in a semester, said John Case, the university's chief financial officer. Shortly before Wachovia's announcement, the university withdrew \$80,000, but has since been unable to withdraw any of its remaining money, Mr. Case said.

Matthew Hamill, senior vice president of the National Association of College and University Business Officers, said, "This is a pretty significant event, in the short run, because it's going to cause dislocation and uncertainty." Mr. Hamill added: "My estimate is that in the long run, investors will wind up with their money back. But they don't have access to cash in the short run, so it's going to cause significant financial and operational changes."

Molly Broad, president of the American Council on Education, which represents 1,600 colleges and universities, said: "A widespread credit crisis will affect a large number of our institutions very quickly. Those folks who've been saying that the economy could be seized by a liquidity crisis, well, it's unfolding before our eyes, and it's having an impact on colleges and nonprofits."

At Boston University, President Robert A. Brown sent an e-mail message to faculty and staff members on Tuesday saying that the university would temporarily freeze hiring, with the exception of public safety employees and professors whose hiring process was under way, and that it would postpone all capital projects that had not begun. Joseph Mercurio, the university's executive vice president who oversees its budget, called the steps pre-emptive.

"We have a lot of economic uncertainties that have to do with the national economy," Mr. Mercurio said, "and in light of those conditions we're going to take some prudent steps right now."

Solution to Crossword

from page 8

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

Red Sox Facing Los Angeles in Promising Postseason Matchup

Playoffs, from Page 16

even higher payroll, were expected to be contenders but instead finished worst in the AL — 39.0 games back — and became the first team in history to spend \$100 million and still lose a hundred games. Similarly, the Detroit Tigers were expected to contend but finished last in the AL Central. And, of course, the New York Mets, with their absolutely atrocious bullpen, completed another historic collapse and were eliminated on the last day of the season (at home, against the Marlins, for the second straight year).

But that's enough about the losers. Here are the matchups (and analyses) of the Divisional Series matchups (best-of-five):

- **Red Sox vs. Angels:** This series features arguably the two best teams in baseball right now. Both teams have formidable offenses and starting pitching, but Boston is coping with injuries to Josh Beckett, their ace, Mike Lowell, and J.D. Drew. During the regular season, the Angels won eight out of nine games against the Red Sox, including a three-game sweep in Boston. In addition, the Angels have demonstrated an ability to win on the road — where they are 50-31 — whereas the Red Sox are 39-42 away from Fenway. *Prediction: Angels in 4.*

- **White Sox vs. Rays:** The White Sox enter the playoffs having played 17 games in the past 17 days, but they have momentum from their late playoff push. Tampa Bay has Carl Crawford back in the lineup and Evan Longoria healthy again. The Rays have little playoff experience, but they have proved they can win under pressure and have home-field advantage, where they have the best record in the majors. *Prediction:*

Babson Women's Tennis Falls to MIT, 7-2

Tennis, from Page 16

the singles matches, forcing play to move indoors. Hansen finished her opponent off quickly with a score of 6-0, 6-1. She was soon followed by Diskin who lost a close match.

The points that Diskin played would start well before the those in the neighboring match and last until long after they were finished. In the end, Diskin lost with a score of 6-2, 6-1. Next off was Wang, who pulled out a tough match and won in the tie breaker of the second set with a score of 6-2, 7-6(1). MIT was now in the lead over Babson 4-2. McCree then quickly finished off her opponent with a decisive score of 6-2, 6-3.

The next three matches were all extremely close and had to be decided in the third sets. Vishnevsky won her match with a score of 7-6(6), 2-6, 6-0, finishing strong. Hall finished next, after losing her first set she came back to win her extremely close match: 3-6, 7-6(2), 7-5. Next up was Pikhart, who barely lost her first set and came back to take the next two, winning 4-6, 6-2, 6-4. Jenny was the last player on the courts, but she finished the job quickly and decisively with a score of 6-0, 6-2. The end result was MIT 7, Babson 2.

Rays in 5.

- **Brewers vs. Phillies:** There are two reasons Milwaukee is in the playoffs: the Mets' collapse, and C.C. Sabathia. Since being traded to the Brewers on July 7, he has gone 11-2 with a 1.65 ERA. In that same span, however, the Brewers have a losing record in games he did not start. In addition, Philadelphia swept Milwaukee in a 4-game series last month, outscoring them 26-10 in those games. The Brewers can't pitch Sabathia every day, and will be overwhelmed by the Phillies' offensive firepower. *Prediction: Phillies in 4.*

- **Dodgers vs. Cubs:** Manny Ramirez has been a one-man show for the Dodgers in the past two months, leading the majors in RBIs, batting average, slugging percentage, and on-base percentage. Chicago's offense, on the other hand, did not rely on a single player but still led the NL in runs, on-base percentage, and slugging. The Cubs have not been successful in the playoffs in recent years, but they do have home-field advantage, where they are a NL best 55-26. *Prediction: Cubs in 5.*

Sports Shorts, from Page 16

in the MIT Department of Athletics, Physical Education and Recreation (DAPER). In addition, she will oversee and coordinate intercollegiate practice and competitive scheduling and manage the hosting of special and championship events.

"I am very pleased and excited about the opportunity to join the MIT community," said Bolich. "DAPER is truly a unique department and I look forward to contributing to the Institute's long-standing tradition

of success."

Bolich has served in the capacity of faculty, staff, coach, administrator and conference commissioner while directing multiple championship events at the Division II and III level.

Prior to her tenure at Regis, Bolich spent five years as the Director of Athletics and Recreation at Dominican University where she administered the daily operations of 14 NCAA Division III programs and directed all aspects of recreational and intramural programming.

—James Kramer, DAPER Staff

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SPORTS

Well, the Season Is Finally Over.
What's in Store for Next Year?

By David Zhu

The 2008 Major League Baseball (MLB) regular season has finally drawn to a close. This season, which began 162 games (163 for some) ago in Japan, has certainly been an unforgettable one, filled with history, records, and milestones.

Both New York teams — the Yankees and the Mets — played the final games at their current stadiums, while the Washington Nationals christened their new ballpark with a Ryan Zimmerman walk-off home run. Ichiro reached 3,000 career hits, while John Smoltz recorded his 3,000th strikeout. Chipper Jones hit his 400th career home run, Manny Ramirez his 500th, and, not to be outdone, Ken Griffey, Jr. became only the 6th player in history to reach 600. The All-Star game in July, held as a final tribute to Yankee Stadium, provided a spectacle as well, with Josh Hamilton's superhuman showing in the Home Run Derby preceding the American League's epic 15-inning win over the National League.

This year's playoff races were also filled with excitement, with three of the eight playoff spots clinched in the final weekend of play. Especially dramatic were the

races for the American League (AL) Central title, where the Chicago White Sox beat the Minnesota Twins in a one-game playoff, and the National League (NL) Wild Card, where both the Brewers and Mets blew multi-game leads in the closing weeks of the season. The eight teams who earned a postseason berth are:

- Los Angeles Angels (100-62): Winners of the AL West. The first team to clinch, the L.A. Angels (of Anaheim) finished with the majors' best record.

- Chicago White Sox (89-74): Winners of the AL Central. 162 games weren't enough to determine the division champion. Tied with Minnesota at the conclusion of the regular season, they defeated the Twins 1-0 in a one-game playoff to win the Central.

- Tampa Bay Rays (97-65): Winners of the AL East. Unquestionably the biggest surprise of the season, the (non-Devil) Rays will play in October for the first time in franchise history.

- Boston Red Sox (95-67): AL Wild Card. The defending champions will try to win their third World Series in five years.

- Los Angeles Dodgers (84-78): Winners of the NL West. With new acquisitions Joe Torre and Manny

Ramirez, the Dodgers ended up on top of the mess known as the NL West.

- Chicago Cubs (97-64): Winners of the NL Central: Now in the 100th year of their "curse," the Cubbies finished with the NL's best record and are the favorites to win the pennant.

- Philadelphia Phillies (92-70): Winners of the NL East. A strong finish, along with another Mets meltdown, earns them a second straight division title.

- Milwaukee Brewers (90-72): NL Wild Card. Clinched their first playoff berth since 1982 on the last day of the season, behind the dominance of mid-season acquisition C.C. Sabathia.

Just as exciting, perhaps, was the anticipation of seeing which teams would fail to make the playoffs (or just fail in general). The New York Yankees are missing the playoffs for the first time in fifteen years, their usual spot atop the AL East taken over by Tampa Bay. (How anticlimactic that the final game played at Yankee Stadium — the "cathedral of baseball" — was a meaningless September matchup against the lowly Orioles ...) The Seattle Mariners, who had high expectations and an

Playoffs, Page 15

Leslie Hansen Makes
MIT History in Finals
Of ITA Championship

By Jennifer Rees

TEAM MEMBER

The MIT Women's Tennis Team started off a busy week by making history at the ITA New England Championships this weekend and went on to defeat Babson College 7-2 on Tuesday. Leslie A. Hansen '10 is the first player in MIT women's tennis history to be a singles finalist. Hansen blazed through the draw until she reached the semifinals, which any team member who witnessed the match would describe only as "simply amazing." Hansen won in three sets with a score of 2-6, 6-3, 7-6 (4). Hansen then lost a tough match with a score of 5-7, 0-6 in the finals.

Earlier in the tournament, Melissa A. Diskin '11 played the number one seed in the first round. She lost 6-0, 6-0, but enjoyed the match. Anastasia Vishnevetsky '12 also lost her first round match with a score of 6-2, 6-1. In the doubles draw, Diskin and Anisa K. McCree '10 lost their first match with a score of 8-1.

The doubles team of Hansen

and Vishnevetsky won their first doubles match 8-1. In the next round, the team faced a hard match against a team from Wheaton College. The score was close, and the lead changed sides as quickly as the ball crossing over the net, but in the end Hansen and Vishnevetsky lost the match with an 8-6 score.

On Tuesday, MIT Women's Tennis played Babson College. First off were the doubles matches. The team of Karina N. Pikhart '09 and Yi Wang '09 was one of the first up, and won 8-3. They were followed by the team of Diskin and McCree who lost a hard fought match 8-1. These matches brought the overall score with Babson to 1-1.

Next up was the exhibition match, with the team of Alexandria C. Hall '12 and Hillary E. Jenny '12 pulling out a close match with a win of 8-6. Leslie Hansen '10 and Anastasia Vishnevetsky '12 played a tough match and pulled out a victory with a very close score of 9-8(6). This gave MIT a lead of 2-1 over Babson going into the singles matches.

It began to rain in the middle of

Tennis, Page 15

UPCOMING HOME EVENTS

Friday, Oct. 3, 2008

Women's Volleyball vs. Polytechnic University

5:00 p.m., Rockwell Cage

Women's Volleyball vs. Colby-Sawyer College

7:00 p.m., Rockwell College

Saturday, Oct. 4, 2008

Crew Alumni Race

8:00 a.m., Charles River

Sailing Smith Trophy

9:30 a.m., Charles River

Men's Tennis vs. Salve Regina University

11:00 a.m., duPont Courts

Women's Soccer vs. Springfield College

1:00 p.m., Steinbrenner Stadium

Sunday, Oct. 5, 2008

Sailing Invitational

9:30 a.m., Charles River

Sailing Smith Trophy

9:30 a.m., Charles River

Cross Country USATF Invitational

9:30 a.m., Franklin Park

Late Goal Propels Field Hockey
Over Endicott, 2-1

Jessica M. Oleinik '11 scored her 11th goal of the season with 2:42 left in the second half to lift MIT to a thrilling 2-1 victory over Endicott College in non-conference field hockey action Tuesday. The loss snaps an eight game win streak for the Gulls.

Oleinik's game winner came after Endicott goalkeeper Chelsea DeFeo stopped her original shot attempt. The tally capped a second half that saw the teams combine for three goals after a scoreless first half. MIT outshot the Gulls 7-1 in the first 35 minutes but was unable to capitalize as DeFeo recorded three of her four saves in the period.

Anna Giannoni put Endicott on the board 12 minutes into the second period, as she gathered a rebound and looped a shot high over MIT goalkeeper Keri A. Dixon's '12 head that fell into the back of the net for the 1-0 advantage. Danielle C. Smith '11 would even up the score seven minutes later when she deflected in a long crossing pass from Nirupama Yechoor '10, setting up the dramatic finish.

The Engineers outshot Endicott 15-6 for the game and had eight penalty corners to just one for the Gulls. Dixon made one save to pick up the win in net.

MIT will return to NEWMAC play on Saturday, October 4 when they travel to Springfield. Game time is at 11:00 a.m.

—Greg McKeever, DAPER Staff

MIT Names Barb Bolich Assistant
Athletic Director/SWA

Barb Bolich, who has spent the past two years as Assistant Director of Athletics at Regis University in Colorado, has been named Assistant Athletic Director and Senior Woman Administrator as announced by Department Head and Director of Athletics Julie Soriero.

An enthusiastic administrator with 20 years of experience in collegiate athletic management, Bolich will supervise and manage a number of intercollegiate programs as well as designated auxiliary service areas

Sports Shorts, Page 15

Game of the Week
Women's Volleyball Beats Coast Guard
In Exciting Five Set NEWMAC Match

By Mindy Brauer

DAPER STAFF

The MIT women's volleyball team recorded a thrilling 25-15, 25-20, 23-25, 22-25, 15-11 victory over the U.S. Coast Guard Academy in a New England Women's and Men's Athletic Conference (NEWMAC) match on Tuesday night.

With the win, the Engineers improved to 11-8 on the year and 3-1 in conference play while the Bears dropped to 5-8 overall and 2-2 in NEWMAC.

MIT jumped out to a 9-2 lead in the opening game and then extended its advantage to 20-9. Coast Guard trimmed its deficit to eight (23-15), but kills by Barden E. Cleeland '10 and Cecily L. Joujon-Roche '12 closed out the set for the Engineers.

In the second stanza, the Bears established a 7-3 edge before MIT tied the contest at eight. Coast Guard capitalized on several miscues by the Engineers to increase its margin to three (12-9). MIT countered with a 10-0 run keyed by strong serving from Jennifer Li '11. The Bears narrowed the gap to four (20-16) but that was as close as it would get as each side traded points and Katrina M. Ellison '10 registered the set-winning kill.

The Engineers recorded a quick 8-3 lead but Coast Guard responded with seven straight points powered by tough serving from Nicole Johnson. MIT evened the score at 10 before the Bears inched out to an 18-13 advantage. Following their own timeout, the Engineers tallied four straight points including back-to-back strikes from Cleeland. The spurt prompted a timeout by Coast Guard, which picked up the next two points (20-17) to gain some breathing room. MIT battled back and tied the set at 21, but a pair of miscues allowed the Bears to take the set.

The early stages of the fourth set were closely played as a kill by Ellison tied the score at nine. Sparked by Nicole Gurr's serving, Coast Guard mounted an 11-2 run that resulted in a 20-11 advantage. Key blocks by Cleeland and timely hits from Li helped bring MIT within one (23-22). After a timeout by the Bears, a hitting error ended the Engineers' late rally as Coast Guard held on to force the decisive fifth set.

Strong blocking helped propel MIT to a 6-1 lead in the final frame but the Bears responded with five consecutive points. The Engineers went on to record eight of the next 10 points, setting up match point at 14-8. Coast Guard extended the contest with three straight points

and forced a timeout by MIT. Following the break, Joujon-Roche's kill grazed the Bears' blocking attempt and sealed the win for the Engineers.

Ellison posted a team-high 17 digs to go along with four blocks while Li totaled seven kills, three blocks, and three aces. Cleeland racked up 16 kills and seven blocks as Alexandra T. May '10 tallied 19 kills and 13 digs. Lindsay E. Hunting '09 collected 15 digs and two aces while Catherine Melnikow '10 notched 39 assists and three blocks. Evelyn C. Cordner '12 contributed six assists to MIT's effort.

Gurr compiled 17 digs, 11 kills, four aces, and two blocks for Coast Guard. Johnson chipped in 10 kills and two aces as Mary Bitzer bolstered the Bears' attack with eight kills. Jessica Anderson registered 30 digs and an ace while Heather Watka and Ashley Bullard shared setting duties, distributing 15 and 14 assists, respectively.

Both teams will return to non-conference play this weekend. MIT will participate in the Tufts University Invitational, hosting Polytechnic University and Colby-Sawyer College on Friday, Oct. 3 before making the trip to Tufts University the next day. Coast Guard will host Salve Regina University and Mitchell College in a tri-match on Saturday, Oct. 4.

SCOREBOARD

Field Hockey		Women's Tennis	
Tuesday, Sept. 30, 2008			
Endicott College (9-2)	1	Babson College (5-1)	2
MIT (5-6)	2	MIT (4-0)	7
Sailing			
Sunday, Sept. 28, 2008			
Women's Singlehanded New England Championship		US Coast Guard Academy (5-8)	2
MIT	8th of 17	MIT (11-8)	3